
**About the author:** Rhett Godfrey is a 17 year old high school senior from Chester, New Jersey. More than 1,000 teenagers from across the country have confided in him secret ways that parents use to open up meaningful dialogue in their homes. This is his first book. Neale Godfrey, a New York best selling author and also Rhett's mother, worked with him in writing this book.

**Summary:** The author, a teen himself, interviewed other teenagers from all over the country on the Internet and over the phone, gathering information from teens of diverse racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds. He found out what kid’s parents have done right, what they have not done, and what they could do better. He uses examples from his interviews to discuss issues such as drugs, alcohol and cigarettes, sex, self-expression and privacy, school issues, divorce and remarriage, and money. He has concluded that parents do not take the time to understand their teens, and do not understand what they are going through.

The author also states that there is a growing gap between parents and kids, which makes it difficult for parents to crack the supposed “teen code”. He tries to help by letting parents know what teens want to talk about and how they want to be talked to. The most important idea that he heard over and over again was for parents to have a conversation, not a lecture. One of the few chances a parent will have to answer their teen’s questions about these sensitive topics is through a relaxed conversation. He encourages parents not to just list the facts, but to talk in third person and have these discussions in a comfortable place for the teen. When he says to talk in third person, he means that instead of saying, “When you have sex use a condom.” say, “If you are going to have sex use a condom.”. This way the teen will not feel on the spot and/or judged.

The author says that you cannot have the “Just don’t do it.” talks. By this he means when it comes to topics such as sex and alcohol instead of just saying, “Don’t do it.”, have an honest informative discussion about the consequences of such acts. He also says that the sooner a parent talks to their teen about these important issues, the more comfortable everyone will be while discussing such topics in the future. He includes many suggestions all derived from his analysis of the many interviews he conducted.

**Reviewer** Gerrie Aulisa has a B.A. in advertising from the University of Illinois, and is a former graduate student at Northern Illinois University training to become an art teacher. **Reviewer** J. G. Kelln earned a B.A. in history from Northern Illinois University. He is also a former graduate student at Northern Illinois