

Me, My Dad and Alan Shearer

By

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1. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - DAY

Ten year old **ALAN SIMMONS** and his Dad, **COLIN**, are sat in a small tent around a tiny table that has one leg longer than the others. Alan sits on one side armed with a black marker pen, drawing Newcastle United stripes onto his old PE shirt. Colin holds open his copy of 'The Handbook of Knots' in one hand and his other hand reveals a very tangled up piece of rope. Alan looks content and happy, whereas Colin appears puzzled and frustrated.

The table is so small that both of these activities meet up in the middle, and as Alan is drawing, the table wobbles at a mildly annoying rate. Colin's frustration gradually reaches boiling point and he flails his rope in to the air.

COLIN

Alan! - can you not see I'm in the midst of a knot tying breakthrough.

Alan stops drawing.

COLIN (CONT.)

Remember why I brought you on this holiday? To be at one with the great outdoors, to learn some outdoor skills. And what do you get up to? You make a football shirt. Why you bother with football I have no idea.

Alan looks at Colin.

COLIN (CONT.)

Football, football, football. You can't give it a rest can you? Now please, I'm trying to master this knot.

Colin continues to resurrect his knot. Alan starts to draw again.

COLIN

ALAN!

Alan stops again and his shirt is finished.

COLIN

I don't want to have to tell you again. I need COMPLETE focus. Now why don't you go and find some other children to play with?

Alan puts on his homemade Newcastle United shirt, picks up his football sticker album from the floor and leaves the tent. Colin attempts to undo the tangled mess with no luck.

2. EXT. THE CAMPSITE - DAY

Alan looks around the campsite. It is full of retired holidaymakers, hikers and a young couple on their first holiday, enthralled in a passionate kiss. Alan stands for a moment, sighs and then spots an empty picnic bench. With his football sticker album under his arm, he saunters over to it.

3. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - DAY

Some time has passed and Alan is sat engrossed in his 1997 football sticker album. Every page he turns is completed with stickers. All except a space which reads '346 - Alan Shearer'. His eyes glaze over as he stares deeply into the empty sticker space.

4. EXT. ST. JAMES' PARK - DAYDREAM

Alan is on the front row at a Newcastle vs Manchester United fixture. Newcastle are on the attack.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

...and what a turn of events this Cup Final has proven to be, at two goals a piece with only thirty seconds of stoppage time to go and - oh - oh my, What?

One of the Manchester United players puts all his studs forward for a two legged slide tackle on **ALAN SHEARER** within the penalty area. Alan Shearer goes to the ground in dramatic agony. The referee blows his whistle and the game stops.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Shearer is down! That was an unbelievably poor tackle. What was he thinking?

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

That certainly was a serious miss judgment. It looks like a penalty will seal Newcastle's Cup victory, but I don't think Shearer will be producing the winning kick, he looks like he's in a bad way.

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The referee sends off the Manchester United player and points to the penalty spot. Shearer is still clutching his leg in agony.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

I've - I've just heard word from the sideline that - - you're not going to believe this but - - I've just had word that all the Newcastle players have come down with food poisoning from... what? A dodgy batch of pre-match Scotch Eggs?

All the Newcastle United players on the pitch and on the bench are on the floor clutching at their stomachs in agony.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

Well I've never heard anything like this in all my career.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Nor have I, the big question is who will take the penalty?

Alan Shearer looks out into the crowd and singles out Alan. Shearer beckons Alan over with his finger.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

I can't believe my eyes. Alan Shearer has picked out a small boy in a homemade shirt out of the thirty thousand strong stadium.

Alan jumps over the barrier, onto the pitch and steps up to the penalty spot.

He stands for a moment.

The crowd fall silent.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

All hopes rest on this young man.

Alan takes a few steps back.

Alan eyes up the goalkeeper. He pulls the trigger... The goal keeper jumps dramatically out of the way of Alan's feeble penalty, which trickles over the line, dead centre in the middle of the goal.

He scores!

(CONTINUED)

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
GOAAAAALLLL!!!

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
GOOOAAAAALLLLLLLLL!!!

The crowd explode and the roaring is almost unbearable. Shearer hobbles over to Alan with the missing '346 - Alan Shearer' sticker in his hand and slowly offers it up to Alan. It is within millimeters of being received when...

BRETT (O.S.)
'OW'S YOUR TOUCH?!

BANG.

5. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - DAY

A football smacks the side of Alan's head, causing the top half of his body to sway almost off the bench. He shrugs off the impact and with a furrowed brow looks down at his sticker annual, '346 - Alan Shearer' is still missing. He turns around to see where the ball came from. **BRETT**, a brash ten and a half year old dressed head to toe in the current Manchester United kit, comes over to collect his ball.

BRETT
You call that a header? Me gran could do a better header in her sleep shes 83! And she doesn't even like football, she likes knitting. You like football yea?

ALAN
Yeah.

BRETT
What's your name?

ALAN
Alan.

BRETT
I'm Brett, I LOVE football. You must have seen my new United kit? Dad always gets me the new season kit as soon as it comes out. Have you got a sister?

ALAN
No just...

(CONTINUED)

BRETT

I have, she hates football, she's got the same colour hair as you. She collects those stupid Spice Girls postcards. Do you collect them too? Does your school have house points? How many kickups can you do?...

6. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - LATER

BRETT

...what's your favourite game at school?

ALAN

Erm.. Marbles?

BRETT

Marbles? RUBBISH. Playing POGS is the best game in the playground...

Brett clocks on to Alan's football shirt. His eyes light up, he points at Alan's shirt.

BRETT

HAHA, what's that? Where did you get that from? Looks like lost property released their own Newcastle shirts!

ALAN

It's my football kit.

BRETT

Where did your dad buy that from?

ALAN

I made it.

Brett produces an over the top laugh.

BRETT

You made it? That's classic. If only Trevor and Tom were here, they would laugh their heads off. How come your Dad didn't buy you the new kit?

ALAN

He says it's a waste of money.

(CONTINUED)

BRETT

My Dad gets me everything I want.

Brett, wearing what looks like a belt, turns it around to reveal it is actually a pink and yellow bumbag.

BRETT (CONT.)

Like this top of the range bumbag.
I keep all my sweets and pocket
money in it.

Brett opens up his bumbag and shows Alan his stash. Alan looks on in awe.

BRETT (CONT.)

How much pocket money do you...

Brett notices what Alan is reading.

BRETT (CONT.)

...hey, is that this years footie
sticker album?

Brett grabs the album off Alan and starts to flick through it. He spots every sticker space is filled. His eyes rest on '346 - Alan Shearer'.

BRETT

No way, you've nearly completed it.
Dad bought me twenty five packets
from the service station and I
still need thirty three stickers.
I've got a tonne of swaps if you
want to do swaps.

Brett rustles around in his bumbag. He pulls out a bunch of stickers and flicks through them like a deck of cards.

BRETT

What about a swap?

ALAN

Well I only need Shearer...

Brett shows Alan a sticker.

ALAN

Got.

...and another one.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

Got.

...and another.

ALAN

Got.

... one more.

ALAN

Got.

He tentatively pulls out his final sticker choice and slowly turns it to Alan. It's '346 - Alan Shearer'.

ALAN

NEED!

BRETT

If you have a Manchester United shiny, I'll swap you for this, right here, right now.

Alan takes out a bunch of swaps from his khaki shorts pocket. Brett, with a poker face expression, hovers his '346 - Alan Shearer' sticker in front of Alan's face. Alan quickly shuffles through his stickers and finds the Manchester United shiny Brett wants. He thrusts it in Brett's direction. Brett takes the sticker without hesitation.

BRETT

Cheers mate.

Alan is empty handed. He looks on patiently waiting for the returned favour. Brett partially smiles back at him and laughs under his breath.

BRETT

Huh, did you hear that?

There is no sound. Alan looks on confused.

BRETT

It was my Dad. I have to go now.
Later.

Brett drops Alan's sticker album on the floor and runs off with his shiny. Alan stands in contemplation, empty handed and confused.

7. EXT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - DUSK

Colin is busy warming through a can of Oxtail soup on a camping stove. Alan is sat on a camping chair next to him, flicking through his football sticker swaps. On top of the camping table sits Colin's book and tangled up rope.

DAVE, a designer tracksuit-wearing know-it-all and Brett walk by. They are followed closely by a Chihuahua. Dave has a towel in one hand and a partially eaten Scotch Egg in the other. He chews whilst talking. Pieces of the Scotch Egg are flying out of his mouth.

BRETT

Nice tent...

COLIN

Oh, hello young man. Is this one of your friends Alan?

Alan sits in awkward silence. The Chihuahua sniffs about the tent. Colin looks on anxiously. Dave interrupts.

DAVE

Don't be scared, he's not going to hurt you.

The Chihuahua cocks it's leg over a guy rope.

DAVE

The name's Dave Jackson, 'ows it goin'?

Colin offers Dave his hand to shake. Dave ignores it and eyes up the tent.

DAVE

Jeez, ha ha, are you on some kind of reenactment holiday? I always wondered what a Victorian tent looked like.

COLIN

I've had this since I was...

DAVE

You may have noticed my tent over by the silver birch. It's a new VANGO 3000, top of the range. It's even got those pockets that rip off with Velcro. Two grand it cost me. Just a drop in the ocean with what I'm earning...

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

Yeah, this tent is a bit of a family...

DAVE

I've got the lot. Fifteen piece Swiss army knife, double burning stove, gas lantern, the works. It's important to have the best. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.

Dave spots Colin's book and tangled rope.

DAVE

Clove hitch knot ey? I was doing clove hitches before I could tie my shoelaces.

Dave grabs Colin's rope, effortlessly untangles it and produces a clove-hitch knot.

DAVE

Easy, right, common Brett lad, shower time.

Brett looks smug, Alan is doing his best not to make any eye contact with anyone. Colin cracks...

COLIN

Are you still messing about with those stickers? All day Alan, all day. Well I'm not standing for it any longer. Football will get you nowhere. Now pack it away, brush your teeth and get to bed.

BRETT

Bed? Ha, it's only seven o'clock.

Brett and Dave leave. Alan reluctantly picks up his stickers and goes into the tent. Colin returns back to his book and picks up the knot. He looks bewildered.

8. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - MORNING

Alan awakens to find bloodshot-eyed Colin still puzzling over his tangled knot. Alan looks dejected, he picks up his football sticker album and leaves the tent.

9. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - DAY

Alan resumes his previous days position on the bench and settles into reading his football sticker album. Brett shows up.

BRETT

Has your Dad not figured out that knot yet?

Alan ignores the question. Brett lets out a laugh.

BRETT

How did your Victorian tent cope with the rain last night? Oh, by the way, the museum called, they need it back by Monday.

Alan ignores him. His eyes are firmly locked on the sticker album. He's on the Newcastle United page. Brett notices Alan's fixation on the '346 - Alan Shearer' gap. His face lights up menacingly. He pulls out the sticker swap from his bumbag.

BRETT

Tell you what. If you do something for me, this Shearer sticker is yours.

Alan turns around, looks at Brett and fixates on the sticker he is waving.

ALAN

What is it?

10. EXT. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE - DAY

Alan and Brett stand outside the village Post Office, there is a noticeboard with adverts that read:

Meat Raffle: Tickets available from John at the 'Dog and Partridge'

For Sale: Titanic on VHS (It's definitely not pirated...)

and

Yorkshires No. 1 Gina G Tribute act, Tina T, on every Thursday at the Bowling Green.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

So if I steal you a chocolate bar,
I get the Shearer sticker?

BRETT

No, not just any chocolate bar, a
Fuse bar, the king of the
chocolates. And yes, I'll give you
the sticker.

Alan pulls out some loose change from his pocket.

ALAN

Why can't I just buy it for you?

BRETT

Because they're not the rules of
the game! Idiot.

ALAN

But stealing is...

Brett waves the sticker and mimics Alan.

BRETT

But stealing is... Do you want
Shearer or not?! I'll wait here.

Brett stands against the wall and Alan heads to the door.

11. INT. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE - DAY

The bell on the back to the shop door rings. A dusty old, silver whiskered man, the **SHOPKEEPER**, stands behind the counter with a pair of pocket binoculars around his neck. There are ancient looking jars of boiled sweets behind the counter, dusty boxes of cereal stacked up in the middle of the room and bundles of old newspapers propping up the lottery ticket counter.

Alan moves around the shop shiftily as the Shopkeeper looks on. Alan idly flicks through 'Women's Weekly Magazine' and then spins the postcard rack around pretending to look at them. The Shopkeeper watches as Alan stalls the rack at a 'nude campers' postcard. Alan looks up at the Shopkeeper, the Shopkeeper frowns at Alan. Alan looks back to the postcard rack and realises what he was pretending to look at.

Alan quickly shuffles across to the confectionery shelf. He points to the pick 'n' mix and attempts to act naturally...

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

Erm... How much are the penny sweets?

The Shopkeeper looks puzzled.

SHOPKEEPER

Well, they're one penny each.

ALAN

Thank you.

Alan's hand strokes across all the chocolate bars on the shelf until it arrives at a Fuse bar. Brett pops up at the window out of Alan's sight.

12. EXT THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE - DAY

Brett looks on through the window as Alan picks up the Fuse bar and stares at it for a moment.

13. INT. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE - DAY

Alan looks up at the Shopkeeper who is enthralled with an out-of-date Birdwatching Magazine, which he sporadically looks at through his binoculars. Alan chooses his moment to hide the Fuse behind his back, instantly employing a look of guilt. The Shopkeeper is looking through the binoculars at the magazine when he addresses the room.

SHOPKEEPER

You know, Birdwatching is all about being attentive. Making sure you can see in a multitude of directions at one time, a bit like a Barn Owl. Have you ever been twitching young man?

The Shopkeeper lifts his eyes from behind the binoculars and looks up at Alan.

ALAN

Erm, yes, but the Doctor did give me some cream...

SHOPKEEPER

No, TWITCHING, birdwatching, Ornithology.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

Oh, right. No I haven't. But my Dad goes sometimes.

SHOPKEEPER

Smart man... and although other birds don't have the same luxury as the Barn Owl, with it's two hundred and seventy degree rotating neck, which enables the fine specimen to see three hundred and sixty degrees, other birds are believed to have an extra sense. Some people say that if a bird was to go blind it would still sense it's surroundings. What do you think of that?

ALAN

Erm, I don't know, sounds like some kind of Power Ranger skill.

The Shopkeeper stands up behind the counter. Alan is frozen still holding the Fuse bar behind his back.

SHOPKEEPER

You see, a bird is pure, it lives its life on basic instinct, and thus it's morally immune. It does what it has to do to survive. Not like us humans. If a Magpie steals it's nest from a Finch, there are no consequences. No laws, no justice, only Mother Nature.

The Shopkeeper walks from behind the counter and towers over Alan, blocking the door. He holds his hand out in front of Alan.

SHOPKEEPER

Now, that will be thirty five pence please.

Alan pulls the Fuse bar from behind his back and looks up to the Shopkeeper. Brett looks on from the window out of sight of Alan who hurriedly digs around in his pockets for the money. Alan grabs a handful of change and gives it to the Shopkeeper.

SHOPKEEPER

Thank you kindly.

Alan walks at great speed to the door.

14. EXT. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE - DAY

Brett moves from the window and back to the wall as Alan comes out of the shop. Alan shifts over to Brett, out of sight of the Shopkeeper, pauses for a moment and then pulls out the Fuse bar and offers it up to Brett. Brett shakes his head.

15. EXT. THE CAMPSITE - DAY

Alan and Brett are walking through the campsite.

ALAN

But you said I could have it.

BRETT

You bought it. That's cheating.

Alan and Brett stop walking.

ALAN

No I didn't. I stole it like you said.

BRETT

What did you think I was doing all that time you were in there, feeding my Tamagotchi? I saw you through the window! TOUGH LUCK.

Alan looks disappointed and puts the Fuse bar in his khaki shorts pocket. With his head down Alan starts to walk off. Brett laughs obnoxiously.

After a few paces Alan stops, lifts his head and turns back around.

ALAN

What if we have a penalty shootout?

BRETT

A penalty shootout?

ALAN

Yeah, like Euro '96.

BRETT

To win the sticker? That sounds fun - but hey - what's in it for me?

Alan pauses. He looks down at his almost completed football sticker album and then holds it up to Brett.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

You get this.

Brett's face lights up.

16. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - DAY

Brett takes his jumper off and puts it on the floor. Alan follows his lead and together they measure up the goal posts, taking it as seriously as FIFA would in regulating their goal sizes. Each jumper movement is counteracted with another until they rest on an agreement. Brett sets up the spot kick with an old lollipop stick found on the ground.

BRETT

O'right then Southgate, just like Euro '96, it's a best of five.

17. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Alan stands in between the jumpers. The sound of a football crowd fills the air.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

... and what a fine day at the Stadia-De-Campsite to settle this game. To end on penalties always sends a shiver down my spin.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

I know exactly what you mean, I get a real lump in my throat when it comes down to this.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

And here comes the first penalty taker. He needs this to put him ahead.

Brett places a flyaway football on the penalty spot. He takes an enormous run up and kicks the ball right past Alan who stands motionless in the goals. He scores.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Goal!

CAPTION: Brett 0----- Alan -----

18. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Alan is up next. He takes the kick...

He misses

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
Poor effort!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
What a bad start for this young
talent.

BRETT
HA, rubbish!

CAPTION: Brett 0---- Alan x----

19. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Brett's kick again. Alan dives one way as Brett places the
ball in the other.

CAPTION: Brett 00--- Alan x----

20. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Alan Scores. The crowd cheers.

CAPTION: Brett 00--- Alan x0---

21. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Brett shoots, Alan dives and the ball bounces off his
stomach and he lands in a sloppy cow pat.

Brett rolls on the floor laughing.

CAPTION: Brett 00x-- Alan x0---

22. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

The crowd chant Alan on as he scores again!

CAPTION Brett 00x-- Alan x00--

23. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Brett, red-faced and caught up in all the pressure scuffs his shot. He misses by a long way and hits a dog dirt bin by a bush.

CAPTION: Brett 00xx- Alan x00--

24. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Alan shoots. Brett saves the shot and throws his shirt over his head in celebration.

CAPTION: Brett 00xx- Alan x00x-

25. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Brett kicks the ball straight at Alan's head. It bounces off and hits the head of a passing by hiker.

CAPTION: Brett 00xxx Alan x00x-

26. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD. NEXT

Alan slowly walks up and places the ball on the penalty spot.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

What a tense set of penalties. It all boils down to this last one. If he scores he's a hero, if he misses he's a villain.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

That's right, he'll be feeling the pressure now.

Alan looks up at Brett. He looks down at the ball. He takes a run up.

He strikes.

He scores!

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

Gooooaaaal!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

GOOOOOOAAAAL!!!

CAPTION: Brett 00xxx Alan x00x0

27. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - NEXT

Alan sprints around the field carrying out an Alan Shearer celebration with one finger in the air. Brett looks on looking jaded and embarrassed.

28. EXT. SHORT GRASS FIELD - LATER

Alan returns to Brett, out of breath from all his celebrating. Brett pulls out '346 - Alan Shearer' and his sticker album from his bum bag. Alan is about to accept the sticker that is being handed to him when Brett swiftly peels the back off and places it over the top his existing sticker. Alan's celebration face drops to dismay. Brett smiles and lets out a piercing laugh.

Brett runs off and Alan is left by himself.

29. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - NIGHT

It's pitch black when suddenly Alan switches on his torch lighting up his face. The shadows cast onto his face reveal his crazed state of mind.

30. EXT. DAVE'S VANGO 3000 TENT - NIGHT

Alan is in front of the towering top-of-the-range four man tent. There is the sound of Dave and Brett snoring from within. With the torch in his mouth, Alan uses his hands to unzip the door. He does it as slowly as possible to reduce the noise of the zip, pausing at excessively loud zips. The first layer is open. He begins to open the second and manages to open it about a quarter of the way when Dave and Brett's Chihuahua bursts through the hole and lets out a yap.

From inside the tent Dave rolls and murmurs, then resumes his snoring. Alan stands like a statue, pauses for a moment.

ALAN

Shhhh.

Alan notices the Chihuahua's pink collar and a dog tag which reads '**PRINCESS**'. The dog lets out another yap.

Another murmur comes from the tent. Alan reaches into his khaki shorts pocket and pulls out the Fuse bar. He waves it in front of Princess and whispers...

(CONTINUED)

ALAN
Fetch Princess.

Alan then throws the Fuse bar into the darkness. Princess chases it and disappears.

31. INT. DAVE'S VANGO 3000 TENT - NIGHT

Alan flashes his torch around the tent. He spots Dave in one corner snoring so loud that the empty Scotch Egg wrappers by his bed are shimmering when the air from his lungs hit them. He flashes his torch on a giant pink dog bed which has 'Princess' stitched on the front and is filled with big stuffed toys. He flashes the light on Brett. Brett is sleeping in his Manchester United kit. He is hugging his football sticker album. Alan rests the torch down and creeps towards Brett.

32. EXT DAVE'S VANGO 3000 TENT - NIGHT

In silhouette, Alan is creeping slowly towards Brett. Brett shuffles and makes a little sound. Alan freezes in mid step. Brett settles and Alan resumes. On his tip-toes he reaches Brett's bed. Alan's arm gently moves towards the shadow of the football sticker album tightly grasped by Brett. Alan proceeds to try and loosen Brett's grip with no luck. Alan stops for a moment and scratches his head. He goes in for a second attempt, this time with a bit more force. Brett still does not loosen his grip, he's clinging on tight and is in a deep sleep.

Progressively Alan adds more force into the situation. He wiggles the sticker album a little. Nothing. Brett snores on. Each progressively vigorous attempt made by Alan is matched by an equally aggressive snore. This crescendos to a point where Alan is pulling on the sticker and simultaneously rising Brett into an upright sat position.

One more over-the-top wrench and the football sticker album is free. Alan holds it up in the air for a moment. Brett settles back down.

33. EXT DAVE'S VANGO 3000 TENT - NIGHT

Alan lifts open the tent door, steps through and is greeted by Princess with the Fuse bar in her mouth. She drops it on the floor wanting to play fetch again. She lets out a little yap.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

shhhh.

And then a bigger yap!

ALAN (CONT.)

shhhhhh.

Princess sucks in some air before letting out a succession of loud barks.

The snoring stops, and this time it doesn't resume. Dave and Brett stumble out of the tent.

DAVE

Princess? What are you doing out here?

Dave spots Alan, trying not to move.

DAVE

What's that? A chocolate bar?! What are you doing sneaking around late at night feeding my dog chocolate? -- She's lactose intolerant, she has special dietary requirements!

Brett rubs his eyes and spots Alan holding his football sticker album.

BRETT

Dad, he's got my footie sticker album! THIEF!

DAVE

Right that's it.

34. EXT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - NIGHT

Dave and Brett stand either side of Alan. Dave has Alan by the collar as they move in towards the tent.

DAVE

COLIN!

There is a rustling from within.

COLIN

Erm.. hello?

(CONTINUED)

DAVE

Your lad has just been trying to
feed my dog chocolate!

ALAN

No I havn...

DAVE (CONT.)

In the middle of the night! She has
special dietary requirements and
that chocolate bar could have
secured our Vet's Christmas bonus.

There is zip from the inner canvas, then a zip from the
outer canvas. Colin pokes his weary head through the gap in
the tent.

COLIN

Hang on, wha...

DAVE (CONT.)

..and there's more, that little toe
rag has nicked our Brett's footie
sticker album. In the black of
night. Creeping about our tent. I
don't know how you think you've
dragged this kid up but he's all
wrong..

Alan stands inbetween Dave and Brett with his head hanging.

COLIN

I'm sure there's a reasonable...

DAVE (CONT.)

.. It can only boil it down to your
poor parenting. If the kid had his
own nice stuff, instead of all this
tat, then he wouldn't need to be
sneaking about in the dead of
night, like a little tea leaf.

COLIN

Now hold on a second, what is
giving him anything he wants going
to teach hi..

DAVE

I'm not interested in a
conversation Colin. I'm right and
that's that.

Colin submits.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

Many apologies then, I'm sure Alan is sorry too. I'll sort this out.

Colin beckons Alan back into the tent.

35. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - MORNING

Colin is standing up in the middle of the tent, with a slightly arched back due to ceiling of the tent being low. He is shouting and failing his rope around as Alan sits silently, pouring over his football sticker annual.

COLIN

.. and I thought I'd brought you up well. STEALING, how could you Alan. I won't be forgetting this one anytime soon. Grounded, that's for definite. No new walking boots, no more trips to the Pencil Museum, no more subscription to Scouting Weekly..

36. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - LATER

COLIN

... no day's out to the seaside and you can forget that tent maintenance workshop I booked you onto.

Alan sits in the same position, head bowed over, looking into his football sticker album. A dejected mumble comes out of his mouth.

ALAN

I don't like any of that stuff, that's all the stuff you like. I just like football.

Colin's anger subsides. He looks at Alan clutching at his album, then looks to the table in front of him where his handbook of knots rests. He sits down and puts one hand on his book and addresses Alan calmly.

COLIN

Talk to me Alan, what's all this about. It's not like you any of this. Dave must be right. I must be a bad parent.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

Your not Dad.

COLIN

Well, explain it to me, what's happened?

Alan doesn't shift.

COLIN

Common Alan, we can sort this out.

ALAN

Well. Erm... I don't know what to say. There was the funny man in the Post Office and swaps and the dog and...

COLIN

Alan, start at the beginning. Tell me everything.

ALAN

Ok, well I was sat making my football shirt when you got angry and asked me to leave, that's when I met Brett...

37. INT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - NEXT

ALAN

... and so after winning penalties he still went back on his word. So that's why I went to get the sticker. Maybe Brett and Dave are right, maybe I'm just a little tea leaf. I just wanted the Shearer sticker to complete my collection.

COLIN

You were wrong to sneak into their tent. That's a given. But Brett's Dad is, pardon my language, a complete tent peg. We're nothing like them. And I'm proud of you for that.

Colin moves closer to Alan and puts an arm around his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

I tell you what. Here's what we'll do...

38. EXT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - LATER

Colin and Alan's eyes are peering out from behind the gap in the canvas as Brett and Dave walk by. Both Brett and Dave are carrying their towels whilst Dave is devouring a breakfast Scotch Egg. When the coast is clear, Colin and Alan come out from inside the tent. Colin is holding a length of rope whilst Alan holds his football sticker album.

39. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - DAY

Dave and Brett walk past the picnic bench. Dave polishes off his Scotch Egg and dunks the wrapper in the bin next to the bench. Colin and Alan follow close behind. When they arrive at the bench, Alan rests his football sticker album on the top.

COLIN

Are you ready for this? No going back now.

Alan nods his head. From the bench they watch on as Dave and Brett enter the shower blocks.

40. INT. THE SHOWER BLOCKS - DAY

Dave and Brett brush their teeth in separate sinks in synchronisation. Spitting at the same time, they turn and walk into a cubicle each. The doors close behind them, the towels are thrown over the doors and the showers are switched on. Dave starts to whistle an innocuous tune.

41. EXT. THE SHOWER BLOCKS - DAY

Colin and Alan are either side of the door with their backs up to the wall. They turn to each other and nod.

42. INT. THE SHOWER BLOCKS - DAY

Colin and Alan stand in the doorway.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

...and with rival teams like this, the stakes always feel higher.

(CONTINUED)

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
That's right, and today is no
exception. We're in for a real
treat.

Colin and Alan begin to move towards the cubicle doors.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
It looks like the manager came out
on top in the transfer window
as Colin and Alan have real shape
out on the field.

The sound of Dave's tuneless whistling sinks further and
further away as the football crowd draws closer and closer.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
I see what your saying, this is a
partnership of the highest level.

Colin signals to Alan to assume the role of lookout and hold
back by the door while he ventures into more dangerous
terretory.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
A quick signal to the defender.
They are retaining possession,
making sure they don't go all out
in attack.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
That's right, I've seen teams
concede for less. -- He's taking it
all the way. It takes guts to go it
alone.

Upon arriving at the cubicles, Colin prepares his rope. The
nerves start to show through his facial expression as he
lines up the rope between the pair of door handles.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
It's all in the mind. Looks like
the nerves could be getting the
better of him.

He wraps the rope around and ties a knot.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
Strike!...

Colin looks up to Alan with delight, turns around and gives
him a thumbs up, at which point the rope untangles itself
and drops to the floor.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
It came off the post! He
hasn't noticed!

Alan points to Colin, who is blissfully unaware.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
The defender is pushing forwards to
offer some support.

The showers stop simultaneously and the towels are both
pulled from the top of the doors.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
The opposition aren't going to let
this one slip. They are putting all
their bodies in the box.

Alan runs instinctively towards Colin, to the ground and
sweeps up the rope handing it to Colin in one movement.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
The defender sweeps up the loose
ball regaining possession
and offers it out to the striker
on the edge of the box.

Colin grabs one end of the rope from Alan and proceeds to
tie the knot once again. Alan steady's his grip.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
Class combination.

There are a tense few twists and turns, it is still
incomplete.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
Showing some skill.

The handle on the cubicle begins to turn, a few more twists.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)
The opposition keeper is going to
put a stop to...

The handle is half way. One... MORE... TWIST.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)
...Woah! What a finish. The clove
hitch knot hits the back of the
net.

Locked in, by a clove hitch knot!

43. INT. THE SHOWER CUBICLES - DAY

Dave and Brett are shaking the doors in confusion.

44. EXT. DAVE'S VANGO 3000 TENT - DAY

It's raining and Colin and Alan dash towards the Vango 3000. Colin unzips the front door and the pair jump into the tent, as Princess simultaneously jumps out yapping and barking. After a few moments, the pair return with Alan holding Brett's sticker album. They stop whilst Princess carries on barking as Alan peels off the '346 - Alan Shearer' sticker. He scrunches up Brett's sticker album and hurtles it away for Princess to play 'fetch' with.

45. INT. THE SHOWER CUBICLES - DAY

Dave and Brett are still shaking at the doors. Dave eventually notices the rope through a gap in the door and identifies the knot as a clove hitch.

46. EXT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - DAY

Colin is pulling the tent up from the ground. He drags it in its entirety and begins to stuff it into the back of the getaway vehicle, a Vauxhall Cavalier.

47. INT. THE SHOWER CUBICLES - DAY

Dave finishes untangling the knot. The doors open.

48. EXT. THE CAMPSITE - DAY

Wearing only towels, Dave and Brett run towards Alan and Colin. There's a rustling from a bush and Princess bursts out carrying Brett's drool-sodden, scrunched up football sticker album in her mouth. She joins Dave and Brett as they run.

49. EXT. COLIN'S SCOUTING TENT - DAY

Alan spots them approaching.

ALAN
DAD, look out!

Colin hastily forces the car boot shut, leaving a part of the tent hanging out of the back and the camping table balancing precariously on the roof rack. They hurriedly jump into the car, and the engine roars to life.

50. INT. THE VAUXHALL CAVALIER - DAY

Colin and Alan take a quick glance through the rear view mirror at the upcoming trio. Dave, Brett and Princess are moments away from the vehicle.

51. EXT. THE CAMPSITE - DAY

The car screeches off throwing up a jet of mud, which lands directly on Dave, Brett and Princess. They stand irate in the rain.

52. INT. THE VAUXHALL CAVALIER - DAY

With the view of the wet, mud covered trio through the mirror, Alan and Colin drive away.

There is a break in the clouds for a moment and Alan holds up his '346 - Alan Shearer', moving it a little to catch the light and to make it shine. Alan smiles.

ALAN

This was the best holiday ever,
thanks Dad.

His smile is infectious and Colin smiles as he drives along.

COLIN

It certainly shaped up to be an
interesting one. Maybe we could
camp a bit closer to St. James'
Park next time ey Alan?

Alan's smile beams.

53. EXT. THE CAMPSITE PICNIC BENCH - DAY

Alan's sticker album sits on top of the picnic bench in the rain. It's thoroughly saturated and as the rain gets heavier, the football sticker album drops to pieces and the colours from the stickers run into each other.