

THE ROOMMATE

Written by

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INT. A BAR - NIGHT

BRIAN, late 20s, boy next door looks, hunches over his mug of draft.

FURB, late 20s, loafer, sits next to him.

BRIAN

I can't believe this. With the company's cutbacks, I won't be able to afford my place on my own anymore. I'm gonna have to get a roommate now.

FURB

Are you sure they're dropping the axe yet?

BRIAN

Well, no, but it'll probably happen. It always happens.

FURB

That definitely does suck.

Furb scratches his face.

FURB (CONT'D)

I could be your roommate.

BRIAN

Thanks for the offer, but no.

FURB

We've known each other for how long? Besides, these times are crazy and there's crazy people out there. You could end up with a Dahmer or a roommate or Charles Manson, even.

BRIAN

And how would you pay your half?

FURB

Hey, I got money.

BRIAN

Really? Then why am I buying your beer?

FURB

Simple, because it's your turn to pay.

Furb get up from his stool.

FURB (CONT'D)
I gotta piss.

BRIAN
It was my turn last time, Furb!

Furb disappears into the crowd of the bar.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
What a jerk.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

A tall building looms over others against a cityscape.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Brian is in his cubicle. A MAILROOM CLERK comes by, drops a letter in his basket then walks off. Brian opens the letter, reads it. His shoulders slump.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Cherry blossoms line the front of a modest brick building.

Some PATIENTS sit outside on the benches in front as ORDERLIES keep a watchful eye on them.

INT. HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM - DAY

HENRY, late 20s, nerd type packs a suitcase.

CARL, 20s, jittery, sits on the bed opposite Henry.

CARL
I don't like this. No, sir. This isn't a good idea.

Carl chews at a hang nail and continues to rock.

HENRY
This chapter is closed and another one is opening for me. You should be happy.

CARL
I'll be all alone.

Carl jumps off his bed and rushes to Henry.

CARL (CONT'D)
What if you guys can't make it?
Quick! Do something crazy so you
can stay!

HENRY
And jeopardize my possibility of
getting out of here? Absolutely
not!

Henry snaps his suitcase shut.

CARL
Please, Henry. I can't be without
you. Or the many yous, for that
matter.

NURSE BETTY, 60s, prim and proper, appears in the door way.
Carl SQUEAKS and jumps onto his bed.

NURSE BETTY
The doctor will see you now, Henry.

Henry smiles at her.

HENRY
Thank you. I bid you farewell,
Carl.

Henry leaves with Nurse Betty.

CARL
You'll be back! They always come
back!

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

DOC, 70s, sits behind his desk. He pours over Henry's file.
Henry sits ever patient across from Doc's desk.

DOC
Well, Henry, you've shown
tremendous improvement, so much so
that we're releasing you today, my
boy.

HENRY
Really, Doc?

Henry grins.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Does that mean I'm cured?

DOC
Well, recovery is always an on-going process, Henry, my boy. But you're cured enough to be on your own. And that's a huge milestone.

Doc signs some papers.

HENRY
I'll say it is.

Doc gets up, as does Henry. Doc shakes Henry's hand.

DOC
Congratulations.

HENRY
Thanks, Doc. Thank you very much.

Henry smiles.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Henry, suitcase in hand, waves goodbye to Nurse Betty and Doc and walks away.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brian and Furb sit on the couch. A pile of papers sits on the coffee table in front of them. Furb sips a beer.

FURB
So what'd you do? Put an ad on Craigslist?

BRIAN
Yeah, why?

Furb laughs.

FURB
You are desperate. This should be fun.

Someone KNOCKS on the front door.

FURB (CONT'D)

First victim's here. Oh, wait, that might be us after all this is over with.

BRIAN

Why did you come here anyway?

FURB

And miss the crazy parade?

Furb laughs as Brian gets up and answers the door.

MONTAGE - POTENTIAL ROOMMATES.

--HORRIBLE HOBBIT, 20s, sits in front of Furb and Brian.

HOBBIT GUY

One roommate to rule them all.

-- FAT ELVIS, LATE 40s, sits in front of Furb and Brian, lip curl and all.

FAT ELVIS

I'm a mean cook, man. Say, do you like peanut butter an' banana sandwiches? I sure do. Uh huh huh.

-- VAMP/GOTH GUY, 20s, PALE, DARK HAIR, sits in front of Furb and Brian. He stares the two down.

VAMP GUY

I only come out at night.

FURB

Uh, it's the middle of the day.

VAMP GUY

What?

Vamp Guy pulls his cape over himself and attempts to "disappear" in a flash of smoke from a small bomb he throws. The smoke clears and he's still there.

VAMP GUY (CONT'D)

Well, this is awkward. I'll just use the door.

Vamp Guy leaves.

END MONTAGE.

BRIAN

This is hopeless. I'll never find a roommate at this rate.

Someone KNOCKS on the door. Furb gets up.

FURB

I'll get it. It's probably the axe murderer who's finally answered your ad.

Furb opens the door. Henry stands there, suitcase in hand.

HENRY

Hello, I'm Henry. The insanely pale gentleman that just left said you were looking for a roommate.

FURB

Not me, my buddy. Come in.

HENRY

Thank you.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brian and Furb sit on the couch.

Henry sits across from them, his hands in his lap, ever patient.

Brian looks at his application.

BRIAN

You have a very thorough application. With references.

HENRY

Thank you.

BRIAN

Would you excuse us a moment?

HENRY

Sure.

Brian and Furb step outside.

EXT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - PATIO - DAY

FURB

That guy in there, total whack job,
by the way.

BRIAN

He's the most normal we've come
across so far. Besides, this is my
decision, not yours.

FURB

He's wearing a flippin' sweater
vest, it's the middle of July! That
screams crazy, if you ask me.

BRIAN

And I didn't.

FURB

I'm telling you, man, you're gonna
regret this.

Furb shakes his head as Brian goes back inside.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BRIAN

Henry?

Henry stands.

HENRY

Yes, Brian?

BRIAN

Congratulations.

Brian shakes Henry's hand.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

The room is yours.

In the background, on the patio, Furb smacks his forehead.
Henry's face lights up.

HENRY

Thank you. When can I move in?

BRIAN

Today if you want.

HENRY
Oh boy, would I!

Henry picks up his suitcase.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Where's the room?

BRIAN
Right over here.

Brian leads him to a door just off of the living room. Brian opens it.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - HENRY'S ROOM - DAY

Henry's eyes widen with amazement at the single bed and side table. Curtains billow in the breeze from the open window and sunlight illuminates the room.

BRIAN
It's not much but you can rearrange
it however you want.

HENRY
Oh, thank you so much! And before I
forget.

Henry pulls out money from his pocket.

HENRY (CONT'D)
My half of the rent.

BRIAN
Well, rent's not due for another
week but thanks.

HENRY
It's the least I could do, roomie.

Henry elbows Brian and winks.

BRIAN
Right. I'll just, uh, leave you
alone to unpack.

Brian leaves. Henry starts to unpack his suitcase. He looks around then moves the side table over a little.

HIPPIE (O.S.)
Psst! Hey, man.

Henry turns his attention to the mirror and points to himself.

HIPPIE (CONT'D)
Of course, you, man.

The image of Hippie Henry in the mirror rolls his eyes.

HIPPIE (CONT'D)
You need to move the bed too.
Without proper sunlight you won't
be able to grow, man. You wanna be
able to see the sun first thing in
the morning, you know, man?

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Furb comes in from the patio.

FURB
I'm telling you, the dude's crazy.
Sweater vest and all.

BRIAN
You're just mad because I didn't
let you move in.

Furb motions for Brian to follow him towards Henry's room. It appears Henry is deep in conversation with someone.

Furb whistles and makes the universal crazy sign.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Big deal. I talk to myself all the
time.

FURB
Do you answer yourself back? He's
carrying on a conversation with
himself, Bro!

HENRY (O.S.)
Freedom!

Brian and Furb look at each other and rush into Henry's room. They both step over to the window and look down.

FURB
See! I told you! Crazy!

BRIAN
Right. Okay. Well, the room's yours
if you want it then.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSES STATION - DAY

Nurse Betty looks over charts as Doc signs papers.

The double doors open and Henry appears with an ORDERLY on each side of him. They lead him past the nurses station.

Nurse Betty reaches out her hand to Doc and Doc hands her a five dollar bill.

THE END