

Case study – Names have been changed for confidentiality

1. Annie is 27yr old, she can come across as an extrovert at times, but is known to lack confidence in herself.
2. In March, Annie's 4 year relationship ended with John, and in May she started a new driving job in another county.
3. During this time she meets Owen. Owen's upbringing was difficult and involved Children's Services interventions. His education was limited due to absenteeism. He is a Trainer at the Company and Annie is one of his trainees. Owen instantly falls for her and they soon form a relationship, planning to live and work together. Annie is his first real girlfriend. He showers her with gifts and if Annie expresses an interest in something, he buys it for her. One day she mentions that she needs a laptop and he buys one next day.
4. When finding out about each other, Owen tells Annie that he has had only one previous relationship before Annie when he worked on a farm, but when that relationship broke down he quit his job of 15 years and travelled abroad.
5. Annie and Owen meet each other's families in July. Owen's sister notices that he seems besotted with Annie, and Annie's parent's think that Owen is trying too hard and that his actions are over the top. On one occasion Annie tells her mother "he's all over me; I can't breathe".
6. In September, Annie and Owen both transfer down south for work and move in together at Owen's brother's home. Here Owen is working as a Driver Manager in Recruitment and is in charge of the driver's routes, which includes Annie's routes. Annie is offered a Supervisor's role, but turns it down, stating that she prefers to be out delivering.
7. November Annie contacts a friend in Lincolnshire, where she used to live, saying that Owen is "smothering" and "too possessive".
8. Annie starts spending more time at her previous home in Lincolnshire, which she kept on, and in early December she tells her housemate that she is not happy and doesn't know what to do with her life. During this time Annie and John had rekindled their relationship.
9. Over the Christmas period Annie and Owen visit with both sets of families, seeing Owen's family first on 23rd December. Owen's sister notices that Annie is withdrawn and when she speaks with her, Annie said she is depressed but gives no further information. They then go to visit Annie's family and Annie's mum notices that Annie's behaviour towards Owen has changed since their last visit together, as Annie seems more distant towards him.
10. On the 28th December, Annie and Owen travel back down south after seeing Annie's family. When they get home, Annie informs Owen that the relationship is over and that she is going back to Lincolnshire to her house share. Owen is really upset, more than Annie expects as they have only been living together for 3 months.
11. A few hours after Annie had left Owen told his brother that Annie had broken up with him; she had said that he was "too good for her". Owen then seemed upset, mooched about the house, contacted his employer asking for some time off work, and then left the house with some bags.
12. The next morning, Annie rings her mother to let her know that she has broken up with Owen and is back in Lincolnshire, again expressing surprise at the impact this had on him.
13. Later on that day, Annie received a phone call from Owen saying that he had given up his job. When she saw her housemate straight after the call, she told her that he was "a bit mental and gone off the rails for giving up his job".
14. Annie and John who are now together, go out to celebrate on New Years Eve.