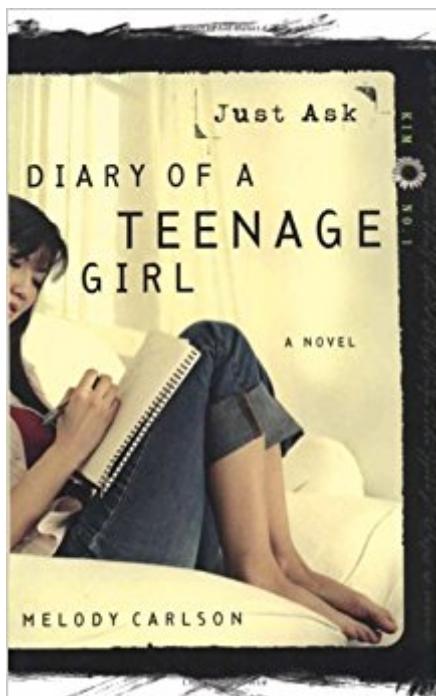


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# Just Ask (Diary Of A Teenage Girl: Kim, Book 1)



## Synopsis

Who Do You Ask When You Don't Have the Answers? What's a girl to do when caught between a rock and a hard place? The "hard place" is losing the use of her beloved car, and the "rock" is her immovable dad. In order to regain driving privileges, Kim Peterson's dad talks her into writing an advice column for teens in his newspaper. Kim reluctantly agrees and writes under a pen name. But as she reads letters from peers and friends, she becomes keenly aware of two things: (1) Some kids have it way worse than her, and (2) she does not have all the answers! Who can she turn to? Thursday, September 1 I've been saving for my own car, but my parents decided that I can only get a car if I keep a clean driving record. That means absolutely NO tickets—period. And the policeman said he'd clocked me going 72 in a 55 mile zone. Oops. When Kim Peterson gets a speeding ticket, her dad offers her a way to retain her driving privileges. If she'll write the anonymous teen advice column for his newspaper, she can still get a car. So Kim becomes "Jamie" of "Just Ask Jamie." No big deal, she thinks. She answers letters about stuff that's everyday and stuff that's not: parents, piercings, dating, drugs, depression, and people who are just users. Nothing Kim can't handle. But when a classmate is killed, the letters turn to questions about life, death, and what it all means. And Kim starts to wonder if she really does have all the answers—and if not, where to find them. The Christian faith of her adoptive family? The Buddhism of her Korean heritage? Who can she turn to just ask? Story Behind the Book "My teenage years remain vivid in my mind. It was a turbulent time full of sharp contrasts—love and hate, pain and pleasure, trust and doubt. Then, just as I reached my peak of questioning, rebelling, and seeking, I found God. And I found Him in a really big way! My life turned completely around and has, thankfully, never turned back. Hopefully this story will touch and change hearts—speaking to teen girls right where they live, reminding readers that God is alive and well and ready to be intimately involved in their lives right now!"

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #444,108 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Family #55 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Relationships #69 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Family

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up  
Kim, 16, struggles with religious questions and ultimately tries to live a Christian life while she writes a teen advice column for her dad's newspaper. Then, a family tragedy occurs and her faith is shaken. Kim is a realistic young woman trying to make sense of her world in the context of her religion. She makes mistakes and experiences the consequences of bad decisions, but, in the end, faith and friends pull her through. Though the theme is heavy, the writing is breezy and fun.  
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Melody Carlson has published more than 90 books for children, teens, and adults—with sales totaling more than 2 million. Several of her books have been the winners of various writing awards. Her Diary of a Teenage Girl series has received great reviews and overwhelming fan mail. Melody has two grown sons and lives in Central Oregon with her husband. They enjoy skiing, hiking, gardening, camping, and biking in the beautiful Cascade Mountains .

My daughter devoured this series. It is refreshing to have books with God and values in them.

Love Melody Carlson

I checked this out from the church library for my 12yo daughter. Yes, she's mature for her age. She found it interesting and read it quickly, even though she has regular assigned homeschool reading. I read the back and thought it interesting since the character is similar to me (even in name) with the exception of the healthy loving parents. My daughter understands the severity of my dysfunctional

adopted "Christain" parents, and yet (with God's grace) my faith held fast. She shared a lot of the book with me as she read it and from that I decided to give it the 5 stars. Although I read the 1 star well written rating, I still kept the 5 stars. I will be sure to ask my daughter her opinions about the judgemental attitudes of the characters. I love how the book opened up some great discussions for us about true friends, the message clothing gives, the issue of dating/foreplay and having doubts about God.

I brought the book because it seemed interesting, yet it was a let-down. Its about Kim, an adopted child, questions life and religion. While she is thinking about Buddhism, her ultra-Christian friend judge her and force her to go with the Christian faith. She also mentions how in Buddhism there is no judging, yet in the book there is judging within the Christian community. When a friend dies in the school she goes through a phase then finally goes back to being Christian, of course her friends approve. Her best (and most judgemental) friend offended me the most. She was always about being holy, yet Kim describes her wearing revealing clothing. Then later Kim dates a boy and her friends try to prevent it because the boy is not Christian. In the book she is the author of an advice articles in a local newspaper. In the beginning she gave well planned out advice, when she "Re-converts" she gives half-hearted advice and ends with something about putting your faith in god. Not that its a bad thing but it is like she gave people a "Do this and im going to leave it half open" I am a Catholic but i disliked how the Christian faith was shown in the book. It made seems everyone was small-minded and when Kim was open-minded her friends judged her. I do not recommend this book.

I loved this book "Just Ask". Kim, the main character, is a 16 year old searching for answers. She was adopted from Korea, and has two loving parents. She's got this deal with her Mom and Dad that if she keeps a clean driving record, then they'll match what she's saved up (for a car) and she'll finally have a car of her own. When she gets a driving ticket, her hopes for a new car are gone. When she tells her Dad that she got a ticket, he says he won't tell her Mom as long as she writes for an advice column in his newspaper. She reluctantly agrees, and as she starts writing, she sees life from other people's point of view. And when a kid from her school dies, she doesn't know where to turn. She's got to turn to God for the answers. I loved this book, and I'm hoping to get the next Kim book 'Mean To Be' for Christmas!!!! I definitely recommend this book.

The book in itself was a great and easy read. Just Ask follows a young Asian girl named Kim who

was adopted into a loving Christian family. It talks about a lot of areas teens do focus on-dating, friendships, alcohol, clothes, divorce and other things. However I found the book was filled with editing errors. There were numerous misspellings as well as messed up punctuation. I became highly annoyed with the large amount of errors. Maybe it was just me. But over all it was a fun read.

This book is good for teens who are struggling with their Christian faith or who need some encouragement, except I didn't like how Kim was interested in a non-Christian when she got saved. But, all in all it was a great book and I liked reading the advice columns even though some of them were dumb. It's hard to know which books in these series are the best and which ones to read, but I'd say this one was good enough to want to see what happens next.

I think this book was really good. It talks about God and a lot of other things like how you should handle things and a lot more.

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