

**How's the Commune?**

"Pilot"

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

A woman, SHIVANI (27, hot but in a way where you can tell she grew up ugly, South Asian), walks next to a an IRISH GUY (20s, looks like he'd be a frequent listener of Joe Rogan, derogatory) to her front door. He kisses her.

IRISH GUY

Mmm you're a better kisser than you look.

Shiv smiles but then realizes what he said.

SHIVANI

Wait--

IRISH GUY

--So... do you wanna keep hanging out.

He directs his eyes inside suggestively.

SHIVANI

Oh, at my place?

IRISH GUY

I mean, yeah. I'd prefer to hook up in your room than in the hallway.

Shivani looks visibly nervous.

SHIVANI

My room? Like in my bed? Where I dream?

IRISH GUY

Uh.

SHIVANI

Uhhh--the thing is one of my roommates, Ellie, is kinda mad at me right now... She was talking about how her boyfriend is a bum and I nodded and she said that was fucked up of me to agree with her and she's been icing me out and if I bring you in then it's just bringing attention to my presence.

IRISH GUY

I don't get how--

SHIVANI

Oh, but actually, there's a way to come up through the window. How are your building scaling skills?

He looks confused.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

No, you only need to scale it for a bit. Also, the sex has to be silent. How loud are your orgasms?

IRISH GUY

I- well-

SHIVANI

No, forget it. My mattress is old, it'll squeak too loud. Oh, are you opposed to doing it on the floor?

IRISH GUY

All to avoid your angry roommate?

SHIVANI

Yeah, she can be really scary.

ELLIE (24, looks like she used to bite people on the playground, Arab) holding a trash bag, opens the front door finding Shiv and the Irish guy.

ELLIE

(sweetly)

Oh hello.

(to the Irish guy)

You look familiar... are you the neighbor with the pet rat?

(to Shivani)

Hi, honey.

SHIVANI

(testing the waters)

Oh... hey. How are you?

ELLIE

Good! I'm gonna sneak by you though to throw this out.

Ellie slips in between them.

IRISH GUY

Was that a different roommate?

SHIVANI

No... no that was the one that was mad at me. Maybe she's not mad? I'm very confused, myself.

IRISH GUY

Great, so I can come in then.

BOBBY (27, frat-guy exterior, future girl dad interior, white) opens the front door.

BOBBY

Hey, can you keep it down? I'm in an interview.

SHIVANI

Bobby, it's like 11pm? How are you in an interview?

BOBBY

Yeah, well, the company is in Hong Kong.

(off her confusion)

They pay \$80k and offer dental.

Shivani shrugs in acceptance.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(to Irish guy)

Oh dude, are you the neighbor that always does crack on Tuesdays?

IRISH GUY

No, I stick to Wednesdays.

KAHARA (30, poised yet deadpan, Black) walks up to the front door with a bunch of grocery bags.

KAHARA

Hey! You're still up?

(to Irish guy)

Oh, are you the neighbor that threw up on the crosswalk button?

IRISH GUY

(recalling the memory)

Oh yeahh, that was me.

KAHARA

Are you two on a date?

IRISH GUY  
(flirtatiously)  
I wouldn't say date exactly. What's  
your name?

KAHARA  
...Kahara?

SHIVANI  
What the hell is this?

Ellie comes back up from taking out the trash.

IRISH GUY  
(to Ellie and Kahara)  
Do you two girls wanna come over  
for a drink?

SHIVANI  
So at this point, I'm not even  
part of it, or?

BOBBY  
He didn't ask me either.

SHIVANI  
Would you rather have been invited?

BOBBY  
It's just nice to be included.

IRISH GUY  
Shiv didn't tell me her roommates  
were so hot.

The roommates looked shocked and grossed out. Bobby looks  
slightly flattered.

SHIVANI  
(to the Irish guy)  
Ok, we're done. You gotta go.

She sheep herds the rest of the roommates into the apartment.  
Kahara mouths 'sorry' to Shiv and walks inside. Ellie flips  
off Irish guy and walks inside, shutting the door.

IRISH GUY  
So, I'll come over tomorrow then,  
yeah?

SHIVANI  
Never return.

She opens the door handle to walk inside but the handle comes loose and comes off the door. A beat as Irish guy stares at the handle in Shivani's hands.

IRISH GUY

Quick makeout till the super comes?

SHIVANI

Go.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shivani walks through into the living room. We can see the place much better now. This is a quality of apartment that only makes sense given it's shared by four people. She greets Kahara who's doing the dishes with her laptop non-stop dinging with notifications next to her.

KAHARA

How was it?

SHIVANI

Uh, well, apparently when you agree to creative direct a project that you randomly applied to on the internet, it's possible that project is a pro-cop documentary.

KAHARA

Huh?

SHIVANI

It was a pro-cop documentary. I worked on a pro-cop documentary.

Ellie comes out of her room and enters the conversation.

ELLIE

Hi, honey.

Ellie's somewhat boyfriend, GARRETT, comes out of Ellie's room half-clothed. Shiv rolls her eyes at his presence.

GARRETT

Why did you work on a pro-cop doc?

KAHARA

Oh. Hi, Garrett. Didn't realize you were here.

SHIVANI

(to Garrett)

I needed the money.

GARRETT

(smugly)

That's fucked up. I would never do that. I would have walked off set.

Shivani rolls her eyes again.

ELLIE  
Shut up, Garrett, no one gives a  
shit.

Ellie blows Shivani a kiss. Shivani still looks confused if  
everything is okay with them.

SHIVANI  
(to Ellie)  
Aren't you supposed to be in the  
Upper West Side working right now?

ELLIE  
Got fired.

Ellie flops on the couch.

SHIVANI  
What? For what? How do you get  
fired in babysitting? That kid was  
like non-verbal.

ELLIE  
I called the kid an idiot. And like  
the Dad got so mad for some reason.

Shivani and Kahara both look at her, silently.

KAHARA  
I mean, the kid was four, so...

ELLIE  
Yeah, and an idiot.

Bobby comes downstairs.

BOBBY  
Guys, I was in another interview.  
They heard you screaming.

KAHARA  
This is a fairly standard volume, I  
feel.

SHIVANI  
How'd it go?

BOBBY  
Good. Ish. They said I'd hear back  
in 8-10 weeks so, yeah, I'm feeling  
good.

SHIVANI

Great! We should celebrate! Wanna go to Mollies?

KAHARA

It's 1pm. And I'm still on the clock. Also it's Tuesday. And no bar is open.

Garrett rips a bong that he seems to pull out from nowhere in the middle of the kitchen.

BOBBY

Oh. Hi, Garrett.

GARRETT

Sup.

Bobby gives Ellie a look.

ELLIE

Don't be mad. We did it on the floor. For your sake.

GARRETT

It was good.

ELLIE

It was okay.

INT./EXT. APARTMENT BALCONY - DAY

Shivani and Ellie are both having a cup of coffee on the balcony. Ellie is drinking out of a paper cup while Shiv drinks out of an intricate handmade mug.

SHIVANI

Oh, it's that guy again.

They both peer down from the balcony across the street to an OLDER MAN with three dogs and a YOUNG WOMAN coming out of a building.

ELLIE

She's new.

SHIVANI

Maybe his daughter?

ELLIE

Yeah they look al-

The two on the street start vigorously making out.

Huh. SHIVANI Oh. ELLIE (CONT'D)

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
I walked by the Irish douchebag  
yesterday.

SHIVANI  
(gasping)  
Did he say anything?

ELLIE  
I don't know, I just stared ahead  
with headphones in. I farted as I  
walked by though.

SHIVANI  
Oh! Chemical warfare, love it.

ELLIE  
Yeah, silent but deadly. I had just  
downed like 3 burgers.

SHIVANI  
Poor guy.

ELLIE  
I'll kill any guy that says shit  
like that to you.

SHIVANI  
I love how homicidal you get for  
me.

They share a nice moment.

ELLIE  
Also, the dad of that girl keeps  
texting me mad about the whole  
idiot thing.

SHIVANI  
Hm, what's he saying?

ELLIE  
"How could you do that? You're such  
a terrible person." Blah blah blah.

Shiv gets a message on Instagram.

**Hey. Hope you've been well. Will send \$50 for feet pics. \$100  
for you to show me your feet in a bikini on Facetime.**

**Let me know if this sounds good to you at your earliest convenience!**

SHIVANI

Hm. That foot guy messaged me again.

ELLIE

What the fuck? He never messages me. How much is he offering?

SHIVANI

\$100 for a feet Facetime. I've only sent photos before.

ELLIE

Are you gonna do it?

SHIVANI

I mean \$100 is pretty hefty. And I need to pay off the interest from my credit card bill a few months ago.

Shivani gets a text message as well.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

God, I'm popular today.

**Hey Shivane! I'm Mariah, got your number from Carl. I'm looking for a creative director for a six month long project starting next month. Rate is \$80 an hour. Would love to have a call to discuss it.**

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

ELLIE

Hm?

SHIVANI

I just got an offer to be a creative director for \$80 an hour.

She shows Ellie the text.

ELLIE

I don't think they've offered it to you yet?

SHIVANI

(relieved)

I'm gonna be employed for six months!

(MORE)

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

After years and years of just taking the crappiest jobs and gigs possible. Ugh. It's literally my dream job.

ELLIE

Wow. Dream job. That's crazy. That's so, like, millennial coded.

Shiv thinks about that. Ellie scooches her chair to see better, knocking over Shivani's mug off the four floor high balcony to its ultimate CRASH on the street. Doesn't bother the making out couple. They're still there.

SHIVANI

(whimpering under her breath)

My grandad's mug.

She looks over to Ellie who goes back to her phone, paying no mind.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Ellie, you just knocked over the mug.

ELLIE

Okay? Get a new one? Don't get your panties in a twist about it.

Shiv gears herself up for a fight.

SHIVANI

You--

ELLIE

(excitedly distracted by her phone)

Oh my God, look at this video, you're gonna die.

Ellie shows her a video as Shiv just glares at her.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - NIGHT

Shiv sits in the bar on her third negroni with her best friend, DYLAN (27, coolest girl you know, Black).

DYLAN

Did she offer to pay for a new one?

SHIVANI  
 (shaking her head)  
 No, no, not really her thing.

DYLAN  
 I would have smacked her.

SHIVANI  
 Dylan, I feel like you say that as  
 the response to a lot of my  
 roommate stories.  
 (to the bartender)  
 Can I get another?

The BARTENDER makes another, judging her just a bit.

DYLAN  
 Thank God for my studio. Every  
 other week you guys are either  
 attached at the hip or in like a  
 fight of a lifetime.

Shiv shrugs in acknowledgement.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
 Why can't you guys just ask her to  
 move out at this point?

SHIVANI  
 She's the only one other than me  
 actually on the lease.

Dylan cocks her head.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)  
 (defensive)  
 And I don't know, I feel a certain  
 level of loyalty to her. Like, we  
 moved into the place together. I  
 have a weird love for her, I don't  
 know.

DYLAN  
 You know what the real problem is  
 in your apartment?

SHIVANI	BARTENDER
(nodding)	(nodding)
Too many cockroaches.	They're too single.

Shiv does a double take at the bartender.

DYLAN  
 No, you're all too unemployed.

SHIVANI  
I worked yesterday!

DYLAN  
Yeah... But you guys all have these weird two day jobs. You need to have nine to fives, then you'd piss each other off less. You guys live in what is pretty much a hostel.

BARTENDER  
No, not hostel...a hotel.

SHIVANI  
(to bartender)  
Are you like? Part of this conversation now?

DYLAN  
No, not hotel. You guys are like boho, in a derogatory way. Oh! You guys are like a commune!

SHIVANI  
We are not like a commune!

DYLAN  
What did your roommate before Kahara do for work again?

SHIVANI  
She was a cruise ship singer... that sold anklets.

A beat.

DYLAN  
A commune!

SHIVANI  
Okay, I will concede that that element is slightly commune-ist.

She thinks about what she just said.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)  
But I will not admit that as a--

Shivani gets a call.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)  
Oh, it's Bobby.

She answers him on speakerphone and the girls lean in.

BOBBY

Dude, you have to help me! I'm 90% sure Ellie is fucking Garrett on the couch right now.

SHIVANI

What? Are you sure?

BOBBY

They keep moaning, so I'm not sure exactly what else they would be doing. And I was still in an interview when I heard them. And I'm really hungry! And I want oatmeal.

SHIVANI

Then go down there and stop them!

BOBBY

If I go down there, then aren't I like... participating... in the act?

DYLAN

How, exactly?

BOBBY

Because, they would like! Get off on getting caught.

Shiv and Dylan all shrug their shoulders in slight agreement.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Where are you guys?

SHIVANI

We're downstairs at Mollies.

BOBBY

I'm on my way.

SHIVANI

If you can't get oatmeal, how are you expecting to come to the bar?

BOBBY

I snuck out my window. I'll be there in 2 minutes.

He hangs up. They're both silent.

SHIVANI

So like I was saying, we're all really adult and mature in our place and just because we have a more gig based job set up does not mean we are any less normal. How are you?

DYLAN

Greg had gum on his desk today, and we didn't talk all day so I thought I'd strike up a conversation. So I asked him for a piece of gum, but then he said no? Which either means: he hates me, he's in love with me, or he's racist, or all three.

SHIVANI

Definitely all three.

Bobby bursts into the bar huffing and sweating. But also shivering. It's dead of winter.

DYLAN

You didn't grab a coat??

BOBBY

My coat! Was downstairs! Which was not possible to reach! What part doesn't make sense? I need alcohol.

Bobby turns towards the bar. He quickly turns around and heads back towards the girls.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(faux sweetly)

Can I borrow \$10 actually? My wallet was downstairs.

SHIVANI

Ooh, I don't have any cash. And all my money is tied up in Venmo right now.

BOBBY

How did you pay for your drinks then?

SHIVANI

Every third drink, I show the bartender one boob. We're square.

The bartender nods his head in agreement.

DYLAN

Oh my God, I'll give you the money.

She hands him a \$10.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

What's the point of having a guy friend if he doesn't buy us stuff and doesn't have other guy friends to introduce us to?

Shiv nods in agreement as Bobby turns back towards them with a very massive Guinness.

BOBBY

We can't live like this. In fear. Afraid to turn the corner.

SHIVANI

You sound like you were in war.

BOBBY

In a way, I was.

DYLAN

You guys *have* to confront her. I suggested smacking, but I was rudely turned down.

BOBBY

Or, you know, we could just tell her not to have sex on the couch.

SHIVANI

No I have! I *explicitly* asked her not to have sex on the couch.

They look confused.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Yeah. She told me she fucked him on the couch like two weeks ago and I told her she can't anymore, but then she said I was acting like her mom, and that, combined with the fact that I found like 12 more gray hairs that day, made me feel old so we changed the topic and never spoke about it again.

Dylan and Bobby both stare at her.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Yeah, we have to confront her.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The roommates are all gathered on the couch, with Bobby sitting on the floor.

ELLIE

I can't believe you would think that!

SHIVANI

I can't believe you wouldn't!

BOBBY

No, Ellie is right, that's an absolutely ridiculous opinion to have.

ELLIE

I don't even know if I can look at you the same way now.

KAHARA

I should really start watching *Vanderpump Rules*.

SHIVANI

Okay, well. I hate to bring it back to business, but maybe we should start the roommate meeting now? Who wants the talking stick.

Shivani shoots Bobby a knowing look. He clears his throat. She hands him an object: a miniature clay version of Shivani. He takes it with no hesitation, this is a regular thing.

BOBBY

Yeah, so actually I might have one thing.

He looks towards Ellie. She looks back with a stare that is both technically harmless but incredibly menacing.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Um, yeah just a minor thing, really. So yesterday, I tried to come downstairs and well I couldn't due to the-

ELLIE

Spit it out.

BOBBY

Hm. I. Garrett was over. Uh- cool guy. Yeah cool guy.

ELLIE  
Is that your whole point?

BOBBY  
Yeah. Yep. Cool guy.

ELLIE  
He's fine. Why are you on the floor? Sit on the couch.

BOBBY  
(awkwardly)  
Oh no...I'm okay.

Shiv glares at him in a way that is unfortunately not menacing at all. She grabs the mini Shiv back from him.

SHIVANI  
Ok. Well. If that's his *whole* point. I wanted to pitch a new cleaning schedule. What if each of us cleans the whole apartment once a month each week and in turn the whole house is cleaned every week.

Bobby and Kahara nod in agreement.

ELLIE  
I mean, like I can try my best.

Shiv looks unsatisfied with that response. Ellie grabs the mini Shiv.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Oh also I'm going to the Hamptons next weekend with Garrett so I'm gonna get a sublet.

SHIVANI  
What? How long will you be gone?

ELLIE  
Friday-Sunday.

KAHARA  
So you want to sublet for three days???

They all look at eachother, none wanting it to escalate to a fight.

ELLIE  
I mean, it's not crazy. We're artists, we come and go.  
(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Sometimes we have to sublet for  
three days, sometimes we don't. In  
this case I have to. Stop making  
this a big deal.

The three others still stay silent, hoping one of the others  
will say something.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Okay, great. Meeting adjourned?

Ellie smiles sweetly towards them and heads to her room. The  
other stay silent for a bit.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Love y'all!

The door slams.

SHIVANI  
She took little Shiv...

EXT. STREET - DAY

Shivani is walking through the street, passing by the Irish  
guy sitting on his stoop.

IRISH GUY  
Bitch!

Shivani does a double take, she did not realize where she  
was.

SHIVANI  
What the hell? What am I a bitch  
for? You're the fucking bitch.

IRISH GUY  
You blocked me, for no good reason.

SHIVANI  
You said that my roommates were  
hot! While we were making out!

IRISH GUY  
Yeah? And?

SHIVANI  
And?? I didn't think I needed  
several reasons. But if we're  
making a list, you didn't tell me  
you were 21 before??

IRISH GUY

What's wrong with that?

SHIVANI

You're basically a kid, I had to take like 5 showers after you texted me that, I was disgusted with myself.

IRISH GUY

Well, I can get in the next shower with you.

Shivani is mildly tempted. She bites her lip and takes a step closer to him, but then thinks about what she's doing.

SHIVANI

Ah, no!

IRISH GUY

What's the big deal? It's fine. So you were born in the 1900's, who cares?

Shivani scoffs.

SHIVANI

1900's? You were born after 9/11. Obviously I cannot sleep with someone born after 9/11.

IRISH GUY

Why?

SHIVANI

I don't know. It feels like an important marker of age.

IRISH GUY

Do you even remember 9/11?

SHIVANI

(defensive)

Well, I don't remember it, but I was alive for it so it still counts.

IRISH GUY

You seem really obsessed with 9/11.

SHIVANI

Well, that feels really racial.

IRISH GUY  
(flirtatiously)  
Not yet it isn't.

Shiv glares at him.

SHIVANI  
(under her breath)  
Why did that just turn me on?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Shiv comes home and starts vigorously splashing water on her face, trying to cleanse her brain of impure thoughts. She goes to dry her arms and realizes the towels are filthy. She checks the calendar and sees that it's Ellie's cleaning week.

SHIVANI  
Ellie?

Kahara comes downstairs.

KAHARA  
Yeah?

SHIVANI  
No, I called for Ellie.

KAHARA  
So you don't want me?

SHIVANI  
In general, yes. Now, no.

Ellie comes out of her room.

ELLIE  
Yeah?

SHIVANI  
Did you do your cleaning week?

ELLIE  
Yeah, so, I thought about it and I just feel like I would clean better than you guys and so therefore I feel taken advantage of for my cleaning. So I'm not gonna do it.

SHIVANI  
Huh?

ELLIE

Yeah, like I would clean things you would never think to. Like under the lamp shades.

KAHARA

Sorry? Have you ever cleaned under the lampshades?

ELLIE

No, but theoretically I would, so my point still stands.

INT. LASH SALON - DAY

We are close on Shivani's eyes as someone places individual lash extensions on her left eye. She looks visibly uncomfortable.

SHIVANI

Okay, can we just stop the whole silent being weird to each other thing.

ELLIE

I'd love to stop being weird.

We now see Ellie getting lash extensions next to her as well.

SHIVANI

Ok, well, how do you suppose we stop being weird.

ELLIE

Well, I came here with you didn't I?

SHIVANI

You had to come here with me. We had appointments.

ELLIE

Well I could have bailed, but I'm such a good person that I didn't.

SHIVANI

Oh, please.

ELLIE

Oh, please what?

We cut away to see the room at large: it's actually a beauty school with a classroom of students and a teacher walking through the aisles. Shivani and Ellie are arguing amongst a dead silent room.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

If you don't want to take  
accountability for what you've  
done, then we can't--

SHIVANI

What I've done?? Okay, you know  
what, let's just put the weird  
tension behind us and relax.

ELLIE

Great.

SHIVANI

Great.

She looks over to Ellie but Ellie is back on her phone texting someone. Shiv rolls her eyes and goes on her phone to find another message from the foot guy.

**Hey. Circling back about the feet Facetime. Would love to get a hard time set in our calendars.**

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

The foot guy messaged again. I'm  
thinking about doing it. I haven't  
gotten a start date from the other  
job and I still have to pay off all  
the credit card debt.

ELLIE

Well if returning to sex work will  
do that, do it.

SHIVANI

Okay-- well 'sex work' is a bit  
much.

ELLIE

You're literally a sex worker  
though. Be okay with it.

SHIVANI

No I'm just -- a girl -- who is  
doing a gig for cash.

ELLIE

Yes, a sex gig.

SHIVANI

It's not-- I don't think doing this  
one thing classifies--

The student lash tech has placed a full set of lashes on  
Shivani's open eyeball.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

OW--GOD.

Shivani immediately starts tearing up. The LASH TEACHER peers  
over.

LASH TEACHER

Oh, very good Denise! That was much  
closer than last time.

Shivani cries as everyone claps for that bitch DENISE.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby and Kahara come home and throw their keys on the table.  
They watch Shiv drink straight from a white wine bottle as  
she rips off the individual crooked lash extensions from her  
eyes in front of her handheld mirror. She takes a gulp before  
each yank.

They sit near the couch and Bobby takes a swig from the  
bottle. He winces and painfully swallows.

BOBBY

Oh... why does that wine taste  
like...meat? It has a very, like,  
meat-like quality to it... That's  
not something I thought I would say  
today.

SHIVANI

Mhm it's not wine. All the wine was  
like \$12 in the store so I got  
this.

She looks at the bottle label.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

It's called wine... drink. Hm. Wine  
drink. It's mostly juice and  
technically has half the alcohol of  
wine. But it's also half the  
cost... so I got two.

KAHARA

But if it was half the cost and  
half the alcohol and you got two,  
why not just get the real wine?

Shivani silently looks at Kahara. For like a whole minute.

SHIVANI

(shaking her head)  
You don't get it. You don't fucking  
get it.

Ellie comes out of her room to find the other three gathered  
in the room already.

ELLIE

So should we start?

SHIVANI

Yeah, where's little Shiv?

ELLIE

Oh.

She goes back to her room and grabs the clay Shivani. It is  
now missing one of her arms.

SHIVANI

What -- Okay. Um. We feel... that  
we are officially not cool with a  
three day sublet.

KAHARA

Are you even vetting people? Or  
were you planning on getting an  
actual stranger in here?

BOBBY

Any one of these subleasers could  
rob us or be crazy or have crazy  
friends who could rob us. And what  
exactly do we do in that situation?

SHIVANI

Yeah, I mean Bobby would be  
useless.

BOBBY

What the fuck? Why would I be  
useless?

SHIVANI

I don't think you thrive in high stress situations like that. You wouldn't be protective at all.

BOBBY

I could be protective? I'm like a... *man*.

Shivani cocks her head in doubt.

SHIVANI

Okay, first of all, Bobby, you're basically a they/them of gender and race.

BOBBY

Of race?

ELLIE

A they/them of gender is just they/them.

KAHARA

Be honest, Bobby, if someone tried to rob us, would you grab a knife?

BOBBY

Well - I mean I don't wanna escalate it.

SHIVANI

Bobby, he'd be robbing us in that situation.

BOBBY

Yeah, well, I don't want him to grab a knife too and then we're just, like, stabbing each other.

SHIVANI

Bobby, we have *one* knife how could he grab the knife if you already grabbed it?

KAHARA

Guys, we need to buy more knives, I've been meaning to bring this up for a while.

ELLIE

You guys are freaking out for nothing. The subleaser and their friends are not gonna rob you.

SHIVANI

How could you possibly know that  
for sure?

ELLIE

I asked them!

BOBBY

You asked them??

ELLIE

Yeah, and they said no.

BOBBY

No, what exactly did you ask them?

ELLIE

I asked if they had any other  
information that I should know. Out  
of respect for you guys.

KAHARA

How is that respectful? You're  
trying to put strangers in our  
house with barely any notice.

ELLIE

You guys are like pushing me out of  
the house because I need to sublet  
due to my financial situation. It's  
like you guys are colonizing me out  
of my home.

SHIVANI

Colonizing?? We're of color?

BOBBY

Yeah, actually you are trying to  
push random people into our home so  
if anything you're colonizing me!

SHIVANI

Oh, no...

KAHARA

I wouldn't...

KAHARA (CONT'D)

Also, Ellie. You're going to spend  
the weekend in the Hamptons, let's  
not act like this is a dire  
financial situation.

ELLIE

I am unemployed!

SHIVANI

What? So are like most of us?

KAHARA

Not me-

SHIVANI

I said most! And if you wanna talk about respectful, then what about the constant breaking of my stuff?

ELLIE

What the fuck? Name one thing I broke!

SHIVANI

Why does little Shiv have one arm??

ELLIE

She just got broken. That wasn't my fault!

SHIVANI

You can't just use passive voice to get out of it!

ELLIE

What?

SHIVANI

My grandad!

ELLIE

I broke your grandad?

SHIVANI

His mug and-- and - you don't clean lamps --and you-

Shivani is losing her stepping in her argument.

ELLIE

This is ridiculous. I'm over this conversation. FINE. I won't sublease if that makes you idiots so goddamn happy.

Ellie goes into her room and slams her door making the rest of them jump.

SHIVANI

(to Bobby)

So you think you can handle a  
robber but you couldn't even step  
in then?

BOBBY

(wiping away his sweat)

Sorry, I choked under the pressure.

Bobby pushes over the little Shiv in a fit of frustration.

KAHARA

(scolding like a mother)

Bob-by!!

He immediately picks it up and dusts her off.

BOBBY

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

INT. SHIV'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shivani is in her room setting up the lighting for the video call with the foot guy. She checks her phone to see the dress code he requested and sees he wants her in a purple swimsuit only. She changes and starts to put on lipstick and then realizes what she's doing and takes it off.

She sets herself up for the video call. He video chats her and she answers with only her body and feet on camera.

FOOT GUY

So this is how it's gonna go. I  
want you to insult me while  
wiggling your toes.

SHIVANI

Insult you like how?

FOOT GUY

Like tell me I'm worthless and  
pathetic and stuff like that.

SHIVANI

Oh -- okay?

FOOT GUY unbuckles his pants and starts masturbating.

FOOT GUY

Hello? I'm ready??

SHIVANI

Oh! Okay! We're starting, got it.  
You're ... worthless.

Foot guy starts moaning.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

You're pathetic.

FOOT GUY

Fuck, that's so good.

SHIVANI

You-- you suck. You're the worst.

Foot guy keeps moaning.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Uh, you...you are unintelligent.  
You're uninteresting...

Foot guy slows down his masturbating.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

Your -- parents are disappointed in  
you. You've never achieved anything  
in life. You're poor!

FOOT GUY

Jesus, stop. You're horrible at  
this.

Shivani takes the phone in her hands to show her face.

SHIVANI

I'm so sorry, I couldn't think of--

FOOT GUY

EW, no don't show me your face, I  
don't wanna see that!

SHIVANI

Oh, sorry!

Shivani puts it back down on the ground. She double thinks  
that interaction for a second but continues.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

I can do better hold on. Hmm you--  
you're a -- you're a --

Shivani has a text pop up on her phone during the call and  
reads it:

**Hey Shivanee! We actually ended up going with someone else for the position. Thanks though!**

SHIVANI (CONT'D)  
(under her breath)  
...fucking bitch.

FOOT GUY  
Oh wait, fuck that's good, keep going!

He goes back to masturbating.

Shivani is devastated from the text and doesn't respond to him. She just looks at her phone in disbelief.

Her phone slides a bit down the wall and shows her face again.

FOOT GUY (CONT'D)  
(gagging)  
DON'T SHOW ME YOUR FACE, GOD.

SHIVANI  
(exasperated)  
OKAY, SORRY!

EXT. PARK PLAYGROUND - EVENING

Shivani, Bobby, and Kahara are all drinking mini-bar sized bottles of tequila that they clearly got from the closest bodega while swinging on the swings.

Well Shiv and Kahara are swinging. Bobby is on top of the pull up bar. No explanation for how he got up there.

They're just wearing layers and layers of sweaters. Their coats were downstairs.

SHIVANI  
This... is terrible. Just real awful. Not fun at all.

KAHARA  
I will say, pretty dumb that she upset all of us and yet you guys are the ones that snuck out of Bobby's window.

BOBBY  
It seemed like the right option at the time.

SHIVANI

How did you manage to avoid seeing her?

KAHARA

I walked right past her. She's 24. What's she gonna do to me?

SHIVANI

I can't believe they rejected me. They reached out to me? God. I just need something to tell me that this hustling is all worth it? I wish someone could just tell me I'm doing it right, or slap me upside the head and call me an idiot. I don't know.

There's a long silence.

BOBBY

Should I go to grad school?

KAHARA

Don't go to grad school.

SHIVANI

Don't go to grad school.

SHIVANI (CONT'D)

And why am I always working but always broke and unemployed?? I think I'm gonna live with four people till I die. I hate my life. No offense.

Bobby nods, embarrassedly.

BOBBY

Why are you doing this Kahara? You could live on your own by now.

KAHARA

Eh. You don't get the good without the bad. All my coworkers have the stable job and stable relationship thing and I don't know, they just all seem like lonely every day. And yeah, sometimes we might have to sneak out the window but I don't really feel lonely, so that's a plus.

SHIVANI

God, guys, are we too old for this... this lifestyle? We're not fresh grads anymore.

(MORE)

SHIVANI (CONT'D)  
I feel, like, embarrassed. God,  
what are we doing? We're all hiding  
in the park to avoid an awkward  
tension with our 24 year old  
roommate?

Bobby and Kahara shake their heads in agreement.

BOBBY  
Yeah...

KAHARA  
Technically, what I've been saying  
but yeah!

SHIVANI  
We need to stand up to her!

BOBBY  
Stand our ground!

SHIVANI  
Let's fucking go!!

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Shivani, Kahara, and Bobby burst into the apartment, guns  
blazing.

A strange older MAN (41) sits in front of them at the kitchen  
table eating a family sized chicken pot pie on his own.

MAN  
Oh, hello!

BOBBY  
Who the hell are you?

MAN  
I'm Lewis!

Shivani, Kahara, and Bobby still look perplexed and afraid.  
Shivani leans over to Kahara.

SHIVANI  
(whispering to Kahara)  
Get the gun.

KAHARA  
(whispering to Shivani)  
We don't have a gun.

SHIVANI  
(whispering to Kahara)  
Get a gun.

MAN  
Uh...I'm the sublet.

Shivani, Kahara, and Bobby are stunned.

SHIVANI  
I'm gonna kill her.

END OF EPISODE