

A Battle of Deviance: Session 4 Program Transcript

FEMALE SPEAKER: Alan, you're a retired police officer?

ALAN: That's right.

FEMALE SPEAKER: You've mentioned to the group several times that you encountered sex offenders in your career, that you're familiar with some of their behaviors.

ALAN: Right again.

FEMALE SPEAKER: But when you talk about your relationship with Julie, who was 16, you seem to let yourself off the hook for your own behavior.

ALAN: What do you mean?

FEMALE SPEAKER: You know what grooming is, right?

ALAN: Yeah.

JEFFREY: I don't. What's that?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Alan, why don't you tell Jeffrey?

ALAN: Grooming is what they call it when an adult builds trust with a child so they can manipulate them into a sexual relationship. It's a kind of seduction with money, gifts, an emotional connection. I didn't groom Julie, if that's what you're saying.

FEMALE SPEAKER: You're not on trial, here, Alan. I'm just asking some questions for you and the group to consider.

ALAN: I said I didn't groom her. We loved each other.

MALE SPEAKER: But you did buy her things, right? I remember you said you took her out to eat once a week?

ALAN: So what?

MALE SPEAKER: Nothing. Just saying that's nice. You buy her anything else?

ALAN: Sometimes.

MALE SPEAKER: Like what?

ALAN: What Is this, 20 questions? I've got nothing to hide.

MALE SPEAKER: So, if you've got nothing to hide, like, what else did you buy her?

ALAN: I bought tickets for a band she likes. I took her and her girlfriend to the show.

FEMALE SPEAKER: You also said that the two of you really hit it off. What did that mean?

ALAN: She told me that her family and friends didn't understand her.

FEMALE SPEAKER: But you understood her?

ALAN: Yes.

FEMALE SPEAKER: How did you tell her that? How did you let her know?

ALAN: I encouraged her. I had a lot of free time. So I started driving her to school some days. I'd tell her how smart she was, so mature for her age. She had a great future. But she didn't believe in herself.

MALE SPEAKER: I bet you also told her she's pretty.

ALAN: So, what if I did?

MALE SPEAKER: Man, you were grooming her, all right. Big daddy saying and doing all that for a little 16-year-old. I bet you made her feel like a million bucks.

ALAN: I said it wasn't like that. I'm telling you I put a lot of creeps in jail for what you're talking about, but I'm no creep. Got that? It wasn't rape. No. Julie and I were in love.

FEMALE SPEAKER: But, the thing about grooming, Alan, is that, very often, the person who's doing it doesn't see it as intentional at all. The behavior occurs without the offender even knowing it.

ALAN: I hear what you're saying. But I was just mentoring her. That's all it was.

MALE SPEAKER: Yeah, you mentored her right into bed.

ALAN: She's the one who wanted to. Sex wasn't my idea. She insisted.

MALE SPEAKER: I bet she did

ALAN: Doc, I swear. I was looking out for her. She needed me to protect her. I was the only one. The only one.

A Battle of Deviance: Session 4 Additional Content Attribution

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