

Woman jailed for false rape claim

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Innocent man cheers judge for sentence A major manhunt began when a 21-year-old woman told police she had been dragged into a car and raped. Lyn Barton

Frightened women inundated the police incident room with calls about personal safety.

But the 'victim' later admitted to police that she had made the whole thing up – and the man whose life was made a misery by her false accusation has applauded a judge who jailed his tormentor.

Emma Armstrong was yesterday jailed for a year after admitting crying rape following a drunken encounter with a man she had just met.

She told police she had been dragged into a car while on the way home from the pub on March 15.

She said she had been taken to a secluded part of Longley Park in Sheffield and forced to perform a sex act before being raped.

A man was arrested, questioned by police and had DNA samples taken for forensic examination.

But on April 2, Armstrong admitted to police that she had invented the story.

She was charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and at Sheffield Crown Court, a sobbing Armstrong was jailed for 12 months by the Recorder of Sheffield, Judge Alan Goldsack QC.

He told her that such offences undermined justice for real victims.

After the case, the man at the centre of the false allegation said Miss Armstrong had got what she deserved.

"I am happy she received this sentence after what she put me through," said the local man, who is in his 40s but did not wish to be named.

The court heard that Armstrong had met the man in the Pheasant pub in Sheffield Lane Top and had agreed to go back home with him for sex.

But she became angry when he asked her to leave afterwards to avoid a confrontation with his girlfriend.

In mitigation, Armstrong was described as a loner who found it difficult to make friends and a woman who had a tendency to make up lies.

She was also said to be trying to seek attention from a boyfriend she thought had travelled to Pakistan for an arranged marriage.

After the case, Det Con Karen Brough, an investigating officer based at Ecclesfield CID, said appropriate action would be taken against anyone making a false or malicious allegation of rape.

But she urged genuine victims not to be deterred from coming forward by the case.

"A case like this can have a very negative effect on victims of a crime like rape who may decide not to make a complaint to police.

"I would urge all genuine rape victims not to be deterred by this case and make a report to the police."

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