

THE FLATMATE

by Felipe Tonon

FADE IN

EXT. BUSY CITY STREET - DAY (TUESDAY)

It is a sunny morning. Adam (late 20s) rushes through the pavement while speaking on his mobile.

ADAM

...and is the room still available?

He waits for the response from the other side of the line while still walking on a fast pace.

ADAM

I am in between jobs at the
moment but I have enough...

The person on the phone interrupts him.

ADAM

Oh, company policy! I see.
Well, thank you for your time then!

Adam curses something inaudible, stops to check his phone and looks at the building right across the street. He waits for a space amongst the passing cars, crosses the street on a fast pace, reaches the front of a building and rings a doorbell.

Phil's head (early 30s) shows up on a window a few stores above:

PHIL

(shouting)
Finally! Come on up!

ADAM

Which apartme...

PHIL

(shouting)
Second floor! Hurry!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRS

Adam climbs the stairs as fast as he can and reaches an apartment door barely open. As he tries to knock, the door opens.

INT. APARTMENT ENTRY HALL

PHIL

(shouting from the bathroom)
It's the room on your left

Adam steps in and looks at a small empty room through the door at his left.
Phil comes out of the bathroom's door doing his tie.

ADAM

Hi, I'm...

PHIL

Nice to meet you Adam.

They shake hands briefly

PHIL (CONT'D)

That's the room we spoke about

Phil then goes after a mirror while finishing his tie knot.

ADAM

Sorry, am I late?

PHIL

No, but I am. Should be at work half an hour ago

Phil disappears as he walks into the bathroom

ADAM

(loudly into the bathroom's door)
Should I come back another time?

Phil comes out of the bathroom with a toothbrush in his mouth

PHIL

(while brushing his teeth)
So, you taking the room?

ADAM

Well... I guess so.

PHIL

Awesome! Any chance you have the deposit on you?

ADAM

Actually yes I do

Phil takes the toothbrush out of his mouth and holds it next to his chin.

PHIL

There's just one rule:
be helpful with the cleaning.

ADAM

Got it

PHIL

Actually two rules:
the cleaning one and no noise
unless we're throwing a party

ADAM

I am not really into...

Phil sees that some toothpaste has just dripped onto his tie

PHIL

For fuck sake, again?!

He goes into a room while taking his tie off. Adam follows slowly behind

PHIL

(loudly from his bedroom)
By the way, did you mention
you've done some sentence time?

ADAM

(as if to himself)
Shit!

ADAM

is that a problem?

INT. PHIL'S MESSY BEDROOM

Adam leans against the bedroom's door frame.
Phil picks up a freshly clean tie from a drawer and throws around his own
neck

PHIL

Should it be a problem?

ADAM

It has been... I mean, at least for everyone else

Phil gives up on his tie and puts on his blue blazer as he walks out the
room. Adam turns as Phil passes but remains near the door frame.

INT. APARTMENT ENTRY HALL

PHIL

Nah, I don't give a shit.
Pay your stuff on time and have some
common sense and we're golden

ADAM

Man, thank you so much!

PHIL

No problem, here's the key

Phil pulls a set of keys from his left pocket and throws it to Adam.

ADAM

Really? Shouldn't I sign a
contract or something?

PHIL

(walking around)
No time! I gotta go.
When can you move in?

Phil picks up a briefcase and walks towards the front door.

ADAM

I can come whenever.
Actually today would be ideal.

Phil approaches the front door and holds the door knob.

PHIL

Great! Just leave your deposit on the kitchen table.
Oh! Another rule: no drinking red wine on the couch.
It's got enough stains already.

Adam chuckles

ADAM

Don't worry, I don't drink

PHIL

What?! How can you... Ok!
We'll discuss this later!

Phil walks out through the apartment's door and starts going down the stairs.
Adam looks at the set of keys in his hands.

ADAM

Wait, which key...

PHIL

Figure it out! See ya!

Phil waves and disappears rushing down the stairs.

ADAM (to himself)

Great!

ADAM

(walking out of scene)
Now I just need a job

INT APARTMENT HALL - DAY (MONDAY)

Adam walks out of his room going towards the kitchen while speaking on the phone.

ADAM

And do you know at what time
he'd be available?

INT. KITCHEN

Adam shuts off the stove where an italian coffee maker was boiling and pours himself some coffee while holding the phone with his shoulder.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I called yesterday to schedule
an interview with him...
Yes, I called the day before too

An alarm clock goes off from inside Phil's room as Adam starts losing his patience with the person on the phone. He takes the phone on one hand while the other hand puts down a cup of coffee.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Yes, I applied via the website and
I got a response saying I
should call and book a face to face..

While still holding the phone to his ear, Adam opens the fridge to see a glass with a bit of water inside and a note stuck to it saying "wake me".

ADAM (CONT'D)

No, this was 2 weeks ago...
Yes, I understand that.

He picks up the glass of water and walks towards Phil's room, where the alarm clock still rings.

INT. APARTMENT HALL

ADAM (walking) (CONT'D)

But I was hoping this
interview could happen before
the end of the week.

He stops at Phil's door.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Sorry, could you hold on
a second? Just a second.

Adam holds the phone against his chest, opens the door and enters Phil's room.

INT. PHIL'S MESSY BEDROOM

Adam walks in and empties the glass of cold water on Phil's sleeping head. Phil wakes up gasping loudly.

Adam then turns away from the bed and heads towards the room's door while back on his phone.

ADAM

Hi, I'm back. Sorry about
that. Hello? Hello?!

Adam holds the phone in front of his face.

ADAM

(shouting angrily into the phone)
You cocksucking cunt!

Phil still in bed sees what has just happened.

PHIL

Well good morning to you too
sweetie! Do you lick your
balls with that mouth?

Adam turns to face the bed.

ADAM

(still angry)
What?!

Adam thinks and laughs.

ADAM

Lick your balls?
How does that make any sense?

PHIL

It's better than the
kiss-your-mother freudian shit.

Adam puts his phone in his trousers' back pocket

ADAM

Uhm, fair enough.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Anyways, there's fresh coffee
in the kitchen if you fancy.

PHIL

Oh man, you're a legend!

Adam walks out of the room

PHIL

(loudly to the doorframe)
Thanks for waking me up.

ADAM

(from the kitchen)
That's alright

INT. ADAM'S ROOM - DUSK (THURSDAY)

Adam is inside his tiny single room. The bed is meticulously made. There is a small desk on a corner and nearby there are books carefully piled up on the floor against the wall. Adam is at his desk deeply concentrated studying with his back to the room's closed door, wearing headphones and discreetly shaking his head to an inaudible beat.

Phil is tipsy. He opens the door with his elbow and barges in holding a can of cold beer in each hand.

PHIL

Party time!

Adam doesn't hear or notice anything.

Phil pushes one of the cans against Adam's shoulder as if to wake him up. Adam gets startled and jumps on his feet knocking down his chair and holding a book as if ready to use it to strike Phil's head.

Phil hides scared behind his beer-holding hands.

ADAM

(angry)
Dude! What the fuck?!

They both lower their hands and Adam puts the book down. Phil goes from scared to slightly annoyed by Adam's overreaction.

PHIL

Chill the fuck down!
What's wrong with you?

Both friends are standing up awkwardly close due to how narrow the room is.

ADAM

Me? What's wrong with knocking?

PHIL

(trying a smile)
But I bear gifts!

He hands one of the beers to Adam.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Let's knock these pre-gaming
babies down and go out...

Adam holds the beer instinctively.

PHIL (CONT'D)

...to perpetuate men's ancient
and sacred search for pussy!

ADAM

(losing his patience)
Mate, you know I don't drink...

Adam throws the closed can of beer out of the room and across the door. It hits the hallway's wall and cracks open against the floor.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(getting angry)
...and for the hundredth
fucking time! I need to study!
I need to get my life together
and unlike you I can't just live
for getting drunk and hump any
pair of legs I can find!

PHIL

Alright, alright! Geez!
Enough with the diva tantrum, Britney!
I won't help you into a normal
social life anymore!

Phil turns around and starts walking out of the room

ADAM

(cold)
Thank you!

Phil stops near the door and looks over his shoulder at Adam

PHIL

And by the way,
you owe me a beer

ADAM

Close the fucking door, please!

Phil ignores him and walks away.

INT. CORPORATE CAFETERIA - NOON (A MONTH LATER)

Phil shares a table with other strangers in ties. It is lunchtime and the place is full. He eats quietly when his phone vibrates. He drops the fork and pulls the mobile from his pocket.

SCREEN

Adam: Hey asshole!
I got the internship! \m/
Signing paperwork later today

He opens a big smile and starts typing excited.

INT. CITY TRAM

Adam has a confident smirk. He is standing up, one hand holding to a bar while his body rocks lightly as the tram moves. The other hand holds the phone he's looking at.

SCREEN (CONT'D)

Phil: Fuck yeah!
That means celebration!
No pussying out this time!

His thumb starts typing in response.

INT. CAFETERIA

Phil looks at his phone and reads his flatmate's response:

SCREEN (CONT'D)

ADAM: K! Now stop being
such a bitch about it! ;)

Phil smiles satisfied.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Phil leans with his elbow against the bar. He sees Adam walking into the pub and immediately walks towards his flatmate with open arms.

PHIL

Adam!! Finally

CUT TO:

INT. PUB - NIGHT (HOURS LATER)

Adam is sitting a table waiting. He is considerably drunk and nearly falling asleep. Phil arrives at the spot holding a pint of beer and a pint of water.

ADAM

(speaking drunk)

I couldn't even breath inside
that office today without signing...

Adam struggles to lift his arm and point at Phil's head.

ADAM (CONT'D)

a non-disclosure agreement
as thick as your head

PHIL

Sure buddy, whatever you say.

Phil sits at a perpendicular side of the table and puts down both pint glasses.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Now have a bit of water,
it's gonna make you feel better

Phil pushes the pint of water over the table on Adam's direction but Adam ignores it completely.

ADAM

They're calling it a company
merge, but it's more like some
corporate butcher-fucking

PHIL

You're not making any sense again!
Just drink your water and relax.
We'll be home soon.

Phil takes a sip out of his full glass of beer while he listens to Adam speaking.

ADAM

They're gonna buy Infothought,
chop that company up and sell

each little piece to the highest bidder

Phil raises his eyebrows.

PHIL

(surprised)

Really?! That's some tasty
privileged information
you've got there!

Phil pulls his mobile phone from this back pocket and slides his finger to unlock the device.

ADAM

And this can get us both up
to five years in a Swiss
jail! So shut the fuck up!

Phil looks up into Adam's eye?

PHIL

Five years? How do you...

Phil remembers the answer.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Oh, that's what
you've been in for!

Adam nods in agreement. Phil goes back to looking at his phone and starts typing.

PHIL

Don't worry, it's not my
first time and my broker
is very discreet. He'll
just move some investments
around and we'll make
shit loads of money.

ADAM

Motherfu...

Adam slaps the phone out of Phil's hand, it flies and lands a couple of meters away from their table.

PHIL

Come on! Enough with
your Britney moments!

Phil stands up from the table, walks to his phone, picks it up and his thumbs immediately start moving on the mobile's screen.

PHIL

Done! Sent! Now my broker
is gonna do his magic and
let the money fly in!

Hearing that fills Adam with drunken rage

ADAM

I'm gonna kill you!

Adam stands up quickly and tries to move towards Phil, but instead he trips after his first step, falls face first on the floor and passes out.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON'S VISITATION AREA - DAY (MONTHS LATER)

We see a prisoner's feet walking into scene and sitting on a chair. Another pair of feet walks in, this one with impeccably shone black leather shoes and perfectly fitted formal trousers.

PHIL

You testified against me, huh?
You little shit!

ADAM

Sorry mate, I couldn't risk...

PHIL

(interrupting)
Nah, it wasn't you.
I was balls deep into lady's
justice's asshole.
She had to fuck me back
at some point

ADAM

Still... I don't know...

PHIL

Yeah

An awkward silence takes over for a brief moment.

ADAM

By the way, I've taken your room

PHIL

It's alright. Just don't
do like me and rent the spare one
to some homeless bum off the street

They both smile uncomfortably at each other. Another moment of awkward
silence follows.

PHIL

By the way, I have spoken
to my boss about you

ADAM

Oh right

PHIL

He has agreed to take
you in for an interview

ADAM

Really?! That's great!
Does he know...

PHIL (interrupting)

Yes, and he also knows you
didn't fuck up during my trial
so he's willing to consider you

ADAM

(getting excited)
Man! That would be...

He interrupts himself when he sees Phil's serious expression

PHIL

Yeah! Don't be too happy
about taking MY job!

ADAM

Sorry mate

PHIL

Look at you! Apartment, job..
I guess you got everything you wanted

Adam nods timidly in agreement and another moment of awkward silence takes
over.

INT. SAME APARTMENT'S HALLWAY - DAY

A middle aged female real estate agent walks slowly out of the living room
moving towards the apartment's front door as she is followed by Adam. She has

a friendly german accent and holds a freshly signed tenancy agreement in front of her body with both hands.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

So the landlord was happy to
have the contract in your name

ADAM

Perfect! I'm glad he agreed

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Now, do you plan to rent
out the other room?

ADAM

Nah!

He pauses for a moment until he realises she's waiting him to elaborate on his answer.

ADAM

I hate flatmates!

FADE OUT