

know, I've got something stuck in my tooth. You wouldn't happen to have a toothpick, would you? (#2 holds up the box with the gold toothpicks, takes one and puts it in his/her mouth.) Today turned out to be a pretty good day after all, don't you think? Bye.

19. The Roommate

(In a living room. #1 enters. He/she has come home from a long day's work. #1 looks around. The apartment is a mess. #1 puts his/her things down and starts to straighten a little. #2 enters.)

- #2: I thought I heard someone out here.
#1: Is it too much to ask for you to straighten this place up?
#2: I did.
#1: You call this straight?
#2: Yes. You should have seen it this morning.
#1: And what did that look like?
#2: I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you. (No response.) Well, someone's in a bad mood. What happened? You miss your visit from the Happy Elf today?
#1: No, I'm just tired of sharing an apartment with a pig.
#2: I'm not a pig. I'm messy. There's a difference.
#1: Sorry. I didn't know that filth came in gradations.
#2: See, pigs are dirty and unclean. I'm not. I'm just not tidy.
#1: Well, keep trying. I'm sure you'll hit the top of the grunge scale before too long.
#2: What is your problem?
#1: (Sits on the couch.) I've had a long day at work and all I wanted to do was come home and unwind.
#2: So...unwind.
#1: Where? The apartment is full of...you and your debris. (Lifts a blanket off a pile of newspapers on the couch.) Like this! Don't you think you can get rid of some of these?
#2: No. I haven't read them all yet. I don't want to miss what's going on.
#1: They've been lying around here forever.
#2: They have not.
#1: (Takes a paper from the pile.) Really? (Reads the paper.) "Allies Invade Normandy"? (Lifting up another paper) Or

this one, "Titanic Sinks!"

- #2: Fine! I'll move the newspapers into my room.
- #1: And that's another thing. Since when is it "your room"? It's my guest room.
- #2: Being a bit possessive, aren't we?
- #1: No, it's just that when one pays the rent, when one pays the utilities, when one pays the phone, that one usually has the right to claim ownership. I'm making that claim.
- #2: Hey, I've put in for things.
- #1: Excuse me, but seven pieces of paper that say, "IOU for electricity and stuff" hardly constitutes any payment.
- #2: What does it constitute?
- #1: Freeloading.
- #2: Well, thank you very much. At least I know where I stand. You know, you seem to be forgetting about all that food I bought last week.
- #1: True. Then you had a party and you and your friends ate it all.
- #2: Hey, you could have come. You were invited.
- #1: How thoughtful of you to invite me to a party in my own home. Your generosity obviously knows no bounds.
- #2: Am I still sensing a little hostility coming from your direction?
- #1: And people say you're slow to catch on.
- #2: If you have something to say, just say it! It's very cleansing. I won't mind.
- #1: *(Walks up to #2.)* Good! You are an incredibly annoying twit!
- #2: *(Pause)* My, that was blunt, wasn't it?
- #1: I know things have been rough since your breakup, but you were not supposed to be a permanent fixture in my house.
- #2: "Permanent fixture"? You make me sound like the garbage disposal.
- #1: *(Pause, then to him/herself)* No, I can't. It's too easy. *(To #2)* I thought you were just going to stay here until you got

back on your feet.

- #2: Do I appear to be back on my feet?
- #1: Who can tell? There's rarely a time you're ever off the couch. I don't even know if your feet still work.
- #2: I'd be careful if I were you. The time right after a messy divorce is the most crucial. Psychologically speaking, that is. Any more pressure, from anywhere, could push me right over the edge.
- #1: The edge of what?!
- #2: My mental stability.
- #1: You're assuming you had any stability to begin with. And what is all this "messy divorce"? Your marriage was annulled. You two were together less than ten weeks. Hey, you've been here longer than that.
- #2: Exactly, and now I'm just starting to put down some roots and you want to yank them out.
- #1: Don't even think of planting anything here. This is my house, not the north forty, and you are a guest who has long overstayed his/her welcome.
- #2: Are you kicking me out?
- #1: No, friends wouldn't do that. I'm...suggesting that it might be time for you to move on. Get your life together, figure out what you want to do, meet new people, go places, do things and GET OUT!
- #2: See, I don't think I should leave when you're in such an agitated state.
- #1: *(Jumps at #2.)* Who do you think put me in this state? *(#2 backs away from #1. They start circling the couch.)*
- #2: Maybe you should try and stay calm.
- #1: Oh, I am calm. As a matter of fact, the prosecution will probably remark to the jury how calm I was when I took your life and the glee I had admitting to it.
- #2: Violence is never the answer, you know.
- #1: Unless the question is how do you get rid of a pain in the butt.

20. The Script

- (There is a slight run around the couch and #2 finally stops.)*
- #2:** Look, this is stupid...not to mention tiring. Let's just be adults.
- #1:** You want to be adults? Fine! You have thirty minutes to gather as much of your...stuff as you can and get out!
- #2:** But...
- #1:** No buts. And if you're not out of here, and soon, I'm going to the garage to get my weed wacker.
- #2:** *(Pause)* What does that mean?
- #1:** I'm not sure, but it sounds real ugly, doesn't it? Are you going? *(Lunges at #2.)*
- #2:** Yes, I'm going! *(Pause)* Maybe you're right. I'll get my things and be out in an hour. *(#1 starts to say something.)* I mean, half an hour. *(Starts to exit, stops and turns back.)* Just one more thing. Can I borrow your car? Mine's in the shop... *(#1 takes off after #2 and they both exit.)*

(In a restaurant. #1 is at a table. He/she is a film producer. A very important person – especially in his or her own mind. #1 is on a cellular phone.)

- #1:** No, I told you I was very busy. *(Pause)* You don't believe me? Well how's this. I had to make an appointment three weeks in advance with myself just to have lunch today. So I really don't have the time to waste talking to you. Get it? *(Pause)* If I want to talk to you, I'll call! OK!? *(Pause)* Fine! Good-bye, mom. *(Hangs up the phone.)* Some people!
- #2:** *(Comes rushing over to the table and sits down.)* I am so sorry that I am late, but you know what traffic is like this time of day. I would have called, but I don't have your cellular number. So I just came right over. I know how important this meeting is. *(Looks out over the restaurant.)* Waiter, could you bring me a mineral water. Thanks. *(Turns back to #1.)* So, should we start the meeting?
- #1:** *(Staring at #2)* Who are you?!
- #2:** Your lunch meeting.
- #1:** I don't have a lunch meeting.
- #2:** Well, officially - no, but I knew you were going to be here, so I figured why waste an hour.
- #1:** Very considerate. *(Pause)* Who are you?!
- #2:** I'm a blessing from heaven.
- #1:** *(Stands.)* I'm going to have you removed! Waiter!
- #2:** *(Pulls #1 back into his/her chair.)* Wait! You don't want to do that. You and I may never get this chance again.
- #1:** Really? That's too bad. Hopefully God will be merciful when he judges me. Waiter!
- (#1 stands and #2 pulls him/her down again.)*
- #2:** I know what it is – you're hungry. Why don't we order first. Then we can talk business. *(Picks up a menu and*