

Female, 28, Massachusetts
AGE DURING RELATIONSHIP: 18 to 22 years old
Gender of intimate partner: Male

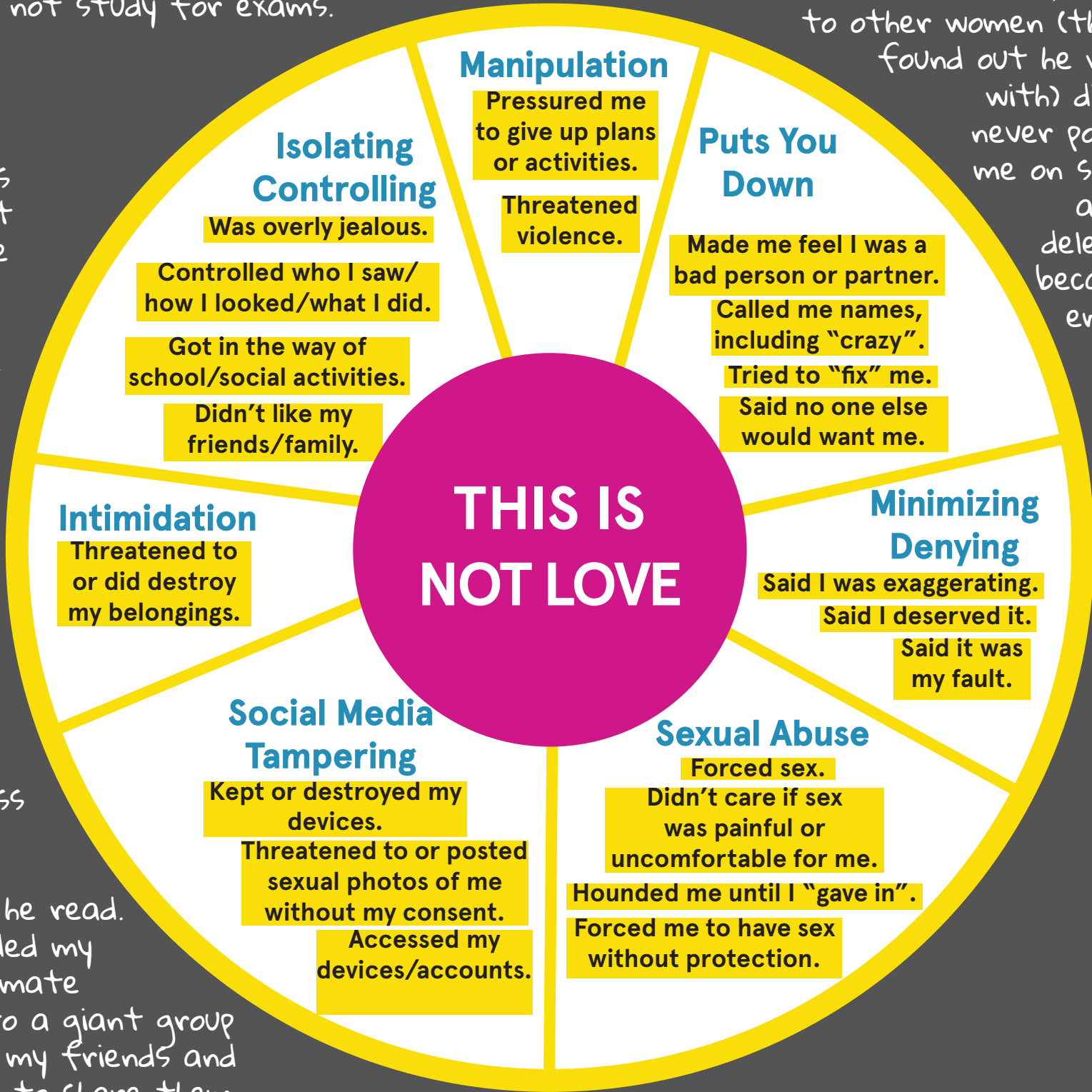
I was not allowed to hang out with other men. I was accused of wanting to sleep with a cousin (!). I was pressured to skip classes and not study for exams.

Borrowed many things that meant a lot to me and never returned them/broke them.

Read all my texts and messages. Once he threw my laptop across the room after not liking what he read. He forwarded my private/intimate messages to a giant group chat of all my friends and threatened to share them with my family.

Implied the need for painful procedures like waxing etc. to meet "standards", definitely said no one else would want me, implied I was too stupid for the degree we were in, was very nice in public to make my discussions with friends look like lies, compared me to other women (that I later found out he was sleeping with) disparagingly, never posted about me on social media/asked me to delete pictures because he was embarrassed.

Used one incident forever ago or messages he had read to continually justify poor and hurtful behaviour.



He pressured me for sex when I wasn't ready in order to "trap" me in a relationship because he knew sex was a big deal to me. He refused protection when mad at me leading me to pursue emergency contraception several times. He threatened to post sexual photos and videos.



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A lot of these things still haunt me almost a decade later. The words, actions, and how they made you feel, linger. The longer you stay the harder it is later to deal with it. You deserve better.