

Relationship Scenario Cards

Aisha and Paul

A Alisha: I love going out clubbing with my mates. We meet some great people, really friendly – though admittedly sometimes we're a bit loved up on E (ecstasy). My boyfriend comes out with us most of the time but recently he's been asking loads of annoying questions like 'Who was that you were talking to?' 'Why were you hugging that bloke?' 'How much have you had?' – that sort of thing. Like he feels threatened or insecure or something. I tell him I love him and that he's the one I want to go home with at the end of every night – and that's what I do! His insecurity is starting to get on my nerves. Of course I want to spend time with him, but not every waking minute of my life!

Aisha and Paul

B Paul: My girlfriend's great – always up for a party or going clubbing and seems to make at least a couple of new friends every time we go out. The thing is it's always blokes she makes friends with; she doesn't seem to chat with girls or fling her arms round them, like she does with the guys. She says it's just what she's like when she takes E, but I'm not important when there's other blokes around. She doesn't care if I have a good time or not. Whenever I try to talk to her she gets annoyed and tells me to stop bothering her. And she never rings me – I'm always having to text her or call her to find out where she is if I want to meet up. I just turned up at her house the other day because she wasn't answering her phone – she didn't seem very pleased to see me though.

Rob and Andrea

A Rob: I only met Andrea a few months ago but it's already like she's one of the lads. She can match most of us drink for drink, in fact she could probably drink most of us under the table if she wanted. We're always out to bars and pubs, although you can get some right idiots there sometimes who deserve a good smack in the face. If any of them even try to eye Andrea up and their stupid face is still there at the end of the night, me and the lads will give him a good smacking, or at least I will. You've got to make sure people know what's yours - and Andrea is most definitely my girl. If they can't keep their eyes off her, then they deserve what's coming.

Rob and Andrea

B Andrea: My new boyfriend Rob has got a really good group of friends and we always have a good laugh when we go out. Sometimes Rob has way too much to drink and gets really aggressive and argumentative. He picks a fight over nothing at all, sometimes even with one of his mates – it's like he's a different person. I've seen him get into a couple of punch ups and it's like he's doing it for the sake of it. If I ask him about it, he just shrugs and says it's something blokes do, but I've never seen his mates trying to start it; it's always him. He's never tried to hit me or anything, but I'm beginning to wonder if that's just a matter of time...

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Mike, John and Terry

A Mike: We all thought my brother John was gay so when he did come out, it wasn't a surprise, but obviously it was a big thing for him. School didn't help and it really knocked his confidence for a while. He's finally got himself a boyfriend now; Terry's a lot older than him but he seems nice enough. Whenever I text him now, they always seem to be out partying, either that or they're at home partying. They seem to be in with a crowd that drinks a lot. John's never been a big drinker so I'm not sure how he keeps up! I used to meet up with John every other weekend or so and for a while Terry came too, but John just seems to come on his own now and we don't get together nearly as often. When I do see him and try to talk about Terry, he changes the subject. Tells me to stop worrying and that I sound like our mum.

Mike, John and Terry

B John: I wish my older brother would leave me alone - he's acting like our mum! I met this guy, Terry, at a mate's birthday party last year and we hit it off straight away. He's got a big group of friends who are all up for having a good time and know how to party. There's no way I can keep up with their drinking, but one of them usually has some coke or something so I'm getting into that now. Sometimes I'm not really sure what I've had but reckon if Terry's having it, then it's OK for me to have it. I can't imagine trying to party without being on something. Terry gets a really bad comedown after a big night out; he gets really angry if I suggest he comes and sees Mike with me. He's said some shocking things about him and slags me off at the same time - he's always saying I'm not good enough for him but I know he doesn't mean it. He'd dump me if he did.

Lauren and Matt

A Lauren: I've never really had a boyfriend before - probably because I'm a bit shy but I met this gorgeous guy in a club during the summer holidays; he bought me drinks all night and was really chatty and charming. Since then we've been out to all sorts of places - some of them I'm not old enough to get in to really, but I always dress up when I'm out with him so easily pass for 21. And if I haven't got the right clothes on, he makes me get changed - just so he can be sure we'll get in. Once a club wouldn't let me in and he got really annoyed, shouted at me as if it was my fault and wouldn't speak to me for a couple of days. But then he bought me a new dress to go out in and a new phone (because he'd smashed mine in one of his tempers) so he spoils me really. He texts me all the time, making sure I turn up on time - not that he's always there waiting; sometimes I have to hang out with a mate of his until he turns up. He says I'm much more grown-up than my friends so we don't meet up with them any more - suits me fine. I have him all to myself!

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Lauren and Matt

B Matt: Lauren's a great looking girl, looks way older than she is. I picked her up at a club one night and I've been taking her out ever since. Makes me look really good with a girl like her on my arm – I bet the guys at the club are dead jealous. She's so eager to please though – it can get on my nerves, especially if my dealer's not come up with the goods. Yeah, I get angry now and then, but I always make it up to her by buying her something – she needs proper clothes so she looks right when we go out. Once she'd chosen her own dress – it made her look way too young and sure enough we didn't get into the club, stupid girl. I made sure she'd learnt her lesson that time – didn't ring her for a couple of days. She was begging me to come and see her. She said her friends think I'm too old for her; I told her they're just jealous and she should drop them. I show her a much better time than they ever could.

Sarah and Gary

A Sarah: Gary and I have been together for about ten years. He's been a great stepdad to my son, Sam, whose dad left just after Sam was born. Gary used to go away for work quite a lot so we'd only see him properly at weekends or if he took a holiday, like at Christmas. But he lost his job about six months ago and now he's around all the time – it's not easy. We seem to argue all the time, usually about money. Everything's always my fault, or Sam's fault. I never get a chance to go out for a drink with my friends so I get Sam to go down the shops for me – he's a good boy. The other day he came back from college early and found me still in my dressing gown – in the middle of the afternoon. Gary came back and went ballistic – he started shouting at me and smashing things. Sam can't understand why I'm still with him, he keeps asking why don't I leave him? But Gary needs my support right now, he's been so good to us, I'm sure things will get better once he's working again.

Sarah and Gary

B Gary: I've been out of work for about six months now – it's making things really difficult at home. I spend most days out looking for something that'll bring in some money. Sarah's always liked a drink but she seems to get drunk most evenings now. I've tried talking to her about it but she just says she's worrying so much about me not working that she's not sleeping, so a few drinks help her get to sleep. She's stopped going out with friends and just spends all her time at home. I got back the other afternoon and she was still in her dressing gown; she stank of booze. I just lost it – I saw red, started shouting at her, a couple of bottles got smashed. I hadn't realised Sam was in the kitchen – he looked terrified. He hasn't looked me in the eye since.