

Episode 3: The Lipstick

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the third episode of *The First*. This story is made for people who are learning English at an intermediate to advanced level. Extensive listening means listening to English that is very easy to understand. If you have trouble understanding this story, please ask us questions on alleande.com. We have a PDF version of this conversation on the website as well. Previously on, *The First*, Michelle told her best friend James that she started dating Tyler. Tyler is Michelle's first boyfriend. This episode happens a month later. Now, let's start listening to *Play it by Ear's* story, *The First*. This third episode is called *The Lipstick*

(Michelle's house, night)

Tyler: Babe, come over here. I found a funny video online.

Michelle: What's it about?

Tyler: Just come over here and look.

(video plays)

Tyler & Michelle: (laughing)

(Tyler's phone buzzes)

Michelle: Oh, you got a text. Umm, who is Mai?

Tyler: Huh?

Michelle: I saw the message pop up while the video was playing.

Tyler: Oh. Umm, can I see my phone?

Michelle: Sure, but who's Mai? She's asking what time you're coming home tonight.

Tyler: Oh, don't worry about it; it's no one.

Michelle: But there was a heart next to the name...

Tyler: It's... it's my mom.

Michelle: You call your mom Mai?

Tyler: Oh, when I was a baby... I couldn't say 'mom' right... So it's kind of an inside joke that I call her Mai.

Michelle: Well, do I have a heart next to my name?

Tyler: No... but look at your name on my phone.

Michelle: Did you change my last name to your last name?

Tyler: Yeah, I did. Aren't we dating seriously?

Michelle: Yeah, but I'm not thinking about marriage anytime soon.

Tyler: Don't worry about it babe, it's just an inside joke.

Michelle: Also, why was your mom asking when you were coming home? Don't you live alone?

Tyler: Oh, she's just visiting me because she has vacation days.

Michelle: And you're not with her now?

Tyler: She said she was having dinner or something with my aunt.

Michelle: Oh, okay.

Tyler: Hey you wanna get a late night snack?

Michelle: You know I always do.

Tyler: Ice cream?

Michelle: Yeah, let's go to the ice cream shop in town.

Tyler: I'll drive.

(car starting noise)

Michelle: Oh, I think I stepped on something, sorry.

Tyler: It's no problem. What is it?

Michelle: Let me see. Oh. Um... It's lipstick.

Tyler: Oh, I think it's my mom's.

Michelle: Your mom wears black lipstick?

Tyler: What?

Michelle: This lipstick is black.

Tyler: Uh... yeah, she's a cool mom.

Michelle: Uh... okay... It's cute? I actually really like this brand. It's really popular right now.

Tyler: Oh, really?

Michelle: Yeah it was sold out. Everyone had to order it online.

Tyler: I guess my mom is just good at technology.

Michelle: Yeah, I guess she is cool.

Tyler: Alright, we're here. Let's go. Uh, can you give that lipstick back to me?

(transition music)

Narrator: That's the end of the first scene. The next scene happens a few weeks later.

(Michelle's house, day)

(knock on the door, door opens)

James: Hey!

Michelle: Hey.

James: You ready to go to the library?

Michelle: (sigh) I guess so.

James: What's with the sigh? Are you okay today?

Michelle: It's nothing.

James: It doesn't sound like "nothing".

Michelle: (sigh) It's just boy drama.

James: Oh, I love boy drama! Tell me.

Michelle: (sigh) Well... it's a lot of things.

James: Like what?

Michelle: Well, I'm not sure if graduation is making me more stressed, or if there's actually a problem.

James: Wait, this is with Tyler, right?

Michelle: Of course.

James: Oh, fighting with your first boyfriend?

Michelle: No, we don't really fight.

James: Then what is it?

Michelle: He hasn't been texting me a lot lately.

James: Okay?

Michelle: And we don't really go on dates anymore. We just always hang out at my house at night and then he goes home.

James: Well, have you tried talking to him about it?

Michelle: Not really. It's just been bothering me recently.

James: Mhm

Michelle: I don't know if this feeling is normal.

James: Well, how do you feel?

Michelle: I feel... suspicious?

James: What? Why?

Michelle: It's not because he's texted me less; I understand people get busy.

James: Then why are you suspicious?

Michelle: Well... I haven't told you, but a few weeks ago I found makeup in Tyler's car.

James: What?

Michelle: He said it was his mom's makeup, but it was a black lipstick.

James: Ok. That's a little weird, but that could still be his mom's.

Michelle: Um... also, his mom's contact name is not "mom", it's "Mai."

James: Ok?

Michelle: And recently when we send each other pictures, I've seen women's clothes in the background.

James: He lives alone right?

Michelle: Yeah, that's the thing. And he didn't tell me when his mom was leaving to go back home.

James: Hmm, I understand why you feel suspicious

Michelle: But maybe I'm going crazy, and he's just busy spending time with his mom during her vacation.

James: Does his mom know about you?

Michelle: I don't know.

James: I think you should just talk to him about it.

Michelle: Yeah, I know. I'll text him after I'm done writing my graduation paper at the library.

James: Alright then, let's go.

Narrator:

That's the end of our third episode of *The First*. Do you think that Tyler is telling the truth? What should Michelle do? Let us know at alleande.com. Tune in next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears' story, *The First*.

Grade level: 3.6

Reading ease: 83.3