

Dorms

written by

Natalie Silverman

7 Odell Place Atherton, CA
650-722-7829
silvermannatalie@gmail.com

EXT. COLLEGE DORM - NIGHT

Girls wearing BACKPACKS walk down a lamplit path. They approach a dorm, passing a full BIKE RACK and a toppled TRASH CAN overflowing with BEER CANS and TAKE-OUT boxes.

Three boys exit the dorm shouldering enough beer for ten fraternities. They wave to the girls, expertly wielding their cases of BUD LIGHT and PBR.

INT. DORM HALL - CONTINUOUS

Colorful, amateur flyers layered like peeling wallpaper cling to STAPLES and PUSH-PINS along the cork board covered walls. One flyer reads "Safe Sex Is Great Sex" and features a smiling blue cartoon condom gesturing to a detailed contraceptive chart. Other signs promote comedy shows, gentle drug policy reminders, and ways to cope with anxiety and stress.

It's touchy, it's feely, it's college.

INT. DORM BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

KATE (18) in sweats and a hoodie stands at one of four sinks. She looks exhausted. She stares into the mirror at her reflection before flipping her long hair forward then putting it up in a bun.

MARIE (18), also in baggy sleepwear, enters. She beelines to the wall of cubbies, grabbing her blue TOILETRY BAG. The girls wave in silent acknowledgement. Marie sets her case down on the sink closest to the exit. The door CLICKS loudly behind her.

Kate grabs her clear TOILETRY BASKET and returns the sink farthest from the door. Their bedtime routines begin in tandem: washing faces, taking off makeup, brushing teeth, flossing, putting on lotion.

Kate pulls out a PINK RETAINER CASE and sets it next to the sink. She brushes her teeth. Just as she starts flossing ADAM (19) enters wearing just a towel that hangs dangerously low on his pale hips. His IPHONE is tucked into his towel against his flat stomach. The door CLICKS shut.

ADAM

Hey.

Kate freezes. Her eyebrows twitch in mild panic. She likes him. Should she should stop flossing to say hi?

Beat.

She tips her chin up towards Adam and grunts in awkward acknowledgement. She keeps flossing. Missed opportunity.

MARIE

Hey!

Adam gets his SHOWER CADDY and sets it next to Marie's sink. One empty sink separates Kate and Adam.

Adam and Kate each look into the mirror at their own reflections, but their eyes naturally wander. Then they make momentary eye contact.

Kate blushes then looks past him. He brushes nonchalantly, staring at her for a second longer than he probably should. She glances back and sees he's still staring. She blushes harder, suppressing a smile.

BOY #1 enters. He puts his foot up on the sink right next to Kate's retainer case. He starts loudly clipping his toenails. Mood killer.

ADAM'S POV - He puts his toothbrush away and picks up his caddy. Glancing down at his huge flip flops, he heads for the showers.

He pushes open a black door before pulling aside a beige shower curtain. He sees a SHAVING CREAM CAN oozing blue foam. Then a POOL OF CLEARISH LIQUID on the ground and a few CLUMPS OF HAIR near the drain. There's also some questionable looking trash in the corner...

He opts for the next stall over. He sets his caddy on a silver ledge, placing his phone farthest away from the water. He selects some SHOW TUNES and turns the volume on full blast. Before reaching for the shower handle, he hangs his towel on a silver hook.

CUT TO:

Kate and Marie keep getting ready for bed. They hear Adam start SINGING over the WATER. They smile at each other. His singing is unexpected... and cute.

GIRL #2 enters and heads for a stall in the back. The entrance door CLICKS shut. Kate and Marie hear her PEEING over the music and singing while continuing their bedtime routines.

GIRL #2 FLUSHES and exits without washing her hands. Gross. Kate and Marie gag at each other.

The main door CLICKS shut behind her, but not before GIRL #3 comes in. She takes off her nail polish at a sink while Skyping a friend.

Shortly after, a couple enters kissing. It's BOY #2 and GIRL #4 who have no inhibitions about PDA. He presses her against the door. It CLICKS shut. She slaps her boy on the butt playfully. He grabs both their nighttime bags from the same cubby.

She reaches over and takes the boy's toothbrush. She puts toothpaste on it and tries to brush his teeth. Beat. He backs away.

BOY #2
(laughing)
No.

GIRL #4
(shrugging, giggling)
Was worth a shot.

Marie and Kate make knowing eye contact again, both are thinking: "Bathroom PDA?! Ew!" Marie packs up.

MARIE
Night Kate!

KATE
Night.

Marie leaves, the door CLICKING behind her.

The RUNNING SHOWER WATER stops. The MUSIC stops.

Kate rushes to put her things away. She scuttles out of the bathroom quickly, trying to avoid Adam. On her way out she bumps into another guy entering.

KATE (CONT'D)
(mumbling)
Sorry.

A random boy FLUSHES and appears out of nowhere. He was in a bathroom stall the whole time. He goes to one of two soap dispensers and puts his hand underneath. Nothing comes out. He walks over to the other end for soap, washes and dries his hands thoroughly, then exits.

Boy #3 that just entered grabs a RED BAG from his cubby. He rummages through it, but can't find toothpaste. He scans all the overflowing cubbies for open bags with toothpaste in full view.

He reaches into a FLORAL BAG and steals some toothpaste. Then, attempting to set it back just how he found it, he shifts the bottle so the label is facing the exact same way as before.

The thief backs away from the cubbies just before Adam walks into the frame dripping wet. Adam puts his basket back in his cubby and leaves, the door CLICKING shut behind him. Everyone else is too preoccupied with their own routines to notice the toothpaste stealer.

INT. DORM HALLWAY - SAME TIME

A student sits on the floor propped up against the wall. She's set up shop in the middle of the hallway. Munching on a full picnic style dinner that is spread around her, she types away on her LAPTOP.

A few people pass through the hall, entering or exiting their rooms. Two boys toss a baseball back and forth, chatting as they walk.

Kate shuffles down the hall toward her room. Four tottering, scantily clad girls head toward her. Immersed in their own discussion, they don't step out of the way or apologize when they brush past her.

Just as Kate reaches her door her phone BUZZES. She pulls it out of her pocket: call from MOM. Kate puts the phone up to her ear, eyes searching for a quiet, private place.

KATE

Hey mom, one sec.

INSERT - DOOR

We see "KATE FLETCHER, CLASS OF 2020 & STEPHANIE PADDINGTON, CLASS OF 2020" listed in big, shiny, bold letters next to two other girls' names. She got stuck with a quadruple.

INSERT - DOOR KNOB

Kate twists the knob. It's locked. She's about to knock, but stops herself. Beat. We hear HEAVY BREATHING. Then MOANING. A bed CREAKS.

KATE (CONT'D)

(listening)

One sec! Just lemme go somewhere private.

(listening)

No, I can't. Steph's studying.

Kate stalks down the hallway passing a few open doors. We see into various rooms: some where people are diligently doing work, others where students are hanging out.

KATE (CONT'D)
(listening, mildly
annoyed)
No, I can't ask her if I can use it
for a few minutes right now.

Through a crack we see and hear a guy playing GUITAR and SINGING alone, loudly, proudly, and poorly.

She passes a few more rooms. In one, people drink herbal tea and play Settlers of Catan, in another, people play Zoom Schwartz Profigliano and pound cheap beer.

Part way down the hall she stops. She eyes a closet door that reads "STAFF ONLY". She pushes it open.

INT. UTILITY CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

She tries to flick on the light. It flutters, then goes out. She sits down on the dusty ground anyway, nestling herself between boxes of toilet paper, a vacuum, and a mop.

The closet door WHEEZES closed. It's dark. She takes a steadying breath. We still hear the guitar guy. The glow of her phone lights up her face as she checks her phone.

KATE
Mom?
(listens)
Yeah, I found a quiet spot.

FADE OUT.

THE END