

THE HUNT

Written by

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Logline: Grad student Steve just moved to NYC and needs to find an apartment before classes start.

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INT. HALLWAY - DAY

STEVE (20-something, glasses, nerdy-looking) is standing in the hallway of a residential building. The place looks kinda old but pretty. Steve is talking on his cell phone, he looks impatient.

STEVE

The one near campus. It's less than
5 minutes from school.

(beat)

No, it's within my budget.

(beat)

Just because I'm trying to do this
on my own doesn't mean I'll settle
for anything.

(beat)

Mom, I have to go! I'll call you
later.

He hangs up and opens a notes app on his phone, where we can see a checklist:

ESSENTIALS:

- Walking distance from school
- Furnished
- Lots of natural light
- Nice roommate

He takes a big breath, walks up to one of the doors in the hallway and knocks. We cut to a lettering.

AUGUST 10TH - THREE WEEKS BEFORE CLASSES

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

A door opens and we see Steve grinning and extending his hand to DAVID (60 something, wearing a light cardigan).

STEVE

Steve. Nice to meet you!

DAVID

David. Come on in!

Steve steps into the apartment. It's a very cramped place with old, dusty furniture, and it's dark (the windows are shut and the only lamp on is dim). David guides him in, walking slowly.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I wasn't expecting you this late! I
was preparing for bed.

Steve glances at a nearby clock - it's 6 pm.

STEVE

So, are you renting both rooms?

David walks to a nearby chair with a big hole in the middle and somehow manages to sit down on it, looking comfortable.

DAVID

No, just one. I'd be your roommate!

Steve looks surprised at this information. He walks around, peering inside the kitchen. One of the cabinet doors is broken and hanging from its hinges.

DAVID (CONT'D)

As you can see, the place is furnished, you wouldn't need to buy anything. I have a maid come once a week to clean up.

As he says this, Steve looks down and sees his shoes have been leaving footprints on the dust covering the floor. He notices a cockroach walking on the background.

STEVE

Cool.

(then looking out a window, and more to himself than David)

This place is really near the University.

DAVID

(sitting up, as if excited)

That's right, you're the NYU student! You'll feel right at home, I graduated there in Polynesian Studies a few years ago. Now I'm applying for the Masters program. I'll be on my room all day studying Japanese.

(beat, and then when Steve doesn't respond)

What are you studying?

STEVE

Hum, I'm in the Drama program. I just moved to the city.

DAVID

Oh, were did you live?

STEVE
California!

DAVID
Did you learn Spanish there? I love practicing it. French and Italian too, if you know them! Where have you traveled to? I lived in France for 5 years, studying medieval theatre in Notre Dame...

He goes on talking, while Steve just listens and nods. He starts to doze off.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Steve opens his eyes as his head swings down - he almost fell asleep. He looks around, startled. David is still talking, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Steve just dozed off mid-conversation.

DAVID
(wrapping up)
Yes, great times. Great city. So, when were you planning to move in?

We see Steve's blank face.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRBNB ROOM - NIGHT

We're in a very nice room, with a full bed and small desk. The sound of an AC can be heard. Steve is lying on the bed, looking at his phone. He opens the checklist and begins deleting the bullet points. His phone rings as the word MOM flashes on the screen.

STEVE
Hi, mom.
(a beat)
I'm at the Airbnb.
(beat)
No, it was a bit run down. Dusty and old. And my "roommate" was kinda weird.