

Episode 4: The First Message

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the fourth 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 found some makeup in Tyler's car. Tyler also got a text message from a person named Mai. When she asked Tyler about it, he said Mai was his mom. He said the makeup was Mai's. Now, let's start listening to *Play it by Ear's* story, *The First*. This fourth episode is called *The First Message*.

(Outside of Tyler's house- day)

(Michelle knocks on the door. No answer. Knocks again.)

Tyler: Hey! Hey! Uh, What are you doing here?

Michelle: Hey, why are you outside of your house?

Tyler: I was just about to go pick up some food.

Michelle: Oh.

Tyler: You wanna come?

Michelle: Sure.

Tyler: Cool. Get in.

(Car noises)

Tyler: So, why'd you stop by my house? You've never came over before.

Michelle: Yeah I know. It's weird, right?

Tyler: What's weird?

Michelle: It's weird that I've never been to your house before. You've never invited me over.

Tyler: You know, you live in town and I live far away from all the fun places.

Michelle: Well, maybe we can try something new.

Tyler: Yeah, maybe. Uh... So, how's your paper going?

Michelle: (sighs) Um, I'm so overwhelmed. I don't even wanna graduate anymore.

Tyler: What? You've worked so hard! You can't give up now.

Michelle: Yeah, yeah. I know. Nothing seems to be going right.

Tyler: Well, you've got me. I'm your Mr. Right. I'm so proud of you babe.

Michelle: Yeah. I guess. Maybe I'm just hungry and stressed.

Tyler: Well, good thing we're going to eat Vietnamese food. You can get whatever you want.

Michelle: (sigh) Okay.

(transition music)

(Michelle knocks on James's door)

James: Hey... What's up?

Michelle: Just in the neighborhood.

James: Ha! What a lie. You never come over to my house anymore.

Michelle: I'm so stressed, I need some help.

James: Oh, what happened?

Michelle: Well...

James: Don't tell me it's Tyler!

Michelle: (laugh) Haha, you're a good guesser.

James: What happened now?

Michelle: I feel like I am going crazy. I check Tyler's social media accounts every day, and I feel like he's hiding something from me.

James: Well, did you talk to him about the lipstick?

Michelle: Yes, well no, I didn't talk to him about how I felt.

James: Is that all?

Michelle: Well, no. There's something else

James: What is it?

Michelle: I checked his friend list for a girl named "Mai". You remember that he said that was his "mom".

James: Yeah...

Michelle: Well, I found Mai, and in her profile it has T.L.R. and a heart symbol.

James: What does T.L.R. mean?

Michelle: I think it means Tyler's name. Tyler's full name is Tyler Leo Rhee. So that means T for Tyler. L for Leo. And R for Rhee

James: Yeah, I don't know.

Michelle: Am I being crazy?

James: Well, that's a good guess.

Michelle: (sigh)

James: How many people have the initials T.L.R.?

Michelle: That's what I'm saying!

James: What does the profile picture look like? Does she look old like a mom?

Michelle: Ugh, it's just a picture of a dog.

James: Ugh, that doesn't help! What about any photos?

Michelle: It's a private account, so I can't see anything.

James: Damnit! Well, have you talked to him about this yet?

Michelle: No, I wanted to get your opinion first, to see if I'm crazy or not.

James: I don't think you're crazy.

Michelle: Thanks, but what should I do? I've never done anything like this before.

James: Like I said, you should talk to him.

Michelle: I don't know if I can handle confrontation right now.

James: Well, if you don't, you're just going to get more crazy.

Michelle: I'm already crazy from this graduation paper!

James: Ok, then after you turn in the paper, you should talk to him. When is it due?

Michelle: Next week on the 15th.

James: Oh my god! That's 6 days away!

Michelle: I know! Thank you for the reminder!

James: Sorry, I didn't realize this semester went by so quickly.

Michelle: I'm so ready for it to be all over so I can graduate and finally leave!

James: Why don't you just go home and take a break? Stress doesn't help the writing process.

Michelle: Yeah, you're right.

(phone vibration)

Michelle: OH MY GOD!

James: What?

Michelle: I just got a message request.

James: So? Just ignore it and take a break.

Michelle: This message is from Mai!!

James: What does it say?

Michelle: It says, "Hey, I'm Mai. I know you've been talking to Tyler. And just wanted to let you know that I'm his girlfriend."

James: Oh...

Michelle: She wants me to call her.

James: Are you gonna call her?

Michelle: Maybe I'll call her when I get home.

James: You're not gonna let me listen!?

Michelle: James...

James: You know I'm kidding... a little bit.

Michelle: (sigh) I'm going home. I'll call you after I talk to her.

James: You better! I'll be waiting.

Michelle: Alrighty, bye. Talk to you soon.

Narrator:

That's the end of our fourth episode of *The First*. How would you react in this situation? What do you think Michelle and Mai will talk about on their phone call? Let us know at alleande.com.

Tune in next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears' story, *The First*.

Grade level: 2.8

Reading ease: 87.3