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Ruby Ferris (Lucy Gaskell)



At the close of the last series, Ruby revealed herself to Allie as much more than her junior staff member. Removing the mask of pretence, the fiery teenager informed her employer that she was, in fact, the daughter whom she had given up when the passionate affair with Finn had come to an end. Distrustful of her father, she is unable to understand why Allie has left Gavin for him, and despite her best efforts to destroy the fledgling relationship, she becomes increasingly competitive for her mother's attention.

Of the relationship, Lucy says: "As much as Ruby says that she hates them both, as much as she rants and raves, all she wants is for it to all work out between them. She wants the relationship with Allie to work more than anything in the world. Ultimately, she craves that love, and that attention for herself, and for Allie to give her what she most wants in the world." Determined to make them pay for the rejection, and years of heartbreak, the youngster sets in motion a train of events with such devastating and far-reaching effects that even she cannot see their lasting consequences until it may be too late.

Lucy Gaskell

Lucy Gaskell (22) made her professional acting debut as Ruby in the first series of *Cutting It*. Born in Wigan, Lucy had her heart set on becoming an actress before she won a place at the Welsh College Of Music & Drama in 1998.

Shane Ince (James Midgley)



One of Manchester's premier queens, Shane can pull anyone, anytime, anywhere, and frequently does. "He enjoys his life. I think he cruises a lot," says Midgley. "For him, it's a lot of sex, perhaps he would like a boyfriend, but he's still very much an individual and on his own."

As the others found out in the last series, Shane has an allegiance only to himself and is more than happy to sell those close to him down the river, if it means he gains from it. "He's self-obsessed, he's selfish, he watches his own back all the time, and is very much out for himself. And he loves to watch people squirm, he loves to embarrass them. He gets off on it. Despite being enormously competitive, and something of an unknown quantity, his skills as a hairdresser cannot be ignored. He is at the centre of any salon team, whichever side of the road that might be on!"

James Midgley

The Manchester-based actor is known to viewers for his role as Ed Willis in Yorkshire Television's *Emmerdale*. James's TV credits also include: *North Square*, *Always & Everyone*, *Heartbeat* and *Cold Feet*. James (27) was brought up in Bradford.

Remi (Ronny Jhutti)



With both looks and talent, the gorgeous new stylist on the block immediately catches the eye of two of Manchester's man-hungry salon workers. As Sydney and Shane once again lock horns on the shop floor whilst competing for his attention, the new arrival remains oblivious to the sexual warfare erupting around him. Shane, convinced that Remi is gay, claims him distinctly off limits, and soon persuades a crestfallen Sydney that this is, indeed, the case. Much to the disappointment of Remi, who has fallen hard for the charms of the colourful nail technician, she backs off. As Ronny says: "He's desperately in love with Sydney as young, innocent people always are. He takes an immediate shine to Sydney, who seems to have always had bad luck with men, and who can't believe her luck that this young man is hot on her tail." They soon find their way to each other, but it's not all plain sailing for the new love birds. "Shane's always had the history of getting the man that he wants, and usually they've been at Syd's expense." And, as everyone knows, Shane hates to lose when it comes to the battle of the sexes.