

One Disenchanted Evening

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Jordan's Apartment Living Room, Evening.

MAL, JORDAN's deadbeat cousin, is lounging on the living room couch, reading a magazine.

JORDAN frantically enters from the front door, stressed

JORDAN

Alright, we don't have too much time before my boss gets here so I'm going to start getting dinner ready. Can you start setting up the table and-

JORDAN finally looks over at MAL, who is still on the couch

How are you not ready yet?! I told you to be ready before I got home so you could help me get everything set up! What have you been doing all day?!

MAL slowly looks down to himself and looks back to JORDAN

MAL

You're looking at it.

JORDAN

Well, how about, instead of rotting on the couch that I pay for, you get off your ass and put something half decent on.

MAL

You know, I wouldn't be "rotting" on this couch if you actually let me use that spare room.

JORDAN

Oh yes, I'll get rid of my home office that I use daily because my deadbeat cousin got kicked out onto the streets by his girlfriend. I'll get right on that.

MAL

Great, let me know when you have everything moved out.

MAL turns his attention back to the magazine as JORDAN walks behind the couch and tips is over, knocking MAL off in the process.

JORDAN

Well, since you're already up, you can get ready and help set the table.

MAL

Jesus, what the hell?! I was going to get up if you would've given me a second! I was finishing up on my reading!

JORDAN

Yes, because my boss coming for dinner is less important than-

JORDAN picks up the magazine and looks at the title. Realizing it is a Playboy magazine, he drops it in disgust.

Why were you reading a porno mag out in the open?!

MAL

Well, I would read it the privacy of my room, but-

JORDAN

Save it! Look, I am going to go wash my hands and start dinner. Please, just clean this place up so we look at least half presentable?

MAL

Aye Aye, captain!

JORDAN

Just get dressed.

JORDAN exits from the side

MAL begins to pick up the living room and slides the magazine behind a couch pillow

MAL

You know, you're putting in a lot of work for the guy who whips you like a dog for slightly above minimum wage.

JORDAN (OFF-STAGE)

Mr. Dee may be a bit more strict than most, but he's a great boss who's very kind once you've worked for him long enough.

MAL

He seemed real kind when he threw those report papers at you last week.

JORDAN (OFF-STAGE)

The report had a lot of mistakes in it, he was just making sure I would remember.

MAL

Jesus, he's not even here and you're kissing his ass!

JORDAN (OFF-STAGE)

Listen, I know he can be harsh but- Oh my god!

MAL

What?!

JORDAN re-enters

JORDAN

Why is there piss on the bathroom floor?!

MAL

Oh... Well this morning after you left there was a black out and-

JORDAN cuts MAL off

JORDAN

Save it!

JORDAN regains his composure

JORDAN (CONTINUED)

Look, just go in there, clean it up, and go get changed. I hung up your clothes on the shower curtain.

MAL

Okay, but first, level with me. Why are you putting this much work into a dinner for this guy?

JORDAN

Alright, if you must know, Today is my five year anniversary of working in the company.

MAL

Well hell, congratulations! I'm proud of you Jordan! Held a job longer than I ever have.

JORDAN

Pretty low bar there.

MAL

Watch it. Anyways, why are you choosing to celebrate with the devil?

JORDAN

Because he told me he wanted to have a meeting regarding my future with the company. So, I offered to have it here and make a nice dinner. I think I'm being lined up for a promotion!

MAL

Well if you're so sure about this, why put in all this extra work?

JORDAN

Well, I take it that if I make a good impression here, it will help jumpstart the next promotion.

MAL

You really do love to overthink, don't you?

JORDAN

Mal, I don't think you're looking at the big picture. This can be the start of something big. I rise up the corporate ladder and then before you know it, I'll have my own office space, my own parking spot, a nicer apartment. Heck, if things go well, maybe he'll take a liking to you and offer you a job.

MAL

Oh goodie, I get to be a boot licker too! Sorry, but the only thing that interests me is getting my own room in that new apartment you just mentioned.

JORDAN

How are you so content with living so passively in life? Don't you want to work towards something more in life?

MAL

Jordan, I'll let you in on a little secret to how I live my life. I don't live my life hunting for the next big chance. I go with the flow. Let it come to me. That way, I don't burn energy stressing about when my next chance will come.

MAL pauses briefly

But look, I can see this matters to you a lot so I'll put on a good showing for the bossman.

JORDAN

Thanks, Mal.

JORDAN puts his hand on MAL caringly

Now please go clean up the piss.

MAL

You got it.

JORDAN

I'm glad you're aboard to help, Mal. Luckily all we need to do now is set the table and finish up dinner so we have a bit of time before-

Doorbell rings

JORDAN

Oh god he's here! Go change now and clean up that mess!

JORDAN rushes MAL off-stage to the bathroom

MAL

What do I use to clean it up?!

JORDAN

Use a towel!

MAL exits and JORDAN begins to fix his suit as he walks to the door to open it

MAL opens the door

Welcome Mr. Dee, I hope you found the building-

MR. DEE enters assertively

MR. DEE

Ah ah, save it, Hansen! If I knew I was going to have to trek out to the slums, I wouldn't have worn one of my good suits.

JORDAN

Apologies sir! I neglected to mention the "condition" of the neighborhood. But please, make yourself at home! Dinner will be done shortly!

MR. DEE begins to look around the room condescendingly

MR. DEE

So this is the lovely little home you spoke of. It is definitely living up to what I expected.

JORDAN

Oh, umm, thank you sir!

MAL re-enters

MR. DEE

And this is?

JORDAN

Oh, right! Mr. Dee, this is my cousin, Mal! He lives here with me and will be joining us for dinner.

MR. DEE looks at MAL judgmentally

MR. DEE

Issac Dee, CEO.

Extends his hand to MAL

MAL

Mal, happily unemployed.

MR. DEE

Well a man can only be so happy when he's not working.

MAL recognizes MR. DEE's judgment

MAL

Yeah, well that amount of happiness is pretty damn good for me.

JORDAN interjects

JORDAN

Alrighty! Now that introductions are out of the way, sir, if you have a seat and make yourself at home, we'll finish up dinner! Mal, will you help me with the table?

JORDAN and MAL grab the dining table from the side and bring it to the center of the room

MR. DEE

Ah I see we will be eating in the same room as the couch. Fitting.

MAL drops the table aggressively

MAL

Alright, you wanna explain what the hell-

JORDAN interjects

JORDAN

Okay, thank you Mal! Why don't you go get the drinks while I finish setting the table?

MAL holds back his frustration and leaves

Apologies sir, he can be quite assertive at times.

MR. DEE

It's fine, Hansen, quit apologizing for everything.

JORDAN

Understood, sorry sir!

MR. DEE moves a couch pillow and finds the magazine

MR. DEE

I see you are a fan of more "mature" readings.

JORDAN sees the magazine and rushes over to throws the magazine over the couch

JORDAN

Oh my god, I am so sorry you had to see that, sir! My cousin tends to leave his "things" around!

MAL re-enters with a tray of water

MAL

Okay, where do you want me to set the wa-

MAL slips on the magazine behind the couch and dumps the water on MR.DEE, they all look in shock

JORDAN

Dear god, Mal! What happened?!

MAL notices the magazine and picks it up

MAL

Well I was doing what you told me to until I slipped up in someone's magazine!

JORDAN

That "someone" was you! Why did you put it behind the couch cushion?!

MAL

Oh, would you rather me put it in my bedroom?!

JORDAN

Ooo you are so lucky you're blood because-

MR. DEE, Frustrated, cuts the two off

MR. DEE

If someone doesn't get me a towel in the next five seconds, you both are going to be out on the streets!

JORDAN

I am so sorry, sir! Right way!

JORDAN exits to the restroom while MAL looks over to MR. DEE

MR. DEE

What are you looking at, don't you have more porn to hide?!

MAL

Nah, I'd rather sit here and watch karma work its magic.

MR. DEE

Excuse you?!

MAL

Oh I'm sorry, did I strike a nerve in that vacant cavity you call a "heart?"

MR. DEE

Listen here, no one ever talks to me like-

JORDAN re-enters with a towel

JORDAN

Here you are sir, I am so sorry about all of this!

MR. DEE begins to clean himself while Mal pauses and realizes the towel

MAL

Uh, Jordan, may I talk to you over here for a second?

JORDAN

What do you want?

MAL

Remember when you told me to clean up that little mess earlier?

JORDAN

Yeah but what does that have to do with any-

JORDAN realizes where the towel came from and freezes in shock

Oh sir, maybe I can find you a much nicer towel, this one is too old!

MR. DEE

What's that smell?

MAL

Under his breath

Well, I can give you a hint.

MR. DEE

Is something burning?

JORDAN

Oh no, the dinner! Mal, go turn the oven off!

MAL rushes off stage as a smoke detector goes off then re-enters

MAL

Well, the good news is I stopped the fire. The bad news is we're going to be ordering out tonight.

JORDAN

Defeated

Jesus, this night is ruined. Sir, I am so sorry about this evening. I wanted to have this big dinner to celebrate my fifth year with the company and I know you wanted to talk about my promotion and-

MR. DEE

Promotion, who the hell said you were getting a promotion?

JORDAN

I just assumed since you wanted to have a meeting about my future with the company and-

MR. DEE

I was going to talk about you training your replacement!

JORDAN

Replacement?

MR. DEE

Yes! You're getting demoted. You see, I need someone like your cousin here!

JORDAN & MAL

What?!

MR. DEE

We need guys with more grit and attitude, not push-over yes men like you.

MAL

Yeah, well guys like me would never want to take shit from arrogant assholes like you who-

JORDAN cuts MAL off

JORDAN

Wait Mal, he's right. I have been a pushover. And it's time to really think for myself.

JORDAN looks over to MR. DEE and begins to passively escort him to the door

Issac, you are the laziest, heartless, egotistical megalomaniac I have ever had the displeasure of working for. And if you do not get out of my house right now, I am going to spend these next five years in a prison cell for beating you within an inch of your life and after kissing your ass for the past five, it will definitely be an improvement.

JORDAN shoves MR. DEE out the door

And by the way, that towel was covered in piss!

JORDAN slams the door

MAL

In shock

Wow, I never thought you had that in you. Are you going to be okay?

JORDAN

Get your stuff. Tomorrow morning, we're moving you to your room.

MAL

Excitedly

Wait, are you serious?!

JORDAN

Well, what am I going to need an office space for? Hopefully that will motivate you to join me in my new job hunt so we can-

MAL hugs JORDAN

MAL

Thank you so much Jordan!

JORDAN

Don't mention it. It's time I start treating you with more respect. After tonight, I think it's going to be a new beginning for both of us.

THE END.