

# SEVEN 'S A CROWD

A Play in Two Acts

Written by

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ACT I

A young man's basement bedroom. The bedroom door sits upstage right, upstage center is a closet, and the bathroom is upstage left. Downstage of the bathroom is a bed with disheveled covers, and a bean bag chair sits center. Downstage right is a desk with a computer, and next to the desk is a fully stocked mini fridge. Downstage left sits a small entertainment center with video game consoles, DVD player, and TV. Anime posters align every wall. Anime figurines, tee ball trophies, and empty soda cans litter the desk. The room is in a state of disarray, dirty clothes and trash are everywhere. DAN, mid twenties, sits at the desk in his pajamas. He watches an anime cartoon while listening through earbuds and eating a can of Pringles. MIKE enters quietly through the front door. He is about twenty and in far better physical shape than Dan. Mike is decked out in full-on OU attire. He slowly creeps up behind Dan and gives him a noogie.

MIKE

Wassup Danny!?

DAN

Ah! Knock it off!

MIKE

Come on, is that any way to welcome your little bro back home?

DAN

Fine, whatever. Welcome back. Now go away.

MIKE

What'cha watchin'? Pokemon?

DAN

Full Metal Alchemist.

MIKE

Of course it is. Oh man, I don't know why I expected things to change after I left.

DAN

You just moved out last semester.

MIKE

Yeah, a whole semester and you haven't moved an inch.

Mike plops himself on the  
bed and looks around.

MIKE

Didn't waste any time redecorating, did ya?

DAN

Well you wouldn't let me put up any anime posters.

MIKE

Yeah, half naked cartoon girls aren't really enough for me. I'd  
much rather caress an actual breast, which I have by the way.  
There was Chelsea Winters after volleyball practice. Courtney  
Holiday in the library. Mature content section. Very appropriate.

DAN

Please stop talking.

MIKE

Oh, and who could forget Katie Shannon in the janitor's closet.  
Take it from me, I know guys dream of the double 'D', but don't  
underestimate the effectiveness of a 'B' cup. They get the job  
done just fine.

DAN

Look did you need something?

MIKE

Oh yeah, I need to borrow your laptop. Gotta set my fantasy line-  
up.

DAN

You make fun of me for liking cartoons, but playing pretend  
football is super cool.

MIKE

First of all, it's basketball season. Football ended a couple  
months ago with a little thing called The Superbowl. And our  
teams may be made up, but the hundred bucks for the league champion  
is very much real.

DAN

So then win your precious hundred dollars with our own laptop.

MIKE

Can't. Mine's broke.

DAN

(Scoffs.)

Imagine that.

MIKE

So can I use it?

No. DAN

MIKE  
Why not? You're not using it. You watch all your stupid shows on your desktop anyway.

DAN  
Well I don't know if I'll get my laptop back in one piece.

MIKE  
C'mon, I'm not gonna break it.

DAN  
My bike, 1999.

MIKE  
Not the stupid bike again.

<p>DAN I let you ride my bike, you jumped it off a ramp, and the next thing I know you're pushing home a unicycle.</p>	<p>MIKE It had bad tires. Hey that ramp came out of nowhere.</p>
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MIKE  
Dude, it's not my fault Ethan bought you a cheap bike.

DAN  
Don't blame Dad for that! You break everything I loan you-

MIKE  
Why can't I blame Ethan?

DAN  
You're really still doing this?

MIKE  
You bet I am. That cheater is not my father.

DAN  
Don't talk about Dad like that!

MIKE  
Why are you still defending him? It's not like he's around anymore anyway!

(Beat.)  
Damn it. Dan-

DAN  
You can't borrow my laptop.

Frustrated, Mike crosses to the door.

MIKE

I know you like your anime, but... It's been almost a year.  
You're gonna have to-

DAN

Get out!

Mike shakes his head and exits. Dan sits in silence when suddenly the covers on the bed begin to stir. A STRANGER, who appears to be about the same age as Dan, sits up in the bed, yawns, and stretches. Dan reaches for his cell phone. The stranger notices this and earnestly reaches out to Dan.

STRANGER

Don't do that!

Dan jumps from his seat.

DAN

Whoa! What the-!?! Who are you?

STRANGER

Put the phone down before you do something stupid.

DAN

What are you talking about?

STRANGER

Which word did you not understand? Phone, down, or stupid?

DAN

I'm not doing anything till you tell me who you are and what the heck you're doing in my room!

STRANGER

Okay first off, it's my room too. Second-

DAN

Your room? I'm pretty sure I only have one brother, and it's not you. So you're either clinically insane or-  
(Realization.)

Did Mike put you up to this?

STRANGER

Mike?

DAN

(To himself.)  
He's such a freakin' jerk.

STRANGER

Mike didn't send me, I live here.

DAN

Look the prank's over okay? You got me. Haha. Go have a good laugh with Mike and get out-

STRANGER

Daniel Carter. Twenty-two years old. You eat Lucky Charms every morning. Favorite marshmallow is the purple horseshoe, which is crazy because clearly it's all about the red balloons. You wet the bed till you were ten, you still sleep with the night light on, and you were just about to call the last person on earth you feel like talking to right now.

Beat. Dan slowly puts  
down his phone.

STRANGER

Would ya look at that. You're *not* stupid. Congratulations.

DAN

How did you know all that stuff?

STRANGER

Don't sweat the details kid. Now how about you go back to your little cartoons, I'll go back to sleep, and we'll sync back up into our normal routine. M'kay pumpkin?

The Stranger lays down on  
the bed. Dan crosses to  
the bed and grabs the  
Stranger by his shirt  
collar.

DAN

Now wait just a minute-

STRANGER

Hey easy on the shirt okay? It's a hundred percent cotton.

DAN

You don't get to just say all that stuff about me and then take a nap! I still don't know who you are!

STRANGER

Alright, alright. Sloth. My name is Sloth. Now let go of my shirt. You're gonna stretch it out.

Dan releases Sloth. Sloth  
gets up from the bed and  
stretches.

DAN  
Sloth? What kind of name is that?

SLOTH  
Well "Dan" doesn't exactly invoke goosebumps either there Skippy.

Sloth takes a few steps to  
the lovesac and sits down.

DAN  
So what, you've just been living in my room? How come I haven't  
seen you before?

SLOTH  
Probably the same reason you don't see Santa Claus.

DAN  
But Santa's not real.

SLOTH  
Exactly.

DAN  
What kind of explanation is that?

SLOTH  
Look Danielle, I love twenty questions as much as the next deadly  
sin, but if I don't get my late morning nap I'm gonna be a grouch  
the rest of the day. So how about we put a pin in this till I  
wake up in six months. Okay? Okay great.

Sloth lays his head down,  
closes his eyes, and sighs  
contentedly. Dan rushes  
over to the lovesac and  
pushes Sloth off.

SLOTH  
Whoa! Really dude? Really? You don't do that! You don't push  
people off of stuff when they're sleeping! So not cool.

DAN  
Get out.

SLOTH  
Oh that's not going to happen.

DAN  
And why's that?

SLOTH

Cause you can't throw out what's a part of you. And I am a part of you Dan. A big part.

DAN

If you're talking about the part of me that's super weird and annoying, then that is the first thing you've said that's made sense.

SLOTH

Geez, so ungrateful. I make your life awesome. I mean what's better than sitting around in your pajamas all day watching anime? You're living the dream.

DAN

Wait a minute... Sloth... are you here because you think I'm lazy?

SLOTH

Ding ding ding! We have a winner folks!

DAN

I am not lazy.

Sloth laughs. Hard.

DAN

I'm serious!

SLOTH

Alright, I'll play along. When was the last time you went outside and did anything recreational?

DAN

(Hesitates.)

Well just because I don't run around and play sports, that doesn't make me lazy.

SLOTH

Uh-huh. And what about your girlfriend, Amy? When was the last time you took her out on a real date?

(No response.)

Dancing? Bowling? Putt-putt? Anything?

DAN

Those just aren't the kinds of things we like to do. We'd rather stay in and watch movies.

SLOTH

Oh right, like last week's epic all-nighter of the complete Lord of the Rings Trilogy, extended edition.

DAN

Exactly!



SLOTH

She fell asleep thirty minutes into the first movie.

DAN

She was probably just tired from working with kids all day. They're exhausting!

SLOTH

You know I have never understood why she's dating you. You two don't have anything in common, and you definitely got stiffed in the looks department-

DAN

Hey shut up!

SLOTH

Oh right, your winning personality.

DAN

You think you know everything about me? Well you don't! For your information, I walk up to Amy's daycare every Wednesday and bring her Thai food for lunch.

SLOTH

Whew, what a workout.

DAN

(Barreling through.)

I don't play sports because I have no hand-eye coordination. It is not because I "suck ass," it's bad genetics. I dropped out of college because I don't know what I want to do for the rest of my life. And the reason I watch so much anime is because it makes me happy. It's like the only consistent thing that makes me happy. So excuse me for spending time doing what I love.

SLOTH

(Yawns.)

Are you done? Sorry, I always get the yawns when I watch The View. You can deny your laziness till Adam Sandler wins an Oscar, and it won't change the fact that I am still here. You can't get rid of me boss. I'm here to stay.

DAN

You know what, fine. Stay here. Put your toothbrush on my sink for all I care, but let's get one thing straight. You are not a part of me, okay?

DAN

You are not a part of me!

SLOTH

You are not a part of me!

Beat. Dan's eyes widen.

DAN  
How did you do that? Cut  
it out! I'm warning you!

SLOTH  
How did you do that? Cut it  
out! I'm warning you!

Beat.

DAN  
How much wood would a big  
black bug bite a Peter Piper  
picked a peck of pickled  
peppers!

SLOTH  
How much wood would a big  
black bug bite a Peter Piper  
picked a peck of pickled  
peppers!

Dan's mouth hangs open.

DAN  
This can't be real... I must have been staring at the computer  
too long... I need a shower. That's it. I'll feel better after  
a cold shower.

He grabs a pair of pants  
from his bed and heads for  
the bathroom, but then  
stops. He doubles back to  
the mini fridge and pulls  
out a soda.

DAN  
Mountain Dew calms me down.

Dan heads for the bathroom  
again, but stops again.  
He doubles back to his  
desk and grabs his can of  
Pringles.

DAN  
Showers can work up an appetite.

Dan exits with his pop,  
pants and Pringles into  
the bathroom.

SLOTH  
He'll learn.

The mini fridge opens up  
and a new stranger emerges.  
This stranger is very heavy  
set, carries a hoagie and  
appears to be a few years  
younger than Sloth. He  
gets stuck halfway through  
the fridge ala Winnie the  
Pooh and the honey tree.

SLOTH

Hey there Glut Butt.

GLUT

Wassup. Sorry I'm late. My meeting with John ran over if you know what I mean.

(Takes a big bite of the  
hoagie.)

It was nasty dude. Thank the Ding Dong gods for courtesy flushes.

SLOTH

Need some help there?

GLUT

Nah I'm alright.

SLOTH

Good cause I wasn't gonna help you.

Glut belches loudly and  
then squeezes in the rest  
of the way. The shower  
can now be heard offstage.

GLUT

Works every time.

(Looks around.)

Hey why's Dan not sittin' at his computer? We should be balls deep into Full Metal by now.

SLOTH

He's taking a shower.

GLUT

I'm sorry, did you say shower? He'd rather play with Old Spice body wash than appreciate a masterpiece of Japanese animation? He's out of his mind! I'm gonna go get him.

SLOTH

Leave him alone.

GLUT

But-

SLOTH

Don't forget that Dan is *my* mortal. And the only reason I let you mooch off him is so you can hook me up with midday Twinkies. Now sit down.

Glut sits on the bed and  
pulls out a pair of  
Twinkies. He tosses one  
to Sloth.