

THE FLATMATE

By

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1

EXT. BUSY CITY STREET, ZURICH - DAY (TUESDAY)

It is a sunny morning. Adam (late 20s) holds under his left arm, just bellow the armpit, a brown wooden box. It is narrower and thinner than a shoe box but almost as long. He rushes through the pavement while speaking on his mobile phone.

ADAM
...and is the room still
available?

He waits for the response from the other side of the phone 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!

2

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.

3 INT. APARTMENT ENTRY HALL

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

Adam steps in and looks at a small room through the door at his left. The room has nothing but a narrow single bed with a mattress without bedding and a small white desk in a corner opposite to the door. 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 glances at the box under Adam's arm.

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 touches his pocket as if to confirm the money is still there.

(CONTINUED)

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

Right

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?

4 INT. PHIL'S MESSY BEDROOM

Adam stands by the 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.

5 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
Mate, 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.

Phil starts to open the door to leave but stops himself.

PHIL
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

(CONTINUED)

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 really need a job

6 INT. ADAM'S ROOM - DAY (MONDAY)

Adam's box lays on top of his small desk surrounded by
finance books. He closes the box and walks out of his room
towards the kitchen while speaking on the phone.

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

7 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...

(CONTINUED)

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.

8 INT. APARTMENT HALL

ADAM (CONT'D)
(walking)
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.

9 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.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
(still angry)
What?!

Adam thinks and laughs.

ADAM
'Lick your balls'?

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

Adam puts his phone in his trousers' back pocket

ADAM
Uhm, fair enough. 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 door frame)
Thanks for waking me up

10 INT. ADAM'S ROOM - EVENING(THURSDAY)

Adam's bed is meticulously made. Books are carefully piled up on the floor against the wall. Adam is at his desk deeply concentrated with his back to the room's closed door. He wears in-ear headphones and discreetly nods in agreement to a man moving on his phone's screen. The video is title 'Ethics and Finance'.

Laying on his desk right in front of him there is his open wooden box. To the side of it there's his phone. Adam keeps changing his glance between both objects while his hands move repetitively inside of the box. He holds a small wood carving knife and there is a scrapping sound.

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 closing his box and knocking down his chair. His headphones fall off.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
(angry)
Mate!

Phil goes from afraid 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 to look around Adam)
What's in that box?

Adam tilts his body slightly to block Phil's vision of the wooden box.

ADAM
Nothing!

Phil hands one of the beers to Adam.

PHIL
Well anyways, 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!

Phil still curious, tries to have another look at the box.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Is that drugs? Because I could
really use a line of...

ADAM
(losing his patience)
Mate! You know I don't even drink
and for the hundredth fucking
time

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.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (CONT'D)
(getting angry)
I need to get my life together
and I can't just live for getting
drunk and humping myself
senseless!

PHIL
Alright, alright! Geez! Enough
with the diva tantrum, Britney!

Adam turns back to his desk, sits down and starts putting
his earphones back on.

PHIL (CONT'D)
I won't help you into a normal
social life anymore!

Phil turns around and starts walking out of the room. He
stops near the door and turns back again to speak to Adam
one more time.

PHIL
You shouldn't be watching that
bullshit anyways! The real money
lies behind the lines drawn by
ethics and legality

Adam opens a book and looks for a specific page.

ADAM
That's a popular thinking in
prison

PHIL
By the way, you owe me a beer

ADAM
(without looking back)
Door!

Phil walks away leaving the door open instead.

11 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.

12 INT. CITY TRAM

Adam has a confident smirk. He is standing up, one hand holding to an 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 pussyng out this
time!

His thumb starts typing in response.

13 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.

14 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

15 INT. PUB - NIGHT (HOURS LATER)

Adam is sitting at 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 glasses.

(CONTINUED)

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 profiting from inside
information like this

Adam tries not to burp.

ADAM (CONT'D)
...can get us both up to five
years in a Swiss jail! So shut
the fuck up!

PHIL
Five years? How do you...

Phil remembers the answer.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Oh, that's what you did time for!

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

(CONTINUED)

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.

16 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 justice's asshole doing all kinds of shit

Phil looks down in regret.

(CONTINUED)

PHIL (CONT'D)

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!

(CONTINUED)

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.

17

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.

Adam is now very distinctly dressed. He has a confident
and successful aura around him.

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.

We move away from the characters into the living room. On
top of the dining table we see, from far away, Adam's
wooden box. It is open. We approach and circle the box but
can't see what's inside.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I hate flatmates!

THE END