

## **Romane Serda**

### **"Straightening Up The House"**

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(Sometimes getting the house ready for Mom & Dad's visit requires  
More than a dust rag and some Pledge...)  
Today I took the nudes down off the wall  
Ten minutes after I received her telephone call  
She'll be here Friday morning so there's not much time to clean  
Better hide the Advocate and Mandate magazine  
We'll redecorate the guest room so it looks like it's been used  
Separate our wardrobes or she'll really be confused  
Then get ready for a lonely week of sleeping on the couch  
We're straightening up the house  
Tomorrow I will put away your gay pride shirts  
And our Halloween assortment of jewelry, pumps and skirts  
Then pack up all the books by Quentin Crisp and Rita Mae  
And the "His & His" towels that you bought me yesterday  
And you'd better hide the albums by that lesbian group  
She has no ear for music, but she has been known to snoop  
And remember not to kiss me, just forget that you're my spouse  
Straightening up the house  
The snapshots of the two of us in Spain will have to go  
Don't tell me this is totally insane, because I know  
And I cannot wear the wristwatch with our names engraved in gold  
The one that says "I love you, John, with all my heart and soul"  
This is our first Christmas here in our new home  
In a hostile world, it's our only safety zone  
I never should have promised I'd continue with this lie  
But Dad was so certain if she found out she would die  
But if it's killing anyone I think it's killing me  
'Cause it tears me up inside to hide my true identity  
And asking you to help me makes me feel like such a louse

I'm thirty-two years old, why am I acting like a mouse?  
I'm a man and he's my lover  
If she freaks out she'll recover  
C'mon and help me to just CLEAN the house!

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