

Adult(ish)

by

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TINT. DENNIS' APARTMENT BUILDING -- DAY

A messy, cramped studio apartment.

DENNIS is sitting on the floor surrounded by garbage and Mountain Dew bottles. He is playing Grand Theft Auto in the dark on his Xbox, which is hooked up to a small flat-screen television.

Close-up of DENNIS playing the game, running over people on the street aimlessly.

DENNIS
I feel like I had something to do
today. But I don't remember, so...

He is surprised by a knock on his door.
Uh...

He walks over to the door and looks through the peephole.

We see a fish-eye shot of VERONICA, his sister, staring at the door on the other side. She waves eagerly.

DENNIS slicks back his hair, reaches for the doorknob, then looks down and realizes he's not wearing pants. He grabs a pair of jeans off the floor and slides into them, and then opens the door.

VERONICA
Dennis!

DENNIS
Um... hi, Veronica. Come in.

He makes way for her to walk into his apartment, closes the door behind her, and hangs up her coat. DENN
VERONICA
You've grown up so much!

DENNIS
You mean... since the Fourth of
July? Three months ago?

VERONICA
Oh, who's keeping track?

DENNIS
Calendars. So uh, what are you
doing here?

VERONICA
I told you I was coming by to pick
up money for our birthday gift for
mom.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
You didn't tell me that.

VERONICA
I left you like ten messages. Let
me see your phone.

DENNIS
Ha, good luck. I lost it a week
ago.

VERONICA
...isn't that it there?

She points to a smartphone sitting in a bowl of water with a
sign above it that reads "Drown all false iDols."

DENNIS
Oh right, I tried peyote last week.
Anyway, uh, let me grab my wallet.

He waddles through the dirty room, grabs his wallet from a
pair of jeans on the floor, and returns.

He opens the wallet, stares at it as if expecting there to
be more money, then pulls out two dollar bills.

Okay, I got... two bucks. Actually
I was gonna buy dinner with that,
but...

(magnanimously)
you can have it.

VERONICA
Two dollars? Are you kidding? We're
getting her a MacBook.

DENNIS
Oh, *we're* getting her one? Yeah,
I'm sure Mark saved up all his
allowance money--

VERONICA
He *did*, as a matter of fact. He
pitched in two hundred dollars!

DENNIS
What?

VERONICA
So, thanks for nothing, I guess.

She sighs in frusration, and pauses a moment.
Also, I wanted to tell you, I'm
pregnant.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
(unsure how to react)
What? Oh my god! Are you-- Is
this-- Were you planning on--
Congratulations!

VERONICA
Thanks! Elliot and I moved in
together and everything, and then
this, and I can barely believe it.
Everything's moving so fast.

DENNIS
Tell me about it.

VERONICA
But I'm so excited.

DENNIS
Yeah, you're... you're starting a
family. So you're telling me first?
Before Mom and Dad?

VERONICA
What? No, I told everyone when I
found out.

DENNIS
You mean, this morning?

VERONICA
No, a month ago.

DENNIS
What? You didn't tell me for a
month? Ronnie, I'm your *brother*!

VERONICA
Well, I assumed you were...

She looks around and gestures at his dirty room and the
place he was sitting playing Xbox before.
Busy.

DENNIS
God. This is really-- I'm upset,
about this. You should just *go*.

VERONICA
I was just about to, anyway.

She opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
(suddenly amicable)
Alright, bye sis!

VERONICA
Bye Dennis!

She exits. DENNIS's mood instantly deflates. He leans against the door and sighs for a moment, then quickly pours a drink on his counter and gulps it down.

DENNIS
Wow.

CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE PARK -- EVENING

A small, neat park in the Upper West Side. DENNIS, looking lost/disorientated, walks past a playground brimming with kids playing and interacting with their parents.

We see a number of shots of him looking over and constantly seeing nothing but strollers and young children on the sidewalk.

He also walks past a KIDS-R-US, and a fountain with a sculpture of a cherubim boy urinating.

INT. NINA'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

DENNIS and NINA are laying in bed together under a blanket, slightly sweaty and panting, both on their backs.

NINA
Wow. You know, now that I'm looking from *this* perspective, I see you actually cleaned this place up since last time I was over.

DENNIS
(somewhat disinterested)
Yeah, I did it last night. I felt like a slob.

NINA
Ha. What's next? You're gonna start reading the newspaper?

She looks over and sees him wearing reading glasses and browsing the New York Times.

Oh god. What's wrong? Do you have a fever?

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
...I think I want to have kids.

A beat.

NINA
(playfully)
You know, if you wanna break up,
you can just say it. Don't have to
bullshit around.

DENNIS
No, I... I mean it. I want a
family. Like, soon.

NINA
Eww. Seriously?

DENNIS
Yeah. Like, to be honest... like
within a year, maybe.

NINA
You're twenty-three. I mean, so am
I. Why are you thinking about that
shit now? We're barely out of
college.

DENNIS
I don't know, Nina, I just... Okay,
to be honest, I've been thinking
about it because my sister... today
she told me she's pregnant.

NINA
Oh. Holy shit.

DENNIS
Yeah.

NINA
I mean, congratulations.

DENNIS
Yeah.

NINA
Congratulations to her. That's
cool, I guess.

DENNIS
Right. But it also got me
thinking... like, how much longer
are we going to go on like this?

(CONTINUED)

NINA

Like what?

DENNIS

Like this. Like, hanging out,
passing time, having fun. Not being
serious.

NINA

Yeah. Fun. That's what you *do*. You
have some boring job to pay the
bills, and then you come home and
you try to have *fun*.

DENNIS

But where does it get you?

NINA

Where does it get you? It gets you
to a goddamn mountain, where you
can go hiking on the weekend
because you don't have a kid yet.

DENNIS

Hiking? That's the meaning of life?

NINA

Yeah, hiking. Where you can spend a
whole day breathing in the fresh
air, and eating Subway on a
mountain, and never changing one
diaper.

DENNIS

So you go hiking 'til you're old
and gray.

NINA

No, but why do you have to *rush*
into something like that, when it's
probably where we're going anyway?

DENNIS

Where we're going?

NINA

Okay, I mean, even if we *were*
to break up... which we won't, but
even if... like, still, that's
probably how things will go for
both of us. That's how things go
for everyone. Eventually you meet
someone and you start a family.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
Does it have to be eventually?

NINA
I think so. When we're older.

DENNIS
But I feel older now.

NINA
Look... I love you. We don't have to get into this right now. What's the point?

DENNIS
But this is all I've been thinking about.

NINA
It is? So what have you been thinking?

DENNIS
That maybe... if you're not serious about getting serious... maybe we shouldn't be together.

A beat.

DENNIS
Maybe... maybe there was always an expiration date on this.

NINA
Dennis. Don't. We've been together for a year. You know me, and I know you. I know you don't want to throw this all away, just for--

DENNIS
Damn it, I *do*! I'm not a little teenager anymore. It's not just a big joke to me. We're *adults*.

NINA
But being an adult doesn't have to be like that.

DENNIS
Well, maybe it does. Maybe that's what being an adult is about-- letting go of things.

(CONTINUED)

NINA
So you're saying--

DENNIS
I'm saying... I think we're
through. I'm sorry.

NINA
Wow.

DENNIS starts putting on his clothes other than his
underwear, and packing up his small backpack to leave.

DENNIS
You know... we had a good run. This
was the most fun year of my life.

NINA
Me too.

DENNIS
And I wish things were going
differently?

NINA
(tearing up)
Me too...

DENNIS
So, I'll... I'll talk to you later?

NINA
Yeah.

DENNIS
Bye. I love you. Bye.

NINA
Good-bye.

DENNIS struggles to leave the room and close the door firmly
behind him.

INT. BANK TELLER'S OFFICE

A neat, clean, chic office at a bank in the city. KEITH
walks DENNIS into the room and shows him to a seat across
the desk from him.

KEITH
So, my name is Keith, I'll be
helping you with all
this *rigmarole* today.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
Thanks, Keith.

KEITH
So you want to open an account with
us.

DENNIS
Well, a bank account, generally. So
yeah, sure.

KEITH
Checking and savings?
(laughs at himself)
Sorry, bank humor. Of course
checking and savings.

DENNIS
Oh, well, I was thinking like, just
checking, 'cause I only have
like...
(opens wallet, counts
intensely for a moment)
thirty-one bucks.

KEITH
Oh, I didn't realize you wanted the
student account.

DENNIS
...I'm not a student.

A beat.

KEITH begins typing furiously on his keyboard.
What are you typing?

KEITH
Sorry, just looking something up.
(reading from monitor)
"Minimum: the least or smallest
amount possible, attainable, or
required." Do you know what this
word means, sir?

DENNIS
Come on, I just wanna get a bank
account.

KEITH
Ugh.
(long sigh)
Alright, I *guess* I can get you a...

(CONTINUED)

(physically straining, as if
having an aneurism)
checking account.

DENNIS
Great, I think that's exactly what
I'm looking for--

KEITH's nose starts slowly bleeding.
Are you okay?

KEITH
Huh?

KEITH touches his face and notices the blood.
Oh yeah, that'll happen.

He pulls a handkerchief out of his suit pocket, dabs at the
blood, then rests his hand back on the table while still
holding it.

Anyway, so all you have to do is
fill out this form.

He hands DENNIS a form from under his hand. DENNIS notices
that there is a spot of blood at the top from the
handkerchief.

DENNIS
Uh...

KEITH
Just write around that.

EXT. GAMESTOP STORE -- EVENING

A brief montage of DENNIS trading in his Xbox for money,
doing laundry, googling "401K," and buying quinoa.

EXT. RESTAURANT'S OUTDOOR SEATING -- LATE EVENING

DENNIS is sitting down with MARTA outside of a restaurant.

MARTA
So you've *never* tried online dating
before?

DENNIS
Nope.

MARTA
Wow. Your life must be like, really
boring.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
Heh, no, it's pretty alright, I--

MARTA
No, I mean, *really*, really boring.
I'm sad for you.

A beat of awkwardness.

DENNIS
So... what kind of music do you
like?

MARTA
I hate music.

DENNIS groans and checks his phone. He looks up from the phone and sees NINA walking into the restaurant. His face lights up a bit when he sees her.

DENNIS
Nina?

They stop to converse with DENNIS at his table.

NINA
Hey! Dennis. It's been a while!

DENNIS
I know!

NINA
Who's this?

DENNIS
Oh, she's nobody.

MARTA
Hey!

DENNIS
So how have you been?

NINA
Oh, you know... same old, same old.
Just getting ready for the baby.

DENNIS
The-- the baby?

NINA
Yeah, Keith and I are having a
baby.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS
What? Who's Keith? Why didn't you
tell me?

NINA
Oh, well, I figured you were busy.

KEITH walks out from the interior of the restaurant looking
for NINA.

KEITH
Hey, babe, our table is in the
back--

He notices DENNIS.
Hey, don't I know you?

DENNIS
Um...

KEITH
Ha! Oh right, you're that one broke
guy.

MARTA
Are you broke?

DENNIS
No! Well, kind of, but... I can't
believe this. *That's* Keith? You're
having a baby with my banker?

NINA
Yeah. When we broke up, I wanted to
take out all my money and go on a
road trip, and then I met Keith,
and we just... clicked.

DENNIS
And now you're having a baby?

KEITH
Yeah, everything's moving pretty
fast.
(grabbing Nina by the waist
and pulling her closer)
But we're really excited.

NINA
Well, it was nice seeing you,
Dennis!

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS

Yeah, uh... enjoy your dinner.

They walk into the restaurant. KEITH turns back to say something to DENNIS under his breath.

KEITH

B-T-dubs, let me know if you need help paying. Ha! Bank humor.

KEITH slaps him on the back and heads inside. DENNIS, now alone with MARTA again, slouches and sinks down into his chair.

Awkward pause. As they say these final lines, the camera slowly pans up to the sky from a wide-shot of the restaurant.

DENNIS

So, uh, do you read any... books?

MARTA

Not since high school.

DENNIS

Yeah, I don't really read, either.

MARTA

...You're so boring.