

■ DOUBLE CROSS

Laura and her boyfriend, Al, had been hassling over whether or not to have sex. Laura thought intercourse before marriage was wrong. Al didn't. Laura's best friend, Sally, and her boyfriend, Bob, had been having intercourse for over a year. Sally told Laura she was crazy not to do it with Al. Al gave Laura an ultimatum. He suggested that if Laura would not have sex with him, then she must not love him. Laura still said no, so Al broke up with her.

Laura was very upset about Al breaking up with her. One night while out at a shopping center, Laura ran into Bob, Sally's boyfriend. Bob seemed very concerned about her, so Laura agreed to go out for a soda and to talk. Bob was very understanding and before Laura knew what was happening, she and Bob were kissing. Laura knew she shouldn't do this, but it felt so good to be with Bob now that Al had left her. Somehow they ended up at the beach and before the night was over, they had sex.

Laura didn't hear from Bob again, but about a week after the beach incident, Sally came to Laura devastated. She confided she had herpes and that she got it from Bob. "Did you know that Bob was sleeping around with a bunch of other girls?" Sally asked.

Laura tried not to worry. She had had sex with Bob only once, but she noticed that she had some sores on her genital area. She was frightened and decided to tell Sally about her one night with Bob. Sally just looked at Laura with disgust and started laughing, "So, you *did* have sex with Bob? I thought so. Some friend you are. Well, Laura, you can find someone else's shoulder to cry on. I don't have herpes. I just wanted to see who Bob was playing around with. Now I know. Thanks for being such a good Christian friend."

Sally then confronted Bob, who told Sally that everything had been Laura's fault. "Hey, she came on to me. I just couldn't help it. She got me all turned on and said it would really hurt her if I didn't. Honest."

When Al heard about Laura and Bob, he called Laura up and told her he would like to get back together. Laura agreed to go steady again.

► Rank the following characters in the story from best to worst: Laura, Al, Sally, Bob.

► Provide a reason for each of the rankings.

● Scripture Guide: Proverbs 17:17 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 James 1:22
 Galatians 6:7–8