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There's Excitement Ahead

by Katherine Williams

Butterflies flitted in your stomach and a sea of strange faces engulfed you. The prospect of life in a women's dormitory and new friends suddenly didn’t appeal to you as much as it did back home. You weren’t sure whether you’d like that girl with the smooth clothes or the one with the loud voice who kept demanding attention. Perhaps you envied me for their sparkle and self confidence.

You walked into your room. It was empty, forlorn and unfamiliar. The first thing that occurred to you was that this small room with its bare walls, empty desks and beds stripped down to the springs and mattress was to be your home for 9 months. The closets didn’t seem half large enough and where were you to put all of your sweaters! The newness loomed before you. Then you gazed around and there stood your roommate—a complete stranger.

One of your first tasks was to convert your room into a living room, a bedroom, a study and a recreation room. Big order? Of course it was but you had fun working out a clever theme with your roommate and it was a good way to get acquainted. Your tastes for color didn’t agree; you had more radios and pictures than you needed and you brought more clothes and stuffed animals than you had room for. It crossed your mind that maybe you were going to have a hard time controlling your temper.

Takes Cooperation

After several weeks of school, you realize more than ever that it is going to take cooperation to see this thing through for a whole year of school. How are you going to manage it? First, you two can have fun together. You’ll find that you have many mutual interests whether it’s dance program collections or college men.

Your room is a place in which to concentrate on getting good grades. You can help each other work out studying schedules. If tonight’s the night Laura has history books to crack, then you’d better plan on curling up with a book yourself or go some place else. There’s many a student who has gone to class unprepared because her roommate invited at least six women in to spend the evening.

“Fourth for bridge,” your roommate yells. You don’t even know what honor count is and she’s such a fiend for the game. Have her teach you. Perhaps she envies you for the handknit sweaters you make. You can help her with her first clumsy trials and together you can struggle through a pair of argyle socks. It’s an even trade.

Emphasize your mutual interests and avoid subjects that antagonize. Coming in with starry eyes after a date with your favorite Joe College doesn’t usually go over too well with Leave-me-to-my-books-

Lou. You may be the most popular woman on campus but she’s got other things on her mind.

So you don’t approve of some of her friends. Be gracious enough not to embarrass her by ignoring them. Friendliness and sincerity may later prove to you that they are likable for their own individual qualities. There are many types and varieties of people and you’ll learn to appreciate them by getting to know them better.

Borrowing

You’ve scrutinized some of those good looking clothes of your roommate’s. It’s certainly convenient that you both wear the same size. Rid your eyes of that may-I-borrow look. Even with the best intentions in the world, you might ruin something of hers that is irreplaceable. Always ask her about borrowing things. A much more peaceful atmosphere will reign if there is an understanding between you about what may be traded and what may not.

A sense of humor will help you through a good many strained situations. If you don’t have a funny bone, try to develop one.

Cleaning your room seems to be a weekend task. Each of you can really pitch in and do your share of the work. If your room is well organized and things are put away regularly, it will just rid you of one of the conflicts that may come up. There’s no one to pick up after you but yourself and your roommate certainly has no intentions of doing it for you. You
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Sweater shown is of Botany Wool with simulated hand knit armholes ... 4.98

MAIN FLOOR ANNEX

WOLF'S
Des Moines, Iowa

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may not have been the neatest woman before this but now is the time to get into the habit. You probably know by now that there is nothing more discouraging than to come to a room littered with clothes, books and art equipment.

Soon you'll find yourselves calling each other "Roomo." Together you will go to corridor meetings and walk to classes. Together you'll work out your problems and have a lot of laughs. You'll gain excellent experience in getting along with people and when the year is over, you'll be lost the whole summer without your newest friend—your roommate.

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