INT: Ok. Right. Are those boots not incredibly hot in this weather?

LOU: No, they’re too comfortable [laughs], I live in them now.

INT: My folks sent me a pair, uh my in-laws sent me a pair from New Zealand erm sort of big sort of bloke’s sized Ugg boots, and they’re, I mean they’re toasty, but I couldn’t wear them now.

LOU: Yeah, strange the weather outside today isn’t it? It’s really like humid.

INT: I’m not liking it at all, yesterday was great.

LOU: It was beautiful yesterday.

INT: But I’m not liking this at all. So, ok what I’d like to do is just to run this sort of like a conversation, I mean I’ve got, I’ve got an interview schedule here which I’ll be going through, erm so that’s, that’s what I’m looking at, erm just so you know, you can have a look at it if you like, erm and it’s got sort of a bunch of questions, but it’s more like various areas that I want to ask questions about about friendship, I’d rather it was more a conversation than a question and answer thing [LOU: yeah], so I will go off on side tracks and whatever and I really don’t mind that. Erm what’s good is if, if when we’re talking you can actually sort of come up with like examples like specific examples, like telling stories about you know with this friend this happened [LOU: right, ok], or that sort of stuff, that makes, A it makes it more interesting and more like personally relevant, and erm, and also sometimes it can really help with working with the data afterwards [LOU: yeah], so erm, ok, alright, are you sitting comfortably?

LOU: Yeah, fine [laughs].

INT: Erm so I think one, one of the things we can start with is if you think of erm like one friend of yours, like a close friend erm and just tell me how you met.

LOU: How we met?

INT: Yeah.

LOU: Well we live in ((HALLS OF RESIDENCE NAME)), I don’t know if you know where that is, and she moved into our flat a week after everyone else cause she didn’t like the people she was originally living with [INT: ok], so I first met her in our kitchen, unpacking, and it was, it was quite strange cause I thought ‘Oh, who’s she?’ [laughs] cause we’d already been there a week so we’d already made like a little bond type thing.

INT: How many people in the flat?

LOU: Five, so she was like the fifth person to move in, and then we just started chatting really and we found quite a bit to talk about, and then it went from there to like now we’ve formed like quite a good, close friendship, cause we both smoke you see so that was our little bonding thing [laughs], it was like when we went out it was like ‘Do you want to go outside for a fag?’ and that was how we started to bond really, through that, so it can have it’s you know advantages smoking [laughs].

INT: [Laughs]. Yeah, absolutely.

LOU: But yeah, and now we’re quite close really, I’m going over to Ireland to see her in summer cause that’s where she lives for a couple of weeks, so it’s really good.

INT: Oh ok, cool. Where abouts?

LOU: Erm it’s not called, is it ((LOCAL PLACE NAME)) just outside Derry I think it is she lives.

INT: Ok. Northern Ireland?

LOU: Yeah Northern Ireland, yeah, so.

INT: Oh nice one.

LOU: Yeah I know, gets me a holiday anyway doesn’t it [laughs], somewhere to stay.

INT: Cool. So you’ve known her since the start of this yeah, sort of Septemberish, so …

LOU: It feels like I’ve known her years though really.

INT: Really?

LOU: Yeah, like I know more about her than friends back home I think, cause I think it’s cause you like live together so you start to see sides of people you don’t generally see in others cause you’re under each other’s skin aren’t you, so …

INT: Yeah, yeah, and that can be quite difficult.

LOU: It’s crazy, it is difficult but we’ve learnt to live with each other cause we know when we need our own space and we know when it’s time to be like with each other.

INT: When you are with each other, what, I mean what do you get up to? What do you do?

LOU: Like in the day or … just generally?

INT: Well generally, in the day, in the evening, whatever, both, all three.

LOU: Oh generally, just the typical watch telly together and then drink together before we go out and then go out, like do each other’s fake tan and stuff [laughs], so …

INT: Do you go out a lot?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, quite a lot, recently because of exams we haven’t, but then Wednesday night we had quite a big night out, so it was really good.

INT: That was the end of exams?

LOU: Yeah it was, the last, cause her last exam was on that day as well, so it was good timing.

INT: Are you doing the same course?

LOU: No she does Business Studies, so yeah, she enjoys it.

INT: You sound unconvinced [laughs].

LOU: I know, It’s not my type of thing but …

INT: Alright, cool. And the other people in the flat, are you also close to them?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, we are, there’s one girl who isn’t, she doesn’t come out with us cause she’s not a very sociable person, she’s the type who’d rather stay in and watch films, so we do watch films with her occasionally, but she goes home quite a lot you see, so we don’t really see that much of her, and she goes out with other friends from other halls so, but the other four of us we are quite close.

INT: But this, the girl from Ireland is more like a particular friend?

LOU: Yeah, a particular friend yeah.

INT: Best mate type thing?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, she’s like if I had, if there was something wrong with me or something then she’s the one I’d go to out of the whole of the flat, so yeah she’s a particular one.

INT: And do you have friends outside the flat as well?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, there’s erm, we’ve formed like a group of about fifteen of us, we’re all quite close group cause we all live on the first floor you see, of where we stay, so there’s a couple who are from other halls, so it’s really good, quite a sociable group and everyone, there’s people who are closer than others, but then we’re all close together, so it’s cool, I like it.

INT: So all, are all your, your little I don’t know clan or whatever [laughs]

LOU: Yeah, posse [laughs].

INT: Posse, erm are they all from outside Liverpool?

LOU: Yes all of them.

INT: So, so none of your friends are like locals, or none of your close friends are like locals?

LOU: No.

INT: But you know some people who are from Liverpool as well or …?

LOU: Erm not really, no, there’s a lad who’s from ((LOCAL PLACE NAME DELETED)), which is nearest really, but no one who actually lives in Liverpool.

INT: That’s not a lot further than you is it?

LOU: No, it’s just like …

INT: Yeah ok. How long do you think you’ll erm, you’ll know these friends for do you think?

LOU: Hopefully like after university and stuff, there’s a few that I think we’ll try and stay in touch with but you won’t for obvious reasons, but there’s a few er I reckon will stay.

INT: And what are the obvious reasons?

LOU: Like they live too far away and don’t you know, I don’t know, like one, some of them are gunna move abroad and stuff like that so, I reckon we’ll try though, it’s like next year we’re all getting houses, but I think we’ll all stay in touch because that’s our group we’ve formed, so we’re all living in different areas, but I think we’ll stay in touch, I hope so anyway.

INT: Have you got your house sorted out?

LOU: Yeah, yep, in ((LOCAL PLACE NAME)).

INT: And are you going to be staying with some of the people you’re friends with now?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, so that’s cool, yeah.

INT: Yeah, all from that sort of group?

LOU: Yeah, we’re all in the same group apart from one girl which is a friend from back home erm she’s living with us as well, cause she hasn’t really settled in properly with who she’s living with, she’s not really formed a friendship group so we’re like taking her under our wing and looking after her, so yeah.

INT: So talking about friends from, from before, erm you came here straight after school, right?

LOU: From college yeah.

INT: Yeah, from college, right. And you had a different set of friends there obviously, how, how in touch are you with them?

LOU: Very, cause we’ve got a very close group of friends cause there’s like six of us including myself, girls, and we’re the type of friends where we see each other everyday, we do stuff together everyday, so we’re still very close, like I’ve been going home most weekends to spend time with them, and like I phone them in the week, and it’s really strange cause like I’ve got such a close group of friends back home, but I have here, that’s why at first I didn’t really want to come because I was a bit scared of making new friends [INT: yeah], but it seems to have gone the opposite way, cause we do depend on each other a lot back home, us six, so it was scary.

INT: And have your friends from college met your uni friends?

LOU: Erm yeah they come up on St. Paddy’s day for like the day out so they all like met and stuff, they all got on [INT: ok], it was quite strange, it was like all my favourite people in one room, it was good.

INT: Oh, I bet that was really good, yeah.

LOU: [Laughs]. Yeah it was dead good, I liked it.

INT: What did you do Paddy’s day then?

LOU: What do you think we done? [Laughs].

INT: Where did you do it? [Laughs].

LOU: Erm we started, do you know where the Head of Steam is? [INT: mm] We started there cause obviously that’s where our accommodation is, above there, and then we went into town and then done a bit of a bar crawl really and then went to a club afterwards and then spent the next day in bed [laughs].

INT: [laughs] Moaning?

LOU: Yeah [laughs].

INT: [Laughs]. Cool.

LOU: So it was good, it was really good, it was nice to see my different friend groups getting on as well, you know like so they could collide and, it was good.

INT: And are they, have you, have the two friends sort of met since then as well or …? Well perhaps they’ve not had the opportunity.

LOU: Erm well they’ve not really, no, they’ve not really had the opportunity since that day, but if, cause sometimes, cause I only live like an hour away one will pop up for the night and then they’ll speak or sit in the kitchen and have like a cup of tea and everything [INT: ok], so it’s really quite cool, the girls are good who I live with, they’re very sociable as well so they won’t just ignore someone, they’ll come in and ‘Nice to meet you der, der, der’, so it’s cool [INT: cool], it’s really good.

INT: So what was it like coming here, you said that you were a bit sort of uh ah ah?

LOU: Cause I wasn’t gunna, I changed my mind about going to uni over summer and then I got a summer job and I really didn’t like it, it was not where I want to be at all, and I thought the only way I’m gunna get to where I wanna be is if I go to uni, but I was just scared of being lonely I think more than anything, cause we are really close back home [INT: yeah], so it was one of them where I just thought I was gunna be on my own, make no friends, but it was …

INT: Were you worried about losing contact with your college friends?

LOU: Yeah definitely cause two of them didn’t go to university and three of them have done [INT: right], so it was…

INT: But that’s not made a difference really?

LOU: No, not at all, like the, one of the girls who stayed back home at first she was a bit ‘Oh you’re all making new friends, you’re all gunna forget about all us’, at the start she was a bit, but then she’s alright now, she’s like …

INT: But is she making new friends through work and all that sort of stuff?

LOU: Er yeah but she works with older people really where she works, so she does stay with us, but she’s got a boyfriend as well so that sort of helps, so when we’re not there she’s spending time with him, so she’s settled down a lot more now, she just, but I think she felt a bit left out cos we were all moving on with our lives and she felt like she was stuck there, but she’s come to terms with it now and realised.

INT It sounds like, I mean you said you sort of want to stay in touch with some of these university friends, you know forever or, I mean it sounds like sort of the same with the college friends, like these are like life long friends.

LOU: Yeah definitely, definitely, definitely yes.

INT: And before college, like school?

LOU: It was the same friends from college at school, we all went to the same college.

INT: You all went to the same school and then to the same college, ok.

LOU: Yeah, so it was really good and there’s a couple of people from school like it’s a group of lads who we’ve kept in touch with as well so they’re like really close friends, but it goes to show you when you move on who your friends are cause they’re the people who wanna stay in touch and who make the effort to see you, and you make the effort to see them and it makes you realise, it’s like a …

INT: Cause I mean there must have been other people who you were friends with who have sort of fallen by the way side.

LOU: Yeah, but they’ve just like fizzled, yeah.

INT: What sort of, what leads to that fizzling?

LOU: I think it’s more a case of people doing different things, and then you don’t see each other often so you run out of like a bit of conversation really and then you just never see them, cause I’m here, hardly, the people when I go home, the main friends who I spend my time with, cause I’ve not got a lot of time, apart from the weekend or something, it’s really …

INT: Can you think of someone who’s like that, maybe like a school friend that you’ve erm …?

LOU: Yeah.

INT: When did you last see them?

LOU: I actually, her, cause we were really good friends at high school, but we went to different colleges and she didn’t really associate with the group of, you know the girls I’ve met now, and I saw her, I met up with her over Easter for a drink and it was really good, it was, but I hadn’t seen her since school from then [INT: oh right, ok], so we went from being like really, really close to then nothing at all.

INT: Had you both changed in that time though?

LOU: Erm she’d dyed her hair [laughs], but personality wise I think she’d done a lot of growing up, cause when we were at school she was very like bad tempered like could [clicks fingers] you know, but there’s stubborn as well, but she, she admitted that as well she said ‘Oh I was terrible at school for mood swings and stuff’, so she’d done a lot of growing up, even though she’s only five foot nothing still [laughs], she’s still dead small, but it wasn’t awkward seeing her, cause I thought, cause we had loads to talk about cause we hadn’t seen each other for two years, but other people you see, and it’s like they’re not interested so you’ve got nothing to talk about.

INT: They’re not interested in …?

LOU: Like what you’ve been doing, they’re just like ‘Hi’ and then walk away, they’re not, they don’t stop for conversation and stuff, but then in the same respect I could stop them and, it’s quite strange isn’t it, yeah it’s really quite strange.

INT: Yeah I know I recognise these things as strange, yeah.

LOU: Yeah, it’s like where did that little bond go, so yeah.

INT: Are you friends with people from also erm from class and erm from the course as well other than your fifteen strong posse?

LOU: Yeah it’s, it’s quite strange yeah cause it’s like [laughs] it’s my own fault really because I’ve got them I don’t really make as much effort as I should have done with course mates which is one of the things I’m gunna try and do next year, but there’s two girls who I see quite a lot like we don’t just go, like we went out for each other’s birthday and stuff like that [INT: oh right, ok], we phone each other up and our exams and, but that’s only like two of them, there’s another girl who lives in my halls who does it, I saw her last night actually, so there is a few people that I speak to, but I never like text them and say ‘Are you coming out tonight?’ apart from like them two who I’ve made friends with [INT: yeah], but one of them went to my college, so it was quite, so I knew who she was but …

INT: Oh right so you sort of knew her, but you weren’t friends with her at college you just sort of knew to see?

LOU: No, just like an acquaintance type thing, yeah so.

INT: And were they people, what like research methods class or something like that?

LOU: Yeah, yeah.

INT: So that’s the one where you actually see most of them I guess.

LOU: Yeah that’s the one where you see, like in lectures it’s difficult cause you just like walk in, sit down, and walk back out, so it’s difficult, you can’t really have a conversation with people can you?

INT: No, no.

LOU: But in the tutorials it’s a lot easier to make a, that’s what I’m gunna try and do next year make more of an effort with people in my course, but then it’s weird cause then I spend most of my time with people in halls so, plus I’ve already made a bond with them and they’re my friends now so, that’ll be quite strange.

INT: You’re talking about them like they’re sort of two different groups of friends, does it, it feels like that does it?

LOU: Yeah, definitely, like people on my course are a different group to the people I live with, definitely, I can act differently with them as well, like I act differently with people on my course than I do with …

INT: Like how so?

LOU: Like I’m more, more confident with the people I live with, you know to be yourself like sometimes you hold back don’t you and things, I’m like that with the people on my course, like I have to get to know them before I let them get to know me, it’s quite strange, I don’t know why I do it, but [chuckles], it’s like if I go in to, you know when you start a new job [INT: yeah], and everyone’s already formed their friends that’s when I’m more like self conscious and a bit, cause you’re going into a new group, whereas at uni it was quite easy because everyone was in the same position so you just be yourself, that’s all you can be.

INT: Yeah. Do you get that feeling that people already knew each other on the course more than in the halls where everyone was strangers, or was it the same sort of thing?

LOU: It was the same sort of thing it’s just I see them people more so it give me more time to, and plus we were out socialising so, and when you drink you get a lot more confidence to just chat really, so.

INT: I mean yes you do, I mean has that been sort of quite an important part of meeting people and all that?

LOU: Yeah the socialising side, cause the first day we moved in the first thing we done was opened a bottle of wine and chatted and then went out, cause you’re just more loose with yourself aren’t you?

INT: Yeah, yeah.

LOU: Not afraid to say stuff.

INT: Yeah, hard to do that in lectures.

LOU: Yeah definitely [laughs]. It takes a good couple of hours where in lectures you haven’t got that time have you? [INT: no], it’s like two minutes so, you can’t really drink either can you? [Laughs].

INT: Well, I hope not [laughs]. Erm … you were talking about like sort of making plans for next year, I mean you brought up next year like twice, once is moving into, moving into house, like finding house mates and all that sort of stuff, erm and that sounds pretty sort of, that’s all pretty sorted?

LOU: Yeah.

INT: How many are gunna be in the house?

LOU: There’s two, there’s two houses of three next door to each other, so three of us are in one, three of us are in the other, girls, cause we thought six girls in one house and one bathroom, no way, just wouldn’t work would it really, so.

INT: No it doesn’t.

LOU: So we thought if we live next door to each other we’re still together but …

INT: Two bathrooms.

LOU: Yeah, exactly.

INT: Yeah I remember my first digs was two guys and eight girls with one bathroom.

LOU: Nightmare.

INT: Big bathroom doesn’t matter [laughs].

LOU: Yeah. So that was alright, but I’m thinking next year maybe I want to live in a bigger house because now is the only opportunity you’re gunna get to live with that amount of people, so I think next year I’m not gunna think about the bad things and I’m gunna think about the good things and, cause this year it was like ‘Oh not enough bathroom space’, whereas next year I think I’m just gunna be ‘Go for it’, but then the work’s, the good thing about that is cause there’s only three of us we’re gunna do our work [INT: yeah], we’re not gunna be distracted or …

INT: How’s that been this year?

LOU: Erm not too bad really cause when I’ve got work to do I go to the library so that I shut myself away and spend all day there and everything, but it’s just at night like you’re tempted to go out when really you should get up in the morning and do, it’s just, and then we go round and watch TV together and you can end up being there all night and you’ve got things to do but you know, you know when you’ve gotta do something so you know when like enough’s enough really, well I do anyway so [laughs].

INT: You looked a little glum saying that [laughs], ‘I’d rather be going out’.

LOU: But you know when you’ve gotta do something don’t you, when something’s gotta be done, it’s like with revision I stayed in for two weeks and like just focused on that, didn’t really see much of anyone, I mean it’s benefited really, well I hope so, I’ll find out, soon find out.

INT: I mean were other friends of the same sort of mind set?

LOU: Yeah, especially in the flat, it was like right, like if one of us woke up earlier than the others we’d wake each other up and have breakfast and then we’d revise.

INT: Ok, so that was actually quite supportive rather than it being a distraction?

LOU: Yeah it was really, yeah it was really good, everyone was like that really, and then we’d have little breaks together and, like every couple of hours and stuff so it was really good, that’s why I didn’t go to the library really cause I thought if I go to the library I’d just be sat there thinking ‘Oh I wonder what they’re doing’ [laughs], but it was really good and then …

INT: And as far as you know they’re just sitting at their own desks doing their own thing that’s not that interesting after all.

LOU: And we’d ask each other questions and stuff so it was really good, it was quite helpful.

INT: But you’re not, there’s no one in your flat that’s on the same course or anything so you weren’t like sharing work or anything?

LOU: No, no.

INT: Ok. Erm talking about like friendship more generally, what does it mean to you to be friends with someone?

LOU: Everything I think really, like erm it’s just, it’s just, I’d rather sit with some one cause I hate to be on my own when there’s people, I like to be round people and interacting with people all the time so it does mean quite a lot to me, plus you, I think you need friends, it’s sort of like a necessity in life that you need.

INT: What do you need friends for?

LOU: Like support, someone to rely on and trust and just someone to have a good time with and spend your life with really isn’t it, like I’d rather spend my life with someone than on my own, so it’s quite important to me.

INT: Have there been times would you say when you’ve needed support from your friends?

LOU: Erm I think it’s when I was coming to uni really, that was the main, cause I needed to know that they’re still gunna be, like my friends back home are still gunna be there and [INT: ok], definitely, but nothing serious has really happened, yet anyway touch wood [INT: touch wood] where I need, really need them, but I just need them for everyday things like they just mean quite a lot to me my friends do, like my family really, like an extended family so, to me I find it quite sad when I see people who are quite lonely and stuff, cause for me that would be the worst situation to be in, like I don’t know about yourself but it’s very …

INT: Yeah, yeah, I mean there’s always a couple, I guess you see them, you see them on your course and things and all that sort of stuff, they don’t seem to engage with people and stuff.

LOU: Yeah, they just, it’s quite sad really, just, like our flat mate I do try to make the effort with her cause I just think …

INT: This is the quieter one, yeah?

LOU: Yeah it must be so hard for her cause we’re all quite bubbly characters and …

INT: And is she unhappy?

LOU: She doesn’t seem to be, cause I’ve spoken to her about things like ‘How are you finding it here?’ and stuff and she quite likes it, she’s thinking about changing her course next year, she’s not too settled with her course but she seems ok and she’s living with friends next year, cause I was worried she’d be on her own again in our halls so I spoke to her about that.

INT: Ok, cool. Erm … can you think of like a particular act of kindness that, that a friend has, has er done for you, or something a friend has done for you or something, a way that a friend has been particularly kind to you?

LOU: … Erm … I don’t really know … I’m just trying to think for like an example … just like times when you get upset and they’re there for you and just general things like that really, cause they’re all quite kind friends like that, very supportive and if there’s something wrong they’ll help you out, but generally like we all do stuff for each other, that kind of thing, like my friend’s uncle passed away last week and it was his funeral on Tuesday and obviously he couldn’t be there cause he was at university and had exams and stuff so it was just like little phone calls to like show your support and stuff, like you get the same back as well [INT: yeah], so it’s not just like I’m giving, giving, giving, you’re getting, you’re getting support back as well.

INT: And you find that with all your friends, it’s sort of equally give and take?

LOU: Yeah definitely, yeah.

INT: What does it, what does it mean support, like to, to support a friend, what’s, I don’t know, what’s involved with that?

LOU: It’s, it can just be a conversation, or even just like a little bit of affection, and the look they give you that they know something, just saying like ‘It’s gunna be alright’, it’s like just affection really, cause we are quite close, we do like sit and cuddle and stuff like, which you don’t normally see but us girls we’re like quite close in that respect so it’s easy to see if something’s up with someone cause you know them that well, so it is just like affection and just little like expressions that they give you so you know.

INT: Especially the ones you live with, you get to know them?

LOU: Yeah exactly, yeah,

((2 MINUTES 49 SECONDS DELETED))

INT: Have you ever been let down by a friend?

LOU: Yeah.

INT: That was quite definite [laughs].

LOU: [Laughs]. Yeah, yeah I have.

INT: Can you tell me about that?

LOU: Erm … well she was, we were very, you know when you have one of those friends who, we’ve been friends since nursery, so like we have actually grown up together …

INT: You’ve grown up together quite literally, yeah.

LOU: Yeah literally, and it was through a boyfriend she betrayed me, she sort of like, them two sort of had intercourse together behind my back, so it was quite a …

INT: What a boyfriend of yours that she pilfered? [Laughs].

LOU: Yeah, she did, yeah [laughs], so …

INT: How long ago was that?

LOU: Erm it’s about two years ago now [INT: ok], two or three years ago.

INT: So is, college type era?

LOU: Er yeah just before, the year just before college it was [INT: ok, right], so GCSE time [INT: yeah], and that did affect me, looking back now it really did affect me quite badly.

INT: In what sort of…?

LOU: Like psychologically, like now … I find it hard, harder to trust people in that aspect, and her, like cause it wasn’t the fact it was him it was, who’d done it like, it was that particular friend, the one I’d grown up with, who I knew, who know me the best, it was just a proper, like we relied on each other for, like people used to say ‘Oh where’s your partner in crime?’ if they saw me to me and the same to her, like they’d expect the other one to be round the corner, it was really, it was really difficult, a difficult time.

INT: Are you in touch with her now?

LOU: Yeah, we, she’s actually living with us next year, so it’s quite strange, its, she’s the girl who’s not settled down properly here, so …

INT: Oh that you mentioned her earlier, yeah, yeah.

LOU: Yeah, yeah, it’s her, she erm, but then other friends, if I talk about it, like the girl I was on about before, Anna, who we were talking about who lives in Ireland she thinks like I’m too soft and I’m too, like she said if it was her she wouldn’t look at her again, but erm I think that’s my problem, I’m too soft, I’m too, like I can’t just forget about someone who’s that close to me, you know for doing something like that, I’d rather put it behind.

INT: You don’t think it’s too soft?

LOU: But, no, but then when I talk to people about us I sit there and think maybe I am being too soft, do you see what I mean?

INT: I do see what you mean, I’m trying to, I wanna make you say it though [laughs].

LOU: [Laughs]. It’s, it’s quite strange, but, I don’t know, I just didn’t want something like that to come between us, but then it is really quite a, I know it doesn’t sound …

INT: I take it she and the ex-boyfriend are not still together?

LOU: No, they were, but that was the annoying thing, she come to me when he split up with her [INT: really], so I was like, that’s when we did fall out.

INT: That’s quite cheeky.

LOU: And I was just like ‘What do you want me to say?’ I just said to her ‘I hope he was worth it’, cause she knows that er like I’ve forgiven her but I’ll never forget it, but in a sense I don’t think that’s really forgiveness, in a way, cause there is, like now I wont, there’s things I wont tell her, and it’s affected little things like that, so it has affected our friendship quite badly but then she’s only got herself to blame really, I can’t be blamed for that.

INT: Has it affected the way that erm you speak to other friends, or the way you’ve made other friendships or anything like that?

LOU: Erm not in the sense of that way but sometimes I do, it affects boyfriends really, having trust in them rather than friends which is quite strange really cause it’s like I blame her more, but I’m like taking it out on them rather than my friends, but it’s because I think the group of friends I’ve got now I do trust them, but then I trusted her so it’s one of them things that are, you’ve just got to not think it.

INT: What consciously not think it?

LOU: Yeah.

INT: Do you find it sort of bubbling up and then you go ‘No, no, I’m not going down there’?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely, definitely. … But yeah I think that’s the only time a friend’s proper let me down, but it was quite a like doosh, but I think if I wasn’t as strong minded as I was back then I wouldn’t, it would have affected me quite, quite severely, I know it might seem to you like a little thing, but to me it was …

INT: Oh god no, no, no, no, no, Jesus no.

LOU: It’s quite like a big thing.

INT: Yeah absolutely. I mean I guess it’s why I’m curious about her moving in with you next year.

LOU: Yeah that’s what she said.

INT: Is she gunna be in the same house or next door?

LOU: Yeah, same house.

INT: The same one.

LOU: Cause that’s what Anna was saying like ‘How can you be so supportive of her?’ cause she’s not really made, she only really stays at uni when she can and then she goes back home, so that, I don’t see how you show her that much support and look after her in a way when she’s done that to you.

INT: Do you see a lot of her?

LOU: I used to but not so much now, like I used to, before all this happened we used to be on the phone everyday, we used to go like socialise together every night as you do when you’re younger, but we went to different high schools, but she was still my closest friend, so then through college I hardly saw her really, just sort of let her drift apart and then we came here and just had to show her a bit of support really.

INT: How much have you seen of her here?

LOU: Erm well she does, I do ((DEGREE SUBJECT A)) with ((DEGREE SUBJECT B)) [INT: yeah], and she does ((DEGREE SUBJECT B)) so we see each other on our course [INT: ok], but then outside that I don’t, I don’t really see her.

INT: So she’s one of that sort of course work, course group of friends rather than …

LOU: Yeah, yeah, now she is, but it’s quite strange from how close we used to be to now she’s just like … but then I, when erm, it was not so long ago me and Anna were talking about it actually and she was saying ‘How can you live with her next year?’, and I said because I don’t really like bringing it up in a way cause it’s just something that happened if you know what I mean so I’d only …

INT: So you don’t not like to bring it up because it’s still uncomfortable for you, or because of how people, like what Anna says you’re a bit soft and all that sort of stuff, other people’s reactions or your own feelings about it?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, I think it’s, a bit of both really, cause when they say that it makes me think how I should have reacted and how like …

INT: How should you have reacted?

LOU: Just not been friends with her any more really, I was, I really was quite soft about it, but she’s my friend so in some respects I do think I, well with her I give a lot more than she gives back to me, but then like she knows it now, like she knows.

INT: I mean it must have changed the way that she deals with you as well I guess?

LOU: Yeah, definitely.

INT: How, how’s that?

LOU: It, it’s quite strange, at first it didn’t like, especially when she came to me after they’d split I don’t think, I think she doesn’t realise what she’s done …

INT: Really?

LOU: Yeah I think that’s what it is, I think she just thinks of it as like something that’s in the past and it is forgotten about, whereas it really isn’t.

INT: Do you talk about it with her?

LOU: No.

INT: It just doesn’t come up or …?

LOU: Yeah, it just doesn’t [INT: ok], it’s like a taboo subject really [INT: oh right, ok], it just never comes up, so after it happened, a couple of months after …

INT: And if it did you’d sort of change the subject or …?

LOU: We did have a like quite a bit of an argument about it a couple of months after it happened, but then since then we’ve never mentioned it, just one of those things.

INT: Sounds a little uncomfortable I guess, yeah.

LOU: Yeah it is, it’s quite strange. Maybe it will come up when we’re living together, who knows.

INT: I guess it’s bound to over the course of the year and all that sort of stuff.

LOU: Yeah, definitely, definitely.

INT: Erm … I think I’m finished with most of the questions but there’s a couple of things [cough], sorry, erm can you sum up what friendship means to you?

LOU: The only word that I can think of really is everything [INT: yeah], like everything, cause you’ve got your family and you’ve got your friends and …

INT: Do your family know a lot of your friends and stuff, yeah?

LOU: Yeah, yeah.

INT: So there’s quite a lot of overlap?

LOU: Definitely.

INT: Do they know a lot of your uni friends as well as your college friends?

LOU: Erm they’ve met, like my mum’s met them when she’s come up and, you know for the day to see me or, like if she’s bringing me food or if she’s taking stuff back, but they’ve not come back to mine with me or anything yet so.

INT: Oh right, ok, yeah, but the college friends, I guess they would have, you would have seen a lot more?

LOU: Yeah, yeah.

INT: Yeah. Are you gunna see, over the summer and that, are you gunna see, I mean you’re spending some time with Anna and all that sort of stuff …

LOU: Well actually the group’s going to Ireland [INT: oh right ok, the whole bunch?], yeah we’re staying in, before I go to Anna’s us lot are going, but we’re going to the south of Ireland, we’re staying in like a holiday home, like a cottage, so we’re all doing that together, that’s in June, so I don’t know whether we’ll do anything, hopefully like a couple of us will meet up or something, but quite a few people live down south and then there’s me who lives up north, so …

INT: And are any of the others also from the north?

LOU: Erm yeah there’s a couple of people, so I’ll probably see more, like there’s a girl I’ve become really good friends with here and she lives around the corner from me at home [INT: oh right], like literally around the corner, so I’ll probably see a lot of her.

INT: But you’ve only met her here at, in the halls?

LOU: I saw, I knew who she was at college, but you know when you …

INT: Oh this is the one, was it …

LOU: No that’s a different one.

INT: Oh a different girl, ok, right.

LOU: And then I sort of introduced her to one of our lad friends and now they’re together so I see quite a lot of her really, formed quite a good friendship.

INT: You’ve spoken erm, I’m glad you mentioned that actually, cause you’ve spoken about friends, almost exclusively girlfriends, and you’ve not really spoken about friendships with boys at all, do you have, do you have male friends?

LOU: Yeah, definitely, there’s a, actually there’s a lad who, in halls who I, he’s like my brother from another mother as they say, we are very, cause I do, I find it, I know I’ve just talked about girlfriends, but they are like, I find it easier to talk to lads than I do to girls [INT: really], yeah [INT: ok], I think it’s because I know how judging girls can be, cause before I came to uni I was very like, I’d judge a book by it’s cover, whereas now I’ve learnt to open my mind a bit and start actually talking to different people and I’ve found like quite good friends in different people, we have like different dress sense and music type, I’ve found good friends in them so.

INT: Not all the same (inaudible) type?

LOU: No, yeah, we’re all, like people in our group they’re so different to each other, but we all connect in like our own way.

INT: Like what are some of the extremes?

LOU: Like there’s a girl who’s very hippy, very, very hippy and she does creative writing so she’s very dada, everything’s a flower and [laughs], and then there’s people who are quite, like Jimmy his name is, he’s quite serious, and quite, speaks proper, and they get on, it’s really good to see how a variety of people, like if you saw a picture of us it would be like whoa, cause just different varieties of personality there, so it’s really cool cause we all have a little connection so it’s dead good.

INT: So male friends, how do you, how’ve you met male friends, through halls or …?

LOU: Yeah through, here?

INT: Yeah.

LOU: Through halls yeah, well the first person I spoke to was one of the male friends cause I was waiting downstairs for my mum and dad to park the car like blah, blah, blah, and then we just started speaking and then we went to the Student Union the night after and I saw them and that’s how our group formed cause they knew so and so, and so and so knew so and so, but there’s, here in our, I think there’s about eight or nine lads and then there’s only like six of us girls, so it is more male dominated our group [INT: oh right, ok], so and I do find, I do find it easier to talk to men than women really, so like Phillip the lad …

INT: So it’s the six of you girls that are taking on these houses next year, and the blokes, are they gunna be around or …?

LOU: They’re, four of them are living together, and another three are living together, and then a couple of the others are just you know with friends off their course, so mm it’s quite strange.

INT: The, how do the friendships differ between the guys and the girls for you?

LOU: Erm … it, it doesn’t really it’s … I don’t know, like with Phillip we’re very close like he, if Anna wasn’t around I’d go to him rather than the girls in the flat if there was something wrong with me, he’d be, probably if I’m annoyed at something I’d go round and speak to him about it or, cause he is, without Anna he is like my best mate at uni that I’ve made really, but then all of them, like I could spend time with every individual one of them in the same way, so I am, but I think Anna and Phillip are the ones I’m more close to, it’s like yesterday I was ill cause we went out celebrating, so I didn’t stay in my flat …

INT: When you say ill you mean seriously hung over [laughs]?

LOU: Yeah, seriously [laughs].

INT: Let’s not beat around the bush here [laughs].

LOU: No [laughs], and I went round his and we watched a film and just like chilled out whereas I didn’t stay in the flat with my girls, and we do a lot of cooking together, like we cook for each other more than I do for girls in the flat, he is like a really close, like when you said for a friend to think of I didn’t know which one …

INT: It was him or her, yeah.

LOU: Yeah which one, but then when you said ‘How did you meet them?’ I couldn’t remember how I meet him, so I was like Anna, there you go [laughs]. We were talking about that the other day actually, ‘How did we meet?’ [INT: you don’t know?] can’t actually remember how we started to, the only, the like first thing I can think of is going to the pub to watch the football and he was there, but cause he lives next door I suppose we just sort of …

INT: Phillip’s got the flat next door in halls?

LOU: Yeah in halls so, it’s like I’ll wake up and if no one in my flat’s up I’ll go round to his and be like ‘cup of tea?’, and so it’s really quite good, I think I’ll probably see him over summer cause he doesn’t live too far from me so [INT: oh right] I’ll probably go and see him for the day or something or go out there.

INT: Is there anything about friends or friendship that erm, that you can think of that I’ve not asked about, or that I’ve just sort of skipped over or that you’ve got anything you particularly wanna say?

LOU: Erm no, not really, I don’t think so, I just think they are a necessity in life, friends, definitely.

INT: What would you do without them?

LOU: … Probably be best friends with my mum [laughs], but, I don’t know, I wouldn’t know what to do without them, cause I do most things with them really, I couldn’t imagine not being with my friends.

INT: You said you don’t spend much time alone.

LOU: Yeah I don’t.

INT: Do you spend any time alone, apart from your studding?

LOU: I was thinking about it the other day really and I don’t, it’s quite strange, it’s like cause if I’m not with my friends I’m with my boyfriend or I’m with my mum and dad so, I do get the odd, but I think that’s one thing I need to do really, spend more time on my own, but then I just don’t see the point, plus I think too much as well so …

INT: Can’t have that, not at university [laughs].

LOU: I know [laughs]. I think about things too much so.

INT: How does the boyfriend, friends dynamic work out for you?

LOU: Well, he, I met him through a close friend’s brother, one of the girls back home, so, and then her bother also started seeing another friend in our group so we all are like one big group, there’s like nine of us I think cause there’s another lad as well, so it’s like us six girls and three lads and we are the same friendship group, like he’ll go out with my friends when I’m not there cause they’re his friends too, so it’s really cool.

INT: Is he here in Liverpool?

LOU: No, he’s from back home, so and then when he came up here he formed like a close group with the lads, he got on with them dead well so it was really quite comforting to see that, so it’s not difficult, cause one of my friends, her boyfriend, he doesn’t come out with us and she finds it quite difficult because she has to divide her time, whereas I don’t, if my friends wanna go out he’ll come with us so, cause like Michael’s there as well so we are just like one big group really and he’s included in it, so it’s quite good.

INT: But you still get to spend time with your boyfriend?

LOU: Yeah definitely, we still do stuff together definitely, and then he’ll come up here and stay over and we’ll just stay in and do our own thing or, so it’s good.

INT: I don’t think I’ve got anything else to ask.

LOU: I feel like I’ve gone on forever [laughs].

INT: Well you’re supposed to so you’ve done the right thing [laughs].

LOU: That’s alright then [laughs].

INT: Erm yeah ok if you don’t have anything else to add shall we wrap it up there?

LOU: Yeah, yeah, that’s, yeah.

INT: Cool. Thank you very much.

LOU: Ok you’re welcome.