

= Green Wing Special =

The Green Wing Special is the final episode of the British sitcom Green Wing . It was first broadcast in Australia and Belgium on 29 December 2006 . It was aired on 4 January 2007 in the United Kingdom . The episode is sometimes billed as a Christmas special , although the episode contains nothing Christmas related . The special is 90 minutes long , around twice the length of a normal episode .

The special continues the plot from the end of the second series of Green Wing , which ended with Caroline Todd ( played by Tamsin Greig ) becoming engaged to Guy Secretan ( Stephen Mangan ) , " Mac " Macartney ( Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt ) learning that he was going to die , Alan Statham ( Mark Heap ) and Joanna Clore ( Pippa Haywood ) fleeing from the police after they murdered Joanna 's cousin , and Karen Ball ( Lucinda Raikes ) having a dramatic change of personality after she fell out of a window . While this was the final episode of Green Wing , an alternative ending was produced in case a third series was written . There was an argument between the cast and the writers about which ending should have been used . The special received mixed views from both critics and fans .

= = Plot = =

The episode begins at a funeral , attended by Guy , Caroline , Boyce ( Oliver Chris ) , Martin Dear ( Karl Theobald ) and Sue White ( Michelle Gomez ) . References made in the episode lead the viewer to first believe that it is Mac 's funeral , but then a giant picture of Angela Hunter ( Sarah Alexander ) , who left the hospital in series two , appears . The cause of her death is not fully explained , although comments made by the characters indicate she died in a hunting accident with a moose . The plot then splits between three groups of characters .

= = = Caroline , Guy and Mac = = =

Mac returns to work after a month 's leave . When Caroline meets him she implies that she is engaged to Guy . Mac and Guy are then drunk in a bar , where Mac tells Guy he is going to die in a couple of weeks and makes Guy promise he will not tell Caroline . However , Guy tells Martin , who then complains to him about his selfishness . However , Caroline walks in and overhears the argument . Meanwhile , Mac suggests to Sue that she finds someone else to love . Caroline confronts Mac about marrying her . Mac defends himself by saying it would be better for her to marry Guy because he will live longer . Guy later decides to do the right thing , and tells Mac to propose to Caroline because they love each other . Caroline and Mac therefore become engaged and later marry , where the majority of the core cast are in attendance . At the wedding , Sue is seen with a new boyfriend . The special ends with Caroline floating away into the sky holding a mass of helium balloons .

= = = Alan and Joanna = = =

After being rescued by Martin while they were teetering over the edge of a cliff in a stolen campervan , Alan and Joanna are on the run , believing the police are after them for the murder of Joanna 's cousin . They go to a garage to get the van checked for faults , but as they leave , Joanna accidentally runs over the mechanic by putting the van in the wrong gear and reversing into him . They then try to rob a corner shop and Joanna tells Alan to sit on the shopkeeper to restrain her , but this causes Alan to accidentally suffocate her . Back at the hospital , Boyce begins to miss Alan after discovering his replacement is worse than him . Boyce 's plotline with Alan is concluded when Alan telephones him to say goodbye , almost confirming the strange love they have for each other , but instead telling him ( in code ) that he is " Flying west " .

Later , Alan and Joanna are stopped by a policeman on suspicion of stealing the campervan . Joanna gets her peanut @-@ butter sandwich and smears it in the policeman 's face . Alan and

Joanna have an argument about the minute odds of the policeman having a peanut allergy and going into anaphylaxis , while in the background this is actually happening . They then carry the body of the policeman into the van . Soon , having run out of food and petrol , Alan changes the engine to run on alcohol and fermented excrement . The plan is of no use however , as the van explodes . They soon reach the beach and Joanna gives Alan three options : Give themselves up , swim the Channel to Spain or commit suicide . As Alan is not keen on the Spanish , they choose the third option and they are last seen walking naked into the sea , presumably to their deaths - although the alternate ending shows them hanging on to a buoy sometime later .

= = = Admin girls = = =

Having fallen out of a window , Karen walks into the office dressed smartly and feistier . However , she has lost a hand and her nose whistles when she has an orgasm . When the girls realise that Joanna is not there to control them they start going wild . They start off by doing mild things such as swapping desks and tipping up litter , then become wilder by interviewing people and asking people to pull their trousers down . Slowly , the scene turns into a " Lord of the Flies " situation . They soon begin to argue and Harriet Schulenburg ( Olivia Colman ) decides to become the new Joanna . Martin is captured by Naughty Rachel ( Katie Lyons ) , Kim Alabaster ( Sally Bretton ) and Karen , chanting " Kill the doctor " at him . Martin calls for his mummy ( Joanna ) , but when Harriet comes out into the office she proclaims she is the " new mummy in town " , and he is dragged into the office . However , Martin somehow manages to escape by means unknown .

= = Production = =

The production on the special was similar to that of the other episodes , with the hospital scenes being shot in the usual locations ( the Northwick Park Hospital in Middlesex and the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke ) . The script was written by the usual eight @-@ person team led by Victoria Pile , and produced and directed by the same people who recorded all the previous episodes . The special was recorded at the same time as the second series . The exterior scenes were harder to shoot . In the beginning funeral scene , one of the mourners is Alan Yentob , who had been filming an episode of the BBC One documentary series Imagine . Stephen Mangan said that Martin 's mime during the funeral was one of his favourite moments in Green Wing . The opening titles of the episode differ from the others as it does not use the normal theme tune , " Last Week " , ( as it is named in the original television soundtrack ) and instead uses the track , " Camel " .

There were some improvised scenes . These included a scene in the beginning of the episode where Alan and Joanna are in a middle of a field and the scene begins with a low @-@ angle shot . Later , when Alan is " humping " Joanna , the scene suddenly becomes a crane shot . This is because the crew at the time had a crane camera after they had finished filming the final scenes in series 2 where Alan , Joanna and Martin are teetering over the edge of a cliff in the stolen camper van . The camper van scenes were the hardest to shoot , especially the scene where the van explodes , as this had to be done in one take . Another problem was the smell of the van , which Pippa Haywood said , " smelt of old dogs . " The van also suffered other problems such as bits of the steering wheel and gear stick coming off . Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt commented that the scene where Alan and Boyce talk together for the last time was one of the most moving scenes in the whole of Green Wing . The wedding was shot at Hall of Bayham Abbey in Kent , where the crew had difficulty filming due to bad weather . The show also features a guest appearance from Jeremy Sheffield near the end of the episode as Sue 's new boyfriend .

The DVD of the special was released on 8 January , four days after its premiere in the UK . Features include the alternate ending , a " Behind the Scenes " featurette , 20 minutes of deleted scenes and commentary from many of the main cast , which includes commentary from some foreign relatives of Michelle Gomez who had not seen the show before . Three extra deleted scenes from the special were later released in " The Definitive Collection " DVD boxset .

### = = Alternative ending = =

An alternative ending was made for the special which was never broadcast , but was put as an extra on the DVD . In this version of the ending , when Mac sees Caroline floating away , he runs down the stairs and out of the castle to save her . Caroline begins to descend , and both Mac and Guy grab hold of one her legs to bring her down , but instead they are lifted into the air with her . While the three fly away Caroline exclaims " We 're all going to die ! " , to which Mac quite sternly says " Caroline , there 's something I 've been meaning to tell you " , opening the possibility that Mac is not going to die . Meanwhile , Alan and Joanna , after walking into the sea , are last seen hanging onto a buoy waiting to drown . They are still talking and waiting for the ocean to drown them .

This ending was the favourite amongst the actors . Mangan said that the alternative ending was the best moment in the whole of Green Wing . However , the alternative ending was rejected and the writers favoured the ending that was eventually broadcast . It is believed that the alternative ending would have been broadcast if a third series was being made , as that ending was much more ambiguous , since Alan and Joanna are still seen alive and Mac tells Caroline that he still has something to say .

### = = Reception = =

When the special was first broadcast , it was watched by 1 @. @ 7 million viewers , 11 % of the total audience . However , these ratings are poor compared to other programmes . For example , an episode of Desperate Housewives shown the previous night attracted 2 @. @ 8 million viewers . Responses from critics were mixed . Matt Baylis said , " Like a homegrown ER on laughing gas , this show will be sorely missed , " and Ian Johns said , " It was like a Richard Curtis romcom , albeit one force @- @ fed magic mushrooms . " Sam Wollaston in The Guardian wrote that it was one of the funniest shows on British television , alongside the satirical sitcom The Thick of It , saying , " The Thick of It is clever @- @ funny , Green Wing is mad @- @ funny . " Wollaston said that while the dramatic element of the show , such as Mac 's death , were good , it was Alan and Joanna 's storyline that was most entertaining . " Mark Heap and Pippa Haywood , who play them , have been the shining lights in an already glittering show . They , and it , will be sorely missed , " he said . David Butcher in the Radio Times said that , " Green Wing 's sublime comic acting and a vein of shrieking madness in the writing make it very hard to beat . "

Paul Whitelaw however attacked both the series and the special saying , " This final installment was typically awful , more so considering its length . " Fans of the show thought that while the special was good , it was not the greatest episode of Green Wing made . Some thought the special concentrated too much on the drama instead of the comedy . Some were confused by the final ending and others complained about the lack of appearances made by Sue White .