The Roommates

Created and
Written by
Vannessa Vasquez
Dustin Burke
Laiku Soares

Dustin Burke
DustinBurke@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Todd and Angie are walking through the apartment one final time.

ANGTE

Are you sure we did everything?

TODD

Well it's clean and empty. Pretty sure that's all you need for a new tenant moving in.

ANGIE

I'm sorry. I just want it to be perfect for Donald.

TODD

You really like this guy don't you? Should I be worried about anything?

ANGIE

Worried? You've talked to Donald haven't you?

TODD

A few times.

ANGIE

Then you know you have nothing to worry about. He just seems like a really great guy.

TODD

Yeah he does.

ANGIE

Plus moving to New York all by yourself. That takes some guts. He'll need some friends.

TODD

Well you know I'm always ready to crack open a beer and watch some sports, even if he does like the (shudders)

The Cowboys.

ANGIE

(chuckles)

Oh honey, I think he was just messing with you. He didn't seem like he liked sports at all when we talked.

TODD

What do you mean? What did you two talk about?

ANGIE

Broadway, art, fashion and how much he loves Kylie Minogue and Britney Spears.

TODD

I guess that could be a cowgirls fan.

ANGIE

Still mad they beat your Giants last week?

TODD

They cheated, they definitely paid of the refs.

ANGIE

They played out here.

TODD

Still cheated.

Todd's phone rings, he looks at it and makes a face.

ANGIE

Well it's either Jerry Jones or Miss Jenkins.

TODD

Unfortunately it's not Jerry.

ANGIE

She's probably calling about why she no longer needs to light candles to see in the dark.

TODD

No, we went over that last week. Most likely she's confused about movies having sound now.

Todd's phone starts ringing again. Todd looks at it then answers it.

TODD (CONT'D)

On my way Miss Jenkins.

Todd hangs up.

I'm still don't get how she can use a cell phone easily, but get's confused by everything else.

TODD

Easily? I still catch her trying to get a phone operator to connect her to line 49 or something. I spent weeks teaching her. There was no way I was carrying around a cup with a string.

ANGIE

At least she keeps you busy and not me. Go see what she wants, I'll wait for Donald to arrive.

Todd kisses Angie on the check.

TODD

I'll be as quick as I can.

Todd walks out the door and shuts it behind him. (A couple of beats) There is a knock on the door. Angie goes and opens the door. Donald "Donnie" Cooper is outside. His luggage around him.

DONNIE

The bitch is here!!!

A beat for reaction

ANGIE

You made it. I'm Angie.

DONNIE

My new bestie.

Donnie and Angie hug.

ANGIE

Come in, come in. Let's check out your new place. Let me help you with your bags.

Donnie and Angie move the bags inside and Angie shuts the door.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

How was your flight?

DONNIE

DONNIE (CONT'D)

I drank my ass off at the airport and slept the whole flight here. It was perfect.

ANGIE

Speaking of drinks. I have some champagne if you want a glass to celebrate.

DONNIE

What are we waiting for? Let's pop a bottle or two.

Angie goes and pours two glasses of champagne.

ANGIE

So I got you an air mattress, some pillows and a blanket to use. Any clue when your stuff will get here?

Angie hands a glass to Donnie, they cheers.

DONNIE

They said tomorrow or the next day. Oh my God, I love this place.

ANGIE

You got lucky with this one. You won't believe how hard finding a good sized one bedroom in New York is. Let me show you around.

Angie and Donnie head off to the bedroom. A couple of beats go by. Todd opens the door.

TODD

Honey? Guess who I bumped into in the hallway?

Angie and Donnie come out the room. Donald "Coop" Cooper walks through the front door carrying a travel bag. He flashes a smile and drops the bag on the floor.

COOP

Ma'am, it's nice to meet you. Sir.

DONNIE

Oh my God. Is he the cable guy? (beat)

I have a cable he can lay for me.

Angie lightly slaps Donnie on the arm.

You're bad.

Donnie makes a sly face at Angie.

DONNIE

I'm just getting started.

ANGIE

I'm sorry for my friend here, and you are?

TODD

This is Donald Cooper. This is our new tenant.

Angie and Donnie faces drop into a confused look.

ANGIE

What? That can't be.

TODD

Why?

ANGIE

Because this is Donald Copper and he's our new tenant.

The two Donald's stare while Angie and Todd look back and forth between them.

TODD & ANGIE

Son of a...

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Quick outside shot of the building as music plays.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Both Donald's are still standing looking at each other. Todd and Angie look like they are in disbelief.

TODD

I'm not sure what you are talking about, but this is the Donald Cooper from Dallas I was talking to you about.

And this is the Donald Cooper I was talking to you about. From San Francisco.

TODD

I feel like you might have left out a few details.

ANGIE

And you didn't?

COOP

Can someone please explain to me what's going on here?

DONNIE

Isn't it obvious?

COOP

If it was I wouldn't be asking would I?

DONNIE

They thought we were the same guy. They rented the apartment to both of us.

COOP

Why would they think we were the same guy?

DONNIE

I was talking to Angie and apparently you were talking to her husband. And it seems like we both have the same name.

COOP

Donald Cooper?

DONNIE

Now you're getting it.

ANGIE

I'm really sorry you two. We're going to figure this out.

COOP

Well what do you guys usually do in this type of situation?

TODD

You'd be surprised that this doesn't happen as much as you might think it does.

DONNIE

You're like six beers short of a six pack aren't you?

COOP

Six packs do nothing for me, I only buy cases.

DONNIE

That answers that.

Donnie finishes his champagne.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

Angie do you think I could get another glass please?

ANGIE

Absolutely.

Angie takes Donnie's glass.

COOP

Well if he's getting a drink I could use one as well.

DONNIE

I identify as non-binary thank you.

ANGIE

(whispers)

Oh my God, I've been calling you a he and him this whole time I'm so sorry.

DONNIE

(whispers)

Your fine. I really don't, but any chance I can make a straight white boy nervous I take it.

ANGIE

(whispers)

You are bad.

COOP

I'm not sure why you don't like computer numbers but to each his own.

DONNIE

And it's not going to work on him. You were never allowed around sharp scissors were you?

COOP

We got a problem here?

TODD

Let's all relax a little.

ANGIE

Donald?

DONNIE & COOP

Yes?

ANGIE

I should've seen that coming. Any chance you guys have a nickname we can call you by?

DONNIE & COOP

Donnie.

TODD

I'm going back to Miss Jenkins, she's easier to deal with.

ANGIE

Leave and you die.

TODD

And I'm staying here. Any chance one of you has a different nickname we can call you by?

COOP

They did used to call me Coop. You can call hi...

(points at Donnie)

Donnie.

ANGIE

Okay then, Coop can I get you a glass of champagne?

COOP

No thank you. Champagne is for celebrating and I don't think this is right time for that.

TODD

Alright. Beer or maybe something stronger?

I wouldn't say no to a glass of whiskey.

TODD

Whiskey. Whiskey is great. I have whiskey. How do you take it.

COOP

I like my whiskey...

Coop looks at Donnie takes a beat.

COOP (CONT'D)

Straight.

ANGIE

Now I'm going to hang out with Miss Jenkins.

TODD

One whiskey coming up. I'll have to go grab it, but I'll be back and I would love to share a drink with the both of you. Honey, I need your help.

ANGIE

Are you sure that's a good idea?

TODD

You two promise to behave until we get back?

Donnie and Coop look at each other.

DONNIE & COOP

(beat)

Yes.

TODD

Good, this is one of the few buildings in New York with out a murder in it. We really want to keep it that way. Angie?

ANGIE

Are you sure?

TODD

It'll give us a chance to discuss this.

We'll be right back. Please don't kill each other.

DONNIE

I can behave if he can.

COOP

Ma'am, you have my word.

Angie hands the glass of champagne to Donnie.

ANGIE

We'll be right back.

Todd and Angie leave while Donnie and Coop continue to stare at each other. Donnie takes a sip of Champagne.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Todd and Angie are outside the front of the apartment, Todd is holding a bottle of whiskey, Angie a couple of glasses and a bottle of champagne.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Donnie is staring out he window and Coop is by the kitchen area. Todd and Angie walk in. Angie puts the glasses and bottle of champagne down, then picks up her glass of champagne. Todd opens the whiskey bottle up and pours a glass for Coop and himself. He hands a glass to Coop.

ANGIE

Look guys. I know this situation isn't ideal but we are happy to have met you two and that you both made it here safely. SO cheers to that.

All four raise their glasses. Then take a sip.

TODD

And we think we have some solutions.

Coop finishes his glass and sets it on the counter.

COOP

I already have the solution. Just give me a different apartment. As long as it's close to the size of this place I'm all good and non-binary can keep this one.

Coop picks up his bag and walks to the front door and opens it.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Coop walks out the door, Liz is walking up the hallway. Coop sees her and just stares. Liz walks up to the apartment across from his.

LIZ

Hey there. I'm Liz, are you going to be my new neighbor?

Coop is flustered.

COOP

Well, I um. I mean... well I'm...

LIZ

It's ok, take a deep breath and try again. Do you have a name?

COOP

Of course, I mean who doesn't have a name?

LIZ

So are you going to tell me yours?

COOP

Right, I'm sorry. I mean my name isn't sorry. It's Donald but I'm am sorry.

LIZ

It's okay, you don't have to apologize. You okay there.

COOP

Yeah, it's just.. jeez you're so beautiful. Damn I said that out loud didn't I?

LIZ

Yeah you did, but it's okay Donald. Thank you. It was nice to meet you. See you soon?

COOP

I really hope so.

Liz unlocks her door and walks into her apartment, she turns a round and waves at Coop then shuts her door.

Coop stares at the door for a couple of beats then turns around and walks back into the apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Coop walks back in and tosses his bag on the ground.

COOP

Well I'm not moving. Find him, her, they or them a new apartment.

DONNIE

I'm not leaving.

TODD

Here's the issue. We do have an apartment opening up, and one of you can take it as soon as it does.

COOP

I feel like there is a but coming.

DONNIE

A big but.

COOP

Dude, keep your fantasies to yourself.

DONNIE

What?

ANGIE

Anyway as my husband was saying it won't be available until next month.

COOP

That is a big but.

DONNTE

Now who is having fantasies? So what do you suggest we do?

TODD

Well, you can both stay here and share this apartment until the other one opens up.

COOP

Hell no.

DONNIE

I thought you wanted to keep this building murder free.

Yeah there's no way I'm ever sharing an apartment with a...

DONNIE

(interrupting)

With a what? A black person? A gay person? A vegetarian?

COOP

Christ, you're a vegetarian too? Your life wasn't hard enough you had to go and hate meat as well? Do you know what you are missing out on? One of the best things in life is having a big juicy piece of meat in your mouth.

DONNIE

Bitch I don't need to kill a cow to know what beef tastes like in my mouth. And while I might not swallow the meat best believe I swallow all the juices.

Coop looks at Donnie then walks over to the kitchen and grabs the bottle of whiskey and pours himself a double shot. He takes half.

COOP

Option two please?

ANGIE

We do know of some open apartments that one of you could live in for a month. Then if you want you could either move here or stay there. Your choice.

DONNIE

That doesn't sound too bad.

TODD

But we have to warn you.

DONNIE

Of course another but.

COOP

I'm going to need you to stop saying buts, in fact let's all refrain from buts from now on. Big or small.

DONNIE

Grow up.

We don't know what the apartments look like and we have to warn you that finding a decent apartment in New York quickly is next to impossible.

COOP

What about a hotel?

TODD

A hotel?

COOP

You can't stick one of us in a hotel or AirBnb until the apartment opens up?

TODD

Impossible. That would run us around ten grand.

COOP

You gotta give us something. You two made this mistake, not us.

TODD

You two can go check out the apartments and if you find one you like. We will take care of it and knock off two months rent for each of you if you decide to stay here.

DONNIE

I'm okay with that.

COOP

Seems fair. When can we go check out these apartments?

ANGIE

Right now if you want.

DONNIE

Well what do you say?

COOP

Doesn't seem like we have much of choice. Let's go find you an apartment.

DONNIE

Why me?

I just met my future wife. There is nothing in this world that can get me to move out of this place.

DONNIE

Unless you meet someone hotter.

COOP

Unless I meet Jessica Alba you're out of luck. Let's go.

Angie hands Donnie a sheet of paper.

ANGTE

Here are the addresses of the buildings. Anything you spend in transportation, Uber, Lyft or taxis just bring us a receipt. Good luck.

Donnie and Coop finish their drinks and put their glasses on the counter and walk out the door.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

How do you think it's going to go?

Todd looks at his wife for a beat. Walks over to the kitchen and pours himself a shot. Angie looks at the rest of her champagne and then puts it down.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I think I'm going to need one of those.

Todd grabs another cup and pours Angie a shot.

CUT TO:

INT. LANDLORDS OFFICE - LATER

Donnie and Coop are sitting in chairs looking at the landlord of the first apartment building. He is a stereotypic New Yorker. Button down shirt that is the top two buttons open. Gold jewelry talks with a thick Russian accent.

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

So what, you two are couple?

DONNIE

Would that even matter?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Course not, I just ask.

Well no we aren't, only one of us will be living here.

DONNIE

If one of us likes it.

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

What's not to like? Apartment in New York. You take?

DONNIE

With out seeing it?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

What's to see? It's apartment, In New York.

COOP

(imitates the landlord) We still like see apartment.

The landlord stares at Coop for a couple of beats.

COOP (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Okay I show you apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT OF THE 1ST APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Donnie, Coop and the landlord are standing outside the apartment. He opens the door and moves to the side. Donnie and Coop look inside.

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

So. You take?

COOP

Take what? What is this?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

It's apartment.

DONNIE

It's a damn closet.

Looking into the apartment it looks just like a small walk in closet. Completely empty.

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Not closet, even comes with bed.

Where?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

It's in wall.

DONNIE

The bed is in the wall? What about a kitchen?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Down hall. It's community kitchen.

DONNIE

A what kitchen?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Community kitchen.

COOP

What the hell does that even mean?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Kitchen down hall, everyone share.

COOP

Everyone shares the kitchen?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Da, of course.

DONNIE

I'm really afraid to ask this, but where is the bathroom?

RUSSIAN LANDLORD

Down other hall, community bathroom. So you take?

DONNIE

Community bathroom?

(now he imitates the

landlord)

No, we no take!!! We leave.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT OF THE 2ND APARTMENT - LATER

Donnie and Coop are standing next to the second landlord. He resembles the landlord from the first Coming to America. Donnie, Coop and the landlord are just staring into the apartment.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD

So do you two want to go inside and check it out?

COOP

I'm good.

DONNIE

Nope.

(beat)

Do I want to even ask about the (beat)

The wall art?

All three guys look into the apartment, there is a chalk outline of a person on one of the walls.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD

Nah, that's been there for at least twenty years. I never took it off, always thought it brought character to this place.

COOP

And the one on the floor?

All three guys look into the apartment again, this time at a chalk outline of a person on the floor.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD

That ones a little bit newer. Haven't had time to clean that one up yet.

COOP

When you say newer, how much newer are we talking here?

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD

Can I plead the fifth?

DONNIE

I'm guessing this isn't one of the buildings in New York without a murder in it.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD

If it helps we haven't had any this year.

A scream is heard in the background then a shot rings out.

DONNIE

Until now. I think you have a new apartment that just opened up.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD Depends, sometimes they are bad shots.

Two more shots ring out in the background.

COOP

At least you made it till October, probably a new record for you.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDLORD Damn, really thought this would be our year. So did you both need an apartment or?

COOP

I think we are just going to say no and leave.

DONNIE

Quickly.

Donnie and Coop turn and run.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT OF THE 3RD APARTMENT - LATER

Donnie and Coop are standing in front of the third apartment. Their eyes fully open in shock. The third landlord is nonchalant. He is Italian, speaks with a heavy Italian New York accent. Rats can be heard coming from the apartment. Close up on Coop.

COOP

Well if one roommate is bad how do you feel about 20 of them?

Coop looks around and sees Donnie has disappeared.

COOP (CONT'D)

Great, I'm hanging out with Batman.

ITALIAN LANDLORD

So I'm guessing youse guys don't want it.

COOP

Good guess.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - LATER

Donnie is sitting at a table his head is down a cosmopolitan is next to him.

Coop walks up holding a beer and takes a seat.

COOP

Rough day huh?

DONNIE

Uqh!!!

COOP

Going for the hard stuff now I see.

Donnie lifts his head and takes a big sip.

DONNIE

They weren't kidding were they?

COOP

Who?

DONNIE

Angie and Todd.

COOP

About finding an apartment in New York?

DONNIE

No finding an apartment was the easy part, finding a good apartment. That's next to impossible.

COOP

Cheer up buddy. It will all work out in the end.

DONNIE

All I wanted to do was move to New York. Make it on Broadway. Instead my first day here and one of us is already homeless.

COOP

Definitely not how I planned spending my first day in New York.

DONNIE

I've been giving it a lot of thought.

COOP

What?

DONNIE

We can make it work.

Are you talking about living together?

DONNIE

Yes, why not? I mean it's only for a month. I can handle that if you can.

COOP

It's only one room.

DONNIE

I'll sleep on the couch. I don't care. I just want this day to be over with.

COOP

Nothing against you but, I was really looking forward to living by myself.

DONNIE

Same, but right now I can't think of another solution. I'll even do all of the cooking and cleaning.

COOP

No offence. I like vegetables but I don't like them that much. I'm from Texas I eat a lot of meat.

DONNIE

I might be a black vegetarian, but trust when I say the rest of my family isn't. I might not eat meat but I can sure cook the hell out of it.

Coop thinks about this for a beat, then he spots Liz from across the bar. She is talking to the bartender. He hands her a bag and she starts heading towards Donnie and Coop.

COOP

Oh my God it's her.

DONNIE

Who?

COOP

The girl from across the hall our neighbor.

Liz spots Coop and smiles, she walks up to him.

LIZ

Donald.

Coop gets a little flustered again.

COOP

Uh, hi. Liz, hi.

Donnie is watching Coop.

DONNIE

Hi Liz, sorry for my friend he's usually never this tongue tied. I'm Donald, it's nice to meet you.

LIZ

Your name is Donald too?

DONNIE

Yes, sorry seems to be surprising a lot of people today. Believe it our not we both have the exact same name.

LIZ

Really?

DONNIE

Yes, we are both Donald Cooper.

LIZ

Donald Cooper?

COOP

Yes?

DONNIE

Just call me Donnie.

Liz turns to Coop and do you have a cute nickname as well.

COOP

Yeah, of course.

Liz and Donnie just stare at Coop. Donnie kicks Coop under the table.

COOP (CONT'D)

Ouch.

(beat)

Coop, it's Coop. Sorry It's been a rough day.

LIZ

Well I'd love to hear about it sometime.

What time does your shift end? I'll buy you a drink when you are done.

Donnie shakes his head.

LIZ

My shift? I don't work here. I'm just picking up a bite to eat. I have a lot of work to do tonight but next time. Nice meeting you Donnie. See you later Coop.

DONNIE

Bye Liz.

Coop just waves, Liz smiles and walks away. Donnie makes Coop stop waving. Coop realizes what just happened.

COOP

Please tell me I imagined all of that.

DONNIE

No, that really happened.

COOP

I waved at her didn't I.

DONNIE

Yeah you did. It was pretty bad.

Coop gulps down his whole beer.

COOP

That's it I'm going back to Texas.

DONNIE

Or I could help you with Liz.

COOP

No offence, but how could you help me get a girl?

DONNIE

Well she's a woman not a girl, and I'm gay. I'm a woman's best friend.

COOP

Cause your gay?

DONNIE

No not just cause I'm gay. (MORE)

DONNIE (CONT'D)

I'm safe, I'm great with fashion, and they feel comfortable talking to us about anything, including potential future boyfriends.

Coop thinks about this for a couple of beats.

COOP

You'll really help me with her?

DONNIE

That's what roommates are for.

COOP

You're not going to bring any guys home are you?

DONNIE

Are you planning on bringing any women home?

COOP

I guess not, it's only fair.

DONNIE

Then no, not until I get my own place. But Liz can over to hang out.

COOP

Really?

DONNIE

Yeah, she seems cool and she can actually make you shut up. It's a win-win for me.

COOP

Bro, I mean dude, I don't know what to call you. This whole non-binary thing really confuses me.

DONNIE

Then when it comes to me, don't worry about it. I was just messing with you anyway. Call me dude, bro, Donnie or for now roomie.

COOP

Sounds like we got a deal. Put'er there roomie.

Coop holds his hand out to Donnie.

DONNIE

I like to hug.

COOP

Don't push it.

Donnie shakes his hand. Angie can be heard screaming.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Donnie, Coop, Todd and Angie are all in the living room. Angie is still screaming.

ANGIE

I'm so glad you two were able to work this out. I really think it's for the best.

COOP

It's only until the other apartment opens up. We'll make it work.

TODD

That's great news you two. Welcome to the building. If you need anything feel free to call us.

DONNIE

Thank you. Both of you thank you so much.

COOP

Yes thank you.

ANGIE

I'm so happy.

Angie hugs Donnie then Coop.

TODD

Let us know when your stuff is arriving. Also we have storage space to store some of your stuff until the other apartment opens up.

DONNIE

That's perfect.

Todd walks over to the front door and opens it.

TODD

You two have a good night. We'll see you tomorrow.

Oh I put extra pillows and blankets in the room. Sorry about the air mattress.

DONNIE

It's only one night, we can survive that.

Angie walks to the front door.

ANGIE

Good night.

DONNIE

Night.

Todd and Angie walk out the door, and close it. Coop is staring at the door.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

What is it?

COOP

She said pillows and blankets.

DONNIE

So?

COOP

Pillows and blankets.

DONNIE

I got that.

COOP

Then she said air mattress.

DONNIE

Yeah and?

Donnie thinks about it for a couple of beats. He looks at Coop, they both rush into the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Close up on Coop who is laying on an air mattress. He has a bright pink blanket wrapped around him.

COOP

Of course after this day, this is the only possible way for it to end.

Close up on Donnie, He is also on an air mattress but wrapped up in a green blanket.

DONNIE

It could be worse.

Close up on Coop.

COOP

Really? How so? And can we please switch blankets?

Close up on Donnie.

DONNIE

Sorry, I grabbed it first, besides green is my favorite color. Besides you look so cute and comfy in your pretty pink blankie.

Close up on Coop.

COOP

I seriously hate you, and this.

The camera pans out showing Donnie and Coop are sharing the same air mattress.

COOP (CONT'D)

This is one story we never tell anyone got it.

DONNIE

Too late, it's already on my twitter, instagram and facebook, tik tok, & I had my mom post it on her myspace.

COOP

You better be kidding, and no cuddling.

DONNIE

What makes you think I would ever want to cuddle you?

COOP

You were checking me out earlier.

DONNIE

No I didn't.

COOP

You said you had cable you wanted me to lay.

DONNIE

That was before I met you. Look on the bright side.

COOP

Which is?

DONNIE

We only have to live together for thirty more days.

Coops eyes get big and he mouths fuck me.

END