

The Flatmate

by

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

It is a sunny morning. Adam (early 30s) 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!

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 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 (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.

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?

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.

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

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

INT. ADAM'S ROOM - DAY (MONDAY)

Adam closes a wooden box laying on top of his small desk surrounded by finance books. He 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?

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 (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.

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'?

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

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. 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.

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.

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.

INT. CORPORATE CAFETERIA - NOON (MONTHS 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! My 3 months
probation ended today! I am
permanently employed now :D
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 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.

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

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.

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 Infthought, 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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

ADAM
I hate flatmates!

THE END