

#ADULTING

Written by

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Inspired by Real Life Events

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

ZOE, 24, trendy, post college graduate walks into her apartment after a long day at work. She kicks off her shoes and lays on the sofa. MOM, 45, caring, calls to check on Zoe. The phone rings.

ZOE

Hi MOM!

MOM (O.S.)

Hi baby. Are you all settled in?

ZOE

It's coming. I can't take a shower because there's no door. I'm going to call maintenance today.

MOM (O.S.)

Zoe. I don't think they're going to bring you a door. Why didn't you just buy a shower curtain and rod?

Zoe has an ah ha moment.

ZOE

Ooohhh. Okay. Well that makes sense.

MOM (O.S.)

And how are things coming at work?

ZOE

Well... they want me to be there at 8am... EVERY DAY. They want to know when I leave for lunch and I have a time to be back. Like... I don't know how long the shopping lines are going to be. And what if my nails are still wet?

MOM (O.S.)

Zoe. Welcome to the real world. If you want a job, you have to follow their rules.

ZOE

Well their rules are stupid. But they have really great toilet paper...

CLOSEUP ON THE TOILET PAPER ZOE TOOK FROM THE OFFICE.

ZOE (CONT'D)

And I got my first check today.

Zoe opens her check and stares with confusion while holding the phone.

MOM (O.S.)

That's great honey. How much was it?

ZOE

Oh my God! Somebody named FICA took my money!

MOM (O.S.)

Zoe... Zoe...

Zoe stares in silence at her paycheck.

INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Zoe sits at the table having lunch with her sorority sister, MORGAN, 24. They are having a glass of wine and discussing life after college. A WAITER walks over with the bill.

WAITER

Can I get you ladies anything else?

ZOE

No, I think that will be all.

The waitress leaves the bill on the table with Zoe.

MORGAN

Do you want me to get that? I know you just started working.

ZOE

No, I got it. I missed your birthday and plus, I just got my first check.

MORGAN

That's great Zoe. I'm so proud of you. You're adjusting so well to being on your own.

Zoe looks at her phone to check her account. She notices that she only has \$30 after her bills are paid. Zoe opens the bill on the table which totals \$54. She begins to panic.

DAYDREAM - INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Zoe stares into space trying to find a solution to pay the bill. She reaches over and pulls a hair out of Morgan's head and puts it in her plate.

BACK TO SCENE - INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Zoe is convinced that there is an error with the bill. She turns to get the attention of the waiter.

ZOE

Excuse me... waiter!

MORGAN

Is everything okay?

ZOE

NO! This bill is wrong. He over charged us!

Morgan looks confused.

WAITER

Ma'am, is everything okay?

ZOE

No. You overcharged me. I didn't order gratuity. I don't even know what that is!

WAITER

Ma'am... we automatically add a 15% gratuity, which is a tip to every bill. The sign is on the door when you walk in.

Zoe glances over at a sign on the door.

CLOSEUP OF A SIGN stating "A 15% gratuity will be added to all bills."

ZOE  
But what if I didn't want to leave  
you 15%?

WAITER  
Ma'am... it's our policy.

Zoe looks confused as she does not have enough to cover the bill.

MORGAN  
Zoe. I got it. You can get the next  
one.

Zoe looks disappointed and hands the bill over to Morgan in shame.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Zoe stands in the kitchen trying to figure out how to use the stove.

CLOSE UP of the pack of Ramen noodles.

Zoe is carefully reading the directions aloud from the pack.

ZOE  
Cover in hot water. Boil for 10  
minutes. Great! Because I have to  
be back at work in 20.

Zoe turns on the back eye of the stove, places the pot of noodles on the front eye and returns to her room.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Zoe returns to the kitchen 10 minutes later to prepare her lunch and head back to work. She notices that the stove was never properly turned on to cook her lunch. She turns off the incorrect stove eye and leaves the uncooked food on the stove.

She grabs her jacket and slowly drags it on the floor. She looks discouraged and defeated. She leaves the apartment forgetting her keys and without locking the door.

CLOSEUP to Zoe's keys left on the counter.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**