Roommates

by
Deepak Kumar and James Kotzian
INT. KITCHEN - 4AM

JAMES KOTZIAN, 24, is at the stove cooking some chicken in the kitchen.

From the hallway, DEEPAK KUMAR, 23, appears. He’s rubbing his eyes, barely awake.

DEEPAK
Hey...

JAMES
Hey!

DEEPAK
Dude, what are you doing?

JAMES
I’m cooking dinner.

DEEPAK
Dinner? It’s 4AM...

JAMES
I know, I just got home like, an hour ago.

DEEPAK
Okay well. Have a good night.

JAMES
Hey, you too.

DEEPAK TALKING HEAD

DEEPAK
Yeah...I would say James is a nice guy. A little weird sometimes. There was this one time, he took a shit. And as he was walking out the door, he just looked at me. Like, stared at me for a good 20 seconds, didn’t say a word. Then he left.

(beat)
But yeah, I mean, he’s fine.
INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY


JAMES TALKING HEAD

JAMES
Deepak. He’s a man. Primarily driven by his emotions, which, you know. Makes him exploitable. He also likes to sing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Deepak and James sit at the table, working in silence. Deepak has his headphones on, he’s jamming out to music. He’s humming quietly, but it grows into a larger scene - with loud humming and tapping. It grows into a full blown explosion of music, for like 20 seconds, then down to nothing. James looks at the camera.

JAMES TALKING HEAD

JAMES
Yeah, I’ve had dreams of killing him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

James is ruffling around looking for something in the living room. He calls out.

JAMES
Hey, have you seen the TV remote?

DEEPAK
What?

Deepak walks out of his room and into the common area.

JAMES
Have you seen the TV remote?

DEEPAK
No, not recently. I haven’t really been using the TV.
James gives Deepak a suspicious look, then looks directly at the camera.

JAMES
Okay.

DEEPAK
Okay...

JAMES TALKING HEAD
James holds up a notebook, opens it, flips a few pages, holds it up to the camera.

JAMES
This is the seventh item in our apartment that’s gone missing in the last week. And I can confirm that he was watching TV yesterday. 11:34AM, Deepak watches “Community”. Why am I taking observational notes of Deepak? For situations just like this. You never know when you’re living with one of those people.

(beat)
You know, grad students.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY
James is fiddling around with a spy camera, attempting to set it up, put it on the windowsill. Deepak enters from the main door. He watches James for a bit.

DEEPAK
Hey, what’s up?

James, unfazed, looks at Deepak mid-installation.

JAMES
Hey. Nothing much.

DEEPAK
Whatcha got there?

JAMES
It’s a cell phone charger.

Deepak squints.
DEEPAK
Uh huh. Why are you installing it on the windowsill?

JAMES
It’s solar powered.

Deepak looks at box sitting on the table. It says, in big print “SPY CAMERA: LOOKS JUST LIKE A CELL PHONE CHARGER”

DEEPAK
Why does this say it’s a spy camera?

JAMES
Spy camera? Hm. Must’ve been mislabeled.

Deepak and James look at each other for a moment.

JAMES TALKING HEAD

JAMES
If you look at someone with direct eye contact, and say something with enough authority, they have no choice but to believe you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEEPAK
Okay.

James looks at the camera and gives a little smirk.

DEEPAK TALKING HEAD

DEEPAK
Yeah, he’s starting to get on my nerves.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Deepak walks in, on his phone. He sets his stuff down, then goes to the kitchen. Fixes himself a bowl of popcorn. Launches himself onto the couch, then SMACK, the bowl of popcorn flies in his face. The couch is missing the cushion. Deepak gets up, storms into James’ room.
DEEPAK
Dude, c’mon.

James is doing Yoga. He’s in a suggestive position with his pelvis extended towards Deepak.

JAMES
Hey, just give me a second.

James finishes the move with an air thrust. Weird yoga.

JAMES
What can I do for you?

DEEPAK
The couch cushion is missing.

JAMES
That is weird...

DEEPAK
Do you know where it went?

JAMES
Why would I know?

DEEPAK
I dunno, you tell me.

JAMES
Are you accusing me of stealing our couch cushion? That makes ZERO PERCENT SENSE.

DEEPAK
You’re the one that does weird shit around here!

JAMES
Name one weird thing I’ve done in the last week.

DEEPAK
You literally installed a spy camera in the living room!

JAMES
It’s not a spy camera! It’s a cell phone charger!

DEEPAK
Deepak walks out of James’ room into his own. He slams the door behind him.

JAMES TALKING HEAD

JAMES
It could have been me. I don’t have short term memory loss - I just make it a point to mentally cleanse myself every two hours.

James takes a moment.

JAMES
Who are you?

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Deepak looks into the camera, starts to say something, then shakes his head. Shrugs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Deepak walks out to James staring at his phone deep in thought.

JAMES
Hey.

Deepak looks at James, says nothing to him.

JAMES
So...don’t be mad. But you know that cell phone charger that I installed on the windowsill?

Deepak says nothing.

JAMES
Yeah, it was actually a spy camera.

Deepak brings up hands, then puts them down. He’s speechless.

JAMES
And, I found something really interesting...
INT. STORAGE CLOSET - DAY

Deepak walks to the storage closet in the basement of the apartment building. Deepak talks directly to the camera.

DEEPAK
So, turns out James has been sleepwalking, and he’s been hoarding a bunch of stuff from our apartment in this storage cabinet in the basement.

Shot inside the storage cabinet. Lots of shit, as well as the word “DEEPAK” inscribed on the wall (or on a piece of paper or something)

DEEPAK
Yeah. I think this is where he was going to kill me.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Deepak and James are cooking something together. James points at the salt, which Deepak passes over. They smile, it’s fun.

JAMES (V.O.)
Roommates are tough. It’s never a perfect match. Usually about 58% compatibility is all you can hope for.

JAMES TALKING HEAD

JAMES
He’s a good one, though.

FADE OUT.