

5b Researcher Notes for the Jerome Acyle Show Episode number 7, Broadcast at 10am

Emma

Things were going well for Emma until, on her 13th birthday, she was lured into a dangerous world of drink and drugs by some older boys.

"They met us in town. One of them knew my cousin so I didn't think anything of it. They took me and my best friends out in their cars and gave us whizz [amphetamines], weed and drink. Then they started texting us and wanting us to come out all the time. I thought I was lucky because my mum worked nights and she didn't notice if I was in the house or not. It was better than being stuck in the house on my own and I had found a boyfriend who said he really loved me - so I would stay out all night and come home at 5am. I don't know why I didn't tell my mum, I guess it was exciting."

Some time later Emma was at the house of her boy friend when some other boys and men turned up with drink and drugs.



"I don't know how it happened, I think I was out of it. I ended up in a room on my own with one of the boys. I didn't even know who he was. He raped me and then other men came in. They all took turns. Stupid me, I just laid there! I thought of calling my boyfriend but I was scared.

Inside I was in bits, I just felt so empty. I finally ran out screaming for my boyfriend to help me and he just laughed. He said, "It's nothing. Just do it for me and keep it a secret." I didn't understand why he would say that. I ran out of the house and got a taxi home. I still love him and he loves me. He says it's because he loves me he won't tell the police about all the drugs I've taken. "

Julie: Emma's Mother



Emma's mother is a single mum and has just broken up with her live-in boyfriend of 5 months. She has two girls Emma and a younger child, Megan. She is now seeing someone but says it's not serious.

"It's not my fault. Emma has always been difficult. She has always pushed the boundaries. I didn't know about Ryan her boyfriend, at first. But all kids are like that aren't they? Secretive about

their friends and what goes on. She would never let me see her phone messages would she? Then she was always going out. I thought having a boyfriend would be good for her. He was really nice to me and brought me flowers and stuff too. He always seemed to have money. I couldn't be with her all the time could I? I had my own life to sort out. Things are not good between me and my boyfriend at the moment. I need to have time to myself."

Zara: Emma's Friend



"I don't really care what is happening to Emma. I knew about her going out with Ryan after we had all gone out on her 13th birthday. That was a mad night and I don't want to say what happened - but after I was embarrassed and didn't speak to her. Then, I got tired of texting and messaging her 'cos she stopped answering me. She began to ignore me in school too and used to go off on her own at break and dinnertime. I know I was her friend but there is only so much ignoring anyone can take! I thought if she had made new friends - well good luck to them - she would soon dump them like she had me."

Ryan: Emma's Boyfriend

I know I am on to a good thing. I get all the benefits of young 'girlfriends' (and I only choose the hot ones!) and I am able to make money out of it too. My mates get to share my rewards. The girls I choose are usually lonely or they don't fit in their families or something like that. I suppose you could say they are vulnerable. So I am doing them a favour I think. I tell them all I love them and how beautiful they are. They fall for it and the drugs and the booze work like a charm. They are happy to do what I say after a few fixes. Some girls do say they don't want to go with my 'mates' at first, but I usually persuade them after a few drinks or if all else fails I tell them that I will tell their parents or the police about what they have been doing - it usually works! They enjoy it anyhow. The parties are great.

