

## LOVE Episode Summaries

102

*Gus and Mickey forge a connection as they spend the day wandering around L.A..*

After the 7-11 cashier threatens to call the police on Mickey, Gus steps in and offers to pay for her candy and cigarettes. Feeling guilty, Mickey takes Gus to her apartment so she can pay him back, but she realizes she lost her wallet the night before. Mickey and Gus retrace her steps to Bliss House, where they are now filming a *CSI*-type show. Mickey finds her wallet, but Gus, super nauseous from the fake blood (and his hangover), struggles to keep it together.

Hoping to help a boy out, Mickey gets Gus super stoned and takes him to McDonalds, where he has a paranoid meltdown. Mickey offers to drive him home, but Gus accidentally gives her Natalie's address. When they arrive, Natalie reams Gus out for bringing a new girl over, and while they rehash their relationship, Mickey retrieves all of Gus's remaining stuff (**she also pockets a personal belonging of Natalie's —a sort of "prize" for herself**). On the drive back to Gus's apartment, Gus has an "unburdening" of his possessions, throwing all of his DVDs out the window. At the Oakwood, Mickey tucks Gus **in and writes her phone number on the wall**.

103

*Gus must compromise himself in order to save his job, and Mickey finds herself at odds with a visiting political correspondent.*

Gus wakes up the next morning and texts Mickey, but since she's busy getting ready for work, she forgets to write him back. She goes into the office and greets Rick Reyes a **Republican journalist who's in town** promoting his new book. At *Witchita*, Susan Cheryl (the showrunner) tells Gus that Arya has to pass her state exam or she'll be kicked off the show.

At the book signing, Rick asks Mickey and Claudia (Mickey's moral support for the night) to ask him some left-leaning questions so that he can start a "dialogue." Meanwhile, Gus has an impossible time trying to get Arya to study, and she drops a bowl of hot soup in his lap, prompting him to flick a little bit at her in response. Her parents freak out and try to have him fired, but Arya intervenes, saving his job. Now indebted to a 14-year-old, Gus helps Arya cheat on her exam.

During the Q&A, Rick gives Mickey a verbal lashing for asking a question about women's healthcare, humiliating her in front of everyone. On their way back to his hotel, they get in a huge fight, and Mickey pulls the car over. She gives him a hand job in an attempt to regain power over the situation, and once she gets back home, she finally remembers to reply to Gus's text.

104

*Mickey invites Gus to a party, but social anxieties – and lots of alcohol – interfere with the connection they had before.*

The next day, Gus texts Mickey and asks her what she's up to that night. Mickey says she's heading to a party and invites him to drop by. Gus immediately cancels on his friends and arrives at the party, albeit 45 minutes early. **The host, thrown-off, leads Gus into a room where he watches *Avatar* by himself.** Meanwhile, Mickey and Claudia are still getting ready at their apartment. Mickey tells Claudia she's not going to drink tonight, hoping to take a little social breather.

Gus wakes up, disoriented, and wanders around the party, trying to find Mickey. She finally arrives, but they only talk for a minute or so before she heads off to find an ex-boyfriend. Disappointed, Gus calls his friend Charlene for social backup, and once Charlene arrives, Gus regains his social mojo, flirting with another cute girl at the party. Mickey, however, gets dressed down by her ex-boyfriend for being a narcissist, and when she sees how well Gus has integrated into the party, she decides to start drinking.

With Gus and the partygoers now skinny-dipping, Mickey decides to make a big splash, hoping to draw the attention back to her. She jumps off the trampoline into the pool and lands on Gus, cutting his head open. Mickey sews up his injury and apologizes, leaving him to recuperate inside. Gus starts talking to Claudia, who is trying to erase security camera footage of her vandalizing the car of a guy who dismissed her earlier that night. Mickey walks in and sees them together, and once Claudia leaves, she tells Gus that he and Claudia would be perfect for each other.

## 105

*Gus and Claudia go to dinner together, but Mickey, anxious to stay sober, inserts herself via text message into their disastrous first date.*

Moments after smoking weed in her car, Mickey lies at an AA meeting about her sobriety. Later that night, Gus arrives at Mickey's apartment for his date with Claudia. Even though Mickey and Gus have a great conversation, she sends him off with Claudia, resolving to actually stay sober for the day. Gus and Claudia sit down at the restaurant, but they're clearly a terrible match. Claudia goes to the bathroom to text Mickey about how badly the date is going, but she accidentally texts Gus (in her phone as "Mickey's friend") instead.

Gus, frustrated by Claudia's diss, decides to text Mickey about Claudia's slip-up. Mickey, thrilled with something to occupy her nervous energy, encourages Gus to fuck with Claudia. She also texts Claudia, informing her of Gus's plan. As Claudia and Gus's mischief escalates, they realize what's going on and confess about Mickey's meddling. Claudia tells Gus that Mickey has a habit of setting up guys with her female friends as a way of letting them down easy. Gus, pissed, drives Claudia home.

When Gus and Claudia arrive, Mickey tries to get information out of Gus, as the duo stopped looping her in once they uncovered her mutual meddling. Gus calls her out for playing puppet master and fucking with his feelings. He walks out in a huff and gets in his car, but just as he's about to pull out of the driveway, Mickey runs up, leans in the window, and kisses him.

## 106

*Mickey and Gus's plans for a booty-call fall to the wayside when problems at work – and Andy Dick – get in the way.*

After kissing, Mickey tells Gus they should meet up the next night. This information gives Gus a much-needed boost in confidence, and the next morning at work, he decides to give Arya his *Witchita* spec script. Meanwhile, Dr. Greg asks Mickey to pose a fake caller on his show, but after she describes her budding relationship with Gus, Dr. Greg tells her that she sounds like a huge mess and should stop dating for a while. Upset, Mickey backtracks to more ambivalent plans with Gus, shaking his confidence. He tries to get his spec script back, but Arya has already shared it with a lower-level writer (who thinks that it's terrible).

Suddenly reeling, Gus distracts himself by talking to Heidi, a new guest star on the show. She complains about the lack of action in her scene, so Gus encourages her to “go big” with some kind of ad lib. Mickey heads out to a bar and gets drunk with Andy Dick, who is there with her friends. Andy offers her some Molly, and they decide to trip and ride the L.A. subway.

Gus texts Mickey to check in and receives no response, as she's now underground on the metro. After Heidi goes huge in her scene and pushes someone ~~into a fire~~, Gus slinks out before they find out he encouraged her. Finally above ground, Mickey checks her phone and sees a crazy barrage of texts from Gus all at once. Feeling bad, Mickey texts him to see if he's still awake. He FaceTimes her, and Mickey finds a furniture ad in the subway station that looks like a bedroom. They downplay things and make plans for a proper date the next day.

## 107

*Mickey and Gus's attempt at a first date plays out somewhat in reverse, with the two of them falling into sex before they even have a chance to leave for the Magic Castle.*

The next afternoon, Gus shows up at Mickey's apartment for their date, but before they can leave, they end up having sex. Afterwards, they navigate the post-sex awkwardness, trying to get their date back on track. When they arrive at the Magic Castle, Mickey says she's excited to make fun of all the nerds.

Mickey tries to make the best of it, but when she goes out for a cigarette, the staff refuses to let her back inside. Gus goes out to fetch her, but when they bar him as well, he refuses to stand up to the stubborn staff. Frustrated by the date's failure, Gus and Mickey get into a huge fight in the car, but when Gus tries to take Mickey back to her apartment, she calls him out for ending the night early. They end up back at Gus's, and after Gus performs a sweet magic trick for her, they

have sex for a second time, though it's not as good as before. Afterwards, they watch TV, and Mickey falls asleep on the **remote control**.

## 108

*Hoping to avoid falling into a relationship too quickly, Gus cools things off with Mickey, which sends her into a panic.*

The next morning, Mickey and Gus say goodbye, though it's kind of unclear where they stand. At work, Gus relays the highs and lows of the date to his craft service buddy, who warns him to get out now if he feels like Mickey's the kind of girl who would destroy him. Back at her apartment, Mickey tells Claudia that she's going to let Gus down easy, since there's no way they'd work as a couple. Claudia agrees, and the two of them decide to call in sick and head to a Korean spa for the day.

At *Witchita*, Gus, imbued with a new confidence post-Mickey, finds himself hitting it off with Heidi, so he invites her over to join his weekly *Witchita* hate witch-watch. Meanwhile, Mickey starts to spiral **Kubler-Ross style at the spa**, having not heard from Gus at all (even though they had sex TWICE the day before). Against Claudia's advice, she decides to do a casual drive-by at Gus's apartment to see what he's up to. When she arrives, she realizes he's having a party without her. **Upset, Mickey goes to leave, but is caught by Charlyne before she can.**

Ever the people pleaser, Gus tries to make the best of having both Mickey and Heidi there at the same time. Mickey hits it off with Gus's friends, but she senses that something is weird with Heidi, who Gus describes only as his co-worker. Later on, she sees Gus and Heidi flirting, so she decides to walk out without saying goodbye. Gus texts her to make sure she had a good time, but right after he sends the text, Heidi kisses him.

## 109

*Gus's confidence – and Mickey's newfound lack thereof – set them both toward a path of self-destruction.*

Gus wakes up the next morning with texts from two girls – a landmark achievement. Mickey, on edge from the way the party ended, goes on a deep Gus Internet-stalk. She learns that he's a Prince fan club and was able to figure out where his parents live in a total of twelve minutes. She puts on the Purple Rain album and boasts to Claudia; "I should've been a private detective!" But Claudia is extremely pissed; Mickey forgot to pick her up from Lasik eye surgery.

At Witchita, Gus finds out that the show is buying his spec script, sending his confidence into the stratosphere. He finds Heidi and they hook up in her dressing room, however Heidi reveals some sort of “deal-breaker” that ends up giving Gus second thoughts about her.

Mickey decides to head to an AA meeting. For the first time, she truthfully shares her struggles with sobriety and details her obsession with Gus (and men in general). Afterwards, a woman tells her that there’s another meeting – Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous – that might be a better fit.

Gus gets a text from Natalie that says “I miss you. Can we talk?” High off his own supply, he then makes a fool of himself in front of the writers when he fights changes in his script.

110

*With their emotional and professional lives in varying levels of crisis, Gus and Mickey decide to throw caution to the wind and start dating.*

Mickey goes to an SLAA meeting and encounters people struggling with her same issues, though she refuses to admit she can relate. The meeting scares Mickey. Most of the women are single and content, but is that what Mickey wants? She wants to break her cycle of obsession and self-destruction, but not if it means being alone.

Gus meets up with Natalie, assuming she’s DTF, but Natalie just wants to talk. Gus is embarrassed so he lashes out in anger. Natalie doesn’t recognize this Gus, what happened to the nice guy she fell in love with? Gus tells Natalie he’s sick of getting bossed around by women like her and explains how victimized he felt for so long. Natalie is shocked. “Why didn’t you break up with me if you were unhappy?” Natalie goes on to tell him that she’s been sad these past months, breaking up is painful, they have a lot of memories together and she just wanted to see how he was doing. Natalie isn’t the villain, nor is Gus the victim—these are just two flawed people trying their best. Unable to swallow his pride, Gus storms off.

At Witchita, Gus finds out his script has been totally rewritten. He tells Susan Cheryl that it’s no longer for sale, that he wants it back, and no longer can he bear to “compromise his artistic integrity.” Susan tells him that’s not happening, and Gus storms off the set. Did he just quit?

At the radio station, Mickey is distracted. In between tasks she flips through love addiction/self-helps books, highlighting passages. When Dr. Greg and Sasha ask to have a word with her, she thinks she’s in trouble— would she be relieved if that were the case? Instead they discuss a promotion, would she like to work alongside Dr. Greg exclusively? Dr. Greg stares at her, long and hard-- is he being creepy? Mickey might not be sure about this promotion, but when she asks if she can think about it, Sasha wants to know what her future career goals are. Mickey realizes she doesn’t actually know...

After, Mickey sits in her car outside the 7-11. Maybe she'll run into Gus, who knows? Instead, she runs into Claudia. The two of them sit outside and talk for what feels like awhile. Mickey tells Claudia everything about AA and SLAA, and how sorry she is for being such a fuck-up. Mid-Claudia hug, Mickey sees Gus pull up. She wriggles out of Claudia's embrace and runs towards the fluorescent halo of 7-11, which looks as if it could be both Heaven and Hell.