

(hashtag)

Short Radio Play

Mateja Perpar, 2020

CAST:

Nella - a young woman, 23, rather sweet and romantic at the beginning, but also quite narcissistic in her view of life later on

A neutral male voice or synthetic voice reading the emojis

Hashtags are read by Nella.

Music, perhaps at first classical, then in accordance with the expressiveness of the text comic, tragic, dramatic, sweet etc ... All the time in the background. Emoticons are to be read by another voice, completely neutral, maybe even synthetic.

Nella (*enthusiastically*): Hi! Just a couple of words. It was great yesterday. A bit cold at the top, but your scarf totally helped, I'll give it back to you ASAP. Legs aching, but the head's clear and happy. **Smiley**. We can go again whenever you feel like it.

Really, anytime! Say hello to Aisha for me! Pip pip. **Smiley. Pawprint. Pawprint.**
#nature

Music.

Nella (*enthusiastically*): Hey, there! I only just walked into my flat, but I've got to write you this! It was an insanely good hike! Since we've been walking more often I've become so fit I feel like a superwoman! **Flexedbiceps**. It's so great to know you. It's so good to go feel and smell the nature, not to waste time for stupid partying, fags and beer... **Flower. Flower**. You're my soul mate, you know. **Twinflamesymbol**. Just one little thing – is it possible to get something sweet up there, like I don't know – a piece of strudel or a muffin so that we don't just keep stuffing our faces with chicken broth? **Grinningface. Grinningface**. Thank you for being my bestest friend!

Smiley. Namaste. #friendship

Music.

Nella (*enthusiastically*): Yoooo, man! **Grinningface**. Sorry, I couldn't answer right away, I was washing my hair... so I'll be presentable tomorrow if we go somewhere else. **Wink. (dreamily)** It was pure magic yesterday walking through the spring forest, smelling the grass... and chatting with you. A privilege! **Smiley. Hearteyes. Namaste.**

Music.

Nella (*sweetly, in a slightly timid manner*): Ugh, yesterday was something, ha?!
Fjuuu ... My head feels like a watermelon. **Woozyface**. Am a bit embarrassed
because of my stupid behavior. That mountain schnapps's terribly strong.
Flushedface. Bandagedhead. (*gently*) Hey, thanks for your understanding. Hope
we can go again someday... **Flushedface. Wink. Grinningface.**
#mountainhangover

Music.

Nella (*sweetly, half-whispering, intimately*): Ronny, last night was... magical. Really.
Really. R.E.A.L.L.Y. My head's still dizzy. My hands are trembling. I'm flying!
O.M.G. **Flushedface. Starstruckeyes. Heart. Heart.** #sexycuddle

Music.

Nella (*completely in love, intimately, emotionally*): Ronny, darling... Where have you
been all my life? I must have been roaming about like blind. Where was I looking?
Who are you? **Heart. Heart. Heart.** (*hopefully, sweetly*) I know full well you're
terribly busy, but, come on, love, drop by or just call me for a second, you know,
anytime. I'm going to work now, but all the time I'm going to be sitting at the cash
register, I'll be thinking of you. Every guy will have your face, your hands, your eyes...
OMG. **Beatingheart. TeddyBear. Beatingheart.**

Music.

Nella (*completely in love, intimately*): Three months today. **Beatingheart.**
Beatingheart. What are we doing? Where are we going? I can't believe it, my life's
turned around completely. I'm no longer that insecure, frightened girl, my soul's
flying, my body's opening, blossoming... **Beatingheart.** To feel your hand on my
face... Never ever stop, plz. **Heart.** My friends look at IG pics and say we're made for
each other... just from the way we look at each other... OMG. Life's so beautiful!
Beatingheart. Hearteyes. Namaste. #happiness #love

Music.

Nella (*panicking*): Sorry, my love, sorry! I had no idea you didn't want to be on IG. I didn't even know you didn't have an FB account!!! Sorry, plz. **Cryingface**. I won't do it again, ever! It's true I uploaded all of them, even the one where I'm wearing your jockeys, but that's just because I'm so happy! What a cow. What an idiot! You're absolutely right. Plz don't be mad at me. **Flushedface. Cryingface. Saint.**

Music.

Nella (*cheerfully*): Happy birthday, love! **Cake. Lipstickstain. Fireworks.** My Lovely Love! Today I posted a photo on FB and IG, just one, one, one, the one from yesterday morning where I'm in your T-shirt, hair all tousled but face superhappy... **Flushedface.** One hundred and twelve likes! My friends adore you!!! You're the best guy in the world and a red-hot lover! **Wink. Wink.** Happy me! **Beatingheart.**
#totalbliss

Music.

Nella (*frightened*): My Lovely Love, where are you?

Music.

Nella (*lovingly, panicking slightly but relieved*): Just as long as you're OK. I totally understand you had to think about it. What we have is like absolutely the most powerful thing that's ever happened to me and I'm 23! **Fireworks.** Just one little thing – next time just send me a tiny text just so I know you're safe. 'Cause I like totally freaked out and I called two of your friends. They must think me a total idiot. **Scaredface.** Just to be sure you're safe. **Saint.** Fortunately, they knew where you were. Ugh! If I think something could happen to you... **Cryingface.** I heard on the radio there'd been an accident on the motorway. I didn't know where you were!!! Sorry I panicked. You mean everything to me! My Lovely Love! **Heart. Heart.** Yours forever! **Heart. Heart. Beatingheart.** #strongconnection

Music.

Nella (*quite reasonable, trying to calm down*): Okay, okay. Take it easy. Just take it easy. Breathe, girl, breathe... (*sharply*) Shit...

Music.

Nella (*nervously*): Can't you just like call me? I've smoked an entire packet! Like, does that seem cool? Does that seem fair to you?! And this time I finally thought I was actually going to stop!!! **Lightning.**

Music.

Nella (*furious*): What's wrong with you?! **Shockedface.** So you're being a jerk?! A total jerk! **Lightning. Lightning.**

Music.

Nella (*at first relatively calm, then more and more furious*): Okay, is that how you go about it? First turn a woman's head to get what you want, then ignore her? What?! **Angryface. Lightning.** In the beginning keep telling her how sweet she is and then just fuck her off? JUST LIKE THAT?! Giving me some idiot bullshit how you've got to help your father and walk your brother's dog?! Like, you haven't got enough time for one short text?! A real miracle you answered your phone, ha?! What an insensitive clod! **Shit. Vomit.** #liar

Music.

Nella (*full of regret*): Sorry, my Love. I saw you from a distance this morning. Walking Aisha. **Pawprint. Pawprint.** She was wagging her tail.... Sorry. Miss you terribly. And her, too! My heart's in pieces! **Brokenheart.** Just send me one tiny text, plz... just so I know you're OK. **Heart.**

Music.

Nella (*absolutely furious*): Who is she?! Who?! Screw you! What the absolute fuck is wrong with you? We don't see each other for two weeks and you're already banging someone else?! Walking hand in hand in the middle of the road, parading her past my window?! Don't tell me it was a coincidence!!! Asshole! Sure, now I understand. You don't have FB and IG so no-one can see you're screwing bitches all over the place! OMG, what a bloody fool I've been! Can't believe we last fucked what – just a month ago? **Vomit. Vomit.** #liar #deceiver #jerk #malepig

Music.

Nella (*desperate voice*): My life is over. You hear me, OVER! **Cryingface.** Yesterday, when I pulled a knife across the barcode scanner, I felt an urge to stab myself in the heart. **Brokenheart.** The woman who was buying it just stared at me vacantly. **Cryingface. Crying face.** I'm sure she was using it just hours later to cut some disgusting salami for her fat bloke. And then they both sat and chewed their god-awful sandwiches staring at the TV like zombies... **Beer. Sandwich. Zombie.** I felt sorry for her, but at least they're fucking each other! **Cryingface.** OMG. My life is over. I posted a pic yesterday on IG. 78 likes. All my friends say I've got such a cute unhappy face, I got almost 50 comments not to give up but I feel totally empty. I'll never love again. **Cryingface. Cryingface.** #betrayed #abandoned.

Music.

Nella (*pathetically*): If you happen to read this, or a friend tells you, maybe, well, I forgive you. This is what I've got to do to get over it. I enrolled in one of those workshops for personal growth and it was wonderful. This young Indian spoke to us about how he'd just come from a big ashram and he says it's his mission in life to lead people to happiness. **Starstruckeyes.** His name is Suri, and he said that the cause of such behavior as yours is usually damaged karma from previous lives. He has webinars, too, if you're interested and you can sign up. Just saying. **Namaste.** #healkarma

Music.

Nella (*euphorically*): O.M.G. How's that possible?! I've got to post this for everyone to see! Suri's totally right. Totally! Don't lose hope! You never know when your pain's going to lead you to enlightenment! **Smiley. Namaste.** He is a guru! Yesterday I went to his mantra workshop and I was the only one and he brought his sitar and we sang together and in the end... O.M.G!!! **Wink. Wink. Smiley. Hearteyes. Namaste.** #india #suriwisdom #bestsexofmylife

Already during the last couple of lines the previous musical background changes into burlesque music.

The End.