

JUST LIKE PARADISE

written by

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INT./EXT. TED AND SANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

TED JENKINS is moving into an apartment with his girlfriend SANDY TAROFSON. Helping him move are his college friends and roommates MATT HARPER, his best friend, DONNY ERICKSON, and JEREMY WICK. Ted's friends are complaining about Ted's decision to move in with his girlfriend. The apartment is filled with several boxes still waiting to be unpacked. The only thing that has been unpacked and set up so far is the big screen TV. The guys are moving the couch into the apartment.

MATT

(helping Ted lift one end  
of a couch)

I'm telling you, this is the  
dumbest thing you've ever done. Why  
would you do this to us?

TED

To us? Are we a couple now?

DONNY

You two have done some questionable  
and ambiguously gay things together  
over the years.

TED

(skeptical)

Like what?

DONNY

The freshman talent show, just off  
the top of my head.

MATT

There was nothing remotely gay  
about reenacting the last scene of  
Dirty Dancing for the Freshman  
talent show.

JEREMY

(carrying a box)

There was when Ted played Baby.

TED

No girl was willing to put in the  
time, so I stepped up, it's called  
commitment. It won us the trophy  
didn't it?

JEREMY

That's because the judges thought it would be considered a hate crime not to vote for you.

MATT

As I recall, you were pretty bummed out when you didn't get to be part of that performance. Then again, it did leave you free to perform that haunting solo rendition of She's Like the Wind.

TED

(shuttering)  
It was haunting.

The rest of the group laughs.

JEREMY

Everyone knows I was robbed in that show.

(to Donny)

And I don't know what you're laughing about. The first time we met you everyone thought you were gay.

DONNY

I don't know why.

MATT

You were sitting on Ted's lap, and we weren't even drinking yet.

DONNY

I'm secure enough to admit that was a little weird, but I believe I've since quelled those rumors and put any lingering doubts to rest. My college record speaks for itself.

TED

Several hefty drunk chicks and a handy from the goaltender on the hockey team is not something I'd be bragging about.

DONNIE

Women's "field" hockey team, Ted. Let's not distort the facts here.

MATT

(back to Ted)

You know what I mean, Ted. This is going to be a disaster. Think about it, you two living together? I haven't been this scared for you since you two decided to go on that road trip together.

TED

And the road trip went just fine.

DONNY

You came back with a black eye.

TED

I tripped into the side of the door.

MATT

(putting down his end of the couch, shaking his head)

No one ever bought that whole tripping accident thing.

TED

It just makes sense man. I'm going off to law school next year, and I need to save some money. I stay with her every night now, anyways, so what's the difference?

MATT

(animated)

What's the difference? The difference is that you're not only ruining your life, but ours as well. Do you have any idea of what you are getting yourself into?

TED

I know what I'm getting myself into. It's not going to be the crisis you predict...

(picking his end of the couch back up)

Pick up your end, let's go.

The two continue talking while moving the couch into the apartment.

MATT

(shaking his head)  
Oh Ted, God you're just so naive.

TED

(laughing at Matt)  
This is just another classic Matty over reaction...Officially losing your mind over nothing

MATT

I'm losing my mind? - no - you're the one who's losing their mind. Have you ever seen Jeremy's dad? Have you ever actually sat down and talked to him? He's dead inside, Ted, and do you wanna know why he's dead inside - because he hates his life.

TED

I don't think Jeremy's dad hates his life.

JEREMY

No, it's true, he hates life. He is beaten Ted. Defeated. The white towel is in.

MATT

Have you ever ate dinner with Jeremy's parents? It's like fucking living with Ike and Tina Turner over there. Jeremy's mom slams a plate in front of his dad's face and they don't say a word the entire time. Jeremy's dad drinks like three glasses of wine and heads straight to bed when dinner is over. And not good wine Ted where he swishes it around and pretends to talk about the woody after taste. But the boxed shit. Bulk quantity right from Costco. And do you wanna know why that is?- it's because he hates living with his wife. The only time I've actually seen the guy happy is when he handed down his upscale porn collection to Jeremy.

DONNIE

I don't think I've ever seen a grown man cry like that before.

TED

Why do you gotta talk about  
Jeremy's parents like that?

JEREMY

It's all right, he's not wrong.  
Other than I think he gets it from  
Sam's Club?

MATT

Fine, how about your brother then?  
For Christ sake, the only time I've  
seen Chris smile is when he's  
playing softball with us. What does  
he have now, two kids? I've seen  
the look in his eye when he comes  
out for a drink after those games  
Ted, they're dead inside, and now  
you're drinking the Kool-aid right  
along with him.

TED

Kool-Aid? What the hell are you  
talking about?

MATT

All right, not my best analogy, but  
you get what I'm saying. Is that  
what you are racing to turn into  
here? Just a shell of a man,  
bumbling through life with that  
hollow look in your eyes. You have  
too much twinkle in those eyes to  
go down that road Ted.

JEREMY

Good to see Ace and Gary are back.

MATT

Shut up, Jeremy. You know dam well  
what I'm talking about. Ted has his  
whole like in front of him.

TED

(ignoring Matt's  
statements)

All right, put it down right here.

Ted and Matt lower the couch to the ground.

DONNY

And how is this saving you money  
living here, anyways?

(MORE)

DONNY (CONT'D)

When you lived with us, the rent was split four ways, not only two.

TED

That's a valid point, but I also don't plan on having to pay the repeated noise violation fines, the providing to minors tickets, which all but sealed my rejections to the Ivy League schools so thanks for that, and the ever present property damage fees that accompanied living with you guys on a regular basis.

MATT

(excited)

My God, you're already starting to embellish like a goddam lawyer. It was two noise violation tickets, there was no way to know those foreign exchange girls weren't 21 yet when they couldn't speak English, and you know damn well that hole in the wall wasn't our fault. How the hell was I suppose to know a plastic cup could go through a wall like that?

TED

You shot it out of a homemade cannon!

Matt, Donny, and Jeremy are laughing.

JEREMY

That was fuckin hilarious. Nearly took Donny's head right off.

TED

And what about Jeremy's little incident?

JEREMY

There's no need to bring that up Ted.

MATT

I can't believe you're actually bringing that up as if it were a negative thing. That might have been the single funniest moment of my life, of all our lives, really.

JEREMY  
(uncomfortable)  
Guys, can we just drop it?

TED  
He got arrested for exposing  
himself in public.

MATT  
(excited)  
Are you honestly looking me in the  
eye right now, and saying that  
wasn't the greatest thing you've  
ever seen? Cause if you are, that  
is a bold faced lie and you know  
it. Watching Jeremy fall off that  
roof naked gave us a story to tell  
for years to come. We're talking  
share with the grandkids level.

TED  
(trying not to laugh)  
He broke his leg, and he got  
arrested.

MATT  
That's what makes it all the  
greater.

DONNY  
I especially liked when he kept  
screaming "it's broken, it's  
broken."

JEREMY  
My leg was broke dumbass.

DONNY  
Yeah, but you were talking about  
your dick at the time.

MATT  
(smiling)  
That poor confused officer. You  
just kept asking him to look at it  
to make sure it was all right.  
(acting as Jeremy)  
Is it broke, is it broke, it's  
broke isn't it, it doesn't feel  
right.



TED  
 (acting like the officer)  
 Son, I'm not a doctor, but I don't  
 think you can break it.

DONNY  
 (acting as Jeremy from the  
 story)  
 No, no my dad's a doctor, he told  
 me you could break it.

JEREMY  
 Real funny guys. That fucking night  
 cost me like four thousand dollars.

MATT  
 And you have the gull to sit there  
 and tell me nothing's gonna change.  
 How are things like that going to  
 happen ever again?

TED  
 Believe me, if you're still living  
 with Jeremy and Donny, they will  
 find a way.

MATT  
 Oh, so what, now you don't want to  
 hang out with us anymore? You're  
 too good for us now or what?

TED  
 (looking at Donny)  
 Are we gonna plug that X-box in or  
 what?

MATT  
 Are you gonna not be a little sally  
 and play for awhile and drink with  
 us?

TED  
 I don't know about the drinking,  
 but let's fire that baby up.

Donny grabs four beers out of the refrigerator. And hands  
 them out to everyone.

TED (CONT'D)  
 All right, one beer, but Sandy's  
 gonna be home soon, and I'm not  
 suppose to drink at all today after  
 last night's debacle.

MATT

(raising his beer)  
 Hold up boys, though I truly believe this to be a disastrous and life altering decision, here's a toast to Ted and his new apartment. A not all together terrible place, where I anticipate passing out on several different occasions.

TED

You'd be lucky if Sandy let you sleep on the deck.

MATT

(disregarding Ted's statement)  
 To Ted.

JEREMY, AND DONNY

To Ted.

The four tap bottles and take a drink.

DONNY (CONT'D)

(with a big smile)  
 Now let's get fucked up and play some Smash.

The four of them begin playing video games. Time quickly passes, and Ted has already had five beers and is in no way slowing down. All four guys are sufficiently buzzed, and the place is a bigger mess than it had been an hour earlier. You can hear the garage door opening.

TED

(looking around the apartment)  
 Oh, shit! We gotta clean this mess up fast or Sandy's gonna go nuts.

MATT

(laughing)  
 Oh, you are so fucked man. You might as well just come back to our place for the night. She's gonna be so pissed off anyways it won't make a difference.

Sandy opens the front door and slowly steps inside as she realizes what has been going on in their new apartment. For a moment, she just stands staring at all four of the guys.

All three but Ted say "Hi." Sandy remains silent. Finally, she storms through the room and into the bedroom where she slams the door.

MATT (CONT'D)

Ohhhh!

DONNY

You better just come with us right now before she comes out again.

JEREMY

I really see no other option for you here, Ted. You're pretty much fucked either way here. You might as well go out to the bar with us tonight and enjoy the night.

Ted remains silent. The other three guys finish their beers and head to the door. They wait to see if Ted will come. Sandy pokes her head out of the bedroom.

SANDY

(to Ted only)

Ted, can I talk to you?

Sandy closes the door again. The other guys make a collective "ohh" sound. Ted goes into the bedroom. After a minute he comes back out.

TED

You guys can head out, I don't think I'm going to make it out tonight.

DONNY

She won't let you go will she?

TED

It didn't come up.

MATT

(smiling)

Yeah, real good decision you made here Ted. Way to think this one through.

TED

It won't be that bad.

SANDY (O.S.)

Ted!

MATT  
(sarcastically)  
Yeah, just like living in paradise,  
buddy.

TED  
Fuck you.

The guys shut the door leaving Ted alone in the apartment.

CUT TO: OPENING CREDITS

During the opening credits "Just Like Living in Paradise" by David Lee Roth is playin. The camera pans over pictures of Ted and Sandy together, along with Ted and all his college roommates together.

FADE TO: HOME DEPOT SCENE

INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

Sandy and Ted are shopping together at Home Depot to furnish their new apartment. Sandy is excited while Ted is less than thrilled. Matt has tagged along. Sandy is looking at blinds, Matt keeps looking at a female employee.

SANDY  
(holding up two different  
color curtains)  
Which one do you like more?

TED  
(not really looking)  
I honestly don't care.

SANDY  
Well, which color do you like more?

TED  
(briefly looking)  
Again, I don't care.

SANDY  
You're just saying that cause  
Matt's here now. Last night you  
were all excited about decorating  
the apartment.

TED  
No, I'm saying it cause I really  
don't care. How about the green  
one?

SANDY

The green one won't match the couch.

TED

Then why would you ask? That's the whole point of putting it up for consideration. When you hold it up with one hand, put it next to another one in the opposite hand, that makes it an option.

SANDY

Uhh, you're no help at all.

Matt has been looking at a female employee stocking shelves near where they are all standing.

TED

Why don't you pick what you like best. Matt and I are going to run over to sporting goods quickly.

SANDY

(noticing Ted and Matt looking at female employee)

For what?

MATT

Fishing lures. We'll be right back.

SANDY

Fine. I'll probably be looking for shower rings.

TED

(shaking his head)

I don't know what that is, but all right. Use something more obscure?  
Yes, could think of something.

Ted and Matt walk off together.

MATT

(talking about the female employee)

College, or no?

TED

No way.

MATT

(thinking about it)

I don't know. She looks good to go to me. Why don't you think she's in college?

TED

She's not all skanked up.

MATT

So because she's not skanked up, she's not in college, that's your theory?

TED

Think about freshman year man. Did you ever see a girl wearing Nikes, no concealer, and just throw her hair into a pony tail like that?

MATT

First of all I don't know what concealer is, and you're basing your argument on the fact she's wearing a pony tail?

TED

It means she's not wearing makeup and I'm simply saying that a college girl would have accessorized more.

MATT

Concealer, accessorized? What the hell are you talking about? She's gotta walk around 8 hours a day carrying and lifting shit with a fucking orange vest on. I don't think looking like Marilyn fucking Monroe is her first priority.

TED

Think about what Tiff would do with that vest and tape measure.

MATT

(smiling)

True, but Tiff is a stripper... and a bit of a whore. And I told you, you're watching way too many Home Improvement re-runs again.

TED

I'm just saying that a college girl would have put a little more effort in. Or I guess she could have a boyfriend. Either way, I don't think you have a shot... And don't make me destroy you in another Heidi vs. Lisa debate.

MATT

There was no need to drag Lisa through the mud like that with that Tommy Lee footage. And ten bucks, says I get her number?

TED

You're on.

MATT

Changing subjects, are you coming over tonight or what?

TED

I still don't know why this is so important to you?

MATT

It's a party for the new roommate Ted. Just cause you moved out, our lives still go on.

TED

You hate the new roommate, and I really don't understand why you agreed to let him live with you guys other than to try and make me jealous.

MATT

So you admit it makes you jealous?

TED

(smiling)

No, I think it's hilarious. You decided to let your sworn mortal enemy live with you in an attempt to make me jealous.

MATT

I don't hate him, persay, and you know he is not my true mortal enemy.