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How to Roommate

A Full-length Comedy in One Act by

Claire Caviglia

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CHARACTERS

17 Gender-Neutral Roles*

*NOTE: Smaller cast size possible with doubling.

Can be performed with as few as 6 Actors with “ROOMMATE” roles played by 2 actors.

NARRATOR 1: *any age; passionate about job*

NARRATOR 2: *any age; passionate about job*

STUDENT 1: *high school senior; excited about college*

STUDENT 2: *high school senior; excited about college*

STUDENT 3: *Student 1’s friend*

THE BEST FRIEND ROOMMATE: *late teens; flighty*

STUDENT 4: *Student 2’s friend; high school senior (nonspeaking)*

THE NERD ROOMMATE: *college freshman; studious, eclectic*

THE RAMEN ROOMMATE: *college freshman; obsessed with ramen*

THE POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE: *college freshman; opinionated*

THE DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE: *college freshman; a stickler for the rules*

THE MESSY ROOMMATE: *college freshman; disorderly but friendly*

THE GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE: *college sophomore; eager to share about college Greek life*

THE JOCK ROOMMATE: *college freshman; very competitive*

THE ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE: *college freshman; has been dreaming about college roommates since childhood*

THE RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE: *college freshman; values privacy*

SIGNIFICANT OTHER: *college freshman; protective over Relationship Roommate*

How to Roommate
by Claire Caviglia

THE INTRODUCTION

AT RISE: ***NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 enter from either side of the stage.***

NARRATOR 1

It's that time of year again in high school...

NARRATOR 2

Spring is in the air, standardized tests are being taken, last year's prom engagements are being annulled...

NARRATOR 1

But for the seniors, it's the most important time of the year.

NARRATORS 1 & 2

(Excitedly) COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE TIME!!

STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2 each enter from opposite sides of the stage, carrying backpacks. They each silently talk with a friend.

NARRATOR 2

Where our almost adults find out which formalized institution they will be throwing thousands of dollars at!

STUDENT 1

They said I should hear by today whether I got in... *(Pulls out phone)* Okay, here we go. Checking my email...

SFX: PHONE RINGS.

STUDENT 2

Hey, one second, an unknown number is calling me.

STUDENT 1

I GOT INTO UNIVERSITY OF AVERAGE!!

STUDENT 2

I'M GOING TO MEDIOCRE COLLEGE!!

A NERD enters and stops dead centerstage.

NERD

I got into Harvard!!

*Everyone onstage just looks at NERD.
NERD shrugs and exits.*

NARRATOR 1

These young, naive souls may think that the hardest part of their college journey is over...

NARRATOR 2

But we are here to burst their quickly expanding bubbles! (*Looks at NARRATOR 1*) And I can't believe we get paid for this. (*Crosses to STUDENT 2*) Have you considered all of the details that go into your first year of college?

STUDENT 2

Uh well, I just got in—

NARRATOR 1

(*Crosses to STUDENT 1*) Name the college freshman checklist.

STUDENT 1

Um, what?

NARRATOR 1

There's moving in, being away from home, doing your own laundry, managing your own finances...

NARRATOR 2

Registering for classes, paying for textbooks, going to office hours, passing those classes.

NARRATOR 1

But the most IMPORTANT detail—

NARRATOR 2

The one that will make your first year heaven or hell—

NARRATOR 1 and 2

Is finding the *perfect* roommate.

NARRATOR 2

This individual is the single most important person in a college student's life.

NARRATOR 1

You need to find one that is compatible with you...or else.

NARRATOR 2

Are they neat or messy?

NARRATOR 1

Morning or evening person?

NARRATOR 2

Apple or Android? (*Beat*) The correct answer is Apple.

NARRATOR 1

You could entrust your college with thousands of students to match you up by lame surveys....

NARRATOR 2

That you may not even answer truthfully because you want to find the best one...

NARRATOR 1

Which is why we are here to help!

NARRATOR 2

By showing you many different types of roommates—

NARRATOR 1

We ensure you find “the right vibes”!

NARRATOR 1

After you have seen all of the scenarios, we help conduct an interview process that connects you with your future roomie—

NARRATOR 2

For the perfect first year!

NARRATOR 1

Are you in?

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

You know, it doesn't sound like a bad idea...

STUDENT 2'S FRIEND

I mean, why not, right?

Both STUDENTS consider the offer.

STUDENT 1

I'm in!

STUDENT 2

Sure!

NARRATOR 2

(Very quickly) You'll only owe us 14 payments of \$49.99, but we'll get to that later!

NARRATOR 1

Well, what are we waiting for? *(Looks at NARRATOR 2)* I'll go first.

*NARRATOR 2 leads STUDENT 2 and
STUDENT 2'S FRIEND offstage.*

*Two dorm rooms with two beds each have
been set up on either side of the stage. One
side will always remain the same, with
STUDENT 1'S and STUDENT 2'S assumed
stuff; the roommates' stuff will be switched
when the focus is on the other dorm.*

*LIGHTS CROSSFADE between dorm rooms
between each scenario.*

1) THE BEST FRIEND ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 1

(To STUDENT 1'S FRIEND) You. Check your phone. Now.

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

(Pulls out phone) OH MY GOSH, I GOT INTO UNIVERSITY OF AVERAGE, TOO!!

*STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 1'S FRIEND
scream and hug each other. They run into
the dorm room and excitedly chatter.*

STUDENT 1

(To NARRATOR 1) I think I've found my roommate!

NARRATOR 1

(Turns to AUDIENCE) Oh, to be naive, young souls again.

STUDENT 1

We will decorate our room in our favorite colors!

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

And wear matching pajamas when we sleep!

*BOTH excitedly scream and cheer. They exit
the dorm room together.*

NARRATOR 1

My mom always told me that rooming with your *best* friend is the *worst* idea. Let's see how excited they are a few months from now.

*STUDENT 1 enters the room, visibly
annoyed. STUDENT 1 sets a backpack
down.*

STUDENT 1

We agreed to meet here at 2:30. *(Looks into the fridge; puzzles over it)* Where is my string cheese? *(Closes fridge; sees STUDENT 1'S FRIEND'S phone on the opposite desk)* No wonder there's no answer to my texts. *(Checks phone, sees a text message)* What the heck?

*STUDENT 1'S FRIEND bursts into the
dorm room.*

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

So sorry, I'm late—you know the pedestrians on Yankee bridge get *insane* during passing periods!

STUDENT 1

Yes, I know that, but I also know that YOU have the tendency to always be late. I'm lucky you were just five minutes over this time.

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

Whoa...someone didn't get their beauty sleep last night.

STUDENT 1

No, I'm just frustrated how you don't respect someone else's time...OR property.

NARRATOR 1

(Aside) I bet they're regretting they signed their roommate contract in nail polish right now.

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

What are you talking about?

STUDENT 1

When you left your phone here, I saw you were texting Sam. I called dibs on Sam at the Alpha Beta Apple Pie Lambda party!

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

You CHECKED my phone?!

STUDENT 1

Well, you CHECKED OUT my date!

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

I'm leaving.

STUDENT 1

Good, go be flighty somewhere else.

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND

Whatever, you can just stay here and be jealous.

STUDENT 1'S FRIEND exits.

NARRATOR 1

(Crosses to STUDENT 1) Sounds like a case of the best friend blues.

STUDENT 1

I don't know, lately everything about my *best friend* is—

NARRATOR 1

Annoying, untimely, and irritable?

STUDENT 1

Yes!

NARRATOR 1

You see, all of the quirks you found endearing, the habits you put up with all these years, suddenly become unmanageable and irksome.

STUDENT 1

Exactly!

NARRATOR 1

Not to mention, you are spending 24/7 together.

STUDENT 1

Except Calculus. Bestie over there doesn't do math.

NARRATOR 1

So in order to save your best friend from turning into a frenemy, it's time to cut the cord on this scenario.

*NARRATOR 1 leads STUDENT 1 offstage.
As they're exiting, STUDENT 1 runs back to
grab her best friend's phone.*

NARRATOR 1

LEAVE THE PHONE.

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 exit.

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

2) **THE NERD ROOMMATE**

*NERD sits in the dorm room, studying.
NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 enter.*

STUDENT 2

I thought you got into Yale?

NERD

Harvard. And Stanford, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia...but Mediocre College offered me a full ride.

STUDENT 2

Well, it'll be cool rooming with a live-in tutor. I want to improve my grades in college.

NARRATOR 2

We'll see how long that lasts.

STUDENT 2 shoots NARRATOR 2 a look.

NERD

Great! Then you won't mind twenty-four hour quiet hours in here.

STUDENT 2

What??

NERD

I know twenty-four hour quiet hours don't start until three days before finals, but to maintain my perfect GPA, I need constant quiet.

STUDENT 2

That's a little unreasonable, don't you think?

NERD

You said you wanted to *improve* your academic record. My way or the highway.

STUDENT 2

Okay...

NERD

I also go to bed at 8:00 PM so you need to be in the room by 7:55. My sleep cannot be interrupted.

STUDENT 2

At 8:00 I'm just eating dinner!

NERD

You're not supposed to eat less than four hours before you sleep, I suggest you change your meal habits before you gain the freshman fifteen.

STUDENT 2

I don't care what you think about my eating habits, but I can't be in here by 7:55 every night.

NERD

I'll be forced to lock you out then.

STUDENT 2

I have a key?

NERD

You think I don't know how to change the locks? Really, you should look up more things on YouTube besides cat videos.

STUDENT 2

Whatever, I'll be quiet when I come in.

NERD

I sleep with a knife underneath the pillow. It abides by the 3-inch maximum blade the university allows. But I also sleepwalk, and I have been known to grab the knife when I do. I cannot promise what will happen if you walk in here after I am asleep.

STUDENT 2

Is that a threat?!

NERD

(Coldly) That depends on your definition, not Webster's.

NARRATOR 2

(To STUDENT 2) Raise your hands slowly upward. *(STUDENT 2 abides.)* Now walk backwards quietly...careful not to disturb the predator.

*Once STUDENT 2 gets far enough away,
STUDENT 2 bolts offstage.*

NARRATOR 2, *Cont.*

(To NERD) I suggest you get a single room at Yale.

NARRATOR 2 exits.

NERD

(Yelling after NARRATOR 2) HARVARD!!

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

3) THE RAMEN ROOMMATE

*RAMEN ROOMMATE sits on a bed, eating
Top Ramen or a Cup of Noodles.*

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 enter.

*RAMEN ROOMMATE gets off the bed,
holding onto the noodles while shaking
STUDENT 1's hand.*

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Hey, how are you? Nice to meet you!

STUDENT 1

Nice to meet you!

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Hope you don't mind—I'm ballin' on that college budget.

STUDENT 1

No, not at all! My favorite is the chicken flavor.

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Mine is the beef.

STUDENT 1 and RAMEN ROOMMATE

And I hate the shrimp! *(Both laugh.)*

STUDENT 1

(To NARRATOR 1) seems normal!

NARRATOR 1

Most serial killers do at first.

STUDENT 1 shoots NARRATOR 1 a weird look.

SFX: SOUND OF A MICROWAVE GOES OFF.

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Oh hey, that's my second cup. Do you want it?

STUDENT 1

Sure!

RAMEN ROOMMATE goes to get the second cup.

STUDENT 1

(To NARRATOR 1) I think I'll be fine. You can go ahead and go do whatever you do!

NARRATOR 1

Are you *(Beat)* sure?

STUDENT 1

Yeah, go!

NARRATOR 1

Okay...

RAMEN ROOMMATE

(Handing ramen to STUDENT 1) Here you go.

STUDENT 1

Thanks!

RAMEN ROOMMATE

(To NARRATOR 1) Do you want one?

NARRATOR 1

No, I was just leaving. Thanks.

NARRATOR 1 exits.

*STUDENT 1 and RAMEN ROOMMATE
commence eating noodles together.*

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Your friend seems cool.

STUDENT 1

Yeah, we just met a little while ago...

*The LIGHTS DIM, and STUDENT 1 and
RAMEN ROOMMATE climb into their
respective beds. After a little while, the
SOUND OF A MICROWAVE GOES OFF.*

STUDENT 1

(Waking up) What time is it?

RAMEN ROOMMATE

A little after 2:00...sorry, I got hungry.

STUDENT 1

No problem... *(Drifts back off to sleep)*

*The LIGHTS RESTORE TO FULL and
STUDENT 1 wakes up. RAMEN
ROOMMATE is eating noodles.
The LIGHTS DIM and STUDENT 1 goes
back to sleep. The MICROWAVE GOES
OFF. LIGHTS RETORE TO FULL.*

STUDENT 1 wakes up, irritable. RAMEN ROOMMATE gets the noodles. This whole sequence is repeated three or four times, with STUDENT 1 waking up more and more irritable. Finally, STUDENT 1 slips out of the room during the “night” and calls NARRATOR 1.

STUDENT 1

Get. Me. OUT OF HERE!

NARRATOR 1

(Offstage) Sick of ramen?

STUDENT 1

Our room smells like it *constantly*! Ramen-head over here will make it randomly at like three in the morning! And then host “poor college student” study parties, and I’ll come back from class, and they’ll just be sitting there eating so much dang ramen with red solo cups everywhere! They spill everything on my bed, too!

NARRATOR 1

Okay, okay, I’m coming. *(Hangs up)*

NARRATOR 1 enters, eating a bag of chips.

STUDENT 1 rushes at NARRATOR 1.

STUDENT 1

FINALLY SOMETHING THAT’S NOT RAMEN!!

STUDENT 1 grabs the bag from NARRATOR 1 and starts stuffing handfuls of chips into own mouth.

NARRATOR 1 takes out phone and starts snapping pictures of STUDENT 1.

STUDENT 1

What are you doing?

NARRATOR 1

I could make a meme out of this later.

STUDENT 1 shrugs it off and continues eating. RAMEN ROOMMATE comes out of the room.

RAMEN ROOMMATE

Hey, could you two keep it down? I'm trying to sleep.

STUDENT 1

(Thrusts bag of chips at RAMEN ROOMMATE) EAT. THIS.

STUDENT 1 runs offstage.

NARRATOR 1

(To RAMEN ROOMMATE) You may want to try adding some protein, too.

NARRATOR 1 exits.

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

4) THE POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 walk inside the dorm room. POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE is already inside.

NARRATOR 2

You know, there's nothing wrong with having different beliefs than your future roommate. But there are some that are, well—

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

(Storms up to STUDENT 2) Are YOU a registered voter?

STUDENT 2

Um, uh...not yet.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

Wow, really? I registered the *day* I turned 18. Kennedy Johnson Lincoln.

STUDENT 2

Um, are you listing presidents?

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

No, that's my name!

NARRATOR 2

(Snorts) Really?

STUDENT 2

Well, um, my name is John.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

Nice to—

STUDENT 2

Wilkes. Booth.

Long pause. POLITICAL PROBLEM, STUDENT 2, and NARRATOR 2 all stare at each other. POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE bursts out laughing.)

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

It's people like you who will make America awesome again!

NARRATOR 2

Oh dear.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

Quick, let's take a pic on Snapchat. OMG, my caption for you this year will be #IMWITHHIM/HER.

STUDENT 2

Wait, what candidate are you voting for?

NARRATOR 2

(Sarcastically) What's your major?

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

So many questions! It's okay, my five years of public speaking classes and lifelong passion of listening to politicians speak at press conferences have prepared me for this moment.

*POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE
snaps fingers. A podium is rolled out.
POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE steps
up to it.*

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

(Deepens voice) To answer the first question poised, it is still up in the air, and I am carefully considering politicians on both sides. To answer this unpoised question, yes I am a registered independent. But I still have time to register with a party to vote for the certain primary I choose to affiliate myself with this year. To answer your second question: accounting.

STUDENT 2

Oh. Not-

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

What president have you heard of that majored in *(Whispers with a shudder)* political science.

NARRATOR 2

That is a surprisingly good point.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

I'm full of them-which is why I will make America awesome again. *(Beat)* Now let's take a Bush picture!

STUDENT 2

Huh?

*POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE
whips out 3 "heads" on popsicle sticks of
George Bush, George W. Bush, and an
actual bush. POLITICAL PROBLEM
ROOMMATE hands one each to STUDENT
2 and NARRATOR 2.*

NARRATOR 2

Didn't you forget about Jeb Bush?

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

(Smugly) Didn't everyone?

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

snaps a picture of the three of them with the Bushes over their faces.

STUDENT 2

(To NARRATOR 2) Okay, I think I've seen enough of this one.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

Wait, you're leaving?!

NARRATOR 2

Yes, it's how this goes.

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

But, but we haven't discussed issues and candidates yet! Or played Supreme Court Monopoly!
Or watched reruns of C-SPAN!!

STUDENT 2

As fun as that sounds...no. Goodbye now.

*STUDENT 2 and NARRATOR 2 exit
offstage.*

POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE

William Henry Harrison even lasted longer than you two! *(Turns to audience)* 32 days. As
President. And then he died in office. *(Looks at watch)* The debate is about to start!

*POLITICAL PROBLEM ROOMMATE runs
offstage.*

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

5) THE DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 enter the dorm room. There is no roommate or things to be found.

STUDENT 1

What is this...a roommate that is never here?

NARRATOR 1

No, this is how to room with your drug dealer.

STUDENT 1

I don't do drugs!

NARRATOR 1

Kidding, kidding! *(Beat)* But caffeine *is* a drug.

STUDENT 1

(Seriously) I wouldn't go to college if I couldn't have my Keurig.

NARRATOR 1

We'll see about that.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE enters.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Sorry I'm late! I had to stab myself with my EpiPen.

STUDENT 1

Oh my gosh, are you allergic to something?

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE just smiles at STUDENT 1 then reaches behind and unrolls a huge Santa-Clause-type Nice/Naughty list. DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE hands the list to STUDENT 1. STUDENT 1 reads the list out loud.

STUDENT 1

Oh, gluten free. Okay. Lots of people are.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

I have a *real* allergy. Not this trendy garbage.

STUDENT 1

Oh, wow. Didn't think that really existed! (*Laughs; DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE is not amused.*) Umm, oh. Dairy-free, too?

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Once again, a real allergy. Sorry, can't join you on cute little froyo runs.

STUDENT 1

(*Jokingly*) I guess it's not *fro-you*!

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE does not laugh. STUDENT 1 hisses to NARRATOR.

STUDENT 1, *Cont.*

You gave me a food-less roommate, you didn't have to give me a humorless one, too!

NARRATOR 1 just shrugs.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Let's keep moving; the quicker this is over, the better. I have stuff to unpack.

NARRATOR 1

Obviously not food!

STUDENT 1

(*Still reading list*) Peanut allergy.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

That's what the Epipen is for.

STUDENT 1

Yellow dye No. 2.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

No can do.

STUDENT 1

Vegetarian?! (*Looks at DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE*) Can you eat anything?

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Would you like a gluten free vegan tofu nugget? (*Beat*) Also, the smell of coffee gives me *horrible* headaches.

STUDENT 1

So I can't drink coffee around you?

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Guess you'll have to get used to herbal tea! (*STUDENT 1 groans.*) I'll take the list back. I'll laminate a copy and put it by the fridge so you don't forget.

NARRATOR 1

Oh, we won't be forgetting anything for a long time!

STUDENT 1

(*Handing list back to DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE*) Well, I'm sorry your life sucks.

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

Oh, you'll be abiding by this list, too.

STUDENT 1

WHAT!??

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

I can't be tempted in the slightest. (*Beat*) Would you want me to die?

STUDENT 1

Well, no, but—

DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE

That settles it. Let me go grab my raw potatoes.

*DIETARY RESTRICTION ROOMMATE
exits.*

NARRATOR 1

What are your thoughts?

STUDENT 1

On *that* piece of work?

NARRATOR 1

On all of your potential roommates.

STUDENT 1

Seven billion people create a lot of weirdos in this world.

NARRATOR 1

That would make a good Twitter bio.

STUDENT 1

(Sarcastically) Great, let me go change mine right now!

NARRATOR 1

Come on, you're tired. Let's revive your little college body with some ramen and some cheese-whiz.

STUDENT 1

Ugh, anything *but* ramen. I'm still scarred. But let's make it something with lots of gluten.

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 exit.

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

6) THE MESSY (ROOM)MATE

*NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 walk
onstage, outside of the dorm room.*

STUDENT 2

Do you...smell that?

NARRATOR 2

(Sniffs air) It smells like two-day old fried chicken and a four day old peanut butter and banana sandwich. Both eaten on 20% recyclable paper products. *(Beat)* I've been doing this for a long time.

STUDENT 2 and NARRATOR 2 walk into the dorm room. The roommate's side is filthy, with plates, clothes, leftover food. But MESSY MATE is nowhere to be found.

STUDENT 2

HOLY—

As STUDENT 2 is mouthing the last word, presumably a cuss word, SFX: A CENSOR BEEP "BEEEEEEEEPS" out the word.

STUDENT 2, *Cont.*

(To AUDIENCE) Sorry kids, that won't happen again! *(Making face; horrible smell)* Not only does it reek, but look at it?! This is disgusting!! It's like Hoarding: Buried Alive!

STUDENT 2 starts to clean up the room. As STUDENT 2 approaches the bed, cleaning, MESSY MATE appears from under the bed, scaring STUDENT 2.

STUDENT 2, *Cont.*

HOLY—

SFX: CENSOR BEEEEEEEEEP.

MESSY MATE

At least you're talking in front of my back instead of behind it!

STUDENT 2

Sorry – I didn't know –

MESSY MATE

It's okay! (*Gets up from under the bed; scratches an arm*) I got to move in a week early! I'm in the leadership program, and that's one of the perks.

NARRATOR 2

(*Whispers to STUDENT 2*) Leader of dumpster dives.

STUDENT 2

Oh, that's awesome. What were you in charge of in high school?

MESSY MATE

I was homeschooled, but I was in charge of the school district's recycling program!

NARRATOR 2 laughs.

The best part is that I got to keep a cut of the money when we turned recyclables in!

NARRATOR 2

What did you buy?... (*To the AUDIENCE*) ...Obviously not a broom.

MESSY MATE

I took my mom to Hawaii.

STUDENT 2

Oh wow, you got a lot of money!

NARRATOR 2

From all of the cans...that were probably kept in the house...soda seeping everywhere...

STUDENT 2 elbows NARRATOR 2.

MESSY MATE

I want to recycle here, too. Get a bigger blue bin so we can store more. I'll give you a cut of money if you want.

STUDENT 2

Well, as long as it leaves room for my things, I'm in.

MESSY MATE

Of course! (*Scratches leg*) But I don't know if our other roomies will!

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2

What other roommates?

MESSY MATE

(Scratches face) Bedbugs!

STUDENT 2

We. Have. BEDBUGS?!

MESSY MATE

Just kidding! Boy, you should've seen both your faces!

STUDENT 2

(Mumbling) Just wait until you see your face when I'm done...

MESSY MATE

Yeah, I was talking to the RA, and she just said that bedbugs are pretty common in dorms. She said to check the bed frame occasionally, and you'll see bugs if you do have them. I did, but all I saw was brown lint. *(Scratches neck)*

NARRATOR 2

Well, that's good.

MESSY MATE

Yeah, another thing is that you'll see some blood spots on your sheets. Good thing I only have dried chocolate on mine!

STUDENT 2

Oh no.

MESSY MATE

And the last thing is that we'll be scratching all over! *(Scratches hair)*

STUDENT 2

(Scratches arm; to NARRATOR 2) Let's go. I can't do this.

NARRATOR 2

(Scratches back) Agreed.

STUDENT 2 and NARRATOR 2 quickly exit.

MESSY MATE

(To an empty stage) So you guys grabbing your stuff or something?

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

7) THE GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

STUDENT 1 and NARRATOR 1 enter the room. It is filled with all sorts of Greek letters.

NARRATOR 1

This wasn't the alphabet I was taught in elementary school...

STUDENT 1

That triangle one...we learned about it in AP Bio. It's the delta...it means change.

*GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE turns around.
NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 didn't notice GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE in the room.*

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

And imagine how much your life will change when you join Greek Life!!

STUDENT 1

(Startled) Oh hi, didn't see you there!

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

What can I say, I just blend in with my letters....I don't just wear them on my sleeve...I wear them all over.

NARRATOR 1

I'm feeling some gnarly spring break tattoos coming your way soon.

STUDENT 1

So you're already in Greek life? As a freshman?

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Technically, I'm a sophomore-I was at Convenient College last year, but overall it didn't jive well. However, I did join a Greek chapter! And the best part is that they have my chapter here at the University of Mediocre!

NARRATOR 1

Heaven forbid your Greek shirts are rendered useless...

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

(Serious, to NARRATOR 1) It would be a tragedy. *(Beat, to STUDENT 1)* So what chapter are you going to join?! Aiming for top-tier? Or are you passionate about a certain philanthropy?

STUDENT 1

There are tiers?

NARRATOR 1

Especially from the ones who don't get in.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Don't worry about the tiers. *(Pats the bed for STUDENT 1 to come sit)* What's important is that you find the chapter that fits *you*. Your personality, your lifestyle, your heart. It's like finding the right shade of blonde!

STUDENT 1

Thanks for the advice, but I don't know if I'm going to join. Or, you know, even do the whole rush thing.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

What?!

STUDENT 1

I'm more of a slow.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

But...you have to! You have to rush! Even if you don't end up in a chapter, you need to rush just for the sociality, the experience, of it!

STUDENT 1

We'll see.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Trust me, you're going to *loooooove* SRAT life. Bonding with your chapter members, getting a Big and later a Little, raising money for worthy causes, feeling like you're truly a part of something?!

NARRATOR 1

(Snarky) You forgot the whole paying for your friends thing.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

(Slyly) Isn't every college student?

NARRATOR 1

(Speechless) Touché.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Come on! Let's pick out some outfits! Practice your answers, your walk, your star-powered presence!

STUDENT 1

I always wanted to be on Toddlers and Tiaras.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Here, let me be your Glinda to your Elphaba!

NARRATOR 1

—I'm not green with envy there!

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

First, your appearance! Let's mess with your hair here...consider some color contacts, some highlights. Ooooh, eyebrows waxed ASAP. Here, take a t-shirt!

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE throws a Greek t-shirt at STUDENT 1. STUDENT 1 starts to put it on, but is stopped by GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE, *Cont.*

Stop! Don't put it on! You can't wear my letters if you're not in my chapter! Just hold it up!
(*STUDENT 1 awkwardly obliges.*) You would look soooooo good in my letters! Now, sit again,
time for the practice interview part!

NARRATOR 1

It's heartbreaking we're skipping the swimsuit portion.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Okay, easy one to start off with! What is your favorite color?

STUDENT 1

Oh, green!

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Wrong.

STUDENT 1

How can it be wrong? It's my favorite color?

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

It needs to be violet. Its physiological properties are truth, luxury, and authenticity.

NARRATOR 1 laughs,

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE, *Cont.*

Okay, next one. Are you a dog or cat person?

STUDENT 1

Honestly, I think I'm more of a—

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Incorrect.

STUDENT 1

But I didn't even answer—

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

The answer is that you adore them both. It shows you're an accepting, open-minded person who doesn't set limitations.

STUDENT 1

But I'm allergic to cats!

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

Last one, because you definitely need a review study session. *(Beat)* What is the legacy you want to leave on this planet?

STUDENT 1

(Looking at NARRATOR 1) Can I phone a friend?

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

You have ten seconds.

STUDENT 1 and NARRATOR 1 quickly confer.

STUDENT 1

A good one.

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 high-five, proud of their cheeky answer.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

(Stands up) That's it...I can't do it anymore. I'm done. You're hopeless. A chapter will never vote you in.

STUDENT 1

I guess I shouldn't run for office either?

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE

(To NARRATOR 1) Good luck with that.

GREEK LYFE ROOMMATE exits.

STUDENT 1

Wait...they get to leave me?

NARRATOR 1

(Pats STUDENT 1 on the back) Only on very rare occasions.

STUDENT 1

I ain't even mad, bro.

NARRATOR 1

It's okay, no one will see the likes of that again—I'll phone my supervisor about it later. Come on, on to the next ones!

*NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 exit.
LIGHTS CROSSFADE.*

7) THE JOCK ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 enter the stage. The dorm room door is closed, and all they can hear are grunts.

STUDENT 2

...Do I even want to know?

The door swings open to reveal THE JOCK ROOMMATE.

JOCK ROOMMATE

Wow, just got 100 reps done on those 10 pound dumbbells!

STUDENT 2

Just 10 pound—

JOCK ROOMMATE

Kidding, kidding! 50 pound dumbbells! (*JOCK ROOMMATE playfully gives two slaps to STUDENT 2.*) Don't be a dumb-bell!

NARRATOR 2

Aw, no one has bestowed a nickname on you, yet!

JOCK ROOMMATE

How's your day going? Good? Bad? Gym-tastic? (*Laughs at self*) See what I did there? I combined "gym" and "fantasti—

STUDENT 2

Yeah, we got it, thanks.

JOCK ROOMMATE

Just making sure Dumb-bell! *(Beat)* Anyone want some chocolate milk?

STUDENT 2

Only if it came out of a brown cow.

JOCK ROOMMATE

(Looking at milk carton) I mean, it doesn't show a picture of the cow it came from, but I'm sure—

STUDENT 2

I'm kidding! C'mon, don't be a dumb-bell! *(The joke does not amuse JOCK ROOMMATE)*
Okay, okay, I'm "dumb-bell", you're not. *(Beat)* Um, what would you like to be called?

JOCK ROOMMATE

My friends call me Tinder.

STUDENT 2

Seriously?

JOCK ROOMMATE

Because I bring the fire to *any* workout. *(Beat)* I'm also in negotiations with them to be the face of the company.

NARRATOR 2

Wow, imagine opening the app and seeing the face of Kobe over here.

STUDENT 2

So what sport do you play here?

JOCK ROOMMATE

Soccer and basketball.

STUDENT 2

Wow, you made two teams?

JOCK ROOMMATE

It's the chocolate milk, I'm telling you. And that I don't skip leg day. *(Sprints to the front of the stage and points at AN AUDIENCE MEMBER)* NEVER skip leg day.

STUDENT 2

I played soccer in high school. Perhaps we could play some pick-up games or something.

JOCK ROOMMATE

I also wrestled.

STUDENT 2

Oh real—

Before STUDENT 2 can finish, JOCK ROOMMATE rushes towards STUDENT 2, slams STUDENT 2 on the ground, and pins STUDENT 2 on the floor.

STUDENT 2

What the—

JOCK ROOMMATE

I don't want to get out of practice.

STUDENT 2

Um, I'm sure there's an intramural wrestling team you can practice with...

JOCK ROOMMATE

I don't have time with my other practices. *(Beat)* Besides *(Slams STUDENT 2 back down)* you're right here. This one is called the Seatbelt Single.

STUDENT 2

I don't even have any lunch money to give you!

JOCK ROOMMATE

Do you even lift, brah?

STUDENT 2

Not people your size!

JOCK ROOMMATE

C'mon, do a Peekout or something! Defensive, defensive! Here, I'll teach you.

STUDENT 2 screams. There is a brief pause in the fighting.

JOCK ROOMMATE

C'mon Dumb-bell, don't get *defensive* on me! Haha!

More fighting ensues. Eventually, STUDENT 2 crawls out of the dorm room.

STUDENT 2

I didn't sign a contract stating I wouldn't get physically injured, did I?

NARRATOR 2

Nope. (*Helps STUDENT 2 up*) Let's go pour chocolate milk on your wounds or something.

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 exit. JOCK ROOMMATE continues working out with the dumbbells until LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

9) THE ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 enter.

STUDENT 1

Oh gosh...it stinks! (*Turns to NARRATOR 1*) Pleeeeeease tell me this is not a pigpen roommate!

NARRATOR 1

Relax, that assignment was given to another one of my coworkers. (*Beat*) But you better start opening up your personal space.

STUDENT 1

What?

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE comes running down the auditorium and leaps onto the stage.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Hiiiiiiii!! Are you my roommate?!!

STUDENT 1

Um, I think I am.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

It's so nice to finally meet you!

STUDENT 1

Nice to meet you, too!

STUDENT 1 reaches out for a handshake, but ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE pulls STUDENT 1 into a big hug.

STUDENT 1

Oh, um, okay!

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Grabbing STUDENT 1 by the shoulders) I LITERALLY have been dreaming about this meeting forever!

STUDENT 1

Oh...really?

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

My parents ALWAYS talked about their college roommates, and the experiences they had so I am SO excited to be finally making my own memories with my own roomie!!

STUDENT 1

(A little hesitant) Oh, that's cool. *(Beat)* Can I ask...what's that smell?

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Oh!!!!!! *(Bolts into the dorm room; STUDENT 1 and NARRATOR 1 follow.)* I made cookies in my EZ bake oven to welcome you, but I burned them!!

NARRATOR 1

Aw, how sweet! That's okay if they're burnt, my client over here has to get used to *overbearing* flavors!

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Do you still want a cookie?!

STUDENT 1

Um, that's okay...I am, uh, allergic to chocolate chips.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Good thing they're sugar cookies!!

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE shoves a cookie into STUDENT 1's mouth.

STUDENT 1

(Mouth full) Oh...yum.

NARRATOR 1

(To ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE) I'll pass on the sweets, thanks.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

So, ROOMIE, where are you from?

STUDENT 1

Um, Colorado.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

How cool!! Do you smoke the weed as a hobby?

STUDENT 1

(To NARRATOR 1) Stereotypes, I swear! No. *(Sarcastically, to ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE)* Do YOU do any drugs?

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Hahaha, not if I want to keep my triple majors and double minors— *(Laughs a very loud laugh)* But I did take Ritalin as a child!

NARRATOR 1

(To AUDIENCE) I could see that one coming.

STUDENT 1

Wow, three majors and two minors is a lot. What are they?

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology! Minors are Spanish and Chinese! I want to be a therapist; I just want to be able to *understand* people, you know?

STUDENT 1

I bet a lot of people think that about you!

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Laughs really loudly, for a while) You are just TOO FUNNY! What are you majoring in?

STUDENT 1

Journalism.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

How fun! I can't wait to read what you write!

STUDENT 1

(To NARRATOR 1) It may be a ransom note.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

So I can psychoanalyze you, and you can write about the experience!!

NARRATOR 1

(To STUDENT 1) It may be more beneficial for you to psychoanalyze Enthusiastic over here.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

OH MY GOSH, I forgot to give you your present!!

STUDENT 1

Oh dear.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Pulls out two pairs of pajamas) Matching Roomie PJs!!!

STUDENT 1

Oh no, I've seen that before.

NARRATOR 1

(To STUDENT 1) Okaaay, I think we've seen enough here. Thank you for your time, now bye.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Confused) B-Bye?

NARRATOR 1

It's like a trial session—you don't like what you see you get to return it!

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Starting to cry) But-but-but all of our future memories?!

NARRATOR 1

Remain just dreams...

A spotlight appears centerstage, and ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE steps into it. Sad music plays as ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE says the next line.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Sobbing) BUT WE WERE GOING TO WATCH NETFLIX TOGETHER, HAVE TWERKATHONS, TALK ABOUT OUR LIVES AND WAKE EACH OTHER UP WHEN WE NAPPED SO WE DIDN'T MISS OUR CLASSES!!!

NARRATOR 1

You can set an alarm on your phone for that.

ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE

(Rushing towards STUDENT 1) LET ME LOVE YOU!!

STUDENT 1

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!

NARRATOR 1 snaps, and the lights go to complete blackout. NARRATOR 1 snaps again, and the lights go back on, but ENTHUSIASTIC ROOMMATE has disappeared.

NARRATOR 1

In case of emergencies. Don't want our clients getting killed.

STUDENT 1

My hero!

STUDENT 1 flings self at NARRATOR 1's knees.

NARRATOR 1

Oh don't be worshipping me yet, you still owe me 14 payments of \$49.99 to make sure you get the best roommate ever!

STUDENT 1

It is so worth it.

NARRATOR 1

Now come on, let's get off the floor now. Let's get you presentable so that you can start interviewing future roomies!

STUDENT 1 nods in agreement and gets up off the floor.

NARRATOR 1 and STUDENT 1 walk offstage with their arms around each other.

LIGHTS CROSSFADE.

10) THE RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 walk onstage. STUDENT 2 is wearing a sling from the former wrestling match.

NARRATOR 2

This is the last one before the interviews, promise.

STUDENT 2

Finally! I don't know how many more disasters I could handle. (*Looks at arm, bitterly*) Or wrestling matches.

NARRATOR 2

Well, this time, you're handling two.

THE RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE and SIGNIFICANT OTHER enter, holding hands.

STUDENT 2

(*Groaning*) Not a couple...

NARRATOR 2

It's part of the college experience! Go get 'em!

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Hey, what's up?

STUDENT 2

Nothing much, you?

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Same here. This is my significant other, Alex.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

(*Sizing up STUDENT 2*) Hey.

STUDENT 2

Nice to meet you, Alex.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Cool.

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Hey babe, would you mind going down and grabbing my backpack? I left it in the car.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Sure.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER exits.

STUDENT 2

How long have you guys been dating?

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Long enough.

STUDENT 2

What does that—

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Look, we need to go over some ground rules since I'm dating someone.

STUDENT 2

Oh, okay?

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

When I put a white sock on the door that means I'm with Alex, but you can come in. It's PG.

STUDENT 2

Okay...

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Maybe occasionally PG-13, but yeah, it should be good. However, if a *black* sock is on the door, that means you really shouldn't come in.

STUDENT 2

Do you have a piece of paper I could—

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

And if my lucky blue pair of socks are on the door, I don't care if you left your final essay in the room or there is a hurricane and you're seeking shelter—do NOT come in.

STUDENT 2

I mean, I'll try. *(Beat)* How often will socks be on the door?

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Every day.

STUDENT 2

Great...

SIGNIFICANT OTHER walks in with the backpack.

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Thanks, babe. I was just explaining some things to our pal over here.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Cool.

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE

Guess we *won't* be seeing you around. C'mon, babe.

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE and SIGNIFICANT OTHER walk into the dorm room. RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE puts a black sock on the door and closes it.

STUDENT 2

(To NARRATOR 2) I'm already miserable. Can we go?

NARRATOR 2

Almost. Let's fast-forward a few months.

The LIGHTS DIM; NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 walk offstage. The sock is changed from black to blue. The lights come back up, and STUDENT 2 walks back onstage with a backpack.

STUDENT 2

Crap. What was blue? What was blue? I remember black and white, and purple and orange and yellow that was added. But not blue. Not blue. *(Beat)* But it can't be that bad, right? I mean, maroon means that just Alex is in there, sleeping, probably sleep talking. The last time I walked

STUDENT 2, *Cont.*

in when Alex was asleep, she/he said, "Don't do it you're so popular!" So it can't mean something that bad. Maybe it's something like that.

*STUDENT 2 opens the door.
RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE and
SIGNIFICANT OTHER are playing video
games. RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE
jumps up.*

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE
I TOLD YOU BLUE MEANS NEVER EVER COME IN HERE!!

STUDENT 2
I forgot okay?! There are so many?

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE
How could you. HOW COULD YOU!

SIGNIFICANT OTHER
Babe, don't fight. You can't be written up again.

STUDENT 2
Wait...the blue, the *never* come in here...It was video games?! Are you kidding me?!

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE
What did you think it would be?!

*STUDENT 2 gives RELATIONSHIP
ROOMMATE an incredulous look.*

STUDENT 2
That's it, I'm throwing the towel in. I'm throwing the SOCK in. I'm leaving! (*Starts to leave*)

RELATIONSHIP ROOMMATE
Close the door!

*STUDENT 2 rips the sock off the door and
slams it. NARRATOR 2 is waiting for
STUDENT 2 outside of the room.*

STUDENT 2
People suck.

NARRATOR 2

If that were a tweet, I would retweet it. *(Beat)* Come on, kid. Let's get you ready for the interviews.

STUDENT 2

Pleeeeeease let them be normal!

NARRATOR 2 and STUDENT 2 walk out with their arms around each other.

LIGHTS OUT.

THE FINAL PRESENTATION

LIGHTS UP. NARRATOR 1 is onstage texting. NARRATOR 2 enters. Two tables and two chairs are set on each side of the stage.

NARRATOR 2

Hey, how'd it go for you?

NARRATOR 1

A little dramatic at the end, had to use the exit emergency strategy—

NARRATOR 2

Oh, really?

NARRATOR 1

—Enthusiastic Roommate got a little too clingy, we should start looking around for a new one. What about you?

NARRATOR 2

Average, no issues. *(Grins)* But that means I can afford my rent this month.

NARRATOR 1

If you didn't spend all your money on expensive concert tickets, you'd be able to afford it every month. *(Beat)* Hmm...A financially irresponsible roommate, that'd be a good one, write that down.

NARRATOR 2

The interviews all ready to go?

NARRATOR 1

They're lined up outside, everything's set. Let's get this show on the road.

NARRATOR 2

You got it. *(Yells to offstage, where STUDENT 2 is waiting)* Come on out here!

NARRATOR 1

(Also yells to offstage, where STUDENT 1 is waiting) Are you ready?

STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2 come out, both nicely dressed. NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 encourage applause from the audience. STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2 do not acknowledge each other.

NARRATOR 1

You look good!

NARRATOR 2

Not bad. Just wait until Mom isn't doing laundry anymore.

NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 laugh.

NARRATOR 1

Come, sit! Let's get these interviews going! *(Leads STUDENT 1 to a table and chairs)*

NARRATOR 1 leads STUDENT 1 to one of the tables and NARRATOR 2 leads STUDENT 2 to the other. STUDENTS 1 and 2 take seats.

NARRATOR 2

Did you bring your questions?

NARRATOR 1

Let's bring in the potential roomies!

STUDENT 1

Wait, wait, wait!

STUDENT 2

Stop!!

NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2

What?

STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2

We need to have a little talk. *(To both NARRATORS)* Sit.

NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 oblige.

NARRATOR 1

Is this about the payment thing?

STUDENT 1

Kind of...

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes