JACK AND JILL MOVE A FUCKING COUCH

a soap opera opera

by John Ervin Brooks and Natalie Stewart Elder
Jack, Jill, and Bucket stand on the sidewalk outside a New York City apartment building with their newly-acquired, gently-used, fifty dollar Craigslist Couch.

**JACK, JILL, BUCKET, AND COUCH**
WE’RE SO FUCKING FANCY
BECAUSE WE HAVE A FUCKING COUCH

They have a realization.

**JACK, JILL, and BUCKET**
WE HAVE A COUCH!

*Jack stares at Couch while Jill and Bucket have another more serious realization.*

**JILL and BUCKET**
How the fuck do we get it home?

**JACK**
The fuck... yeah.

**COUCH**
I am Couch.

**JACK, JILL, and BUCKET**
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.
SORRY FOR BEING A GROUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

**JACK**
WE COULD UBER!

**JILL**
SWEETIE, IT WON’T FIT.

**COUCH**
I’M A COUCH!

**BUCKET**
AN SUV?
JILL

IT WON’T FIT.

COUCH

I AM COUCH!

JACK

CALL A TAXI!

JILL

IT WON’T FIT, SWEETIE.

BUCKET

IT WON’T FIT.

COUCH

I AM COUCH!

JILL and BUCKET

IT SEEMS THERE’S NO OTHER WAY...
WE’LL HAVE TO TAKE THE...
SUBWAY!

Jack and Bucket freeze as the spotlight shines on Jill. Dancer Jill enters the stage.
Recommended props include a pair of scissors, a box of spaghetti noodles, and a gallon of fake blood.

JILL

ALL I REALLY NEED IS SOME HELP.
ALL I REALLY NEED IS FOR JACK TO NOTICE
I’M STRESSED, MY ZEST FOR LIFE IS SAPPED.
IF HE WON’T HELP, HE’LL GET BITCH-SLAPPED.

I WANT TO SAVE OUR LOVE
BY MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

The action resumes.

JILL

I NEED HELP LIFTING.
Jill and Bucket look at each other. Jack sits on Couch. Jill and Bucket sigh and reach down to pick up Couch.
JILL

ONE...

BUCKET

TWO...

JILL and BUCKET

THREE--

_They freeze as a spotlight shines on Jack. Dancer Jack enters the stage and begins to dance during the following. Recommended props for Dancer Jack include a flower, dollar bills, or a pool noodle._

JACK

ALL I REALLY WANT IS TO HELP.
ALL I REALLY, REALLY WANT IS TO MAKE JILL HAPPY,
TO MOVE THIS COUCH MORE THAN FIVE INCHES IS TOUGH,
BUT SHE SAYS FIVE INCHES IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

I WANT TO PROVE MY LOVE
BY MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

_Dancer Jack exits. The action resumes._

JILL and BUCKET

--EEE!

_Jill and Bucket manage to move Couch (and Jack) about two feet during the following chorus._

JACK, JILL, and BUCKET

MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
SORRY FOR BEING A GROUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

_Jill and Bucket drop Couch (and Jack)._  

JACK

THAT WASN’T VERY FAR!

BUCKET

SERIOUSLY?
COUCH
I AM COUCH!

JACK
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

JILL
WAIT, I SEE A--

Jill walks out in front of a van. It’s getting to be that point in the endeavor.

DAN THE VAN MAN
OUT OF MY WAY!

JILL
HELP US MOVE THIS COUCH,
I’LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.
HELP US MOVE THIS COUCH,
IT’S JUST ONE LITTLE MILE.

DAN THE VAN MAN
NOT HELPING A PRETTY THING LIKE YOU
WOULD BE A CRIME.
BUT SUGAR, WHATCHA GONNA GIVE ME
FOR MY TIME?

JILL
TWENTY BUCKS.

DAN THE VAN MAN
THIRTY FIVE!

JILL
TWENTY BUCKS.

DAN THE VAN MAN
TWENTY FIVE?

JILL
TWENTY BUCKS,
AND YOU KEEP YOUR BALLS.
Dan the Van Man and Jack begin to attempt to lift couch. It does not go well.

Dan the Van Man

Deal!

Who will help me lift this?

Jack

I can!

Now lift it up!

Dan the Van Man

I don't know how--

Jack

I am couch!

Couch

You gotta lift!

Dan the Van Man

Need some help?

Jill

No, no, no!

Jack

I am couch!

Couch

I need some help!

Dan the Van Man

Here, let me.

Bucket

Bucket grabs Jack's half of couch.

Couch

I am couch!

Bucket and Dan the Van Man miraculously manage to lift couch into Dan the Van Man's van.
DAN THE VAN MAN

ALRIGHT, JERKS.
WHERE DO YOU NEED TO GO?

JILL

WE’RE AT TWO-TWELVE,
TWENTY SEVENTH STREET!

JACK and BUCKET

TWO-TWELVE,
TWENTY SEVENTH STREET!

Jack, Jill, Bucket, and Dan the Van Man hop in Dan the Van Man’s van.

JACK, JILL, BUCKET, and DAN THE VAN MAN

MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
SORRY FOR BEING A GROUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

During that chorus, they pull up in front of their apartment building. Dan the Van Man, Jill, and Bucket, and Jack get Couch to the curb.

DAN THE VAN MAN

TWENTY BUCKS.

Jack, Jill, and Bucket look at each other.

BUCKET

I DON’T HAVE CASH.

JACK

I DON’T HAVE A JOB.

JILL

HERE’S YOUR TWENTY.

Jill hands him a twenty from her wallet.

DAN THE VAN MAN

YOU GUYS NEED A HAND?
JILL and BUCKET
YES!

JACK
NO!

DAN THE VAN MAN
SUIT YOURSELF.

COUCH!

_Dan the Van Man gets into his van and drives away._

JACK
ARE YOU READY TO MOVE THIS COUCH, BUCKET?

COUCH
I AM COUCH!

_Dance bucket exits. Jack motions to Bucket to lift Couch._

BUCKET
ALL I REALLY NEED IS THIS COUCH.
ALL I REALLY NEED IS A THING TO SIT ON
WHEN I’M SUBLIMELY ALONE.
AND HEY, ANOTHER PLACE TO BONE.

I WANT TO MAKE OUR HOME
BY MOVING THIS FUNCTIONAL COUCH.

_The action resumes, Dancer Bucket exits. Jack motions to Bucket to lift Couch._

JACK
ONE...

BUCKET
TWO...

JACK and BUCKET
THREE!
JACK, JILL, and BUCKET
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
SORRY FOR BEING A GROUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

_They manage to get Couch into their apartment building._

BUCKET
CAREFUL WHEN YOU GET TO THE DOOR,
MY HAND IS-- GAHH.

JACK
SORRY!

JILL
DO YOU NEED HELP?

BUCKET
NOW CAREFUL WHEN WE GO AROUND
THE RAILING-- ERRRR.

JACK
SORRY!

JACK, JILL, and BUCKET
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH,
MOVING THIS FUCKING COUCH.

BUCKET
HOLY SHIT JESUS CHRIST GODDAMNIT MOTHERFUCKER OUCH!!!

JILL
Damn it, Jack, why can’t you be fucking useful for once in your fucking life?!

_Jack, Jill and Bucket freeze, having finally dropped Couch. The spotlight focuses on Couch as he falls. Dancer Jack, Jill, and Bucket enter the stage and begin to have a fistfight._
Dancer Jack, Jill, and Bucket all end up on the floor after dying a la the swans in Swan Lake. Couch falls on top of them, crushing them like the authors are crushing this metaphor game. Boom.

The end.