

Shared Space

By

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*Jocelyn sits up straight watching TV on the couch.
In the background, her roommate Bridget is
snacking hard in the kitchen.*

TV VOICE

And it turns out the cat did NOT have rabies after all.
Wo-ho, what a riot! Will this foam-free fur ball find a
new owner? Stay tuned, and we'll be back with more
channel five news right after these messages.

(commercial transition sound effects)

Grease here, grease there. Oh my! Grease everywhere!
Are you tired of scrubbing and scrubbing at your grease
stains with no results? Tire no more, we've got the
solution for you! Introducing the brand new
one-of-a-kind Windsol Multi-purpose Multi-surface
Greasify Sturdy Spray! One squirt of this spray and
you'll be grease free!

JOCELYN

Hey Bridget? Bridget! You should look into getting this
Windsol Multi-purpose Multi-surface Greasify Sturdy
Spray. Seems like it could help take care of our...
problems.

BRIDGET

Why do I have to get it?

JOCELYN

Well... you know... you're not always the best about
cleaning up your mess.

BRIDGET

(mouth full of potato chips spews
everywhere)

I don't make a mess!

(beat)

You're the only one who actually cooks anyways, so all
the grease in this village comes from you.

JOCELYN

What about all the crumbs from those carb-filled snack
packs you keep stuffed in our pantry?

BRIDGET

(slumps on the couch)

That's what we have Nibbles for. And don't get me
started on that gluten-free bullshit again.

JOCELYN

There's nothing wrong with being healthy.

BRIDGET

Yeah, and there's nothing wrong with taking that stick out of your ass every once in a while.

Jocelyn glares at her then goes to the kitchen to clean up the mess. Bridget doesn't care and watches the TV.

TV VOICE

Hi, I'm Doctor Drodoburg of the Piedmont State Science and Research Institute. Did you know that every carb you eat could take up to *ten seconds* off your life span? **That's precious time away from being with your family, exploring the great outdoors, or cleaning up your kitchen.** Don't lose any more time... go gluten-free with a delicious bag of Lenzel Market's Smart Tarts. Piedmont State Science and Research Institute approved!

JOCELYN

(yelling from kitchen)

Hmmm, guess that Dr. Drodoburg thinks being gluten-free is good for your health too.

BRIDGET

What is this, channel five news? Bunch of liberal mahooney. Where's the remote?

(ruffling through couch cushions)

Jocelyn! Did you hide the TV remote again?

JOCELYN

No...

TV VOICE

Lose your remote control? Car keys? Small change? Look no further, with Bondoozle Electronics Find-My-Shit stickers. Just stick one of them all your tiny tacky items and use the app on your phone to find your shit!

BRIDGET

Geez... this marketing's kinda on point.

JOCELYN

(sits back down)

You're welcome.

BRIDGET

For what?

JOCELYN

For cleaning up your carbs.

BRIDGET

I was saving my *potato chips* as a treat for Nibbles.
Speaking of Nibbles, where the hell is he?

JOCELYN

Put them in his bowl, not on my floor.

BRIDGET

It's *my* floor too, and *my* potato chips. I'm sick of
you always going through all my stuff.

TV VOICE

Got some personal belongings that you don't want anyone
to touch? Money? Drugs? Dirty magazines? Lock em away
from those nosy go-bowers with a Garmant High Security
Safe!

JOCELYN

I'd hardly call it stuff. Just a bunch of garbage that
you're either too lazy or too stupid to throw away.

TV VOICE

Are you a hoarder? **Do you know somebody who's a
hoarder?** Is someone you live with a hoarder? If the
answer to any of these questions is yes, then it's the
perfect time of year for you! The Toshfield Spring Sale
is just around the corner, and we want to buy all your
stuff! Doesn't matter if it's a diamond ring or a used
napkin... we'll take it all!

BRIDGET

Uhhh... since when does the TV know everything about
us? I thought it was just like Facebook that could do
that.

JOCELYN

Does it matter? It's just creepy either way.
(pulls remote out of back pocket)

BRIDGET

You were hiding the remote! Give me that!

*They fight for the remote until it goes flying and
breaks all over the floor.*

TV VOICE

Remote controls! Remote controls! We are selling remote
controls!

BRIDGET & JOCELYN

Shut up!

JOCELYN

Wait to go, *Bridget!*

BRIDGET

You're the one who hid it from me in the first place!

JOCELYN

Yeah, cause I don't want to have to watch your stupid shows.

BRIDGET

Reality TV isn't stupid, it's entertaining.

TV VOICE

Joe has invited Brittany to dinner at Haverty's. He's the man of her dreams, and they're in store for a magical night... a proposal perhaps? But wait! Guess who happens to be at the table next to them. That isn't... Kaitlyn????

JOCELYN

This show should be canceled.

TV VOICE

But no!!! The dinner is off, and I'm afraid that Brittany's and Tiffany's has just been canceled mid-season.

BRIDGET

Are you kidding me? God, all you do is just ruin everything!

TV VOICE

Do you have an uptight controlling roommate? Introducing Xanax! Just slip one of these bad boys into her drink and she'll be off your ass for the rest of the day! Prescriptions for everyone!

JOCELYN

Oh, so now you're going to drug me?

BRIDGET

I didn't say it.

JOCELYN

No, no. You wanna get personal? Hm, what could possibly be bad about living with you? Well, let's start with the basics.

TV VOICE

Do you smell bad? Introducing soap! Rub it on your body at least once a day and you won't smell like you just took a nap in a fucking dumpster!

BRIDGET

I'm gonna fucking kill you.

TV VOICE

Enemies in the area? How about you murder them? One bullet to the brain and they'll be dead as a dog. Get your free gun today, no background check necessary!

BRIDGET

I didn't mean that.

JOCELYN

Do you actually hate me that much?

BRIDGET

No... this is going to far. Let's turn this shit off and just talk face to face.

(stands up and goes to turn off TV)

TV VOICE

And we're back with channel five news. For those just joining us, a crazed kitten was found wandering the streets earlier this morning. Here's a photo of what the cat looked like when it was picked up by animal control.

BRIDGET

Nibbles!

TV VOICE

After a series of tests, the cat did NOT have anything wrong with it after all, aside from a few mishaps in its diet. Cat whisperer Diana Clark claims that it also appeared to be suffering from a stress disorder caused by loud noises in the form of bickering humans.

BRIDGET

Jocelyn? Why was Nibbles wandering the streets this morning?

JOCELYN

Um... I might have sort of... let him loose.

BRIDGET

YOU WHAT??

JOCELYN

I just couldn't take the hair everywhere... and the fur balls... I'm sorry.

BRIDGET

I didn't realize a little mess could drive you that crazy.

JOCELYN

It shouldn't have. Sometimes I just get a little too... stressed out... and then I take it out on you. This is all my fault.

BRIDGET

No, it's my fault too. I know I can be inconsiderate sometimes.

(beat)

I'm gonna go get nibbles.

TV VOICE

Relationships can be hard, but you don't need to face them alone. At Shabalaba Therapy, we have the care and support that can change your--

JOCELYN

Hey!

BRIDGET

What?

JOCELYN

Maybe... this isn't either of our faults.

They turn towards the TV in unison.

TV VOICE

So... did you wanna buy that Windsol Mutli-purpose Multi-surface Greasify spray?

JOCELYN

Nope.

TV VOICE

Oh... okay. Seem a little down in the dumps. Can I interest you in some re-runs of Brittany's and Tiffany's to cheer you up?

BRIDGET

Already over it.

Jocelyn and Bridget each grab club-like household objects (maybe an umbrella, coat hanger, etc.) and slowly advance towards the TV.

TV VOICE

Well... there's plenty of other channels I can switch on... no... no don't do this!

As they raise their weapons high and smash down on the TV, cut to black.

END OF PLAY