

That Smell  
by  
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James Hardy © 9.21.15

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ryan and Stix are sitting around on the couch watching television. They are drinking beers.

James walks in from the other room and sits down with a beer.

After a moment, Ryan smells something funky in the air.

RYAN  
(to the guys)  
Yo, you smell that?

STIX  
Actually, yeah, I think I do. Kinda  
smells like shit a little bit.

Ryan mutes the T.V.

JAMES  
(sips his beer)  
No, I don't smell anything.

RYAN  
(to James)  
Did you just shit in there or  
something?

JAMES  
No, dude, I just pissed.

Ryan checks his shoes. Stix smells his shirt. James smells the couch.

RYAN  
Nah, man, It ain't the couch, I  
keep my area clean over here.

STIX  
What can it be?

RYAN  
I don't know.

Ryan puts his beer down on a coaster placed on the table in front of the couch.

He gets up, cracks a window and walks into the bathroom.

JAMES  
How's the bathroom?

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

It's fine.

JAMES

Told you.

STIX

I still smell it. Right in this general vicinity though.

RYAN

What the fuck?

JAMES

Maybe something in the fridge?

RYAN

Nothing in there but beer.

Ryan walks around for a moment trying to figure it out with no luck.

JAMES

That's strange.

RYAN

This is fucking pissing me off. I just cleaned today. What can it be?

STIX

You opened the window so give it a few minutes.

Ryan sits down, concerned. He picks up his beer, smells it, and takes a sip.

JAMES

Just put the movie back on, the smells already gone.

RYAN

I still smell SHIT.

Ryan, unhappy, puts the movie back on.

After a moment, James places his beer down on the table just next to one of the coasters. Ryan notices and pauses the movie.

RYAN

(to James)

Dude, are you fucking kidding?

(CONTINUED)

JAMES  
(confused)  
What's the problem?

RYAN  
The beer, man, put it on the  
coaster. Did you not just hear me?  
I cleaned today.

JAMES  
(grabbing beer)  
All right, why don't you calm down?

RYAN  
Calm down? Look at Stix' beer, on  
the coaster. But not you, it's  
always something. Last week, I wake  
up and see you left the front door  
wide open- you leave and couldn't  
even shut the door behind you.

JAMES  
(points to Stix)  
...I thought this guy was leaving  
after me...

STIX  
I ended up just crash-..

RYAN  
(interrupts Stix)  
Whatever, it's always something.  
Just careless and disrespectful all  
the time.

James becomes defensive.

JAMES  
Nah, man, FUCK THAT. Disrespectful?  
Careless? I don't mean any of that  
stuff, I'm just a bit absent minded  
sometimes, it's not because I don't  
care about your shit.

RYAN  
Could have fooled me.

James stands up. Stix basks in the tension.

JAMES  
Ya know what, man, FUCK YOU. I'll  
tell ya how careless I am.

(BEAT)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JAMES (cont'd)  
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY IT SMELLS LIKE  
SHIT IN THIS APARTMENT? BECAUSE I  
TOOK A SHIT...AND IT WAS NASTY...

STIX  
Where did you shit?

JAMES  
THE TOILET...ONLY THERE ISN'T THAT  
MUCH TOILET PAPER LEFT. SO I DIDN'T  
WANT TO BE THE ASSHOLE WHO KILLS  
ALL THE TOILET PAPER- SO I LEFT THE  
LITTLE BIT THAT WAS THERE. I LEFT  
IT THERE SO IF YOU HAD TO SHIT  
NEXT, IT WOULD BE THERE FOR YOU. SO  
FUCK YOUR CARELESS AND  
DISRESPECTFUL TALK.

Ryan and Stix both look at James in shock.

STIX  
So, you're telling us, that you  
didn't wipe your ass out of  
respect?

JAMES  
That's what I'm telling you,  
careless my ass.

Ryan still dumbfounded.

RYAN  
Dude.  
(BEAT)  
If you ask me, It was pretty damn  
disrespectful that you let us all  
sit here in that smell. It fucking  
still stinks in here AND also very  
careless of you to not just ask for  
toilet paper...which is in the  
closet right outside the bathroom.

STIX  
Yeah, why didn't you just ask for  
toilet paper?

James stand there for a second.

JAMES  
Fuck, yeah, I don't know why I felt  
like that wasn't an option.

Stix laughs at him. Ryan still can't believe it.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
Go wipe your ass.

STIX  
Enough of this, put the movie back  
on.

RYAN  
I'm going outside to get air, you  
got smokes?

STIX  
Yeah...

Ryan and Stix get up and begin to walk out.

STIX  
...Go wipe

RYAN  
Dirty Motha Fucka.

The two walk out.

JAMES  
Yo, my bad, guys...

James walks the other way into the bathroom.