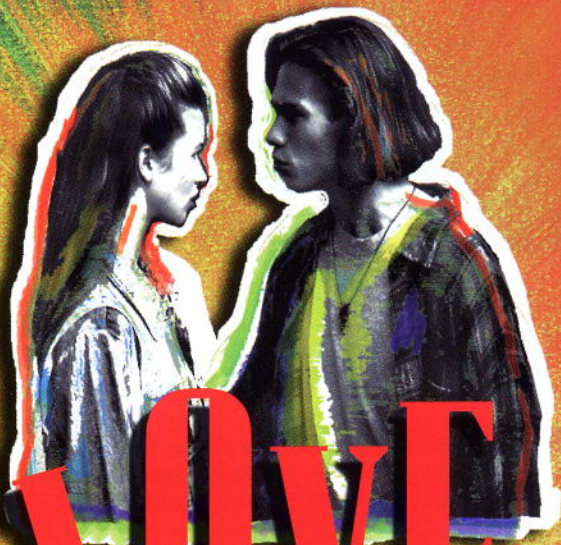


A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE



# LOVE TAPS

# LOVE TAPS

A powerful drama about teens,  
relationships  
and dating violence



VHS

9196 088



## How do I know if I'm being abused in a relationship?

Does your partner...

- ignore your feelings and wishes?
- call you names and put you down?
- tease and ridicule you about things that are important to you?
- not keep your secrets?
- ignore or pretend not to hear you?
- act more friendly when you are alone than when his/her friends are around?
- keep you away from your friends or put your friends down?
- sulk when you don't do what she/he wants?
- threaten suicide?
- show anger and use threats/violence to get his/her own way?
- encourage or pressure you to do things that make you feel uncomfortable?
- refuse to accept your limits about sexual activity?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Which of the characters in the video did you like? Whom did you dislike? Why? Did any of the kids remind you of yourself? Who? Why?

Is the situation between Terese and Mark one that you recognize as real?

How would you describe Terese's personality? What about Amanda's? How do you think the story would have been different if Mark had been dating Amanda or Kelly instead of Terese?

What do you think attracted Terese to Mark in the first place? What attracted Mark to Terese?

What kinds of things triggered Mark's anger? How did he try to control his anger?

Whenever Mark hurts Terese, his first impulse is to blame her for making him do it. Do you think Terese is in any way responsible? Is the victim of violence ever responsible for inciting the violence?

Do you think Mark is sincere when he tells Terese that he didn't mean to hurt her? If so, why do you think it keeps happening?

After Mark and Terese quarrel in the car about her job at the kennel, Mark takes his anger to the basketball court. Is he still angry at Terese? At himself?

Who controls the relationship – Mark or Terese? How? Why?

Do you think there was anything more Terese could have done to work things out with Mark? Was there anything more she should have done? Do you think Mark tried to make the relationship work?



Crystal tells Terese that Mark "is a lot happier" since they got back together. Do you think Terese felt responsible for Mark's happiness? Should she have felt responsible?

When Amanda expresses concern about how Mark is treating Terese, Terese assures her that Mark "is a pussycat." Why do you think Terese didn't tell Amanda that she was having trouble with Mark?

Why do you think Terese didn't break up with Mark sooner? Do you think she will take him back? Do you think she should?

Do you think Mark's family background was an excuse for his behaviour? Is it a reason? What is the difference between an excuse and a reason?

When Mark says that he is sorry, do you think he really means it? Why or why not? When is saying "I'm sorry," enough? When is it not enough?

**Cast**  
*Terese*  
Melissa Barker-Sauer  
*Mark*  
Terry Orletsky  
*Amanda*  
Vinessa Antoine  
*Kelly*  
Samantha Quan  
*Christel*  
Michelle Skalinick  
*Benson*  
Kyle Alisharan  
*Jess*  
Edward Diaz

**Director**  
Annie O'Donoghue

**Writer**  
Louise Milner

**Producer**  
Jennifer Torrance

**Cinematographer**  
Greg Middleton

**Editor**  
Jeanne Slater

**Production Designer**  
David Roberts

**Original Music**  
Salvador Ferreras

**Sound Designer**  
Gael Maclean

**Location Sound**  
Frank Griffiths

**Assistant Director**  
Shirley-Anne Parsons

**Post-Production  
Co-ordinator**  
Kathryn Lynch

**Studio Administrator**  
Bruce Hagerman

**Executive Producer**  
Svend-Erik Eriksen





When Ben has troubles in his relationship with Kelly, Mark gives him some good advice. Sometimes it is easier to see the problem when it belongs to someone else. Why do you think that is?

The old saying goes, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never harm me." Do you think that is true? Do you think Kelly really was 'just kidding' or was it more serious than that? Do you think Kelly will be able to keep her promise to Ben not to tease him anymore?

Do you think Ben was too sensitive to Kelly's teasing?

When does teasing or name-calling hurt and when is it "just kidding"? Is there a difference between the way boys and girls use that kind of teasing?

Terese breaks a commitment to spend the evening with Amanda in order to go out with Mark. How does Amanda react? How does Terese respond? Does this seem like a realistic and acceptable way to deal with the situation?

## ACTIVITIES

Have the group make a list of all the ways they can think of that people express anger. Have them talk about what a person might be trying to accomplish with these various methods, and what works or doesn't work, and why.

Ask the group to think about what constitutes a healthy relationship. Make a checklist of the characteristics of a healthy relationship. Ask the group which of those characteristics are the hardest for them to achieve.

Have members of the group re-create scenarios from the video using different characters or role reversals. Examples: use Mark instead of Ben in the scene where Kelly and Ben discuss the way she talks to him; let Mark have a prior commitment to a friend, while Terese wants him to spend the evening with her; use Amanda in the scene where Terese tells Mark she is going to the garage sale on his day off. Have the group explore different ways of reacting – yelling, sulking, talking, crying.

Have the group imagine that a few weeks have gone by. Ask them to create a scenario in which Mark goes to Ben to ask for help in getting Terese back. What would Ben say to his friend? How would Mark respond?

Ask the group where they would go for help if they found themselves in an abusive relationship. Have some members of the group check on school and community resources. Have others check out the legal consequences of physical and/or sexual abuse of one partner by another.

Have the members of the group spend one school day recording the kinds of names or insults they hear among their friends and that they themselves use. Talk about what is or isn't acceptable, under which circumstances (i.e., in front of other people, behind someone's back), and why.

## How do I know if my relationship is positive/healthy?

Do you...

- listen to each other?
- consider each other's feelings and ideas?
- enjoy spending time with each other?
- respect, trust and support each other?
- remember little things that are important to each other?
- let the other be first sometimes?
- value and take care of yourselves?
- respect each other's culture?

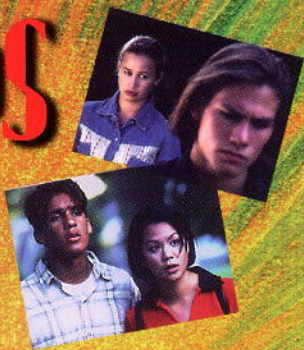
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**(604) 527-1500**

# LOVE TAPS

A powerful drama about  
teens, relationships and  
dating violence



High school students Mark and Terese are involved in a dangerous relationship. Mark is becoming more possessive and abusive and Terese thinks it's probably her fault. Her best friend urges her to break off the relationship, but Terese is convinced she can handle it...until Mark physically attacks her in front of a group of friends.

Teenagers Kelly and Benson are also involved in an abusive relationship. Even though Kelly cares deeply for her boyfriend, she is constantly making sarcastic remarks about his intelligence. Whenever Benson reacts to her verbal abuse, Kelly always apologizes, with the excuse that she's "just joking."

Designed as a discussion-starter, this video deals with some disturbing issues. Previewing before use is highly recommended.

Director: Annie O'Donoghue  
Producer: Jennifer Torrance

Order number: 9196 088  
21 minutes 15 seconds

In Canada 1-800-267-7710  
In the U.S. 1-800-542-2164

## MARK

*"I didn't mean to hurt you...if you'd stopped arguing with me, it wouldn't have happened."*

## TERESE

*"I'd better apologize."*

## BENSON

*"What do you know that I don't know?"*

## KELLY

*"In your case? Everything."*



Closed captioned. Decoder required.

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