

## **VIRGO HOUSEHOLD**

By Chira Grasby

Based on interviews with three individuals that share  
the same birthday as the author - August 27.

This text, formatted as a scene from a screenplay, documents a  
mundane morning in an imagined sharehouse involving the  
author and the three interviewees.

Names have been altered for privacy reasons.

**1. INT. KITCHEN/DINING. MID-MORNING.**

A figure in an oversized t-shirt (SASHA) is pouring plunger coffee into four mismatched mugs. The t-shirt is vintage and worn with an 'Ed Hardy' logo across the chest. Peeking out the bottom are a pair of simple workout shorts.

SASHA

Coffee's ready! (CALLING OUT)

Sasha sits down at a round wooden dining table. She places three of the mugs on the table and begins to sip from the fourth. In front of her is a prepared bowl of cereal with a spoon laid neatly beside it. A U-shaped mid century kitchen with white cabinetry is behind her. A small window over the sink looks out at a blooming Grevillea tree.

Bailey enters from the hallway wearing a baggy black t-shirt, a pair of black leggings, and one sock. They hop on one foot as they fumble to put on the other.

BAILEY

Thanks Sasha. I overslept a bit this morning.

Sasha swallows a mouthful of cereal and holds her hand in front of her mouth politely.

SASHA

That's okay. (UNDERSTANDING)

Gwens got work this morning so she was probably up at the crack of dawn... I know Chris is still doing her makeup.

BAILEY

Like usual... (MUTTERS)

Bailey pulls out a chair and sits on Sasha's left. They stare at the three mugs of coffee and choose one with faded butterfly decals. They take a sip.

SASHA

Gwen! Chris! Coffee! (CALLING OUT)

CHRIS

One sec! I'm almost done! (MUFFLED CALLING OUT)

Bailey and Sasha look at each other and roll their eyes in a playful way. Gwen enters the room in a long denim skirt and a ruffled chiffon blouse. Mismatched bracelets on her wrists clang together as she grabs an apple from the kitchen bench and sits down next to Bailey.

GWEN

It's always "one sec" with her isn't it! (JOKINGLY)

Gwen reaches for a mug of coffee as she takes a bite of her apple.

BAILEY

Wait, aren't you working today?

SASHA

Yeah where's the company button up and plain black pants? You can't pack grocery bags looking like that.

Bailey and Sasha giggle as Gwen finishes chewing.

GWEN

I told you all last week. I've got TOIL to cash in. This week I'm in holiday mode!

BAILEY

I thought you were saving TOIL for our trip next month. Don't tell me you're bailing on us? We always spend our Birthdays together!

GWEN

I was, I mean am! But I've got more than enough. Don't you remember all that overtime I did back in December? I took all of Soph's shifts while she was away for the holidays... On top of my own!

Sasha points at Gwen with her spoon.

SASHA

Hate to remind you, but we still have work to do this week. Our holidays not gonna plan itself... And if you're off work then

we won't say no to some extra help!

Chris hurries in wearing a flowy black skirt and a fitted t-shirt with rhinestones across the neckline. On her feet are a pair of fluffy Sanrio slippers.

CHRIS

Who needs help with what? I'll do it!  
(ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

BAILEY

You already took over the accommodation hunting, leave some planning to the rest of us!

Chris walks over to the toaster and puts in one slice.

CHRIS

Yeah, yeah, whatever. At least it's somewhere nice. Not like our last trip.  
(SARCASTICALLY)

She turns to face everyone, leaning against the kitchen bench. She gestures to Bailey.

BAILEY

The AirBNB in Deep Creek WAS nice!

GWEN

Apart from the insane fishing decor that covered the walls! I'm still haunted by that giant plastic Trout that stared down at my bed... Terrifying...

Gwen shudders. Bailey and Sasha laugh.

CHRIS

So, the itinerary. Have you guys each made a short list of activities like I suggested?

SASHA

I made one on my phone the other day.

Sasha turns to face Chris and leans one arm on the back of her chair.

SASHA

My boss actually sent me some ideas. She went to a comp in rural Germany last year and hopped over to the Netherlands for a week at the end.

CHRIS

Perfect, drop it in the group chat so I can take a peek! And you two, any thoughts?

Chris looks eagerly at Gwen and Bailey. They both hesitate and look to each other for a response. Chris looks impatiently at them.

CHRIS

Remember what I said. If you don't have any suggestions then Sasha and I are happy to pick everything... But then you can't complain.

The toaster pops and Chris grabs the hot piece of toast with the tips of her fingers and quickly drops it onto a plate.

GWEN

I do have suggestions! But I wanted to see what you all put down first. I want to make sure everything flows nicely. No point bouncing back and forth too much.

Chris becomes occupied with cutting open an avocado and smearing it on her toast.

SASHA

I agree, the last thing we need is to feel overwhelmed and swamped. This is a holiday after all. I don't want to feel like I'm working the whole time.

BAILEY

Honestly I'm happy for you guys to pick it all as long as I'm there for input while you make the plans. I want to make sure there's a few rest days for wandering and chilling out.

CHRIS

Obviously! We gotta breathe now and then.

Chris carries her plate over and sits on the remaining dining chair, taking a bite of her toast. Sasha moves her now empty cereal bowl aside and leans back in her chair nursing her coffee. Gwen takes one final bite of her apple before placing the core inside the empty bowl, smiling at Sasha.

BAILEY

Actually, there's one thing I definitely want on the list!

SASHA

Don't tell me it's some craft store that looks like a hoarder's den... The last thing you need is a suitcase full of junk and spiderwebs.

BAILEY

No! But if we find a shop like that I might want to have a peek...

GWEN

Could make for some good photos, don't you think Sasha!

Sasha sighs

SASHA

Hmm. Sure... (MUTTERS)

BAILEY

What I actually want to see is the Tilburg Textile Museum. It's in an old textile factory, meant to be incredible!

CHRIS

Ooh cool, added to the list!

Chris taps her temple, referring to her head when she mentions the list. Gwen stands up and takes a long sip of coffee, before placing her now empty mug in the sink.

GWEN

I gotta run, guys! I want to get to the market while it's still quiet, I think I'll make something for dessert tonight. And I'll probably meet up with

Lou for another coffee but I promise I'll get my trip ideas into the group chat by this arvo. I should be home around two, maybe three... You all home around then?

She looks to the others for an answer as she walks briskly to the hallway door.

CHRIS

I'll be home around four! I've got a short day at work but I'll start structuring the itinerary while I've got free moments between clients. May as well get the framework done.

BAILEY

I've got a few projects to keep me busy at home. I just started sewing a new top and I'm determined to have it done in time for the trip.

Bailey stands up and turns toward the kitchen bench. They pour the remaining plunger coffee into their mug and look towards Gwen.

BAILEY

If you're taking requests I wouldn't mind more of that pear tart you made for New Years.

SASHA

Ooh, yes please! (EXCITEDLY)

GWEN

Maybe - it is pear season! Will you be home too?

Gwen looks eagerly towards Sasha.

SASHA

Nah I've got work, might be home just before dinner. There's an event on this weekend so we're super busy prepping everything ahead of time.

GWEN

Sounds hectic, good luck... See you all later then!

Gwen waves as she turns down the hallway. The others each chime out goodbyes as they hear her grab her bag and shoes at the door.

GWEN

Bye! (CALLING OUT)

The front door closes behind her.

BAILEY

I'm gonna get stuck into that top, plus I'm half way through season four of Buffy. I won't be able to watch it while we're away so I've gotta get it all done before we leave. Have fun today you two!

Bailey holds their mug up in a 'toast' gesture towards Sasha and Chris before cutting across the hallway to their bedroom. They leave their door ajar behind them.

CHRIS

You too! (CALLING OUT TO BAILEY)

Chris checks the time on her phone.

CHRIS

I better head out too, my trains in twenty minutes.

She rushes up and quickly rinses the toast crumbs off her plate.

SASHA

How soon do you start work? If you wait another forty minutes I could drive you in one way to work? Wouldn't be too much of a detour for me.

Chris hesitates for a second, thinking. She clicks with her tongue as she opens the calendar app of her phone and scrolls through the entries.

CHRIS

Nah it's okay, thank you though. I think I'd be cutting it close if I waited that long. I've already pushed my first client back by half an hour because my hair was taking too long!

SASHA

I'm not surprised! You gotta start getting up earlier, you know.



CHRIS

I'll think about it.

Sasha laughs to herself as Chris clumsily stomps down the hallway. The noise of keys and rushed muttering echo to the kitchen as Chris gathers her belongings ready to leave.

SASHA

Chris? (CALLING OUT)

CHRIS

What! (CALLING OUT)

SASHA

Your slippers? (CALLING OUT)

Silence for a moment. Then Chris rushes down the hallway past the kitchen door.

CHRIS

Dang it... (MUTTERED)

SASHA

You're welcome!

Chris stops briefly in the doorway and points to her feet. Her slippers are now replaced with a pair of zip up boots.

CHRIS

I feel like the slippers suited the outfit more, but just for you I'll wear these ones.

SASHA

Thanks, you're so kind! (SARCASTICALLY)

BAILEY

Bye Chris! (CALLING OUT FROM BEDROOM)

CHRIS

Seeya!

Chris giggles as she runs down the hallway and loudly shuts the door behind her. Sasha gets up and gathers the dishes before placing them in the sink. She turns the tap on and starts to clean them.