



# IT'S COMPLICATED - TO BREAK UP ALTHOUGH FEELINGS REMAIN

## 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.

*"She's seen other people, I've seen other people. When you find that out, obviously... it's not like... like there is nothing wrong with it 'cause we are not together, but it's still going to hurt."*

*"Did you delete my number Tara?"*

*"Are you seeing someone?"*

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 guess this whole thing it's just so weird isn't it? It's almost like playing with power in some way."*

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. INITIAL PHONE CALL - EVENING  
A phone rings.

SIMON  
\*slowly exhales\*



We hear a phone call being picked up.

SIMON  
... Hello?

TARA  
Hey! ... How are you?

SIMON  
I'm good! All good... How've you  
been? How're the states?

TARA  
Oh you know... big... The sun is  
definitely more of a thing here  
than in London.

SIMON  
\*chuckle\* I bet! D'you reckon  
you'll keep up with health and  
such over there?

TARA  
\*laugh\* Oh shut up, you!

SIMON  
\*chuckle\*

SIMON (CONT'D)  
... So...

TARA  
Yeah?

SIMON  
I- It just feels weird... You all  
the way over there.

TARA  
\*exhale\* I know... I mean... D'you  
think it's a good idea to stay in  
touch?

SIMON  
Yeah... I mean I don't mind it,  
really.

TARA  
I guess... It's just that I



TARA (CONT'D, DISTANT)

*What's that?*

SIMON

Oh is that the roomie? Tell 'em I  
Said

TARA

Gotta go, Simon! Talk soon!  
A click.

SIMON

... Hi?

CUT TO:

EXT. SECOND PHONE CALL - EVENING  
A phone call is picked up.

TARA

Hello?

SIMON (DISTRACTED)

Hey! Hey... How're you?

TARA

I'm fine... How've you been? Sorry  
about the way I left the phone  
last week, all the changes  
recently have been a bit much...

SIMON

Oh, that's fine. It's been alright  
here, been seeing... people. Friends  
and such.

TARA

Friends?

SIMON

Yeah yeah, just trying to keep my  
mind occupied y'know.

TARA

I hear you...

SIMON

... you alright?

TARA

Yeah I'm good.

SIMON

You sure?

TARA

Yes, no problem... Listen, I gotta get going back to class. Lunchtime is just about to end over here.

SIMON

Right, yeah... talk to you soon lov Tara.

TARA

... Talk to you soon, Simon... Click.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD PHONE CALL - NIGHT

TARA

This is Tara?

SIMON

Hey... It's me... Did- did you delete my number, Tara?

TARA

...

SIMON

Tara?

TARA

Simon... I'm sorry, it's just that last time I got the feeling that...

SIMON

... What?

TARA

Are you seeing someone?

SIMON

I... What'd you mean? Is that why you deleted my number?

TARA

Simon, you know what I mean.

SIMON

Listen, I

TARA  
Just tell me, Simon.

SIMON  
... Yes.

TARA  
... Alright...

SIMON  
I'm sorry...

TARA  
No no, it's fine... I mean we  
should, shouldn't we?

SIMON  
Well I mean

TARA  
Listen, Simon. I'll have to call  
you back, alright?

SIMON  
Yeah, yeah, are you good though?  
... Click.

CUT TO:

INT. FINAL PHONE CALL - NIGHT  
A phone is ringing... Click.

SIMON  
... Tara?

TARA  
Hey, Simon. How've you been?

SIMON  
Fine, I mean, it's been a while.

TARA  
Yeah, I've just been busy lately.  
America has a lot to offer.

SIMON  
Really? What's new?

TARA

Oh, I've just been seeing... people.

SIMON  
... People?

TARA  
Yes, Simon. People.

SIMON  
I see...

TARA  
Mmm.

SIMON  
Does... Does "people" have a name?

TARA  
...

SIMON  
Tara?

TARA  
Jack.

Simon slowly exhales...

TARA  
You alright?

SIMON  
Yeah, fine.

TARA  
Alright. Well... Isn't it late over  
there?

SIMON  
I guess, yeah. Uhm... Tara?

TARA  
Yes, Simon?

SIMON  
... Maybe we shouldn't speak for a  
while?

TARA

... Yeah, probably a good idea.

SIMON  
Yeah.

TARA  
Take care, Simon.

SIMON  
You too, Tara.

... Click.

///END//

As Simon hangs up the phone with his ex-girlfriend, Tara, he feels a big knot in his stomach. Tara has apparently met someone new, but does she really like this guy or is she just hooking up with him to get back at Simon?

Simon looks around his room... the guitars on the wall, his bed... everything feels weird. He and Tara were deeply in love only a few months ago and now it's all just gone?

Musik

This is *It's complicated*, a podcast from UR and this is Simon's story. We just heard an acted scene based on events from his life, but now we are going to listen to the real Simon and hear his side of the story.

SIMON: *I've had the aspiration of wanting to become a performer, so I play piano and I sing. It's my main instruments, and I'm hoping to be a singer, songwriter, performer.*

Simon loves music. He is seventeen years old and ever since he was a child he has been singing and performing. He now plays various instruments as well. Simon is an

outgoing guy, who seems confident in himself. In his music, he has always been able to express all of his emotions. The happy, the sad and the complex ones.

*SIMON: So, all my music is actually, it's derived from a true story, like a true emotion that I'm feeling for whatever reason.*

Lately there has been one thing occupying most of Simon's thoughts. A true story from his own life, and that is the one about him and his relationship to Tara. But let's take it from the beginning. Two years ago, Simon met Tara at school. They had extracurricular activities together and started talking to each other more and more. He immediately thought Tara was attractive, but it was more than that.

*SIMON: I guess it's like an energy sometimes you get with certain people, it's not necessarily like... I mean, there are lots of, in my opinion... there are lots of, like, attractive for me... there are a lot of attractive women that I think are very pretty. But it's more like... it's more to do with kind of how you get on with someone and like their energy. Because obviously, in my case, I'm quite... I can be quite, very chilled out. But at the same time, I can also go through moments of a lot of energy and like, quite hyper, but also quite fun. So, it's someone who understands that and... um, yeah, and she did.*

*And we just got on, well, a lot with each other. It was more like she was someone who I could... I was just really comfortable around and you could really trust, and you could literally do anything and it wouldn't really matter, though, no one would care, no one would judge. Um, yes... it is a very, a very nice, like trusty environment to be in.*

After spending more and more time with each other, they became a couple. They are a good couple, and their relationship is very sweet and nice and fun. Simon and Tara spend almost every day together. They are talking, laughing, hanging out, and Tara is not only Simon's girlfriend, but she is also one of his best friends.

*SIMON: So, yes, she became like a really good friend. Her family, I got to know her family really well. We went on holidays together, which was nice. She got to know my family quite well. So, it was like more than just a relationship. I guess every*



*relationship you're trying to also find a friend as well.*

Simon and Tara are together for almost two years. Their relationship could have continued longer than that, but after these two years both Simon and Tara are changing schools and unfortunately Tara's school is in the US. Simon, on the other hand, is staying in England. The love is still there but despite that, they can no longer be together.

*SIMON: And then we had to separate. We didn't, we didn't want to separate but it's because... like we had to move... She's going to a different country. So yeah, it had to happen.*

The day comes when Tara must leave. Simon offers to go with her to the airport, but Tara thinks saying goodbye there will feel too sad. Instead, they do it at her house. It's a strange situation because Simon knows she's going, and yet he can't really grasp that it's happening right now.

*SIMON: I stayed the night and then, eh... Yes, said goodbye to everyone. Said goodbye to her. It was sad. I was in my car. I was kind of... see this is the thing... it was kind of like... oh, I'll see you soon, because like, which isn't true. So, when I was saying goodbye to her, it was... it wasn't really a goodbye. It was more of a farewell, but see you soon, type of thing. But yeah, but it was still sad, you know. Of course.*

Simon goes home, and he tears up a little bit when he gets back to his room. It doesn't really feel like Tara is gone. One day passes, and then another one. Days become weeks and for some reason it's still hard for Simon to understand that he and Tara are separated.

*SIMON: So, I know we wouldn't be a couple but in the back of my mind... I guess kind of still a little bit in the back of my mind I kind of feel like there may be a possibility. Or, it's like maybe in the future... but I don't know.*

One month goes by. Simon and Tara talk on the phone regularly. When they talk it's like nothing has changed but as soon as they hang up the world feels empty and strange again. Simon knows that they have broken up, and that none of them wants a long-distance relationship but still... Talking to each other makes everything more complicated. Simon tries to distract himself. He writes his songs, he exercises, and he hangs out with his friends, but the feelings of sadness and emptiness will not go away.

*SIMON: But I mean, it is quite a hard emotion to deal with because it's not one that can easily be like resolved or go away. Because the only way for it... in my opinion, the only way for that emotion to really disappear is if you kind of... if you don't really talk to that person or interact with that person, but then at the same time... you... you want to... because you're longing for that like... Oh, if we get together, like, if this happens. So, it's a very... it's a very, eh you know, they kind of clash with one another. Because on one side, you know, you want to see them but on the other side, you don't want to see them at all. So, you know. But I guess that's part of getting over someone. So... yeah.*

At some point in Simon's longing for Tara, he hooks up with another girl. Then he does it again with someone else. It's not that he wants to find a new girlfriend, but he doesn't want to just sit at home and wait for Tara to come back either. They are not even together after all.

*SIMON: Yeah, it's kind of a way of trying of like... a way of kind of coping with breaking up and also just to... I don't know... just to see... like see what it's like as well, with like different people as well. Um, yeah, like curiosity. Um... but yeah, it's more of like, you know, I was still hurt as well. Um... so it was kind of like a... a way of trying to like fill that kind of... I mean, void is a bit strong. But yeah, like that gap.*

Simon doesn't plan on saying anything to Tara about him hooking up with another girl, but the subject keeps coming up in their phone calls. Tara asks him "Have you been with anybody else?" "Are you seeing someone?" "Did you hook up with her or her or her?" After a while Simon feels pressured to say something, even though he knows it might hurt Tara. Finally, one day he tells her the truth: that he's been with a

couple of girls.

*SIMON: In the sense that I think it would have been better if I didn't say anything because, you know... she wouldn't have gotten hurt. Um... and it's not even... like it's not really her business either to be like seeing if I've done anything with anyone else... Um, and neither is it mine to know if she's done anything with anyone else. And, plus, it does... like it hurts as well... so.*

What's done is done. Simon tells Tara and she gets hurt and upset.

Even though Simon understands Tara, he can't really do anything about it because they are not a couple anymore and she is many miles away. But what happens after that makes things even more messy. Tara hooks up with someone new as well. Simon understands why, however, he also understands that their relationship is getting toxic now. He realizes that they are probably just getting back at each other.

*SIMON: I guess this whole thing, it's just so weird, isn't it. It's almost like playing with power in some... in some way. It's like manipulations or...of...of power so... Um, in that, in that instance now, like kind of she has the power. So, like if I show my emotions, then she has even more power. So, you know, I try not to. Um, but... Yeah, but then like, you know, yeah, I was super... I was like... I was also really hurt and I'm still kind of hurt. But, um... I mean, she didn't do anything wrong, so it's no reason to be hurt. But the only reason you are hurt is because you still, you know, you're still attracted to them and like them, and you still care for them. So, it's a bit weird.*

Things have turned weird. This is when Simon hangs up his phone and looks around him with a big knot in his stomach. It's not only that Tara has told him she hooked up with someone. It's that she says she really likes this person. That for Simon is the most upsetting part. Maybe it's not just games and manipulation but a harder truth. He and Tara have broken up for real and he has to find a way of coping with that. He now must face reality and be honest with himself.

*SIMON: Yeah, I think it's also the fact that, like I... In the back of my mind, as well, I*



*don't really want to let go. So, I have to kind of give up that feeling because I didn't... I don't want to let go because, at least for me, it was really good what we had. And it never really ended... So, yeah, maybe if I let go of that, then it'll be a lot easier. But I don't know.*

Simon says that not being able to let go of Tara is sometimes annoying. It's irritating to have feelings for someone you can't be together with. It's irritating to like someone you can't have.

At the back of his head, he sometimes wonders what will happen in the future? Will they meet again? Could everything go back to what it was? But he knows he must let her go and he feels that time is the only thing that can solve or ease the situation.

*SIMON: Ah, I mean, I guess you know...everyone says it but I guess time is the greatest like healer, um. Oh, although there's not really, necessarily a given date. Um... I mean I'm pretty sure one day I'll kind of like wake up and, yeah, say her name or something... or she'll come over, or maybe I'll see her and I won't really... I may not feel, you know, that... that attraction for her. It may just disappear one day and I'll be like, OK...well, now I'm over her, but I will still, still care for her. But I don't know. Um yeah, I don't know. I just... I think that's probably how it would go. But, um... it's pretty recent as well. So, you know it's still... still playing out, so who knows what will happen. Yeah, that's pretty much everything, real*