SUSPECT ONLINE ENTICEMENT? REPORT IT.

A21.ORG/CANYOUSEEME

800-THE-LOST

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION HAPPENS ONLINE TOO.

BUT THERE'S HELP IF YOU NEED IT.

THE STORY

His first year of high school wasn't what he thought it would be. He felt like an outsider. No matter how hard he tried, he just didn't fit in. But when he was online gaming, he felt confident, relaxed and accepted. He was only 15 years old when he met "Samantha" (Sam) on an online gaming platform. They had loads in common and he soon started chatting with her all the time. They exchanged numbers and soon were "dating" online. He couldn't believe he had such a gorgeous girlfriend who was so cool!

Sam sent him some sexy photos and kept asking him to do the same. When Sam asked him to send a naked video, he didn't feel comfortable, but he didn't want her to think he was lame – so he did. When Sam asked him for more naked pictures, he said no. That's when she started being really aggressive towards him. She said he'd hurt her feelings and if he wouldn't apologize and send more, she would send that video to all his friends and family. *Sam sounded so different than before.* He felt really scared so he just ignored her, but then she sent his private video around to all of his friends! Sam threatened that it would get worse unless he did exactly what she said. He wished he never met Sam, but it was too late. He's so ashamed and scared but doesn't know what to do or who can help him. He feels like it's all his own fault. He just wants to disappear. Maybe that's the only way that he can stop this from going on.

STOP. This is not your fault. Every day, children are being harassed and manipulated online in the United States and throughout the world. Even if your "online friend" seems really cool, gives you a lot of attention, and is fun - remember you don't know who they are, and you should be very cautious about trusting them. They may not be telling you the truth. If anyone asks you to do something you're uncomfortable with, or starts threatening you online, you don't have to do what they say. Instead you should immediately ask for help from your family or teachers, or someone you trust in real life or an organization designed to help you in this situation. Even if you already sent an image or a video, there are people who can help.

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SAFETY TIPS

- When creating a username, avoid using your real name, or even parts of your real name.
- Keep personal information private - don't give out any private information online such as school name, sports team name, activities, phone number or address.
- Be careful on your posts which tell people too much – avoid posting any information that could be used to find out where you live, where you go to school, who your family is, etc.
- Only accept online friends who you know in real life.
- Learn how to block any user who makes you feel uncomfortable or report them to the platform provider.
- Tell your parents (guardian, or trusted person) about anything uncomfortable or suspicious.
- If you're uncomfortable talking to your parents, talk to a teacher or make a report to the CyberTipline at cybertipline.org.
- Remember pictures are forever, so be careful about the type of picture you give your boy/girlfriend, and whether you would want that shared with others later.
- Remember once you give someone a private picture or video of you, you lose all control of where that picture or video goes.
- Even your "hidden" and private photos and screenshots can easily be saved and shared, so make sure to understand all the features of the platforms you use.
- Tell someone if there is a photo received that includes unwanted or uninvited content.
- Be careful of someone who wants to chat with you online who you don't know in real life – especially when they start asking personal questions. They may not be who they say they are.
- Don't engage in video chats or webcam activity with anyone you don't know in real life.
- Remember that the picture of that online friend can be fake along with everything that they've told you.

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CHARACTERTISTICS OF A SUSPICIOUS PERSON

- Typically, male – but can pretend to be female
- Will try to be your friend, girlfriend, or boyfriend
- Will compliment you a lot, be supportive of you, and appear like they have loads in common with you
- Pretends to be around your age when they are really an adult
- Starts saying sexual things, including sexually suggestive questions
- May have an embarrassing picture or video of you that they share with you
- Threatens to share that picture or video of you to family or friends if you don't do exactly as they say
- Asks you to do something sexual on the webcam
- Is secretly recording you or taking screenshots
- Offers presents to you if you do what they say (this can include online gifts, like avatar skins or game credit)

REPORTING

If this or something like this has ever happened to you, do NOT be ashamed. This kind of exploitation is illegal, and it is NOT your fault.

This person has likely done this to other kids, is doing the same thing to someone now, so *reporting this can help stop the cycle* for you or others:

- Report the person and the incident to the police or The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at **1-800-THE-LOST** or **CyberTipline.org**
- If you need to talk, RAINN is here to listen 24/7. You can reach, free, anonymous, confidential help at **1-800-656-HOPE (4673)** or online at **online.rainn.org**
- Do NOT delete any texts, emails, or pictures— give them to the police after reporting.

You're not alone. There are many professionals and other caring adults who can help you.

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