The Worst Year of My Life - Again!

EPI SODE 2

Valentine's Day - February

by Mark Brotherhood

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1 <u>INT. KING HOUSE - ALEX' S BEDROOM - DAY</u> ALEX

The calendar display - first wheel spins: FRIDAY... The second wheel spins: FEBRUARY. The third wheel spins: 14th...

An alarm clock rings. In the bed beside it, ALEX wakes and looks at the clock...

2 <u>EXT. STREET/SHOP - DAY</u> ALEX, SI MON, NI COLA, LOREN, AMY, N/S PEDESTRI ANS 2

1

Alex and SIMON, dressed for school, are waiting to cross a road. The shop by them has various Valentine displays in the window. Alex looks at them

> 1 ALEX Valentine's day. It's so stupid. Doesn't mean anything. Invented by card manufacturers to sell cards.

2 SIMON Didn't get any then?

3 ALEX Didn't want any. Whole thing's just a big con. Only losers care about Valentine's day.

Behind them the shop door opens and NICOLA and her entourage (LOREN and AMY) step out, all carrying red heart-shaped balloons, glitter, squeezy bottles of red paint.

4 LOREN The homeroom's going to look amazing.

5 AMY Still can't believe the school weren't going to do anything.

6 NICOLA Valentine's day is like THE most important day of the year.

Her entourage, as ever, agree. The road clears and the girls cross... Alex doesn't, he just stands there. Simon looks at him

7 SI MON ... You're going to buy her a card now aren't you?

Alex turns and heads into the shop.

<u>INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY</u> ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, PARKER, HOWE, MR NORRIS, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

3

Alex and Simon are standing over by the lockers. Alex is writing "To My Valentine" on an envelope, whilst Simon is busy reading the inside of the small and tatty card Alex bought.

> 1 SIMON My heart is acking for you? What's that mean?

2 ALEX It's not acking. It's aching. Only I spelled it A dot King. As in Alex King. You can't put your real name on so you leave a clue.

3 SIMON Yeah but wouldn't she actually have to know your name for that to work? Face it mate, you're not even on her radar.

Alex glances down the corridor where Nicola and her entourage are hanging around outside her locker.

4 ALEX Well I will be after this.

He snatches the card back and envelopes it.

5 SI MON Yeah. She'll be all, "Hey, there's that boy who bought me that small, cheap card... and can't spell aching."

Simon chuckles and takes a swig of water from the bottle he's holding. MADDY suddenly appears next to him She has a tendency to do this and it never fails to alarm Simon. In this instance he jumps and spurts out a plume of water as she suddenly speaks.

6 MADDY

lt's a-c-h--

7 ALEX --I know how to spell aching Maddy! (TO SI MON, re card) It was all I could afford. Size doesn't matter anyway. (TO MADDY) You're a girl. If I gave you this card you'd be happy wouldn't you?

Maddy beams, thrilled.

8 MADDY

Yes!

She holds out her hand to accept the card, but Alex has already turned round to look at Nicola again.

9 ALEX See? Now I just have to get it to her before class.

Maddy sees who he's looking at. Sadly withdraws her hand. Neither Alex nor Simon noticed.

> 10 ALEX Then even if she gets loads more--

11 SIMON Which she will.

12 ALEX (ploughing on) ... she'll always remember mine was the first. I need to slip it in her locker before she gets her books out.

13 SIMON Won't work. You can't slide them under the doors. (GESTURING OVER HIS SHOULDER)

I just checked mine. No cards.

14 ALEX Maybe because nobody sent you any?

15 SIMON As if! Naaa, the doors are too long. You can't fit anything under them

Irritated Alex reaches past Simon and easily slides his card under his locker door.

> 16 ALEX There. See? It fits perfectly.

Simon looks at him, then at the locker, then back at him

17 SIMON Yeah... But that's not my locker.

18 ALEX

What?!

Alex pulls desperately on the locker handle, but it's locked tight. He sees Nicola getting her books and sports bag out of her own locker, before she and her entourage head off down the corridor.

Alex moans and moves to the middle of the corridor, watching her disappear.

19 ALEX Too late now! Great.

3 CONTINUED: (3)

The bullies laugh, give the bin a whack for good measure before getting their stuff and heading off.

Simon arrives and pulls the bin off Alex's head. Leaving Alex standing there with a banana peel in his hair.

27 SIMON Good job they legged it. I was just about to step in.

He does a couple of unconvincing karate chops, then sheepishly stops and looks past Alex. Alex turns round to find MR NORRIS standing looking at the mess on the floor.

> 28 MR NORRIS You've got detention this afternoon haven't you King?

29 ALEX Er... No, I don't think so.

Mr Norris plucks the banana peel off his head and hands him it.

30 MR NORRIS Think again. (GESTURES TO THE MESS) Get to work.

Irritated, Alex gets down to pick up the bits of trash - then glances up and sees Maddy is standing by the lockers with the card, having obviously retrieved it whilst he was getting binned.

31 ALEX Nice one Maddy!

He gets up and reaches out and takes hold of it. Looks momentarily quizzical when Maddy seems reluctant to let go of it. But eventually gets it off her.

4 <u>EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY</u> ALEX, SI MON, MADDY, NI COLA, LOREN, AMY, N'S STUDENTS, N'S TEACHERS

> Nicola and her entourage are sitting on one of the benches chatting. Nicola's gym bag (stuffed full of gear) is on the floor by her feet.

Simon and Maddy are standing watching as Alex commando crawls along the ground behind them and under the bench, card in his mouth. He plucks it out and carefully tries to reach towards the sports bag, planning on slipping it inside.

5 The girls suddenly all get up, Nicola picks up her bag... Shoe also accidently stands on Alex's hand - he covers his mouth to stop from shouting out as Simon and Maddy both wince.

INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

ALEX, SI MON, MADDY, NI COLA, N'S STUDENTS, N'S TEACHERS

Alex is holding out his reddened hand to show Simon and Maddy.

1 MADDY

It's very red.

2 ALEX Yeah, that's what happens when someone stands on it.

3 SIMON

Love hurts.

4 ALEX

Shut up.

Then Alex sees Nicola again, she's down the corridor and just entering the girls' toilets.

5 ALEX

Okay this is perfect. Maddy, you take the card - slide it under her toilet cubicle.

She vigorously shakes her head.

6 MADDY No way. I don't go in those toilets.

7 ALEX

Why not?

8 MADDY

The hand dryer looks like an angry face. It freaks me out. And when you turn it on, it's like it's screaming. It goes:

And she proceeds to make a growling/whooshing sound as Alex and Simon stare at her blankly. Whilst in the background we see Nicola, instead of entering the toilets, head down the corridor to answer her ringing mobile.

When Maddy finishes, Alex looks at Simon who shrugs in a "She's your mate" type way. Then back at Maddy.

9 ALEX Right. Fine. I'll go. But you two keep watch, if any girls come you'll have to distract them

They follow Alex over to the door.

10 SIMON No problem l've got a brilliant distraction technique.

This seems to briefly worry Alex, as he wonders what it is. But he hasn't time - so he heads on inside. Simon and Maddy

9

Alex quickly makes his escape. We see him through the open door stepping into the corridor - where he suddenly yelps and trips over something apparently quite large (we don't see what) as the door closes.

Then the occupied cubicle door opens and Hannah steps out. She's tall... VERY tall!

2 HANNAH

... Um... Who were you shouting at?

3 LOREN

Alex King.

Hannah looks at the card. At the inscription. "A. King For you" - Then she holds it to her chest and lets out a happy sigh. Alex King! Her Valentine!

<u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY</u> ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA

Alex is just outside the toilets, picking himself up off the floor - where it turns out he tripped over Simon, who is inexplicably laying down with his eyes closed.

1 ALEX What are you doing?

2 MADDY He pretended to faint.

3 ALEX

Why?

Simon opens his eyes and looks up at him

4 SIMON Distraction technique. Did it work?

5 ALEX

Just get up.

He does and the three of them head off down the corridor.

6 MADDY

Alex... Do you think Nicola is your..you know..type?

7 ALEX She's the hottest girl in school. Of course she's my type!

8 MADDY I heard she's got a real temper. Someone nudged her once when she was putting on lip gloss... (MORE)

8 MADDY (CONT'D) So she tried to stuff them in their own backpack. (BEAT-OM NOUS) And it was a very small backpack Alex. VERY small.

9 ALEX

That's not true! ... And even if it is, that's a good thing. Means she's 'edgy'. (DREAMM) Edgy... Blonde... Beautiful...

Simon opens the door leading out of the toilet block. To reveal Nicola standing just outside talking on her mobile. Simon frowns, glances back at the toilets, then at Nicola.

10 SIMON

...Fast.

Alex nods in agreement, not really listening.

11 ALEX

Yeah, that too.

Then snaps out of it. Sees Nicola. Looks back at the toilets himself... Realisation dawning. He turns and runs back.

10 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GIRLS' TOILETS - DAY</u> ALEX

> Alex hurries in and looks around - but it's now completely empty. He goes over to the cubicle he put the card under and scans the floor... Nothing.

11 <u>INT. SCHOOL - HOMEROOM - DAY</u> ALEX, SI MON, MADDY, NI COLA, LOREN, AMY, PARKER, HOME, HANNAH, N/ S STUDENTS

> The homeroom has been completely decorated in heart-shaped balloons and words like 'love' stuck to the wall in glittered red paint. Alex, Simon and Maddy are sitting together in the classroom which is just filling up with pupils. He watches Nicola head in and start setting up various cards she's been given on her desk.

> > 1 ALEX ...I knew she'd get loads. I bet whoever got her one first is her favourite.

2 SI MON I bet it's bigger than the one you got her. 10

3 ALEX

Bigger... That's it! I need to go bigger, forget cards - do a big romantic gesture! Girls love big romantic gestures don't they?

Hannah had just been making her way in and past their desks. She hears this and smiles to herself as she goes to take a seat further down, where she sets up Alex's little card completely unnoticed by our heroes.

INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY

(BEAT) Make a good film though wouldn't it? "Bath Shark!"

Alex and Simon look at her blankly then carry on with their conversation.

8 ALEX Can't you download some violin stuff on your phone?

9 SI MON

Vi ol i ns?

Nicola switches on the gymlights and heads through the doors into the gym, pulling her netball outfit from her bag as she

She grabs him and pulls him in for a snog (which given the height difference involves him almost being yanked off his feet! [ADJUST]) He manages to escape her lips.

3 ALEX

Stop it! I never sent you a card!

She looks at him, surprised. Then we see Alex suddenly register something.

4 ALEX Ch! You're the giraffe!

Hannah's face turns to a mask of anger.

5 HANNAH That's just horrible! I wouldn't be your Valentine if you were the last boy on Earth!

She gives him a shove which staggers him backwards into a light switch.

| 18 | INT. SCHOOL – GYM – DAY | 18 |
|----|-------------------------|----|
| | NI COLA | |

Nicola is busy putting cones out when suddenly all the lights go off and she's plunged into darkness.

19 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY</u> 19 SI MON, MADDY

Simon and Maddy are still up in the booth.

1 MADDY And then the sequel I'd call "Shower Gator!"

2 SIMON Hey, why have the lights gone out down there? Must be my cue for the music...

He holds his phone up to the microphone, turns on the speaker, presses a couple of buttons on his phone.

20 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY</u> NI COLA

> Nicola is standing in the dark trying to work out what's happened. Suddenly some music starts playing through the speakers... Great scary violin screeching akin to the shower scene.

21 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY</u> SI MON, MADDY

Simon frowns as he listens to it.

He looks at Maddy.

1 SI MON Probably should have checked it first.

Maddy's nodding along to the strings.

2 MADDY

l like it.

22 <u>I NT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY</u> ALEX, NI COLA

Nicola is pretty freaked out by now, standing in the dark listening to the horrible scary music... She turns round and hurries towards the exit... But just as she does the doors open and Alex stands there with his bunch of flowers...

Only - with the gym in utter blackness Alex is just a silhouette against the outside light... As are his bent flowers... Which in shadow form look for all the world like a hatchet.

Nicola freezes - stares at this nightmare figure come for her... And SCREAAAAMS!

Somewhere an alarm clock goes off...

23 <u>INT. KING HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY</u> 23 ALEX 23

An alarm clock rings. The calendar display - the first wheel spins: FRIDAY... The second wheel spins: FEBRUARY. The third wheel spins: 14th... A fourth wheel spins... AGAIN!

24 <u>EXT. STREET/SHOP - DAY</u> ALEX, SI MON, NI COLA, LOREN, AMY, N'S PEDESTRI ANS

> Alex and Simon are on their way to school - currently heading in the direction of the road-side shop from last time.

Simon looks irritated.

1 SI MON I just want to get this straight, yeah? You're living through this time repeat thing. You basically know the future. (MORE) 22

(CONTI NUED)

24

1 SI MON (CONT'D) And what do you want to do with this awesome power? Win the lottery? Fight crime? Become famous?

They have reached the shop where they both stop.

2 SIMON No. You want to "Buy a better Valentine's card than last time."

3 ALEX Valentine's day is like THE most important day of the year.

4 SIMON

Says who?

Alex gives him a knowing look, then (without even turning round) opens the shop door in time to let out Nicola, Loren and Amy - their arms full of Valentine's stuff including glitter and squeezy bottles of red paint.

> 5 LOREN The homeroom's going to look amazing.

6 AMY Still can't believe the school weren't going to do anything.

7 NICOLA Valentine's day is like THE most important day of the year.

Alex grins at Simon and heads in. Simon stands slack-jawed.

25 <u>INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY</u> 25 ALEX, SI MON, MADDY, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS 25

> Alex and Simon are making their way down the corridor. Simon is reading the inscription Alex has written inside a VERY BIG card with bears and candyfloss on the front.

> > 1 SIMON

.... Acking?

Alex snatches it off him and starts enveloping it.

2 ALEX Don't start that again.

Alex glances at him Simon is about to take a sip of his water. Alex reaches out and lowers the bottle away from him

3 ALEX

And don't drink that. Or you'll choke on it when Maddy makes you jump.

Maddy materializes behind him

4 MADDY Why would I make Simon jump?

Simon jumps.

5 SIMON

(SULKY) Very clever. Why couldn't I be the one repeating the year? It's wasted on you.

6 MADDY The universe doesn't think you need to learn the same lessons as Alex.

7 SIMON That's true. I am pretty perfect. (BEAT) Hey Alex, last time round how many Valentine's cards did I get?

He takes a swig of water.

8 ALEX

None.

Simon chokes and spits out a plume of it.

9 SIMON Don't be stupid!

Alex looks down at the water and edges his friends well away from it.

10 SI MON Bet I did. Probably just didn't tell you to spare your feelings.

11 ALEX Actually I got one. (BEAT) From Big Hannah.

12 MADDY (SURPRISED) Big Hannah?

13 ALEX Long story. One that involved a great deal of pain, humiliation, tripping, bins on the head, crushed hands, falling down, detention and

The decorated homeroom Alex is sitting looking at his card, Simon and Maddy either side of him Maddy offers him some scissors.

1 ALEX

I said no!

He looks at the card some more, racking his brains for a solution.

2 SI MON

Cheer up, it was a stupid card anyway. Bears with candyfloss, doesn't even make sense. Why would bears have candyfloss?

3 MADDY

Maybe it's like in that film? Where all those bears are loose in a theme park?

4 ALEX

(FLAT) ... You sure that wasn't a dream?

5 MADDY

No it was... Ch. Yes you're right. It was a dream Hmmm.. Make a good scary movie though. "Bears On A Rollercoaster!"

6 ALEX

I don't understand. What's the point in getting a second chance at things if I still can't do something as simple as this?

7 MADDY

Nicola's probably not supposed to be the one for you...

8 SIMON

She's right. I reckon the universe is saying, "Forget Nicola. Start writing down the answers to the end of year exams so your best mate can sell them in the school yard."

Alex stares at him

9 SI MON

What? We'll split the profits... Sixty-forty. 10 MADDY Face it Alex, if the u70R:59hw

26 CONTINUED: (4)

He looks at Simon panic-stricken. Simon looks back at him, unsure what to do. Alex desperately stares at Maddy.

29 NICOLA Was there something else?

With a sigh Maddy makes her way over.

30 MADDY Simon. You alright? You look faint.

31 SIMON Yes, I do! Urghhh.

Simon fake faints on the floor. Nicola looks down at him

Under the table Alex has realised the envelope has red finger marks all over it, probably best not to leave it in the bag like that. With Nicola still distracted he crawls out from under the table and flees the homeroom with the paint and the card.

Maddy gives Nicola a pained smile.

32 MADDY It's okay. He pretends to faint all the time.

Simon opens one eye and glowers at her. The A-List girls walk off and Loren stands on Simon's hand. Simon winces.

27 <u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY</u> ALEX, HANNAH

Alex hurries down the corridor, squeezy paint bottle in his coated hand. The Valentine's card in the other.

Hannah is coming down the corridor - Alex quickly hides his hands behind his back as she passes, unaware the bottle's upside-down and spilling paint all over the floor. Once she's gone he hurries over to the bin, chucks the bottle away and heads into the boys' toilets.

28 <u>INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY</u> ALEX

We see Alex, he's already washed his hands and is now busy wiping the red paint off the envelope with a wet paper towel. It's not perfect, but it's as good as it's going to get.

He goes over to the hand dryer, carefully holds the card by its edge and lifts it up to dry it...

27

As he reaches to press the button he briefly hesitates when he notices the positioning of the company sticker, big silver button and nozzle genuinely does make the dryer look like an angry face exactly how Maddy described. He presses it and it makes a very noisy whoosh/growl, also not dissimilar to Maddy's description.

With the envelope only held lightly between two fingers it shoots out of his hand and over his shoul ders...

We see it skid underneath the middle cubicle - and Alex turns round too late to see where it went.

29 INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - CUBICLE - DAY 29 PARKER

Parker is sitting on the toilet. Sees the card skid between his legs. He stoops to pick it up, opens it... Reads it...

1 PARKER

... Acking?

30 INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY 30 ALEX, PARKER, HOWE

> Alex is on his knees looking under the first cubicle. The door behind him opens and Howe walks in, double takes at the sight of Alex trying to look into a toilet cubicle.

1 HOWE

Howe turn round and is confused by the fact Parker isn't there.

31 <u>INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - CUBICLE - DAY</u> 31 PARKER 31

Inside the cubicle Parker is staring with horror at the words "A.King"... At the picture of the teddy bear... At the envelope saying "To My Valentine..." He looks up, nervous...

32 <u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY</u> 32 PARKER, HOWE, MR NORRIS

Parker emerges from the toilets, looks up and down the corridor then runs off ... Only to slip on the spilled paint from before. He makes the same distinctive "Nwaaaa" noise Alex did last time, does a slapstick fall and ends up flat on his back, grabbing the bin for support on the way down and accidently pulling it over, spilling rubbish, including the paint bottle all over him

He shakily gets to his feet, picks up the paint bottle and looks at it, then down at the paint he slipped on.

Mr Norris happens to be coming down the corridor. Norris stops. Looks at the rubbish and paint on the floor... Then at Parker standing there with the squeezy bottle...

1 PARKER

lt wasn't me.

Mr Norris reaches out and plucks a banana peel from off Parker's head.

> 2 MR NORRIS You've got detention this afternoon haven't you Parker?

3 PARKER Yeah. Course I have. I've got det ent i on al I week.

This kind of ruins Norris' "joke". Which annoys him further.

4 MR NORRIS And now it's all month. (GESTURES TO THE MESS) Get to work.

Howe emerges from the toilets.

5 PARKER Whoever spilled this paint, is TOAST.

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32 CONTINUED:

Howe nods.

6 HOWE

Yeah. Toast.

Then looks at the paint bottle in Parker's hand.

7 HOWESo it wasn't you then?

Parker runs his hands down his face. Howe hurries away.

33

<u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY</u> ALEX, HOME

Howe heads out of the door exiting the toilet block. We see Alex hiding round the corner, as soon as Howe's gone he races back down the corridor to retrieve his card...

34 <u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY</u> 34 ALEX, PARKER 34

Parker is crouched picking up the bits of paint-coated rubbish and putting them back in the bin. Face like thunder.

Alex comes racing round the corner just as Parker's getting up. The two boys collide, fall to the floor - same as last time, one atop this other, this time Alex on top, staring down, his face inches from Parker's.

Though unlike last time, it's Parker who's looking terrified as his 'secret Valentine' stares into his eyes.

> 1 ALEX ...This is where you ask me what I'm doing isn't it?

2 PARKER

No!

Parker wriggles out from under him They both get to their feet.

3 PARKER (under his breath as he hurries off) I... I don't want to know. Alright? I'm not interested...

Alex watches him go, momentarily confused as to why he isn't currently having his head bashed in. Then he remembers what he was doing and hurries on through into the toilets...

33

p24

Alex ignores her. He pulls a page out of his exercise book and starts scribbling a list on it. Simon looks at him confused.

> 8 SI MON What are you doing? (TO Maddy) What's he doing?

Maddy shakes her head. No i dea.

9 SIMON ... Why do I hang around with <u>either</u> of you?

Alex hands him the list.

10 ALEX A big romantic gesture. And this time I'll do it right.

37 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY</u> SI MON, MADDY

Simon is standing by a small table, it has a table cloth, a couple of glasses, a bottle of drink and an empty vase on it. For the moment we can't tell where we are.

Simon has the list in his hand, he's counting off the items.

1 SI MON Okay. Table cloth, glasses, drink, vase... (HE PUTS A TORCH DOWN) ... and a candle.

2 MADDY That's not a candle.

Maddy emerges from behind the table, where she's been tying the love-heart balloons from the homeroom. They float up above all four corners.

We pull back to reveal we're in the middle of the gym

3 SIMON Best I could do on short notice. Surprised he hasn't asked for a violin concerto whilst he's at it. (BEAT) Why are you helping anyway? I thought you believed the universe didn't want Alex and Nicola together?

4 MADDY

Well if it doesn't then he's going to find out soon enough.

5 SIMON

Why... What'll happen if it doesn't? Will a big black hole appear and suck them up or something?

6 MADDY Almost definitely not. (THINKS - WORRIED) ...He'll probably just really embarrass himself.

Simon starts laughing.

7 SIMON

Excel I ent !

Simon glances up at the sound booth.

8 SIMON (EAGER) Let's go and watch!

38 <u>INT. SCHOOL - RECEPTION - DAY</u> ALEX, HANNAH

The secretary's desk is empty. A vase of flowers sits in it. The same ones we saw Alex had in the last timeline. Alex creeps through the door, glances about - makes sure the coast's clear then grabs the flowers and hurries back to the door again... Opens it to discover Hannah standing there, just about to walk in.

She looks down at him He looks up at her. They both look at the flowers, then back at each other.

1 ALEX Look, they're not for you, alright? So don't send me any cards.

Hannah has no idea what he's talking about. But she quite rightly takes offence - and slams the door shut in his face...

39 <u>I NT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY</u> 39 SI MON, MADDY

Simon and Maddy are walking into the booth.

1 SIMON

... Because it doesn't make sense. How would the bears even have got on the roller-coaster?

2 MADDY

Queued, same as everyone el se.

Simon looks out into the gym

3 SIMON ...Those are some pretty weird looking flowers.

40 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY</u> ALEX

40

Alex heads towards the table Simon and Maddy have prepared for him Flowers in his hand, bent at and M6k0 1 171 605.52t2t2t2t2t2t2t

stare at the scene before him ... His 'Valentine' by a table with a vase of flowers on it... balloon hearts... Alex pouring drinks... for two people... Alex and... HIM

INTERCUT WITH:

43 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY</u> SI MON, MADDY

Simon and Maddy are looking down at the gym as Parker stands frozen in the doorway, staring at an oblivious Alex.

1 MADDY We should probably warn him

2 SIMON What? And let him know we're watching?

Maddy looks at him They both look at the window. Then with a sigh Simon gestures Maddy to get down. They both crouch out of view, Simon slips off his shoe, reaches up and starts banging on the window with it.

3 MADDY See? Shoes. Fun aren't they?

IN THE GYM:

Parker is still standing staring with disbelief at Alex. Then, as if this situation couldn't get any weirder, he hears a knocking on the Sound Booth above - looks up and sees a disembodied shoe knocking against the glass. Alex glances up too, equally confused. Then hears the doors close, turns around - but Parker is gone. Then when he looks back at the booth window so has the shoe.

Alex doesn't know quite what to make of any of that. But a quick glance at his watch reminds him it's almost Nicola time, so he takes his seat.

44 <u>INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY</u> NI COLA

Nicola is walking back down the corridor towards the gym, a clean outfit under her arm Avoiding standing in the paint she spilled...

45 <u>I NT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY</u> 45 SI MON, MADDY, PARKER 45

Maddy and Simon both pull themselves back up and peer out of the window. They see Parker's gone.

43

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CONTI NUED:

1 SIMON There. He's gone. We've saved the day.

Behind them, unseen by them, Parker steps into the booth.

2 SI MON Well, I have. You weren't much help at - -(TURNS AND SEES PARKER) - - Ar gh!

Maddy looks round too. Parker picks up the shoe that was sitting on the table.

> 3 PARKER What are you doing? What's he doi ng?

4 SIMON Nothing! Nothing! He's in love, that's all!

5 PARKER

He's what ?!

Parker stalks forward angrily, Simon backs away, accidently backing into the speaker-button and switching it on as Parker grabs him and yanks him away from the window, Simon letting out a yell as he does...

46 INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY ALEX

> Alex is sitting in the gym - the sound of Simon's stifled yell blares out through the speaker, along with dreadful feedback which almost hurts Alex's ears.

47 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY 47 LOREN, AMY, N'S NETBALLERS

> Loren, Amy and the rest of the NETBALL TEAM are walking down the corridor, sports bags over their arms, ready to get changed for practice. They too cover their ears at the sound of the piercing feedback yell.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - BOYS' CHANGING ROOMS - DAY 48 48 TROY, N S AUSSI E RULES FOOTBALLERS

> An Aussie Rules FOOTBALL TEAM led by TROY are just coming in from practice. Also ear covering at the yell.

45

49 <u>INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY</u>

Everyone is still looking at Alex, who appears to have generated some kind of excuse for all this now - and is telling it as confidently as he can.

> 3 ALEX I mean, it's not like the school were ever going to do anything is it? And Valentine's Day is THE most important day of the year...

He sneaks a look at Nicola and is pleased to see her nod in agreement.

4 ALEX ...So I figured I'd set up a little table and... (FALTERING) ...erm.. a torch...

Suddenly Parker's voice booms over the speaker.

5 PARKER (ON SPEAKER) --Don't listen to Alex King!

Everyone looks up at the booth, where they see the bully though the window.

Alex frowns. Now what?

6 PARKER (ON SPEAKER) I did NOT get a Valentine's card off him

Everyone looks at Alex. Alex looks at everybody. Completely confused. Looks back up at the window.

7 PARKER (ON SPEAKER) And we were NOT laying on top of each other in the corridor.

Alex tries an innocent smile to the appalled crowd.

8 PARKER (ON SPEAKER) And Alex King and I are definitely not in love.

Parker walks away. Alex slowly turns round to find everyone staring at him expectantly.

He sort of looks like he wants to try and explain it all... But then realises he probably can't. And let's be honest, the moment for declaring his love to Nicola has pretty much gone.

So instead he just claps his hands together and declares:

9 ALEX ...Right. Well I think that about covers it. As you were.

Before walking through the crowd as calmly as he can... Then breaking into a run and fleeing the gym

51

51 <u>INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY</u> ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS