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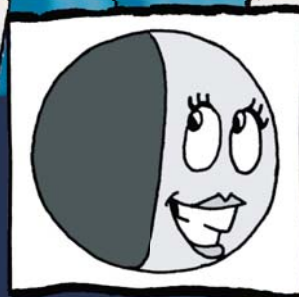
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# Angelica's Hope

A story for young people and their parents about the  
need to talk about things that no one talks about



Also featuring:  
Why the Moon is Free



A cultural story helping young people and their parents learn that sometimes  
we all need to say no to things that are not good for us.

## HIV/AIDS Prevention Fotonovella



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“Why the Moon is Free” is an Ancient Aztec Tale retold by Annabelle Nelson

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# Angelica's Hope

A story for young people and their parents about the need to talk about things that no one talks about.

Maria is 13 and very pretty. She has been seen after school with an older boyfriend who is 17. The boy dropped out of school. He doesn't have a job. After school, he hangs out smoking cigarettes.



When Maria walks by him, he smiles and whistles at her. Maria likes the attention and believes him when he says he loves her and always wants to be with her.





Maria has an older sister, Angelica, who is also very pretty but looks tired and worn out. Angelica is 18. She lives at home with her two-year-old baby.

Her older boyfriend left her when he found out she was pregnant, and she dropped out of school.

Plus she got a sexually transmitted disease from unprotected sex, as well as pregnant. She has to go to the doctor often, and take medicine for the STD. Now when she has a new sexual partner she has to tell them she has genital warts.



She is just lucky that the older boyfriend didn't give her HIV/AIDS. She works as a waitress and has no time for her friends. Her dreams of being an investment banker are fading fast. She is going to school at night to finish high school.



"Maria, what are you doing? You don't want to end up like me. That 'vato' is no good. Stay away from him."



"You can't tell me what to do. I can do what I want, like you. I know what's best for me. He loves me and thinks I am beautiful. Why can't I do what you did?"

Angelica talks to her mom, "You've got to talk to Maria. She is going to get herself pregnant. And that older boyfriend looks like a heroin user. He could have HIV/AIDS and give it to Maria. Mom! You've got to do something."



"Maria would never do anything like have 'you know what'. She is a good girl. We don't talk about things like that in our family. We are all good Catholics."



"But Mom, you didn't talk to me and now I'll never be an investment banker."

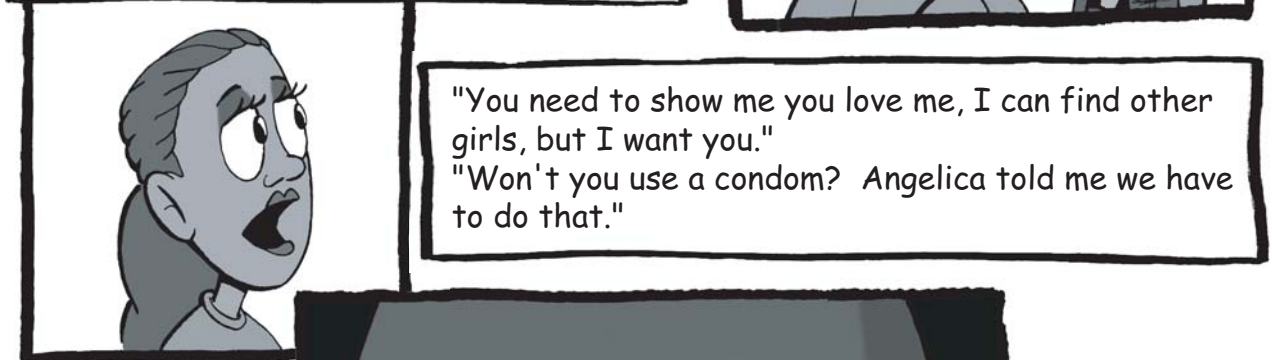
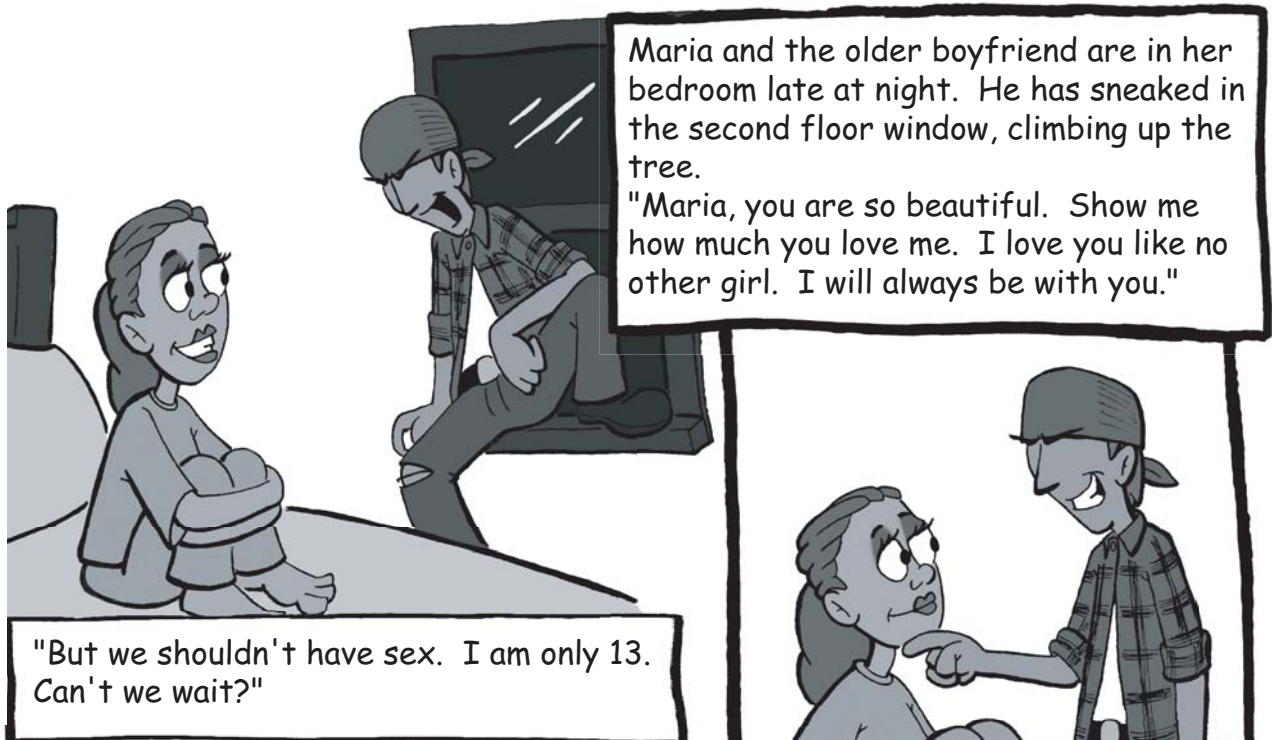


Angelica talks to her dad, "Dad you've got to talk to Maria."  
"Who is this older boyfriend? I'm going to make him marry my daughter or else I'll get my friends and we will beat him up. Tell me his name."

"Dad, no, you need to talk to Maria"

"We don't talk about things like that, I will find the older boyfriend."





**BUMP!**



The father hears a noise and walks into the bedroom. They are all standing in the room, Maria, the boy, Angelica and her baby, the mother and the father.



"I'm going to kill you both. I'm getting my gun," screams the father. Angelica's baby is screaming. It is chaos. The "vato" tries to climb out the window.



The mother finally yells in her loudest voice, "STOP! We have to talk." Everyone stops and looks at the mother because they have never heard her talk like this. She tells the boy that he has to go home, and if she ever sees him with her daughter again she will report him for sexual abuse. Then she makes coffee and brings out a cake. She says, "We have to listen to Angelica. We have to talk to Maria."





Angelica tells the mother and father what they must say to Maria.



The parents sit down with Maria and say that she must not have sex with an older boy, and that if she ever does she needs to use a condom to protect herself from pregnancy, STDs or HIV/AIDS. Maria listens.

Now after school, Maria just walks by the older boys when they whistle and tell her she is beautiful. She is going to finish school.



And Angelica, well, she finished night school. She is not an investment banker yet, but she is a teller in the bank. And she found a boyfriend who is willing to use condoms!



The End.



## WHY THE MOON IS FREE

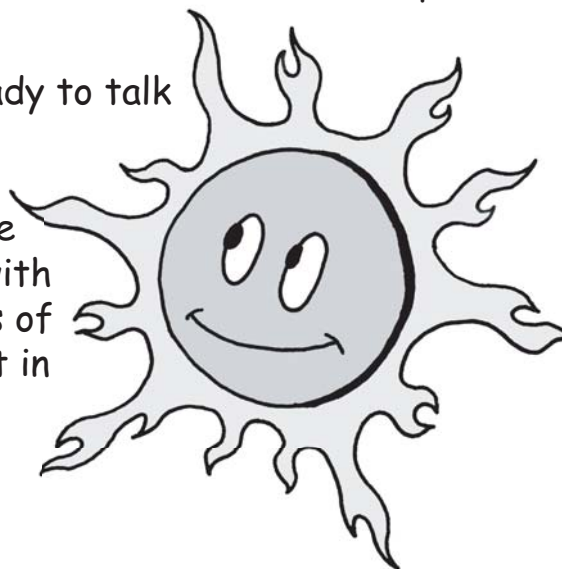
A cultural story helping young people and their parents learn that some times we all need to say no to things that are not good for us.

The Sun, el Sol, loved the Moon, la Luna. He thought she was so pale and lovely, that he longed to have her for his wife.

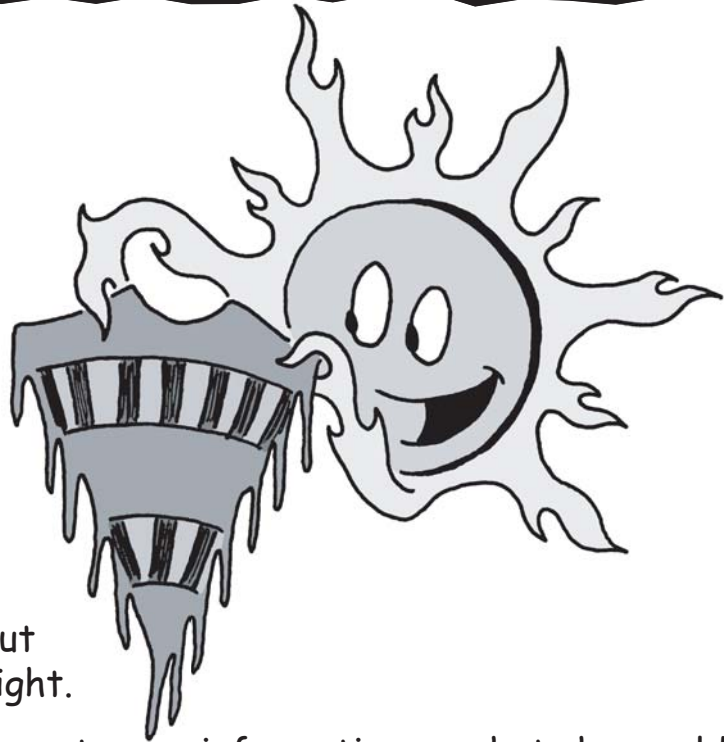
"You are more lovely than the clouds in the sky and more shapely than the roundest melon. Please be mine and marry me," Sun said.

Moon looked at Sun, but said nothing aloud. To herself she said, "Hmmm, the Sun wants to marry me. He is so handsome and so powerful. It might be wonderful to have him as my husband. He could do great things for me. Give me everything I have every wanted. But, I don't know, I love being by myself in the midnight sky. There are meteors to race against, stars to reflect and planets to inspire me."

After thinking of all this she was ready to talk to the Sun and give him her answer, "I will marry you under one circumstance. You must give me some beautiful clothing, huipiles covered with stitching, white blouses with borders of ribbon, and a long skirt that will float in the night. And it is very, very important that these clothes are exactly my size."



Sun was very excited, and even though he was tired staying up all day heating the earth and lighting the sky, he decided to stay up all night and gaze at the beautiful Moon to choose the right gift. He couldn't decide what clothes to get for her. Of course, the Sun was all powerful and could get the Moon anything, but he wanted it to be just right.

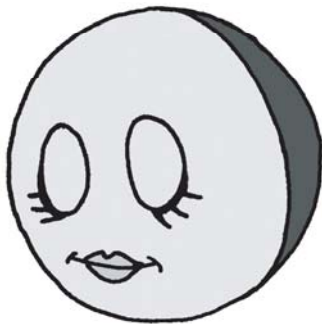


The next night he tried to get more information on what she would like. Sun said, "You will be more beautiful when you are my wife. I want to get you just the right thing. I can bring you anything. Please tell me what you would like, mi amor."

"Oh, you have to come up with the idea yourself. This is your test to figure out what I really want. You have to decide," Moon said, as she laughed and then hid herself under a cloud.

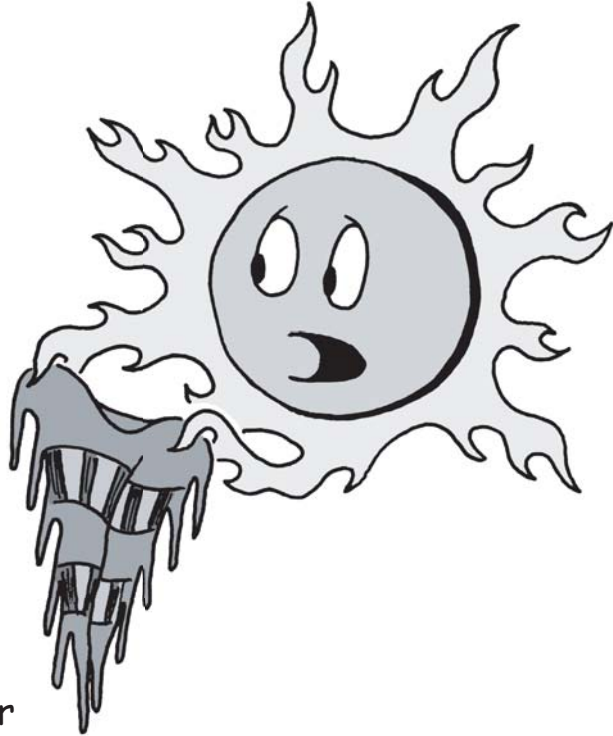
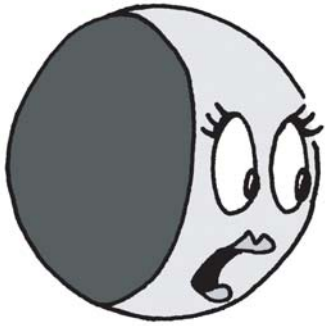
Moon decided to give her a skirt woven with golden threads and delicate strips of starlight.

"She is going to like this so much, she will fall at my feet to be my bride," Sun said as he wrapped the skirt in a package of moon beams.



But when Sun saw Moon again, he was shocked to see how skinny Moon was. She was just a sliver of her former self.





"Ay, mi amor!" he cried,  
"What happened to you, you  
are so skinny. You must be  
sick with your great love for  
me."

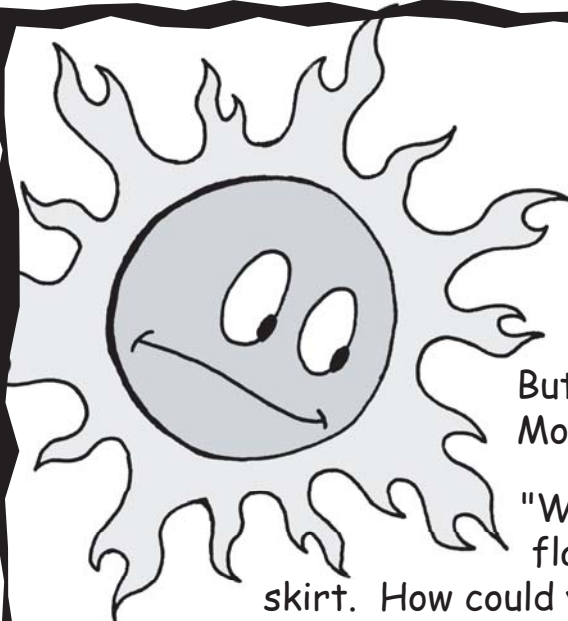
Sun raced to his special tailor  
and had him alter the skirt to match Moon's new slender shape. It  
took awhile and a week had passed when he returned to Moon with  
the altered skirt. He was so excited and knew it would fit  
perfectly.

"Moon will love this, and now she will be my wife. We will be  
married tomorrow," Sun yelled aloud with his excitement.

But when he found Moon, she was now fat. She couldn't get the  
skirt over her hips.

"Ouch, this size is wrong. You gave me a skirt that is pinching the  
light out of me. What kind of future husband are you!" Moon  
screamed.

"Ay, mi amor, you have gotten a little plump, but don't worry. We  
can still be married. It will fit just right when I get back. Don't  
be mad at me. I love you so, even though you have become fat.  
Your beauty shines through," beseeched Sun as he sped away to  
have the skirt fixed.



Sun had to search for his tailor, but finally found him in the mountains. The tailor added panels of light from the lightning in the mountains so that the skirt would be big enough for Moon's big hips.

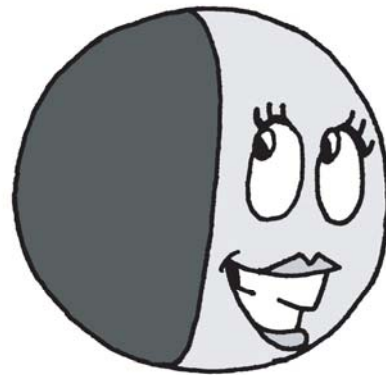
But when Sun returned the next week, Moon was even fatter. Moon tried it on.

"What do you think of me? That I am flat like a tortilla. I can't get into the skirt. How could you think I would fit into this," Moon said in a cold, angry voice.

For thirty days, all month long, Sun kept trying to get the skirt altered so that it would fit Moon. But she was always changing. No matter how hard he tried to measure her, it would not work. It was always too small and too tight.

Sun was never able to marry Moon, because he could not meet her conditions. So he gave up in sadness. But before he goes to sleep every night he always looks at Moon and loves her silvery light no matter how skinny or round she is. Sun sighs a sad sound of unrequited love, but at the same time Moon giggles that she is free.

The End.





Theme: Young people need to know that sometimes it is better not to do what their boyfriend or girlfriend wants, especially when it comes to having sex. The boyfriend and girlfriend may not care what happens to them, they only want to get what they want. The Sun did not want the Moon to be happy, but only to reflect him.

Parents, talk to your children about your values of not having sex until they are adults to protect them from diseases and the consequences of early pregnancy. Read these stories together and talk about them. They need to get this information from you.

For example,

"I think it is really important you are careful about the situation you put yourself in with a boy or girl. You want to be careful about not having sex early. There is pregnancy and diseases plus getting emotionally involved with someone early can keep you from making your own choices."

Vs.

"Don't even think about having sex with that boy (girl)."

Here's another example of what a parent could say,

"I care about you. I want you to have choices in life to do what you want. I believe that having sex before you are an adult can ruin your chances of getting to where you want."

Try these phrases....

"I care about you and don't want you to..."

"I believe that..."

"What I think is important..."