

My name is Tricia and I'm in Grade 8. I've been going out with this guy, Sean. He's in Grade 9. We're not really going out - I'm not allowed to go anywhere with a guy by myself. And because he's in high school, my folks would really go nuts. They're so strict. I think that's why my sister, Jenny, has been sneaking around with her boyfriend, Dave. I worry about her sometimes.

You know, I can hardly concentrate in school cuz I'm always thinking about Sean. Omigod, I just got a text message:

"Trish, meet me at the baseball diamond after school."

I sure want to, but I hope it doesn't make me late getting home. My Mom makes me call her as soon as I open the door. Of course I can call from my cell anywhere. She'd never know.

Meets Sean - Page 3

Doesn't meet Sean - Page 2

I text back "Cant. Got 2 get home. Call me L8R."

He calls me right away and says it's OK. We chat for a while; then he asks if he can come over to my place.

Yes - Page 5

No - Page 4

I text back "Sure. See you L8R" and just pray I don't get into trouble.

When we meet after school, he tells me about how he got into trouble in class and how Mr. Carrie always picks on him. I'm so glad he likes to talk to me. Then he says he'll walk me home.

When we get to my place, he asks if he can come in. I'm not sure my Mom would like it, but she's still at work. I have to call to say I'm home, but I really don't want to ask about Sean in front of him. Maybe I just won't tell her.

Comes in, doesn't tell - Page 5

Can't come in - Page 6

I tell him my Mom wouldn't like it. He says "Your Mom really runs your life, eh. My Dad's like that, but he's worse. He says I'm just no good. Says I'm just like his younger brother and look what happened to him. Anyway, it's OK. We're still going to that movie on Saturday, right?"

I tell him, "Yeah, it's all good, because some of our friends are going too."

Turn to page 7

At my place he comes in and starts looking around. I call my Mom to say I'm home. She asks about school and homework and all that stuff. I don't say anything about Sean.

When I get off the phone, Sean is already sitting in the living room. He turns to me, smiles and pats the seat on the couch next to him. He tells me how his Dad always blames him for stuff and never listens to him. It's so great that he likes to talk to me.

Then, we snuggle and kiss a bit. He even French kisses me. I've never felt like this before. My face is hot. It feels funny between my legs and I'm breathing hard. I push him away a little and ask him if he wants something to drink. He looks at me, kind of smiles and says he has to go. Phew! "See you at the movie Saturday night," he says.

Turn to Page 7

"I'm sorry Sean, I can't risk getting in trouble before Saturday. If she grounds me, we won't be able to go to the movie together."

He says not to worry. It's all good.

Turn to Page 7

It's Saturday night.

I have been just dying to see this movie. A bunch of us are going, but I don't care who's there as long as I'm with Sean.

We sit down with our popcorn and share. The movie starts. My attention is divided between the screen and his hand in mine. I never knew holding hands could feel so good. He rests our two hands on my thigh and then starts rubbing, kind of tickling with his fingers over my jeans. I get that feeling between my legs and hold my breath. His hand goes a little higher up. Now all my attention is riveted. Should I stop him? Should I wait and see what he does?

Stops him - Page 8

Waits to see - Page 9

I push his hand away. He kind of sulks. He won't hold my hand any more and the movie is ruined for me.

When we get outside, I ask him if he wants to talk.

"What's there to talk about?" he says. You think I'm trying to take advantage cuz I'm older."

"Sean, I do trust you."

"You have a funny way of showing it. I would have stopped, you know."

"I didn't know that."

Turn to Page 10

His hand stops moving. He whispers in my ear, "Is this OK?"

"I don't know."

"OK, I'll stop."

He laughs. "I'll bet it felt good"

"Kinda."

Turn to Page 11

He turns to me and says, "Do you still want to go out with me?"

"I do, Sean, but not if you're going to get all mad."

I'm sorry. It's better when we talk about stuff. Come on, I'll walk you."

Oh, man, I really like this guy.

Turn to page 12

When we get outside, he says he'll walk me.

"Sean, it was kind of embarrassing in the movie. When, you know..."

"I know, Les. I'm sorry. Really."

"Sean, I don't think anyone appreciates you like I do."

Right there in the street, he hugs me - hard - like he's holding on for dear life. Oh, man, I really like this guy.

Turn to page 12

When I get home, my sister, Jenny is looking upset. I ask her what's up.

"I've got these bumps on my, you know, thing. It's probably just razor bumps."

"I don't know why you shave, Jen. Yuck. But maybe you have something. You need to go to the doctor's."

"No way. Doctor Ferreira might tell Mom and Dad. I'm sure it's nothing. They'll probably go away."

I ask her, "Have you and Dave been doing it?"

"Yeah, but he pulls out."

I freak out on her. "You haven't been using condoms?!"

Turn to page 13

"Look, I know what I'm doing. It's no different from when I was with Trevor and nothing ever happened."

I tell her she needs to go to a doctor's and then I remember. In health class, this lady came and told us about some clinics. I say I'll go with her. I can see she's embarrassed cuz she's the older sister.

If Jenny goes, turn to page 14

If Jenny decides to wait and see turn to page 15

Jenny ends up going by herself.

When she gets home, I can see she's upset.
I ask her how it went.

"The doctor says I have warts and burned them off."

"Hey, wait. I know about that stuff. We had a class just before I got that needle. Wait, I'll get my notes."

"What needle?"

"I don't remember what it's called, but it protects against warts and something else. I forget. Here. Look."

I tell her about how warts are caused by HPV and how they go away and how she needs a Pap test.

"Yeah, they did that, too. OK. OK. You were right, little sister."

Turn to page 17

Jenny was sure it was nothing. A few days later, she tells me she missed her period. She always writes it down cuz she does track and has to be prepared for her cramps.

"OK," I say, "That's it. We're going to the clinic.

Turn to page 16

At the clinic, she fills out some papers, then she goes in to see the counsellor. When she comes out, she says, "At least I'm, not pregnant. I still have to see the doctor, though.

The doctor says she's got warts and burns them off. They also do a Pap test to see if she has abnormal cells that could lead to cancer.

Suddenly, I remember that my mom and dad want me to get some kind of needle. Now I know what it's for. Of course, even if Jenny had gotten that needle when she was in grade 8, she still could have gotten pregnant.

Turn to page 17

The next time I see Sean, I tell him I don't want to do any more than kiss for now. I tell him I may want to do more later on, but other stuff is just too scary for me right now.

He says that's OK. Then we kiss.

I feel like I could kiss him forever. And to be honest, I don't need anything more for now.