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## Finding a share house



When Kumar came to Perth, he lived in a two-bedroom flat with two other guys from Sri Lanka. They first met each other on Christmas Island and got to know each other in their English class.

The flat they lived in was clean and neat and about forty-five minutes from the city centre. It was on a bus route, so Kumar took the bus to school every day. His flatmates had both stopped studying and were working, so Kumar took the bus *on his own*. He was very friendly, so he often met people on the bus and became friends with them. He even found his part-time job *through* a guy he met on the bus.

Kumar had a busy life. He went to his full-time English class from Monday to Friday and worked as a kitchen hand on the weekends. He went to the school gym twice a week and he went to the nearby swimming pool for swimming lessons every Saturday. Learning to swim was very difficult for Kumar, but he still enjoyed the swimming lessons.

Sometimes he and his flatmates went to the beach. One of his flatmates had a car, so it was easy to go there. Kumar really liked Scarborough beach because the ocean waves were really big. The big waves made him think about his boat trip to Australia and made him remember that he was very lucky to be alive.

Looking at the ocean also made Kumar feel sad. The big blue ocean made him think about how far he was from his home and his family in Sri Lanka.

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*on his own*: alone, with no one else  
*through*: because of

One day Kumar's flatmates told him that they were moving to Melbourne. One of them had a brother and sister there. The other flatmate decided to go to Melbourne too, because he thought Melbourne might be more exciting than Perth.

So Kumar had to look for a new place to live. He wanted to live closer to school and work, so he looked for a share house on the internet. City accommodation was very expensive, so although he looked every day, he couldn't find a cheap place to live.

Then one day he saw this ad:

**Share a house with 3 female students who wk/pt**

Looking for a male housemate for a 3 bed / 1 bath house, close to schools, transport, the city. Must be tidy, a good cook, good-looking and 18–22 years old. Cheap rent (\$120/wk) for the right person. Call 04004987861.

“Hmm, a share house with three girls. That might be fun! But, what would my mother think? And what would my father think? Better not to tell them. Anyway, the girls might not want me to be their housemate,” he thought.

Kumar felt very excited. The girls were also students and worked part-time. The house was near the city, so it would be close to school and work.

He read the ad again. He thought, “This is great. I can cook, I can clean and I'm very tidy. I'm just the right age. I should have a good chance. But, they want someone who is good-looking.”

Kumar thought he was just 'OK' looking. Then he thought about his mum in Sri Lanka. She always called him 'my handsome boy'.

Feeling a bit more confident, he rang the mobile number and talked to one of the girls. He arranged to meet her and her housemates that evening. She sounded very nice and seemed very interested in meeting him.

Kumar wanted to look his best, so he had a long shower and put on his best T-shirt and jeans. Then he took the bus to Northbridge. He easily found the share house and knocked on the door.

A very attractive girl answered the door and showed him in. She introduced herself as 'Marie' and showed him into the kitchen to meet her housemates, Jill and Carly.

Kumar felt a bit nervous, but the three girls were very friendly, so he soon felt better. The girls showed him around the house. He was surprised when they told him he could have the largest bedroom.

The big bedroom had a big bed, a large chest of drawers, and a lovely window looking out onto the back garden. He couldn't believe that this could be his new bedroom.

At first, Kumar felt too shy to speak, so he didn't say much. He smiled at the girls and hoped the girls liked him.

He really liked the house, the big bedroom and the girls, so he soon forgot about his shyness and he asked the girls, "Do you think you'd like me as your new housemate?"

And to Kumar's great surprise, the girls quickly said, "YES!"

Kumar couldn't believe his luck. He felt so happy that this house was going to be his new home and the friendly girls were going to be his new housemates.

He thought his flatmates and his younger brother in Sri Lanka would be jealous when they heard the news.

Kumar was even more surprised and happy when the three girls said he could move in the next day. They said they would help him move his stuff too. Kumar thanked the girls again and again. He promised to be the perfect housemate. He promised to cook and clean and be very tidy.

The girls told him not to worry about anything and said they couldn't wait to see him the next day.

And with that, Kumar said goodbye and walked to the bus stop. He thought about his new house and his new housemates. He felt happy. And he thought to himself, "Tonight is going to be different. Tonight I think I'll have sweet dreams."