**THE EXAM - by Alison Chaplin**

Two characters. Male or female. Ages 12 - 18.

Two students exit the exam room. They are carrying pencil cases and maths equipment. One student (SAM) looks stressed, the other (ALEX) looks relaxed.

SAM: So glad that’s over!

ALEX: Me too.

SAM: I couldn’t sleep last night.

ALEX: Why?

SAM: I was so worried. Maths is my worst subject.

ALEX: You need to chill.

SAM: I was revising until midnight.

ALEX: Wow. I don’t believe in revising the day before an exam.

SAM: Why not? That’s crazy!

ALEX: My dad says if you don’t know it by then you’ll never know it.

SAM: I like to be prepared.

ALEX: I was just watching TV.

SAM: I couldn’t sleep.

ALEX: Then me and Danny had a few turns on the X-Box.

SAM: I had nightmares and everything.

ALEX: You never know what the questions are going to be anyway.

SAM: I knew it would be a hard exam.

ALEX: So no point stressing about it.

SAM: But I didn’t think it would be that hard.

ALEX: But it was even easier than I thought it would be.

ALEX and SAM (Together. Realising what the other person has said): What do you mean?

SAM: You thought it was easy?

ALEX: You thought it was hard?

SAM: Oh no. What have I done wrong?

ALEX: You might not have done anything wrong. Don’t stress it.

SAM: Have I given the wrong answers? I must have answered them all wrong!

ALEX: You said maths was your worst subject.

SAM: Yeah but I thought I’d revised enough.

ALEX: Don’t worry. You might be surprised. It might be okay.

SAM: I worked so hard. I don’t want to have to re-sit it.

ALEX: I finished early. Did you see me finish early?

SAM: No.

ALEX: Mr Brownlow stood by my desk for ages. I think he was trying to keep me quiet.

SAM: I wasn’t looking at you.

ALEX: His aftershave smelled horrible. I kept wrinkling up my nose and pretending to gag.

SAM: I was trying to answer question six.

ALEX: Me and Danny were trying not to laugh.

SAM: I think I got it right. They’ll see all my working out anyway.

ALEX: He finished early too…Question six? What question six?

SAM: Yeah. You know, at the back. On that last page.

ALEX: I don’t…?

SAM: The one with the equations.

ALEX: Did I answer that one?

SAM: Did you not answer that one?

ALEX: What was it?

SAM: (To him/herself) Equations.

ALEX: (To her/himself) Equations…equations… Where was it?

SAM: Back page. You had to turn over after question five. You know, the one about fractions.

ALEX: Turn over?

SAM: Yep. Question five – fractions – turn over to question six, then there was seven, eight nine and ten. All on the back page.

ALEX: Six, seven, eight, nine and ten?

SAM: On the back page.

ALEX: I didn’t turn over.

SAM: Oh, Alex.

ALEX: Oh no.

SAM: No wonder you finished early.