

We Are Roommates Now  
by Wendy Gorman

Not quite yet!

← That's what you think!

**HUMAN SIDE**

Congratulations! You've been selected as part of the first Human/Xolarean Cultural Rooming Exchange! You will be attending a summit with your fellow humans (1-4 humans total) and the Xolareans. You will be responsible for brokering a successful roommate contract with the Xolarean Delegation. You have two hours to negotiate this contract, and it is VERY IMPORTANT that you come to some sort of terms that both parties can live with. Be generous and gracious- Human/Xolarean relations depend on you!

That means you, Sam!

There are some things about Xolareans that you should know going into negotiations. These may or may not conflict with your own Human desires. Careful negotiation and compromise may be needed to make sure everyone's needs are being met! Additionally, this list is incomplete, and you may find more surprising habits of Xolareans as you work to complete the roommate agreement, which should of course be written down on a piece of paper.

**Things that need to be included in the roommate agreement:**

- Chore schedule
- Acceptable noise timeframes
- Who is in charge of the quitzltic
- Clarification on proper bathroom usage
- Rent split
- How to take care of utilities (water, trash, zurping, thermonuclear, etc)
- Where to put the ant farms

???

↑ In the home?!

**Things we (think) we know about Xolareans:**

- They like to sleep in lightless, soundless conditions
- They keep all substances in unmarked containers
- They seemed to find it rude when we asked them if we could label our containers
- They participate in communal bathing
- Since moving to Earth, every single Xolarean has adopted a cat
- They seem to think cats are sentient creatures who can be expected to pay rent reliably
- They are very fond of potted plants
- Ear-to-ear contact is a sign of respect
- They don't like being called "aliens"

But what about ear wax?

Once you feel comfortable with the set of strictures, sit down opposite the Xolareans, and set a timer for forty-five minutes. One being, Human or Xolarean, should be in charge of writing down the agreement. When the timer goes off, the roommate agreement should be complete! If it is not, you may have jeopardized the future of Human/Xolarean relations, and you will most certainly be banished.

After all, no one wants a repeat of '78!

We agreed never to speak of this again, and I don't appreciate you bringing it up!

I don't remember these were no ants in the promotional brochure!!!  
or seeing to ants!

## XOLAREAN SIDE

Congratulations! You've been selected as part of the first Xolarean/Human Cultural Rooming Exchange! You will be attending a summit with your fellow Xolareans (1-4 Xolareans total) and the Humans. You will be responsible for brokering a successful roommate contract with the Human Delegation. You have two hours to negotiate this contract, and it is VERY IMPORTANT that you come to some sort of terms that both parties can live with. Be generous and gracious-

△ ⊙ → Xolarean/Human relations depend on you!

There are some things about Humans that you should know going into negotiations. These may or may not conflict with your own Xolarean desires. Careful negotiation and compromise may be needed to make sure everyone's needs are being met! Additionally, this list is incomplete, and you may find more surprising habits of Humans as you work to complete the roommate agreement, which should of course be written down on a piece of paper.

### Things that need to be included in the roommate agreement:

- Chore schedule
- Acceptable noise timeframes
- Who is in charge of the quitzltic
- Clarification on proper bathroom usage
- Rent split △ △ ⊙ × —
- How to take care of utilities (water) trash, zurping, thermonuclear, etc)
- Where to put the ant farms

### Things we (think) we know about Humans:

- They like separate rooms for eating and defecating
- They use water to bathe ○ ○ \ × □ × ×
- They seemed to find it rude when we asked them if we could observe how exactly they used water to bathe
- They use a variety of heating to devices to prepare food
- Touching hands is a sign of friendship and respect among humans
- They do not seem to appreciate cultivating insects in the home
- They are very fond of potted plants
- They use things called "indoor voices" when inside

Once you feel comfortable with the set of strictures, sit down opposite the Humans, and set a timer for forty-five minutes. One being, Xolarean or Human, should be in charge of writing down the agreement. When the timer goes off, the roommate agreement should be complete! If it is not, you will have jeopardized the future of Xolarean/Human relations, and you will most certainly be banished.

After all, no one wants a repeat of '78!

