

Catastrophe

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Based on
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by Cameron Comeau

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FADE IN

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

KEVIN and TRENT stand at the counter discussing a movie.
RICARDO sits across from them, just listening, mostly.

KEVIN

See that's not what I'm trying to say, I don't understand why they wouldn't at least think something's up-

TRENT

It's not about that man, the king and queen would've had no idea.

KEVIN

If the King and Queen had no idea, why would they send their guards into a swamp to retrieve their daughter? Wouldn't they at least be a little suspicious when they show up in an onion carriage?

DANNY walks into the kitchen, on his way to the fridge.

TRENT

I don't care what you say, Shrek 2 is a masterpiece.

RICARDO

Why Shrek 2? Something special about it?

KEVIN

Are you serious?
(gesturing towards Trent)
He talks about it daily.

Danny butts in, whilst cracking open a soda.

DANNY

No, I think he means, why Shrek 2? Why not the first one?

TRENT

What do you mean "the first one"? Shrek 2 is the first one.

DANNY

Yeah... I don't think-

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

(interrupting)

Why would their daughter live in a swamp if she was married to a normal man?

TRENT

That's just judgmental.

Kevin stands awkwardly, not wanting to seem judgmental.

CUT TO: OPENING CREDITS

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

KEVIN TALKING HEAD

Kevin opens the front door, walking in and addressing the cameras.

KEVIN

I am Kevin (last name), I'm a Sophomore here. Well, I would be a sophomore, but under some special circumstances I've actually been granted the chance to skip my last 3 years of college for.. Research purposes. Haha, yes well this here is my casa, my chillaxin' zone... I am the daddy of this apartment as you can see-

Kevin walks through the apartment showing the cameras around.

KEVIN

So this is the kitchen. This is where I get most of my recipes done.

(gets quieter)

... I'm actually a world class chef. Ah, this is RICARDO, the urban street presence of this apartment.

Kevin makes a peace sign.

RICARDO TALKING HEAD

RICARDO

Yeah, I'm RICARDO. I'm from a small town in Wyoming. Uh, Kevin and I have been friends- well, roommates

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICARDO (cont'd)
at least- for the past few years.
Until he "technically" moved out
last semester... I say
"technically" because he moved out
of his room and stopped paying
rent, but he sleeps on the sofa
most nights. So rent kinda just
went up for everyone else...
Kevin's an... old friend.

Kevin continues to show the cameras around.

RICARDO
(Seems distracted)
Uh... I'm a nursing student- are
these cameras going to be following
us around everywhere now?

HARD CUT TO: A MOMENT LATER

KEVIN
This is the living room. OH! This
is just way too great not show you,
check this out.

He points to refrigerator sitting in the corner.

KEVIN (CONT.)
This here is why this place is the
chillaxin apartment.
(Opens fridge)
Sometimes when I'm stressed, about
school or work-

RICARDO
(interrupting)
-You don't work.

KEVIN
Pfft, like I need a job. What do I
need money for? Rent? Food? Parents
got that covered! Living easy...

RICARDO
Maybe for some dumb purchases your
parents don't need to know about...

Kevin comes to a stop to respond.

KEVIN
Sh- Shut it... Sometimes when I'm
stressed, I like to come in here
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN (cont'd)
and just crack open a nice cold
one.

He opens a can of (feminine beverage).

KEVIN (CONT.)
Ah, washes away the troubles of the
day.

RICARDO
You know, maybe you could start
PAYING rent again. Janene's
cracking down, man. You don't pay
soon your couch-sleeping privileges
are over.

KEVIN
Since when does your girlfriend
live here?

RICARDO
Since when do YOU live here?

CUT TO

Kevin walks up the stairs, where Danny is doing homework on
the landing.

KEVIN
This here, this is the prodigal
math monkey, as we like to call him
here in da casa. Danny, say hi
buddy
(Danny ignores Kevin until he
isn't paying attention, then
gives the cameras an annoyed
look)
Danny, didn't we talk about
cleaning up your math nonsense?

Kevin laughs to himself.

DANNY TALKING HEAD

DANNY
How long have I been friends with
Kevin? Wow, uh, well I've been
roommates with Kevin for about a
year now. That's really as specific
as I'd like to be regarding my
relationship with Kevin...
(lost in thought)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DANNY (cont'd)
I can't believe I just used the
word relationship....

INT. UPSTAIRS - DAY

Kevin knocks on Trent's door. There's a haze billowing out
of the room, some sort of video is playing inside.

KEVIN
Uh... hey? Trent, I need-

TRENT
(strongly)
Not now!

KEVIN
Okay... That was weird.

TRENT TALKING HEAD

TRENT
(Talking loudly over movie in
background)
I have watched Shrek 2 every day
for the past 3 years! I consider
myself a pretty normal guy! Why do
you ask?!

CUT TO

Kevin knocks on Danny's door.

KEVIN (TO CAMERAS)
So now, at his last chance at
redemption, he has come to inquire
with the master- ah here he is!

Danny comes to the door.

DANNY
What do you need?

KEVIN
I could use a lift into town?

DANNY
I'm a little preoccupied.

KEVIN
(Entering Danny's room)
AH well perhaps I can help.

(CONTINUED)

Kevin looks at Danny's homework laid out on his desk, picks up a pen and pretends he knows what he's doing, completely ruining the work.

KEVIN

Ah well you see here, you take this little squiggly x mark and cross multiply here in the half box. Then this here, take all these numbers out of this triangle box - what even is that- and then! Carry this tiny 1, and bam! Done.

(to cameras)

Maybe I'm the genius of this casa!

DANNY TALKING HEAD

DANNY

Honestly, I really don't know how he's even made it this far in life.

CUT TO

Kevin and Ricardo are at the front door, readying to depart.

KEVIN

Goodbye all ye peasants! While you all wallow in the dark I'll be making my mark on this land as the king of a new enterprise!

He walks outside. Ricardo zips up his jacket, still inside.

RICARDO

The king of the kitchen at KFC.

He closes the door as he walks out.

Danny walks out of his room, now that the commotion is settled down. He notices Trent sitting on the couch, sitting down next to him.

Both quiet for a moment. Danny breaks the silence.

DANNY

Hey, man.

BEAT.

DANNY (CONT.)

So, uh, you taking any classes this semester?

(CONTINUED)

TRENT

No.

The two sits quietly, staring off into space.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kevin sits in the passenger seat while RICARDO drives, still wearing nurse scrubs.

KEVIN

So here I am! In the car with my broski. That's my hood rat nickname for this taquito right here (mentions to RICARDO, who looks uncomfortable). I'm off to find a job! First time in my life actually. Up until now my mom has been paying my rent and ... well pretty much everything. But now, apparently, since I've been allowed to take the rest of college off, my financial situation has been diffi-

RICARDO

What, rest of college off?

KEVIN

Yes.

RICARDO

Weren't you kicked out?

KEVIN

It's not like that. It's not like that-

RICARDO

No, I specifically remember you saying you got an email from the university that said you could no longer attend-

KEVIN

No, no hey we talked about this...

RICARDO

Oh.. wait you still want me to say it's a research opportunity? For the- (nods at cameras)

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Well, yea-... Whatever.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

KEVIN

We're here at this fine establishment (Points at "urban" fast food restaurant in background... (KFC/Popeyes), and I'm about to go get my first job. I've brought my ethnic friend RICARDO with me to assist me in this here foreign eatery (Snap-zoom to restaurant sign).

RICARDO

Yeah, also I drove. In my car.

KEVIN

He's here to help if I get in a tight spot, (lowers voice) because that's the thing with places like these, you never really know if the guy interviewing you is just a manager or if he's hiring for an underground drug ring-

RICARDO

-What?

KEVIN

Let's go inside (turns back to camera, lowers voice). This might get ugly. (Both start walking in).

EXT. CAR - DAY

KEVIN

Well they really didn't like us.

RICARDO

No they did not

KEVIN

I mean they at least didn't have to say it out loud

RICARDO

You did just try to make a taco during your interview-

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

OH forgive me for being hungry, I told you I've never done this before- (Gets in car)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Well, you want anything before we go home?

RICARDO

We're going home?

KEVIN

Well yeah unless there's something else you need

RICARDO

You've literally applied to one place

KEVIN

Do you think Michael Jordan applied to more than one place? Do you think Steve Jobs had a fallback? No. They went straight to the big leagues from high school.

Ricardo begins to pull out but Kevin stops him.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Now I have to get that taco before we go.

Ricardo begrudgingly pulls into the drive-thru lane.

RICARDO

Whatever, you owe me gas money for this, man. And every other "quick drive" you need.

Kevin pats his pockets before pausing a moment. He turns to Ricardo.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You got a five?

CUT TO

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The front door opens and JANENE barges in, carrying a grocery bag.

JANENE
Ricardo! Groceries!

No response. She notices the cameras.

JANENE (CONT.)
Who are you, what is this?

She stops. She rolls her eyes and walks to the kitchen.

JANENE (CONT.)
(slightly distant)
Kevin...

She walks past Trent.

JANENE (CONT.)
Hey, Trent.

TRENT
Hey.

The doorbell suddenly rings. He jolts up, walking to the door.

TRENT
I'm expecting a package. Nobody
follow me.

The camera shakily walks to Danny's room. Danny is hard at work, writing at his desk, headphones in.

Danny soon notices the camera crew. He takes the headphones off, sets his stuff down, giving a light smile and turning to them. It's quiet.

DANNY
It's, just another weekday, just
doing some homework... I have a
lot. I usually come home and
just... plug away at it, work on
some of my projects, watch some
TV... Just your average day.

CUT TO

Trent sits back on the sofa, package in hand, looking happy.

(CONTINUED)

CUT BACK TO

Danny looks around his room, trying to come up with something else to say.

DANNY (CONT.)
So you guys like filming stuff,
that kind of work?-

We hear the front door swing open, Kevin and Ricardo are back. Danny turns back to his books and puts his headphones back on as the camera crew leaves his room.

KEVIN
We're back, bitchessss!

RICARDO
(embarrassed and tired)
Oh my god, Kevin.

Janene comes into the living room.

JANENE
Ricardo.

Ricardo puts on a smile.

RICARDO
(joyful)
Janene!

KEVIN
(sarcastically joyful)
Janene!

JANENE
(annoyed)
Kevin...

KEVIN
How are you today, Janene?

JANENE
Much better before now. Well you
still look shabby as ever.

KEVIN
So friendly!

RICARDO
Kevin...

(CONTINUED)

JANENE
(sarcastically)
Thanks, oh and by the way, the
girls are coming over tonight.

RICARDO
Here?

JANENE
Yup. Girls night, so clear some
space, we're taking over this
place.

KEVIN
When is this all happening? Couple
hours at least?

JANENE
Actually, couple minutes probably.

KEVIN
Just like that? Not even asking us?

JANENE
Why? You have any plans?

KEVIN
...Not solid plans, no, but just
doing this without asking everybody
who lives here-

JANENE
Do you live here?

KEVIN
...Well no! But, what? You think
you own this place? Ricardo lives
here and he doesn't have to just
take this.

Janene turns to Ricardo.

JANENE
(to Ricardo)
There's more groceries out in my
car.

She tosses her keys to Ricardo, who catches them and
immediately takes the hint and goes out the front door.

KEVIN
Well I guess this is the life you
get when you choose to live with a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN (cont'd)
drill sergeant! She just orders you
around and you don't have to worry
about your plans, because they
don't matter anymore!

Meanwhile, Ricardo walks back inside, arms full of grocery
bags, on his way to the kitchen.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Well, while you and everyone in
this bumpin' apartment are livin'
the high life, I'm sitting pretty!
No classes, no job, no
responsibilities, and no worries!

Kevin's phone goes off - a phone call. He answers.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(in a good mood)
You got Kevin!

He listens. As he listens, his smile drains away until he
has a look of concern splashed across his face. He turns to
walk away.

KEVIN (TO CAMERAS)
Um, haha, uh, excuse me. Sorry.

Kevin walks away, clutching the phone close as he walks to
the other room, away from the others.

JANENE
(to Ricardo)
Ok! You get started on this in here
and I'll unpack everything else.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! on the door.

DEEP VOICE (BIG)
Open up! It's the police!

Trent sits up, concerned. He flings the package he was
holding into his room.

Janene goes to the door and opens it. She acts excited when
it's opened. All the girls are here. It was a prank.

Kevin comes walking back, looking panicked, looking down at
the ground, pacing.

The girls begin talking loudly, as Danny walks out to the
main room. He sees the girls, Kevin worried, and the
groceries.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
What's going on?

Ricardo steps into frame alongside Danny, wearing an apron and oven mitts, nonchalantly.

RICARDO
Janene's having a girls night.
Sorry we didn't tell you, just
found out.

An oven dings. Ricardo sighs.

RICARDO
I gotta go, oven's ready for the
brownies.

Ricardo wanders back to the kitchen as Danny stands, staring at the new faces.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

CARLA TALKING HEAD

CARLA
I bone chicks.

CUT TO

Janene comes out of the kitchen.

JANENE
Ok, miscalculated a little. We need
a beer run!

Carla and Rachel whoop in agreement. The three of them pile out the door.

The door shuts.

The apartment is quiet again. All the guys stand, facing the door. A kitchen timer goes off.

RICARDO
Ooh, first batch of cookies guys!

CUT TO

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kevin and RICARDO talk about the upcoming rent payment.

DUE IN 2 DAYS.

KEVIN

I'm just saying, I think it would be extra prudential...

RICARDO

(interrupting)

-Prudent.

KEVIN

Right... I think it would be beneficial to both of us - a win-win scenario - If you fronted me the money for my part of the rent.

RICARDO

Okay, um, how would that be beneficial for both of us?

KEVIN

(trying to come up with a response)

I-i-it doesn't matter when, or how for that matter, this will benefit you. It's just the principle of the situation; I would do the same for you, if you needed it.

RICARDO

Ok, well, Kevin, we're friends, obviously. It's just, I can't remember the last time you actually helped me with-

KEVIN

(suddenly)

Al-Alright fine you're useless

Kevin spins and walks away.

INT. DANNY'S ROOM

DANNY

Okay Kevin, what, what do you need?

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Well Danny, you're in charge of all the house finances here, right?

DANNY

(agitated)

Yes, Kevin.

Danny sighs, bringing his hand to his forehead.

DANNY (CONT.)

(calmer)

Yes, Kevin I handle all the apartment finances.

KEVIN

Well seeing as rent is due in 2 days, and I'm still about just.. This short.

(holds up fingers)

I'm wondering if you'd just be able to, you know, fudge the numbers. Make it look like I paid.

DANNY

You know I can't do that. Like, I literally can't- how would I do that, man?

KEVIN

(Quieter)

Yeah yeah I get that, but maybe you could... you know... just, fudge the numbers.... You're a numbers guy. Just... fudge some numbers...

DANNY

(Whispering)

The phrase is "fudge THE numbers" not "fudge SOME numbers" and I- have no idea what you're talking about...

KEVIN

Listen... Could you pay the rest of my rent and I'll pay you back later?

DANNY

Hmmm... As tempting as that offer is, I'm gonna have to pass... Next time though, next time.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Alright, alright next time (walks
out).