



# OLD MAN, *Young Girl*

## "Dear Diary,

Today was so great! Jason Ling wants to go steady. He is a totally buff guy—and a senior! I can't believe it. Any girl in school would die to go out with him. And he wants me!

It's going to take some real doing to pull this off. My parents don't know. If they did, they'd make us break up. Just because I'm a freshman, they think a senior guy is too old. Well, they're wrong. I'm not letting him go! My parents actually think every senior guy wants to rape every freshman girl. They are dead wrong. I've even talked to Jason about it, and he just laughs."

Darla

## The Stats

Teen risk factors regarding sexual behavior:

- ☐ 53% have had sexual intercourse.
- ☐ 18% have had intercourse with four or more partners.
- ☐ 38% have had sexual intercourse in the last three months.
- ☐ 54% of sexually active teens used a condom the last time they had sex.
- ☐ 17% use birth-control pills while they are sexually active.

*U.S. News and World Report*  
October 7, 1996

## By the Book...

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

**M**elissa is a freshman at San Anselmo High School. She's 15 but looks much older. Melissa likes older guys—the younger ones, she says, "are too immature." Her mother has made it very clear that even though Melissa looks older, she isn't older—and therefore cannot date older guys.

This has never been a problem until now. Melissa, always active in her church, is now in the high school group. And she's become friends with one of the high school volunteer sponsors. A male sponsor. A 20-year-old male sponsor. Gordie is a total babe—and a strong Christian, active in his college's InterVarsity group, and just a great guy.

Melissa is not the type to sneak around. She honestly figures that since Gordie is a Christian, a sponsor of the youth group, and a nice guy, her mother will have no problem with Melissa and Gordie dating.

Wrong!

Her mom wigs out—not only forbidding Melissa and Gordie from dating, but going to the senior pastor of the church and demanding that Gordie be removed as a high school sponsor. The pastor complies. Melissa is furious that her mother would do such a thing. She immediately stops going to youth group and plans on secretly spending time with Gordie. By now, Gordie is so infatuated with Melissa that he's willing to continue the relationship as well.

Melissa comes to you, her best friend, for advice.

1. What advice would you give to Melissa?

2. Do you think there's a problem with a high school freshman dating a 20-year-old? Why or why not?

3. Do you agree or disagree with the mother's response? If you disagree, what should she have done?

4. Do you agree with the pastor's decision?

5. If you were Gordie, what would you do?

