

# The Cardboard City of Alextopia

**Documented character design of Alex Macdonald between May - June 2023, and designed cardboard city diorama for the Ability to Create 2023 Exhibition.**

## **The rules of Alex's town-Alextopia - Lore**

The characters of this city are interconnected by a complicated narrative. Set in 1692.

The city is laid out with a recycling dump run by Django, a bookshop run by Chapters the book, town hall, and Sweet dreams, a bed shop for the mayor to shop for a new bed. Through the middle of the city is the main road starting at the bus depo and ending at a line of trees.

Mayor Sleep Deprived Money McMoney Pants- The mayor of this town is overtired. She needs cups of coffee to function, she even needs her own bedtime manager, as well as a sign which says, 'I need coffee'. She lives in town hall, a building of majestic beauty and elegance, right in the heart of the city.

The Night Mayor is dressed in night clothes, holding a teddy bear with one missing eye. She woke up in the middle of the night and decided she didn't need a bear. She wears pink fluffy slippers.

Meetings all day but she looks tired in between meetings. When she gets home, she says 'you will not believe the night I've had.' (window in town hall to see bedroom).

Bazza (Barry) the bus driver was found in an empty VB bottle at a very young age, as he drank the contents of the VB bottle a bus appeared.

Brad the Barista who is a walking talking cup of coffee with arms and legs, knows the mayor personally.

Noel the Night Manager has to make sure the mayor gets to bed at a reasonable hour and has to restrict the mayor's coffee intake to 2-3 cups an evening.

Chapters the Book runs the local bookshop making sure the new releases are in stock- always. He is a walking talking book with arms and legs. Originally, he was a human called Ian Chapterson who accidentally got tangled up in a bunch of books and became Chapters.

Recyclo takes care of the local community park, a recycling bin who has bottles for arms. His eyes are plastic can rings however he has regular legs.

Olga 'The Overdue Book' runs the Library with her husband who is a robot salvaged from the city dump.

Django runs the city dump. The dump has a huge claw used for collecting and sorting the rubbish. Inside the dump there are two control panels. The city was built by the residents out of cardboard boxes from the city dump. 'One man's trash is another man's treasure'. Posters on the front of the dump- part of the mayors plan to encourage people to recycle.

Mr Squiggly Whiteboardous runs the local school, who's face is made up of squiggles on a white board, with legs of pencils. Children from the town attend this school and have no idea what to say to their teacher who is a whiteboard.

Mr Wi-Fi the town Wi-Fi tower, who found an empty wifi tower and short circuited it to provide the town with internet, his face appears as a Wi-Fi symbol.

### **Antagonists**

Litter Bug- a pesky piece of paper with wings

Mr Chaos & Destruction- always causing chaos and destruction, materialising as a whirling cyclone.

The Sleep Zapper- always out to zap the Mayor of her sleep to ensure she will not function, materialising as a bolt of lightning.

Mr Really Bad Coffee- the enemy of Brad the Barista, a stinky old cup of coffee, infested with flies, creating an innocuous gas.

Empty book with no pages and no words, enemy of Chapters-rivalry- 'legend tells of a book with no pages whatsoever'.

Handzillar- escaped from a nearby film set and started wreaking havoc on the city. The monster hand had become too strong, so a shrink ray couldn't be used to shrink it down to human size.

Handzillar is a ferocious hand, spiced together by all the terrifying movie monsters into a hand shape.

Mayor decides to assign a special SWAT team to defeat the hand-zapping it with electrodes to contain it.

The giant hand arrives at the cardboard city to destroy everything in its path... anything it can get its hands on.

Unlikely hero, Bazza finds a way of steering the hand out of the city by feeding it VB to weaken it, Bazza lassos the hand and drags it out of the city. He returns to the mayor and says, 'I thought you might need a hand getting rid of the hand'.

### **The way it is:**

All people will live in harmony, peace and goodvibes. Mayor should not drink too many cups of coffee.

Act in a civilised manor

Be courteous and kind to one another. Remember to recycle.

No villain- all happy people until....

## **Chapter 1 - Mayor waking up for the first time.**

The mayor wakes up, promptly makes herself the first cup of coffee for the day, the first of many. She grabs her coffee sign, ready to leave town hall, when suddenly the sleep zapper shows up to zap her of energy. She slowly makes her way back to bed to catch up on her missing sleep.

In the absence of the Mayor, the town falls into disarray. The mayor is too tired, and sleep deprived to organise a heating system. The cardboard town becomes cold.

Eventually the town is thrown into chaos, temporarily stuck in a time loop because of a weird anomaly; it cannot be described, but we can try .... Mr Squiggly Whiteboardous stopped writing one night which opened up a portal to an alternate cardboard city, a reality in which our sleep deprived mayor was never elected in the year 2039, 347 years after our time. In this alternate town, Chapters was left on the street, offering to write for food, as none of our main characters had jobs. The town is reduced to cardboard rubble. The anomaly blob is caused by chaos and destruction.

Amongst this chaos, the Night Manager becomes involved with a shady underground alliance- the Sleep Zapper, both motivated with their ambition to take control of the town. Noel is seen mysteriously moving in the shadows of the cardboard wreck of a city, torn down because of the anomaly. He ducks into an ally way when the mayor has gone to bed, he creeps through her nightmares, not to be trusted. While she sleeps Noel jumps at the chance to gather his newly formed gang of miscreants.

Meanwhile, in light of the towns recent disaster, Bazza begins to investigate the cause of these disturbances and in particular, the mayors absence. He uncovers the alliance between Noel and the Sleep Zapper. His first plan of action is to alert the mayor, but she is still in a deep sleep. He could go to Chapters who could recommend him a book to try to solve these mysteries.

Bazza uncovers a sleep drainer device, which has been plugged in, feeding straight into the mayors bedroom window. The mayor is not with it at all at the moment.

Bazza can't use the bus to transport the sleep drainer device out of the town because its being controlled by the Sleep Zapper, but Bazza find his old VB bottle, which is hiding a powerful mentor spirit, called Sir Genie of the Beers, made from the liquid of the VB bottle. The Genie tells Bazza of a place called Nowwheresville. Bazza ventures into Nowwheresville, in search of an answer, but finds it deserted. It so happens that a separate anomaly had happened in that town. Bazza goes into an empty shop to get supplies to build a machine to fight the sleep machine. Bazza discovers that of all the animals in this town, he can only see sheep. Bazza says to the sheep 'G'day mate, just in a bit of strife here, Mayors asleep and I need to find a wat to take down the Sleep Zapper!'.

The sheep say to Bazza, 'Maaaaa whhhaaad aaaaare yooooo doooing here Baaaaazza?'. He explains his precarious situation, that he has been told of a prized relic in Nowwheresville which has the power to stop the Sleep Zapper. This relic is the missing piece to his machine to stop Sleep Zappers evil plan, which comes in the form of a permanent marker called 'Sleep Zapper be gone!!'.