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Find

Category: Home > Reviews > Drama > Abuse > Death > Abduction > Child Exploitation > Your American Teen (2012/CTG/MVD DVD)

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## Your American Teen (2012/CTG/MVD DVD)

Picture: C Sound: C  
Extras: D Main Program: C+

Statistics tell us that every 30 seconds; another teen will be a victim of violence, rape, abuse or be sold into human sex trade. Young girls who have been brainwashed by society and mass media to sexualize themselves, that they are more attractive if they make themselves 'sexy'. The risk increases when young girls are born into family with an abusive history, or parents who will not or can not give proper guidance to their children. Often runaway girls end up prostituting themselves out by pimps end up beat up, abuse, raped or even dead.

**Your American Teen** follows the documentary of 3 young pregnant girls who were runaways and how they were able to turn their lives around afterward. One traumatized from a death in the family, one from abusive and violent parent household and one from a household were drugs were considered common and 'normal'. Their stories are told from the side of various charity organizations who try to help them rehabilitate, and that these girls are not as much law breakers but victims of society.

It's out there, but no one cares to talk about it, child prostitution and exploitation. This focuses on how these young girls fall into traps, and a vicious cycle of abuse. A few of the reasons are the girls are treated 'special', and feel they have value, but in truth they are beaten and then treated nicely by pimps, brainwashed into believe being with a pimp is better than what they had before. It is easier to take the route of sex, money, drugs than to go to school, or work a job, but it is only when they become pregnant do they realize the gravity of their problem. As for society itself, they should reflect on what sort of values are they teaching children, who are the people that commit/allow such crimes, and what can they do to help prevent it.

The image and sound are rough, but it was not as much of a problem here considering the content. There are no extras.

- Ricky Chiang

