

# It's Up to You II

by Kathleen McDonnell

## Introduction

This is an interactive story about relationships between young teens. In particular, it focuses on communication as well as dealing with anger as a couple.

In this story, you'll meet Tina, her boyfriend Dan, and some of their friends. This is a story with a difference. *You* get to help write it. *You* get to decide which way the action goes. And *you* get to choose how the story ends.

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### Tina:

This is it. Really and truly. I can hardly believe it's only three weeks, two days and fourteen hours since Dan asked me out. Things feel so right between us, it's like I've known him forever. I think about him all the time, even when we're not together.

I used to daydream all the time about Jared, this really hot guy on my favourite soap, "All Our Lives". I taped it every day so I could watch it after school. I got totally obsessed with Jared. I'd die every time he'd look at Brittany and tell her how much he loved her. I was convinced no guy would ever look at me like that,

Now I'm going with Dan. I can't believe it's finally happening to me! I don't deserve to be this happy!

### Dan:

I wasn't expecting to fall this hard. I mean, I'd been watching Tina with her friends and I really liked the way she laughed. She even reminded me of that supermodel Valeri Christian. But honestly, if somebody had told me a few weeks ago I'd get so stuck on a girl I'd be thinking about her morning, noon and night, I would've told them to stuff it.

It's so weird. Just the day before, me and Marcus were making fun of this Teen Help Page on the Internet. We took this "Rate Your Relationship" quiz and picked all the worst answers on purpose. We totally failed. What a riot!

The next day, Tina and I went out for coffee and wham! I'm in a relationship!

She's such a great person. I feel like my life is finally coming together.

**Tina:**

Dan and I try to get to school a bit early so we can spend some time together before our first class. He's a bit late this morning. But that's okay. We hang around my locker and start fooling around a bit. Ohhh, it's going to be hard to get my head around history class. I see Mrs. Fretz, the hall monitor, coming along. I feel a little embarrassed, so I pull away from Dan – just for a second, until she is gone. He acts kind of annoyed with me. I explain it was just 'cause I saw The Fretz coming.

He doesn't seem his usual self this morning. I ask him if anything's wrong.

**Dan:**

I'm running late this morning, but there's Tina, waiting for me by her locker. She looks fantastic in that top. Who needs Valeri Christian anyway?

We start having a nice, long good morning kiss. Then Tina pulls away from me all of a sudden. I ask what's wrong and she says something about The Fretz coming down the hall. Why should she care what the old lady thinks? I mean, kids make out in the hall all the time. It's no big deal.

Okay, maybe I'm feeling a bit jumpy this morning. I was up till after midnight trying to get my homework done. Which was difficult with all the yelling downstairs. Ever since my dad got laid off from the plant my mom's on him all the time: "You could find a job if you looked harder!"

Tina asks me if there's anything bothering me. I'm not sure what to say...

**DOES DAN CONFIDE IN TINA OR KEEP THINGS TO HIMSELF?**

**It's up to you...If Dan confides in Tina go on to page.....3**

**If Dan keeps things to himself go on to page.....4**

**Dan:**

I tell Tina my parents had a fight last night and I was up late studying. I don't want to make a big deal of it or anything

But Tina doesn't act like it's weird to talk about stuff like that. She actually listens to me. And getting it off my chest helps me start to feel a bit better.

**Tina:**

Dan says his parents were fighting last night. Poor guy, no wonder he didn't get much sleep. I'm so glad he told me about it. It's so hard to get guys to talk about anything personal.

go on to page..... 5

**Dan:**

I tell Tina I was up late studying and I'm kind of tired, that's all. No point in laying my problems on her. It wouldn't make a difference anyway.

Tina asks if that's all it is and I say, yeah, I'm okay. Girls. They always want to talk about stuff. It's better to keep things to yourself.

**Tina:**

Dan tells me he's just tired from staying up to study. But he still seems kind of down. I'm worried maybe he's mad at me or something. I ask him if there's anything else bothering him. But he says no, he's just tired.

Guys. It's so hard to get them to talk about anything personal.

go on to page..... 5

**Tina:**

Dan hasn't talked about his family. I sometimes wonder what it must be like for him with all those brothers and sisters. Even his grandfather lives with them. In a way I envy him. At least his family is all together.

Of course my mom's happy now that her boyfriend Ted's moved in with us. As far as she is concerned my dad doesn't exist anymore. She blows up if I so much as mention his name. I mean, she acts like the divorce was all his fault.

I don't want to think about that now. I just want to feel close with Dan. I love him so much! He pulls me close to him and we start kissing again. This time I don't even think about The Fretz!

Oh, groan, there's the bell! I can't face history class...

**Dan:**

I want things to be good between Tina and me. I really care about her. I pull her close to me and we start kissing again. Rats! There goes the bell for first period!

**Dan:**

Man, I thought my class would never end. And all this pressure from exams coming up. I'm looking forward to seeing Tina. We're gonna study together.

She tells me she's got basketball practice! I forgot it's Thursday. Damn! Couldn't she miss practice just this one time?

**Tina:**

Whew! Another day of classes over. Things are getting heavy 'cause exams start soon. And it doesn't help that the teachers keep freaking us out, talking about the terrible things that'll happen if we don't study.

I meet Dan after school, waiting for me to go and study. I guess he forgot I have to go to practice. This job of his is getting to be a major pain. The only day he's free after school, I've got basketball practice!

He wants me to skip practice today. But we're getting ready for a big game against Western Tech and our coach is really on us not to miss practice. But Dan really wants me to. I'm not sure what to do...

**DOES TINA SKIP OR GO TO PRACTICE?**

**It's up to you...If Tina decides to skip practice go on to page...7**

**If Tina decides to go to practice go on to page...8**

**Tina:**

I guess I can skip this one time. I'll tell coach I had to go to the dentist or something. I mean, what difference does it make? It's not like I'm the best player on the team.

Still, I wonder why it's always up to me. Can't Dan skip work just this one time?

But I know he just wants to be with me as much as he can. He's giving me that look, just like Jared does on "All Our Lives", when he tells Brittany he how he can't be apart from her, even for just a few hours...

**Tina:**

I tell Dan I really should go. I promise to rush out afterwards and meet him. We can still get some studying in before dinner. He looks like he's ticked off and starts to walk away. I don't want him to be mad at me. I start to wonder if maybe I should change my mind...

**DOES TINA STICK TO HER GUNS OR CHANGE HER MIND?**

**It's up to you...If Tina sticks to her decision go on to page.....9**

**If Tina changes her mind go back to page.....7**

**Dan:**

Tina tells me she can't skip practice. I say, okay, I'm fine. I'm outta here.

It really ticks me off. The one day I don't have to work. She could miss practice if she really wanted to. It's not like I've got any choice about work. I've got to have some money of my own, and with my dad laid off...

I can tell she's upset. I almost feel like going back and telling her I'm sorry.

**DOES DAN STAY MAD PR TELL TINA HE'S SORRY?**

**It's up to you...If Dan says he's sorry go on to page.....10**

**If Dan stays mad go on to page.....11**

**Dan:**

She almost looks like she's going to cry. I hate it when girls do that. I feel like a total rat. I go back and tell her it's okay, I know being on the team's important to her and all that stuff.

**go on to page..... 12**

**Dan:**

Tina almost looks like she's going to start crying. I feel like a total rat, but I don't back down. If you do that with a girl she starts thinking she's in charge.

I just keep walking away. What the hell? I'll see her later. She'll get over it.

**go on to page..... 12**

**Tina:**

I go off to practice. I still feel kind of upset, but playing hard takes my mind off everything. Coach says I'm getting better on defense. That makes me feel good. It's not like I'm one of the star players or anything. I just like being part of the team.

We had a practice game. I scored!

**Dan:**

I hang around school and catch a bit of practice through one of the little windows in the gym doors. I don't want Tina to see me watching. She's actually not a bad player. I thought maybe our fight would throw her off, but she really seems to get into it.

It's cool watching her run around the gym. She's got a better bod than Valeri Christian – no question.

Hey, cool! She scored!

**Tina:**

Dan and I are studying at my house. Things are better between us. I hate it when we're fighting. We're sitting so close on the couch, it's hard to concentrate.

After a while he starts kissing the back of my neck. Whoa! Hope nobody comes in. I know mom's working late and my brother's got hockey practice. And didn't Ted say he had a meeting tonight? Maybe we should keep our minds on studying.

**Dan:**

I go over to Tina's to study later. Things feel a lot better between us now. It's a lot easier to concentrate at her place. You can actually hear yourself think here. And we're alone. That would never happen in my house.

I start nuzzling her on the neck. I look down and I can see a bit of her breast inside her tank top and I want to touch it in the worst way. She says maybe we should get back to studying. In a minute I say...

**DO TINA AND DAN KEEP FOLLING AROUND OR GO BACK TO STUDYING?**

**It's up to you...If Tina and Dan keep fooling around go on to page...14**

**If Tina and Dan go back to studying go on to page...15**

**Tina:**

He says he just wants to show me how much he cares about me. It just makes me melt inside when he talks like that. He slides his hand under my tank top and starts caressing my breast. It feels soooo good. I just want him to keep going...

I think I hear a noise. Maybe it's the cat. I look over and Ted's standing there! Oh my God! We scramble apart, but Ted's looking pretty upset. I wonder if he's going to go ballistic at Dan. But he just tells Dan it's time for him to go home. Turns out his meeting's tomorrow night! Damn!

I bet he's going to tell my mom. Now I'm really gonna get it. What if she says I can't see Dan anymore?

**Dan:**

I tell her I just want to show her how much I care about her. I know it sounds like a line, but right now it's how I really feel. I slide my hand under her top and feel her breast. Wow, we're both getting so hot...

All of a sudden, she pulls my hand away and starts to sit up. I can't believe it! What kind of game is she playing?

Then I clue into what's happening. It's her stepdad standing right in the doorway! Oh, man, what rotten timing! He looks pretty ticked off – like he's about to throw me out of the house. But he doesn't even yell. Just tells me to go home. Whew!

**go on to page..... 17**

**Tina:**

Dan starts to feel me under my tank top. It feels really good, almost too good. Things are moving pretty fast. I tell Dan maybe we should cool it and get back to studying, and I start to slide his hand out in the nicest way possible.

I try to sit up, but he's got his hand on my shoulder. Just for a second, it feels like he won't let me up, almost like he's going to push me back down onto the couch. But then he takes his hand away.

Just then, I hear the front door open. We both straighten up and grab the books. Ted walks in! He looks at me a little funny, like maybe he can tell something's been going on, but he doesn't say anything. He tells Dan it's time to go home.

Turns out his meeting is tomorrow night. Whew! Lucky we stopped when we did.

**Dan:**

I slide my hand under her top and feel her breast. I can tell she's really turned on...

Then all of a sudden she pulls my hand away. She says we should cool it and get back to the books. I can't believe it! What kind of game is she playing? Leading me on, getting me all hot...A guy can't just turn it on and off like that! She starts to sit up. I almost feel like pushing her back down...

Okay, cool it for now. Back to the books. We got tons of studying to do anyway. But man, do I feel scrambled up inside.

There's a noise. Sounds like the front door. We both sit up fast and pull our books onto our laps. It's her stepdad. He didn't have a meeting after all. Whoa, that was close!

**go on to page..... 17**

**Dan:**

Another fight last night. This time the whole family got into it. Yelling and shoving – a total free-for-all. Sometimes I feel like I’m going to go nuts. There’s just too many people in that house!

Just forget about it. Think about something else. The final round of hockey playoffs starts tonight! I’m going over to Marcus’s to watch the game.

I wait for Tina by her locker. She looks like her mind’s a zillion miles away...

**Tina:**

Thinking back to last night. Can’t get over how it went with Ted. It was the first time it was just the two of us for dinner, and we finally had a real talk. He’s actually not such a bad guy.

At first it was awkward, but then he started asking me about school, and basketball, especially. He really likes basketball, and says he’ll come to our next game. My dad promised to come to a game, but he still hasn’t shown up. Mom’s probably got him scared off. She keeps acting like she doesn’t want him to have anything to do with me and my brother.

Ted said I should try to talk to mom about it, but there’s no point. We just can’t communicate.

Seeing Dan waiting for me by my locker snaps me out of my mood. I’m so glad to see him. I need to be around somebody who really cares for me right now.

I kiss him and say I’m really looking forward to tonight. He looks at me kind of strange. And I’m like, it’s Friday!

**Dan:**

Tina smiles and kisses me. Man, that's better. Then she says something about tonight and I go, Huh? I told her about going over to Marcus's to watch the hockey game. Didn't I?

What's she getting so upset for? I'm sure I told her.

**Tina:**

Hockey game? What's going on? Friday's our night!

I bet this is Marcus' way of getting back to me. Ever since we started going out he's been ticked off that Dan spends so much time with me.

I really don't understand why Dan keeps hanging out with Marcus. He probably feels sorry for the guy. I swear Marcus has no friends other than Dan – unless you count his computer! Why can't Dan see how pathetic Marcus is?

**DOES TINA PUT MARCUS DOWN OR KEEP HER FEELINGS TO HERSELF?**

**It's up to you...If Tina keeps her thoughts to herself go on to page...19**

**If Tina puts Marcus down go on to page.....20**

**Tina:**

But I bite my tongue. I mean, of course Dan's going to be loyal to Marcus. They've been best friends since they were little.

I guess I'm just hurt that he picked Marcus over me on a Friday night. But I don't want to start a fight. So I say it's okay. We can get together tomorrow night.

Why does everything have to be so complicated? This kind of thing never happens to Brittany and Jared!

**Dan:**

I can tell she's gonna get on my case about Marcus and the game. Oh, man, please don't start! Okay, maybe I did forget to tell her, but...

Then all of a sudden she smiles and says, okay, tomorrow night.

Man, girls are moody sometimes. She must be getting her period or something...

**Tina:**

“When are you going to outgrow that guy?” I tell Dan. “If you’re not careful you’re going to end up a total loser just like he is.”

**Dan:**

Where does she get off, putting Marcus down like that? And I can’t stand that tone of voice! It’s just like when my mom starts in on my dad.

I’m just boiling up inside. I feel like shoving her right against those lockers...

**DOES DAN SHOVE TINA?**

It’s up to you...If Dan shoves Tina go on to page.....21

If Dan doesn’t shove Tina go on to page.....23

**Dan:**

Before I know what I'm doing my arm shoots right out and slams her against the lockers...

**Tina:**

All of a sudden, he reaches over and shoves me hard. My back slams right into my combination lock. OWW!

At first I'm too stunned to do anything – even cry. I've never seen him like this.

**DOES TINA HIT DAN BACK?**

**DOES SHE TELL HIM OFF?**

**DOES SHE MAKE EXCUSES FOR HIM?**

**It's up to you...If Tina makes excuses for Dan go on to page..... 25**

**If Tina tells Dan off go on to page.....24**

**If Tina hits Dan back go on to page.....22**

**Tina:**

I'm so furious I can't even talk! All I can do is shove him right back!

**Dan:**

Hey, now she's really asking for it! But I better get a grip. There's all these people around. Still I don't know what she's freaking out for.

**It's up to you...To find out how Tina feels later that night go on to page...26  
To find out how Dan feels later that night go on to page....27**

**Tina:**

Whoa! Dan's got this really mean look on his face. I've never seen him like this. He scares me.

**Dan:**

Cool is, I tell myself. Get a grip. I'm a man. I can control myself. Still, she shouldn't talk to me like that!

**To follow Tina's story go on to page.....26**  
**To follow Dan's story go on to page.....27**

**Tina:**

I'm just furious. He can't treat me like that. "How could you?" I scream at him.

**Dan:**

Okay, I'm sorry. I lost it for a second there. Buts she's not hurt or anything. What's she getting all upset about?

**To follow Tina's story go on to page.....26**

**To follow Dan's story go on to page.....27**

**Tina:**

I tell him I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I shouldn't have talked to him like that. I can't stand him being mad at me.

**Dan:**

Okay, maybe I lost it for a second there. But she knows she's got no business talking to me like that.

**To follow Tina's story go on to page.....26**  
**To follow Dan's story go on to page.....27**

**Tina:**

Home. On a Friday night. Watching a video. It's the one where this girl falls in love with a guy whose voice she hears over the radio. She just knows they're meant for each other. Watching it makes me even more bummed out about my fight with Dan. Things were going so well between us.

I keep going over all the different things my girlfriends said at lunch: "He's such a hot guy, Tina! Don't let him get away!" "Do not ever let a guy treat you like that!" "Be extra nice to him for a while – he'll get over it." I'm so confused. I don't know what to think.

I can't tell mom about it. I'm afraid she'll just flip out, which would be of no help at all. I wish I could forget about everything and go to sleep for twelve hours straight. But I feel totally churned up inside. I really need to talk to somebody...

**DOES TINA TALK TO HER MOM OR JUST GO TO BED?**

It's up to you...If Tina talks to her mom go on to page..... 28

If Tina goes to bed go on to page.....31

**Dan:**

Friday night. The game's over but I don't want to go home, so I decide to crash at Marcus' house. We stay up watching one of those old black-and-white gangster movies. It's so corny we think it's funny, but there's a scene where the bad guy smacks this girl really hard across the face. That makes me wince.

Marcus turns off the TV. After a while, I ask him if he ever felt like hitting a girl. "Me? No. I'd never do anything like that – unless she had it coming!" We both laugh. He's just kidding around, of course.

Marcus goes off to bed, and I go flop on the couch, like I always do when I crash at his place. But I'm not sleepy. The computer's right there and I go turn it on. I keep thinking about the stuff on that Teen Help Page we found on the Internet a while back. Wonder if I should go check it out again.

Maybe I'll play a game of *Extreme Mayhem* instead...

**DOES DAN CHECK OUT THE TEEN HELP PAGE OR PLAY A GAME?**

It's up to you...If Dan checks out the teen help page go on to page....29

If Dan plays a game go on to page..... 30

**Tina:**

After my brother goes to bed I screw up my courage to talk with mom about me and Dan.

Before I get five words out she starts yelling that I'm not allowed to see Dan any more. I knew she's freak! But Ted steps in and calms her down. He says she should let me have my say. What a concept!

I tell them all about our fight at the lockers this morning. Ted shakes his head and tells me I should only go around with people who respect me and treat me well.

Then my mom looks me right in the eye: "Remember, Tina: If a guy hits you once, he'll hit you again. I wish somebody had told me that when I married your dad."

That really shakes me up.

I don't know what to do. Is my mom right? Should I break up with Dan? Is there any way we can work things out together?

I need to be alone for a while to think...

**DOES TINA BREAK OFF WITH DAN OR TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT?**  
It's up to you...If Tina breaks off with Dan go on to page.....32  
If Tina decides to try and work things out go on to page...33

**Dan:**

Right, here's the quiz. Maybe I'll try it for real this time. Just a few questions. I wouldn't want Marcus to catch me doing it!

*RATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP: "It's okay with me when my girlfriend/boyfriend wants to do something without me." Yes, No, Sometimes. "My girlfriend/boyfriend puts down things or people that are important to me." Yes, No, Sometimes. "My girlfriend/boyfriend has hurt me physically, or threatened to." Yes, No, Sometimes. "My girlfriend/boyfriend and I can talk about whatever's on our minds." Yes, No, Sometimes.*

Whoa. Some of these questions are pretty heavy-duty...

The Help Page gives a number you can call if you want to talk to somebody. I wonder if I should take it down. Not that I'd use it. I couldn't talk about this stuff, especially to some stranger...

**DOES DAN TAKE DOWN THE NUMBER OR NOT?**

**It's up to you...If Dan doesn't take down the number go on to page....32**

**If Dan takes down the number, go on to page.....33**

**Dan:**

I'd feel pretty stupid if Marcus walked in and saw that Teen Help Page on the screen. Anyway, what could it tell me that I don't already know?

I put in the *Extreme Mayhem* disk. This time I swear I'm going to get to *Mayhem Level Nine*. I'll call Tina tomorrow. We'll go out and do something tomorrow night. Everything'll get back to normal. Everything'll be okay. No sweat.

**THE END**

**Tina:**

Oh, forget it. There's no point talking to her. She'll just bring up what happened between her and her daddy. She assumes because it happened to her it'll happen to me, too. But it won't. I'm not her.

I go to bed.

In the morning Dan calls. I'm glad to hear his voice! He wants to get together tonight. It feels great to have things back to the way they were between us. I swear I'm going to be extra nice to him. I've got to make sure I never set him off like that again.

I just know everything's going to work out for us. We're meant to be together, just like Jared and Brittany.

**THE END**

**Tina:**

I keep going over everything in my mind. He's such a great guy. We were so happy. How could I think of dumping him? I cry myself to sleep.

In the morning I know what I have to do. I call Dan and tell him I think we need some space from one another for a while.

**Dan:**

Tina calls. Her voice sounds all shaky. I can hardly believe what she's telling me...

I don't want to lose her. She's the only good thing in my life right now. I promise her things will be better from now on. She's just got to give me a chance to prove it.

**Tina:**

There's so much hurt in his voice, I feel terrible doing this to him. Maybe he's right. I should give him a chance...

**DOES TINA STICK TO HER DECISION OR GIVE DAN ANOTHER CHANCE?**

**It's up to you...If Tina gives Dan another chance go on to page.....33**

**If Tina sticks to her decision go on to page.....34**

**Tina:**

I tell Dan that I really care about him. I want us to stay together. But we can't just forget about what happened yesterday. I tell Dan about my talk with my mom and Ted, and say maybe he should think about talking to someone who could help him deal with things.

**Dan:**

I listen to what Tina's saying, and think about the number that Teen Help Line I wrote down last night...

**DOES DAN TELL TINA HE'LL CALL THE HELP LINE?**

**It's up to you...If Dan doesn't tell Tina he'll call the help line**

**go on to page.....35**

**If Dan tells Tina he'll call the help line go on to page..36**

**Tina:**

No, I feel bad for Dan. But this isn't a good way to start out a relationship. I want a guy who treats me right, like Ted said. There's not much else for us to say, is there? Except "See you around?"

**THE END**

**Dan:**

But I'm not going to call just because she says I should. Those places never help anyway. She's the one who's making such a big deal over a little fight. I don't need the hassle. Forget her.

**THE END**

**Dan:**

I tell her I've got the number of this Help Line. She wants me to give it a try. I don't know. I've never done anything like that before. But, I want to show her I'm serious about working stuff out. I really do care about her.

I dial the number...

**THE END**

**AIDS and Sexual Health InfoLine**      1-800-668-2437  
or 416-392-2437

**Kids Help Phone**      1-800-668-6868

**Teen Sex InfoLine**      416-961-3200

**Facts of Life Line**      1-800-463-6739