

A movie poster for 'Roommates'. The top half features a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a mustard-colored polo shirt, standing against a grey background. The bottom half shows two women sitting on a light blue couch. The woman on the left is wearing a mustard-colored turtleneck sweater and has her arm around the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a white sweater and has her head resting on the first woman's shoulder. The background behind them is a bright, white interior with vertical blinds.

# ROOMMATES

WRITTEN BY GUENIVER WARREN

FRIENDS PROTECT FRIENDS



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# "ROOMMATES"

'Friends Protect Friends'

When Rachel goes through something traumatic, her new, unexpected roommates try to help her through what the world throws at her.

LENGTH	10 Pages	FORMAT	Short Film
GENRE (S)	Drama, Psychological		

## Target Audience

Main target audience is people aged 20-27 who enjoy dramatised short films surrounding struggles with mental health. A secondary audience would be people who want to know more about the effects of Dissociative Identity Disorder and some of the ways it can originally manifest.

## Moral / Message

The message of the short film is demonstrating the effects of dissociative identity disorder and that it isn't like how horror movies present it to the wider public as something malicious and scary; instead showing it as helpful to continue living after traumatic events.

## Synopsis

A Short Film focusing on the development of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Rachel, after a traumatic night out, wakes up to find Ruby, a new roommate. With a new date, Ruby takes over and allows Rachel to heal. After a few months, Rachel is contacted by her father, who sparks her new roommate Robin to snap into action and keep her safe. While her violent father's around; Robin protects Rachel and kicks her Dad out. This sparks the cries of a child to begin from the bedroom, startling the two roommates and leaving Rachel confused. While Robin sorts out the child's whines, Rachel talks briefly to Ruby about her past, but is interrupted by Robin coming back. He suggests she go to a therapist to confront her past, which reveals truths of her mental state and her new sudden roommates.

## Visual Realisation / Important Images

This would be a very sombre piece, with the idea of Ruby and Robin not being seen as inhuman until the very end, where they are faded. It is important that the three main people are very similar physically, but mentally very different. For example, Ruby wearing the same clothes as Rachel, but holding herself a lot higher and confident.

## Statement of Intent

My intention for this story is to show what it might be like for someone with Dissociative Identity Disorder and some of the ways it can originally manifest. I want to show it in a different light than what most media do, which is showing it as a trope in horror movies to make the villains scarier and 'unhinged', which is damaging to the community.

## Audience Appeal

The audience might want to see this to gain a better understanding of the mental health condition or to see the condition in a better light compared to what horror shows the public.

## **Character Biographies**

### **RACHEL (25)**

A naive young girl who lives alone in her apartment, trying to navigate life. She develops Dissociative Identity Disorder after an unpleasant encounter with a date, which sparks the different splits across the film when her father brings up past memories of her abusive childhood.

### **RUBY (25)**

Ruby, while physically similar to Rachel, is more confident and domineering. She is considered a 'sexual protector' after the unpleasant encounter. She is someone who jumps in to take over when Rachel is overwhelmed, especially with dating and guys.

### **ROBIN (25)**

Robin is another version of the protectors. He is physically confident, able to handle physical situations where voices need to be raised and maybe physical touch. While he is fierce, he has a calming aura.

### **DAD (59)**

A financially unstable and impulsive shaggy oldman. He is easy to anger and will be physical if needed. When Rachel was younger, he was neglectful and abusive towards her, which in her mind, gives him a stand-offish personality and constantly has a fearful presence.