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# ZOOM

## The unwelcome wagon

**W**hen you move into a new neighborhood, you can check out the schools, the grocery store and property taxes. But you can't really know what your neighbors will be like until you settle in.

You're even more helpless when folks move in next door — all you can do is grin and bear it when they come over to chat or borrow a cup of sugar and decide to stay for dinner. Not Samuel L. Jackson. In "Lakeview Terrace," opening Friday, he's a racist LAPD cop who will do anything to drive away the interracial couple that has moved in next door.

Here are six more examples of annoying, tiresome and downright frightening neighbors.

### REAR WINDOW (1954)

**The neighbors:** The ultimate spy-on-your-neighbor movie, with Jimmy Stewart having a field day peering in on the lives of a Miss Lonelyhearts, a bickering couple, a young swinger and ... what was that? Murder?

**Stay or sell?** Definitely stay. A chopped-up body is no biggie compared to the fabulous, entertaining view.

### NEIGHBORS (1981)

**The neighbors:** In a wonderful example of playing against type, John Belushi is a timid, quiet man whose new neighbor — an over-the-



top Dan Aykroyd — drives him bonkers with attention.

**Stay or sell?** Stay. Aykroyd's wife (Cathy Moriarty) is very, very friendly, and that makes up for a lot of annoyance.

### ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968)

**The neighbors:** Surely Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes can put up with the eccentric and pushy Ruth Gordon. After all, they've moved into the Dakota (renamed the Bramford)!

**Stay or sell?** Gordon's a Satanist and has impregnated Farrow with the spawn of Lucifer?



Sigh. Sell, we guess, but it's a close call — who gives up an apartment in the Dakota?

### THE 'BURBS (1989)

**The neighbors:** How can you trust new neighbors named the Klopeks? Really, what kind of name is that, anyway? Tom Hanks is goofing around at home on vacation and decides the mysterious Klopeks need investigating.

**Stay or sell?** Stay, but your neighbors might move. We have met the nosy, prying, annoying neighbor, and sometimes ... it is us. When you're running down the people who live nearby, keep in mind you might not be such a treat, either.

### ARLINGTON ROAD (1999)

**The neighbors:** Jeff Bridges has been a bit ... edgy since his wife, an FBI agent, died in a Waco-style tragedy. His new neighbor (Tim Robbins) seems like a nice wakeup call until Bridges decides that Robbins is a white-



supremacist terrorist himself.

**Stay or sell?** Sell, and move into a mental institution. Really, what is it about neighbors that can drive us bonkers? Some people need to live in a cabin — like Ted Kaczynski!

### DUPLEX (2003)

**The neighbors:** Ben Stiller and Drew Barrymore have discovered the perfect Brooklyn brownstone. Too bad the elderly lady living in a rent-controlled apartment on the top floor is the neighbor from Hell, who plays in a brass band — and that's her good quality.

**Stay or sell?** Stay. Homicide is a small price to pay for the perfect New York City home. Just make sure Jimmy Stewart isn't peering out of his window with binoculars when you do the old bidy in.

Michael Giltz