

## The Love Algorithm

INT: JAKE AND TEDDY'S DORM LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Messy dorm room with rubbish and clothes everywhere, Jake is asleep on the sofa surrounded by class notes and his laptop. He's wearing a baggy sweatshirt and big rimmed glasses, he has medium length brown hair pushed to the side. Teddy walks in looking through piles of clothes until he reaches a brown stylish jacket. Teddy is tall, blonde and good looking. He throws a bottle directly at Jake's head.

JAKE

Dude what was tha-

TEDDY

So late, so so late

JAKE

What do you mean late? My alarm was set for nine and that thing is super-

TEDDY

Turned off, yeah... that's my bad

JAKE

Why would you turn it off

Teddy takes a large bite of toast and speaks mouth full.

TEDDY

(Barely Understandable)  
Needed batteries

JAKE

You needed what?

Teddy swallows and clears his throat.

TEDDY

Batteries, for the roomba

JAKE

Why did you take the batteries out the... we don't have a roomba, no one has a roomba

TEDDY

Dude we have a roomba its in the kitchen

Sitting on the kitchen floor is a plate sellotaped to a skateboard with batteries loosely attached to the top, The guys look at it briefly before Jake turns to Teddy.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE  
What did you smoke

TEDDY  
(Over Jake)  
I have no idea but thats  
impressive, D'ya think it works?

JAKE  
(Confused)  
How did you even get into  
college...

TEDDY  
Money mostly

JAKE  
Couldn't money buy you a roomba?

TEDDY  
Shut up and get ready

JAKE  
How long have we got?

TEDDY  
(Looks at his watch)  
Ummmmm... class starts about...  
half hour ago...

JAKE  
HALF HOUR AGO?

Jake scrambles to grab his things and change into some new clothes while teddy stands relaxed eating his toast.

TEDDY  
Its only computer sci-

Jake yells from his bedroom

JAKE  
I'M A COMP MAJOR TEDDY

TEDDY  
I mean in my defense it could be  
worse

JAKE  
Could it?

Jake flies into the living room and lands directly in front of Teddy.

JAKE  
How could it be worse?

TEDDY  
(Mouth full of toast)  
Class started an hour ago

Jake storms out the room with Teddy right behind and the door slams shut, moments later Jake emerges back through grabs his laptop then leaves again.

2 INT: COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - MORNING

The lecture hall is half full with about 30 students sporadically spread out, an old tenured professor stands at the front of the class talking in a dulcet tone. Every student is on a laptop.

The door swings open and an out of breath Jake appears clutching his backpack in one hand, laptop in the other.

JAKE  
Im... Im so sorry i'm late my-

PROFESSOR  
Car broke down? Dog died?  
Witnessed a miracle?

JAKE  
Alarm didn't go off.

PROFESSOR  
(Dismissive)  
Take a seat Mr Adams.

The door opens slowly moments later, Teddy walks in casually without a care in the world.

PROFESSOR  
Speaking of miracles. Mr Grant,  
nice of you to join us.

TEDDY  
Morning professor, hows life?

PROFESSOR  
My life interests you as much as  
this class does. Now sit down  
you're looks wont get you  
anywhere in this class.

TEDDY  
I'm flattered professor really  
but I don't think your my type.

A group of girls on the front row laugh, Teddy smiles at them making the girls blush and giggle more. Teddy heads up the stairs to join Jake in a row of seats.

PROFESSOR

Settle down he's a waste of space  
not a movie star

He continues his lecture while Jake sets up his laptop and takes out his notes. Teddy sits back in his chair relaxed, eventually leans into Jake.

TEDDY

Jake, Dude, Jake...

JAKE

What do you want now?

TEDDY

Have you got a pen?

JAKE

A pen?

TEDDY

And like... some paper?

Jake shakes his head and ignores him, Teddy leans back for a moment before taking one page of Jake's notes. He scrunches it into a ball and throws it at the cute girl a row in front.

JAKE

Dude??...

She turns picking up the piece of paper, and smiles looking at Jake. She reads the paper and looks confused.

GIRL 1

If this is a love note i'm not  
overly turned on by compiler  
construction

TEDDY

Oh is that what that was. I was  
hoping it was charming

GIRL 1

Charming?

TEDDY

My names actually Teddy

GIRL 1

(rolls her eyes)  
I know who you are...

TEDDY

Well that's helpful, so this  
might be a big step in our  
relationship but can i borrow a  
pen?

(CONTINUED)

GIRL 1  
You do realise this is computer  
science?

TEDDY  
eh, call me old fashioned

She hands him a pen

TEDDY  
And uh... have you got some  
paper?

She laughs for a moment before turning around and writing  
something on a piece of paper. She hands it to him with  
her number written on it.

TEDDY  
(To Jake)  
And I thought this course was for  
nerds.

JAKE  
How did you...

TEDDY  
(Interrupting)  
Its a splash of technique and the  
fact that I look like George  
Clooney's son

JAKE  
You do realise Clooney has dark  
hair right?

TEDDY  
(Over Jake)  
Details... Anyway I have  
something you are going to love

JAKE  
Oh god what now...

TEDDY  
You have a date toni-

JAKE  
(Interrupting)  
What do you mean I have a date  
tonight?

TEDDY  
Okay, we have a date tonight but  
i promise it'l be way better than  
the twins

JAKE

Parts of the second world war  
were better than the twins

TEDDY

Look buddy, Do you trust me

JAKE

(Without missing a beat)  
No.

TEDDY

Ok let me try this, I bought  
pizza last week and you owe me

JAKE

I owe you money, i'm not a whore  
you can buy for twenty bucks

TEDDY

What whore could you buy for a  
twent-

JAKE

(Interrupting)  
Im not going.

TEDDY

No person sells themselves for a  
pizza thats awful busine-

JAKE

(Interrupting)  
Im not going.

TEDDY

Like its going to at least cost  
fifty and even then you're  
scraping the bottom of the barrel

JAKE

This isn't going to work.

TEDDY

Fine, you don't have to go. But I  
might just have to break out the  
high school musical karaoke  
machine

JAKE

Please do-

TEDDY

(Interrupting)  
Do you want to be Troy or  
Gabriela?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

I'm not-

TEDDY

(Continuing On)

Because last time you didn't  
commit to her solo...

JAKE

(Loudly)

Fine.

The class turns and looks at Jake, including the professor.

PROFESSOR

Do you have a question Mr Adams?

JAKE

(Nervously)

N...no professor, sorry  
professor...

TEDDY

(Mockingly)

N...no professor

JAKE

Shut up, can i focus on the  
lecture now

TEDDY

Sure, wake me up when its over or  
something catches fire.

3 INT: JAKE AND TEDDYS DORM LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Teddy is laying on the sofa barely awake wearing the same clothes from his lecture while Jake is furiously searching through his room. He walks into the living room holding 3 pairs of trousers and 4 shirts.

JAKE

What D'ya think?

TEDDY

It all looks great, might be a  
bit hot though

JAKE

You know what i meant, I didn't  
even want to go on this date

TEDDY

The more thought you put in the  
more the girls will hate it, they  
dont want a well dressed guy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



TEDDY (cont'd)

They want someone they can dress,  
Its like barbie.

JAKE

Im Barbie?

TEDDY

To them yes, They pick you up one  
day and decide to dress you how  
they want. They take you to  
places they want and eventually  
they get sick of you and want a  
new one

JAKE

You are a sick man, you know that

TEDDY

I like to think I see things  
others don't

JAKE

So do the mentally ill.

The door opens and in walks two men mid conversation. Dan is mildly obese wearing a shirt clearly given to him at induction that's a size too big, he has brown khakis and a lanyard sticking out his pocket. Matt is the polar opposite, chiseled chin and muscular, goes to the gym and hasn't seen a donut in 5 years. He's wearing a plain white T-shirt and jeans, basic but it works.

MATT

Why is this even a question

DAN

Because I woke up last night and  
it just came to me

MATT

It came to you? Its not an idea,  
you havn't invented time travel

DAN

But its an important topic, I  
need the answer to

Dan throws his stuff down and falls onto the sofa next to Teddy, Dan heads to the fridge and grabs a soda.

TEDDY

The puppy question again?

MATT

Spiders

TEDDY  
Spiders?

DAN  
Can they fart?

TEDDY  
Can they-

MATT  
(Interrupting)  
Please Don't

TEDDY  
How long has this been-

MATT  
(Interrupting)  
Far, far too long

DAN  
I need answers

MATT  
You need a life

Jake walks in wearing a completely different outfit, Matt and Dan look at him but Teddy keeps staring away from him.

JAKE  
Good?

TEDDY  
Beautiful as ever

JAKE  
You aren't even looking

TEDDY  
But you are always beautiful to me

MATT  
Like a butterfly

DAN  
Like a butter face

JAKE  
This is important

MATT  
Is it though?

JAKE  
I need to make an impression

TEDDY

You need to make a decision

MATT

Shes not going to care what your wearing, Girls want a Barbie

JAKE

Really you too...

DAN

Its a solid analogy

JAKE

Are any of you going to help

MATT

Nope

TEDDY

Nope

DAN

(Mouthful)

Nope

Jake storms into his room and slams the door.

MATT

Is he always like this before a date?

TEDDY

All two times?

DAN

Ouch

Dan takes a bite of the sandwich he made.

MATT

Who are these girls anyway

TEDDY

They're in Thea's Philosophy class

MATT

Thea does Philosophy?

DAN

You'd think thats something you should know to woo her

MATT

Who says woo

TEDDY  
I quite like woo

                  DAN  
The point is surely you should  
know her classes if you ever want  
her to come around

                  MATT  
She will

                  TEDDY  
Its been nearly two years and  
Dan's closer than you

                  DAN  
We do play badminton

                  MATT  
Has that actually helped you're  
dating life

                  TEDDY  
He went twice then faked an  
injury

                  DAN  
My knees are naturally weak

                  MATT  
You could have just said no...

Matt and Teddy start laughing, from inside Jakes room we  
hear fumbling around and crashing. All three look at the  
door and laugh together.

                  DAN  
They cute?

                  TEDDY  
One is

                  MATT  
Dude are you setting him up

                  TEDDY  
I said she was nice

                  DAN  
Did you say she was bubbly?

                  TEDDY  
She's not that bad

                  MATT  
At least it wont be like the  
twins

TEDDY

Why does everyone keep bringing  
that up-

Jake fumbles out his room in a new outfit, he's trying to  
hard.

TEDDY

You're trying too hard

DAN

I think he looks nice, sorry I  
didn't get you a bar mitzvah  
present

MATT

Whens the funeral?

JAKE

Anything els-

TEDDY

(Interrupting)

I think I missed the wedding

JAKE

Im not even wearing a blazer

DAN

(Sarcastically)

He's not even wearing a blazer...

MATT

(Sarcastically)

Not wearing a blazer...

TEDDY

(Sarcastically)

No blazer?

JAKE

Why are we even friends

Jake goes to the door and Teddy follows

MATT

Because you love us

DAN

(Doing a bad jewish mother  
impression)

Have fun kids, don't stay out too  
late.

4

EXT: PATH OUTSIDE GIRLS DORM - LATE AFTERNOON

Teddy and Jake stand outside the dorm building. Jake is pacing back and forth wearing nearly a suit.

JAKE  
Anything else?

TEDDY  
Stop thinking, the more you think  
the more nervous you get

JAKE  
That may be easy for you

TEDDY  
Ouch

JAKE  
But for those of us who use our  
brains it might be a little bit  
tricky

TEDDY  
What I mean is focus on having  
fun not on flirting

JAKE  
I cant do this.

TEDDY  
You can.

JAKE  
I cant, you talk me into shit

TEDDY  
Language...

JAKE  
Fuck off

TEDDY  
It'll be fine. Just breathe

JAKE  
And don't think?

TEDDY  
Exactly

Jake gets right up into Teddy's face.

JAKE  
I. Am. Going. Home.

The door opens and a blonde bombshell walks out.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY  
(Loudly)  
Amelia!

Jake looks at Teddy

JAKE  
Mine?

TEDDY  
No chance.

Teddy walks over to her and kisses her on the cheek.

AMELIA  
Bit early for that?

TEDDY  
Couldn't resist

AMELIA  
(Blushing)  
You couldn't?

The blandest girl you could ever see walks out from behind Amelia.

TEDDY  
Oh this is Jenny

She awkwardly waves, Jake shoots Teddy a look. Teddy fakes a smile.

TEDDY  
And this, uh, hunk is Jake

JAKE  
Hunk?

TEDDY  
Look if you don't say anything I will

AMELIA  
So the bar?

TEDDY  
(Immediately)  
Bar sounds good

Teddy and Amelia begin walking off while laughing.

AMELIA  
You think they will get along?

TEDDY

Oh god no but at least we get to  
have a drink

Jake begins walking and gestures for Jenny to come with  
she slinks in next to him, not saying a word. When she  
eventually speaks its incredibly quiet.

JENNY

What major do you do?

JAKE

Huh?

JENNY

(Slightly Louder)

What... Major do you do

JAKE

Oh computer science, Like  
algorithms and coding.

JENNY

(Sighing)

Oh, that's cool I guess.

Jenny is totally away with the fairies, she couldn't care  
any less.

5 INT: LOCAL COLLEGE BAR - EVENING

All four are sitting at the bar, the two guys in the  
middle with a girl on either side. Amelia is leaning into  
Teddy and eating up every word he says where as Jenny  
couldn't be further from Jake. Shes practically on the  
next seat.

TEDDY

Thats the thing about the locals,  
they just have so much love to  
give and all they want is the  
basics we take for granted

AMELIA

You're so caring

TEDDY

Its the least I can do, give back  
to the community. Make my parents  
proud

AMELIA

I wish I could help out some way

TEDDY

Well we always need more  
volunteers at the soup kitch-

(CONTINUED)



AMELIA  
(Interrupting)  
You work at the soup kitchen as well??

TEDDY  
You know its the least I can do

Jake leans into Teddy for a moment.

JAKE  
Want to say that any more times

TEDDY  
(Under His Breath)  
Want to fuck off?

Jake goes back to staring forward and cradling his drink, Jenny is looking at her phone with a half drunk vodka tonic in front of her. In the previous shot it was full.

JAKE  
So do you do any sports?

JENNY  
I play Ultimate Frisbee

JAKE  
(Slightly Laughing)  
Is that a sport?

JENNY  
(Angrily)  
Its going to be an olympic sport soon so is that good enough for you?

JAKE  
uh, um, I, guess

TEDDY  
You two seem to be getting along great

Amelia giggles while Jenny shoots her a look of utter disgust.

AMELIA  
I need to go to the bathroom, Jenny?

JENNY  
Oh god yes

The girls walk off to the bathroom leaving Teddy and Jake alone.

TEDDY

Could you try and be a bit more interested or interesting?

JAKE

You try talking to her then, ive had better conversations with a piece of wood

TEDDY

So has the wood

JAKE

What was that?

TEDDY

Look, just get her talking about herself, people love talking about themselves

JAKE

Not everyone is yo-

TEDDY

(Interrupting)

What I mean is every thing you say after asking a question should be an and.

JAKE

An and?

TEDDY

The more things you say about yourself the more likely a girl is to dislike it

JAKE

Unless its charity or a soup kitchen

TEDDY

Thats irrelevant, all you need to know is that you are there so she can talk about herself. Every thing you say should make her talk about herself

JAKE

So im a mirror?

TEDDY

Essentially

JAKE

Awful

(CONTINUED)

The girls exit the bathroom, Jenny walks and stands by the door while Amelia walks over to Teddy, she whispers in his ear.

                  TEDDY  
                  Sounds like a plan

She walks back over to Jenny and waits, Teddy begins putting his coat on.

                  JAKE  
                  Are we leaving?

                  TEDDY  
                  Well I am...

                  JAKE  
                  I hate you so much sometimes

                  TEDDY  
                  Look mate i'll make it up to you

                  JAKE  
                  What am I supposed to do now

Teddy slips him a twenty.

                  TEDDY  
                  Have fun

He winks and walks off.

                  JAKE  
                  (Yelling across the bar)  
                  Im not a whore!!

Many people turn and stare at him, he downs his drink and signals the bartender.

6           EXT: LOCAL COLLEGE BAR - LATE EVENING/EARLY MORNING

The door of the bar flies open and an incredibly drunk Jake is thrown out by a bartender the size of a mountain. Jake stumbles to his feet, he can barely stand.

                  JAKE  
                  You think just because you're a  
                  little taller- you ca- you can  
                  throw me about

The door slams shut and locks.

                  JAKE  
                  (Under his breath)  
                  Asshole

Jake stands still for a moment before stumbling off into the night.

7 INT: JAKE AND TEDDYS DORM LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Identical to the last scene the door swings open but in falls Jake, He drags himself onto the sofa.

JAKE  
Fucking Teddy.

He rolls over.

JAKE  
Fucking Jenny

He sits up straight and looks directly at his laptop.

JAKE  
(Very Drunk)  
Emails- I need t- I need - emails

After staring for a second he makes his way to the computer chair knocking over multiple objects on his way through, he jerks the laptop screen open and enters his password wrong twice before getting in.

JAKE  
Right, emails..emails...emails...  
AH

Finally the emails pop up on his screen, he scrolls down and one catches his attention, An OKcupid match. He clicks.

A beautiful brunette appears on screen, he opens up the chat function.

JAKE  
Right smooth, something  
interesting, something to get her  
excited.

He types "Hi".

JAKE  
(Sarcastically)  
Brilliant

The message shows read, she doesn't reply.

JAKE  
Oh come on its open ended I cant  
be that bad

He opens up the next match and sends a simple but longer message, it shows the other person typing.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

Still got it, don't need to type  
"and's" and lie about charity  
work huh Teddy!

He turns around to face Teddy's room, turning back he shakes his head pathetically. His laptop makes a noise, there's a message from the girl but its clearly a spam bot, not a real girl.

JAKE

Are you-

Beat.

JAKE

So I cant get girls to go out  
with me in person and the ones I  
do go out with are Teddy's  
leftovers, even the internet is  
laughing at me.

He opens his coding work and pauses staring intently at it. He begins furiously typing.

FADE TO BLACK.