

Fungus Among Us

by

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Cast of Characters

ALEXA:

18-22

MARA:

18-22

Place

Apartment

Time

Evening

Setting: Mara and Alexa are in their apartment.

At Rise: Mara enters the apartment and sees her roommate Alexa sitting on the couch watching TV.

MARA enters front door.

MARA: Oh! What a freaking day and a half! I am so ready to drink.

She kicks off her shoes, drops her pocketbook and coat on the floor.

Mara enters the kitchen and opens the refrigerator. She takes out a bottle of Prosecco, guzzling some down.

ALEXA stares at the TV set.

ALEXA: (unamused) How was your day?

MARA: (theatrically) Absolutely miserable! I am in pain, physical pain!

Mara takes another drink from the bottle and slams the refrigerator shut.

Want some?

ALEXA: No thanks.

MARA: What are you watching?

ALEXA: Some show about pawn shops.

MARA: What do they sell, cheap thrills?

ALEXA: No, I said PAWN shop.

MARA: Oh! Got it.

ALEXA: (frowning) Do you smell that?

MARA: What?

Alexa stands up. She sticks out her neck and tracks the scent with her nose.

ALEXA: (sniffing) There's a whiff, a very distinctive aroma...(sniffing) like...(sniffing) like something dead.

MARA: I hope we don't have a dead rat in the place.

ALEXA: Shhh...(sniff)...it's horrid...(sniff) here (pointing)...the refrigerator.

Alexa opens refrigerator and puts her hand over her nose and mouth and quickly shuts it.

MARA: (scared) What is it? What? What?

ALEXA: How disgusting!

Mara stands on top of a chair.

MARA: Is it a rat?

ALEXA: It's old food in our fridge.

MARA: (relieved) Is that all?

ALEXA: You must be joking?

MARA: I thought it was serious.

ALEXA: Food that smells like a rotting corpse doesn't bother you none?

MARA: I'm used to it, actually.

Alexa goes under the kitchen sink and wraps a white bandana around her nose/mouth. She opens the refrigerator.

ALEXA: Just once I would like to see you clean out the refrigerator Mara. Unbelievable! You think you would have some freaking decency. Why do I always have to do it?! It's like you don't care. You simply don't care if we have people over and they look into our fridge! It's disgusting. Just once I would like to see you clean out the refrigerator. YOU'RE the one who spills the ice tea or the soda! YOU'RE the one that loves keeping food wrapped up until it becomes moldy!

Are you waiting for it to get up and walk itself out of the refrigerator? Are you? Really? Am I the only one responsible enough to take a minute out of my day and clean up once and awhile?

Alexa pulls "items" out of the refrigerator and places the on the kitchen counter.

Look at this stuff. Look at this! Macaroni and Cheese that has been in here three Macaroni and Cheeses ago! No wonder we don't have enough bowls and dishes! No wonder! Look at this Mara, a dish of left over chinese food that has all kinds of yellow, blue, green and white mold on it! Beautiful! That looks appetizing. Oh wait! What about this?! Look at this Mara, some left over chicken fingers from, God, must be six months ago at least.

Alexa smells the food and GAGS.

ALEXA: (cont'd) You have got to be kidding me, right? I am NOT cleaning it up this time. YOU CAN! You can clean it all up and wash out the refrigerator, actually, SCRUB the inside of the refrigerator from God only knows what else because I just had my nails done and I am NOT ruining them!

Alexa storms out of the room.

Mara takes another sip from her Prosecco. She leans in to the items placed on the counter and suddenly lets out an enormous scream.

Alexa comes running back into the kitchen.

ALEXA: What is it? What?!

MARA: It moved. Something in the macaroni and cheese bowl moved.

ALEXA: Oh my God!

MARA: It was wiggling.

ALEXA: Wiggling? Like a worm?

MARA: Yes!! It was like an anaconda!

ALEXA: Cover it quickly!

MARA: I am not going near that thing.

ALEXA: We need to get rid of it before it crawls out from the bowl.

Mara screams again. Alexa screams with her.

MARA: It moved again! Hurry, get the trash.

Alexa grabs the trash can. Mara grabs for the broom.

Okay, I got it. You hold the garbage can under the counter and I will swat the bowl into it with this broom.

ALEXA: That's your plan?

MARA: That's all I got!

Alexa holds the garbage outward.

ALEXA: I'm afraid to get too close. What if you miss the garbage?

MARA: I grew up with three brothers, baseball was my life...I got this.

ALEXA: Oh my God!

MARA: Get closer! Closer to the counter. (beat) Okay, ready? Stay just like that...don't move. Count of three...ONE...TWO...THREE!!

Mara swings the broom at the bowl on the counter and its contents splash all over Alexa's shirt and face. Alexa freaks out screaming and running throughout the apartment in absolute panic..

While Alexa is running and screaming, Mara attacks the bowl with the broom and whatever she thinks is moving on the floor.

MARA: (coolly) I got it! Alexa, I got it, I got it. It stopped moving.

Alexa slowly creeps back toward the kitchen with a towel in her hand.

ALEXA: You go it?

MARA: It wasn't anything.

ALEXA: What do you mean?

MARA: It was my imagination.

ALEXA: There was no, no anaconda?

MARA: No, just fungus among us. My eyes must have played a trick on me. Never saw blue mac and cheese before so it tripped me out.

ALEXA: (wiping her face with towel) Okay...ummm, I need to calm down. I need to chill...can you---

MARA: Oh yeah! I got this. I'll clean this up. I don't smell anything. It's like I'm immune.

ALEXA: I'm gonna go sterilize myself in the shower.

MARA: Yeah, you should. I'll tidy up, okay?

ALEXA: Can you open the windows cause I'm gonna be sick.

MARA: Yeah, we'll light some candles too or something.

END OF PLAY