

"APARTMENT 4"

by

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INT. APARTMENT/KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is open and opposite the living room.

JAY, white, early-20's, is dressed in over the top hip-hop clothes and wearing wireless headphones. He is looking at a laptop placed on the kitchen table. He is rapping and dancing in a weird way.

JAY

My name consists of only one
letter, 'cause I'm too stupid to
think of anything better...

INT. LIVING ROOM

ERIC, white, late-20's, is sitting on the couch. He is watching TV with a beer in his hand.

ERIC

(to himself)
You got that right.

Eric turns and looks at Jay.

INT. KITCHEN

Jay continues rapping and dancing.

JAY

...life's too short to try to get
smart. I'd rather take a nap and
fart. People call me ret...

Jay notices Eric looking at him. He stops rapping and dancing. He removes the headphones.

JAY

You say somethin', bro?

INT. LIVING ROOM

Eric turns off the TV and gets up.

Jay walks up to Eric.

JAY

Too loud?

Eric drinks his beer, then puts his hand on Jay's shoulder.

ERIC

Jay, I love you like a brother.
That is why I have an obligation to
(MORE)

ERIC (cont'd)
 be honest with you. You are a
 terrible rapper!

JAY
 You don't know what you're talking
 'bout. I'm on fire!

ERIC
 No, you are not on fire. MC's are
 competitive. It is all about
 proving who is the best. You are
 calling yourself stupid. Your goals
 are to nap and fart. And you cannot
 say "retard" anymore.

JAY
 Hey, I didn't even get to...

Eric and Jay are interrupted by the front door being
 unlocked.

A young Chinese man named QING enters through the front
 door. He is a student who recently arrived in the United
 States. Qing is wearing a backpack and glasses. His hair and
 clothes are wet.

Eric and Jay stare at Qing.

ERIC
 Is it raining outside? Never forget
 to bring an umbrella, Qing. It is
 always good to be prepared.

Qing looks down at the floor. He is ashamed.

QING
 It's pee.

JAY
 Say what?

QING
 Homeless person pee on me.

ERIC
 What? How did it... How is your
 hair wet?

QING
 He climb tree.

JAY
 Oh, yeah. I get it now.

ERIC

Yes. That pretty much clears it.

Eric walks closer to Qing.

Qing fixes his glasses and looks at Eric.

QING

Why this happen to me?

ERIC

Listen, Qing, buddy. This is New York. You do not walk under a tree carefree. You look up. You always check for crazy people in New York City.

JAY

That's right, King! You never know who's creepin'.

Eric turns to Jay.

ERIC

His name is Qing. How many times do I have to correct you? And stop talking black. You are a white male...

Jay interrupts Eric.

JAY

Hey, hold on now. That's racist!

ERIC

How is that racist? If anything, pretending to be a black person is racist.

QING

I think there is word. It's wi... wig...

Jay turns to Qing.

JAY

Don't say it! Don't you say it now!

QING

Ok, I don't say.

ERIC

We have so much to teach you, Qing. Go take a shower. Tomorrow we shall begin.

Qing is walking through the living room while Jay and Eric are watching.

ERIC

Something does not add up. Wait a minute, Qing!

Qing stops walking.

ERIC

You are soaked. Why did you not get away as soon as you saw the homeless guy peeing on you?

Qing turns to Eric.

QING

At first, I thought warm rain. I close my eyes and look up to enjoy.

ERIC

Oh, buddy...

Qing looks down and continues walking towards the bathroom.

INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric is sitting on the couch watching TV.

Jay is coming from the kitchen. He is carrying two beers. He sits down next to Eric and hands him one of the beers.

Eric takes the beer.

ERIC

I love the weekend. Just sitting around, drinking beer all day.

Jay looks at Eric.

Eric notices that Jay is staring.

ERIC

What?

JAY

You do that every day.

ERIC

Yes, but it feels different during the weekends.

JAY

How's that?

ERIC

Well, for instance, I have you bringing me my beers.

JAY

Man, I'm ain't your maid.

Eric drinks his beer.

ERIC

Speaking of which, we need to find another roommate. The rent is killing us.

JAY

Maybe if you got yourself a job...

Eric gives Jay a stern look.

JAY

It's cool. Forget I said that.

ERIC

I will not forget you said that.

JAY

Anyway, I thought we were taking Jing out for his homeless/crazy person awareness class... thing.

ERIC

Oh, yes. Well, how about I take care of that and you look for a roommate. And it is Qing. It is really not that difficult to...

The doorbell rings and interrupts Eric.

Jay and Eric look at each other.

They continue staring at each other.

JAY

Fine! I'll get it.

ERIC

I told you. I love the weekends.

Eric drinks his beer. Jay stands up and starts walking towards the front door.

JAY

It's probably the new camera gear I ordered. I'm shooting my first video.

ERIC
(to himself)
Oh, dear God...

Eric starts drinking his beer.

INT. FRONT DOOR

Jay opens the front door. It is a DELIVERY GUY carrying a package. He is a young black man.

JAY
Sup, bro?

The delivery guy hands Jay a device.

DELIVERY GUY
Sign here, please.

Jay signs and takes the package.

JAY
Thanks, bro.

The delivery guy takes a long look at how Jay is dressed. He shakes his head disapprovingly and walks away.

Jay closes the door and heads towards the kitchen.

JAY
What was his deal? Man, brothers be smokin' too much weed nowadays...

INT. LIVING ROOM

Eric looks amazed.

ERIC
(to himself)
How is he still alive...

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

Eric and Qing are standing near a bench with a drunk homeless man lying on it.

ERIC
Welcome to the New York City subway, Qing. This is where you earn your wings.

QING
My wings?

ERIC

If you were a pilot... It is a metaphor.

Qing looks confused.

ERIC

Ah, forget it.

QING

Okay. I forget very easy.

Qing smiles.

ERIC

You should not be bragging about that.

Qing looks confused again.

ERIC

Forget that, too. As I said, this is the New York City subway. The place with the highest concentration of "crazy" in this city. Also, it is well known for the highly dense population of rats. But that is another...

Qing interrupts Eric.

QING

The pizza rat!

ERIC

Yes, Qing. The world-famous New York pizza rat. Now focus. Do you see this man here?

Eric points at the homeless man lying on the bench.

QING

I see.

ERIC

This is an obvious example. Sort of a beginner's guide, if you will. Still, even though he appears incapable of doing any harm to us, just watch.

Eric backs up.

The homeless man throws up. Qing looks down at his shoes.

QING

No! My shoes!

ERIC

See. There is a price to be paid
for being careless, Qing.

QING

But you told me stay here and not
move!

A train arrives.

ERIC

Now, let us get you right into the
front lines.

Eric urges Qing to head towards the train.

Qing is reluctant.

INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jay is interviewing a potential roommate. His name is SEAN.
Sean is a young black man.

Jay and Sean are sitting on the couch. Jay's phone is on the
table.

JAY

Sean, I'mma play you a little
somethin'. I want you to be honest
with me.

Jay presses on the phone's screen and starts a music track.

JAY

(rapping over the phone
speakers)

Bitch I fuck so hard my dick falls
off. Then I put it in my own ass
and get off. Yeah that's right, you
can call me prick, 'cause I don't
need women, I just found out I can
suck my own dick!

Jay presses on the screen and stops the recording.

Sean looks stunned.

JAY

What's the verdict, man? Hit me!

Sean is uncomfortable.

SEAN
I am really not a fan of rap music.

JAY
Say what?

SEAN
I don't like it. I find the
profanity to be...

Jay interrupts.

JAY
The what? But you're black?

SEAN
That is incredibly racist.

Sean stands up.

JAY
Racist? I'm not racist.

SEAN
I have to go.

Sean starts walking towards the front door.

JAY
Hey, hold on a sec, bro.

Sean leaves.

JAY
Brothers be so sensitive
nowadays...

INT. SUBWAY/TRAIN CAR - DAY

Eric and Qing are sitting. Eric is looking around.

ERIC
I do not like it, Qing. Something
is not right.

Qing looks worried.

QING
Why? What wrong?

ERIC
That is the thing. Nothing is
wrong. Everyone here seems so...
normal.

QING
That's good, yes?

Eric starts to get agitated.

ERIC
No. It is not good, Qing. It is not good for the purpose of our exercise.

Eric gets up. He is getting angry.

ERIC
(with loud voice)
We need crazy people. Where are the crazy people when you need them!?

The passengers turn and stare at Eric.

ERIC
Do not look at me! I do not like to be looked at!

The passengers turn away. Those who are close start distancing themselves.

INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jay is interviewing another potential roommate. His name is ROY. He is a shady looking individual who can't stop scratching himself.

Roy is looking around the apartment. He is scratching his leg.

ROY
You have a really nice place, man. I like it.

JAY
Yeah, we do. We'd like to keep it that way, too.

ROY
I like it. I like the vibes, man. I like the color of the walls. It's so... colorful.

Roy continues to look around. He starts scratching his neck.

JAY
Listen, Roy. I got to ask. You okay?

ROY
Nah, man. I've been clean.

JAY
You've been what?

ROY
Oh, yeah.

JAY
Yeah?

ROY
Yeah, man. It's been the best two
weeks of my life. You know what I'm
sayin'?

Roy smiles at Jay. Some of his teeth are missing.

Jay awkwardly smiles back.

Roy starts to scratch his chest. He looks around and sees something.

ROY
What's that over there?

Roy points.

Jay looks in the direction Roy is pointing at.

JAY
You mean the plant?

Roy looks at Jay.

ROY
Yeah, man. Can I touch it?

Jay gets up.

JAY
You know what. We got one just like
it outside the building. It bigger
and better. You wanna touch that
one?

Roy appears to be amazed.

ROY
Yeah, man. I wanna touch it so bad.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Eric and Qing are walking.

ERIC

I do not understand. We have been walking around for an hour and nothing has happened.

QING

I'm tired.

Eric stops walking and turns to Qing. Qing stops walking and looks at Eric.

ERIC

You are not the only one.

QING

Let's go home.

ERIC

I am sorry but I cannot fail you again, Qing. After what happened on that train...

A MUGGER holding a knife approaches.

MUGGER

Stay calm. If you do as I say, I won't stab you with this knife.

Eric smiles.

ERIC

Oh, thank God. We were about to give up.

Eric takes a step towards the mugger.

MUGGER

Hey, stay back!

ERIC

Finally. Look at him, Qing. This is a New York City mugger. This is who we have been looking for.

The mugger looks confused.

QING

But why? He want to rob us.

ERIC

That is exactly why, Qing. See, I have been mugged exactly six times. I even think one of them was thanks to this gentleman right here.

The mugger backs up.

MUGGER

Hey, man. I didn't mug you. I always remember my vics. Never mug the same person twice. I have principles, you know.

ERIC

No, I am pretty sure it was you. Two years ago. A couple of blocks east from here. You were wearing a hat. It had a white stripe. I am pretty good with details.

MUGGER

Ah, I see. It was my brother. He works that area. We look alike. He wore that stupid hat for years.

ERIC

Really? Is your brother a mugger as well?

MUGGER

Yes. It's not that unusual. It's like a family thing. Sometimes it even goes from one generation to another.

ERIC

I did not know that.

MUGGER

You know what? I'm not mugging you.

ERIC

Why not?

MUGGER

I can't. My brother already did you and you seem like a nice guy. You get the family discount.

ERIC

That is really nice of you. Thank you.

MUGGER

Don't mention it.

The mugger is about to leave.

ERIC

Hey, wait! What about him?

Eric looks at Qing.

Qing is confused.

INT. APARTMENT/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jay and a young attractive black woman named KYLIE are sitting at the kitchen table. They are eating pizza.

Eric and Qing enter. They are arguing.

QING

All I say, you don't have to give
mugger my things.

ERIC

Yes, I did. How else are you going
to learn?

QING

Learn what? That you asshole!

Eric and Qing notice Kylie.

Jay gets up.

JAY

This is Kylie. Our new roommate.

Kylie gets up.

KYLIE

Hi.

Eric and Qing are staring.

Qing smiles.

QING

She sleep in my room?

ERIC

Silence, Qing. Jay, I thought that
we were deciding this together.

JAY

Yeah. Well, after what I've been
through today, I can say for sure
we ain't gonna find no one better
than her. Trust me. And she's
awesome, too.

Kylie smiles.

ERIC

We need to talk alone for a minute.

Kylie's smile disappears. She looks worried.

Eric and Jay walk into the living room. Qing and Kylie are left alone.

KYLIE

So, Jay told me that you recently arrived in America.

QING

Yes. I come two weeks ago.

KYLIE

How do you like it here?

QING

Yesterday, homeless person pee on me. Today, I get mugged.

KYLIE

Wow! Really?

QING

Yes. Tomorrow, I stay here. I don't go outside.

Kylie feels sorry for Qing. She picks up a box with leftover pizza and shows it to Qing.

KYLIE

Do you want some pizza?

QING

Thank you. I am very hungry. We look for crazy people all day.

Qing sits down and grabs a slice.

KYLIE

You looked for crazy people?

Qing bites into the pizza. He stops and removes his teeth without taking a bite. He looks disgusted.

KYLIE

What is it?

QING

I remember pizza rat.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jay and Eric are close to each other. They are keeping their voices down.

ERIC
What are you doing?

JAY
What?

ERIC
She is a woman.

JAY
So what?

ERIC
What do you mean "so what"? She is a woman!

JAY
Bro, I think you're bein' sexist.

ERIC
First of all, thinking has never been kind to you.

JAY
Hey!

ERIC
Second, it is not sexist. It is called common sense. We are three guys. We cannot live with a woman.

JAY
Why not?

Eric starts to get agitated.

ERIC
Because it is... unnatural.
Because... there are things...
things that will... happen.

JAY
Like what?

Eric is about to burst with anger.

ERIC
Like...

Jay interrupts Eric.

JAY

She's a bartender at an Irish bar nearby. It's called Mullan's. You know it?

Eric mood changes. He calms down.

ERIC

A bartender?

Eric turns and looks at Kylie, then back at Jay.

ERIC

I have never been.

JAY

Says the beer is really good. And cheap, too. Just the way you like it.

ERIC

That is how everybody likes it, Jay.

JAY

She is working tonight. She invited us. Drinks are on her.

Eric puts his hand on Jay's shoulder.

ERIC

I should not say this often... but you are not a retard. In fact, there may be a glimpse of genius in that head of yours.

Jay laughs.

ERIC

What?

JAY

You said "retard".

ERIC

Do you know what? I take it back.

Eric heads towards the kitchen. Jay follows.

JAY

You can't take it back!

ERIC

I already did.

INT. KITCHEN

Eric and Jay come in. Qing and Kylie are sitting at the table.

ERIC
Kylie, am I correct?

Kylie gets up.

KYLIE
Yes.

ERIC
Very nice to meet you. How do you find our humble apartment?

KYLIE
It's really nice.

ERIC
Thank you. Now, before we seal the deal, as one would say. Are you sure you want to share a room with Qing here? He is Asian. They are known to be a little weird in their perversions.

JAY
This one's got to be racist.

ERIC
Perhaps a little. But necessary.

Eric gets behind Qing and puts his hand on Qing's shoulders.

ERIC
It may not look like it, but he is still a man.

Qing looks up at Eric.

QING
Why you do this to me?

KYLIE
I don't mind. I grew up with two brothers. We shared a room until we finished high school. Trust me, I've seen everything.

ERIC
Then it is official. You shall be our new roommate.

Kylie is happy.

KYLIE

Thank you, guys. Let's go
celebrate. Drinks are on me.

ERIC

There is only one thing I love more
than beer.

KYLIE

What's that?

Eric and Jay simultaneously.

ERIC

A free beer.

JAY

A free beer.

ERIC

Don't do that!

Kylie, Qing, Jay and Eric head towards the front door.

JAY

Do what?

Eric is getting agitated.

ERIC

Do not assume you know what I am
going to say.

As they leave through the front door.

JAY

Why not?

ERIC

You are stealing my moment.

Eric closes the door.

JAY

(from the hallway)
No, I wasn't.

ERIC

(yelling from the
hallway)
Just shut the fuck up!

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Eric, Jay and Qing are sitting at the bar. They are all drunk. Jay and Qing are with heads on the bar countertop. Eric is sitting between them. He is looking around.

ERIC

I love this place. Do you not love
this place? What was it called
again?

Jay, without lifting his head.

JAY

Mullan's.

ERIC

Mullan's. I wonder what it means.
Is it the name of the owner. Or
does it have some kind of a
profound meaning...

RAY MULLAN, a bald man, owner, Irish, approaches behind the bar.

RAY

It means bald.

Eric looks at Ray.

ERIC

Like the eagle?

RAY

Take a wild guess.

Eric stares at Ray. He is pensive.

Kylie approaches.

RAY

You need to get your friends out of
here. They are too drunk. Even by
my standards.

Eric turns around.

ERIC

There is a man sleeping on the
floor.

Eric points.

ERIC

He is over there. Look.

A man named MAC is sleeping on the floor.

RAY
That's Mac.

ERIC
MacWho?

RAY
Don't get smart with me, son.

ERIC
I am not...

RAY
He's earned the right to sleep on that floor. The amount of drink that man can hold. It would kill all three of you combined. Hell, might've done these two already.

Jay, without lifting his head.

JAY
I'm alive.

ERIC
I want to earn the right to sleep on this bar here. Give me another round. I will prove myself. I will even pay for it.

Jay lifts his head.

JAY
I think I'm starting to hear things.

RAY
I can appreciate your determination, son. However, I must decline. You are cut off. All of you.

Qing slumps on the floor.

Eric gets up.

ERIC
You cannot die, Qing. We will not make the rent without you.

INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric, Jay and Qing are sitting on the couch. They all look miserable.

JAY
We didn't think this through.

Eric gives Jay a stern look.

JAY
Okay... I didn't think this through.

ERIC
How long has it been, Qing?

Qing looks at his watch.

QING
Twenty four minutes.

ERIC
Who stays in the shower for twenty four minutes!?

JAY
Teenage boys?

ERIC
Fuck it!

Eric gets up and heads for the balcony.

JAY
Where you goin'?

Eric, without looking back.

ERIC
Do you know how much beer I drank last night!

Eric goes out on the balcony.

QING
I never been so drunk.

JAY
Really? You had like less than two beers?

ERIC
(from the balcony)
Hey, Qing! Guess what I am doing?

Qing yells.

QING
What?

Jay shuts his eyes in anguish.

JAY
Don't you shout like that!

QING
Sorry.

ERIC
(from the balcony)
Do not worry, New York, I got warm
rain for everybody.

Jay is disgusted.

ERIC
Shit!

Eric comes in a rush. He is fixing his pants.

JAY
What is it?

ERIC
I think some of the warm rain may
have landed on a police officer.

Jay gets up.

JAY
What? A cop? He see you?

ERIC
I am not sure. However, I am not
waiting to find out.

Eric and Jay leave the apartment. Qing remains on the couch.

INT. LIVING ROOM (FEW MINUTES LATER)

Qing is still on the couch. Kylie exits the bathroom and enters the bedroom.

Qing looks at his watch.

QING
Twenty nine minutes. Still worth.

Qing gets up and heads towards the bathroom.

QING

Last night side booby. Tonight full
booby.

FADE OUT.

THE END