My Hotel, My Castle

There are many joys of travelling. Getting lost, getting sick from local food, losing passports and money... and exploring hotels. When searching for a hotel, I follow a simple principle: reasonably close to the city centre and as cheap as possible. Sometimes it brings truly memorable experiences.

One is enough?

What about a hotel in a former **tram depot**[1]? Actually, it was newly renovated, everything perfectly **neat**[2] and clean. My friend and I unlocked our room... and bumped into a toilet bowl. It proudly stood right in front of the entrance, not separated from the rest of the miniature room by any door. Thankfully, there was at least a **partition**[3] between the toilet and the bed.

The bed brought other surprises. It was a bed for two, there were two pillows – but no traces of a second **duvet**[4].

"There is only one duvet," we informed the receptionist. The girl looked confused, as if she saw nothing wrong about the situation, but after a moment she returned with one more duvet. We thanked her, but suddenly realized... "We don't have a **cover**[5] for the second duvet!" The receptionist wasn't smiling any longer, but again brought the **desired item**[6]. Finally the beds were made, and I was ready to take a shower. I looked around the room and then turned to my friend: "We only have one **towel**[7]." When we approached the receptionist for the third time, she seemed ready to kill us.

"But look at the luxuries," I told my friend, who looked angry too. "We have a fridge and a TV!"

"Yeah," my friend replied, "but we only have one **socket**[8]. So I'm afraid it is either the fridge *or* the TV!"

Watery joys

Some rooms look perfectly all right at first sight but hide unexpected **traps**[9]. In one such room, I entered the bathroom and went on to enjoy a warm shower. Suddenly, the bathroom door **shuddered**[10] under furious banging.

"Hey!" called my friend from the other side. "You are flooding the room!"

I quickly turned the shower off, dressed and **peeped out**[11]. There was a huge **puddle**[12] of water spreading all the way from the bathroom to my bed and disappearing underneath.

Luckily, the hotel offered plenty of towels, **fluffy**[13] pieces of snow-white cloth. I used one of them to wipe the lake from the floor and

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then arranged it in front of the bathroom door, somehow filling the **gap**[14] under the door and preventing further floods. Three nights were spent in this hotel without any other disasters.

When we were leaving, my friend took the dirty towel from the floor and began to wash it.

"**Don't bother**[15]," I said. "It's their job, not ours." But my friend continued washing until the towel was snow-white again, and then carefully spread it on the radiator. We went to the reception to return the key.

Instead of saying goodbye, the receptionist told my friend to follow him back into our room. I waited in the lobby. Minutes **ticked away**[16]. They were not returning. Finally, they appeared in the corridor and the receptionist wished us a pleasant journey and let us go.

"What was that about?" I asked my friend.

"He was checking the room," came the reply. "He looked around. Inspected the bathroom and the toilet. Peeped under our beds and under the blankets. And then... he took the towel from the radiator and carefully examined it against the light!"

I would rather not imagine what could have happened if the **meticulous**[17] receptionist had found dirty **footprints**[18] on the towel. Maybe they imprison such offenders in the cellar and force them to wash hotel **laundry**[19] for a week.

After all, travelling should be an adventure.

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VOCABULARY

[1] **tram depot** ['dɛpəʊ] – tramvajové depo
[2] **neat** – uklizený
[3] **partition** [pɑː'tɪʃ(ə)n] – přepážka
[4] **duvet** ['duːveɪ] – peřina
[5] **cover** – povlak
[6] **desired item** – kýžená věc
[7] **towel** ['taʊəl] – ručník
[8] **socket** ['sɒkɪt] – zásuvka
[9] **trap** [træp] – past
[10] **to shudder** ['ʃʌdə] – otřást se
[11] **to peep out** [piːp] – vykouknout
[12] **puddle** ['pʌd(ə)l] – louže
[13] **fluffy** ['flʌfi] – nadýchaný
[14] **gap** [gæp] – škvíra
[15] **Don't bother.** – Vykašli se na to.
[16] **to tick away** – odtikávat
[17] **meticulous** [mɪ'tɪkjʊləs] – puntičkářský
[18] **footprint** ['fʊtprɪnt] – šlápota
[19] **laundry** ['lɔːndri] – prádlo