

## JOE FIONA & ANDY

Joe dated Fiona whilst they were in the 6<sup>th</sup> form at school and they were very much an item for 2 years but when they left Fiona took a job in Santander, in Cross Street Manchester and Joe went to Sussex University in Brighton. After 3 months he missed Fiona terribly and was continually texting her to let her know how much he missed her. In fact he hadn't met anyone else and actually wasn't looking. He excitedly messaged her that he was coming to Manchester on his birthday and would take her out to dinner. On his birthday he took the early train via London to Manchester. As a surprise he had booked the Ivy Brasserie for dinner. They met at Manchester Central at 6pm. She looked beautiful and he was determined he was going to propose.

However, the entire time they were at dinner she was distant and constantly checking her phone/sending texts/etc. There was virtually no conversation, and her constant texting was uncharacteristic and started to give Joe the clear impression that she was either cheating on him or just not that into him any more. When they finished eating she asks if it was ok if they stopped by a friend's flat to pick up a hat she'd left there. Joe reluctantly agreed but thought it was a pretty selfish request considering it was his birthday and he didn't want to waste his precious time with Fiona picking up a hat and no doubt getting into a conversation with her friend. When they got to the flat Joe recognised it was Andy's place, alarm bells went off. Why would her hat be there, there was only one explanation. As they were walking up the steps to Andy's Joe was now actually thinking of breaking up with Fiona, as he was now convinced she was having an affair with Andy, who he knew she had always fancied. However when the door opened and he saw Andy with a crowd of his friends singing Happy Birthday he realized she had planned a big surprise party with his old friends. All of the texts and lack of attention that

Joe had been attributing to a lack of interest in him turned out to be the exact opposite.

He had a great time at the party catching up with all his friends. He was so besotted with Fiona, she was so much fun he resolved to propose to her as he had originally intended. So at the end of the party he professed his undying love for Fiona and although he didn't have a ring, he told her he wanted to get engaged soon. So he asked her to marry him. She looked both surprised and happy but then looking him in the eye and asked him if the proposal was unconditional, to which he replied of course. But perplexed he asked what the issue was, what did unconditional mean? She said she wanted to check with Andy to see if he was OK with it. Naturally Joe asked what an earth had their engagement to do with Andy? Shockingly she responded that it was personal. Joe was crestfallen and stormed out of the flat. He went straight to the station to catch the early train to London so he could get back to Brighton and restart his life. He was so upset having been so excited to see Fiona in the first place then getting depressed over dinner because he thought she was ignoring him. Then subsequently being elated to discover she had arranged a party for him, only to have his hopes dashed because he assumed Fiona must be in a relationship with his best mate Andy.

Back in Brighton he buried himself in his work and ignored the multiple messages he received from both Fiona and Andy. A month to the day after his return he answered the door to both Fiona and Andy standing there. He went to close the door on impulse but Andy stopped him. Once inside Andy explained that the reason Fiona wanted to consult him was because he was in love with him and he had only confided in Fiona after Joe had gone to university. Andy went on to say he realised his love for Joe wouldn't be reciprocated, so given the circumstances he was there now to explain he was happy for Joe to marry Fiona, as long as he could stay close to them

both. Joe was understandably confused by the revelation as he'd never thought for one moment that Andy had gay inclinations or that he fancied him, although on reflection he remembered questioning some of Andy's sexual proclivities.

Fiona then broke the ice and turning the tables asked Joe if he would marry her. He beamed and shouted the "answer is yes".

Jeremy Hosea

The Answer is Yes 800 words