HOW TO ANNOY YOUR ROOMMATE

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(1) It began slowly at first. Then, little by little my emotions began to boil. And suddenly, I had a tremendous desire to stick a hand grenade under my roommate Amy's pillow. It's not that she committed terrible wrongs that infuriated me. Individually, those little things that she unconsciously did were not so bad, but when I added them up my "intolerance detector" went off. The combination of such little things as her leaving the toothpaste cover off, and forgetting to turn the water off completely and snapping bubble gum soon drove me completely crazy. In the days following my snap, during those useless moments when I would catch myself staring at the library wall or waiting for the food line to proceed, I became aware that a master plan of vengeance had taken shape in my mind. In fact, I believe that I developed the perfect plan to devastate Amy. It consisted of three phases of annoyance: first, I would merely bother her with mild irritations; next, I would disturb her until she became annoyed; finally, I would launch a full-fledged attack until she grew totally infuriated. After much thought, I decided to try my plan.

(2) The first phase to the downfall of my roommate consisted of many steps that could be executed in one day. I awoke before Amy and promptly opened the curtains so the blinding sun shone in her eyes. I then proceeded to brush my teeth four times, making sure I did not miss a spot. After I opened and closed the squeaky medicine chest fifteen times, Amy stumbled out of bed, shut the curtains, and told me to shut up. Chuckling to myself, I decided to do my homework. My next step was to turn on my light and page through all of my books. Telling Amy that I would not bother her anymore, I put on my Sony Walkman with earphones, but I immediately began singing aloud. Grudgingly, Amy got out of bed and left the room. Once alone, I quickly threw all of her clothes on the floor. Next I took three rolls of toilet paper and "decorated" her side of the room. My final step in phase one was to stick my gum to the wall and leave.

(3) At this point Amy was not speaking to me and was constantly giving me dirty looks. Knowing now that my roommate was thoroughly bothered, I strategically started phase two. This phase took more intricate planning and required several days to carry out. While Amy was out, I proceeded to short-sheet her bed. Next I rearranged her side of the room, making sure nothing was in its logical place. Then I spread out, all over her side, smelly socks that I had previously gathered from the boys' dorm. The next day, I threw out all of Amy's cookies and stocked the refrigerator with vegetables. The odor of Limburger cheese, which I had stored in the refrigerator, permeated the whole room. Pleased with my work, I paged through the telephone directory while eating crackers in Amy's
bed, leaving an inch of crumbs. After that I broke all of her pencil leads and over-watered her plants. When Amy returned, I informed her that I had set her up with an ugly blind date. After a while I went down the hall to someone else's room and gave her prank phone calls. Finally I returned to the room and found Amy already in bed. My last step was to make four batches of popcorn. Amy was extremely annoyed.

The final phase of my vengeance was also the final blow to Amy's sanity. While Amy was sleeping, I took many pictures of her. Later I had the pictures enlarged and hung all over campus. In addition, I lent out all of her clothes and stole one of each of her shoes. Later that day, I spilled Kool-Aid in her dresser and auctioned all of her belongings. My final step in Amy's destruction was to steal her mattress. When she returned to the room, she blew up. Furiously she screamed that this was the last straw. Promptly she picked up her toothbrush, the only thing that I hadn't sold, and stormed out of the room.

Amy has since moved out of my room. I have not heard of her whereabouts nor do I know if she still exists. My battle plan has worked very effectively. As a result of a carefully planned process executed in three distinct phases, my vengeance against my roommate was complete. Never again will I allow a roommate's irritating habits to bother me.