

LIVING

These apartments are real-life nightmares

By Michael Kaplan

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Photo: Shutterstock

Ants pouring out of the shower, mice joining in for dinner, a collapsing ceiling in the bedroom — unhappy London tenants have suffered all this and more. Aiming to expose their subpar living conditions, a bunch of them started venting spleen online, ticking off domestic disasters with the hashtag #ventyourent and [an accompanying Tumblr site](#).

But big-city Brits aren't alone: The hashtag campaign has gone international, with American tenants regaling each other with tales of black mold, busted light fixtures and leaky toilets.

You need go no further than New York City — a hotbed of tenant dissatisfaction — to find people with serious gripes. A woman in Queens thought her refrigerator was too loud; turned out, a hive of bees were living in the wall behind it.

On Chinatown's Mott Street, a woman rented an apartment for \$500 a month, only to find her landlord holding secret mahjong games at night in its front room as she slept in the back. Meanwhile, in Bushwick, Brooklyn, three male roommates asked their landlord to install bars on the windows, so they could cool the place off without air conditioning in the heat of summer. Not only did the landlord fail to deliver, but thieves kicked their door in. One guy was in his bedroom when the robber, who was holding a razor blade, confronted him and punched him in the face. The three broke their lease — but didn't get back their security deposit!

While you can only get so much satisfaction out of posting and hashtagging a landlord/tenant beef, the thousands of New Yorkers

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occupying units owned by Steven Croman, the so-called “Bernie Madoff of landlords,” may soon have their day in the sun. **As reported by The Post**, Croman did everything he could to coerce rent-regulated tenants into moving, including performing work without advance warning or permits and hiring an ex-cop to harass them. New York’s attorney general is pressing Croman to “pay tenants millions in restitution.”

There’s probably a new hashtag on the horizon: #ruinyourlandlord!

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