

Up the Wall

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

(night 1)

JANE (early 20s) lies awake in her bed, visually on edge and anxious. In the scene, we hear her upstairs neighbor being loud and obnoxious, rolling his chair, stomping, and dropping things.

Jane gets up and out of her bed, where there is a piece of paper on her wall. The sign reads "sleepless nights". Jane adds a tally to the sign, changing it from 6 nights to 7.

Jane gets back in bed and sighs. For a moment, all the noises stop. She smiles and begins getting comfortable for sleep. Just as she closes her eyes, her upstairs neighbor begins loudly and poorly practicing oboe scales.

JANE

Come on!

Her yell is cut off by the title card: "Up the Wall"

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

(day 2)

Jane lies on the floor of her bedroom, on the phone with her mother. She is visibly agitated.

JANE

(on phone)

I've fallen asleep in my poly-sci
class 4 times! I can't take it
anymore!!

Jane pauses, and then smiles deviously, mentally hatching a plan for payback.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

(night 2)

Jane stands on her bed, holding a pink rubber ball. She smirks as she starts to throw the ball up onto the ceiling. All noises above her cease. She lays down on her bed and continues to throw the ball in momentary satisfaction. We then hear Oliver begin to loudly play classical music through a speaker. Jane, angered, throws the ball harder.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

(night 3)

Jane lies in her bed, holding two pillows to her head to drown out the loud oboe playing from upstairs. She has deep eye bags and is tired and agitated. She stands on her bed and bangs three times on the ceiling. She lays back down and sighs in relief as the oboe playing has stopped.

She opens a book and begins to read contentedly. Suddenly, she hears two loud microphone taps. She puts her book down, and raises an eyebrow. Her upstairs neighbor begins to play the oboe into the microphone loudly. Jane slams a pillow over her face and screams.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

(night 4)

Jane holds a speaker in one hand, and a roll of tape in the other. Her upstairs neighbor is stomping loudly. She stands on her bed and begins to tape the speaker to her ceiling. She sits down at her desk and presses the play button to a song on her computer. Loud techno music begins blaring, and the upstairs stomping stops. Jane nods along to the music frantically, and sings loudly and off key. We hear Oliver stomping along to the beat, showing Jane's plan has failed. Jane groans in frustration.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

(day 5)

Scene opens with a close up of Jane's "sleepless nights" chart, which shows 10 tally marks. Jane grabs a piece of paper and writes, "PLEASE SHUT UP!! Sincerely, your downstairs neighbor".

Jane leaves her room with the note and begins stomping up the stairs. Her eye bags are deep and purple, displaying her nights of lost sleep. As she stomps up the stairwell, she crashes into a man coming down the stairs. Jane's note and his book fall to the ground. Jane picks up a book which reads "oboe songs for beginners" and OLIVER (early 20s) picks up Jane's note.

The two make eye contact and check out the other. They realize they are neighbors.

JANE
You live in 3C?

OLIVER
Yeah. You live below me, right?

JANE
Yeah... Here's your book.

Jane hands the book of oboe music to Oliver

OLIVER
Thanks. Here's your...sign?

Jane looks down at her feet and grabs the sign, crumpling it up.

JANE
(shyly)
You kinda suck.

OLIVER
(embarrassed)
Sorry I've been so loud. I think I'm finally getting the hang of the oboe...

JANE
Can you practice during the day instead of like, 2am?

OLIVER
(embarrassed)
Sure. I've just been playing at night so I don't upset my hedgehogs sleep schedule. She's nocturnal.

Jane chuckles, and Oliver smiles. Jane looks up at him, resentment morphing into attraction as she looks at his face.

OLIVER
I'm Oliver.

Oliver holds out his hand to shake.

JANE
I'm Jane.

The two shake hands, and the scene fades to black.