

GRAB EVERY BIT OF HAPPINESS YOU CAN

by Herbert M. Midgley  
© 2005 by Herbert Midgley All Rights Reserved

TIME: Present

PLACE: A small college town in the south

CHARACTERS:

REMO – A nerd guy in his 30's

BOOTH – An attractive college student

SCENE ONE

REMO and BOOTH walk into a Chinese Buffet. They both get some food from the buffet, REMO has two plates. They sit down at a table across from one another.

REMO

This is great! I'm so happy to be here with you!

BOOTH

I love hanging out you, Remie.

REMO

I love hanging with you Boothie.

(They both look at one another).

BOOTH

Thanks for inviting me out to lunch. It has been another hard week in school.

REMO

I remember grad school. Papers all the time.

BOOTH

Yeah, but with me it is projects. Group projects and every time I have members that don't do a thing, I *despise* group work!

REMO

I remember. I don't mind being the brave, but most of the time I had to be the chief in every group that I was in.

BOOTH

I guess that I'm the chief this week. (Beat)

REMO

(Beat) It's so nice being out with a hot girl. (REMO winks at BOOTH) I bet everyone thinks that you're my cousin. There's no way *he* could be out with *her*.

BOOTH

Remie, if you and I are going to hang out, you're going to have to stop making me blush so much.

REMO

I can't help it. You're so attractive. (Beat) And every time I come here, it's usually alone.

BOOTH

I'll come eat with you Remie!

REMO

Thanks Boothie! I'll let you! (Beat) You're so special.

BOOTH

Stop that! You're making me blush again!

REMO

I can't help it Boothie. You are so special to me. And perfect too.

BOOTH

I'm not that special.

REMO

Boothie, you're not the type of hot girl that doesn't think she is attractive, are you?

BOOTH

You say it like it's a gift to be attractive. It's not! It's a curse at times.

REMO

Boothie, you know you're much more to me than a pretty face. Much more.

BOOTH

I know. (BOOTH looks down then back up) That's why I'm here with you. And why I hang out with you.

REMO

I *love* spending time with you.

BOOTH

Me too.

REMO

So, would you rather be homely than attractive?

BOOTH

Would you be here with me if I were homely?

REMO

You know the answer. Once I talked to you, that's all it took. (Beat) Do you know how hard it is to find a girl that is smart, creative, has good morals and makes me happy? (Beat) It ain't easy!

BOOTH

You'll find someone.

REMO

Don't you know Boothie, the hero never gets the girl.

BOOTH

Ah, that's not true.

REMO

Yes it is.

BOOTH

Maybe that's for the best, love can hurt.

REMO

Boothie, what's up girl?

BOOTH

Jack moved in with his new girlfriend.

REMO

Jack, that's the dude you were going to marry last year right?

BOOTH

Yeah.

REMO

How did that end?

BOOTH

He wanted to get married to me and I have never experienced love. Before I get married, I want to fall in love at least one time. To fall in love, it sounds like a dream at times.

REMO

Did you like him?

BOOTH

Yeah.

REMO

But you didn't love him?

BOOTH

No. I loved him, but I wasn't *in* love with him. I've never been *in* love with anyone before.

REMO

I feel it's more important to like someone than to love them.

BOOTH

Why's that?

REMO

Because love doesn't last. Well, at least romantic love doesn't last.

BOOTH

So you don't think that you'll fall in love?

REMO

No, I didn't say that. I just said that romantic love doesn't last. (Beat) I still want to fall in love too.

BOOTH

Me too. (Beat) Remie, did you ever get close to getting married?

REMO

No. (Beat) Not even close.

BOOTH

Why's that?

REMO

I've never found *that* girl. Well, not at least one that wanted to be with me.

BOOTH

Really?

REMO

Yeah, it must be all of my sci-fi stuff.

BOOTH

Oh. (Beat) That doesn't bother me Remie!

REMO

Me neither Boothie. I love my Boothie!

BOOTH

I heart my Remie too!

REMO

Boothie I heart you so much girl. (Beat) So, Booth.... do you like me?

BOOTH

Of course I do Remie!

REMO

No Booth, do you *like* me?

BOOTH

Oh. (Beat) Like like, huh?

REMO

Yeah. I need to know if I have a chance to really date you or not. (Beat) Do you *like* me?

BOOTH

Well, ah.

REMO

Booth? I need to know.

BOOTH

(Beat) I like you, but not in that way.

REMO

I know. I knew it. The hero can never get the girl of his dreams.

BOOTH

Don't say that, you'll find someone on day.

REMO

You know Booth I don't think so. (Beat) See back in high school there was this girl that told me that I was special and that one day I would meet a girl that was special too and that she wished that she could be that girl but I was too good for her. So here I am fifteen years later and still haven't had a girlfriend. Never had a girlfriend. I still can't believe it when I say those words. And I still never had a real date with someone

that would go out with me. And here I am the guy that can still wear white at his wedding while all his friends will wear black! So Booth, I'll never find that special girl because special girls never go out with guys like me!

BOOTH

Don't say that Remo. That makes me sad.

REMO

Why not! Here I finally find a girl that is smart, creative, drop dead gorgeous and likes me so much and I can't get her to date me! What am I suppose to do!

BOOTH

Remo it's not you, it's me.

REMO

Like I haven't heard that before. (Mocking BOOTH) It's not you, it's me. (Normal speak) Yeah it's you. It's all of you! I can't believe that I thought I had a chance with you.

BOOTH

I really do *like* you. And spending time with you. And singing songs and playing guitar with you. All of that was real.

REMO

No. (Beat) It wasn't it. (Beat) Well at least I still have Star Trek to watch, that'll never leave me.

BOOTH

We can still hang out Remie! I love it when we hang out. It makes my heart happy.

REMO

And have me listen to you talk about the drunken losers you are going to date! No. No way! I'm too good for that. (Beat) Do you know that I have feelings too? Just because I'm older than you doesn't mean that I don't have feelings! Prick me, do I not bleed!? Hurt me, so I not cry!?

BOOTH

I know. (Beat) So does that mean we can't hang out any more.

REMO

Yes. Yes, that's what it means! (Beat) Well at least that means I don't have to have my heart break every time someone hits on you in front of me. Every time that someone gets you number. Every time that I can't hang out with you. It's better this way. And I wish you well, I hope the guys you date from now on will be real winners in comparison to me.

BOOTH

They won't be.

REMO

Then *why* Boothie? Why? Why not be with me? Huh?

BOOTH

Because out of every guy I have ever met, you are the most blessed. You have it all. You life is so perfect and I'm not.

REMO

How can you say that? Look at you. You are so perfect in every way to me. You would complete me girl. How can I help not being in love with you?

BOOTH

I'm not perfect. I have many flaws.

REMO

Well join the club! Who doesn't have flaws? I have many and you know good and well that I'm perfect.

BOOTH

You are such a better person than I am. I am weak and you're strong.

REMO

At times I am weak too. But I *learn* from my mistakes and that does make me stronger.

BOOTH

Maybe I don't.

REMO

Like dating losers? If you know the problem, than do *something* about it!

BOOTH

Like I said, I'm weak.

REMO

Booth before you met me that's your own business. I'm taking you as I see you now. The most special person I know in the world! Your past is yours. Whatever happened it doesn't matter to me.

BOOTH

I can't let you get hurt by me. That's why I'm only dating losers now. I could never hurt you on purpose Remo.

REMO

You're hurting me now! Can't you hear my heart breaking?

BOOTH

I don't want to hurt you anymore. (Beat) Maybe we should stop hanging out.

REMO

If that's what you want, then fine. Let's stop.

BOOTH

I'll miss you Remo.

REMO

Not as much as I'll miss you Booth. My Boothie, so beautiful. So special to me. I'm in love you.

BOOTH

Me too.

REMO

Boothie, life only gives you so many chances at happiness. You have to grab each one that you can and don't let go! Booth I love you so much! Don't lose me! You have to grab every bit of happiness or the world will mourn for you. For me. For us.

BOOTH

I can't.

REMO

You won't. There's a difference. It's not that you can't, it's you won't. And for that I'll always will incomplete. Alone.

BOOTH

I'm sorry. So sorry Remie. Forgive me one day.

REMO

It will take a long time. I'll remember you so the pain will always there. Only time will reduce it. I'll feel that pain for a while. My heart will always ache for you.

BOOTH

As will mine. (Beat) Thanks for the lunch, Remie.

REMO

Your welcome. Our last time out. (Beat) I guess we'll always have this Chinese buffet to remember.

BOOTH

From now on every time that eat Chinese food, I'll think of you. My sweet, dear and special Remie.

REMO

It'll be a while before I can eat here again.

BOOTH

Me too.

REMO

Me too.

BOOTH

Remie, I hope that you will find happiness one day.

REMO

I'm already happy. I just wanted a girl, not a soul mate to share it with.

BOOTH

I hope one day to be happy too.

REMO

Boothie you're the one girl that I know would add to my happiness. Every other girl I've met I know will only add drama to my life. Think of all the good we could do together. Together we can make this world a better place. It's wrong for us not to get together to make humanity better.

BOOTH

I'm happy when we have hung out. All of the great adventures we've had. Those times are the most fun I've ever had!

REMO

It doesn't have to stop. If you have fun with me and not with other guys, you should date me Boothie!

BOOTH

I just don't know....

REMO

When you're ready, I'll be here. Your knight in an imitation leather jacket, forever.

BOOTH

You will always be my knight ready to save me. Rushing in at the last moment and protect me from the fire breathing dragons and all the bad things in the world.

REMO

Boothie, before we call it quits. I have one favor to ask from you.

BOOTH

What is it, Remie?

REMO

I want to be able to tell people that I got to date the great Boothie, so.... for the next five minutes I want you to be my girlfriend.

BOOTH

What?

REMO

For the next five minutes I want to date you. It works both ways, I can say that I dated you and you can tell your friends that you dated me. Or you don't have to tell them anything. It doesn't matter how long I we dated. Well, not at least in my mind, if you would date me, even for five minutes, that would've meant that you really did *like* me. Me. Not the way that I look, but me. The person. Not *Remo* the character but rather *Remo* the nice guy that you heart so much. The guy that makes your heart happy.

BOOTH

Ok. Let's date for the next five minutes.

REMO

Great. Ok. (REMO looks at his watch.) Let's start dating. (REMO moves from his chair and sits next to BOOTH.)

BOOTH

Well, we are dating.

REMO

Shh. (REMO takes BOOTH'S left hand in his right hand.)

BOOTH

What are you doing?

REMO

Shh! I'm dating you, I only have four and half minutes left and I want to make ever second count so be quite.

BOOTH

You *want* me to be quite! So all you want to do is hold my hand for five minutes?

REMO

Yes! Shh.

BOOTH

Fine!

REMO

Shh! (REMO holds BOOTH'S hand for a minute without doing anything else. Then REMO puts his left hand over BOOTH'S hand and puts his right arm around her shoulders.)

BOOTH

Oh.

REMO

Shh. (REMO moves his head closer to BOOTH'S head and kisses her on her lips. This goes on for a while, then after the kiss REMO touches BOOTH'S face slowly.)

BOOTH

Wow!

REMO

Shh. (REMO kisses BOOTH again. At the end they are both holding each other's hands.)

BOOTH

I do *love* you.

REMO

I know. (REMO lets go of BOOTH'S hand.) The five minutes are up. Do you want to continue?

BOOTH

Yes. But its your...

REMO

Age. Boothie, I can't do thing about that. This is how old I am, I can't change that. And I wouldn't change it if I could. Boothie I'm such a better person now than I was when I was your age. I love myself so I can love you.

BOOTH

How do you know that you love yourself?

REMO

Boothie the first thing you see when you come into my house is hundred photos of me on the wall. I would say that's a pretty good sign.

BOOTH

Remie, you're over ten years older than me. That's a long time. I don't want to get married for another five years.

REMO

I'll still be under forty. Five years isn't too long when you have waited your lifetime for your soul mate.

BOOTH

I just don't know.

REMO

You know Boothie, I'll let you on to a little secret. I'll out live you so you won't have to worry about dying alone.

BOOTH

What!

REMO

I've always known that I would die alone.

BOOTH

That's so sad.

REMO

Yeah Boothie, I'll out live you by twenty plus years. But don't worry, I'll never marry again after you. How could I after being with the great Boothie?

BOOTH

How long would we be married then?

REMO

A good sixty years. That's a long time to for us to have a happy life. To make the world a better place.

BOOTH

I don't know what to say.

REMO

I did love you once.

BOOTH

So you're quoting Shakespeare now.

REMO

Yes. And what Shakespeare said in irony I can't say with conviction: What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension, how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me; no, nor woman neither, though by your smiling you seem to say so.

BOOTH

I'm not smiling and how does that apply to us?

REMO

I guess it doesn't. You bought up Shakespeare and it's the one passage that I've memorized from *Hamlet*. See it was on an episode of....

BOOTH

Let me guess, Star Trek.

REMO

Yeah. Captain Picard told Q this right before the Enterprise engaged the Borg. (Beat) It was also used in an episode of Babylon 5 if you really want to know it's Sci-Fi pedigree.

BOOTH

Well how do we end this?

REMO

Let's see. I would like to see dancing robots with lasers bring this to an end.

BOOTH

I think that's the way that Chekhov ended all of his plays.

REMO

Yeah, dancing robots with lasers shooting off everywhere, a perfect Chekhov ending.

BOOTH

A perfect end to a perfect day. Grabbing every bit of happiness, huh.

REMO

Yeah, Amen.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

(For a Cool ending have REMO and BOOTH change into robot suits and dance for a few seconds and have a quick laser light show. If not have them walk out the restaurant with a blue light coming from the outside as they open the door.)

FADE OUT

THE END