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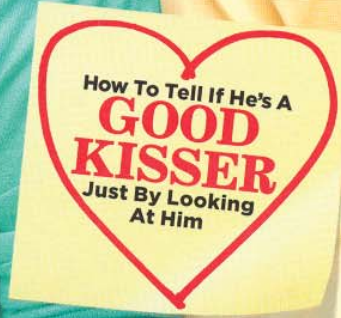
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17 Exclusive!

NICK, JOE, KEVIN

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Their Most REVEALING
Interview Ever!



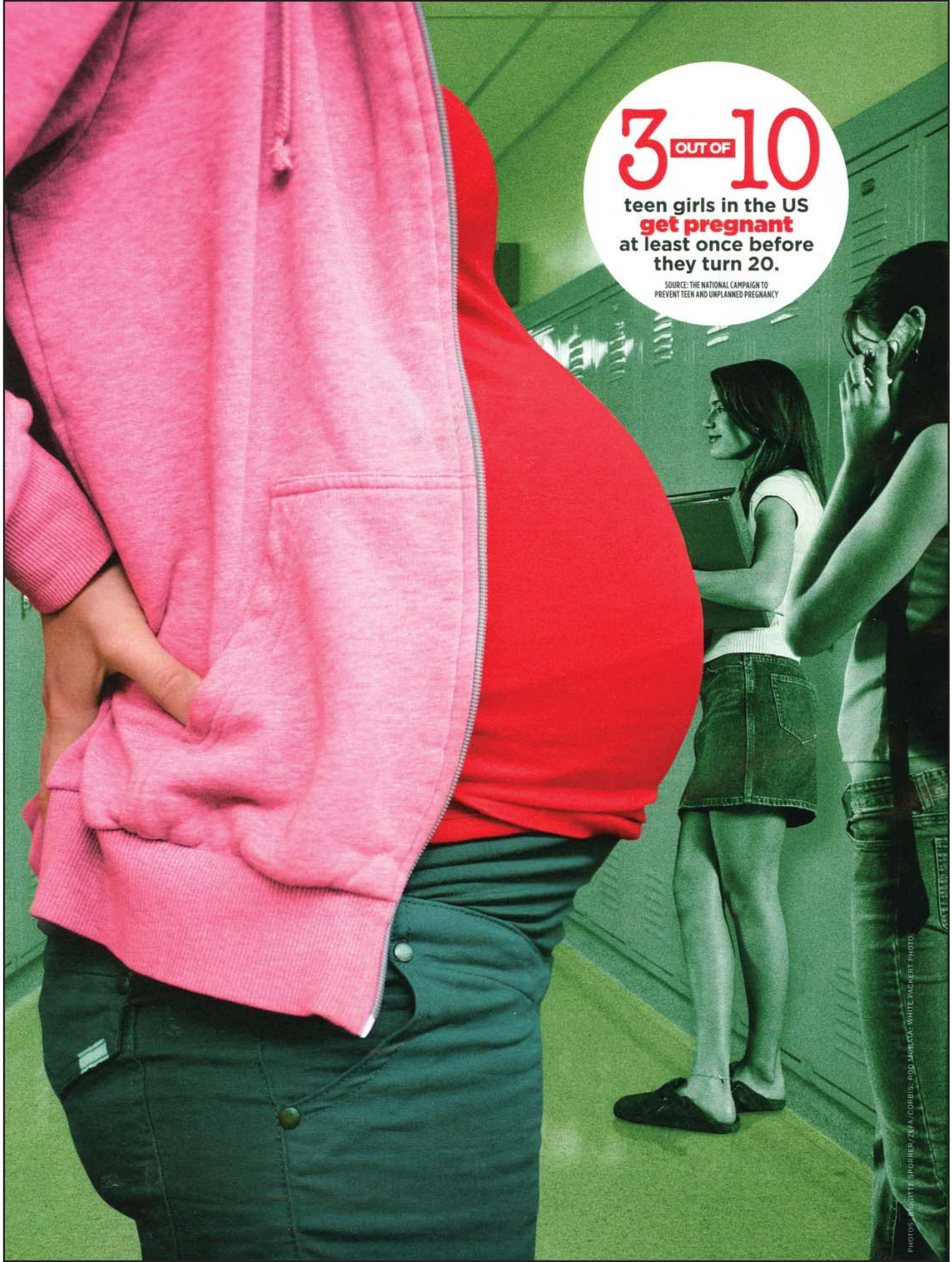
Total BEACH BODY Confidence

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Could This
Happen To
YOU?

17 ALERT: More Than 150,000 Girls Will Get ✓
Pregnant This Summer By Accident

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3 OUT OF **10**

teen girls in the US
get pregnant
at least once before
they turn 20.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO
PREVENT TEEN AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

PHOTOS: SPENCER SHORREY/ZEFA/GOBBIS; JODI MORATA; WHITE PACKET PHOTO

the secret life of

pregnant teenagers

Before you even graduate from high school, you or a girl you know will probably become pregnant. Here's what you need to know to avoid becoming just another statistic.

BY JESSICA PRESS

For one minute, close your eyes and picture the things you love most about your life. You and your best friend hanging out all night. Gossip sessions about guys at school. Marathon shopping days at the mall. And biggest of all—your dreams for your future. Now picture having to give it *all* up; imagine having to put someone else's needs before your plans—24/7, forever. That's the scenario 745,000 teen girls a *year* face by becoming pregnant.

Maybe the thought of becoming pregnant terrifies you: You think about having to tell your parents, girls at school judging you, how you'll ever support a child. But maybe after the shock of the idea wears off, teen pregnancy doesn't seem so bad: You see Jamie Lynn Spears and Bristol Palin doing just fine. And movies like *Juno* or shows like *90210* make pregnancy almost seem like a tough-girl badge of honor. But the reality of being a teen mom is nothing like most TV shows and movies make it out to be—and nothing like celebrity moms with loads of money (and lots of help) make it seem, either. The truth, as three girls revealed to *Seventeen*, is that teen pregnancy is way more complicated than *anything* you could ever imagine. ⇨

"I hate the way people look at me."



SHE JUST FOUND OUT SHE'S PREGNANT!

"When my boyfriend and I started having sex, pregnancy was so far removed from what I pictured for my life that we didn't use birth control. I just never thought it would happen. But then a few months ago, I wasn't feeling well and missed my period, so my mom and I went to my pediatrician. When she told me I was pregnant, my eyes bugged out of my head: I felt like I had let down so many people. I had my mother's support to keep the baby, which I never doubted I'd do, but I was so nervous to tell my stepdad, who's like a dad to me.

Fewer than **50%** of teen moms graduate from high school.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

I couldn't even look at him—I had to write him a letter. I still haven't told my grandparents; I just hate letting down people who love me. But the hardest thing to deal with is the way people judge me and stare now that I'm starting to show. I know what they're thinking—that I'm just a teen mom who's not going to amount to anything. I feel them doubting me, and it makes me so mad. I don't want pity, but I want people to understand that I'm a bright girl, determined to do the best I can, finish school, and have a career.

Sometimes I stay up at night with thoughts about how my life is about to change racing through my head. No more hanging out with my friends whenever, no more spending my paycheck on me. I can't go away to college, which was my biggest goal. And there are little things: If my child is sick on prom night, do I go to prom? Do I miss it? Each time I visit the doctor and hear the baby's heartbeat, the truth hits me: Now I'm responsible for another person's life."

-ELIZABETH, 17, BRONX, NY



SHE'S DUE THIS MONTH!

through thick & thin

Tyler was there for Catelynn when no one else supported her decision.

"My family doesn't agree with my decision."

My boyfriend, Tyler, and I have been together for three years. I'm not exactly sure when I got pregnant—it was either the night we used a condom that had been through the washing machine (when Tyler left it in his jeans pocket), or a night we didn't use protection at all.

I'd always been against

abortion, but when I found out I was pregnant, I was kind of for it. I felt too young to be pregnant. Then I read the paperwork and got really scared about the procedure. I knew I'd never forgive myself for it.

After that, I was all for adoption, and Tyler was for keeping the baby. But as I grew more attached to the baby, we flip-flopped: Tyler was for adoption, and I wanted to keep it. The more I grew to love my baby, though, the more I realized that she'd have a better life if she were adopted. She'd have two married parents who are ready for her. It's been a really hard, depressing decision, especially because my family is really against adoption. My mom sees it as her first grandchild being given away. It's been so hard having my mom, the number one person I look up to, not support my decision. But I have to do what's best for my baby.

We're doing a semi-open adoption, so I can be in contact with my baby. I just want her to know that I'll always love her. I have up until three months after she's born to change my mind, and sometimes I think I'll want to take her home with me. I get so sad thinking about missing out on all of her 'firsts.' But then I snap back and remind myself I'm making the right choice for my baby. It will be the hardest thing I ever do—but I have to do it.

-CATELYNN, 17, ALGONAC, MI

Follow Catelynn's pregnancy this summer on MTV's new series *16 and Pregnant*.



9021-oh, baby unprotected sex completely changed Adrianna's life.

know your options

There's no right or wrong decision about what to do if you have an unplanned pregnancy. But it's important to know *all* your choices:

abortion: Abortion is a safe, common, legal, medical procedure that can be performed at a clinic (like Planned Parenthood) or at your doctor's office. You can take a pill that will terminate the pregnancy, or have a surgical procedure.

adoption: Girls choose adoption for different reasons—from not being able to afford a baby to wanting their baby to be raised by a more prepared family. In an open adoption, you choose and stay in touch with the adopting family. In a closed adoption, you don't choose or have contact with the family.

parenthood: Raising a child may be right for you if you feel emotionally and physically ready to experience pregnancy and childbirth; are willing to put someone before yourself at all times; and have a financial plan for raising a child.

GET THE INFO YOU NEED

Pregnant or think you may be? Check out teenwire.org for the emotional, medical, and legal information you need now. And call your doctor ASAP!

"It's been the hardest year of my life."



SHE DELIVERED IN FEBRUARY '09!

"Having a baby is so much harder than people think. It's not just 'Yay, babies are cute'—it's money, it's time, it's friends. It's boys not sticking around. You have to grow up and step up and take on responsibilities you aren't ready for. I was going to go away to college, meet new people, and have a *real* college experience; now I'll have to go to a community college, *and* I'm limited to ones that offer day care. I can't party with my friends anymore or drive around aimlessly with them with a baby in the backseat. I get practically no sleep. I get government help with some of the child-care expenses, but it still costs a *fortune*. I was

working at Hardee's when I found out I was pregnant, and the money I'd make in one week is just enough to cover the cost of my baby's diapers.

80%
of fathers
don't marry
the teen mother
of their child.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

People don't understand how hard being a teen mom really is. Or they think their parents will just basically raise their baby. But I

refuse to make my baby my parents' job.

Being pregnant and going through my first year of being a mom has changed my life in every way: It makes the littlest things, like just going to school every day, so much harder—I have to get up hours earlier to feed and dress my baby, and get her off to day care. And it changes everything when it comes to guys: My boyfriend, the father of my baby, cheated on me while I was pregnant, which felt like a smack on the face—I couldn't believe he could do that after



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BUZZ

the price of motherhood

Having a baby costs a fortune—and this doesn't even cover extras, like babysitters if you want to go out by yourself! Here's a look at Brittany's first-year expenses:

ONETIME PURCHASES:	
crib + bedroom set:	\$1,000
car seat + stroller + baby bath:	\$170
holiday dress + winter snowsuit:	\$180
EVERY OTHER MONTH:	
bottles + pacifiers + washcloths + towels:	\$35
EVERY MONTH:	
diapers + diaper wipes + diaper cream:	\$50
formula + juice + food:	\$180
shampoo + lotion + baby wash:	\$15
clothes:	\$40
child care (includes government help):	\$240
toys + books:	\$25
teething tablets:	\$5
toothpaste + toothbrush:	\$8
FIRST YEAR TOTAL:	\$8,316!

everything that had happened. Still, I forgave him. I owe it to my baby and to myself to try to make things work. But it's changed my attitude about guys big-time. I could never be with a guy who doesn't like kids or doesn't accept that I'm a mom and my daughter will *always* come first.

Now my whole life is focused on giving my daughter the best possible future she can have, and repaying my parents and my boyfriend's parents for their help. My biggest fear is not being able to provide for my daughter.

I love my daughter more than anything. But I wouldn't wish being a teen mom on anyone. You may love kids and think you're ready, but you're not. Not by *any* means. We're not old enough, we're not mature enough, we don't know anything about it."

—BRITTANY, 18, BENTON, IL

prevent unplanned pregnancy

The only way to guarantee you won't become pregnant is not to have sex.

If you're having sex or thinking about it, always use two forms of birth control—a condom, plus a backup like birth control pills. See your doctor or go to Planned Parenthood to get the right birth control for you. (And *always* check the expiration date on condoms and follow the storage directions on the condom package.) Once you've protected your body, protect your future: The next time you're tempted to have unprotected sex, think about your dreams—and how becoming pregnant would mean putting them all on hold.

17 EXPERT: Vanessa Cullins, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist and vice president for Medical Affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America (ppfa.org); Amy Kramer, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (stayteen.org).

share your "secret" reason for not becoming pregnant

Seventeen, The Candie's Foundation, and The Secret Life of the American Teenager are offering one reader the chance to fly to L.A. and appear on an upcoming episode of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager!*

Share the "secret" thing you tell yourself to make sure you stay abstinent or avoid having unprotected sex, even in a moment of passion.

See page 138 for details and enter the contest online at seventeen.com/teenpregnancy.

the candie's foundation

www.thecandiesfoundation.org



TUNE IN!

The all-new season of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* premieres Monday, June 22 at 8 p.m./7c on ABC Family!