

## Episode 5: The Lies

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the fifth 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](http://alleande.com). We have a PDF version of this conversation on the website as well. Previously on, *The First*, Michelle told James about what she found online. She told James about Mai and at the end of the conversation, Mai messaged Michelle. Mai wanted to talk. Now, let's start listening to *Play it by Ear's* story, *The First*. This fifth episode is called *The Lies*.

(phone vibrating)

Mai: Hello?

Michelle: Hi. Is this Mai?

Mai: Yeah, it's me.

Michelle: This is Michelle.

Mai: Yeah, I figured.

Michelle: Well... What did you want to talk about?

Mai: First of all, let me say this: I'm Tyler's girlfriend.

Michelle: Uh, excuse me?

Mai: We've been dating for 5 years.

Michelle: What?

Mai: Yeah, so who are you?

Michelle: Well, I thought I was Tyler's girlfriend.

Mai: For how long?

Michelle: About two- almost three months now.

Mai: (scoff) I can't believe it.

Michelle: Well, me too.

Mai: How did you two meet?

Michelle: We met on a dating app.

Mai: Ugh, I told him to delete those damn things.

Michelle: You let him have dating apps?

Mai: No, I don't. I just saw it on his phone like I saw your number.

Michelle: Well I saw your number too... with a heart emoji.

Mai: So you knew he had a girlfriend?

Michelle: No! I didn't. When I asked about the number, he said you were his mom.

Mai: What?

Michelle: Yeah. What did he say about my number?

Mai: Well, he told me you were his aunt. Michelle Rhee.

Michelle: Oh my god! He said he used his last name for my contact because he wanted to marry me.

Mai: Unbelievable!

Michelle: I can't believe it either.

Mai: Well, this isn't the first time that he has done something like this.

Michelle: What?

Mai: Yeah, he's cheated on me before, but not to this level.

Michelle: What did he do before?

Mai: He used to only text girls and send pictures.

Michelle: Wow.

Mai: Yeah, he actually has a huge lying problem. His parents told me that he likes lying.

Michelle: Really?

Mai: Yeah, because of that, his parents sent him to military school.

Michelle: He said he went into the military because he didn't know what to do after high school.

Mai: Well, at least he didn't lie about being in the military.

Michelle: What's his major now?

Mai: Business.

Michelle: Oh my gosh! He said he was in school to be a doctor to do physical therapy.

Mai: Hm. What's your major in?

Michelle: Nursing.

Mai: That's why he said physical therapy. He probably wanted to impress you. You sure must be very special for him to go this far.

Michelle: I don't think so. He's still dating you.

Mai: Well, maybe he's tired of me after five years.

Michelle: How did you guys meet anyway?

Mai: We met at a bar back home.

Michelle: Where's your home?

Mai: Well, I'm originally from Vietnam. We met while he was in the military.

Michelle: So you followed him back to the United States?

Mai: At the time, I wanted to study abroad. So he suggested that I come to study here.

Michelle: So you're a student?

Mai: Yeah. I was supposed to graduate last year, but I got into an accident.

Michelle: What happened?

Mai: I got into a bad car accident.

Michelle: Wow. I'm so sorry.

Mai: It's okay. It's been difficult, but I pushed through. Tyler has helped me a lot.

Michelle: I guess he really does love you.

Mai: Yeah, he's actually my first boyfriend.

Michelle: What? Me too.

Mai: Hmm. This is why he tricked us so easily. He knew we were both new at relationships.

Michelle: Well, I wasn't planning on dating him. He kept pressuring me to call him my boyfriend.

Mai: Do you want to keep dating him?

Michelle: No way! I'm not a second girlfriend!

Mai: You shouldn't be. No one should be a secret girlfriend.

Michelle: So what are you gonna do? Break up with him?

Mai: I don't know! Five years is a long time.

Michelle: Well, you shouldn't be a secret girlfriend either.

Mai: I know.

Michelle: Hey, you want to plan something to show Tyler that we know about his secret?

Mai: What?

Michelle: At least this way he can't hide us anymore.

Mai: What should we do?

Michelle: Tomorrow I'm supposed to meet him for lunch and the movies.

Mai: Okay.

Michelle: Usually we just meet at the restaurant, but I could show up at his house? You live with him, right?

Mai: Yeah, how did you know?

Michelle: He was acting really strange when I came to his house to talk to him.

Mai: Well, I'm usually at home, so that's probably why he was acting strange.

Michelle: So you'll be at home tomorrow?

Mai: Yeah.

Michelle: Cool, so I'll surprise him by showing up at the house around 11.

Mai: What time are you supposed to meet for lunch?

Michelle: 11:30, but he's always late, so I'm sure he'll still be at the house.

Mai: (laugh) Yeah, he is always late.

Michelle: Did he give you excuses too?

Mai: Yeah, when he comes back home at night he always says he was out with his friends.

Michelle: Well, I guess I was that 'friend.'

Mai: So 11?

Michelle: Yeah.

Mai: Just in case, I will make sure he doesn't leave before that.

Michelle: Good. It's a date.

Mai: But wait. When we confront him, I don't think I can continue to live with him.

Michelle: Hmm, well I actually have an empty room in my apartment. You can live with me.

Mai: Huh? Are you sure? You barely know me.

Michelle: Yeah, it'll be fine. You can help me pay the rent.

Mai: Okay, but are you sure this whole plan will work?

Michelle: Don't worry; it will.

Mai: Well, see you tomorrow then.

Michelle: Bye.

Mai: Bye.

Narrator:

That's the end of our fifth episode of *The First*. Do you think Michelle and Mai's plan will work?

How do you feel about Mai? Let us know at [alleande.com](http://alleande.com). Tune in next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears' story, *The First*.

Grade level: 3.1

Reading ease: 85.7