

Adam Dunbar

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REA100

ONE HUGE MOVE

It was a typical lazy day, so lazy even the trees seemed more relaxed than usual. I didn't have work and my grandmother (who I will call Memaw) was in the living room. I could hear a faint television from my bedroom of some gameshow that memaw was watching. I was sitting in my room on my bed since my bedroom had no chairs. Across the bottom of the bed was my television with a black screen. Laying in my bed just looking at my phone which seems like hours. Eventually I decided within myself to get up and go to the kitchen. Between me and the kitchen was a single bedroom which we called the computer room. Entering the kitchen was almost like entering a green room. It was almost like the sun was always perfectly beaming in the kitchen window regardless of the time of day. While I was searching the almost empty fridge I hear memaw yell to me to come to her. After quickly grabbing a can of soda from the fridge I walk through the dining room into the living room. Memaw was sitting on a long and across the room was an old big screen television which she was watching family fude on.

"What's up" I say to her

"Have you found a place yet?"

"No I am still looking."

She was talking about me looking for a new place to live. It was just a few months after my memaw 75 birthday and she decided to retire from working. This was the final month of living in my grandmother's apartment and the choice I had to make on where I was going to live.

A couple months before October my aunt and uncle were talking to my father about what to do about my grandmother's living situations. Though I've been living there for 6 years I could only do so much to help memaw around the house. She was more than able to take care of herself, but she needed help on simple things like lifting objects and cleaning high areas, stuff like that. Eventually it was decided that my aunt and uncle in law will take memaw. This wasn't a one-sided decision memaw also wanted to move to Massachusetts, so she could be closer to my aunts 1-year old twin babies. We've known memaw was going to retire and move out of her apartment but when was a mystery until even the last day. You could tell she didn't want to move and was nervous about the transition. Around 2 weeks before the move my uncle and aunt came down from California and Massachusetts to help memaw move. This process took days to move everything from the first-floor apartment into the U-Haul we had rented.

During this whole process of gutting this apartment I still was deciding on if I should move into my own place or move back into my dad and step mothers house after not living there for years. I have been looking on retail apps and everywhere you would think to find a cheap apartment for a college student. My budget was very small I was looking for a place for around 600-650 which seems almost impossible currently. I thought I was about to move back into my parents' house and even started to move some boxes into their basement.

Around the last week of October and it was a sunny day outside and most leaves have already fallen off the huge oke tree that was in the center of the back yard. Me and my uncle were moving furniture and boxes into a U-haul which we ordered a few days ago. While I was holding onto some boxes I felt my phone vibrate in my pocket and put the boxes down to see my father was calling me.

I answer the phone "What's up"

He replies, "Hey I know a guy who has an apartment for you that is 600 a month and you pay electric."

"Dude seriously?! Where and when I'm ready to buy it now." I said with a lot of enthusiasm.

My father replied, "He's very old school and isn't really sure about renting a place to a younger guy but I told him you needed this place for school and he said he would give you a shot."

"Yea I feel that. Don't worry I really just am gonna go to school and work and sleep that's all." I said to him with the most confidence.

"Okay so I'll pick you up in an hour to go see the place."

"Cool see you then."

I tell my grandmother and uncle about the good news and freshen up and take a shower, so I didn't look bad when I meet the landlord in person. An hour passed and I see my dad out-front parked right out front of my grandmother's house pulled up to the curve. I was nervous to think my landlord didn't like me off the bat due to my age, but I

was more excited to see the place and even had a check ready to make the offer right there.

We pull up to an old looking building that was made into 3 apartments. There was an eggshell white door with window in front of some concrete steps. We wait about 10 minutes for the landlord to show up and unlock the door. Stepping into the apartment there is a closed off porch area that was easy to see no one uses. In the corner of the porch were 3 shovels and a bag of salt. I was located on the third floor which there was a flight of stairs up to it. Once up the narrow stairway the landlord opened the door and revealed an even longer set of stairs to the apartment. Once up those stairs right in front of me was a door which lead to the bathroom. The bathroom was small with one window which gave us a view of the backyard. To the right of the bathroom door there was an opening which lead us to the kitchen area which was big enough to have a table in, but the ceiling was so close I had to tilt my head at one point. Once we made our way through the kitchen we saw another opening which lead to the living area. This was my favorite spot to look at. The ceilings were large and the room itself was spacious. The walls were covered in what looked like pieces of popcorn and there was another opening to what I assumed was the bedroom. The living room and bedroom had no door to separate them sit it almost felt like a studio apartment just with a wall to separate space. In the bedroom there were 3 windows right next to each other. Looking out the windows I could see the most stunning view of Philadelphia and all the buildings almost like the city was posing for a picture for me it looked so beautiful.

After seeing the place and talking to the landlord we made a deal and I signed the lease for a year. Making this commitment is one of the biggest steps I have taken in my

life so far. I have never owned my own apartment by myself. I would have to start shopping for myself and begin budgeting my money, so I could pay for electricity and rent. For 23 years I have been dependent on my family for housing, but in almost a day everything completely changed. This decision of living alone gave me a lot to think about and I am glad I made it. Now I know when time comes around again to find another place I will be ready from the experience I had owning this apartment.