

James and the Cockroach
by
Simon Wiedemann

© 2022

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room door is closed. JAMES in pyjamas, sits on a disheveled bed with his hands on his hips. He stares at a COCKROACH on the carpet. The INSECT walks on an immediately neighbouring open pizza box with only crumbs in it.

JAMES

Oh you like my pizza leftovers, huh?
I bet you'd have them even if I
wanted them, right? I know what you
are.

The COCKROACH looks at JAMES and rubs its legs.

JAMES

Don't you dare rub your legs! I know
what that means, I've research bugs
like you. You're washing yourself
because of me aren't you? You think
I'M disgusting? Look at you! You're
disgusting!

The COCKROACH turns away from JAMES.

JAMES

Look at me when I'm insulting you!

The COCKROACH turns to face JAMES.

JAMES

Oh, you listened. Good. Now for my
abuse: You cockroaches have been
around since the dinosaurs, yet
you've barely evolved at all. You
really are Mr. Perfect, aren't you?
Well you DO need to evolve, actually.
Why? Because...

The COCKROACH eats some crumbs.

JAMES

I know you can still hear me. Anyway,
you need to evolve because you're
dumb. What have you achieved in life,
exactly? Mankind has built
skyscrapers, visited the moon, cured
countless diseases, whilst YOU just
sit around washing yourselves and
eating my food!

The COCKROACH wanders about and eats more crumbs.

JAMES

Having fun? I know you can last a month without eating. See, I KNOW why you suck, it's because you thief for no reason, whereas you have absolutely NOTHING on me! NOTHING! And according to Google, 'some female cockroaches only mate once and stay pregnant for life'! What's that even mean??

The COCKROACH continues eating.

JAMES

You don't know, do you?

JAMES stands up.

JAMES

Let me get something. See how you like this...

JAMES leaves the room. After a few seconds he returns carrying a bar of soap. He shuts the door, then stands over the COCKROACH, threateningly. He rubs the soap on his face.

JAMES

Thank GOD for this soap!

The bar slips out of JAMES' hand and falls in the box, next to the BUG. The CREATURE then jumps on it and frantically rubs itself on it.

JAMES

Oh now you've done it...

JAMES smiles.

JAMES

Did you know that you bugs are known for eating anything? You must be very proud of yourself. So go on then. Eat the soap. Impress me. Bet you can't.

The COCKROACH does so.

JAMES

Oh you CAN eat soap?

JAMES looks confused.

JAMES

Well I guess you're an idiot then. Stupid cockroach.

JAMES removes his mobile from his pocket and taps some buttons.

JAMES

You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to use Google to research you, again. Then I'm going to crush your self-esteem.

JAMES taps more buttons then gives an evil laugh.

JAMES

Ohhh no! Guess what I've just Googled! I've asked 'do roaches serve a purpose?' and Google said no! How's that make you feel??

JAMES places the phone in the pizza box.

JAMES

Go on. Google something about me...

JAMES laughs as he sits back on the bed, eyes still on the washing/eating bug.

JAMES

That's right, I'm squeaky clean. Or maybe you don't know how to use a phone?

JAMES shakes his head in disbelief.

JAMES

Ok, I'll let you go now, I've made my point. That's something you'll never understand - compassion. Now get out of my sight.

JAMES opens the door, but the COCKROACH stays.

JAMES

Oh, you think we're friends, now? You want to stay here with me? You're the worst of things - a naive cockroach. I'll kick you out my room, then.

JAMES throws the pizza box with the BUG in it out his room, then shuts the door.

JAMES

Stupid cockroach.