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RECR 120-01

April 6, 2016

Behavioral Observation of Alex Damrath

My fiancé, Alex Damrath, came to visit me for the week of March 22nd. During his visit I encouraged him to help me clean up my apartment. We picked up some of our things, did a little bit of laundry, and cleaned the kitchen. During this time period I quietly recorded his actions for 15 minutes, and tried to note as many relative details as possible. I have also added Observer’s Notes (ON) for confirming/denying observations recorded after this session.

March 22, 2016

Begin observation - 7:30pm

At this point in time Alex is cleaning the living room by putting some of our stuff away. As he does this he watches the YourMovieSucks (YouTuber) review of After Earth. He is multitasking; he seems to focus more on cleaning, but also seems aware of what is being said in the video (as evidenced by his momentary pauses in cleaning up to look at the screen).

Alex takes his time, and slowly put his things away. He moves his laptop, and charging cable to the side. Supposedly this is for later use. (ON: This theory was correct. Alex and I ended up watching The Terminator on his laptop.)

Alex sees me writing this observation in my journal, and questions what I’m doing. I told him to disregard it, as I would tell him about it later. He seems a little suspicious (as evidenced by the intrigued tone in his voice, and his focusing in on my notebook), but he agrees and goes back to cleaning.

As stated before Alex seems aware of what is being said in the video. He occasionally pauses cleaning, looks up to watch the video, and chuckles lightly at the jokes told. After this he returns to cleaning.

Alex moves on to folding laundry. He keeps the same, slower pace as he did before.

Alex takes a moment after putting the towels away to walk over to me. He momentarily hugs me from behind, then kisses my cheek. He still seems interested in what I’m doing (as evidenced by the sigh he made when I hid my notes against my chest). After a moment he seems to ignore his curiosity, and gets back to folding the rest of the laundry.

Alex finishes one pile of laundry, and pauses for a moment. He seems to be thinking about something, or perhaps contemplating what he should do next (as evidenced by his eyebrows scrunching, his eyes “scanning” the room, and his pressed lips).

Alex moves on to a pile of coat hangers, and starts to organize them by type (with, or without the clip). Supposedly this is so that it will be easier for him to find a hanger for my skirts. (ON: This theory is true. During the time he started to hang up my skirts he was able to better locate the proper hangers. This could also be evidenced by the uninterrupted pace he keeps while hanging up the skirts.)

Alex notices me watching him a few times, and once again becomes curious of my writing. He playfully tries to get me to tell him what I’m writing about. I once again tell him to disregard it, but he is a little bit more adamant about finding out what I’m doing this time. I urge a little bit more firmly for him to disregard it, and this time he backs down. He continues to clean, but for about five minutes still seems to be interested in my writing (as evidenced by him looking at me occasional, and the facial expressions he makes).

Alex takes a moment to look around as if to recall what he was doing, and then gets back to hanging up the skirts.

After hanging up my skirts our task of cleaning is complete. Alex looks around once again as if to think of something to do next. His eyes focus on my desk. He moves a few papers around, and messes with a few of my trinkets by picking them up and looking at them.

Alex seems bored at this point (evidenced by his sighing, and the seemingly absent-minded, rhythmic patting he was doing on his belly.)

Alex moves back to the living room, and begins to interact with his computer.

Alex begins a download for a game, and checks his email.

Alex then moves onto Facebook. He likes a few posts, and watches a few videos which either made him chuckle, or prematurely close the video with disinterest.

He seems very curious about a new app advertised on Facebook, Miitomo. He clicks the link for the website and seems interested (as evidenced by the facial reactions). (ON: About a week later he got the app, and he really enjoys it. I ended up getting it myself due to his suggestion.)

Alex then checks his downloading game, and when seeing it wasn’t finished downloading appears to be upset (as evidenced by the groaning sound he made, and his posture slumping).

Alex then returns to Facebook, and begins to write a lengthy message to someone. After seemingly completing it he would review the message, and correct his mistakes. (ON: upon asking later he told me that it was an associate at his university, SCAD.)

Alex becomes so focused on his work that he doesn’t notice, or respond when my roommate, Amy, returns home from class. I began to have a small conversation with her discussing how her day was, and Alex still doesn’t respond.

End observation – 7:45 pm