

THE ROOM
By Ian Stroud

INT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM, DAY
JASMINE is giving an office tour to newly hired EMILY.

JASMINE

On your first day at the cracker
factory, after all that paperwork,
we like to give you an office tour.

EMILY

Oh good. I got lost in this maze on
my way to the interview.

JASMINE

It happened to everyone. We have a
great way to remember where you are
though.

They begin to walk down the main hallway. I stretches long,
and becomes more narrow as it goes. The end is more of a
storage area, as an average human being would have
difficulty fitting their whole body into it.

JASMINE

Welcome to Malkovich.

EMILY

What does that mean?

JASMINE

Have you seen the move Being John
Malkovich?

EMILY

Oh! I get it. In the movie, there

is a narrowing hallway that
eventually get's so small that you
have to crawl through it, and it
leads to the mind of John
Malkovich. That's fun!

JASMINE

Exactly. This is what we actually
refer to this area as. It's a fun
moniker.

EMILY

That's really helpful. I'm much

better at remembering landmarks and
names than straight room numbers.

They move on to another hallway. There are a lot of rooms,
maybe 9 or 10 on each side at first glance. Jasmine leads
Emily to a door that is close to the middle.

JASMINE

This is Malcolm.

EMILY

Oh let me guess...Um, it's called

Malcolm for Malcolm X. X for ten,
so it's the tenth room!

JASMINE

Ah no. Actually it's for Malcolm in the Middle, like the TV show..

EMILY

What's it in the middle of?

JASMINE

Homer and Deus Ex Machina.

EMILY

I don't think I can get either of those, to be honest.

JASMINE

Hm, I thought you'd be better at this. Homer is is where this company brings in the "D'oh", and Deus Ex Machina? Frankly we couldn't come up with a relevant name so it was a little forced. But that philosophy led us to the final name!

EMILY

Doesn't this eventually lead to some confusion? What if you just named the wings of the building?

JASMINE

(staring blankly)

I think that might lead to more

confusion. Afterall, everyone else knows the names of the rooms.

EMILY

Oh. Okay, I'll do my best to memorize...

They move to another corridor.

JASMINE

This is A.

EMILY

Okay, so you are doing a traditional naming system here?

JASMINE

No! A is for Apple. Apple is the name of Gwyneth Paltrow's child. Gwyneth is married to Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay. Coldplay is a band that plays music. Room A happens to be the only room in the building where we're allowed to listen to music. It's simple, Emily.

EMILY

That's insane. Why not just call it the music room?

JASMINE

These names aren't assigned. They arise organically!

EMILY

Fine. How about we call this hallway Smith.

JASMINE

You can't name places after your last name, Emily. That's not organic.

EMILY

It's not after me. It's for Will Smith, who played Muhammad Ali in the movie Ali. Muhammad Ali was a boxer who participated in dozens of fights. A fight is what we just had about the names.

Jasmine looks astonished.

JASMINE

Emily Smith. That's brilliant.

You're going to just love it here!
I SHALL END MY SKETCH HERE WITH A BLACKOUT OR SUCH.