

The Aunt From Albuquerque

By Ethan Clark

One day, I was at the house of my cousins who live the next town over. We were having a family reunion and I wanted none of it.

All the extended family was very boring except for a couple cousins, and we all went to the “extra room” that had no windows, a sticky leather sofa, a cardboard box filled with random DVDs and just junk right next to the TV, and the whole room just smelled like cinnamon and musty AC

As me and my older cousin Danny made ourselves comfortable on the couch, my younger cousin Jake dug through that mystery box and pulled out a DVD with some cartoons on it...it was like a mix of some old Looney Tunes I think?

Anyways, i put that DVD into the DVD player sitting in that entertainment center that has seen better days and we just start watching the cartoons and they were pretty funny. But then...I don't even want to speak her name

The aunt from Albuquerque barged in and turned off the cartoons and put in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, telling us kids how it's the funniest and greatest movie ever made. We then sit there bored and confused as she laughs so loud, I swear the walls shook.

Danny, Jake, and I were all just so bored and frustrated we up and left, and went to just play Go Fish...at least until Uncle Barney decided to play some weird card game called “Sticky Fingers” he made up. Couldn't grasp it one bit, the rules made no sense.

You like had to guess what match someone was about to make but you can also steal cards from each other? I don't get it.

I just hated that family reunion. It was so boring!

Oh and The aunt from Albuquerque just straight up left the family after the reunion. She's a “high roller” now after she won \$25,000 at a casino and decided she only associates with the “upper crust” of society and moved to Las Vegas.

We heard almost nothing for her 3 years after the reunion, other than the occasional social media post of her at a slot machine or playing craps or I'm sorry...”cruds” since she never let us kids say “crap”.

But then a few days before Christmas one year, I saw THAT aunt's Chrysler Sebring convertible pull up to the driveway.

She came in a bit flustered, complaining about everyone's “poor taste”. We weren't exactly sure what was up with her, at least until Christmas Day when she opened the card we got for

her last minute (we didn't expect her to even show up after all) and got the ick after seeing the \$25 Target Gift Card we got her.

The aunt from Albuquerque got herself into debt while living out in Vegas.

Of course, she didn't say her predicament to our faces. She just fussed about how the gift card wouldn't be enough to pay for the "return trip" to Vegas.

But once Mom, Dad, and Uncle Barney knew what's up, she broke down and confessed about how she bought a Cadillac Escalade and house she wasn't qualified for, and just betted way too high while on the game floor.

Being the supportive family we are, we got a nearby apartment for The aunt from Albuquerque to live in while she paid off her debt. She hated every minute of it because she's with the "commoners" now and not with the "upper crust".

Truthfully, I think The aunt from Albuquerque just hated all of us.

She never let us kids say "crap" or "stupid", even though we've heard her curse more than a few times in front of us.

She complained about the food at the family reunion, and was always unenthusiastic about her Christmas presents.

In fact after a year of living in that apartment, The aunt from Albuquerque just left!

We don't know where she went for certain, but Uncle Barney told me that an old coworker of hers told him that she's living in a luxury villa out in Hawaii now.

The story goes is that she took a trip to Vegas, tripped and injured herself at a hotel, sued the hotel, and won...AND THEN betted some of her money from the lawsuit while playing..."cruds" and WON.

But that's just what Uncle Barney told me.