**Episode 112**

**In Ross’ Kitchen with Amy, Lauren, Sasha and Court looking at Louise stood in the doorway**

Louise – Have you got anything to say to me, then?

Lauren – L-Louise?

Louise – Lauren, I’ve not seen you since Alex and you came over to France on your honeymoon! Court, I’ve heard a lot about you! The door was open, I hope you don’t mind!

**Louise laughs slightly and turns to Amy and Sasha**

Louise – Look at you both! I’ve finally found you, after all this time! How are Imane and Lorna?

Lauren – Never mind that. Why are you here?

Louise – Well I—I read in the paper about Alex! I had to come.

Lauren – You HAD to come? It didn’t cross you mind to show your face before? I mean, how longs it been? Six, Seven months?

Sasha – It’s been years since I last saw you, Louise.

Lauren – Right, and you thought, “*I know! I’ll nip to Habbo Hotel for a visit! Maybe I’ll just pop in at the funeral?*” Who do you think you are?!

Louise – I can understand your reaction. I was expecting it.

Lauren – Well, I’m glad we didn’t disappoint you! So what exactly was the problem? I mean, this is a Hotel in the middle of nowhere, Louise!

Louise – I don’t have excuses! Only reasons and I’m hoping that you’re going to let me explain them! Please.

Amy – You let yourself in, you can let yourself back out again. You stopped being our friend when you went and left us to defend ourselves against Alex!

**Louise begins to cry**

Louise – Please! I just—I just want to talk to you! Please!

Lauren – No. No, Louise!

Louise – Please, can we just talk?

Lauren – You heard Amy; OUT!

Louise – No, please—

**Lauren pushes Louise into the corridor and Louise pushes Lauren away from her, leaning against the wall crying, she holds her chest breathing heavily and drops her handbag, Sasha enters and picks up the handbag, she takes a packet of tablets from the handbag and looks at them in shock**

**In the hallway outside Judy’s flat with Ross and Gemma**

Ross – Do you want me to wait for you?

Gemma – No!

**Gemma sighs and turns to Liam**

Gemma – I’ll be okay, thanks.

**Gemma smiles at Ross and Ross exits. Gemma turns to the door and knocks on it. Judy enters and walks behind Gemma**

Judy – Oi! There’s people sleeping in there!

**Gemma turns to Judy and smiles**

Gemma – How many? Two? Three? Never could keep up with yours and Uncle Rick’s love life!

Judy – What are you doing here?!

**In Ross’ corridor with Amy and Sasha, Amy’s holding the packet of tablets from Louise’s handbag**

Amy – She’ll be fine in a minute.

Sasha – She’s in a real state; we can’t just kick her out!

Amy – She was perfectly well without us up until now, alright? It’s not like she’s seriously ill!

Sasha – Doctor’s don’t just dish out pills like smarties anymore, OK? She must really need them!

Amy – Whatever state she’s in, she’s brought it up on herself! She walked out on me, you, Imane; everyone!

Sasha – Well we’ve all done things we regret.

Amy – If anyone should want her gone, Sasha. It’s you.

Sasha – Look, I’m not saying, “*Let her stick around!*” But let’s just see what she’s got to say! What have we got to lose?

**Sasha looks at Amy and smiles**

**In Judy’s living room with Gemma sat on the sofa, Judy’s stood at the doorway and she passes Gemma some wipes**

Judy – I don’t suppose there’s any point in asking how you did it!

Gemma – Do you really care?

Judy – Of course I care! If you want to take it out on me, then go ahead!

**Judy sits down on the sofa nearby Gemma**

Gemma – I got into a fight.

Judy – Over some bloke, was it? I’ve been in a few of them over the years. Who won?

Gemma – Who do you think?!

Judy – How’s College?

Gemma – I left.

Judy – Good for you! Education’s overrated as far as I’m concerned! How’s things at home?

**Gemma dabs her cut with one of the wipes and Judy walks over to her, taking the wipe from her, dabbing Gemma’s cut**

Gemma – Ow!

Judy – Oh, don’t be such a wimp!

**Gemma laughs**

Gemma – You haven’t changed, have you?

Judy – You have! Nice hair! If you want to walk around like a Smurf on acid.

Gemma – What?

**Judy laughs slightly, putting the wipe on the table**

Judy – It doesn’t matter!

Gemma – Who’s this person you didn’t want me disturbing, then?

Judy – Who said anything about a bloke?

Gemma – There’s always a bloke!

**Judy stands**

Judy – Maybe I just didn’t want you waking up the neighbours!

Gemma – When did you get so worried about the neighbours?

Judy – You don’t me as well as you think you do!

Gemma – Whose fault is that?

Judy – Look, lately things have been complicated!

Gemma – How?

**Connor’s cries are heard from the bedroom and Gemma stares at Judy in shock**

**In Ross’ living room with Court on her mobile**

Court – Alright, I’m on my way!

**Court puts the mobile in her pocket and Lauren enters**

Court – Is Bronwyn OK?

Lauren – Yeah! She’s dropped off, I might go and check on Amy and Sasha; see if they’re okay!

Court – Leave them, yeah? Louise is their problem, not yours!

**Court puts her coat on**

Lauren – Where are you going?

Court – I just got a phone call to go to the police station and they reckon Laura wants to see me.

Lauren – Right, OK. I’ll come with you!

Court – No, I got told Laura just wants to see me.

Lauren – Right...

Court – I’ll see you later, yeah?

**Court hugs Lauren and exits, closing the door behind her. Lauren sits down on the sofa and sighs**

**In the kitchen with Louise, Sasha and Amy. Louise sips a glass of water**

Louise – Thank you. That’s just what I needed! So, what have you been doing all these years?

Amy – Where would you like me to start from? Jamba Closing? Our group tearing apart? This week? Yeah, I think this week might be easier because we’ll be here all night otherwise, wouldn’t we, Sasha?

**Sasha turns to Louise**

Sasha – I told you what we were doing in my letters. The ones that I sent to the letterbox in Australia!

**Louise looks puzzled**

Sasha – You sent me the address on the back of a postcard a few years back!

Louise – I’ve never been to Australia and I never sent any cards!

Sasha – Then how come we—? Alex.

Amy – Why would he do that?

Sasha – Do you really have to ask?

**Louise laughs**

Louise – Australia! Trust him to pick the furthest place he could!

Amy – So where have you been, then?

Louise – For the last few years; the South of France. A little place outside Montpellier. I have a boutique there!

Amy – How nice for you.

Sasha – Why didn’t you write to us? I mean, all these years you’ve been in France, why didn’t you call?

Louise – You know why! You know what he was like; I was terrified of him! That’s exactly why I left. The abuse just—

Amy – Abuse YOU? Louise, he tried to kill us!

Louise – He didn’t have to abuse me! You both know what it was like! I couldn’t stand it anymore, I had to go! I DID come back a few months later to Jamba Lane! I saw Alex come out the Village a couple of times, but you two, Imane, Lorna, Rory and the others; you were all gone!

Amy – Then why didn’t you just ask Alex to explain?

Louise – Do you really think he would’ve told me?! I knew then that—

**Louise begins to cry**

Louise – That I would never see any of you again! That’s when I went to France for a fresh start; I just needed to forget!

Sasha – Why didn’t you ask somebody else? I mean, you could’ve asked Cait or someone.

Louise – Me and Cait didn’t get along at all when we knew each other. And recently I read the story about Alex’s murder and it mentioned the Hotel and that he had left a widowed Lauren, and it took me a few seconds to realise it’s the Lauren which came to France on her honeymoon when I last saw Alex! Then it mentioned you two. My whole past was coming back to me! I know that this must be a terrible time for you all! Have they found the person who killed Alex?

Amy – No.

Louise – Look, I realise that despite what he did to you all; you’re all grieving. But for me this is such a relief! Because, I can finally come home!

Amy – I’m really pleased that everything has worked out so nicely for you!

Sasha – Amy—

Amy – No, do you know what?! SHE NEEDS TO HEAR THIS, ALRIGHT?! ALEX IS DEAD. HE’S BEEN MURDERED. NOW, I DON’T EXACTLY CARE THAT HE DIED, BUT YOU EXPECT US TO SUDDENLY THROW A BIG PARTY JUST BECAUSE YOU’VE ARRIVED?! WELL, GUESS WHAT?! THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME; THIS HOTEL IS NOT YOUR HOME!

Sasha – THAT’S ENOUGH!

Amy – NO, ACTUALLY IT’S NOT! YOU CAN’T JUST SWARM BACK INTO OUR LIVES LIKE THIS! YOU COULD’VE FOUND US BEFORE NOW; YOU COULD’VE TRACKED US DOWN! PEOPLE DO IT ALL THE TIME!

Sasha – She’s right, you could’ve tried.

Louise – I didn’t know where to start. And the longer I stayed away, the harder it got! In the end I just convinced myself that none of you needed me.

Amy – Yeah, you’re right. We don’t. Lauren’s been more of a friend to us than you EVER have been.

Louise – I’m sure Lauren’s been a good friend to you all. But she’s not known you longer than I have; she doesn’t know either of you as much as I do. I’m also afraid her marriage to Alex was a sham. When he died...

**Louise shows them the ring on her finger**

Louise – He was still married to me.

**Amy and Sasha look at Louise in shock**

**In Judy’s living room with Gemma and Judy sat on the sofa, Judy’s holding Connor, Judy’s talking to Connor**

Judy – Are you nice and clean now?

Gemma – I never thought I’d see you playing Mum after Ryan, Amy and Katie. How old is it?

**Judy looks at Gemma**

Judy – IT is a he, and he is two years old.

Gemma – I didn’t think a woman your age could still have kids.

**Judy stares at Gemma madly**

Gemma – Is Uncle Rick the father? Where is he anyway? Did he ditch you all?

Judy – Why are you being like this?

Gemma – Aren’t I aloud to ask questions now? I mean, he’s my family too.

Judy – Oh, really? Here.

**Judy passes Connor to Gemma**

Judy – Hold him a minute.

Gemma – Why?

**Judy stands and picks up the nappy on the table**

Judy – Because I need to get rid of this.

**Judy exits and Gemma looks at Connor, she stands up holding him and looks around the room, she sees a picture of Court and Judy holding Connor smiling and she laughs slightly. Judy enters and Gemma turns to her**

Judy – What?

Gemma – I was wrong Auntie Judy! You have changed.

**Judy looks at Gemma puzzled**

**In Ross’ kitchen with Louise facing Amy and Sasha**

Louise – After Alex I never remarried. I didn’t want anyone to get that power over me again! But I didn’t want to ask him for a divorce because I knew he’d use it to hurt me. So I just put the whole subject to the back of my mind! I forgot all about it.

Sasha – So he lied about everything he said.

Amy – How could he do such a thing?

**The front door slams are heard**

Sasha – Lauren!

Amy – Do you think she heard?

Sasha – I’m gonna go after her—!

Amy – No, I’ll come!

Sasha – Well, who’s gonna look after Gabriella?

Amy – You are, I’m gonna find Lauren.

**Amy exits, closing the door behind her**

Louise – Who’s Gabriella?

**Sasha looks at Louise and sighs**

**In the reception with Lauren looking up at the Dirty Duck Pub. Amy enters, walking down the stairs to Lauren**

Amy – It’s cold here. Lauren, come home.

Lauren – That’s not my home though, is it? That’s my home. All the fighting. Everything I had to do, but now I’ll never get it back. I-I’ve got no claim to it. I’ve got nothing.

**A tear rolls down Lauren’s cheek**

Amy – You’ve got me and Sasha. You’ve still got us, Lauren.

Lauren – Have I?

**Amy sighs, looking at Lauren sadly**

**In Ross’ kitchen with Louise and Sasha**

Louise – I never knew Judy could have another kid! But TWO younger ones now?! I can’t believe it!

Sasha – Believe it.

Louise – What about Amy’s Dad? Is he at the Hotel?

Sasha – No.

Louise – Does he still support his children, though?

Sasha – Nobody’s heard of him for a few months now.

Louise – So, I’m guessing they’re separated? I can see why Amy’s hostile; none of us were that old when I left. But we were all old enough to understand! We all knew what it was like.

Sasha – Yeah.

Louise – Amy never really liked me, did she? You were like a sister to me, than a friend, Sasha. I knew you’d be alright when I left.

Sasha – I was pregnant when you left. Or did you conveniently forget about that too?

Louise – No of course I hadn’t.

Sasha – Really? So when were you gonna ask about my baby?

Louise – I wasn’t sure if it—

Sasha – You weren’t sure about what? I was five months pregnant when you left. Didn’t you want to know what it was? Didn’t you want to know whether it was a boy or a girl? You don’t want to know if it was healthy; you don’t want to know anything at all? No, of course you don’t—

**Sasha begins to cry**

Sasha – Of course you don’t, because all you’ve done since you got here is talk about yourself and how hard it’s been for YOU!

Louise – I’m sorry. I’m so sorry. No matter how hard you tried, no matter what it was; a boy or a girl I always knew that that child would be blessed to have you as a Mum! So, what was it?

Sasha – A girl.

**Louise smiles at Sasha**

Louise – That’s wonderful! What’s she like?!

**Sasha wipes her tears**

Louise – She must be—Sasha?

Sasha – Do you know what? I—I really don’t want you here anymore, and neither does Amy. So, I’m gonna go and check on Gabriella.

**Sasha walks to the door and opens it, turning to Louise**

Sasha – Please don’t be here when I get back.

**Sasha exits, closing the door behind her**

**In the private visiting room with Court sat down at a table. A policeman enters, followed by Laura and she sits down opposite Court**

Court – Apparently you’re going to play guilty to this crime.

Laura – I haven’t got much choice, have I?

Court – No, you haven’t really. What about the rest?

Laura – Sorry, you’ve lost me.

Court – You know what I’m talking about.

Laura – I’ve said all I’m gonna say for now.

Court – I know you’re upset with us all right now, but there’s no point dragging anyone else involved, is there?

**Laura stares at Court**

Court – Just don’t do anything stupid, OK?

**Court stands and walks to the door**

Laura – You know? The only stupid thing I did was come back here. Back here to my loving Sister and my caring friends.

**Court looks at Laura madly and exits, slamming the door behind her**

**At Ross’ front door with Louise holding her handbag, Lauren walks out the living room, blocking Louise from the door**

Lauren – Not so fast.

**Lauren looks at Louise madly**

**In Judy’s living room with Gemma sat down on the sofa, Judy enters and sits down on the sofa nearby Gemma. Gemma pours herself a glass of wine and she smiles**

Judy – What are you grinning at?

Gemma – I think it’s great, Auntie Judy! You finally settling down in a new place and finding someone new!

**Gemma glares at the picture of Court and Judy smiling**

Gemma – Which one of you is the butch Mum, then?

Judy – It isn’t like that.

Gemma – It’s fine! You don’t have to hide it from me! I kissed a girl once, I quite liked it!

Judy – Oh, and don’t tell me; it tasted like cherry chop sticks!

Gemma – Seriously though, I thought I’d never see you going lesbionic! What happened? Thought you weren’t interested in men after your relationship with Uncle Rick?

Judy – You’ve had a plaster and a drink if that’s what you came for. Now you should go.

Gemma – OR...

**Gemma stands and walks to Connor’s bedroom door**

Gemma – I could go in there and check up on my wonderful Cousin!

**Judy stands and blocks Gemma from going into the bedroom**

Judy – No, you’re leaving!

Gemma – Come on, I was only having a laugh!

Judy – The person in that picture is a mate, alright?! And a good one as well!

**Gemma sits down and looks at Judy**

Judy – It’s getting late. Your Mum would be getting really worried, how is your Mum, anyway?

Gemma – Maybe if you called once in a while, you’d know.

Judy – She never calls me or Rick! Not unless she wants something. Is that why you’re here? What is it this time then? Money? Well, I’m sorry but she’ll have to sort herself out this time. In fact, I’ve got my own responsibilities.

Gemma – Oh, really? To that THING? That THICK, STUPID son of yours in there? He’s not even smart, he doesn’t have a CLUE what’s happening! My Mum’s your sister-in-law!

Judy – SHE’S NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH PROBLEMS!

Gemma – I didn’t come here for Mum, alright?! I came for my own back.

Judy – Why?

Gemma – I— The thing is—

**Court enters, closing the door behind her**

Court – I need a drink.

**Court notices Gemma, then turns to Judy**

Court – I’m not interrupting something, am I?

Judy – No. She was just leaving.

**Gemma stands up madly, picking up her handbag and walking into the corridor; Judy follows her and slams the door behind her**

Judy – Gemma, wait!

**Gemma turns to Judy**

Judy – Look, I’m sorry. It’s not a good time.

**Judy gets out a £10 looking at Gemma sadly**

Judy – Here’s the money... If you still want it?

Gemma – Give my love to Ryan, Amy and Katie. Oh, wait... Hang on! You can’t give my love to Ryan or Katie, can you?! Because they haven’t even bothered to keep in touch with you, have they? Good thing Gabriella’s with Amy! And it’s a great job the other one has two Mum’s to choose from; because when you leave it, at least it’ll have a spare!

Judy – Get out!

**Judy opens the door and Gemma walks out, Judy closes the door as Gemma exits. Judy walks back into the living room; Court’s sat on the sofa**

Court – Who was that?

Judy – It’s just a girl that was hanging about outside! She got in a fight.

**Court smiles slightly and pours herself a drink of vodka. Judy looks at the door sadly**

**In the hallways with Ross outside Judy’s flat, Gemma walks out Judy’s flat as the door slams behind her and she turns to Ross**

Gemma – What are you doing here? I told you not to wait!

Ross – Yeah, I thought I would anyway. How did it go?

Gemma – What’s it to you?

Ross – I just—It doesn’t matter.

Gemma – We just had a cuppa; caught up! That’s it. No biggy!

Ross – So you’re not staying with Judy, then?

Gemma – No.

**Gemma looks at Ross and smiles**

**In Judy’s living room with Judy stood at the doorway, Court’s sat on the sofa**

Judy – Are Amy and Sasha still giving Lauren a hard time?

Court – Something like that. I got out of there and went to see Laura.

**Judy sits down on the sofa next to Court**

Judy – And?

Court – And she isn’t gonna make bail, I know for sure.

Judy – What? And do her in for Alex as well?!

Court – They haven’t charged her yet. I’m definitely still in the firing line.

Judy – I thought Lauren pointed the finger at Sophs?

Court – Yeah she did, but they haven’t done anything about it. Laura’s stirring it all up again!

Judy – She’ll calm down.

Court – You didn’t see her. I mean, there’s no one else in the frame for it and Maddison’s obsession with me; Laura’s work might be enough to make something stick. I might not be a freewoman much longer.

**Judy stands**

Judy – Are you staying here again for the night?

Court – Yeah.

**Court lays down on the sofa and Judy walks into the bedroom, exiting**

**In Ross’ kitchen with Amy and Sasha sat down; Amy’s holding Gabriella**

Amy – What do you think they’re talking about?

Sasha – Who knows?

Amy – Do you really want her to go?

Sasha – Don’t you?

**Amy shrugs and Sasha puts her hand on her head**

Sasha – Well you changed your tune! Wh-What about Lauren? How is she gonna feel with HER around with what she knows? It’s gonna be a constant reminder of all the lies Alex told!

Amy – I know.

**Amy looks at Sasha sadly**

**In the Living room with Lauren and Louise sat on the sofa**

Louise – You don’t think much of me, do you?

Lauren – Well, you didn’t think much of me if my memory serves! What is it you called me in France? Oh yeah! “*Tweetie-Pie!*” Always running around like you were something special! Thought you were the Queen of us all! Old head and Young Shoulders.

Louise – If you must know, I was jealous of you.

**Lauren laughs**

Louise – I know that you and—What was his name? Jay had some problems, but you were so tough, Lauren! You’d get through everything; you were so strong for your friends! Everybody loved you. But, every moment that I was married to Alex, I felt as though I was losing more and more of myself, and I always took second place to everyone else.

Lauren – Yeah? Well, that’s what happens when you have friends. You put them FIRST.

Louise – I know you did! And you made it look effortless. I so envied you for that. I know that Alex was impressed, and why wouldn’t he be? You were the perfect wife! The perfect friend! You still are.

Lauren – No. I’ve made plenty of mistakes. Especially with Laura. I—Well, none of us are a super-human, are we? And I don’t suppose you got much support from Alex.

Louise – Well, maybe if I stood up to him more and be stronger—

Lauren – Yeah, I know how he operates. He chips and chips away, until you don’t know who you are anymore, and you do things you didn’t think you were capable of!

Louise – I know, I got to the point where I just didn’t know who I hated more; him or myself! In the end I was scared of—Of what I would do if I stayed.

Lauren – What are you saying?

**Louise shows Lauren her watch**

Louise – I wear this to cover the scar. Like I said; I’m not as strong as you. It wasn’t a serious attempt to hurt me; not really! But it was enough for me to realise to get out of there before one of us ended up dead. Do you understand?

Lauren – Yeah, I understand.

Louise – And the others, do you think they ever will?

**Lauren looks at Louise and sighs sadly**

Louise – I had to try. I appreciate you giving me this time. I know that it’s more than I deserve. Could I use the bathroom before I leave?

Lauren – Yeah, sure.

**Louise stands and exits, Sasha and Amy enter shortly after Louise exit. Sasha closes the door behind her**

Sasha – We’ve been going round in circles trying to decide what to do.

Amy – And we keep coming up with the same answers.

Lauren – Well?

Sasha – Ask you.

**Lauren looks down sadly**

**In Judy’s living room with Court sleeping on the sofa. Judy walks out the bedroom, gently closing the door behind her. She walks into the corridor and exits, closing the door behind her**

**In Ross’ living room with Sasha, Amy, Louise and Lauren. Amy and Sasha are putting a cover on the sofa and Louise is stood by her suitcase**

Louise – This is really kind of you! Are you sure you don’t want me to find a B&B?

Lauren – No, it’s no trouble!

**Sasha puts a pillow on the sofa**

Sasha – Here you go!

Amy – See you in the morning, then.

**Amy and Sasha exit**

Lauren – Right then, is there anything else I can get you before I go to bed? Like a—

Louise – Toothbrush? I always have a spare one just in case!

**Louise smiles at Lauren**

Lauren – Right then, there’s nothing else you need then?

Louise – I’m sure I’ll be fine!

Lauren – Don’t worry about the others! They’ve just got to get used to you again, that’s all.

**Lauren picks up a packet of tablets and Louise turns away from Lauren**

Lauren – Why don’t you take one of these? They can help you sleep!

Louise – Really, Tweetie; you’re making such a fuss!

Lauren – What did you just say?

**Louise turns to Lauren**

Louise – Oh, just—I don’t want to be any bother!

**Louise takes the packet of tablets from Lauren**

Louise – I’m grateful for your concern. But I think I can take it from here.

**Louise exits, closing the door behind her**

**At a Bus Shelter outside the Hotel crowded with people, focussed on Gemma and Ross**

Ross – You don’t say much, do you?

**A Bus parks by the Bus Shelter and people get inside the bus as the door opens**

Ross – Gemma?

**Gemma turns to Ross**

Gemma – Saved by the Bus.

**Gemma picks up her handbag and walks towards the Bus**

Ross – Well, am I gonna see you again?

**Gemma turns to Ross and she kisses him, she smiles at him**

Gemma – Maybe.

**Gemma walks to the Bus**

Ross – Can I have you number?

**Gemma turns to Ross**

Gemma – I don’t have one!

Ross – You don’t have a mobile?!

Gemma – Phones are for people who are all talk! I’m for action.

**Liam smiles at Gemma. Gemma smiles back and waves, walking towards the Bus again, Ross exits, walking into the Hotel. The Bus drives away and Gemma’s leaning against the wall smiling, she pulls out some keys and looks at the Hotel doors**

**In a phone box outside the Hotel with Judy on the phone**

Judy – It doesn’t matter who I am! I’m telling you that I saw her. Yeah, that’s right. Sophie; she’s the one that killed Alexander.

**Judy slams the phone down**

**DON’T FORGET TO VOTE AT “WHO KILLED ALEX” ON THE WEBSITE DAILY FOR YOUR PREDICITIONS OF ALEX’S MURDERER!**

**TO BE CONTINUED**

**Judy – Amy’s Mum**

**Gemma – Amy’s Cousin**

**Lauren – x.ATurtle.x**

**Louise – Alexander’s Girlfriend**

**Sasha – PixelRainbow.**

**Amy – amyrose2024**

**Court – Courtneighh**

**Laura – Sasha’s Sister**

**Ross – Sasha’s Cousin**