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Roommates sample
NOT FOR SALE

ROOMMATES

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Copyright

Roommates

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Chapter One

Sylvie finished university and got a job in a bank. It is in a small city called Cobminster. But Sylvie has a problem. She must find somewhere to live.

When she arrives in Cobminster, she stays in a small private hotel. She starts work. She likes her job, but she is worried. *The hotel is too expensive. I must find an apartment*, she thinks.

“How can I find a cheap apartment?” she asks her boss. Her boss is called Angela Caldicott.

“There’s a housing agent on Queen Street,” says Angela. “Go and ask them.”

“Thank you,” says Sylvie. “I’ll go in my lunch hour.”

Sylvie goes to the housing agent. “How can I help you?” asks the woman at the counter.

“I’m looking for a cheap apartment to rent,” says Sylvie.

“Mmm. Apartments in Cobminster are not cheap. But if you share with someone, the cost won’t be so much,” answers the woman.

“I agree. But I’m new to this city. I don’t know anyone.”

“Let me look in my files,” smiles the woman. “I’ll find you someone who is looking for a roommate.”

She searches on her computer. “Yes! This might be good for you. A young woman is looking for someone to share an apartment. It has two bedrooms. It’s on the ground floor of an old house that was made into apartments. I know these apartments. They’re very nice. The rent is 1100 pounds per month. You would have to pay half. Can you pay 550 pounds per month?”

“Yes,” says Sylvie. “I can pay that.”

“OK. I’ll print the information for you. There’s a telephone number. Call that number and talk to the young woman. Her name is Lena Beacham.”

Sylvie takes the sheet of information. She thanks the woman in the housing agent’s office and goes back to work.

When she gets back to the hotel, she thinks she will call the telephone number for Lena Beacham, but she is very nervous. Sylvie is smart, but she is very shy. She has always lived at home with her parents. She has never shared an apartment with anyone before.

She sits and worries for a long time. Then she thinks, *I must call this number. I must find somewhere to live.*

She enters the number into her phone and presses 'Call'.

"Hello," says a woman's voice.

"Hi. Are you Lena? My name is Sylvie Porter. The housing agent told me you were looking for someone to share your apartment," says Sylvie.

"Yes. I can't pay the rent by myself. Do you want to come and look? If you like the apartment, and we like each other, it will be great!" says Lena.

Oh! I hope she likes me, thinks Sylvie.

"I'm going to work now," says Lena. "Can you come tomorrow before six pm?"

"Yes," says Sylvie. "I can come after work."

"Do you have the address?"

"Yes."

"OK. There are two apartments on the ground floor. My apartment is the one next to the garden. See you tomorrow!"

The next day, when Sylvie finishes work, she takes a bus to the apartment. She rings the doorbell. The door opens. "Hi. You must be Sylvie. I'm Lena." Lena is tall and has dark hair. She is smiling. "Come in!"

Lena shows Sylvie the apartment. There is a small kitchen and a big room with a dining and seating area. The big room has windows that look out over a beautiful garden.

"There are two apartments on the ground floor," says Lena. "Alfie lives in the other apartment. He doesn't pay any rent, but he fixes anything that goes wrong and he looks after the gardens.

"That is my bedroom." Lena points to a door. "And this would be your bedroom." She opens the door. Sylvie looks inside. The room is very plain. The curtains are dark blue. There is a bed, a desk and a bedside table.

"It's fine," she says.

"OK! Let's drink coffee!" Lena looks at her watch. "I must leave here at six thirty, but we have time to talk."

Lena makes coffee and they talk.

"I work at the hospital. I'm a nurse," says Lena. "I always work at night. I leave here at six thirty pm to start work at seven. Usually, I come home about five am in the morning. I eat and go to bed. I'll try to be quiet so I don't wake you up."

Sylvie is a very light sleeper. She is sure she will wake up when Lena comes back early in the morning. *But I like Lena. The apartment is very nice. I think it will be OK,* she thinks.

“I don’t think it will be a problem,” she says to Lena. “I like this apartment. I would like to live here with you.”

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