

## *Mojave Whiskey Weather*

We usually start the game by turning up the heat too high in our cramped off-campus apartment. What we choose to eat before we play Mojave really depends on the night we're having and how many guests are at our party/gathering.

According to Mark who I don't trust, a social gathering becomes a party when a beer-pong table comes into play. However, party games are still allowed at social gatherings, we just don't call them "gathering games" because it makes us sound like we belong to a Young Adult apocalyptic fiction evil society. So they're still party games.

Mojave is a drinking game we play, obviously, since that's a component of any party game. We used to call it Mojave Whiskey Weather, but that was too much of a mouthful and Anais invented the name and she's working now so we don't say the full name anymore. At least I don't.

Me and Mark and Alexa and Will are the only ones who play it, though we've tried to teach Sam but he falls asleep after eating so he isn't very good at Mojave. And it isn't really a fun game anymore since we know each other so well, so we need to find a bunch of people we don't know to make the game work. Plus I live with enough people as it is, so I don't need people coming over every other week to eat my stash of Ruffles. Another thing that's tough about the game is that we have to play it every other Friday night, cause that's how the rules work.

Anais mentioned that's how it has to work two years ago. She invented the game so she knows better. But like I said, she works now. So we play every other Friday because of Anais who's out in the real world now and doesn't really check in that often. Alexa keeps complaining that the heat is shrinking her tracksuits but otherwise the game hasn't changed from when we played it freshman year in Jack's place in Chelsea.

Alexa sat me down and asked if I want to play Mojave anymore cause I usually mope when we play it, and I just say I'm tired because I am but there's other stuff too. I'm not lying when I say I'm tired, nobody is, people just say they're tired when something else is causing them to lose sleep so we don't have to talk about our problems to people we don't like anymore.

I'm tired means we ate some bad guac and threw up last night.

I'm tired means our professor is giving us too much work and we should be doing it but we're not and just watching Simpsons reruns.

I'm tired means our girlfriend or boyfriend hooked up with someone else and we're pretending to be okay with it since we never had the conversation that said we're dating exclusively.

Mojave helps get rid of the "I'm tireds" since it gets you drunk and when you're drunk you can talk about your problems and not just say I'm tired. We learn that we all hated the same professor who is somehow an integral part of our studies, for example.

But again, it's not a fun game anymore, at least for me, since we just play it as a formality now. We should invite new people, but I'm set in my ways and Mark doesn't like anyone and Will cancels pretty much every day now and Alexa works too much and talks too little. And Anais and Quentin and Ray don't talk about playing it when they stop by either.

Mark called out sick, so just me and Alexa are playing Mojave tonight. I sit on my couch and she sits on chair we found in a dumpster behind a Raymour and Flanigan. We've been here awhile but we don't say anything for a long time and then we go to our rooms and go to sleep.