

A true-life story (1)

Task

Read Julie's text and then answer the questions about it.



Julie was only 16 when things went wrong in her relationship with her parents. This is her story.

MY PARENTS THREW ME OUT!

I met Chuck when I was hanging out in the town with my mates one day. He seemed like a great laugh, but my parents hated him as soon as they saw him. He came round to our house for tea, but it was pretty obvious that everything he said just wasn't what they wanted to hear. He was a bit older than me for a start and even though I didn't see that as a problem, my parents did. He'd also left school at 16 without any qualifications and he sold clothes and leather goods from a stall at markets. I thought he seemed really exciting and a bit wild – I'd never met anyone like him before! My parents made it clear that they disapproved of him, but at first they left it at that. I think they were hoping that I'd get tired of him after two or three weeks like I had with my other boyfriends.

I didn't though and I spent more and more of my time hanging out in town with Chuck and his mates. They were all so cool and always ready for a bit of fun and they stood up for themselves. But it wasn't like they were out looking for trouble or anything. OK, so sometimes they shouted stuff at people walking past, but it was just a laugh! But you know how it is, some people can't take a joke and they overreact and then things get out of hand because Chuck and his mates won't let people push them around.

So with one thing and another the atmosphere at home was a bit strained. The situation got a whole lot worse when Chuck decided to pick me up from school one day in this terrific car. It had beautiful leather seats and smelled new. I felt pretty cool as I got in. Chuck said he'd borrowed it from a friend, so he could take me for a ride. I thought that was sweet of him. He took me to this lovely old pub out in the country somewhere. It was a wonderfully romantic evening.

But there was hell to pay when I got home. Someone had told my mum that they'd seen me get into a car outside the school gates. Mum went mental when I got home and said I was far too young to be hanging out with 'boys that age'. Dad was quiet at first, but he got really worked up and started shouting at me when he noticed that I'd been drinking alcohol. I told him that I'd only had a gin and tonic and I wasn't drunk or anything, but he wouldn't calm down. They banned me from seeing Chuck again! I knew she couldn't really stop me seeing him, though, because they couldn't lock me in the house forever, could they? We had more and more arguments about Chuck after that. Sometimes Mum would get really upset and try to persuade me that I could do so much better, but other times she'd get really angry and start screaming at me, calling Chuck everything from an idiot to a waste of space. It was horrible!

I was sure the situation would just sort itself out eventually – my parents just had to get used to Chuck being around. I didn't see what the big deal was about him anyway! However, I really wasn't expecting what I saw when I walked in to the living room one day after school. There was a suitcase on the floor and it didn't take me long to realize that it was actually MY suitcase! I didn't have a clue what was going on and then I saw my mum standing there with the car keys in her hand. I asked her what was going on and that was when I realised that I'd underestimated how far they were prepared to go.

A true-life story (2)

That's why I'm now living at my aunty's house, 200 miles away. My parents said they couldn't trust me to make the right decision, so they decided to make it for me. They took away my mobile phone, drove me to my aunt's house and left me there, only saying that it was for my own good. I've been enrolled at a new school and I'm supposed to stay here for the foreseeable future. But I hate it. I didn't even get a chance to say goodbye to Chuck and although I've called and texted him from my aunt's phone, I haven't heard from him at all. The worst thing about this whole thing is that it's completely ruined my relationship with my parents. Things are pretty strained between us at the moment and, to be honest, I just don't want to talk to them. Maybe they were right about Chuck all along, but they should've let me make my own mistakes. I'll never forgive them.

1. Why did Julie's parents disapprove of Chuck?

2. Julie knows the things that her parents won't like about Chuck. Give examples of how she plays these aspects down.

3. Where does Julie make it clear that she probably knew from the start that Chuck wasn't a suitable boyfriend?

4. What's your opinion? Did Julie's parents do the right thing or should they have allowed her to make her own mistakes?

When romance ends

Task

Simon tells us how his romance ended. Complete his story with the words in the box.

character *comfort* *cool* *contemptuously* *cow* *impulsive* *face* *jaw* *fault* *several*

After a bad motorbike accident I was in hospital with a broken

_____ ¹ and a broken leg. I'd been lying

there for six weeks or so when the door opened and Sharon

walked in. She was the last person I expected to see. Our hot

romance had cooled down _____ ²

weeks before my accident. Well, she soon made it clear that she hadn't come to offer me love and

_____ ³. She started straight in with my failings. I was immature and

_____ ⁴ and yada yada yada. She picked up the dish of nuts next to my bed

and started eating them as she demolished my _____ ⁵. She wasn't a bit

sympathetic about my injuries and never once asked how I was. She even told me that the

accident was my own _____ ⁶ and that I deserved what I got. "What a

_____ ⁷!" I thought. And all the time she was talking, she was eating my nuts!

Finally she told me that she had found a new boyfriend and she wouldn't be coming back again.

"Well, thanks for coming," I tried to say. I was trying to be _____ ⁸ and

sarcastic, but that's difficult with a broken jaw and I don't think she noticed. As she stood up to go,

she threw the empty dish onto my bed _____ ⁹ and said, "Sorry about the nuts,

Simon, but with a broken jaw you couldn't have eaten them anyway." I wrote a message on my

notepad and held it up so that she could read it:

YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN ONLY SUCK THE CHOCOLATE OFF.

Well, you should have seen her _____ ¹⁰! Ah, revenge is sweet!

