

IT'S COMPLICATED – A COMPETITIVE FRIENDSHIP



Programmanus

Sometimes in life, you may find yourself in the middle of something new and unknown, a complicated event concerning love, sex or a friendship.

"It wasn't about her. It was about him doing that."

"She rejected you, so what?"

"I'm still hurt dude!"

You are listening to *It's Complicated*, a podcast from UR focusing on exactly those situations and each episode is about a complicated event in a young person's life.

"I feel like, I always wanted to talk to her. She was me, but a girl."

First, you are going to hear an acted scene based on real events, but where details and names have been changed. Later on you will hear the real interview that the scene is based upon.

/// DRAMA ///

SUBWAY NOISES FADE IN:

INT. SAMS SUBWAY CART SECTION – AFTERNOON

SAM

I dunno dude...

JEFF

Just tell me! Did you get a snap?

SAM

Jeff... It doesn't even matter now
to be honest...

JEFF

Come on, Sam! It's not like it was



gonna be the *end all be all*.

SAM
End all be all?

JEFF
You know... important? I mean
there's options! What've you
really lost?

SAM
Well maybe options don't make up
for it...

JEFF
What do you mean?

SAM
That thing! I mean haven't you
ever felt that connection you get
when you can talk to someone about
anything and everything?

JEFF
... no one says that, bro.

SAM
What?

JEFF
"Anything and everything".

SAM
Well I do! And that's what it was
to me!

JEFF
Sure, my guy..
Sounds of girls chatting can be heard further away..

JEFF
Hey, Sam...

SAM
Yeah?

JEFF
Isn't that Diana and her friends over there?
SAM



Yes, and?

JEFF

Stop being such a weirdo about it,
she rejected you so what?

SAM

I'm still hurt, dude!

JEFF

Still?

SAM

It was YESTERDAY...

JEFF

Well you can't stay hung up on it
forever.

SAM

How about you give me more than a
day?

JEFF

You got it, mr "everything and
everything".

SAM

Whatever dude... Hey, where are you
going?

JEFF

Where do you think?

SAM (UNDER HIS BREATH)

Jeff, no! Why!? Please!

JEFF

Relax, big guy...

Rustling fabrics and footsteps tell us JEFF has gotten up
to walk over to Diana and her friends.

INT. DIANAS SUBWAY CART SECTION - AFTERNOON

DIANA

Hey, Jeff! What's up?

JEFF

Not much, me and Sam were just



sitting over there and

DIANA

Oh?

JEFF

I- You wanna come join us?

DIANA

Ohh... No I'm fine, it's a bit
awkward between me and Sam right
now.

JEFF

Really? How come?

DIANA

It's not worth getting into - but hey how are you?

JEFF

Cool, cool... I'm good! How are you
guys?

DIANA

We're good! We're good... Hey, you
wanna grab a seat? Or do you need
to

JEFF

Nah, he's good!

DIANA

Sure?

The conversation fades as we fade back to:
INT. SAMS SUBWAY CART SECTION - AFTERNOON

SAM

... asshole...

///END ///

So Sam steps off the subway and starts walking home in the cold autumn wind, alone with sad music in his ears. Not only has the girl he likes rejected him, his best friend has also betrayed him. What just happened keeps repeating itself in his head. He

doesn't know what to do or how to react.

This is *It's complicated*, a podcast from UR. In today's episode we are listening to Sam's story. What we just heard was an acted scene based on real events from his life but now we are going to hear the real Sam and listen to his side of the story.

SAM: Since I... since I was little, I never showed emotions to anybody. I was always like alone, which is probably hard to believe for some people because I'm a very big extrovert now. But I used to... I used to be alone all the time... sit in the library and read books. That's all I did.

Sam is sixteen years old. For as long as he can remember, he has been a shy guy, who's had a hard time showing his emotions. Now, however, something has changed. During the summer his confidence grew and recently he started at a new school. A new school means new friends, a new haircut and a new way of being.

SAM: The thing is, with my old school, everyone knew me since I was 12 years old. And me as a 12-year-old, I was like... didn't know how to dress myself, of course, and I was like 150 centimeters, which I'm not now, I'm like approaching 190. So, I've grown a lot and I feel like I made a change in my style, to how I dress, because I didn't really care before. And now, I realize... I go to a new gymnasium, I can dress up every day and people will not have this picture of me. Which is why I think people started talking to me, especially girls, because I started giving... I started taking care of myself, properly.

In Sam's new school he has started talking to girls in a different way than before and there is this one girl in particular, Diana. Sam and Diana live in the same area and every morning and afternoon they go on the subway together. After talking to each other every day for a while, Sam has started realizing he has feelings for her.

SAM: I don't know. We just talked a lot, and it's really hard to put that in... in a sentence, you know. Like, I thought she was pretty funny. She was like, we had the same opinions about everything, which is kind of important for me. And she was just, like, a

really good match. She was like, she was me, but a girl. I feel like I always wanted to talk to her.

However, expressing his feelings for Diana is not easy for Sam. For several weeks he goes around thinking about whether or not he should say something to her. But what would he say? And what if she doesn't feel the same way? It feels like his head is about to explode. Sam talks to his friend Jeff about it, one of his newest and yet best friends at school. Even though Jeff is a good listener, Jeff and Sam have that kind of friendship where they are constantly competing with one another.

SAM: It's not an unhealthy competition, but it's like a really good... like pushing each other to be better. So, when I say competition, I don't only mean about girls. I mean about everything, grades, everything but like in a healthy way. So, we help each other and we study together and we do everything.

One day after school Sam finally collects the courage to actually say something to Diana. He has to tell her even if it means he might get rejected. They are on their way home from school, when they both stop for a second. Sam looks at Diana, who looks back at him. He starts talking.

SAM: Yeah, I was like, "I like you like you" you know, and she was like "What?" and I was like, "Yeah, I like you" and I try to explain it to her without using like the wrong words because I know she gets up in her head, whatever. And then... yeah, she understood, finally. And then she's like, "Oh yeah, I don't like you that way." I was like, "OK", then I just went home because we were walking home from school.

So Diana doesn't feel the same way about Sam. That was hard. For Sam, though, the most difficult part of the situation was actually telling her how he felt. Afterwards, things feel a bit empty and strange. But Sam is okay, because now it's done.

The next day at school, Sam starts talking about everything with his friend Jeff again. He tells him that everything feels a bit weird. For instance, when he had seen Diana

passing by in the hallway today he had looked the other way. Sam had thought he was okay with feeling rejected, but seeing Diana in school was hard.

School comes to an end. They go towards the subway. Down the escalators. On the train they see Diana and her friends. Suddenly Sam sees Jeff start walking towards Diana.

SAM: And he goes up her, he's like, "Oh, you should join us". And I was like, "OK, why did you say that?" I didn't say it, but I thought it.

The thing is that Sam doesn't really want to talk to Diana at all. It's too soon. But even though Sam has told Jeff how he feels and that the situation is awkward, Jeff does not care about Sam's feelings. Sam can see the competitiveness in his eyes.

SAM: And I was really uncomfortable because I was like, "Bro, you know, what happened like yesterday." It was one day later and I was like, "Can you like not do that?"

Not only does Jeff go up to Diana, he invites her and her friends to join them, not caring about how that makes Sam feel.

SAM: And I just slid to the side and just waited until I could get off the train. So, he stayed with them and I just left. Yeah, and I think he knew why. So, he didn't really try to bother me about it.

So, this is when Sam actually gets off the train and starts walking home. It's about a forty-five-minute walk. In his ears, the sad songs are playing on repeat. He's thinking about what just happened and realizes something about the situation.

SAM: It wasn't about her. It was about him doing that, which bothered me.

And here is when it gets complicated. Sam and Jeff are - as you know - constantly



competing. The competition in itself might not have been a problem before, but in this situation it is. Because Jeff approaching Diana on the train is a form of revenge for something Sam did earlier.

A few weeks ago, Sam had talked to a girl that Jeff was interested in. Sam was not hitting on her, it was just a friendly talk. But Jeff saw it as something else. Now, even though Jeff is not interested in Diana, he is interested in getting back at Sam. This is why he talks to Diana, knowing that Sam might get hurt.

SAM: First things first, she's not his type at all. So, it was like, I knew he did do it in like, kind of a mean way.

That's also the reason why Sam has to walk home alone, both angry and hurt but mainly just confused. A few hours later he gets a text from Jeff. Jeff says he's sorry and that he knows he did a shitty thing. Sam looks at the text, but he does not respond.

SAM: I don't like to respond to people when I'm annoyed, sad or angry because I'm going to say something wrong. I usually like to wait a minute, collect my feelings and then respond because then I know I can say the right thing. But in this case, I didn't respond because I knew I was going to see him the next day.

During the night, Sam keeps on repeating the situation in his head, over and over again. How should he respond to Jeff? Should he forgive his friend? He feels betrayed. But Jeff is also one of his best friends at school and he doesn't want him to become an enemy.

He has a hard time falling asleep. The morning after Sam takes the subway to school. While he is looking for a seat, he suddenly sees Jeff. Sam takes a seat next to Jeff.



SAM: He was like, "Sorry, man, that was a shitty thing to do, I didn't really think about it until later, but yeah, sorry." And then that was about it. I was like, "Yeah, it's cool, but I was just kind of annoyed that you did it. It didn't matter about... I didn't think about her, just about you, bro". And then he like, "Oh, I'm sorry." And then we were like, moved on.

Even though Sam thinks that Jeff did a bad thing, he doesn't want that to come in between him and his friend. He decides to forgive him. For Sam, conflict doesn't always have to be a bad thing, as long as you can move on together.

SAM: It doesn't matter like who, quote unquote, "wins". Not... it's a very bad term, but like... because we will always be there for each other. So, yeah... that's the approach I like to keep because it lets you have good friends who you can disagree with.