Currently Seeking Revenge: How To Deal With An Awful Roommate

Emily Elveru
Iowa State University

Katy Moore
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos

Part of the Higher Education Commons, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Commons, Journalism Studies Commons, and the Social Psychology and Interaction Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2014/iss2/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ethos by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
CURRENTLY SEEKING REVENGE

HOW TO DEAL WITH AN AWFUL ROOMMATE

BY EMILY ELVERU DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION KATY MOORE
ROOMMATES:
They’re the people you can talk to each night and rant about the day’s events, they tell you when you look nice and when your outfit is a complete mess. Or they can be the pesky people who scatter their shoes everywhere for you to trip on and leave moldy food in the fridge so a lovely smell wafts into your face every time you open the door. Here are some tips* to deal with the common annoyances a roommate offers.

Your roommate is possibly the nicest person you know—until you see the pile of dishes in the sink. Simple solution? Take the mountain-high stack of dishes from the sink and put them away in the cupboard. Yes; the nasty, dirty, food-encrusted dishes go back into the cupboard with the clean dishes. I bet he won’t put off doing those ever again. (Or so we hope.)

How hard is it to ask if people can come over? Besides, it’s common courtesy and about 99.9 percent of the time you could really care less if someone stopped by for a visit. Overnight visits, however, are a whole new subject. Overnight visits from her 21-year-old brother who’s rude and not the greatest with hygiene skills? That’s a whole new ballpark. So, here’s what you do: Calmly tell her that you’re really not into the whole having the older, drunken brother over for the fourth time this year. With that, two things could happen. Either 1) she will accept what you say, or 2) she will totally blow up thinking you’re ridiculous. If the latter happens, well, you might end up in a single for the rest of the year. Good luck.

If dishes aren’t the problem, possibly taking out the garbage is. We get it—the dumpster is far away and it’s cold outside. But seriously, the apartment is really starting to smell like last Tuesday’s mystery pizza, and if it tasted bad then, the smell is about ten times worse now. Don’t be a pushover; you have asked countless times, and nothing has happened. So, strategically pile the garbage on his bed—in the bag or out, whatever your mood—and cover it with his blankets. Once he discovers it’s not a dead body in the bed, they’ll take out the garbage. Problem solved.

Now, you really don’t mind anyone who has a significant other. I mean, really, you praise the two of them for actually finding someone out there decent enough to date. Nevertheless, while you like your roommate’s relationship, you would rather not like to hear it through the walls while you’re trying to sleep on a Tuesday night. Make sure they’re fully aware you can hear what’s happening; if you can, position some speakers as close to the dirty deed as you can get and throw on “I Just Had Sex” by The Lonely Island. You’ll grab their attention for a change—plus, it’s catchy.

*The tips above do not guarantee a fix to any roommate problems you may have and could, in fact, make the situation even worse. Reader’s discretion is advised.