

5 INT. WWBG OFFICE/DON'S OFFICE - DAY

5

Ray perches on the desk and chats to Alex, on the couch.

RAY

And you don't do any covers?

ALEX

I have to do a couple because I've only got about thirteen originals that I'm happy with -

Don walks in, typing into his phone.

DON

How much do you want?

SCREEN TEXT/IMAGE

Let's make it 'back in thirty'. Postal horn emoji.

ALEX

That's nice. Hi Dad.

Don walks to his desk.

DON

Hi Alex. How much do you want?

ALEX

Why do you presume -

DON

Quickstix, I'm in a hurry.

ALEX

Okay, fine - I need a little bit of a financial boost - only a couple of grand - and it's an investment.

DON

Oh yeah? In what?

ALEX

In me. I want to record an album.

DON

Oh bloody hell. Is it international day of dickhead children? Comes around quickly, doesn't it, Ray?

He opens a desk drawer and rummages.

ALEX

You're calling me a dickhead because I'm trying to make a future for myself?

DON
A future, Alex, is a real job.
Wailing your sad sack tunes in
between bucket bongos is a hobby.

ALEX
Would you say that to John Farnham?

DON
Oh, he's John Farnham now, Ray. You
wish, my friend.

ALEX
I'm saying that music is a real
job.

DON
No, getting your hands dirty doing
something you hate is a real job.

He searches the pockets of the jacket hanging on his chair.

DON (CONT'D)
You want to record an album -
which, by the way, waste of time,
everyone steals music now - you
work and find the money to make it
yourself.

ALEX
I did work! I went fruit picking
for six months -

DON
Jesus, what is this - a Judi Dench
movie?

RAY
Fruit picking is surprisingly
grueling work.

Don mimes weakly picking apples.

DON
Oh you're right, I need a lie down.

ALEX
Fine, you think I'm lame, whatever.
Can I have five thousand dollars or
not?

He opens a WWBG folder.

DON
Not. Bingo.

He pulls out a string of condoms from the inside sleeve.

DON (CONT'D)

You need to learn to stand on your own two feet.

RAY

Are they what I think they are?

DON

I don't know Ray. Did they have condoms in 1836? That was the last time wasn't it?

ALEX

Why do you need them now?

DON

Because -
(ruffles Alex's hair)
I'm not going to make this mistake twice.
(kisses him on the forehead)

ALEX

Classy.

Don peels off a couple and gives them to Alex.

DON

Worth a lot more than five grand in the long run let me tell you.

Don leaves as Celeste pokes her head in with the phone.

DON (CONT'D)

Back in thirty, Celeste.

CELESTE

Right you are Don.
(she winks)
Ray, I have Yvonne again for you?

Ray, worried, shakes his head at her as she leaves, then looks at Alex, who mopes.

RAY

I think your Dad means well. I can't be certain obviously. Have you done your tax?

ALEX

What? No - I've never done my tax.

RAY

Maybe it's worth looking into. It was always handy when I was young -

ALEX

In 1836 -

RAY

No before that - when I was very young -

Alex laughs.

RAY (CONT'D)

If you've only worked for a part of the year, you might be due for a refund.

ALEX

How much?

RAY

I'm not sure. Could be in the thousands - you'd need to speak to an accountant.

ALEX

Have you got one here?

RAY

Not one that's actually graduated. I like Maree at H&R Block. I'll get her number.

Ray pulls out his phone. Alex looks pleased.