

Social Media 2  
by  
Simon Wiedemann

© 2020

INT: ALAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALAN (20) with long brown hair is seated on a stool and is facing his computer on a desk. His right hand is on a mouse. A cat is sleeping on his lap. Behind the two is a well made bed. On his left are closed curtains.

ALAN  
(talking to himself)  
I haven't heard from my boss in a while, usually he phones me every day. Let's see if he's posted anything on FriendlyFace...

ALAN does some clicking.

ALAN  
Ah, he's logged in. Great. Let's read what he's sent me and the team...

He clicks some more. The cat jumps off his lap and walks around the floor in circles.

ALAN  
(reading from the screen)  
Sorry I haven't been in contact with any of you, as you know my father has been ill for quite some time now, and it is with huge sadness I say he's finally passed away.

The cat mews.

ALAN  
(to the cat)  
Calm down Jaffa Cake, I'm trying to think!

ALAN rubs his chin.

ALAN  
This is awkward, I don't know what to say. Hm. A heart symbol could be taken the wrong way, I'm not in LOVE with my boss... A sad face seems a little too indifferent and even offensive... Let's respond with a crying emoji...

The attention-seeking cat jumps on ALAN'S lap then on his mouse-using hand.

ALAN  
Jaffa, you've clicked on my mouse!

ALAN gasps in horror as he stares at the screen.

ALAN

Jaffa! You've made me respond to my  
grieving boss with a laughing face!  
The face is crying with happiness!

ALAN goes red. The cat jumps on the floor.

ALAN

(reading from the  
screen)

I'm glad I've made you laugh, Alan.

ALAN does some rampant typing as he jabbers.

ALAN

Please forgive me! My cat jumped on my  
hand and made me click the wrong  
thing! I meant to reply to you with an  
upset face, I swear!

ALAN posts the message and sighs with relief. He massages his  
temples as he waits for a response. Soon enough, he speaks  
what he reads again.

ALAN

Do you expect me to believe that?

The cat jumps on his OWNER'S lap and on to the mouse again.

ALAN

(to the cat)

You're doing this on purpose, aren't  
you? Is this because I forgot to feed  
you earlier?

ALAN shakes his head in disbelief.

ALAN

Jaffa, you've made me give my boss the  
finger!

The cat jumps on the floor again and starts to go to sleep. It  
seems at peace. ALAN has some particularly furious typing to  
do.

ALAN

Sir. I know this looks bad, but it my  
damn cat! I SWEAR!

ALAN sweats as he awaits his response.

ALAN

(reading aloud)

I've never seen a swearing emoji  
before. It seems to me you had to go  
out of your way to find it.

ALAN types even faster.

ALAN  
No! I use it all the time on my  
friends! It's saved in my list of  
favourite emojis!

ALAN looks down to the floor. He gets another message.

ALAN  
Alan, do you really think you're  
suitable to be a customer service  
worker? Your communication skills are  
absolutely appalling. I wonder why I  
hired you in the first place.

ALAN smashes his head on the keyboard. He finally finds the  
strength to look up and at his screen. Turns out he  
accidentally gave emoji up yours signs over and over and over  
again. He sighs and types again.

ALAN  
Sir. I KNOW that's hard to explain,  
but if you just give me a few minutes.  
..

ALAN goes white.

ALAN  
He's logged off. Well. That's it then,  
isn't it.

ALAN looks towards his cat with disgust.

ALAN  
You think I'm mad at you, don't you.  
You think I want to get rid of you.  
Well, I don't. You're here with me  
forever.

The cat mews, happily and tired.

ALAN  
BUT now I'm going to get a dog, as  
well.

The cat jumps on ALAN and claws him in a rage. When finished  
he jumps on the keyboard. ALAN stares at the screen in  
disbelief.

ALAN  
Jaffa Cake! You've just sent a message  
from me saying my boss is a bellend!  
How??... How????