

So I found this other joint for you.

But you're gonna have a roommate.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A scruffy, thirtyish buy, TODD (Allen Covert), is on the phone in his small, bohemian apartment in the Village.

TODD

(on phone)

I know exactly how you feel... The night Reagan was elected, I said to my mother, "Is this man going to blow up the world, Mommy?" Then we both cried for like an hour.

(knock at the door)

Somebody's here. Call you later.

Todd gets up and opens the door. It's Nicky, with Beefy by his side. Nicky is nervous, and his speech sounds practiced.

NICKY

Hello, friend, my name is Nicky. I understand you're seeking a roommate, as per your advertisement in the Village Voice. Would it be possible for me to fill the slot?

TODD

Uh, don't you want to know what the rent is?

Nicky looks down at Beefy. Beefy looks up at Nicky. Both nod imperceptibly.

NICKY

Yes. What is rent?

TODD

Eight-hundred, split down the middle.

Tuesdays and Thursdays I rehearse with my scene partner so the living room will be off limits.

NICKY

Off limits.

TODD

Right. And as far as household items: we can share the soap, but we'll split the cost 60/40.

Cause the person who physically goes out and buys the soap shouldn't have to pay as much as the other guy.

(looks at Nicky)

Aren't you boiling in that outfit?

NICKY

No.

TODD

It's like eighty degrees in this hallway. You from the South?

NICKY

Yeah. The deep South.

Nicky laughs a little too hard.

TODD

Why is that funny?

NICKY

I don't know.

TODD

And sorry, man, but no dogs allowed.

Todd turns and goes into the apartment.

BEEFY

You'll be alright. Go on. Big day tomorrow. Don't forget to do that sleep thing I told you about.

NICKY

Got ya.

(to Todd)

Is it okay if I do the sleep thing?

TODD

Yeah, your bedroom is right over there.

The door closes. Beefy looks down at the welcome mat. It reads: I "heart" METHOD ACTING. Beefy raises his leg over it.

INT. NICKY'S ROOM

Nicky is sleeping on top of the hissing radiator, fully clothed. When he inhales through his nose, we hear that familiar snoring/snorting sound. But when he exhales, we hear disturbing "speaking-in-tongues", Exorcist-style voices.

SLOW PAN across the room to the doorway where Todd stands, looking concerned.

EXT. CATHEDRAL - MORNING

We HEAR the bells toll. We see the beautiful exterior of a large church.

INT. CATHEDRAL

CLOSE ON an ELDERLY, kind looking CARDINAL. He ascends the steps to the pulpit and looks out on his large congregation. We see that TV cameras are covering the SUNDAY service. He gins his homily.

CARDINAL