# Celebrity Interview: Temptation Island's Kaci Campbell Says She Deserves 'A Lot Better' Than Evan Smith After Heartbreak in Finale





Interview by <u>Lori Bizzoco</u>. Written by <u>Courtney Shapiro</u>.

Kaci Campbell flew out to Hawaii with Evan Smith, her long-term, live-in boyfriend to join the cast of the exhilarating reality show, <u>Temptation Island</u>. The couple had been struggling with their relationship and not sure whether they should end it or move on. As we saw on tonight's finale, Evan called it quits with Kaci leaving her for his new girlfriend,

Morgan Lalor. We just spoke to Kaci and she says she is the happiest she's ever been in her life.

In our exclusive <u>celebrity interview</u> we chat with Kaci about her and Evan's promise to one another and game plan, her connection with Val Osipov, and what life looks like now that she is off the island.

## Check out our celebrity interview with Kaci Campbell as she reflects on her previous relationship with Evan Smith:

#### 1. You sound like you're in a great mood. Can you tell us why?

I'm not going to lie. I'm totally nervous for the finale. I haven't seen it, I've heard about it from a lot of different reporters and through Reality Steve's podcast; he's told me all about it. I've heard it's very brutal and hard to watch, and I'm scared. I'm not gonna lie With that said, at the end of the day this whole bizarre, extreme experiment that I put my relationship through is such a blessing in disguise. It honestly saved my life.

I was really hanging on to my relationship with Evan for a long, long time and fighting for it, but he's not my person at all. I deserve a lot better, and now that he's gone and out of my life, I feel such relief, and so free. I'm so excited for the show to be over and for the finale to be done. It's almost like lifting a band-aid off. I just can't wait for the next chapter of my life honestly. I don't know, it's crazy. For the first time in my life I'm truly genuinely happy, which is insane because six months ago I was heartbroken and depressed and anxiety ridden.

#### 2. Can you tell us what conversations you had with Evan going

#### into this show and what happened at the final Bonfire?

Evan and I, we came to *Temptation Island* with each other. To this day, he is trying to tell people that I didn't and I forced him on the island, which is really just a blatant lie. He wanted to be there. He wanted the fame and what not, and me and him had a game plan. Our game plan was no matter what we see, no matter what we hear at bonfires, we said that we will not make any decisions about our relationship until we go home. It was about three days before we got on our flight to Maui, and I broke down crying to him, telling him 'I feel like this just needs to be said Evan.' 'If for some reason one of us falls for someone or has feelings for someone, please let's not break up with each other on national television. Let's go home and handle things in the privacy of our home. We owe that to ourselves, we owe that to our families, we've been best friends for so many years, so it's the right thing to do. He kinda laughed it off and was trying to calm me down, and said that's ridiculous, it doesn't even need to be said, but okay I promise.'

That was kind of my mindset going into the bonfire, I was extremely disappointed with his behavior. I was quite honestly disgusted. I was second guessing myself, but thought that I couldn't break up with him on TV. He has been through enough with his family and his father. So, I went into it knowing I wanted to go home and figure out things at home.

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Evan basically humiliated me with zero regard, zero respect, and no hesitation at all. It was absolutely unbelievable, and I can't even really describe what I was feeling because quite honestly it was a total out of body experience. I've never experienced anything like that in my life. I totally blacked out. I don't think they even show this, but I left Evan at the

bonfire. I went running down the path. The crew was yelling my name, telling me where to go, chasing me with cameras. I got into the Escalade and I just remember I couldn't cry because I didn't understand what was happening. I had a full blown breakdown in the Escalade. It was nuts, I was pulling my choker, I couldn't breathe. Honestly the fact that Evan did that to me in that way to this day is still shocking. I knew he had issues, and I knew he wasn't necessarily the best guy, but I didn't truly realize what he was capable of. Again it's such a blessing, I don't have time for that in my life.

## 3. You seemed to have recognized these signs and had a premonition about Evan. Can you elaborate on that?

With Evan, I was in a very strange situation with him. I had a lot of gut feelings about him for a really, really long time. I would actually try to break up with him, and he would kind of convince me to stay. He would use lines like this is what a normal long-term relationship is like, Kaci, you're overthinking this. We're not gonna be best friends everyday, we're gonna fight. We've known each other for 10 years, this is normal. The next day he would be prince charming again and sweep me off my feet. Also because of everything he's been through, in my mind I'm such a ride or die and such a loyal person that I didn't want to give up on him. Temptation Island proved to me that tragedy or not, he's just not a good person. I do wish I listened to my gut a long time ago

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## 4. Evan mentioned that he wasn't close with your family and only saw them a handful of times. What do you think about this?

That was actually Evan's choice. My family went above and beyond for him and invited him to family vacations, got him Christmas presents, birthday presents, wanted to go on double

dates with us. It was always a big deal, and it was always me constantly trying to get Evan to be around my family, but it was uncomfortable like I was walking on eggshells.

## 5. Why did you stay with Evan if you knew he was not a good guy and why did you need a reality show to determine this?

Basically, Evan, he's really good at saying things are temporary. I would break down and cry about our relationship saying 'I can't be with someone who isn't good to my family and push them away like that. He would tell me 'I just have demons, it's not gonna be like this forever, and one day everything is going to be fine. He just knew exactly what to say to reassure me that this was just temporary and just a phase and this is not forever and that he would definitely have a relationship with my family, and when we have children we'd all spend time together at Christmas and at birthdays, and everything would be fine.

#### 6. What are your thoughts on him and Morgan?

I don't know, that's a whole other thing. I'm not gonna lie I genuinely from the bottom of my heart hope to God for her sake and her family's sake that it's real and legitimate and they have a happy ever after marriage and just live healthy and happy forever. I genuinely want that not even for Evan, but for Morgan. No girl or woman ever deserves to go through what I went through. It'll be Prince Charming for a while and then one day it'll be a light switch. She'll start noticing things and get gut feelings, and I just hope to God she listens to it. I think it's damage control, I really do. There's a lot of hate and I think he is just trying to prove a point because that's what Evan does. He is very combative and confrontational, and I think it was one last jab to really hurt me to be honest.

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## 7. Let's talk about something more positive. Can you tell us about the relationship you built with Val? Do you still talk to him?

Val and I are very close. We talk on a day to day basis. I definitely had very strong feelings for him on the show that I was not pursuing because I was loval and didn't want to be tempted. The whole reason I went on the show was so Evan could prove himself to me, and that was obviously a failure. I wasn't there to meet someone and fall in love. I was there for Evan to prove to me that he's not the same person I met when he was a boy. Looking back, I wish I did pursue things with Val. I definitely wouldn't have taken it to the extent that Morgan and Evan did because I don't retaliate in that way at all. I don't think it's right. To be honest, I don't think it's right for Val; he's one of the best people I've ever met in my life. If me and him were to ever be a thing, I wouldn't want to start in that type of environment, being on a reality show while my boyfriend is cheating on me. If it's the real deal, it needs to be started in a much healthier environment.

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## 8. Tell us what life has been like after the show. What have you learned about yourself?

I was very blind to the toxic situation I was in for a long time. I finally truly know my worth and know what I deserve, and never again will I be with a man that is anything remotely like Evan. The rose-colored glasses are totally off. He did me a huge favor.

I don't regret the ultimatum I gave him at all. I was stuck, and I was sacrificing my happiness for a person that doesn't deserve me. That ultimatum and going on the show, everything happens for a reason. I wouldn't have met Val. I wouldn't be

happy like I am today. I do not walk on eggshells everyday anymore. Temptation Island saved my life.

#### 10. What is next for you?

Life is looking bright. I am currently looking at apartments. It is up in the air. I can't really say where I am looking. I may have some stuff coming up in the entertainment industry, tons of ambassadorships coming up, and making income outside of my 9 to 5 job. I am doing YouTube and I am launching a podcast and I do have my own brand, Bossy that I had to put on hold while I was going through this craziness. So, I am relaunching that. And, I am talking with publishers about writing a book. The book might be a fictional experience about my time on Temptation Island. That will be fun and there will be different characters.

## 11. You mentioned moving out of your apartment. What was it like when Evan came back? Did you guys have a conversation? When did he leave?

Honestly, that story is a complete nightmare. I am going to try to make it as quick as possible. Basically, I got on a plane to LAX and he stayed in Maui for a few days with Morgan. It was my birthday, he flew back on my birthday. He was texting me non-stop, begging and pleading to see me telling me he lost his best friend and partner. He says he doesn't know what he did. Meanwhile, I am at my apartment with his little brother and his dog. His brother doesn't know what's happening. Evan is a mile away at a downtown hotel with Morgan. His little brother had to step in and be like, you have to let him over Kaci. I told Evan he had a week to move out. I told him, I will be at work, you have a week to get your stuff and go. Evan would not move out. He would not do it. So finally, I let him do it. He came over. I let him talk. We talked for 24 hours straight. We didn't sleep. He was saying he had serious doubts because the show pitted us up against one another and that he doesn't know what he did and

he is doubting his feelings. Then he got on a plane to go to Virginia.

As far as I knew, he was going to be back in 10 days. He was going to let Morgan know his doubts and that there was hope for us and that we were going to live separately, and stuff. Then literally three days later, I was sitting at the In and Out Drive Thru with one of our mutual friends and three hours before, he had sent me a "thinking of you" text with a heart emoji. Then while I am at the drive thru, he literally dumped me again in an novel text message. At that point, I cannot even explain what happened. It was like a light switch. It was so emotionally and psychologically insane. Ever since then, he was reaching out to me through text messages, through my friends, threatening to publish my love letters. New Years Day is when I told him, this is how I feel about you. It was a pretty vicious text. I told him that there is no hope for us to be okay so to stop messaging and texting me. And, I haven't heard from him since.

#### 12. Any final words?

I cannot even explain how disrespectful and uncivil this whole situation was —to me, to my family to his family. It was like out of this world. Everyone is saying that it was a blessing in disguise and that I dodged every bullet in the book. I am not going to lie; October and November I was not okay. And, then right around Thanksgiving, I was like "Boom, lights on" I am good. I don't miss him. I deserve someone who is good and is going to love and protect me and cherish me. And, someone who is never going to do these things to me ever.

He is all I have really known for my adult life. He is really all I have ever known. And it sounds crazy, but I spent three weeks with Val and he is so different than Evan. I felt so strong and sure of myself and confident. The absolute best version of myself. Evan never made me feel that way. The fact that someone I just met was able to make me feel that way,

that in itself was a sign.

Want to keep up with Kaci? You can follow her on Twitter.

Celebrity Interview: Engaged!
'Temptation Island' Reality
Star, Evan Smith Gushes Over
Finding His 'Soul Mate'
Morgan Lolar





When we last spoke to Evan Smith, he had given us some insight into his time as a cast member on the first season of *Temptation Island* as well as his strong connection with Morgan Lolar, one of the singles on the show. What we couldn't tell you then is that we spoke to both <u>Evan</u> and <u>Morgan</u>, and they spilled the beans to us about their surprise engagement!

Find out everything Evan couldn't say and more in our followup <u>celebrity interview</u> below. We got the scoop from Evan on his life after the show, his proposal to Morgan, and what their future wedding and living plans look like.

## Check out our celebrity interview with Evan Smith as he opens up about his exciting engagement and future with Morgan Lolar:

## 1. You can finally share the news that you and Morgan are engaged! What does that feel like?

Yes! I am so happy that I can talk freely about it. I am so pumped. I am so happy I get to be out in the open with all of it.

#### 2. Can you walk me through the show ending?

After the show wrapped, we stayed together in Hawaii for three or four extra days with no cameras. We wanted to enjoy the island, and be together and be ourselves. We then flew to L.A. and spent about three to four days in L.A., too. Then, I went to my apartment, I grabbed my stuff, and then flew to Arlington and Morgan and I have been together every day since.

#### 3. Tell us about Kaci. What happened there? How did you break

#### the news to her?

So on the finale, we were given the choice to stay with the person we came with, leave single, or leave with another person. Kaci made the decision that she wanted to leave with me, and my decision was that there was no way that I was ever going to leave that island without Morgan. So, the news was broke to her there, and then when I got back to L.A., Morgan and I spent a few days together and then she jetted to Arlington and the next day I caught my flight to Virginia as well. Kaci and I had a conversation in our apartment. We talked about her side of the island, my side of the island, what went down editing wise. I told her that I really love Morgan and I have fallen hard for her. I told her that I wish nothing but the best for her.

## 4. The way you feel about Morgan, did you feel like that about Kaci in the beginning?

I have learned a lot about myself on this island. I learned that there is a difference between being in love and being comfortable with someone you have known so long. It is a huge difference and I finally figured out the difference. You need someone in this life to balance you out. I am passionate and emotional and Morgan is more serious. We balance each other well and I needed that so badly in my life. She truly is my other half that I've been looking for.

## 5. Clearly, there are other families involved when you're in a relationship for a long time. Did you speak to Kaci's family at all?

It was tough. When you've been together for so long, families are involved. To be completely frank, I was never that close with Kaci's family even though they lived so close. We maybe hung out 15 times in the past five years being together. In contrast, I am with Morgan's mom and dad twice a week no matter what. Whether it's watching a basketball game, or going

to get some beers on Taco Tuesday or playing Dominoes. So, its very different. I have had no conversations with Kaci's family. I think we are both grown. We are approaching 30. I love family, but I think with a break-up like that, I think it is better for it just to be between the significant others.

#### 6. Can you tell us about Morgan's family?

I love this family. It is my family now too. I wish that you got to see that. I don't have any father figures both my grandfather's are dead and I lost my dad the way I did. Morgan brought me to tears on the island because she looked me dead in the eye and told me, "I will share my dad with you."I broke down. It is just a testament to show you what kind of girl Morgan is. She is a twin. She has shared her whole life and it is in her nature and her heart.

#### 7. Can you walk us through the proposal and how that happened?

Yes! I would love to do that. You are the first one that I can talk to about it!

Morgan and I had spoken about getting married. To be completely honest, we talked about it, and I told her it would be around her birthday on May 2nd. When you know you know, and I never understood that phrase when I would hear it from people who had been married for 50 years. But, I know exactly what they are talking about and it is lightening in a bottle, just like Mark said. I've felt like this for so long, ever since we got back from the island. I had been having dreams of Morgan in a white dress, walking down the aisle, and I just thought I don't want to wait any longer. I want to make this happen. I just had to do it. So, we were getting ready for the six month home packages that they were about to film and I talked to production and basically told them that I was in love with this girl and there was no way I was spending any more of my days without her. So, I would love to propose to her on the comebacks.

Production loved the idea. So, I was trying the whole week to get away from Morgan because we spend all of our time together, and I was trying to shake her, so I could talk to her dad for his blessing. The night before I proposed, I finally shook her, and I drove to her father Dave and sat down and told him 'I want to have a conversation with you. 'I can't imagine life without Morgan. I love her with all of my heart and soul, and I promise to take care of her, and I need your blessing to marry her. He's a very loving man, even though he doesn't show it that much, and he looked me in the eye, and said he loved me and that I am part of this family now and it was amazing (You could hear Evan crying in the background).

The whole day was magical. We did a shoot at the National Mall and then we sat down at the dinner and I was so nervous but so happy and excited. It was amazing. I told her that I spoke to her father and in this conversation I had with him, he gave me his blessing to marry her and she just started ugly crying. So, I got down on one knee and told her, 'I can't imagine not spending every single day with you forever and always. Will you make me the luckiest man alive and marry me?' She said yes, and it's been amazing every day.

## 8. So, Kaci knows you're engaged now. Did she have any reaction to this?

I don't know. I have had zero communication with Kaci. I think it is better that way. I know that she has been saying things on social media. I have just been quiet on my end. I am happy. I am living in the now and cannot wait to just move forward.

#### 9. Are you and Morgan planning on making D.C./Arlington your home?

We talked about it. This is my first winter out here on the East Coast. It was very different walking Ghost (Evan's dog) in the snow versus my 77 degree weather in L.A.. We are going to spend the summer here in D.C and after we will probably be

moving to the West Coast. She has ties to Arizona because she grew up there, and I'm an L.A. boy, born and raised. So, we are probably going to make the push out to L.A. in the fall, but we have to figure out a few things before that.

## 9. Do you have any dates or locations in mind for your wedding?

We've been pretty loose about the dates, but my family and I have 20 acres of land in Hawaii, so maybe there. We might do it in L.A., we're still trying to iron all of that out. I gotta marry this girl though. I want to be married, I want to start our life together. We've talked about it, and we're thinking tentatively spring of 2020, the latest being next summer. We're trying to make it happen

#### 10. Are you guys thinking about starting a family right away?

We have definitely talked about it. We both want children. We don't want them in the far off future. We want them kinda soon, but it would never be before we are married or anything like that, but we want to start a family. I can't imagine a better partner. There's nobody better than Morgan and I'm just so lucky and so blessed to have her in my life.

## 11. So, this is really it for you? There are no doubts? It is not a rebound? Sounds like you found it.

Yes, I found it. It's so funny because I talked about why I haven't been able to get down on one knee for Kaci, and there was always something in the back of my head saying it's just not right. It is not it. The reason why it wasn't it was because I was still waiting for my soul mate. All those trials and tribulations I was going through in that relationship, brought me to that island and the stars had to align for both of us to be on that island at the same time. It's so magical, and I understand how blessed I am. I wake up every morning and count my blessings with her. It's incredible, and everyday with this girl is incredible. I know it sounds so sappy, but

it is real.

When you know, you know, and I've never been so happy in my entire life.

Want to keep up with Evan and Morgan? You can follow Evan on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>. You can also follow Morgan on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

Celebrity Interview: Temptation Island Star, Evan Smith Says, "Ultimatums are Cruel When Dealing with Matters of the Heart."





Interview by Lori Bizzoco. Written by Courtney Shapiro

Evan Smith joined his longtime girlfriend Kaci Campbell along with three other couples and 24 eligible men and women on the first season of the rebooted reality show, *Temptation Island*, which began airing in January. Going into filming, Smith and Campbell, who had been together for 10 years total and five years exclusively, seemed to want different things out of their relationship, and they were hopeful that they would get answers to their questions during their time on the island.

In our exclusive <u>celebrity interview</u>, we talk with Evan about why ultimatums can be problematic, his connection with single cast member Morgan Lolar, and what life is like for him after *Temptation Island*.

## Check out our celebrity interview with *Temptation Island* star, Evan

#### Smith to hear more about life on the island, his relationship with Kaci and how hard he fell for single cast member, Morgan:

#### 1. How does it feel now that you are a famous reality star?

I think I'm just south of famous (laughing). I never thought I'd be a part of it [reality TV]. It is wild seeing yourself every week on Tuesday nights, but life's still the same for me.

## 2. How did your family and friends react to you being on the show?

My family and friends were so supportive. I have two younger brothers that actually work for in reality TV for MTV, but they're behind the camera not in front of it. I got the talks from them telling me how it is. You know it's reality TV, so it's how they want to tell your story and see what's going to be the most fun to watch and the most sensationalized, so I came into it knowing full well that was going to be the case.

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#### 3. Do you feel like you were your authentic self on the show?

It's funny you say that. I definitely was my authentic self. It was just that I feel like the viewers only got to see one side of me. Obviously, Morgan and I just had lightning between us and it was so much fun. Morgan and I had such amazing conversations and that led to the connection that everyone got to see.

#### 4. It must be hard with the cameras always on you. But, you

didn't seem to care. You were able to just be in the moment with Morgan. Can you tell us more about that?

It was definitely weird. I'm not gonna lie, I was pretty shook when we started, but the producers told us, 'You're going to just forget that the cameras are there, and just look at whoever you're talking to.' when you speak. I look everyone in the eye when I talk to them, so I just tunnel visioned it. I was there to find answers, I was there to explore connections, so that's what I wanted to do.

5. You were in a long term relationship while being cast on 'Temptation Island.' What were your expectations going into this show? Were you hoping that Kaci would change or slow down about wanting a commitment?

Going into it, we both knew that we were at a crossroads. It was make it or break it time. Kaci was very adamant about me proposing and taking that next step in our relationship. For whatever reason, before we left the island, I had my reservations about it. I respect marriage so much, and I know that I'm going to be the guy that asks one time, and it's going to be with one person for the rest of my life. I just want to be 100% sure. I was hoping that going to Temptation Island would help open my eyes to what I have with my old connections and new connections. I just wanted to find answers.

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6. We spoke with the show's host Mark Walberg previously and he said, "It never works when you give an ultimatum." How do you feel about that statement?

Ultimatums are cruel, especially when dealing with matters of the heart. To be frank, Kaci telling me I needed to propose by a certain date takes the love and passion out of what that amazing day is supposed to be. I remember being a kid and thinking about the day I would propose to somebody. It's going to be special, and you're going to be nervous, but so excited, and wanting to do it, not being told you have to do it by a certain date.

## 7. Do you think having an ultimatum from Kaci led to you building those stronger feelings for Morgan?

I think Kaci and I both went into this knowing we weren't in the best place. I knew what I was getting myself into, and I originally didn't want to do the show, but I did. Going into it with those ultimatums and where we were in our relationship, it was tough, but I knew I needed to be there. It was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

## 8. On a scale of 1-10, how strong were your feelings for Morgan?

While we were filming, up until the point of the bonfire, I'm there, I'm at a 10. Morgan and I were talking about how I would have to face Kaci. It was a very high stress moment and we were both just a little shook.

## 9. The viewers got to see your incredible chemistry. Sometimes, when it's a 10, it's hard to think logically, so did you feel like that?

That's the thing about *Temptation Island*, and what was so incredible about the experience. We were completely unplugged from the real world. It was no cell phones and no television, so when we're there we're just with each other. Spending time on the island is real time together. Morgan and I talked about everything, where we grew up, what our siblings are like, funny stories, we were cracking up laughing at each other through the entire show. There was so much more being said, and I was thinking 100% clearly.

#### 10. Is there any particular scene that was edited off or

#### didn't make it onto the show, but you wish it did?

Here's the thing about the editing; they have so many stories to tell. There are 13 singles on our side of the island alone, so I know it's not out of malicious intent that they don't show certain things. I just wish they showed the stories about Morgan growing up. She and I had so many discussions, and she told me about growing up in Arizona, and then moving to the south in Alabama. We had very serious and profound conversations that I wish made the cut. There were also just some silly things that I guess weren't entertaining enough.

## 11. You and Morgan definitely follow each other on social media. Are you guys still talking?

A little banter back and forth on social media is always healthy.

#### 12. Where are you living, and what do your plans for the future look like?

I'm a personal trainer, and L.A. is my home. My clients are here, my best friends are here, so L.A. is definitely the place for me. As for moving forward, I definitely want to explore more reality TV, maybe try MTV or something. I just want to be happy, and I'm just excited for this *Temptation Island* ride to be over

#### 13. Is there anything else you want to leave us with?

I hope you guys understand that all of us put our hearts on the line, all my cast mates, including the singles, we all put ourselves out there, and I hope everyone comes out on this other end better or at least learned something from this.

Want to keep up with Evan? You can follow him on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>. Tune into tonight's finale of 'Temptation Island' premiering at 10/9c on USA Network to see if Evan chooses to stay with long-time girlfriend Kaci, or he leaves the island

with Morgan.