

The Worst Year of My Life - Again!

EPISODE 2

Valentine's Day - February

by
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1 INT. KING HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY 1
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 EXT. STREET/SHOP - DAY 2
ALEX, SIMON, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, N/S PEDESTRIANS

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, squeeze 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 SIMON
...You're going to buy her a card
now aren't you?

Alex turns and heads into the shop.

3

INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY

3

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, PARKER, HOWE,
MR NORRIS, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

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 aching for you? What's that mean?

2 ALEX

It's not aching. 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 SIMON

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

It's a-c-h--

7 ALEX

--I know how to spell aching Maddy!
(TO SIMON, 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?

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

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?!

(CONTINUED)

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.
(TO SIMON)
Whose locker is it?

20 MADDY
Parker's.

21 SIMON
Yeah right. How would you know that?

22 MADDY
He's opening it now.

She gestures over. And yes, PARKER, the school bully, is indeed in the process of unlocking it. HOWE is waiting with him, reading a text on his phone.

Alex yells in frustrated panic and races towards him to stop him finding the card... Slips on the water Simon spilled, makes a distinctive "Nwwaaaaa!" noise and crashes into Parker just as he's turning around.

The two boys tumble to the floor. Parker on top, staring down at him.

Howe looks up from his phone and glances round confused, not knowing where his mate has gone. Then sees them on the floor.

23 HOWE
What are you doing down there?

24 PARKER
Dunno. What am I doing down here King?

25 ALEX
Erm... Beating me up?

Parker gets up. Gestures to Howe who pulls Alex up onto his feet.

26 PARKER
Good guess.

Parker picks up a bin and sticks it over Alex's head... Rubbish falling around him.

3

CONTINUED: (3)

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

EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

4

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, 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.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

5 The girls suddenly all get up, Nicola picks up her bag... She also accidentally 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, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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. I'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 stand awkwardly by the door.

11 MADDY

Whenever I need to distract people, I leave a single shoe lying somewhere they'll see it.

(OFF HIS LOOK)

People NEVER expect to see shoes sitting around by themselves.

(CHUCKLING)

It blows their minds!

Simon looks at her blankly for a beat.

12 SIMON

Stop talking to me.

6 INT. SCHOOL - GIRLS' TOILETS - DAY
ALEX

6

Alex peers cautiously into the toilets. There are a few cubicles but only one is occupied. So Alex assumes that Nicola is in there. He slides the card under.

7 INT. SCHOOL - GIRLS' TOILETS - CUBICLE - DAY
HANNAH

7

"BIG HANNAH" is the actual occupant. She's sitting on the toilet, lid down, fully clothed, texting. She looks down and sees the card arrive. She picks it up and opens it.

8 INT. SCHOOL - GIRLS' TOILETS - DAY
ALEX, LOREN, HANNAH

8

Alex quickly heads out again - or at least tries to, but Loren is just coming through the door as he does. She looks at him horrified.

1 LOREN

What are you doing in the girls' toilets you creepy weirdo! Get out!

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

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!

9 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY
ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA

9

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)

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED:

9

8 MADDY (CONT'D)

So she tried to stuff them in their own backpack.

(BEAT-OMINOUS)

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'.

(DREAMY)

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

INT. SCHOOL - GIRLS' TOILETS - DAY
ALEX

10

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

INT. SCHOOL - HOMEROOM - DAY

11

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, PARKER, HOWE, 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 SIMON

I bet it's bigger than the one you got her.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

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.

12 **INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY**

12

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, HANNAH, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

Alex is opening his locker. Simon and Maddy standing with him.

1 SIMON

...I don't get it. What do I do again?

Alex turns to him exasperated.

2 ALEX

Look, it's simple. Nicola always goes to netball practice at four, before the other girls, sets up the court. Alone. It's perfect! I walk in with a big bunch of flowers and as I do you play some romantic music over the speakers. It'll be like a scene from a movie or something!

3 SIMON

I've never seen a movie like that.

4 MADDY

I like movies about sharks.

5 ALEX

Right. Well... Maybe we'll save re-enacting a shark movie for another time. Lets stick to a romantic chick-flick for now.

6 SIMON

Where am I supposed to get romantic music from?

7 MADDY

Have you seen that one where that shark eats that woman in the bath?

(BEAT)

...No... No sorry, that wasn't a movie, that was a dream I had.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12

CONTINUED:

12

7 MADDY (CONT'D)

(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 SIMON

Violins? Urgh! ...Alright. But you better not tell anyone.

Simon starts flicking through a music-download site on his phone whilst Alex returns to opening his locker. Alex is surprised to find a card inside.

10 ALEX

What's this?

He opens it. A Valentine's card with a picture of two giraffes on the front, their necks entwined. Inside it's just signed "your Valentine?" He looks up at Simon and Maddy.

11 ALEX

Who got me this?

They both look at him blankly. Behind them, Hannah walks past, shoots Alex a smile... But he fails to notice.

13

INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

13

ALEX, NICOLA, MR NORRIS

Alex is making his way down the corridor with a bunch of red flowers. Suddenly Nicola comes round the corner with her sports bag. Alex quickly hides the flowers behind his back and lets her pass him. Once she's disappeared he pulls the flowers back out again, straightens them a little on the top...

...At which point a door is suddenly opened on his face by Mr Norris who wanders out of a classroom and heads off obliviously... As the door swings shut to reveal Alex standing there still holding the flowers, now all bent at the top. He makes a half-hearted effort at straightening them, then shrugs, oh well and carries on down the corridor... He doesn't notice but he's leaving a trail of petals behind him.

14

INT. SCHOOL - OUTSIDE/INSIDE GYM - DAY

14

ALEX, NICOLA

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Nicola switches on the gym lights and heads through the doors into the gym, pulling her netball outfit from her bag as she does. Once she's inside Alex comes round the corner - heads over to the door and peeks through in time to see her heading into the adjoining changing rooms. He hangs back and waits.

15 INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY
SIMON, MADDY

15

A little room overlooking the gym, with a speaker system. Simon and Maddy both inside.

1 SIMON
Because it's stupid, that's why!
How would the shark get in the
bath?

2 MADDY
Through the taps.

3 SIMON
Big taps.

4 MADDY
Maybe it's a small shark.

16 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY
HANNAH

16

Hannah is making her way down the corridor when she suddenly sees a trail of red flower petals leading away from her and round the corner. She starts to follow them.

17 INT. SCHOOL - OUTSIDE/INSIDE GYM - DAY
ALEX, NICOLA, HANNAH

17

Alex takes another peek through the door in time to see Nicola emerging back into the gym wearing her netball outfit. Okay! Time to make his entrance!

He adjusts his hair, checks his breath and is just about to open the door when...

1 HANNAH
Alex King!

He turns to see Hannah coming towards him, a great big smile on her face.

2 HANNAH
I got your card! Then I followed
your petals! What a big romantic
gesture! Come here Valentine!

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

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

Oh! 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

NICOLA

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

19

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY

19

SIMON, 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

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

20

NICOLA

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 *Psycho* shower scene.

21 **INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY** 21
SIMON, MADDY

Simon frowns as he listens to it.

He looks at Maddy.

1 SIMON
Probably should have checked it
first.

Maddy's nodding along to the strings.

2 MADDY
I like it.

22 **INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY** 22
ALEX, NICOLA

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 **INT. KING HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY** 23
ALEX

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 **EXT. STREET/SHOP - DAY** 24
ALEX, SIMON, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, N/S PEDESTRIANS

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

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

1 SIMON (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 squeezey 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

INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY

25

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

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.

(CONTINUED)

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 SIMON

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 making Nicola think I was going to chop her to pieces.

14 SIMON

Fairly standard day for you then.

15 MADDY

Was Nicola really scared?

16 ALEX

At first...

(BEAT)

Then... kind of angry...

(EMBARRASSED)

She tried to stuff me in my own backpack.

(SHRUGS IT OFF)

But that's a good thing. Means she's edgy. I like edgy.

They have stopped by Nicola's locker. Alex holds up the now enveloped card.

17 ALEX

Anyway, this time ALL of that is going to be avoided by slipping this card into the right locker. Easy.

He tries to slide the card into the locker... But in choosing the biggest, most lavish card he could he's ended up with one too big to fit. Simon and Maddy stand and blankly watch him as he desperately tries every conceivable angle to get it to go in.

18 SIMON

I don't think it fits.

(BEAT)

I bet that's why I didn't have any in mine. Mystery solved!

Alex stares at his big card.

19 MADDY

You could cut it in half?

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, HOWE, N/S STUDENTS
(NB: PARKER AND HANNAH ARE **NOT** IN SCENE)

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 SIMON

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... Oh. 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 SIMON

What? We'll split the profits... Sixty-forty.

10 MADDY

Face it Alex, if the universe wanted you and Nicola together it would have given you the opportunity. It hasn't. So it doesn't.

And then through the doors shimmies Nicola herself, gym bag on her shoulder. She drops the bag down underneath a table and heads on over to Loren and Amy who are sitting nearby.

Alex eyes the bag on the floor.

11 ALEX

Or maybe the universe was just being a little slow..!

He gets up, looks at Simon and Maddy.

12 ALEX

You keep her busy whilst I slip it in her bag. Preferably without getting a red hand this time.

13 SIMON

...A what?

14 ALEX

It doesn't matter, just distract her, okay?

Simon gets up.

15 SIMON

No problem. I've got a great distraction technique.

Alex is about to turn round when he briefly hesitates.

16 ALEX

You're not going to pretend to faint are you?

17 SIMON

(HE CLEARLY WAS)

...No.

Alex nods, heads quietly over towards the table and crouches down.

Simon looks at Maddy.

18 SIMON

...That was really all I had.

Then reluctantly makes his way over to where Nicola is chatting to her friends.

(CONTINUED)

19 SIMON
Er... Nicola?

Nicola turns round to look at him, back to the table now.
Alex quickly crawls under and grabs her bag.

20 SIMON
I was wondering if... erm... Oh! I
know! Would you like to sponsor me?

Maddy sits watching this strange tableau. Under the table
Alex tries to stick the card in the bag, but the bag's really
full of stuff and he can't fit it in.

21 NICOLA
Sponsor you to do what?

22 SIMON
Um... Walk.

23 NICOLA
Sponsor you to walk?

24 LOREN
I'll sponsor you to walk... Away.

The girls laugh, Nicola does too - starts to turn around.

25 SIMON
(QUICKLY)
Well, not just walk obviously. That
would be stupid. Sponsor me to
walk... erm... backwards.

26 NICOLA
What? For charity?

27 SIMON
I don't know. Maybe.
(BEAT)
Yeah. That would probably make more
sense. For charity.

Under the table an irritated Alex rams his arm into the bag,
trying to push all the contents down to make room... He
suddenly makes a face, slowly pulls out his hand to find it
covered in red paint and clutching one of the paint bottles
Nicola bought earlier.

28 NICOLA
Not really.

Nicola looks at Simon, waiting for him to go away.

Alex meanwhile is still under the table, now holding the
paint bottle, unsure what to do.

26

CONTINUED: (4)

26

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

INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

27

ALEX, HANNAH

Alex hurries down the corridor, squeeze 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

INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY

28

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...

(CONTINUED)

28

CONTINUED:

28

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 shoulders...

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
PARKER

29

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
ALEX, PARKER, HOWE

30

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
What are you doing down there?

Alex quickly jump up.

2 ALEX
...Nothing?

3 HOWE
Creepy weirdo. Get out!

Alex hurries out.

Howe heads to the urinals. The cubicle door opens and Parker leans out.

4 PARKER
Who was that?

5 HOWE
Alex King--

Parker pales and retreats back into the cubicle again.

6 HOWE
--He was...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

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

31 INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - CUBICLE - DAY
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 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY
PARKER, HOWE, MR NORRIS

32

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 accidentally 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 squeeze bottle...

1 PARKER
It 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
detention all 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.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Howe nods.

6 HOWE
Yeah. Toast.

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

7 HOWE
...So it wasn't you then?

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

33 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY
ALEX, HOWE

33

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 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TOILETS - DAY
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 the 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...

35 INT. SCHOOL - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY
ALEX

35

...Where he finds the pieces of his card, ripped up and floating in one of the toilets.

36 INT. SCHOOL - HOMEROOM - DAY

36

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, PARKER, HOWE, HANNAH,
N/S STUDENTS

Alex, Simon and Maddy make their way into class, head to the back to take their desks. Alex is lost in thought, thinking about his next move.

Reveal that Alex has unconsciously taken a seat next to Parker. Alex doesn't notice this - but Parker certainly does.

Parker immediately gets up and moves to the front, a confused Howe following him.

But Alex's attention is firmly on Nicola who has just made her way in.

1 SIMON

Okay. So is this over with now? Can we start thinking up more fun things to do with this time-warpy-whatever it is thing?

2 MADDY

It's a temporal loop. And the space-time continuum isn't a toy Simon. You can't just play with it like a shoe.

3 SIMON

...Like a what?

4 MADDY

Like a shoe.

Simon frowns at her, then turns back to Alex.

5 SIMON

Remind me why we let her hang around with us again?

Alex suddenly looks determined.

6 ALEX

No. No she's right. Valentine's day isn't over yet. I can still do this.

7 MADDY

That's not what I said at all.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

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 SIMON
What are you doing?
(TO Maddy)
What's he doing?

Maddy shakes her head. No idea.

9 SIMON
...Why do I hang around with either
of you?

Alex hands him the list.

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

37

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY
SIMON, MADDY

37

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 SIMON
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?

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

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

Excellent!

Simon glances up at the sound booth.

8 SIMON

(EAGER)

Let's go and watch!

38

INT. SCHOOL - RECEPTION - DAY

38

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

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY

39

SIMON, MADDY

Simon and Maddy are walking into the booth.

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

39

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 else.

Simon looks out into the gym.

3 SIMON

...Those are some pretty weird
looking flowers.

40

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

40

ALEX

Alex heads towards the table Simon and Maddy have prepared for him. Flowers in his hand, bent at the top again from Hannah slamming the door in his face. He puts them in the vase, does his best to straighten them. Then briefly stops and looks down at the torch, puzzled.

41

INT. SCHOOL - OUTSIDE GYM - DAY

41

NICOLA, PARKER

Nicola is heading towards the gym. She switches on the lights. She has her bag with her and just like last time she reaches in to pull out her outfit as she's pushing open the door...

...Only this time she stops. Looks down at her netball kit... It's covered in drippy red paint from where Alex squeezed the bottle earlier. She makes a "yuuuuk!" sound, turns round and hurries back down the corridor, unaware she's leaving red droplets behind her.

Just as she disappears round one corner, Parker comes round another. He stops in his tracks when he sees the red paint. From his perspective it looks like it's leading into the gym.

He follows it, rolling up his sleeves as he does, ready to lay into whoever got him in trouble with it earlier...

42

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

42

ALEX, PARKER

Alex is standing up, his back to the doors, pouring a couple of drinks.

The doors open and we see Parker about to walk in... But then freeze...

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

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 INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY
SIMON, MADDY

43

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 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY
NICOLA

44

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

45 INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY
SIMON, MADDY, PARKER

45

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

(CONTINUED)

45

CONTINUED:

45

1 SIMON

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

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

2 SIMON

Well, I have. You weren't much help at--

(TURNS AND SEES PARKER)

--Argh!

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

3 PARKER

What are you doing? What's he doing?

4 SIMON

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

5 PARKER

He's what?!

Parker stalks forward angrily, Simon backs away, accidentally 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

46

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.

48

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - BOYS' CHANGING ROOMS - DAY

48

TROY, N/S AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALLERS

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

49

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

49

ALEX, NICOLA, LOREN, AMY, TROY, N/S NETBALLERS, N/S AUSSIE
RULES FOOTBALLERS

Alex looks towards the booth as we hear the words...

1 MADDY (O.S.)

Give him back his shoe! Get your own!

...ring out before the speakers click off. Alex has barely had a chance to digest this when Nicola comes through the gym doors. Alex gets to his feet...

Then suddenly from the corridor come the other netball girls, angry, wanting to know what the racket was.

Then following them, the football team, equally keen to find out what was going on.

Everyone stands there and looks at Alex, standing alone, by his little heart-balloon table...

He looks at them all.

2 ALEX

Okay... This probably looks a bit
odd... But I can explain...

We can see him desperately trying to think of exactly how he's going to do that!

INTERCUT WITH:

50

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - SOUND BOOTH - DAY

50

SIMON, MADDY, PARKER

Simon has been chucked across the booth, Maddy is helping him to his feet (though knowing Simon he probably shakes her straight off afterwards). Parker is staring out the window and down into the gym: he can see Alex talking to the crowd but can't hear him.

1 PARKER

What's he saying down there?

2 SIMON

I don't know. This was all his
idea. I think he's declaring his
love or something.

Parker spins round horrified.

IN THE GYM:

(CONTINUED)

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:

50

CONTINUED: (2)

50

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

INT. SCHOOL - LOCKER CORRIDOR - DAY

51

ALEX, SIMON, MADDY, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

Alex is just putting his stuff away in his locker when Simon and Maddy approach him.

1 SIMON

Erm... So how did it go? Because we weren't there... obviously.

2 ALEX

Could have been worse.

3 SIMON

(DISBELIEF)

Really?!

4 ALEX

She didn't try and stuff me in my backpack. PLUS at least I'm on her radar now. She knows who I am.

5 SIMON

The kid who gave Parker a Valentine's card?

6 ALEX

Exactly. You don't forget something like that.

7 MADDY

So... You don't think maybe the universe was trying to tell you that--

8 ALEX

--That I need to work even harder to get I want, yes. Just like you said.

9 MADDY

Right.

(BEAT)

What? No, that's not what I said at all--

But Alex has stopped listening, he's spotted something in his locker.

(CONTINUED)

10 ALEX

--Oh no!

He pulls out a card. Opens it: the giraffe card from last time.

11 ALEX

How did this happen? Big Hannah slammed a door in my face. Why did she still get me a card?

12 SIMON

Maybe it's not from her?

He holds it up.

13 ALEX

Giraffes? Of course it's from her! Who else but Big Hannah would get a giraffe card?

Alex slams shut his locker and heads off, Simon following. We stay with Maddy watching him sadly.

She opens up her own locker and starts putting her stuff away... her books... her bags...

14 ALEX

(while walking off)
How come you've only got one shoe on?

15 SIMON

(while walking off)
Er... I can't remember.

...her giraffe pencil case...

Then she closes the locker and hurries to catch up with her friends...

END OF EPISODE