

Dear Ann Landers

17 July 1994

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 13-year-old girl and have just learned through my sex-education class at school that my mother's boyfriend may be molesting me. But I'm not sure because I have sort of encouraged him.

I have had a crush on Gary (not his real name) from the first time we met. He is very good-looking, and we get along great. At first, the three of us did things together, and Gary and I horsed around a lot. Gary was trying to be friendly, and I am sure he didn't realize I was getting stuck on him.

Mom is a nurse and works the second and third shift a lot, so Gary began taking me everywhere. We became pretty close, and it was easy to flirt with him. I was the one who initiated our first kiss, which surprised and embarrassed him. We are now getting into some pretty serious petting and fondling. We both get aroused when we are together, and I just know we are going to end up in bed together.

Ann, I'm very confused. Is Gary molesting me if I encouraged it and we both like what we are doing? Could he go to jail for what I started? I would feel awful if I got him in trouble. He really can't help himself when I tease him and come on strong.

Please answer in the paper since I don't want Mom to find out what is going on.

—D.R.