

My New Roommate is a Void Monster!
By Emma Conner

Note: this script is very lightly cleaned up from what I was working off of when I was making the game; the formatting is a little idiosyncratic. If it's difficult to follow, links to the complete game and a let's play are available on my website.

(Well, that's that. I'm finished unpacking.)
(I'm all ready for my first year at college.)
(I still haven't met my roommate, but...)
(It looks like they've got their side of the room set up too.)
(I think.)

{player movement, roommate appears}

AAUGH

{roommatespeech}

Um. Hi?

{roommatespeech}

Are you my roommate? It's nice to meet you!

{roommatespeech}

Yep. Well...

(Oh, they're holding something.)

(It's an iPod Nano. And there are headphones going... somewhere.)

- a. Offer them your speakers
- b. Plug in your own headphones

Offer them your speakers (friendship++)

If you want, you can use...

(I point at my speakers. I pick up the end of the aux cable, and waggle it in their direction.)

(God, this is embarrassing.)

(They're just looking at me.)

(Are they...)

(Oh! I think they get it.)

(A wisp of darkness gingerly takes the cable from me, and plugs it in.)

(The song is, uh, definitely not anything I've heard before.)

(It takes me a while to get into it, with all the howling, and the screeching.)

(But I think it might actually slap?)

(Aw, my roommate is vibrating along to it. I'm gonna dance too.)

{dance time}

Shit, I've gotta go to that orientation thing.

{roommatespeech}

See you later!

Plug in your own headphones (frustration++)

(I mean... it's not like we can really talk anyway.)

(I could rearrange my desk again.)

(...)

(Oh, they're gone... And I have to go to that orientation thing.)

(Oh my god, why am I not asleep?)

(Oh my god I have my first class in four hours)

(Oh my god!!!)

(Ugh...)

(Maybe I'll just... get up now.)

{player movement, roommate appears}

Oh!

Oh, sorry, did I wake you?

{roommatespeech}

Er...

{roommatespeech}

(Bits of darkness are flying off them and floating to the ground, like embers in reverse.)

I don't...

{roommatespeech}

(They spike outwards like an angry pufferfish.)

{roommatespeech}

(The spikes gather together near the top of their body.)

{roommatespeech}

(They all point down decisively towards the corner of my room.)

...

Oh, my lamp?

(I point at it, and they deflate. That must be it.)

Sure, I'll just...

a. turn it off

b. make it dimmer

Turn it off (frustration++)

(I lie in bed and browse Twitter on my phone.)

(Eventually I must fall asleep.)

(...) {exit to daytime}

(I do not want to have my eyes open right now.)

(At least I can still make it to class on time.)

(Not the best start to the school year.)

(But I guess that means it's gotta get better from here, right?)

Make it dimmer (friendship++)

(I grab the button-down I wore yesterday and throw it over the lampshade.)

Is that dark enough? Or should I turn it off all the way?

{roommatespeech}

(They float off to their part of the room, so I assume we're good.)

(I'm not too likely to wake them up again if I open the door, am I?)

(I need to go to the bathroom.)

...

AAAAaaaaaaaa

(Oh my god my shirt is on fire. Oh my god.)

{roommatespeech}

(Shit oh no was it touching the bulb? Oh no)

{roommatespeech}

(Oh my god, what do I do!!!)

(I'm going to get kicked out of the dorms for starting a fire!!! Before classes start!!!)

{roommatespeech}

(...)

(Part of their body blobs off, and floats over to surround the flames.)

(It pops, after a moment, and disappears.)

(The fire is gone too, and so is a big chunk of my shirt.)

Oh god thank you, I'm so sorry for waking you up again--

{roommatespeech}

(They pat at my hand a couple of times with a cluster of bubbles.)

(It's softer than I expected, and warmer.)

(I take a deep breath.)

Ahahahahaa...

(Suddenly, I'm exhausted. I feel like I could actually fall asleep.)

Sorry. Thanks. I should... probably just go back to bed.

(...) {exit to daytime}

(I wake up the next morning feeling reasonably well-rested.)

(It's going to be fine. I'm not going to flunk out on my first day.)

(That's not even a thing that can happen.)

(It's totally going to be fine.)

(I'm so hungry... I missed dinner working on a lab AGAIN.)

(I think I've got leftovers, though...)

(Let me check the fridge.)

...

(Oh, I'm going to KILL them.)
(That box of... something? That's been on the top shelf since October?)
(It's dripping goo all over my food.)
(It's all rainbowy and sticky, and...)
(Yep, it's actually eating through my tupperware.)
(I'm going to have to throw this ALL OUT.)
a. It's chill
b. It's not chill

It's chill && friendship > 0: -1 friendship

(Ugh I'm sure {roommate name} didn't know it would do that.)
(It's fine. It's Fine.)
(I've got enough to order a pizza.)
(I'll mention it to them when I see them, I guess. Maybe.)
(For now, I'll just... clean this up.)
{shaky}Sigh.
(Maybe I should run out and get some gloves first.)

It's chill && friendship <= 0: -1 friendship

(It's... not worth it.)
(It's fine.)
(I'm just going to order a pizza.)
(But whatever this is, I'm definitely throwing it out.)
(Though maybe I should run out and get some gloves first.)

It's not chill && friendship > 0: +1 friendship

{roommate name}. HEY {roommate name}.
{roommatespeech}
Oh, you think so? The pronunciation was okay? I've been practicing.
Hang on, I'm mad at you! What is this??
{roommatespeech}
(They slither forwards to peer over my shoulder. The hairs on the back of my neck stand up.)
{roommatespeech}
Is it growing now!! Why's it doing that!!
{roommatespeech}
(They're talking too fast for me to understand.)
(Little bubbles are forming and popping around their middle.)
(I'm pretty sure that means they're nervous.)
(And now I feel bad for yelling.)
Aw jeez. I didn't get most of that.
It's fine. It's not a problem.

I mean, it's a little bit of a problem, but...
I'm sure you didn't mean for... whatever happened... to happen.
I'll just order a pizza.

{roommatespeech}

Sorry?

{roommatespeech}

Oh no, you don't have to pay... I know things are tight for you.

{roommatespeech}

Yeah. You might need to clean that up though.

I'm not sure if I... want to touch that.

Or like, if I can, physically.

{roommatespeech}

Hey, no worries. We're good. It'll be fine, let's just chill a bit.

(...)

{roommatespeech}

Oh, that must be my pizza. Be right back!

It's not chill && friendship < 0: +1 friendship

HEY!

{roommatespeech}

What is this??

(I gesture wildly at whatever's inside of the fridge.)

{roommatespeech}

(They slither forwards to peer over my shoulder. The hairs on the back of my neck stand up.)

{roommatespeech}

Is it growing now!! Why's it doing that!!

{roommatespeech}

(They've shrunk back from me a bit, little bubbles forming and popping around their middle.)

(I don't know what they're saying...)

(But it doesn't seem like, "Ah yes, my maniacal plot to ruin your dinner has succeeded.")

(And now I feel bad for yelling.)

It's fine. It's not a problem.

I mean, it's a little bit of a problem, but...

(I shrug, and give them a thumbs up.)

I'll just order a pizza.

(I'm just about to enter my card number when the hairs on the back of my neck stand up again.)

(I turn around. There's a tendril reaching towards my keyboard.)

(When I turn back, they've... paid for the pizza for me?)

Oh, wow. You didn't have to do that.

{roommatespeech}

Well, thanks.

{roommatespeech}

I don't actually... know if you eat, but do you want to hang while I do?

(...)

Oh, that must be my pizza. Be right back!

(Is it done? Are they done?)

(...)

(.....)

(.....)

(Guess not.)

(It's been like this for half an hour.)

(I don't even know what's happening.)

(Is this yelling?)

(Is that what yelling is when you speak in darkness squiggles?)

(I really need to work on this paper, and that's super distracting.)

friendship > 0 (But also, like, are they... okay?)

friendship > 0

- a. give them some space (no change in friendship)
- b. check on them (friendship +1)

else

- a. ask them to stop (friendship -1)
- b. give them some space (no change in friendship)

Give them some space

0 < friendship < 2

(We don't really talk about that kind of stuff...)

(Even now that I can kind of understand them.)

(It would be weird for me to ask.)

(I'm just going to go to the library, I think.)

(I'll probably focus better there anyway.)

friendship >=2

(They know they can talk to me about stuff if they want.)

(Especially now that I can mostly understand them.)

(I don't want to be pushy.)

(I'm just going to go to the library, I think.)

(I'll probably focus better there anyway.)

(I'll grab some forks and spoons from the cafe on the way back, in case they want a snack.)

else

(I don't want to get involved in... whatever's going on.)

(I don't really feel like going out, but...)

(I'm just going to go to the library.)

(I'll probably focus better there anyway.)

Check on them

Hey, {roommate name}?

{roommatespeech}

You were... making the lights flicker.

{roommatespeech}

No, don't apologize, I didn't mean--I just wanted--

I mean, are you--is everything okay?

{roommatespeech}

You don't have to tell me. Obviously. If you don't want.

{roommatespeech}

Of course. C'mon, come over here.(exitNow "sadtimes3")

So what's up?

{roommatespeech}

friendship >= 2

Family stuff again?

else

Sorry, what's--

{roommatespeech}

Like... your family?

both

{roommatespeech}

God. That sucks.

{roommatespeech}

(We talk for a long time.)

(At some point we sag into each other, like cookies baked too close together.)

(They're warm and thrumming faintly against the back of my hand, my shirtsleeve.)

(I have to stay up WAY too late to finish that paper.)

(It's worth it, though.)

Ask them to stop

Can you cut that out, please?

{roommatespeech}

Like, the flickery thing, can you... not do that, I'm trying to work.

{roommatespeech}

Not that you'd, like, care.

{roommatespeech}

(...)

Honestly, what's the point?

{roommatespeech}

I'm living with a nightmare. A LITERAL nightmare.

{roommatespeech}

I can't do this anymore.

(...)

(The whole dorm goes dark, this time. And it stays dark for a long time.)
(I'm at Res Ed's door when they open the next morning.)
(It takes some doing, but eventually they let me switch rooms for the rest of the year.)
(Sometimes I see them walking around campus. We both pretend we don't know each other.)
(It's definitely better that way.)

game end

last scene; friendship <0

(I can't believe this year's almost over...)
(It feels like it's taken, like, 20 minutes, max.)
(Some of it's been good, and some of it, well...)
{roommate appears}
(They wiggle at me. I nod at them.)
(They go back to their half of the room.)
(That's all the interaction we're going to have today, probably.)
(Can't say I'll miss this.)
(Next year I get to room with a friend!)
(And the void and I can... awkwardly greet each other in the hall on the way to class.)
(Somehow, I don't think we'll be keeping in touch.)

game end

0 <= friendship < 2

(I can't believe this year's almost over...)
(It feels like it's taken, like, 20 minutes, max.)
{roommate enters}
Hey {roommate name}!
{roommatespeech}
Hey, did I say that right?
{roommatespeech}
How was your class?
{roommatespeech}
You ready to be done?
{roommatespeech}{printItem "happy1"}
It's gone by so fast.
Speaking of, uh...
(I've been trying and failing to bring this up for... a while.)
(Now's the time. Just gonna. Do it.)
{roommatespeech}
What? Oh, yeah, I just spaced out. I guess.
I actually had something I wanted to ask you.
Do you...
a. want to room together next year?
b. know what classes you're signing up for?

Do you want to room together next year?

Doyouwanttoroomtogethernextyear?

{roommatespeech}

Sorry. Uh. Do you want to...

Room together next year?

It's been cool getting to know you, and...

Well, I just thought it would be. Fun.

If you're interested?

{roommatespeech}

Yeah?

{roommatespeech}

Cool! Great. Cool and great.

Do you know what dorm you want?

{roommatespeech}

Me neither. Maybe we can go look around this weekend?

{roommatespeech}

(It was a little rocky, sometimes, but I can't imagine this year without them.)

(And I know next year is going to be even better.)

game end

Do you know what classes you're signing up for?

(Oh no I can't do it)

Do you know what classes you're signing up for?

(Oh no)

{roommatespeech}

Oh, I've heard that's great.

{roommatespeech}

Yeah, good luck getting in.

{roommatespeech}

Oh haha nope I was just wondering!

You're probably busy. Don't let me distract you.

{roommatespeech}

Yep! See you!

(I never work up the nerve to ask.)

(We see each other around, occasionally, but...)

(We fall out of touch pretty quickly.)

game end

friendship > 2

{entering alongside roommate}

You called him that? To his face?

{roommatespeech}

No he extremely did deserve it but your professor--

{roommatespeech}

Oh my god.

{roommatespeech}

Wait 'til you get your grades, and then we'll see.

Uh. Speaking of...

It's almost the end of the year, and...

(I've been trying and failing to bring this up for... a while.)

(Now's the time. Just gonna. Do it.)

{roommatespeech}

What? Oh, yeah, I just spaced out. I guess.

I actually had something I wanted to ask you.

Do you want to...

- a. room together next year?
- b. go out with me?

Room together next year

This year's been really great.

And I thought it'd be cool to... you know... room together again next year?

{roommatespeech}

Yeah?

{roommatespeech}

Aw!!

{roommatespeech}

I mean. You're my best friend, too.

(They start shedding bubbles of pleased embarrassment.)

Now who's blushing!

{roommatespeech}

Don't be mean to me, I'm your best friend.

{roommatespeech}

Anyway you can't ruin this moment for me!! Next year is going to own!!

(I was right. It did.)

game end

Go out with me

This year's been really great.

And I was wondering if you wanted to... you know...

Go out with me?

{roommatespeech}

No uh not literally go outside, like...

Do you want to date? Romantically?

Like, with kissing, if you're into that?

It's totally fine if you're not--

{roommatespeech}

Yeah?

{roommatespeech}

Gosh...

{roommatespeech}

No you're cute!!!

{roommatespeech}

Can I... kiss you?

{roommatespeech}

(Kissing them is a little complicated.)

(But we figure it out eventually.)

game end