

**DUE**  
Madelyn Marks

Characters:

**NICK:** Man in his young adulthood. Lacks common sense.  
**DAVID:** Man. A single year older than NICK. Easily annoyed.  
**MELONY:** Woman in her 20's. "Mom" of the friend group. Smart and kind.

Setting:

The play takes place at the dining room table of the apartment our three characters live in.  
Present day.

*(Lights up on a dining room. NICK, DAVID, and MELONY are sitting around the table. It's late at night.)*

MELONY

Listen, guys. We can figure this out. We do it every single month. We just need to focus.

NICK

It's hard to focus. I'm tired.

DAVID

We're all tired Nick. It's late.

NICK

You're in a mood.

DAVID

I'm not in a mood. I'm just tired like you.

NICK

Well it's no reason to be snippy.

DAVID

This is your fault Nick. You called into work like 5 times this month. I'm surprised you weren't fired.

NICK

I was sick.

DAVID

You were sick 5 times in one month? Bullshit.

NICK

Not everyone has a perfect immune system.

DAVID

5 shifts lost. Each one is what, 8 hours long. So that's 40 hours you just didn't work this month.

NICK

Oh you're so cool, you can do math.

DAVID

Nick, you basically took a vacation and we have to pay rent you asshole.

MELONY

Hey, resorting to name calling isn't going to fix this. I know this is frustrating but we're missing Nick's part of rent and we have to find the money elsewhere.

NICK

I'm sorry. If I had it in my bank account, I would use it for rent but I just don't have it.

DAVID

Show us your bank account.

MELONY

Nobody is showing anyone their bank account. That's an invasion of privacy.

NICK

I'll show you my bank account. I got nothing to lose.

MELONY

No Nick, you don't have to do that.

DAVID

God why didn't we create an emergency fund or something for stuff like this?

NICK

I bet we all have enough cash somewhere to cover it.

DAVID

Nobody carries around cash anymore Nick.

NICK

Well I do, ya know in case I lose my card.

DAVID

Let me get this straight. You can plan ahead enough to carry around “just in case cash” but not enough to work the correct amount of hours to be able to, oh I don’t know PAY RENT?

MELONY

Calm down, we can figure this out. It’s just a third of rent. If we both pitch in, I think we can cover it and then Nick can pay us back eventually.

NICK

Yeah I’ll pay you back next month. I promise.

DAVID

Where’s this cash you speak of Nick? Your “just in case cash” huh? Where is it?

NICK

Oh well I don’t actually have any right now because of how much I had to call in this month.

DAVID

GODDAMMIT

NICK

Blasphemy!

DAVID

SHUT THE FUCK UP

MELONY

David, be nice.

DAVID

FINE. Nick may you please shut the fuck up please?

MELONY

That’s not really what I meant.

NICK

What if we sell something?

DAVID

SELL SOMETHING? WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT YOU MORON. RENT IS DUE AT MIDNIGHT.

MELONY

David! Calm down. We have to come up with the money somehow. He was just throwing out an idea.

DAVID

It was a shit idea.

MELONY

Well what ideas do you have?

DAVID

We could kill Nick and sell him to the street cannibals.

NICK

WHAT

MELONY

I meant real ideas. Also there are no cannibals out on the street.

DAVID

You don't know that.

NICK

Please don't feed me to cannibals.

MELONY

Nobody is feeding anyone to anyone.

NICK

What if we just ask for an extension?

DAVID

An extension? This isn't a highschool book report. This is real life. We can't just ask for an extension.

NICK

Well what if we ask really nicely?

DAVID

How have you made it this far into adulthood?

NICK

We follow every single rule of this complex. We keep our porch clean, stay quiet during quiet hours, we don't have any pets. We don't even throw any loud parties. I think our landlord will grant us an extension this one time.

DAVID

We follow those rules because they're rules and we have to. That doesn't mean anything to our landlord. We still have to pay rent. We don't get special treatment just because we did the bare minimum.

MELONY

Yeah I hate to say it but David's right. We don't get special treatment. We have to pay rent just like everybody else.

NICK

Well, I'm out of ideas.

DAVID

Shocker

NICK

You're kind of a mean person.

DAVID

I'm not mean, you're just irresponsible and it's disappointing.

NICK

Oh so now I'm a disappointment?

DAVID

YES. When you can't pay rent, you're a disappointment.

NICK

Wow, I didn't realize I was such a waste of space.

DAVID

Quit throwing yourself a pity party. It's not gonna help us pay rent.

NICK

Why are you so mean all of a sudden?

DAVID

Nick it's not my fault you're so weak.

NICK

I am not weak!

DAVID

Oh really? Cause I'm pretty sure calling into work 5 times in one month is something a very weak person would do.

NICK

I was sick!

DAVID

Were you? Or were you just lazy?

NICK

Lazy is a social construct.

DAVID

What the fuck.

MELONY

David, I really think you and I should just split the cost.

DAVID

I think we should come up with a better idea. Preferably one that doesn't involve us trusting Nick in any way.

MELONY

Ok well can you think of one?

DAVID

How about we put some sugar in a bag and market it as cocaine to the street people?

MELONY

DAVID we are not doing anything that involves contact with anybody out on the street.

DAVID

Well you and I might not be, but Nick on the other hand-

MELONY

No David. You cannot keep volunteering Nick for dangerous stuff.

DAVID

Why not? He's the reason we're in this mess.

NICK

I didn't mean for this to happen.

DAVID

Stop talking Nick and go rob a bank or something.

NICK

I don't know how to rob a bank.

DAVID

USELESS

NICK

I'M SORRY

MELONY

Nobody is useless. We all make mistakes. David, you had that month where you couldn't pay your part of the electric bill because you "had to see" that art exhibit with the really expensive tickets.

DAVID

That was like a once in a lifetime experience. Totally different.

NICK

Can't you just google art?

DAVID

Can't you just go to work and not call in FIVE TIMES IN ONE MONTH?

NICK

I WAS SICK

DAVID

BULLSHIT

MELONY

Guys please calm down. Arguing is counterproductive. David, you and I can just each pay half of Nick's portion of rent and he can pay us back later. It's the best option.

DAVID

He's never gonna pay us back.

NICK

Why don't you have any faith in me?

DAVID

You're not a very put together person.

NICK

What do you mean? I am very put together.

DAVID

People who are put together don't call into work 5 times in one month.

NICK

They do if they're sick.

DAVID

I hate you.

MELONY

NOBODY HATES ANYONE. Stop fighting and help me come up with a solution or so help me god I will kick both of you out.



NICK

Kick us out?

DAVID

You can't just kick us out.

MELONY

Actually I can. I'm the primary on the lease. Remember? Neither one of you understood what that meant when we moved in so I just made myself the primary which means I have the power to kick both of you out if I want to. So I suggest helping me fix this rent issue before I make both of you STREET PEOPLE!

*(pause)*

DAVID

I guess I could cover half of Nick's portion of rent.

NICK

And I'll make a note to pay you back as soon as I get paid next.

MELONY

Great collaboration boys. David, pay half and I'll match it.

DAVID

Ok I will.

MELONY

Right now so that I know it's done.

DAVID

Ok

*(pulls out his laptop or phone and pays half of rent)*

MELONY

Nick, make that note to pay us both back.

NICK

Noted.

MELONY

No not in your head. We just learned how unreliable that is. Get your phone out and set a reminder that will go off on your next pay day.

NICK

Ok

*(pulls out phone and sets reminder)*

MELONY

Great. Now was that so hard?

DAVID

No

NICK

I guess not.

MELONY

It wasn't. It was actually pretty simple. I'm going to bed now. Goodnight.

*(MELONY exits. DAVID and NICK sit in silence for a moment before also exiting. Bedtime. Lights down.)*

*END OF PLAY*