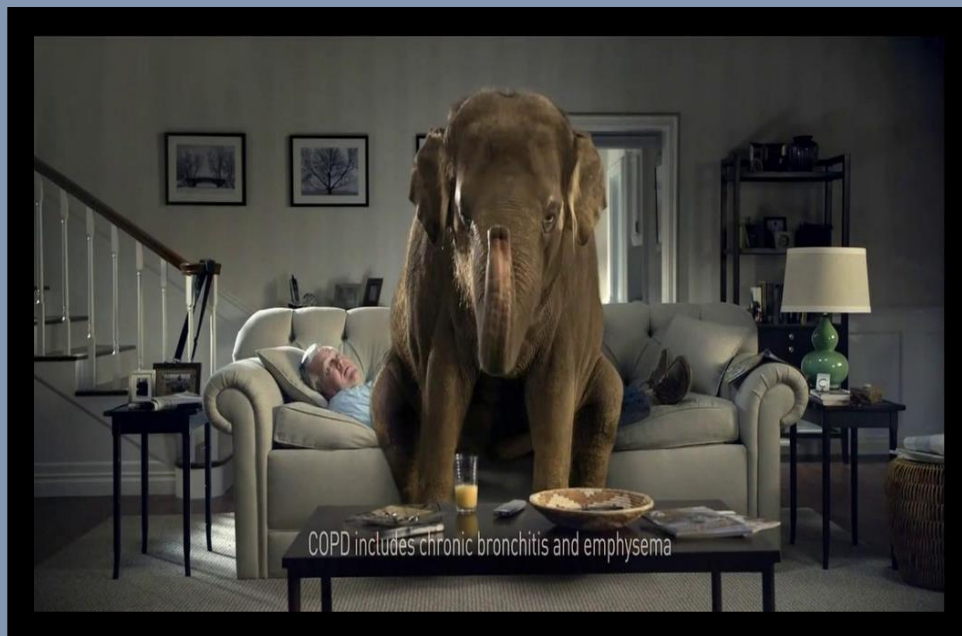


Tom's New Pet

Owen Bilag

Chris stepped through the doorway into his apartment, he noticed an unusual smell, the sort of smell that you wouldn't find in a normal London apartment. He headed towards the living room trying to understand what was making such an atrocious smell.

"Tom?" shouted Chris, but before Tom could respond, a strange sound echoed down the corridor, the sort of sound you wouldn't hear in an ordinary apartment. Chris became cautious of his movements as a calm-looking Tom appeared behind him.



"Hey Chris." Tom said casually as he ate a slice of bread, completely calm of the situation.

"What the hell is going on Tom," Quietly questioned Chris, looking agitated at Toms surprising calmness. Before Tom could speak Chris continued speaking. "First of all, what's with the smell!"

"Oh, that, don't worry, it's just my friend's dog, you see him, and his-" Tom said as he was suddenly cut off by an annoyed roommate.

“Tom, if a dog smelled that bad, why didn’t they wash it” Chris asked rhetorically gagging into his shirt. “I’m also, a hundred percent sure, that a dog doesn’t make the sound of an AIR HORN!” Chris pushed Tom aside and hurriedly walked into the living room.

“No wait! You might wake him up!” said Tom.

Chris’s jaw dropped as he witnessed a baby elephant on what used to be his white Ikea couch.

“Tom?” Chris said in a shocked manner.

“Yes,” replied Tom incredibly calmly.

“Why is there an elephant on the couch?” asked Chris.

“That’s not an elephant?” Tom replied looking puzzled.

“Tom seriously, why is there an elephant on my couch” Asked Chris as he stared deep into Tom’s eyes with a furious expression.

“That’s an elephant?” Tom asked, bewildered by the thought that the creature on their couch wasn’t a dog. Tom shrugged off the thought, pulling out a banana from his jacket pocket, eating it calmly.

“Tom, that is an elephant, it has a trunk, it has hooves, it has big floppy ears. WHY on Earth would you think that this, this elephant, would be a dog?” Questioned Chris.

“I just thought it was one of those giant bulldogs with big ears.” Tom responded sounding bewildered. In a rage Chris snatched the banana out of Tom’s hand, throwing it out the open window. “I was eating that,” Tom said sadly as he pulled out another banana from his pocket, eating it as Chris stared him down. “Do ya want one?” Tom asked politely.

“HAVE YOU EVEN SEEN A DOG TOM? LOOK AT IT!” Chris shouted; Tom quickly placed his hand over Chris’s mouth.

“Shuh...you might wake him.” Tom said cautiously, slowly removing his hand away from Chris, resuming to eat his banana.

Chris took a deep breath trying to understand the situation he was in. Chris thought of handing it into the local zoo, possibly calling the police, what about giving the elephant a bath, maybe feeding it some peanuts or a banana. “Do elephants even eat bananas?” Chris muttered to himself. The baby elephant slowly awoke snatching Tom’s banana with his trunk as he began to eat the remains of Tom’s banana.

“Aw, isn’t Magnum just adorable.” Said Tom smiling, as he reached for another banana. To Tom’s dismay there was only a grape left in his pockets. “Gosh Darn, I thought I had an extra one left”

“I suppose he is quite cute...wait a minute, Tom, IT HAS A NAME! -” Chris snapped, shouting at Tom. Tom nodded his head calmly, attempting to throw the grape into his mouth but failing horribly, hitting him in the eye.

“You see it’s pretty funny, you see, he got the name because-” Tom tried to say, but he was rudely interrupted once again.

“Tom, I don’t care, go wash that thing. I don’t care what with, hose him down, drop him in the bathtub, get the fire department involved. Just get that beast washed, it stinks, and so does my couch.” Chris demanded as he headed towards the front door, attempting to find his keys.

“Where are you going?” asked Tom worriedly, as Chris looked for his keys in his pockets.

“I’m going to go and get some fresh air” Chris replied rummaging through his pockets. “Also, grab some air fresheners, but I can’t find- TOM, where the bloody hell are my keys” Chris screamed.

Magnum slowly fell from the couch like a tired baby making his way over to a stressed Chris opening his pockets repeatedly. Magnum reached into the fruit bowl and pulled out Chris’s keys. “Thanks.” said Chris rushing out the door slamming it behind him but opened it again realizing what had just happened. “He’s smart, I’ll give you that” as he slammed the door in both Tom’s and Magnum’s faces.

“Aw, you hear that Magnum, Chris thinks you’re a smart dog” Tom said petting Magnum’s head. “Now time to give you a bath.” Tom exclaimed while Magnum made his way to the bathroom grabbing the last banana from the fruit bowl.

Hours passed by as Chris made his way inside with a bag of air fresheners in one hand and a separate bag of peanuts in his other. Chris placed the bags on top of the kitchen counter taking a deep breath and instantly gagging. “TOM! WHY THE BLOODY HELL DOES IT SMELL **TWICE** AS BAD IN HERE,” Chris shouted placing his jacket over his nose. A silence fell over the house with no sound from Tom or Magnum. “Tom?” Curiously, said Chris. The smell grew worse, Chris almost threw up into his jacket from the stench. Quickly Chris started spraying his apartment frantically with as much spray as he could hold, when he suddenly heard a sound coming from the bathroom, “Tom?”

“Hi, Chris!” Replied Tom happily.

“Tom - why are you in the bath...why is there another elephant...WHY ARE THEY WASHING YOU INSTED!?” Chris yelled furiously throwing the air freshener at Tom, bouncing off Tom’s forehead.

“Well, you see, I thought we’d get a dog for our house as well!” Tom said gleefully, “Her name is Jumbo.”

“Tom, that’s not a dog, were not allowed to keep pets in the apartment, AND YOU SHOULD BE WASHING THEM!” Chris furiously screamed slamming the bathroom door as the two elephants continued to bathe the naked Tom.

“Oh well, you can't please them all, isn't that right Magnum.” Said Tom with an approving blow of Magnum’s trunk to follow. “You said it best Magnum.” Agreed Tom pulling out a banana from the bathtub eating it happily.

And they lived happily ever after, except for Chris, he’s never happy.