

## 4.2 HIV/AIDS role play card

(Refer to Episode Synopses for further details on story lines relating to Red and Margaret)

### Margaret

Margaret works in the market place in Makutano. She is a trader and her great friends and confidantes are Mboga and Anna. She is probably in her mid to late thirties and is an attractive and honest person. She learns that she is HIV positive by having a blood test at the local Voluntary Testing Centre in the market place. It becomes clear that she has been infected by her late husband. She falls in love with a good man called Matano.



#### Decisions that Margaret takes on finding out her HIV status:

- She immediately takes anti-retroviral drugs and these prove to be effective.
- She does not tell anyone to start with as she is frightened of the stigma that goes with the disease.
- Her friend, Mama Mboga, knows something is wrong and so Margaret confides in her.
- To begin with Margaret is unable to tell Matano (who loves Margaret very much) that she is HIV positive. He gives her a bracelet to show his affection and she returns it to him as she does not want to encourage him in romance, only to let him down when she tells him that she is HIV positive. Matano is very upset.
- She eventually plucks up the courage to tell him.
- The local doctor urges Margaret to be open with everyone about her HIV status. She tells her other friend, Anna, who is horrified and goes to tell Matano that he cannot marry Margaret now.
- Matano tells Anna to get lost.
- He asks Margaret to marry him. She cannot believe that he still loves her.
- She accepts and they marry.
- She stops taking her anti-retroviral drugs, persuaded by the local witch doctor that she can cure Margaret of her illness. She suffers the consequences.

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### Red

Red is the daughter of the primary school headmistress, Rose. She is an attractive and outward-going teenager whose first love was PP, a local boy who also lives in Makutano. They were very much in love, but Red decided that she wanted to pursue her musical career; she is a talented singer and she decides that she must leave Makutano and head for the city.



#### Decisions that Red takes:

- While in the city she gets signed up by a music promoter called Pierre Solaris. He ties her into a binding contract which, in the small print, makes it clear that most of the money she will ever make from her records will go to him. She also has an affair with him and has unprotected sex.
- She suspects that he is infected with a sexually transmitted disease (STI) as a result of this short affair with Pierre.
- She talks to her friend, Cheryl, who urges her to go to Doctor Charles.
- Doctor Charles not only does tests on Red and diagnoses gonorrhoea, but also urges Red to have an HIV test; she could be at risk.
- She talks to Cheryl, who urges her to have the test. Cheryl says that she will stand by Red whatever the diagnosis.
- Red has the test. She is negative.