

IT'S COMPLICATED - A POISONOUS RELATIONSHIP



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'd say my feelings were quite strong and I think she also knew that."

"Why is everything so confusing with you?"

"You're being mean."

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.

"It kind of got, like, a bit manipulative at one point"

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**//**

INT. CLOTHING STORE - AFTERNOON

ELLA shows AMY how to shoplift.

ELLA (UNDER HER BREATH)
... and that's all there's to it!

AMY (UNDER HER BREATH)
Oh my god, Ella! You're nuts!

ELLA
laugh I know, right!? I mean
besides, we've already got it
rough so why not?



AMY

But I mean... shoplifting??

ELLA (UNDER HER BREATH)

Shh, not so loud!

AMY

Oh, sorry, my bad...

ELLA

Now you go.

AMY (UNDER HER BREATH)

sharp exhale Alright... so this?

ELLA (UNDER HER BREATH)

Yeah yeah!

AMY (UNDER HER BREATH)

And then... this...

ELLA (UNDER HER BREATH)

Okay, let's go!

The sound of their hurried footsteps fill the recording.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOPPING MALL BENCH - AFTERNOON

The sound of shoppers fill the background as AMY attempts to remove the tag off of her item.

AMY

God... it's really... stuck!

ELLA

Nah you just gotta pull this,
innit... and then that piece...

A clicking noise is heard as the tag is ripped off.

AMY

Wow... Ella you are something else,
you know that?



ELLA
What'd you mean?

AMY
It's so, you know... easy for you.

ELLA
What?

AMY
Nothing... Or I mean- Things are
just so... exciting with you.

ELLA
laugh Is that so, Amy?

AMY (NERVOUSLY)
laugh ... Yes?

ELLA
Mmm...

AMY
What?

ELLA
I just thought you had a more
exciting time with what's-her-face
at school...

AMY
Oh, I- Ella...

ELLA
I'm just saying~ I'm probably
better...

AMY
But... Haven't you... You know, got
Alex already?

ELLA
laugh Yeah, you're right...



Speaking of Alex...

AMY

Yeah?

ELLA

What'd you think of him?

AMY

I- He's cool I guess, I mean... You know what I think of boys but... He's alright... Why'd you ask? Is there something going on?

ELLA

With us? No, I've got him alright. He really loves me, like, a lot. It's so cute.

AMY

Yeah... It really is...
Short pause.

ELLA

But I was thinking, you know that thing we watched the other day?

AMY

What... the movie?

ELLA

Well yeah, a movie, but not that one...

AMY

Oh my god, Ella, you mean with the... Guy and

ELLA

Mhmm.

AMY

... the two girls?

ELLA



Yup.

AMY (NERVOUSLY)
laugh ... What about it?

ELLA
What if that was us?

AMY
laugh Ella! What!?

ELLA
Oh come on! We've got a little
something between us already don't
we...

AMY (NERVOUSLY)
laugh Yeah maybe we do, I... Oh
you're serious?

ELLA
Yeah... I think it'd be fun!

AMY
Oh Ella I don't know, it's kind
of...

ELLA
What?

AMY
I dunno... Weird?

ELLA (ANNOYED)
What'd you mean "weird"?

AMY
I mean it's you and- you guys are
like together and

ELLA
What about that time in the
elevator?



AMY

You mean... When you kissed me,
Ella?

ELLA

Yes, when we kissed!

AMY

Ella! I- That was totally you!

ELLA

Whatever... Ugh... Why is everything
so confusing with you?

AMY

With me?? You're the one that
Keeps

ELLA

We never do what I want.

AMY

... Ella, IELLA

"Ella... Ella... Ella..." you've got a
stutter or something? Is my name
that nice?

AMY

... you're being mean.

ELLA

Oh, I didn't mean it like that! I
just think it'd be really fun.

AMY

I don't know...

ELLA

No?

AMY

No, I



ELLA

Alright then, weirdo.

The sound of ELLA grabbing her things and standing up is heard.

AMY

Wait, where are you going?

ELLA

You know, Amy, if we can't ever do what I want, what kind of one-way thing is this?

AMY

But we just shoplift..

ELLA

Because you thought it was exciting?

AMY

You said you do this all the time
A phone starts ringing.

ELLA

Heyyy, Alex!

ELLAs voice starts to fade with her footsteps.

ELLA

Yeah I'm fine, all good... Listen,
you feel like hanging out now or
what? ... Yeah cool, see you there

AMY

... Ella? Ella!

/// END ///

Amy is confused. Ella, the girl she likes, seems to like her back, but at the same time Ella has a boyfriend. That day, Ella asks a question which is about to change everything between them.

// jingel//

This is *It's complicated*, a podcast from UR. What you've just heard was an acted scene, based on real events from Amy's life but now you're going to hear it from herself, and listen to her side of the story.

AMY: I like going out. I like to go party sometimes. I'm... I'm quite like extrovert, but sometimes I can be introvert as well. Yeah.

This is Amy. A while ago she found herself in a new position. She had just started at a new school, where she didn't know anyone. She had lost contact with her old friends and now she really wanted to get to know new people.

AMY: Like, I did meet a lot of great people, but after a while I... I made friends with this girl.

This girl, we can call her Ella, is really something else. Amy feels right from the beginning that they have a good connection and Amy likes to be around her. It wasn't long until they became close friends.

AMY: She was very much like a carefree person. And it was also, like, just generally like... And we had like such a good energy together at first. It felt like there wasn't, like, a lot like wrong with it. And we'd hung out a lot. Like, after as well, even on the first day we met, we were like, "Oh, do you wanna maybe, like, like to catch up, like, next week or something?" And we'd like... we'd also... I don't know if I should say this, but she... she had a thing for like shoplifting. And I... yeah, my home income isn't a lot, like my, my mom's on Universal Credit, and we have to go to the food bank a lot. And I don't, I didn't always, like, get a lot of clothing, so I actually... I would like join her in shoplifting as well. It's not, like, the thing that attracted me to her, but it was like... it



would kind of be like, a very like, carefree thing. And I didn't have that with any of my other friendships before. And it's like, we'd go out late. We... we'd, like, join random parties. It was just fun.

But they also connect on a more personal level

AMY: She had a lot of, like, family issues as well. And I was, like, dealing with my own stuff and then I'd also like... like sleep over at her house a lot. And she wanted to sleep over at mine, but my house was always too messy. But, so I'd sleep over at hers. She'd also got a lot of arguments with her mom, and she was like, "Oh, I want someone to like, stay over and we can watch, like, some movies and stuff." And I was like, "Okay, cool."

After a while Amy understands that her feelings for Ella are not just about being good friends, she likes Ella more than that.

AMY: I could say that I'm... that I'm lesbian, but I also have been interested in a few guys before, it's just... it's a much lower percentage in men. I like, I prefer women a lot more. She did know that I was into girls.

Amy is falling for Ella and her feelings only grow stronger

AMY: I'd say my feelings were quite strong, and I think she also knew that.

Ella can tell that Amy likes her and doesn't seem to have a problem with that. On the contrary, she seems to enjoy it. Maybe she even feels the same way?

Here is where it gets complicated. Ella has a boyfriend, and she says she wants to be with him. Amy doesn't know what to believe because she is sure Ella is flirting with her too.



AMY: *She kept, like, mentioning my style, and I think it was because... so... she also like, flirted with me, but I also like, flirted back.*

So, it was, like, quite mutual, and it was, like, we did actually have, like, a conversation once about, like, what were our sexualities? And she was like, "Oh, I'm so bisexual. Like, she/they" and then I was like, "So I'm lesbian. I'm like, she/her and stuff." And then we had like a talk about that.

Over time the flirting between them becomes more and more obvious and at times Amy is certain that Ella has the same feelings as she does.

AMY: *She'd sometimes, like, get right in my face, and there was this one time we are in the elevator at college, and she, like, she... she did like a thing where she kind of like, pushed me against the elevator and... and she covered my mouth and then kissed me. But it wasn't like a kiss 'cause it was, like, over my hand. And it was... I was like, "What was that about?" And then she just like, not talk about it for a while and then she wouldn't, like, not answer me about it properly. Sometimes she just genuinely would flirt with me. Like, she'd say "Oh, you're so cute." Like, she keep telling me like, "Oh, you're my type." And then she talked about her boyfriend, and it was very, like, mixed match. And it kind of... it kind of got, like, a bit manipulative at one point because she was like, "Oh, I kind of want to be with you." And then she'd keep flirting with me. And then if I, like, flirted back, she'd like, get annoyed at me because she was like, "Oh, my boyfriend, you can't do that." And then she'd be, like, flirting with me again. And it was very, like, mixed signals.*

Amy's confused. Even though Ella is flirting with Amy and seems to be interested in her, she doesn't seem to have any plans on leaving her boyfriend.

At the same time, she feels like Ella is acting jealous when Amy's hanging out with other friends.

AMY: *She also like... she was also quite controlling. So, some of my friendship groups as well, because even though I did get to meet a lot of people and I did like talk to a lot of people, she... she'd keep, like, saying to me a lot like, "Oh, are you trying to make things*

as a competition?" I'm like "Wait, what, No!" And... and it kept, like, annoying me when she'd say these things.

On one hand, Ella seems to want Amy for herself but on the other hand, she's pushing Amy away when Amy shows her feelings towards Ella, more openly. Then one day Ella pops a question that Amy did not see coming. She asks if Amy would like to have sex with her, together with her boyfriend.

AMY: At first, I thought it was a joke, so at first I was like, yeah", when it was like going to be a "no". But I thought she was joking and then she was like, "Oh, so do you wanna meet this Saturday? Blah blah blah blah blah" like, it was quite inappropriate stuff and then I was like "Wait" and I realized it wasn't a joke.

No, Ella is not joking. She would like to have a threesome with her boyfriend and Amy. That, however, is not something Amy's wishing for. Amy really likes Ella, but she has no interest in Ella's boyfriend and definitely doesn't have a wish to have sex with the two of them.

AMY: My immediate reaction... I kind of, like, panicked a bit because I was like, oh, like, like, can I swear, can I say "Oh shit?" And I was like, "Oh shit, I don't know what to do now" because I was like... And I didn't, like, say it straight away. I just kind of like... what was a bit like... I was just a bit bland on text. And then after a bit, I was like, "Yeah, I don't think I want to do this".

When Amy tells Ella "No", and explains that she is not interested in a threesome, things start to change between Amy and Ella. The distance between them starts growing.

AMY: And afterwards, she started like... kind of, like, spreading rumors about me.

Suddenly, their close friendship has changed into something else, and Amy hears that Ella is even talking behind her back.



AMY: She kept telling people that I kept, like, making things like a competition or that I like... she said things like, uh, I was like... She said at first, that I was the one who wanted to do the threesome when I didn't, which doesn't make sense. I think she was, like, embarrassed and yeah, I think she was also quite worried about, like, me saying how she wanted a threesome because she didn't want to, like, look weird. But I wouldn't have done that.

At this time, Amy has gotten to know more people in school and has a couple of new friends. Although she feels bad about the whole situation, her new friends support her, and they are taking her side. She's not alone even though her friendship with Ella is coming to an end.

After a while Amy feels that ending their relationship was for the better. Now she can see that it was not a healthy friendship to begin with, as she felt so controlled by Ella.

AMY: When that tension released, it was, like, so much better because I didn't have someone, like, constantly over me, like dictating who I'm friends with and who I can talk to.

Today, her strong feelings for Ella are all gone. She no longer likes her the way she did, but she doesn't hate her either. Their relationship just got really complicated, too complicated, and today they no longer have any contact.

They hadn't seen each other for a very long time, until one day recently - when she saw Ella from a distance.

AMY: She actually, she, she tried waving at me. It was like the first time I saw her in like months, and I was just kind of awkward. I kind of just did like... it was like, kind of a very like, quick wave but I didn't really want to wave back. It was just kind of weird.