

## THE MONEY SHOW! - *excerpt*

A: Wanna play another game?

C: Sure.

B: Ok, we'll call this one Budget Battle. (*hands C a whiteboard and pen*) We're gonna start you out with \$2,000 bux a month.

C: Yes!!!!

B: ...and with that dough, you're going to have to buy everything you need, and still have money left at the end of the month.

A: Simple, right?

C: Yup.

A: But you're playing against an opponent – and his name is Mr Reality!

### **SOUND CUE – MR REALITY**

B: And when *he* shows up, you don't know WHAT'll happen, so be prepared.

A: Ok ready?

C: Ready!

A: Alright; when you're on your own, what are the three big things you need to cover?

C: Easy! Movies, games, and girls!

A: (*beat*) Fail, Fail, and MAJOR Fail. Try food, housing, and transportation.

C: But what about *girls*!

A: Ladies, anyone want a guy who's always broke?

C: Ok, fine. So what comes first?

A: A place to live. Now, you want to rent or do you want to own?

C: What's cheaper?

A: Well...renting is usually cheaper (*sounds like A's not sure if it's good advice...*).

C: But?...

A: If you rent, your landlord gets every penny. But if you buy, you'll end up getting most your money back when you to sell.

B: Plus, if you buy smart, you can probably make a profit when you sell.

C: Ok, so let me see if I got this; renting costs less now, but owning actually costs less in the long-term.

A: Nicely put. And yes.

C: Well, I'd buy, but I'm not sure how long I want to stay here; I think renting makes more sense.

A: Great. So let's go apartment shopping. Oh look, a rental agent! (B)

B: *(New York City accent and attitude)* I have three places for you to see. Look here – a beautiful one-bedroom apartment overlooking The Lake.

C: Wow! This place will be a chick magnet! How much?

B: \$1,000 a month.

C: Gulp. That's probably a little much.

B: Then I have a not-as-lovely two bedroom apartment overlooking an alley.

C: Hm..not much of a view, but I think I could live with this. How much?

B: \$600 a month.

C: Much better. And the third?

B: In the same building, but with even more space – and \$200 a month cheaper.

C: More space, less money? Winning! Wait – why cheaper?

B: There's a catch.

C: Oh – what catch?

B: You'd have a roommate....

C: Which roommate?

B: This guy.

D: *(enters with sloppy shirt, backwards baseball cap)* Whassup yo?

C: Isn't he on 'Breaking Bad' ("*Jersey Shore*", or whatever else makes sense)

D: So here's the deal, I work late, and like to partay at night, so you'll have to be cool with me having friends here...

C: But I work early mornings...

D: And the company I work for might transfer me to Cleveland...

C: So someone else could move in?  
D: And I have a potbelly pig.  
C: *(pause - to B)* How much cheaper is this place?  
B: Two hundred a month.  
C: That's a lot of money...  
A: Is living with that guy worth 200 bucks?  
C: Not unless the pig does dishes.  
A: It's only a pig.  
C: Then ...no. I think I'd rather spend a little more and skip the pig.  
B: So you want the Alley Apartment by yourself.  
C: Yes , I think so.  
B: Fine, that will be \$600 per month.

**SOUND CUE – MR REALITY**

A: Wait, what could that be?  
D: *(enters with “V for Vendetta” mask on)*  
A: Oh no – it's Mr Reality!!!  
C: No it's not, it's the V for Vendetta guy.  
A: Same thing. *(D hands C a 6 x 9 card)* Say, what does his note say?  
C: “Congratulations on your new apartment.” Wow, thank you!  
A: Keep reading.  
C: “Now you're gonna have to pay for electricity, heat, and insurance. Sucka...” *(D laughs and points, silently)*  
B: That's right, I forgot to say that the rent doesn't include utilities.  
C: Well, how much more is THAT gonna cost?  
B: About \$150 a month.  
C: So this place will really cost me \$750 a month! *(pause)* Well, pigs can be fun...  
A: Seriously?  
C: I like this building, and it's close to work - but 750 a month is a lot of money...

A: Look, you're a bright guy, it's a two bedroom apartment – think about it. What can you do to make it more affordable?

C: Don't turn on the lights?

A: C'mon. How about YOU guys? What do YOU think he can do?

*Field suggestions from the kids – hopefully one of them will come up with the obvious suggestion of “look for a different roommate”*

A: BINGO!!! Look, **if you don't like the options, create some new ones.** Go out and find yourself a roommate that YOU choose.