# STORY SUMMARIES

# KIYANA & JEREMIAH

Kiyana (16) fell in love with Jeremiah (17). At first, he did everything right: he respected her family, planned romantic dates, and was always willing to spend time with her. However, he began having a difficult time regulating his anger and started taking it out on her, both verbally and physically. She tried to distance herself with the help of the school, the police, and her family, but he refused to respect her boundaries. Kiyana's story is characterized by physical abuse, coercion, and blaming and denying. (High School)

## SASHA & HENRY

Sasha (17) met Henry (17) in high school. At first, he made her feel like a princess. However, he insisted that he had certain rights as her boyfriend: to always know where she was, to tell her what she is and isn't allowed to do, to be in constant contact with her, and to give her rules to follow. When Sasha started college, she grew increasingly uncomfortable with his rules and tried to discuss her concerns with him. Sasha's story is characterized by using technology to monitor, control and inflict emotional pain. (Middle School)

## **KELLY & MARK**

Kelly (14) met Mark (18) in high school. He always made her feel like she was the most important person in the world. However, Mark eventually began to pressure Kelly into having sex when she wasn't ready, even though he knew it was against her religious beliefs. When Kelly stood up for herself, Mark spread false rumors about her to the school. Kelly decided to press charges against Mark, resulting in a court trial. Kelly's story is characterized by sexual abuse, isolation from friends, and intimidation. (High School)

## ADAM & JESSICA

Adam (18) and Jessica (18) had a loving relationship at first. After months of dating, Jessica's jealousy became uncontrollable. She would act out for attention, belittle Adam, and instigate fights. He broke up with her, but she came back into his life to announce that she was pregnant. Not long after, they moved into their own apartment. Jessica sent hurtful messages to his friends and family so they would cut off ties with him. Then, the mental abuse turned physical and continuously escalated. Adam's story is characterized by isolation, threats and blaming, and physical and mental abuse. (High School)

## **ROSA & DYLAN**

Rosa (16) was given a promise ring by her boyfriend Dylan (17). They wanted to be together forever. As time went on, Dylan began to make hurtful remarks regarding Rosa's Mexican heritage, manipulate her using the language barrier, and use her religious beliefs against her. Dylan was unwilling to listen to Rosa's concerns. Unsure of what to do, Rosa struggled to get help from those closest to her. Rosa's story is characterized by spiritual abuse, cultural abuse, and minimizing/denying. (Middle School)

## **AUSTIN & BLAKE**

Austin (18) met Blake (24) through a friend, and they quickly began dating. Austin looked up to Blake for guidance about how to navigate his sexuality in college, but Blake began abusing that respect. Blake pressured Austin to move in with him and spend all his free time with him. When Austin showed hesitation, Blake would lash out and make hurtful comments. Austin's story is characterized by isolation, control, and physical and emotional abuse. (High School)

#### **ABBY & MASON**

Abby (14) met Mason (14) and started out as friends, but eventually he became her best friend and first boyfriend. Little by little, their relationship began to change. He began telling her she was not allowed to talk to certain people, which soon escalated into her not being able to talk to any male friends. He wanted to keep in constant contact with her, and often showed up unexpectedly as if he knew exactly where she would be at any time. Abby's story is characterized by isolation from friends, threatening behavior, and stalking. (Middle School)

#### **LEXI & OLIVIA**

Lexi (16) met Olivia (17) at a concert. They hit it off right away. Olivia had a difficult time trusting Lexi due to her experiences in a previous relationship. She started giving Lexi unrealistic rules to follow, such as always answering the phone while Lexi was at work, not allowing Lexi to hang out with other friends, and telling Lexi to stop talking to her mom. In addition, Olivia frequently had outbursts of jealousy that left Lexi feeling helpless. Lexi's story is characterized by isolation, economic abuse, and blaming. (Middle School)





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