

PETER
I'm not a piece of meat.

CLAIRE
No offense but sometimes you are. And, sometimes in life you have to do what you don't want to do. My dad used to say 'not everything in life is fun'.

PETER
You're really using your father to get me into bed?!

CLAIRE
Well, he would have done it!
(beat realizes what she said)
That didn't sound right.

START

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

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Peter and Claire's roommate, MARK MOVENPICK (mid 20's, single) is searching through the fridge, trying to find something to eat. Peter enters from his bedroom.

MARK
Hey, man, sorry if I woke you up. I tried to keep quiet for your pre-brunch crunch.

PETER
You didn't disturb anything. We didn't do it.

MARK
Claire didn't want to?

PETER
No, I didn't want to.

MARK
(Laughs)
You should probably talk to her. It's a bad sign when the woman starts to hold out.

PETER
No, I'm serious. I held out.

MARK
Seriously, though, man, if she's not sleeping with you, you should talk to her about it.

PETER

For the last time, I'm the one who held out, and now Claire is mad at me!

Claire enters, angry.

MARK

Good morning, Claire.

CLAIRE

(really grumpy)
Yeah. Good morning.

PETER

Hey, Honey.

CLAIRE

...Why don't you shut your stupid face?

MARK

(whispering to Peter)
She's grumpy. Probably why she didn't sleep with you.

CLAIRE

(to Mark, still grumpy)
How did your date go last night?

MARK

Pretty good. She's really hot. She has a great body. She wears a shoulder bag that cuts through her breasts. I mean, she's really amazing.

CLAIRE

Amazing enough to marry and then, less than a year later, not want to have sex with?

MARK

Definitely...

(then)

But, there is one small problem, and I'll preface it by saying you guys know me and you know I'm not the most amazing catch.

PETER

Yes, we now that.

MARK

I mean, I'm an out-of-work freelance video game programmer. I make a four digit salary.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

I drive a two-door 1998 Ford Fiesta that's really supposed to have four doors. My... 'canoodle noodle' is four inches long when it's happy. And, I'm definitely no James Dean.

PETER

You're no Paula Dean.

MARK

Exactly. And, as you know, I'm not usually a picky guy.

CLAIRE

You broke up with a girl because she wouldn't update her iTunes software.

MARK

(Passionately)
She was using 8.0!
(then)
Anyway, all that to say, I'm in no position to judge.

PETER

Definitely not.

CLAIRE

So, what's wrong with her?

MARK

I think I'm too cool for her.

CLAIRE/PETER

Ha!

MARK

Seriously. She wears a T-shirt that spells 'Jedi Master' in binary code. She points out continuity problems in movies. And, she's always quoting Austin Powers.

CLAIRE

You do all those things AND you have that T-shirt!!

PETER

Dump her.

CLAIRE

Peter! I thought he moved in here so he could see how we, as a committed couple, make it work.

PETER

No. He moved in here to see how we, as a committed couple, pay the rent.

CLAIRE

Give her another shot.

MARK

Really?

CLAIRE

Yeah, sometimes people are nervous on the first date. On our first date, Peter was so nervous, he couldn't perform sexually. Oh, no, wait, that was today.

PETER

We'll do it tonight!

CLAIRE

Mark, you've got to understand that while she may have some quirks, the key to finding a committed relationship is realizing that sometimes...

(turns to look at Peter)

...you've just got to make some sacrifices.

PETER

Oh, come on!

END

END OF COLD OPENING