RIVALS

by

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RIVALS

By: Ben Gillman & Did Langrock

BEGIN HOOK

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

DANIELLE, 20s, gorgeous, and MATT, 20s, handsome, burst into Danielle's room, drunk and furiously making out. They dodge around a few boxes that haven't been unpacked and head straight for the bed.

TTAM

(in between kisses) Say it again, Danny.

DANIELLE

(in between kisses)
"Roads? Where we're going we don't
need roads!"

MATT

You are so cool.

They continue attacking each other with kisses.

DANIELLE

Matt, no strings attached. OK? We're new roomies. Nothing serious. Just a little naked polka.

MATT

You are so cool!

Matt and Danielle fall to the bed. They pull at each other's clothes. Matt brushes a sweatshirt from the bed, then stops:

MATT (CONT'D)

(between kisses)

What's that?

DANIELLE

(between kisses)

Just an old sweatshirt... from college.

Matt stops and picks up the sweatshirt. It reads: MICHIGAN.

MATT

(not amused)

You went to Michigan?

DANIELLE

Yeah. Why?

MATT

I went to Ohio State.

Danielle gasps. She and Matt burst apart - completely repulsed by each other.

END HOOK

COMMERCIAL #1

BEGIN ACT 1

INT. MATT & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matt and Danielle charge into their shared living room.

K.C. (the nerdy, 3rd roommate) sits on the couch.

MATT

(to Danielle)

I can't believe I almost had rebound "polka" with you.

DANIELLE

It would've been the best you ever had. We Michiganites do it Wolverine-style.

MATT

So you're saying: You Bite?

K.C. is clearly uncomfortable with all this.

K.C.

Hey, guys. Just sitting here. Fully able to hear everything.

DANIELLE

How're you a Buckeyes fan? That's a nut. You root for nuts.

K.C. turns on the television, trying to ignore the fight.

MATT

That's your argument? Your mascot is cooler?

K.C.

Oh, I love this Gilligan's Island.

MATT

(still to Danielle)

I can't argue with you about this. Your team sucks. Period.

DANIELLE

57 - 42 - 6.

Matt grabs the remote from K.C. and turns off the tv.

K.C.

Hey!

TTAM

(to Danielle)

You know?

K.C.

Know what?

DANIELLE

I know. 57 - 42 - 6. Michigan and Ohio State have played 105 games. Tied 6 times. Ohio State won 42 times. Michigan's won 57 times. Michigan rules... by a lot.

матт

I hate it when I'm angry <u>and</u> turned on.

Matt clenches his fists and growls.

DANIELLE

You might want to loosen your hand. You're gonna need it tonight.

TTAM

Gladly. I'll loosen her right now. My hand's a Buckeye fan.

DANIELLE

So it's used to playing with nuts?

Matt charges into his bedroom. The door slams behind him.

Danielle follows and pounds on the door.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

That's my room!

Matt emerges and charges across the apartment toward the other bedroom.

TTAM

Well, it was my room a week ago!

Matt goes into one room and slams the door. Danielle goes into the other room and slams the door.

K.C. picks up a magazine. He is left alone.

K.C.

(re: magazine)

Kate Winslet's looking good.

EXT. MATT AND K.C.'S BEDROOM - DAY

Matt and K.C. are both crammed into one uncomfortable bedroom. There's almost no floor space between their two beds, and the room is cluttered with Matt & K.C.'s things.

MATT

Ohio State won the past five years in a row. I should've said that.

K.C.

Are you still talking about this?

MATT

We've had twice as many Heisman trophy winners. Could've said that.

K.C.

My roommates are crazy people.

MATT

(collapsing)

I don't know what I'm doing anymore. First, Christine dumps me. Now this thing with Danielle. I miss Christine.

K.C.

You miss Christine. I miss having my own room.

MATT

You know, we wouldn't need a third roommate if you could keep a job for longer than a month.

K.C.

I'm searching for the dream!

TTAM

I used to dream. Naked Christine playing the piccolo.

K.C.

Snap out of it, Matt. Need I remind you: She sent you the Dumping Doctrine of Despair.

TTAM

5 pages of insults. Christine never said a bad thing about bin Laden.

K.C. takes the letter off their bedside table.

K.C.

"Dear Matt..."

MATT

Why're you acting like one of my high school students?

K.C. holds out the letter and continues to read it aloud. Matt grabs for it. They chase one another around the room, hopping from bed to bed over piles of stuff.

K.C.

(continuing to read)
"I don't know an easy way to say
this but... remember our wedding
you thought was next month?"

Matt grabs the letter out of K.C.'s hands.

MATT

Ha-ha!

K.C.

(re: his mind)

Whatever, it's all up here.

Matt smacks K.C.

K.C. (CONT'D)

Harder to remember now.

INT. INTERCUT - DANIELLE'S BEDROOM/ THE WINGS JOINT

Danielle is on the telephone in her bedroom. She is talking to Aisha, at a booth in The Wings Joint. Aisha talks on her earpiece as she types at her computer.

DANIELLE

Look, I'm not saying I'm gonna sleep with Matt.

AISHA

Don't do it.

DANIELLE

I don't sleep with OSU fans.

AISHA

Don't do it.

DANIELLE

Would you listen... I'm just asking, what do think it would take to make Matt a Michigan fan?

AISHA

Oh, when you put it that way... Don't do it!

(recomposing)

Danny, look, there's 5 reasons why not to sleep with your roommate...

Aisha continues typing.

DANIELLE

Are you blogging about this while we're talking?

AISHA

Reason 1: It's more important to get rent, than to get nookie.

DANIELLE

Aisha, knock it off!

AISHA

Oops, my food's here. Going through a tunnel. Love ya. Bye.

Aisha clicks off her earpiece.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Aisha is sitting at the booth working when CHRISTINE, the bubbly General Manager of the wings joint plops down in the booth, with a basket of wings.

CHRISTINE

Basket of wings. Level 6 sauce. Hot enough to make you glisten but not sweat.

AISHA

Will you feed me? I can't have sticky fingers while I'm typing.

Christine picks up a wing and starts feeding Aisha.

CHRISTINE

Sure. What else do I have to do? I'm just the manager.

AISHA

Love ya, Christine.

CHRISTINE

Love you, too, Aisha. Even with your messy mug.

Christine smears a wing across Aisha's cheek.

AISHA

Oooh, that's a good one.
(goes back to typing)
Reason 2: Everything changes once
you've seen a friend's messy spot.

CHRISTINE

I thought your blog was G-rated.

AISHA

It's my newest entry: 5 Reasons NOT to hook up with your roommate. In honor of your friend Matt, and my friend Danielle. Oops. Please tell me you heard about them already.

CHRISTINE

Nope.

Aisha crosses her arms and nods her head, ala Dream of Genie.

AISHA

How about now?

Matt and K.C. enter, unnoticed by Aisha and Christine. Christine tears up.

CHRISTINE

Wow. I didn't expect him to move on so fast.

AISHA

Aw, Tini. I know. Come here.

Aisha and Christine hug. Christine cries harder.

AISHA (CONT'D)

You just smeared wings sauce all over my back, didn't you?

CHRISTINE

Yeah. The shirt contrasted with your skin tone, anyway.

AISHA

There's my girl.

Christine and Aisha laugh. Aisha wipes Christine's tear.

Matt and K.C. walk in. Christine instantly recomposes herself. Matt and K.C. sit down at the booth with them.

CHRISTINE

(Manic)

Hey, guys. How're you doing? I'm great. Can I get you some free wings?

K.C.

Wings? Free? Why that sounds right up my alley.

MATT

(re: Aisha's smeared face)
I like the new look.

AISHA

(re: back of her shirt)
Thanks. It matches my shirt.

MATT

(to Christine)

Hey.

CHRISTINE

Hey. Love to chat, but gotta break in my new shoes. Wings, coming up.

Christine gets up and leaves. Matt squirms as he watches Christine leave.

MATT

It's weird being here. It feels too soon.

AISHA

Well, we're not giving up the Wings Joint because you feel tense. Oooh, that's a good one.

Aisha goes back to typing.

K.C.

Yeah, Matt. We forgave Christine. Why can't you?

TTAM

Little bit different.

AISHA

(announcing)

Reason 3: Releasing tension builds new tensions elsewhere.

K.C.

Huh?

MATT

Sounds like one of her blogs.

AISHA

Hey, this blog helped you find your new roommate-slash-play thing.

MATT

And thanks for that. Couldn't mention she went to Michigan?!

K.C.

Oh god, not this again.

(yelling for Christine)

Christine, could you bring me a tall cyanide on the rocks?!

AISHA

Yeah. I'm sure Danielle isn't making a big deal out of this.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Danielle finishes redecorating her entire bedroom from top to bottom with all of her Michigan apparel.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

K.C.

Give Matt a break. He's still reeling from Dumping Doctrine.

TTAM

Of Despair.

AISHA

C'mon, it's not that bad.

K.C. pulls out the letter and reads:

K.C.

(reading)

"Matt you are too controlling, and you love your students more than you love me."

MATT

Where'd you get that?

K.C.

We share a room now. Your trash is fair game.

Matt grabs for the letter. K.C. keeps it out of reach.

MATT

It's humiliating.

K.C.

It's hilarious.

AISHA

It's accurate.

(off Matt's look)

From one point of view.

MATT

This from the single girl who blogs about "Keeping A Man."

A cute BASKETBALL GIRL with pigtails walks by.

BASKETBALL GIRL

(as she passes)

Hey, K.C.

K.C. is clearly smitten.

AISHA

(imitating)

"Hey K.C., Look: I'm so pretty with my pigtails and my perky little basketballs. Come talk to me."

K.C.

Nah, I can't talk to Basketball Girl. Maybe another day.

AISHA

Buck buck buck b'gah

K.C.

I'm not scared.

MATT

Prove it. She's right over there.

K.C. turns to see BASKETBALL GIRL standing by some novelty Pop-A-Shot basketball games.

K.C. suddenly goes into a trance.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - POP A SHOT - DAY

K.C. gets up from the booth and dances over toward Basketball Girl. They have a FANTASY DANCE - like when Garth goes after Dream Woman in "Wayne's World" with "Foxy Lady,"

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

K.C. is still seated, but coming out of his trance.

TTAM

So I'll take this as you not going after her.

K.C.

Christine (clearing a nearby table) overhears the letter. She looks aghast at what she's hearing.

Matt grabs for the letter again.

K.C. (CONT'D)

(still reading)

"You have sudden outbursts of anger."

Christine puts down her tray and power walks over to Aisha and physically pulls her off her stool.

CHRISTINE

Aisha, I need to talk to you.

Christine pulls Aisha away from the table.

Matt and K.C. fight over the letter. Matt grabs it back.

K.C.

That's cool. It's all up here.

K.C. points to his head. Matt threatens to smack K.C.

K.C. (CONT'D)

Don't hit me again.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - BY THE BAR - DAY

Christine seats Aisha at the bar.

CHRISTINE

What the hell did you write in that letter?

AISHA

Uh, OK.

(Reciting)

"Dear Matt. I don't know an easy way to say this but..."

CHRISTINE

No. Did you have to make it so mean?

AISHA

You broke off an engagement. What was I supposed to say? "I love you, you're perfect, but I have doubts?"

CHRISTINE

That've been perfect.

AISHA

Oh... Boy, did you give Matt the wrong message.

CHRISTINE

You've got to tell Matt that you wrote that letter.

AISHA

No! I don't want Matt pissed at me.

CHRISTINE

I don't want him pissed at me either. I still want him in my life. And maybe... Please just tell him.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH

Aisha walks over to Matt and K.C. She shoots a strawful of water at both of them.

MATT & K.C.

Hey!

AISHA

Matt, Christine wanted me to tell you...

MATT

Aisha. Shut it about Christine.

AISHA

(through shut lips)

Christine wanted me to tell you...

МАТТ

I need to take a breather.

Matt walks away.

K.C. is gazing at Basketball Girl again. Aisha tosses a chicken wing at K.C.

K.C.

Hey!

AISHA

Come on.

Aisha pulls K.C. out of the booth.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - BY THE BAR - DAY

As Matt is leaving, Christine catches up to him.

CHRISTINE

Matt, where're you going? Your wings aren't up yet.

TTAM

I just remembered I forgot to brush my teeth, and you know... war against plaque. See ya.

Matt leaves.

CHRISTINE

(to herself)

I love you. You're perfect. But I have some doubts.

Christine pours herself a shot. She takes it.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - POP A SHOT - DAY

Aisha pulls K.C. over to the Pop-A-Shot basketball game.

K.C.

What're we doing?

AISHA

Shut up, and shoot.

Aisha and K.C. play Pop-A-Shot..

AISHA (CONT'D)

First one to ten wins.

K.C.

You'll go easy on me, right?

AISHA

Not on your life.

Aisha sinks shot after shot. K.C.'s not doing nearly as well.

K.C.

You're making me look bad in front of Basketball girl.

AISHA

You're bound to look bad sometimes. (she stops shooting)
Oooh, that's a good Reason #4.

Aisha stops shooting and runs away. K.C. is left alone.

K.C.

How was this supposed to help me?

Basketball Girl comes up to K.C. and shoots a perfect Pop-A-Shot.

BASKETBALL GIRL

Your day just got a lot better.

Basketball Girl winks at K.C. and slips him a piece of paper. Then she walks away.

K.C. looks at the paper: it's Basketball Girl's phone number.

K.C.

Not bad.

Without looking, K.C. picks up a basketball and shoots it.

It banks back and hits K.C. in the head.

END ACT 1

COMMERCIAL #2

BEGIN ACT 2

INT. MATT & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Matt comes in the front door of the apartment. He heads over to the couch and collapses.

Danielle's bedroom door opens. Danielle stands there in her Michigan sweatshirt. In <u>just</u> her Michigan sweatshirt.

DANIELLE

Hey there, roomie. I was just cleaning.

Danielle picks up a feather duster and dusts the T.V.

MATT

Wow.

DANIELLE

(re: her Michigan shirt)
You don't mind my cleaning outfit
do you?

TTAM

No. I'm surprisingly okay with it.

Matt charges into his room.

INT. MATT & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Matt emerges from his bedroom. He's now wearing only his Ohio State boxer shorts.

MATT

I was thinking I would help. You don't mind my cleaning outfit, do you?

Matt lifts up a heavy box, flexing his arm and chest muscles. Danielle laughs.

DANIELLE

Not at all. Thank you. That's very helpful.

Danielle dusts the top shelf of the entertainment center. As she reaches, it lifts her sweatshirt just enough to show off her butt.

Matt gasps. Then laughs. This is one cool chick.

MATT

You know, I'm gonna work out.

Matt drops to the floor and does push-ups. Danielle laughs.

DANIELLE

Man, you get hot cleaning.

Danielle takes ice out of the freezer and starts melting an ice cube on her neck. She gets on the floor in front of Matt doing his push ups and she sighs as the ice melts. Danielle and Matt are smiling and clearly enjoying each other when:

K.C. bursts in the front door.

K.C.

Our wings are ready.
 (seeing them)
You guys realize I'm your third roommate, right?

Matt and Danielle break apart. Everyone looks uncomfortable.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Aisha is working on her laptop again. Numerous bowls of wings are on their table.

Matt, Danielle, and K.C. come into the bar. Matt and Danielle are fully dressed again.

DANIELLE

Hey, Aisha! Ready for me to put my art school degree to work? So sad.

AISHA

I'm almost done with my blogging genius. Get ready to web design.

DANIELLE

K.C., shouldn't you be working?

K.C.

Nah, I quit my job.

DANIELLE

You quit your job?

K.C.

Of course. It's the third Saturday of the month.

TTAM

K.C.'s not exactly what you would
call a "dedicated worker."

K.C. pulls the Dumping Doctrine out of his pocket.

K.C.

(reciting)

"You are condescending to me with your superior attitude."

MATT

How'd you get that back?

Matt grabs for the Doctrine. K.C. holds it away.

Suddenly, Christine appears. She grabs the letter from K.C.

K.C.

Hey! Gimme...

(noticing it's Christine)

Uh-oh.

CHRISTINE

(to Aisha)

Tell him.

AISHA

Alright.

Aisha grabs Matt and pulls him away from the booth.

Christine, K.C. and Danielle are left together.

DANIELLE

So you're the infamous ex, huh?

CHRISTINE

Yup. You're the new hook-up?

A long awkward silence.

K.C.

Mmm. Good wings.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - BY THE BAR - DAY

AISHA

I've got to tell you something.

(really quickly)

Christine didn't write the letter. I did.

Aisha braces for the worst.

MATT

I know.

AISHA

You do?

TTAM

Aisha, please. It was exactly like your blog. It even had bullet points.

AISHA

So you're not mad at me?

MATT

I'm plotting your death, but I understand. You did it for her.

AISHA

So maybe you should talk to her... Right now.

As Christine walks by, Aisha grabs her. They spin, and Aisha forces Christine down in the seat at the bar.

Matt and Christine are face to face.

MATT

Hey.

CHRISTINE

Hey.

(pause)

You want a shot?

MATT

Oh yeah.

They quickly take a shot.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Aisha sits back down with Danielle and K.C.

K.C. is gazing off into space again.

AISHA

What's with him?

DANIELLE

He said something about Shorts Chick then just blanked out.

AISHA

Oh... Shorts Chick.

Aisha gestures to Shorts Chick, a cute chick in short shorts, on the other end of the bar.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - POP A SHOT - DAY

K.C. is enraptured in another fantasy, this time with Shorts Chick.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Aisha and Danielle shake their heads at K.C.

DANIELLE

I thought he was in love with some Basketball Girl.

AISHA

K.C.'s in love with any girl that smiles at him.

Aisha throws a chicken bone at K.C. He snaps out of it.

K.C.

Hey!... Eh, it's true.

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - BY THE BAR - DAY

Christine and Matt take another shot then sit in silence.

CHRISTINE

I'm pregnant.

MATT

WHAT?!

CHRISTINE

I'm kidding. I'm not pregnant, I just wanted to get us talking.

TTAM

My heart just did a pole-vault.

CHRISTINE

(with a laugh)

Remember when I convinced you my grandmother was arrested for smuggling Mexicans?

MATT

(laughing in spite of himself)

And you got me to go bail her out.

CHRISTINE

And there was the cop with the glass eye.

MATT

I know I'll never look at hookers the same way.

CHRISTINE

I've told you! That wasn't really my grandma!

MATT

Well, it would've explained where you got your tricks.

They laugh with each other, until it turns to a long pause.

CHRISTINE

I miss you.

MATT

I miss you too.

A long silence.

MATT (CONT'D)

I should get back to the table.

CHRISTINE

I gotta get back to the kitchen.

(pause)

I wanted you to know. I started taking piccolo lessons.

Christine walks into the kitchen.

MATT

She still hasn't gotten that was metaphor?

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Matt flops down into the booth next to Danielle.

DANIELLE

You okay? You look a little roughed up.

MATT

Nah, I'm good.

DANIELLE

Well, it can't be worse than being an Ohio State fan, am I right?

K.C.

Too far. Too far.

Matt is suddenly a ball of fury.

TTAM

For your information. 2006 - Ohio State is #1, Michigan is #2. Ohio State wins, we rule!

DANIELLE

Oh yeah?! 1908 - Michigan won 86 to 0. We rule!

TTAM

That was a hundred years ago!

DANIELLE

So let's talk current...

MATT

Yeah, let's talk current. I'm living with some Wolverines fan, who prances around naked, and tries to manipulate me into polka!

Matt was too loud. People definitely overheard him.

DANIELLE

Real classy, Matt. You know what, fine, I'll be out by tomorrow.

Danielle storms away. But then she comes back:

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

And for the record, it takes two to polka!

And Danielle leaves.

K.C.

Matt, so help me... If you just lost our roommate and I have to get a real job...

AISHA

Leave Danny alone. I need my web designer. She brings me candy.

K.C.

Matt, I know you're still dealing with the Christine thing. But stop punishing Danielle.

MATT

I've been terrible. Haven't I?

AISHA

He's not the brightest one, but he sure is pretty.

MATT

I gotta say, "I'm sorry."

Matt is quickly on his feet and out the door.

AISHA

Oooh. Oooh. Reason #5: You'll always be sorry.

K.C.

On the bright side, we get to eat their wings.

K.C. and Aisha happily dig into Matt and Danielle's wings.

Christine walks over sits where Danielle had been sitting.

CHRISTINE

"New Hook-Up" was in my seat.

AISHA

This will always be your seat.

CHRISTINE

Thanks. How's the blog coming?

Christine leans forward to read and a necklace falls out of her shirt. Dangling on the necklace is a diamond ring.

K.C.

Um, Christine isn't it customary to return an engagement ring after you break up?

AISHA

That's silly. I bought my last car with unreturned diamond rings.

CHRISTINE

Matt told me to keep it.

K.C.

But why are you still wearing it?

CHRISTINE

You never know what might happen.

Christine leaves. K.C. is shocked.

K.C.

(to Aisha)

At least you're not interested in Matt too.

AISHA

Well...

K.C.

Are you kidding? You like Matt?!

AISHA

Now that I know everyone else does!

K.C. shakes his head in disbelief.

INT. MATT & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matt returns to the apartment. Danielle is packing.

TTAM

Danielle, you don't need to pack.

DANIELLE

I'm sorry, did you miss the past fifteen minutes? We're always at each other's throats.

MATT

Speaking of which, that kissing thing you do... I really like that.

DANIELLE

And it's not a good idea for roommates to fool around. Apparently there's five reasons.

MATT

So we won't anymore. Just birthdays and Saturdays.

Danielle smiles.

MATT (CONT'D)

There's a smile. Look, I'd really like it if you stayed as my roommate.

DANIELLE

Even with 57 - 42 - 6?

MATT

(biting his lip)

No comment. Anyway, we both live in L.A. now, why don't we put aside our alma maters and adopt the home team?

Matt pulls out two Baby Blue hats for the UCLA Bruins.

MATT (CONT'D)

Roommates? Friends?

Danielle takes the UCLA hat from Matt.

DANIELLE

That's really sweet. I'd like to stay... and be friends.

(beat)

But I'll be damned if I ever wear a UCLA hat! Go USC!

Danielle and Matt smile at each other.

END OF ACT TWO

COMMERCIAL #3

BEGIN TAG

INT. THE WINGS JOINT - AT THE BOOTH - DAY

Matt brings Danielle back to the Wings Joint.

K.C. and Aisha are still there, sitting with Christine in her seat. Matt sits in his seat. Danielle pulls up a chair.

All five of them look at each. It's kind of awkward.

TTAM

Christine this is Danielle, our new roommate. Danielle - Christine.

DANIELLE

Nice to meet you.

CHRISTINE

Yeah. You too.

Awkward silence.

MATT

So Danielle here is a Trojans fan.

All five of them explode into argument.

K.C.

CHRISTINE

(overlapping) (overlapping)

Oh! Thank you! Thank god, someone else has sense!

Are you kidding me!? The enemy!

MATT

(overlapping)

C'mon! She's a crazy person!

DANIELLE

TTAM

(overlapping)

(overlapping)

three years in a row.

Excuse me? Hello? Rose Bowl Don't even get me started on the BCS.

AISHA

I can't believe you are all getting worked up over football again.

K.C.

Football is a great sport.

DANIELLE

If you're rooting for a great team.

CHRISTINE

K.C.

(overlapping) Like the Bruins.

(overlapping) Like the Trojans.

AISHA

You're all hopeless.

As they all continue arguing:

FADE TO BLACK

THE END