

IT'S COMPLICATED – IN BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

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.

”I know that if I would tell my mum I was in a relationship, she would get very angry.”

”Okay so, ... I’m gonna have sex with him.”

”You think I seem boring?”

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.

”She was like, ”Oh my God, I’m gonna have sex and it’s gonna be so great!” and she wasn’t even shy about it.”

First, you are going to hear an acted scene based on real events, but where details and names have been changed. And in this episode, you will later hear an interview that is fictional but based on true stories.

/// DRAMA ///

INT. RESTAURANT – EVENING

MIRA

... So, Sara, how’s the reading?

SARA

What’d you mean?

MIRA

You just seem very preoccupied
with it.

SARA

Mira... Aren’t you supposed to read



this as well?

MIRA

Oh I will, I just thought I'd do it later this weekend.

SARA

sigh... What is it?

MIRA

Nothing! I'm just trying to talk to my friend!

SARA

Oh yeah?

MIRA

Laughs... Yes!

SARA

What're you up to?

MIRA

Okay so you know this guy I've been talking to?

SARA

Mira...

MIRA

No no, Sara, wait! Okay, so we've been meeting up at this place and

SARA

You know what I think of thi...

MIRA

Just hear me out!

SARA

...

MIRA

So we've been talking this week and him and his friends are planning on going to this party

later, and...

SARA
... and?

MIRA
And I think we should join them
after we're done eating!

SARA
What!?! You want me to go to a
party?? How could you even ask me

MIRA
It's BIGGER than that!

SARA
Bigger?

MIRA
Yes!

SARA
How?

MIRA
Okay, so... I'm going to have sex
with him! Hah!

SARA
You...

MIRA
Oh don't look so shocked, you know
this is what I want.

SARA
Did he talk you in to this?

MIRA
Oh my g- No! This is what I want!

SARA
I don't know, it seems reckless...
What if you catch something or... I
dunno, get pregnant?? What would
your parents think?

MIRA
I don't care what my parents
think! This is my life and I'll do

what I want.

SARA

Don't you know that these things always
end in some kind of pain?

MIRA

And what's the solution? Living a
sheltered life? Buried in books
and other people's wishes?

SARA

... What do you mean?

MIRA

I mean are you really living? In
the moment? Here and now?

SARA

Mira... Just because I choose to
prepare for my future and listen
to my parents doesn't mean I'm not
living a life of my own.

MIRA

No?

SARA

No. I'm happy with being ahead of
my studies. I'm happy that I don't
have to live with the stress and constant
heartaches that boys come with.

MIRA

That's not all there is to it...

SARA

That's all I see.

MIRA

Well how can you know the pain if
you've never experienced the joy
of it? I'm sorry, but it just
seems very boring to me..

MIRA

No! Of course not I just

SARA

Listen, Mira, I don't judge you or

what you do with boys

MIRA
Oh you don't!?

SARA
No!

MIRA
But you think what I do is
crossing the line?

SARA
I mean, it kind of

MIRA
Into what? Crossing the line into
what?

SARA
Mira, I

MIRA
Don't even bother...

///END.///

Sara and Mira are close friends but even though they live in the same London suburb and go to the same school, the two friends live in two very different worlds. Sara has to adapt to her parents' expectations, while her friend Mira is free to do whatever she wants.

//jingle//

This is *It's complicated*, a podcast from UR. In this episode you will hear about Sara. Sara is a fictionalized character, played by an actor but the interview you're going to hear is based on real life stories.

SARA: Love. Well, I personally don't really believe in it. I mean, I obviously believe in friendship-love and like family-love, but the kind of love where you get married to someone? Yeah, I think it all seems very fake.

This is Sara. She is 17 years old. Some people might describe her as shy and Sara herself often feels a bit insecure when she's around friends of the same age. Maybe this is because she feels she's a bit different. When most of her friends in school talk about love, sex and relationships Sara feels that it doesn't concern her.

SARA: I mean, I don't really like relationships. I don't want to be in one because I hear my friends talking about their relationships and their boyfriends or their girlfriends, you know? And it always ends in them breaking up. So, I don't really feel interested in having that for myself because if I ever were to go through a break-up, I would just be very depressed and sad. I don't think I could handle it because, well, you see, I'm a very sensitive person.

But there's also something else that keeps her from getting into a relationship, her parents.

SARA: Well, my family won't let me have a boyfriend or be in a relationship in any sort of way. So, it would not be acceptable. Because for me, you need to like marry the boy, the family is choosing. And I've always had restrictions and my mom has been like, "You can't be with boys, you can't have boyfriends" and like, "you can't go and talk with that boy", you know. "You always need to be with girls" and stuff like that.

Sara's parents live in an arranged marriage. Their families decided who they had to marry. Sara knows what her parents want for her. It is to get a good job and marry a nice boy from the same culture as them.

SARA: They've talked about this since I was about three. They've always said that when I marry a boy, he has to come from the same culture as me. And they want to choose the boy as well. So, my parents... the thing is, like my, my parents have done so

much for me and marrying a boy they choose is like the least I can do. So, if he has a good job and he's a good guy, I don't really see a problem with that.

Sara can see herself in a relationship in the future, with a boy her family thinks is a good choice. But she's not considering being in a relationship right now.

SARA: I know that if I would tell my mom I was in a relationship, she would get very angry. She would be very upset, and she would probably say that this wouldn't be acceptable. So that's what I know.

Even though Sara says she thinks she is too young to fall in love and that she doesn't want to be in a relationship right now, the situation is still very complicated, because Sara is torn between two different worlds. She has one foot in the traditional life that her parents want her to live and one foot in a completely different lifestyle among her friends. Somehow, though, she is stuck in the middle. She can't tell her parents about everything that's going on in school and she can't tell her friends about her family life. And the place in the middle can be a lonely one. She knows that neither side would understand the other.

This became extra clear one afternoon when Sara and her friend Mira sat together in the library.

SARA: It was a Friday and we were planning to eat dinner together, and then she was like, "After dinner, can we go to this party?" And I was like, "Do you even know me at all? No, we can't go to a party. At least I can't. I have to go home and like study, you know?"

Sara's friend Mira wants her to come with her to the party. Mira is meeting a boy she likes there, a boy she is planning to have sex with.

SARA: Yeah. She said maybe something will happen that night. And I was like, "What are you talking about? Nothing can happen!" I was just very shocked at what she was telling me.

The thing is, Sara's friend Mira lives in a family very different from Sara's. Her parents have no strict rules when it comes to whom she hangs out with. Unlike Sara, she can go out and even meet boys without them getting angry with her. For Sara, this is very strange and far from her own reality. She is shocked to hear about Mira and her plans for the evening.

SARA: I was like, "Oh my God, what would your parents say about this? Do they even know you're going?" She was saying, like, "It's my life and I can do whatever I want." And stuff like that.

Mira tries to convince Sara to come to the party.

SARA: She knows about my parents and their rules. But she was like, "You can lie to them and say that we're going to study together." So my reaction was like, "Hell, no, I could not do that ever!" I know that I would get busted in some way. So, I told her, "I can't follow you to the party."

Mira, on the other hand, is certain that she will go. She wants to meet up with the boy she is planning to have sex with, and nothing is going to stop her.

SARA: She was like, "Oh my God, I'm going to have sex tonight." And she wasn't even shy about it. She was shouting and everyone could hear her and I was like, "Oh my God, why are you saying it so loud? Could you at least be a bit more quiet?" She's just... she's just a very open person, you know? So, she was very open about it. And I mean, that's great. I love that about her, but it was a bit much, so I was very shocked.

Mira tries to make Sara change her mind and go with her but after a while it feels like Mira is a bit annoyed with Sara. The atmosphere between them isn't great. They say goodbye to each other and split up, Mira is going one direction and Sara the other.

SARA: I think I was acting the same way I always act. I was just being myself and normal, and I told her like, "Bye! See you tomorrow." And she was like, "Yeah,

whatever.” She was just being very rude. And I told her I didn't want to come to the party, so I really just thought she would let it go. But I guess it's important to her.

Sara spends the night at home, studying. The next morning, she calls her friend Mira.

SARA: Well, I mean, she's still my friend, and I wanted to know how the night went, like if she did anything, but she was just being very weird and told me how it was the best party ever and that I missed it.

Then Sara asks Mira what had happened with that boy she liked. Did they have sex?

SARA: She answered, like, "You know what, I don't feel like sharing this sort of thing with you since you sounded so judgmental yesterday.”

So, Mira won't tell Sara whether she had sex or not, and she says that it doesn't matter what had happened between her and that boy because from now on, she wants to keep all that information to herself. She says she doesn't like the way Sara always judges her for the way she wants to lead her life.

SARA: I mean, it kind of felt weird, because we usually share everything. And now, she was hiding this from me.

The gap between Mira and Sara is about to grow. Can Sara and Mira still be friends? Can they respect and understand one another even though they're leading completely different lives?

Sara thinks Mira is making the wrong decisions. Mira, on the other hand, thinks it's odd that Sara would rather fulfill her parents' wishes than hang out with her friends and enjoy that kind of life.

Sara knows she's different from most of her friends at school. When they go out on weekends, Sara stays at home and when they are having boyfriends and girlfriends, Sara decides to stay solo. Sometimes she wonders what it would be like to live like them, but at the same time, she really wants to make her parents proud and happy. She is stuck in the middle, constantly torn between the two sides.



SARA: Well, I don't know how things will turn out with Mira and me. She's an important friend to me, so I hope we can find a way to continue being friends, but I guess I don't know in the moment.