

Alex's Bathroom Revisited
by Pat Mannion

GM's NOTES

This room is a response to Escape This Podcast's first episode ever, "Alex' Bathroom". As such, it makes heavy use of call backs, parodies and snide commentary on the original game's design. Use as much of this as you feel is appropriate for your players.

INTRODUCTION

"Ow, my head!" you say, picking yourself up off of a smelly, mustard yellow rug that tugs at the edges of your memory.

"Oh no. OH NO! Not this bathroom again! The last time I saw this rug," you think to yourself, "I was... I was a *prisoner*."

You give yourself a cursory scan for cuts and bruises and surprisingly find none. You're pretty sure you fell as you were unceremoniously pushed into the room, but instead of splitting your head on every sharp edge you recall from this bathroom, you seem to have bounced gently off of... *nothing but soft edges*? And what are these... Well-bevelled cornices and pleasantly angled countertops? It was almost... pleasant. A person could spend a good deal of time in a room like this.

But what KIND of person! Hey, a prison is still a prison -- and whether you've blocked it out or had too much to drink, you're pretty sure that somehow you've managed to *swipe right* on Dexter again.

Calm down. You're a smart person and you can take care of yourself. If some crazy lunatic has locked you in a bathroom... again... you'll simply find a way out. And for now the need to go has subsided... so maybe you should just GO!

Alas, behind you, you hear a click...

OBSERVABLE ITEMS

TV Screen. It's a huge flat screen (probably cost a ton) and it appears to be mounted on the wall. It's a Japanese model, apparently called the "Supa Funtime Basroom Screen." It even still has the price tag, noting that the TV cost ¥30,000. There do not seem to be any controls on the front, however.

Game Console. Sitting precariously on top of a wicker laundry basket is a game console, a Japanese brand you've never heard of, appropriately labelled the "GS1- Game Stashyun for Single Person." It is plugged into the TV screen and it's got wires and stuff on the backside. It is NOT on. There is a price tag on it noting that it cost ¥60,000, but nothing else apart from the wires leading to the TV. There is a controller sitting on top of it.

Controller. It's a wireless controller and it seems to be powered up and good to go. On the underside there is a POST-IT covering the battery compartment:

"So glad I traded that washer/drier combo in for this! Who needs all that when you can just use the sink? Also, the Butt-Button was worth every penny."

Also, from a sticker on the back you can see it cost ¥10,000.

Turning on the controller does nothing apart from displaying a message: "No power. Butt-Button not engaged."

Laundry Basket. It is a poor substitute for an entertainment unit. Moving the console and lid aside you can see that inside the basket is a pair of jeans. Fancy imported skinny jeans from Japan, made with stretchy material. There are a couple tags and also a brand name stitched across the buttocks telling you these are named "Careepi Gai Jeansu - For the guy or gal who knows exactly the vibe they want to give off!".

A note sticking out of the jeans says: "I'm totally getting a refund on these, so don't even count these toward my gaming addiction. Drip dry, indeed!"

There is a price tag on them noting that they were "¥50,000 or \$400 US" The back of the tag says they are "Perfect jeans for singles apartment with no laundry. Wash in sink, dry anywhere! See care label for further instructions."

The jeans are crumpled up in a dried, crinkly ball and resist any efforts to pull them apart and straighten them out. In fact, you're not sure these jeans are still wearable as they seem to have been ripped in half. Which is a shame because it looks like they were never worn.

Poster. On the left wall just beyond the TV is a poster of the "Band on the Run" album, the one where all 9 of the band members are striking James Bond poses against a wall. Beneath the poster you now notice a pile of ripped and crumpled up paper. **[Show players the poster, see below. This is the original album cover, with no retouching.]**

A POST-IT near the poster says: "I really should remove posters instead of just super-gluing a new one over the old one. Oh well, I'm probably losing my security deposit for this."

Further thoughts: It's definitely the Band on the Run album. The one with "Jet", "Let Me Roll It" and of course "Band on the Run". Even if you aren't a 70s rock fan, you remember this to be the best non-Yoko album from the best post-Beatles break up band in the world: Wings.

Further further thoughts: One of them is doing finger gun to the right, another straight at the viewer, and the rest are in the other direction.

Familiar Rug. There is an oddly familiar rug in the middle of the floor. It's nasty. You definitely remember this rug. In fact, it may be the only thing in the room that hasn't been replaced. And if memory serves, it's still pretty rank.

Flipping the rug over reveals that something used to be written on the underside, however it has been worn away through either use or age.

Bath Enclosure. On the far wall is a bath enclosure. Wow, they definitely upgraded the tub area! It's now one of those modern, brutalist installations that seems both over-the-top and exquisitely simple at the same time. At one end is a large button, a lever, and a hole with a plug

in it. In the bottom of the tub is a drain. There is also a hose hanging over the side of the tub. The tub is currently empty.

There seems to be something shiny inside the drain, but you cannot quite reach it with your fingers.

The hose is no longer functional. The fittings have been busted so that it can't be reconnected and the hole the hose would have connected to now has a plug in it. Apparently Alex didn't like that functionality and preferred the tsunami setting. You cannot reattach it, however you can keep the small plug if you want.

Fancy Toilet. On your right is a fancy toilet. It's a thing of wonder, one of those fancy hi-tech ones from Japan. It's apparently called the "Gatchabot". But you aren't sure if it means "Gotcha Bot" like a robot, or "Got your butt" -- either way it's impressive no matter *what* part of you it's got. It has a bowl, a tank, and a control box on the side.

On top of the tank lid there is a... well, something's never change... there's a potted plant! However, upon closer inspection, it appears to be a plastic cactus -- one of those sunlight-triggered dancing toys. It is currently *not* moving. There's a POST-IT covering the battery compartment which reads: "Clearly I cannot be trusted to keep living things alive. Yourself notwithstanding, of course. Wait, I didn't kill you, right? You're the one who escaped... I think." Thankfully (you think) the bowl and the tank are both empty and have no markings.

Pedestal Sink. Just beyond the toilet is a pedestal sink with a mirror above it. The sink is sleek and stylish. Another Japanese wonder. It's on a low titanium pedestal which has a door that is locked and in need of a key. The bowl is simple granite and features a stylish automated spigot. In the back of the spigot is a rod which theoretically controls the sink's drain.

The spigot is state-of-the-art, you quickly notice, for when you place your hands under it, the water automatically flows into the sink... and the water is lava hot. Okay, back to the scalding temperatures! What's up with that?

As for the sink, it is a perfect hemisphere of exquisite Japanese granite with the brand name etched around the rim. The inscription wrapping around the top rim says "Supa Basroom w/c" and the inscription wrapping around the bottom rim says "loo's" (L-O-O-apostrophe-S). So very multi-cultural!

As for the mirror, it's a fancy Japanese brand called the "No Fog! Anti-Obligatory Steam Puzzle Mirror"... you marvel at the fact they had to spell it out so precisely... so mockingly.

Door. Even the door seems to have been upgraded. Hermetically sealed maybe? At any rate, you aren't worried about running out of oxygen as this place seems to be high tech enough. The door is pretty secure, but there's no handle. Pushing it yields nothing and pounding on it simply results in the echoes of your fist falls. There is an electronic panel on the door near the right hand edge. On the side of the panel is a slot where something small like a pin might be inserted. And at roughly that same height on the wall next to the door there is a sturdy metal loop onto which something might be hung such as a small hook.

The panel does not turn on no matter what you do to it.

ACTIONS

Moving the TV. Moving the TV reveals that it is actually mounted on one of those wall-mount arms that allow you to move the screen around and pivot it for better viewing angles. It has another price tag (¥20,000) and a label mentioning how popular it is among single people who don't really need a hospitable guest bathroom, cuz they're single and probably an axe-murderer. Oddly specific, but maybe it's the translation.

There is a warning label admonishing: "Not to be used as a clothes rack."

There is also a piece of denim stuck to it: It's badly dried and clings to the arm as if holding on for dear life. It's just a shred of whatever it once was, perhaps part of a larger item of clothing.

The only thing left on it is a care label which says "Do not launder. Dry clean only. If needed, run under HOT water for a several minutes to release wrinkles."

Pressing button on back of TV. Turning on the TV takes you to a vibrantly blue and vibrantly depressing "NO INPUT FOUND" screen.

Opening the controller's compartment. It contains a battery. Yes it is serendipitously the same type as the cactus.

Sitting on the toilet when the battery is in the controller. Sitting on the toilet, apart from eliciting the most pleasurable possible seat-taking experience imaginable, also produces a small, but audible "beep" from the console.

Turing on console while seated on toilet with a battery in the controller. The console comes to life. If the TV is on, the game starts up. It's a Space Sim called "Beyond the Sun". It looks like this game has been played a lot! Like several hundred times. Someone has a slight video game problem, especially given the expensive accessories. The game basically consists of flying around the solar system, upgrading your ship and racking up points... you know, the kind of thing that makes for scintillating dinner conversation.

Flying toward the sun in the Space Sim game. You can fly toward the Sun. It fills the screen entirely and it rather brighter than you expected.

If the battery is in the cactus, this triggers it to move.

Peeling the poster off. You try to peel it back. It would take months to complete the process, so you eventually give up. It was barely enough to prove to yourself that yes, indeed, the old Silence of the Lambs poster is still there. Thankfully it won't be part of the solution, you tell your bleeding fingernails.

Reassembling the pieces of ripped up paper. It's seems to be some sort of long, handwritten screed. "Hi. I'm holding a party and you are invited because you made a difference in my life.

Once upon a time, I may have dated you, or friended you, or maybe you just delivered a pizza to my apartment and I let you use my bathroom. Whatever our history is, I just want you to know I am a changed person. Whatever I may have allegedly done to you -- and remember that Unlawful Restraint is only a crime if you don't give the victim a means of escape) -- The fact is you escaped! I'm so proud of you! And not just for that, but for helping to make me a new person. After our little *incident*, I had a change of heart. I stopped drinking and taking all those pills. That was creepy. Though not as creepy as the, shall we say, 'Jugular' magazine I had stashed in my cabinet, but still creepy. I also learned the value of a good cold shower, in so many ways. Plus I saved a lot of money without all the pill popping. I dabbled in fashionable clothes briefly, but now, I only have *one addiction* and it's *somewhat cheaper*! Yessir, I cleaned up my act thanks to you, whoever you are. And I cleaned up my bathroom! Isn't it nice now!? I also upgraded a few things and was able to replace all those, um, *scary* bathroom fixtures. Notice how there aren't any more sharp corners! That said, if you aren't able to open the door right away... I've got you covered. The code for the door is -- ah, *this brings back memories* -- ...it's the RUG, the SUM of what I'm *saving* with *no meds*, and the number of WINGS that are LEFT... but really I'm sure this is going to be a great party with lots of guests and y'know what, I think I'm gonna just rip up this letter and just send out an E-vite. Sincerely, Your friend, Alex."

Pulling the rod from the sink spigot. The rod comes free in your hand. It is a slender rod. It is also obvious that there is no way to stop up the sink using the rod now as it will not go back in no matter how you try.

Pressing the bathtub button. Pressing the button initiates a cornucopia of water, spraying out from seemingly every direction. Imagine the Bellagio fountain display but in a small enclosed area. You didn't notice any holes, but clearly there are jets in every surface including the ceiling. It starts off surprisingly cold, and after 5 minutes it becomes unbearably freezing and then almost immediately becomes ice-cold, and all on it's own, it turns off as if the cycle is complete. The water having drained away super fast through the high volume drain.

Pressing the bathtub button when the drain is engaged. Pressing the button does the same as above, except you now have a full tub of water.

Moving the lever. It's an up/down lever and it's stuck in the down position. Trying to move it up makes a clunk noise somewhere, you're not sure where from the vicinity of the drain. If you do it a few times, you realize that the thing lodged in the drain is preceventing the lever from performing its function.

If you have already removed the chain from the drain, it makes a more pleasant noise and remains in the "up" position.

Using the rod on the drain. Fishing around with the rod, you can remove the item that was clogging the drain. It's a short chain of some sort, about four inches long. On one end is a hook and the other end is a short pin.

Trying to trigger the spigot with your hand. It is entirely too hot. You burn your fingers if you run it for more than a moment. It's certainly not enough time to heat anything or soak anything. The sensor definitely is triggered by finger movement, but you'll need something finger-like that can withstand the heat!

Trigger the spigot with the cactus. If the battery is in the cactus and the TV screen is displaying the "sun" from the video game, this is enough to trigger the spigot. Placing the crumpled jeans in the sink allows them to loosen. Eventually they unravel and release a small key. Note: THE CACTUS IS NOW MELTED and cannot be used again to trigger the sink.

Opening the pedestal with the key. Opening it with the key reveals a tiny pair of bolt cutters, along with a note, and a magazine. It's a glossy periodical named simply "CERAMIC CONTAINERS QUARTERLY". The note sheepishly states: "I swear I only read it for the articles! AND yes I know I know... Serial killers are famous for keeping things around to torment their victims...but I'm not a serial killer... promise! Besides, I totalled up all that money I spent on those drugs and it was \$1000 so if you subtract how much I'm spending on my new addiction I'm still *saving*! Although I do miss my Ulti-Flex. Having flexible teeth was super cool. Anyway, I kept these tiny bolt cutters because maybe they'll come in useful again, I don't know what for but. After all, they work pretty good on toe nails! #notcreepy"

The bolt cutters, by the way, are engraved. It says: "World's Tiniest Pair of Bolt Cutters. Just small enough to fit in an under-sink cabinet, just large enough to cut a small chain."

Touching the toilet control box. The box has a small touch screen which lights up, and would allow the controls to cycle between "HEIGHT" adjustment and "HEAT" adjustment. It's currently stuck in "HEIGHT" mode. There are also 2 buttons - UP and DOWN. The screen currently reads "Reset in progress. Enter volume of your tank in deciliters to continue."

Pushing UP and DOWN buttons on toilet. Clicking UP makes the toilet rise up off the floor. If you are sitting on it it's quite a ride. It's almost like being on an elevated throne. There seem to be three settings you can cycle between: Low, Medium and Alpine. DOWN returns it through the heights and eventually back to the floor position. All told, the lowest the bowl can go is a few inches below the top of the bathtub rim and the highest the bowl will go is a couple feet above the sink.

Using the hose to siphon. It is possible to use the hose to siphon water from one receptacle to another. The following are possible if attempted, ASSUMING THE TOILET IS MOVED TO THE APPROPRIATE HEIGHT:

- Tub to toilet bowl
- Toilet bowl to tub
- Toilet bowl to sink
- Sink to toilet bowl
- Sink to tank
- Tank to sink.

Note: The sink will only hold water if you stopper it with the plug from the bathtub.

Siphoning will reveal that the tank holds two sink-fuls of water.

Looking at sink in the mirror. Looking the sink from another angle, well yeah, maybe the “loo’s” (L-O-O-apostrophe-S) part was upside down, plus it’s more of a dot than an apostrophe. In fact, it might actually say 5.00l, as in 5 liters.

Entering 10.0 into the toilet control box. Entering “10.0” allows the control box to finish bootin. You can now access the “Toilet Seat And Bathroom Floor” temperature mode. Increasing the temp warms your bum and the floor.! It also brings out a horrible smell which reminds you of something that can’t quite pinpoint. Looking at the rug’s bottom now reveals the number “0” (zero).]

Attaching the chain to the door. Attaching the pin to the door panel and the hook to the loop activates the panel revealing a 4-digit code entry screen. Entering **0407** immediately springs the mechanism. However, as soon as the door releases, it hits against the chain. Trying to push the door open seems impossible. Apparently it opens inward and is now pressed up against the chain in a way that prevents the chain from being removed at this point.

Cutting the chain with bolt cutters. As you cut the chain, the giant door bursts inward, propelled by some unknown force. The door swings fully open and you see that the hallway outside is a sea of faces, none of which you quite recognize. There’s a moment of silence as you stare at each other and then they all shout at once:

“How long were you going to take in there?”

“What were you doing all that time?”

“Did you know others were waiting... we’ve been pounding on this door for like an hour!”

And then you are washed away by the tide of restroom seekers who are now screaming:

“Ouch the floor is so hot!”, “Who reads this filth!”, and “Who filled the toilet with melted plastic!” as you find yourself back in a party you vaguely remember getting an e-vite for. The house band’s name is Disappointing Toilet. Yep, it’s all coming back now.

THE END



Controller	¥10,000	\$80	
Arm	¥20,000	\$160	
TV	¥30,000	\$240	
Console	¥60,000	\$480	
Jeans	¥50,000	\$400	Jeans are not part of Alex's addiction
Conversion rate: 125 yen to dollar			
TOTAL	¥120,000	\$960	
(Note: \$1000 in meds - \$960 in game equipment = \$40 savings)			

