Chapter 1: The perfect tenant

ROOMMATE Secrets

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.
10 DAYS BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY SEMESTER STARTS.

SHIT! I ALMOST HAD IT!

AGAIN?! THAT'S LIKE THE FIFTH BALL YOU'VE MISSED!

COME ON, LIAM! FOCUS!

@EKYNOXE

LET'S TAKE A BREAK. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE.

THIS WHOLE APARTMENT SITUATION IS DRIVING ME FUCKING CRAZY.

WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR A PLACE INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME PLAYING TENNIS.

CLASSES START IN TEN DAYS, AND WE STILL HAVE NOWHERE TO LIVE...

AND FINDING AN APARTMENT IN SYDNEY IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.

LIAM – 21 YEARS OLD
ENGINEERING STUDENT

@EKYNOXE_ART

YOU SURE YOU DON'T JUST WANT A BREAK BECAUSE I'M WINNING?

SOMEONE'S A SORE LOSER!

OH, SHUT UP!

HAHA, RELAX! I'M KIDDING... WE'LL FIND SOMETHING EVENTUALLY.

BESIDES, TENNIS IS SUPPOSED TO HELP US TAKE OUR MINDS OFF THINGS.

WE CAN GET BACK TO APARTMENT HUNTING AFTERWARD.

JAKE – 21 YEARS OLD
ENGINEERING STUDENT

@EKYNOXE_ART

WAIT, SERIOUSLY?! THEY REJECTED US TOO?!

I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WENT GREAT DURING THE VIEWING!

YEAH, WELL... APPARENTLY THEY WENT WITH A COUPLE INSTEAD.

I GUESS THEY ASSUME TWO YOUNG GUYS SHARING AN APARTMENT ARE JUST GONNA THROW PARTIES ALL THE TIME OR SOMETHING.

FOR FUCK'S SAKE... WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?!

I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE'D BETTER FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

I'M NOT MISSING THE START OF UNIVERSITY JUST BECAUSE WE COULDN'T FIND A PLACE TO LIVE.

@EKYNOXE_ART

WHAT ABOUT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION? THERE MUST BE SOMETHING LEFT.

ALREADY CHECKED. EVERYTHING'S FULLY BOOKED.

WHAT IF WE JUST RENTED A AIRBNB TOGETHER SOMEWHERE?

NAH... IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE.

SHIT... I GUESS I COULD STAY AT MY PARENTS' PLACE, BUT...

IT'S SO FUCKING FAR AWAY.

YEAH, WAY TOO FAR...

BESIDES, BRINGING GIRLS BACK TO YOUR PARENTS' PLACE WOULD BE A NIGHTMARE.

FUCK... WE'RE REALLY RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS.

I'LL CHECK WHEN I GET HOME. MAYBE SOMEONE'S REPLIED TO ONE OF MY APPLICATIONS.

@EKYNOXE_ART

LATER THAT NIGHT...

WAIT... THIS ONE ACTUALLY LOOKS PERFECT! TWO BEDROOMS, CLOSE TO CAMPUS, AND SOMEHOW WITHIN OUR BUDGET.

NO WAY...

"QUIET RESIDENTIAL BUILDING. IDEAL FOR A RESPONSIBLE, SETTLED COUPLE..." A COUPLE, HUH?

AFTER ALL THOSE REJECTIONS, I DOUBT SHE'D CHOOSE TWO STUDENT ROOMMATES. UNLESS...

@EKYNOXE_ART

WHAT IF WE APPLIED AS A COUPLE INSTEAD? ME AND JAKE... TOGETHER?

I MEAN, JAKE ALREADY LOOKS PRETTY FEMININE. PEOPLE MISTAKE HIM FOR A GIRL ALL THE TIME... MAYBE WE COULD ACTUALLY PULL THIS OFF.

HE'S GONNA FUCKING HATE THIS IDEA, THOUGH. BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS... FUCK IT, I'LL APPLY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

@EKYNOXE_ART

ME AND JAKE... PRETENDING TO BE A COUPLE. JESUS, THAT'S WEIRD AS FUCK.

WELL... IT'S EITHER THIS OR WE GO BROKE PAYING FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

STILL... IT MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.

@EKYNOXE_ART

A FEW DAYS LATER...

WAIT, SERIOUSLY?! YOU FOUND US AN APARTMENT?!

THAT'S FUCKING AMAZING! WHY DO YOU LOOK SO WORRIED?

WELL... THERE'S A TINY PROBLEM.

WHAT? IS IT TOO EXPENSIVE? TOO FAR AWAY? WHAT'S THE CATCH?

NO, THE APARTMENT'S PERFECT. IT'S JUST... THE PROBLEM IS KIND OF ABOUT YOU.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

REMEMBER HOW WE KEPT LOSING APARTMENTS TO COUPLES?

WELL... I MEAN... YOU'RE GONNA LAUGH...

@EKYNOXE_ART

I APPLIED AS A COUPLE. AND... I TOLD THEM YOU WERE MY GIRLFRIEND.

YOU DID WHAT?! WAIT... AND THAT ACTUALLY WORKED?

WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF WE GOT THE APARTMENT...

JAKE... I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. WE STILL HAVE TO MEET THE LANDLADY BEFORE SHE MAKES IT OFFICIAL.

SO... YOU'D HAVE TO SHOW UP AS A GIRL.

...

YOU'RE FUCKING KIDDING ME, RIGHT?

I WISH I WAS. LOOK, WE CAN STILL BACK OUT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL FIND ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE CLASSES START.

@EKYNOXE_ART

I MEAN... THE APARTMENT DOES LOOK REALLY NICE. ESPECIALLY FOR THAT PRICE.

BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST TOLD HER WE WERE A GAY COUPLE?

THAT WOULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER!

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT... I FIGURED SHE'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE RENTING TO A GUY AND HIS GIRLFRIEND.

ANYWAY, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING BETTER ON YOUR END?

NO, NOTHING SO FAR...

WE KEEP GETTING REJECTED. THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH COMPETITION.

WELL, THEN THIS IS PROBABLY OUR BEST SHOT.

WE CAN DO THE VIEWING TOMORROW AND MAYBE EVEN SIGN THE LEASE RIGHT AFTER. SO... ARE YOU IN?

FUCK... THIS IS SUCH A STUPID IDEA...

BUT IF IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE TO GET AN APARTMENT... FINE. I'LL DO IT.

@EKYNOXE_ART

THE NEXT DAY...

COME ON, JAKE! YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOREVER!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN THERE? HURRY UP!

UGH, WOULD YOU SHUT UP ALREADY?!

IF DRESSING UP AS A GIRL IS SO EASY, WHY DON'T WE SWITCH PLACES?!

DUDE, NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU LOOK WAY MORE LIKE A GIRL THAN I DO.

IT'S JUST TO SIGN THE PAPERWORK. YOU CAN CHANGE RIGHT BACK AFTERWARD.

@EKYNOXE_ART

CAN YOU GET ME SOMETHING ELSE TO WEAR, PLEASE?!

I'M NOT WEARING A SKIRT! THIS IS WAY TOO EMBARRASSING!

COME ON, THE APARTMENT'S IN A PRETTY NICE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE NEED TO LOOK PRESENTABLE.

THE LANDLADY COULD STILL TURN US DOWN IF WE SHOW UP LOOKING LIKE A COUPLE OF WEIRDOS.

YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!

IF I FIND OUT YOU'VE TOLD SOMEONE I DRESSED UP AS A GIRL JUST TO GET AN APARTMENT, I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!

RELAX! I'M NOT GONNA TELL ANYONE. I PROMISE.

@EKYNOXE_ART

YOU'D BETTER NOT MAKE FUN OF ME, OR I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU! GOT IT?!

CAN'T YOU SEE THERE'S A HUGE PROBLEM HERE?! IT'S WAY TOO SHORT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING ME SOME PANTS?!

UGH, FOR FUCK'S SAKE...

THEN JUST GET ME A LONGER SKIRT, PLEASE!

YEAH, YEAH, DON'T WORRY! THE OUTFIT LOOKS GREAT.

THE LANDLADY WON'T SUSPECT A THING.

WELL, I CAN GET YOU SOME PANTS... BUT THEY'RE REALLY EXPENSIVE HERE. SKIRTS ARE WAY CHEAPER.

@EKYNOXE_ART

LET'S SEE... SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE MODEST.

OH, THIS MIGHT WORK!

HEH... I WONDER HOW JAKE WOULD REACT TO THIS. HE WILL PROBABLY LAUGH...

I'M GONNA MESS WITH HIM A LITTLE AND SLIP THIS INTO THE PILE. IT'LL DO HIM GOOD TO HAVE A LAUGH. HE'S BEEN SO STRESSED OUT.

@EKYNOXE_ART

HEY, I PUT SOME MORE CLOTHES IN THE PILE FOR YOU!

LET ME KNOW IF THESE ARE ANY BETTER.

YEAH... THANKS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY DOING THIS... WAS THERE SERIOUSLY NO OTHER WAY?

THEN AGAIN, CLASSES START IN LESS THAN A WEEK. WITHOUT AN APARTMENT NEAR CAMPUS, THINGS ARE GONNA BE A NIGHTMARE...

AND THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ROOM LEFT IN THE UNIVERSITY DORMS.

NAH... I REALLY DON'T THINK I HAVE A CHOICE. LET'S JUST HOPE I DON'T RUN INTO ANYONE I KNOW BEFORE THE VIEWING.

@EKYNOXE_ART

WHAT THE FUCK?! WHY DID THAT IDIOT PUT THIS IN THE PILE?!

IS HE SERIOUSLY MESSING WITH ME? WAIT... NO, I GET IT! IT'S SO MY BOXERS WON'T SHOW ABOVE THE SKIRT... THAT'S A BIT EXTREME, THOUGH.

THIS IS SO FUCKING EMBARRASSI NG... NO WONDER HE SLIPPED IT INTO THE PILE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING. UGH... WHATEVER.

@EKYNOXE_ART

GOD... THIS REMINDS ME OF SCHOOL. EVERYONE USED TO TEASE ME FOR LOOKING LIKE A GIRL.

I FUCKING HATED THAT. AND NOW I'M WILLINGLY PUTTING ON GIRLS' CLOTHES... FUCK, THIS IS SO HUMILIATING...

@EKYNOXE_ART

THIS STUPID PLAN HAD BETTER FUCKING WORK!
NO WAY I'M DOING ALL THIS FOR NOTHING!

ALRIGHT, COME ON... DON'T THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST SOME FABRIC. IT'S NOT GONNA KILL ME.

@EKYNOXE_ART

WAIT... THESE ARE EXACTLY MY SIZE. HOW THE HELL DID LIAM KNOW MY MEASUREMENTS?!

THESE PANTIES ARE RIDING RIGHT UP MY ASS... THIS IS SO FUCKING EMBARRASSING. HOW DO GIRLS WEAR THESE THINGS EVERY DAY...?

@EKYNOXE_ART

JAKE? YOU OKAY IN THERE?

WAIT... WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?!

ARE YOU FUCKING SERIOUS?! YOU PUT IT IN THE PILE!

YOU PUT IT THERE BECAUSE MY BOXERS WERE SHOWING, RIGHT?! THAT'S WHY, RIGHT?!

!?

!!

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE!

I MEAN, I THOUGHT YOU'D JUST SEE IT AND LAUGH!



BUT... BUT... I'M SUCH AN IDIOT... WHY THE HELL DID I ACTUALLY PUT THIS ON?!

@EKYNOXE_ART

PFFT... I'M... I'M SORRY, BRO!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY PUT IT ON!

I CAN SEE YOU LAUGHING, DUMBASS! DON'T EVEN TRY TO HIDE IT!

YEAH, HILARIOUS! HAHAHA! WE'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN, AREN'T WE?!

YEAH, SORRY... I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE LAUGHING.

BUT I GOTTA SAY, IT ACTUALLY KINDA SUITS YOU!

ALRIGHT, GET OUT ALREADY! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAUGH!

OW! OKAY! I'M GOING! SORRY!

@EKYNOXE_ART

HEY, YOU STILL MAD AT ME? I ALREADY SAID I WAS SORRY ABOUT EARLIER, BRO.

AND... SORRY YOU HAVE TO PLAY THE GIRL IN ALL THIS.

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

WE'LL DO THE VIEWING, AND IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, WE'LL SIGN THE LEASE.

NAH, I'M NOT MAD AT YOU...

IT'S JUST THAT DRESSING UP AS A WOMAN IS LITERALLY THE LAST THING I WANNA BE DOING RIGHT NOW.

YEAH... LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.

I MUST LOOK SO FUCKING RIDICULOUS RIGHT NOW...

@EKYNOXE_ART

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BRO, BUT YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK RIDICULOUS.

SERIOUSLY, IF SOMEONE DIDN'T KNOW YOU, THEY'D PROBABLY NEVER GUESS YOU WERE A GUY.

COULD YOU STOP SAYING EMBARRASSING SHIT LIKE THAT, PLEASE?!

WHAT, ARE YOU SAYING YOU THINK I'M PRETTY OR SOMETHING?!



DON'T TWIST MY WORDS! I'M JUST SAYING YOU LOOK CONVINCING, THAT'S ALL!

ANYWAY... SERIOUSLY, THANKS FOR GOING ALONG WITH THIS. I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO ASK, BUT WE REALLY NEED THAT APARTMENT.

WELL, I'VE GOTTA DO MY PART TOO.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FOUND US THIS OPPORTUNITY, AFTER ALL.

@EKYNOXE_ART

HELLO! WE'RE HERE FOR THE APARTMENT VIEWING.

I'M LIAM, AND THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, JADE.

AHEM...

H-HELLO, MA'AM! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...

OH, YOU TWO MUST BE LIAM AND JADE!

I'M OLIVIA THE OWNER. IT'S LOVELY TO FINALLY MEET YOU!

NICE TO MEET YOU TOO!

WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO UPSTAIRS? I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND!

@EKYNOXE_ART

DURING THE VIEWING...

AND HERE'S THE MAIN LIVING ROOM! AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S PLENTY OF NATURAL LIGHT, AND THE BUILDING IS USUALLY VERY QUIET.

SO, NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN EVERYTHING... ARE YOU TWO STILL INTERESTED IN RENTING THE PLACE?

WONDERFUL! IN THAT CASE, LET'S GET THE PAPERWORK SORTED OUT!

OH, ABSOLUTELY! WE LOVE IT! WE'LL TAKE IT!

@EKYNOXE_ART

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

AND... THERE WE GO! I'VE SIGNED EVERYTHING TOO!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CHOOSING OUR APPLICATION!

OH, IT'S MY PLEASURE, DEAR!

I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR BETTER TENANTS THAN A LOVELY YOUNG COUPLE LIKE YOU!

UH... HAHA! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

FINALLY... AN APARTMENT! LIAM AND I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR FOUR WHOLE MONTHS. I WAS STARTING TO THINK WE'D NEVER FIND ANYTHING!

AND SHE DIDN'T SUSPECT A THING! SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVES I'M A GIRL! HAHA... WE REALLY PULLED IT OFF!

@EKYNOXE_ART

YOU KNOW, THE PREVIOUS TENANTS WERE ACTUALLY TWO YOUNG MALE STUDENTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WERE THROWING PARTIES ALL THE TIME... I EVENTUALLY HAD TO ASK THEM TO LEAVE.

OLIVIA
THE LANDLADY

THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO ONLY RENT THIS APARTMENT TO COUPLES FROM NOW ON.

AHAHA, WELL, DON'T WORRY! YOU CAN DEFINITELY COUNT ON US TO KEEP THINGS QUIET!



OH, I'M SURE OF IT! ACTUALLY, I OWN ANOTHER APARTMENT IN THIS BUILDING. THAT'S WHERE I'M LIVING AT THE MOMENT.

SO WE'LL PROBABLY BE SEEING QUITE A LOT OF EACH OTHER! DON'T HESITATE TO COME TO ME IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.

WAIT... YOU HAVE ANOTHER APARTMENT HERE...?



@EKYNOXE_ART

THAT'S RIGHT! I LIVE ON THE FIRST FLOOR!

I'LL ACTUALLY BE LEAVING FOR A TRIP IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS, BUT UNTIL THEN, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE!

O-OH! REALLY?! HAHA... THAT'S GREAT!

OMG... IF SHE LEAVES HERE... IT MEANS THAT...

OH, AND JADE! A FEW OF US LADIES IN THE BUILDING GET TOGETHER FOR PILATES EVERY THURSDAY.

WE'VE EVEN GOT A LITTLE FITNESS ROOM DOWNSTAIRS!

YOU SHOULD COME JOIN US SOMETIME! IT'D BE A LOVELY WAY TO MEET THE OTHER GIRLS!

M-ME?! OH... UH...

HAHA... THAT SOUNDS... NICE!

@EKYNOXE_ART

SHIT, SHIT, SHIT! WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THIS AT ALL!

IF THE LANDLADY LIVES IN THE SAME BUILDING, SHE'S GONNA FIND OUT I'M NOT ACTUALLY A GIRL SOONER OR LATER!

THANK GOD SHE'S LEAVING IN TWO MONTHS... BUT WAIT... THAT MEANS...

IF I WANNA KEEP THIS APARTMENT... I'LL EITHER HAVE TO AVOID HER EVERY SINGLE DAY... OR KEEP PRETENDING TO BE LIAM'S GIRLFRIEND FOR TWO WHOLE MONTHS?!

OH, FOR FUCK'S SAKE... WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?!

UM... JADE, DEAR? ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE!

TO BE CONTINUED...

@EKYNOXE_ART