

Roommates

by

Deepak Kumar and James Kotzian

FADE IN:

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.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

James is doing all sorts of weird things in the living room. Shoulder stretches. Squats. Popping vitamins. Very into health things.

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

You know what? Whatever man. Do what you want.

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.