

# One Disenchanting Evening

By: Trenton Antill

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 their 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 bootlicker 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 judgingly*

**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.**