

## Episode 5: The Surprise

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the fifth episode of our eight part story, *Tough Love*. 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, *Tough Love*, Alex and Emily had a fight about Emily not making time for them. Alex didn't want her to do a winter internship, but Emily thought it would help her future. This episode is set in January, which is the beginning of the US school semester. Emily has been spending a lot of time at her internship and with her friends Nirvay, Maria, and Sumin. Let's see what Emily is up to while she is preparing for a new ISA event.

(At the ISA Welcome Event- Evening)

Nirvay: Hey Emily, do you know where the chairs go?

Emily: Umm... just put them against the wall for now.

Nirvay: Okay, sounds good.

Emily: Hey, what time is it?

Nirvay: 6:45

Emily: Oh my god, we only have 15 minutes before the event starts.

Nirvay: Emily, it's going to be fine. Relax. You get worried so easily.

Emily: I know. I'm sorry. I can't help it.

Nirvay: It's okay. I know you too well by now. We have been working together on this event for so long.

Emily: Yeah, thanks for letting me join the team. You taught me a lot.

Nirvay: Well, I like your company.

Emily: Yeah, you've really supported me with all of my issues with Alex, school, and everything.

Maria: Hey guys! The event is starting in 10 minutes! Remember to be friendly and welcoming.

We want more people to join our family. A big thanks to Nirvay and Emily who have been working so hard to make this event happen. Okay. Now don't forget to have fun!

(music break)

Sumin: Emily! There you are! Everything looks great! You and Nirvay did a great job! It looks like everyone is having fun.

Emily: Thanks Sumin. I'm glad you like it.

Sumin: Of course! Oh..! I see the food is ready! I'm gonna go get in line.

Emily: Okay, I'll be there in a minute.

(walking sound)

Alex: Hey there pretty lady.

Emily: Alex?!?! What are you doing here?

Alex: I wanted to surprise you since you couldn't come home for winter break.

Emily: How did you find me?

Alex: There was a flyer on your door for this event tonight. So I guessed you would be here.

Emily: Didn't school start?

Alex: Actually, school starts next week for me. I thought we could spend some time together before I start school again.

Emily: Why didn't you tell me you were coming?

Alex: Well, we haven't really been talking that much and you're so busy.

Emily: Yeah, I am busy.

Alex: Yeah, so I thought I could help you take a break and relax.

Emily: You should have told me before you came.

Alex: Well, you haven't been answering my calls.

Emily: That's for a reason.

Alex: And what reason is that?

Emily: (sigh) You just don't get it, do you?

Alex: What do you mean?

Emily: I've been trying to contact you less and less lately. I think we need some space.

Alex: So you've been trying to ghost me?

Emily: Ghosting is when you ignore someone altogether. I've just been minimizing our contact.

Alex: Why would you do that?

Emily: Things are different now. I'm changing and you don't want me to change. Things don't stay the same forever. (sigh) I - I really think we should break up.

Alex: Whoa, whoa, what? You can't.... I just.... I love you!

Emily: I love you, too, but this really isn't working out. I'm sure there's someone else out there that's better for you.

Alex: I flew all the way out here for you, because I love you, and now this is how it's gonna end?

Emily: I didn't ask you to come here. You never ask me what I really want; you always think you know what is best for me, but I can take care of myself.

Alex: I love you. I do know what is best for you... Me. We've been together for so long.

Emily: It's been long enough. I can't take this anymore. Please just go home; I'm leaving.

Alex: Emily! Please don't do this...

(music break)

(Sumin bumps into Alex outside)

Sumin: Oh, sorry! I wasn't paying attention. This drink tastes funny.

Alex: No, no it's fine. Let me take that juice from you. Maybe you should sit down.

Sumin: I don't think we've met before. Are you having fun?

(police siren)

Chief Marissa Park: Attention everyone! This is the police. I'm Chief Marissa Park and this is Officer Sam Hunter. There have been some noise complaints.

Officer Sam Hunter: We'll need you to turn down the music.

Park: Also, we have some inside information that there is alcohol at this party.

Hunter: We need to check everyone's identification. Please do not leave the building.

Sumin: Oh no! I'm not twenty-one!

Alex: Where's the closest exit?

Sumin: There are some stairs that way!

Alex: Let's go.

Sumin: But they said no one can leave.

Alex: Do you want to get in trouble? Don't worry. I'll take care of you. Maybe you're my someone else.

(running sounds)

Narrator: The next day in Emily and Sumin's room

(Emily and Sumin's room- The next day)

(open door sound)

Emily: Hey, you didn't come back last night. Where were you?

Sumin: I have to tell you something.

Emily: Ooo is it about a guy? Did you meet someone at the event last night? Wasn't that your plan last semester?

Sumin: Well... I did meet someone, but I didn't know who he was until way later!

Emily: Wait, what are you talking about?

Sumin: So the guy I met last night was your boyfriend.

Emily: What?

Sumin: After everything happened, I saw his Texas ID. The name said Alex, and then his phone lit up and I saw a picture of you. I'm so sorry. I didn't know who he was.

Emily: Wow...

Sumin: I'm really really sorry! I wouldn't have left with him if I knew who he was.

Emily: No, no. It's okay. We actually broke up just last night.

Sumin: Oh...

Emily: I just didn't think he would do that so fast. (phone vibrates) It's Alex.

Sumin: Don't answer!

Emily: Trust me, I won't.

(knock on door)

Sumin: Let me get the door.

(door opens)

Alex: Emily, if you please give me the chance-

Sumin: Oh my gosh!

Alex: Oh, it's you...

Emily: Oh god. Alex, I already know what happened. We're done. Just...just go home.

Alex: But I-

(door closes)

Narrator: That's the end of our fifth episode of *Tough Love*, but we still have three more episodes left. What do you think happens next? Let us know at [alleande.com](http://alleande.com). We'll see you next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears' story, *Tough Love*.