

# THE GENETIC ZERO

by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A small college town in the south.

CHARACTERS:

REMO – A guy in 30's that doesn't have much experience with girls. A nerd computer geek that is very intelligent.

TAWNY – A natural beautiful girl in her 20's. She has had a lot of failed relationships. A hippie chick with a lot of street smarts.

BOOTH – A beautiful girl in her 20's that has big hair and a lot of make-up. Could be a model and is book smart.

BOOTH'S BOYFRIEND – A frat guy in his 20's. (Does not have any lines)

Playwright's note. TAWNY and BOOTH could be played by the same actress with different wigs. If this happens there is no need for BOOTH'S BOYFRIEND.

## ACT ONE (LET'S GO TO CALI)

REMO and TAWNY are walking into REMO'S apartment. The room is full sci-fi paraphernalia and has clothes thrown all over the place. REMO is carrying a hamburger.

TAWNY

Wow, so this is your place.

(REMO nods his head up and down).

This is a bachelor pad all right.

REMO

Look at my shelf, that's why I'm getting a prenup before I get married. I can't have my wife divorcing me and taking all my valuable Star Trek collection.

TAWNY

I see. *So* it's that valuable.

REMO

Yeah. That's why I only bring people into my house that I can trust.

TAWNY

Should I feel special then?

REMO

Yeah. You are special. Tawny I want you to remember that. You are special to me.

TAWNY

Really?

REMO

That's why I'm taking time to talk to you.

TAWNY

Is that the only reason?

REMO

Yup.

TAWNY

So where's your couch.

REMO

The futon is under my clothes. I pretty much dress here in the morning. So when I come home, I take my clothes off here. It makes my life easier.

TAWNY

Well you *definitely* live alone don't you?

REMO

I don't think that I could live any other way. (Beat) Tawny, do you have a number for me yet? (REMO sits on the floor in back of the futon, TAWNY joins him.)

TAWNY

Let's see, I was at seven at Burger King right. And by the way and for you info Burger King isn't the best place to take a vegetarian to eat.

REMO

I had a coupon.

TAWNY

Remo, using coupons when a girl is present is never going to get you laid.

REMO

They save me money. (Beat) So you never banged a guy that used coupons?

TAWNY

Most of the guys I have banged didn't have any money, so they didn't need coupons.

REMO

Oh. Well if I do ever get a girl it will be because of you. So what should I do when I finally get a girl over to my house?

TAWNY

(Beat) You start to kiss as soon as the door closes and all the way up to the bedroom.

REMO

My bedroom looks worse than my living room.

TAWNY

That's why you keep kissing until it happens. Otherwise it could take hours before it will happen.

REMO

I've never done it.

TAWNY

I know.

REMO

I can wear white at my wedding. How about you?

TAWNY

White is only a color. I'll wear green anyways. I like green.

REMO

Green is the color of Mr. Spock's blood.

TAWNY

*Really?*

REMO

Yeah, they showed it in the TOS episode "Amok Time". That's the episode that Spock tries to *pon farr*.

TAWNY

And that means....

REMO

That's when Vulcans mate. Once every seven years.

TAWNY

That often huh? (Beat) Do you ever plan *to pon farr*?

REMO

I was brought up to wait until you got married. But at the time I didn't think it would be over thirty years.

TAWNY

I'm not going to tell my kids that. I'm going to recommend that they laid as soon as they can.

REMO

What age would that be? Twelve?

TAWNY

No, that's too young.

REMO

Fifteen?

TAWNY

No, sixteen. Sixteen is old enough.

REMO

Sixteen. Man at sixteen I wouldn't have known what to do? I think that I was still playing with sticks.

TAWNY

Sticks, huh.

REMO

So Tawny, how old were you again?

TAWNY

I was eighteen. (Beat) In Mexico. (Beat) To my art teacher.

REMO

Lucky creep. That was after you have fallen from God?

TAWNY

That was after I have fallen from Christ. I haven't fallen from God.

REMO

I would've loved to read that email. "I'm a afraid that Tawny has fallen from Christ. She is having premarital sex and I am afraid she is (Gasps) living with a man." Ha, ha. That's so sad.

TAWNY

The sad thing is that it was forwarded to everyone. Even my poor old grandma. That was embarrassing.

REMO

Well Tawny you shouldn't have fallen from Christ. You should've been like Remo. And still be able to wear white at your wedding.

TAWNY

No one is going to marry me anyways.

REMO

You'll find someone. A loser I'm sure, but you'll get someone.

TAWNY

I have two dates next week.

REMO

I have seen these dudes?

TAWNY

They were at the bar last Saturday.

REMO

Tawny, those are losers. Smoking dope. Is that what you want?

TAWNY

One has a nice car.

REMO

Who cares? I have never looked a girl's car to say that is a girl that I want to date. (Beat) I bet the other one doesn't have a job or any money.

TAWNY

Yeah, I have more money than he does. But he's cute.

REMO

Tawny you are already poor. You don't need any more help being poor, you can be poor all by yourself. That's what I am talking about. You can never be rich. It's not in your mindset to have money.

TAWNY

I don't need a lot of money. The two-dollar quesadilla at Taco Bell taste great to me. If I had a lot of money, it wouldn't.

REMO

Fine, be poor. (Beat) So what's the number up to now?

TAWNY

It's still at seven.

REMO

In three years you have banged seven different guys. I guess they all knew what they were doing.

TAWNY

Oh yeah. Make it eight. There was one that didn't know what he was doing that I forgot until you mention it. So eight.

REMO

Eight different guys in three years. Wow. I can't imagine getting that many girls in my lifetime. (Beat) It would be great I guess. Only in a fantasy... but it would never happen me.

TAWNY

Remo, you know you are the only guy that I have talked to this much without sleeping with. Except that one gay friend.

REMO

What?

TAWNY

I had a male friend that didn't know that he was gay and he asked me out. I said no because I knew he was gay. Later I came out of the closet and then he did.

REMO

Oh yeah, I forgot you are into girls too. I'm afraid to ask how many girls you have banged. (Beat) I only know that's more than me, which is sadly, zero.

TAWNY

That's so sad. You have twenty years of going wild to make up for. Drinking, whoring and getting high. You've wasted so many years of your life.

REMO

I can wear white at my wedding.

TAWNY

So could I.

REMO

It had better be off white. Off off white that is. (Beat) How are we even friends at all? We should hate each other.

TAWNY

I don't know. Maybe because you would make fun of me. Diss me! And I would diss you back at you.

REMO

Through absurdity I led by example. I try to show how absurd your life is so that it can be a mirror into your soul.

TAWNY

I'm not stopping being the way I am. I love to drink. I love getting high. And I love to smoke my four dollar a pack of cigarettes. And...

REMO

You love to have sex. Sex. Is that all that you have in your life?

TAWNY

No...

REMO

Tawny, I thought that we agreed that we would always be honest with one another.

TAWNY

There's more to my life than sex. I love sex. I don't have to do it all the time.

REMO

Have you ever been in love?

TAWNY

Twice. (TAWNY looks at REMO with a deep love look).

REMO

Have you made love instead of just having sex? There is a difference right?

TAWNY

Yes. Not often, but I have.

REMO

Well that's good. I'm glad that you have at least been in love and not only in lust.

TAWNY

How about you?

REMO

I was in love with this girl. But she wasn't in love with me, so I'm not sure if you can be in love if both people don't share those feelings.

TAWNY

If you were in love, that's love.

REMO

Then yes. This girl was your complete opposite. Prim and proper. Reality skinny too, she was a taller than me, but that didn't matter.

TAWNY

Did you ever kiss her *Remo*?

REMO

Tawny, she wouldn't even talk to me the first year I knew her.

TAWNY

The first year!?

REMO

I chased after this girl for five years of my life.

TAWNY

Five years and you never kissed her. Remo now that is sad. Truly sad. (Beat) Tell me that you at least hugged her in five years.

REMO

She gave me one half hug in five years. I believe it was in the third year that I knew her.

TAWNY

Wow! I don't know what to say. You should've kissed her the first chance you had.

REMO

I never really got that chance. (Beat) One time I asked her out to eat some pizza and she said that she didn't like eating at buffets.

TAWNY

Most girls don't. Except fat and ugly ones that you don't like anyways.

REMO

Ok, so about a week later I go to this pizza buffet and guess who I see?

TAWNY

Her!

REMO

That's right, *her*. She was eating with one of her girlfriends. A fat girlfriend. Why do all the hot chicks have a fat and ugly girlfriend?

TAWNY

Because most hot girls are insecure and don't want anyone better looking than them hanging around.

REMO

Oh. It's better to be a guy, we don't rate one another.

TAWNY

Sure you do, nerds, jocks and musicians all have their clicks.

REMO

Ok, whatever. (Beat) So her and her fat girlfriend are eating pizza together and see me. So I went over to sit with them.

TAWNY

Smooth move. It sounds almost like a date.

REMO

That was about as close as I ever did get to going out with her. (Beat) So it wasn't that she didn't like pizza buffets, it was that she didn't like pizza buffets with *me*! Ahhhhhhhhhh!!

TAWNY

You must've been traumatized for life. No wonder you never have gotten laid.

REMO

I have never been offered. The day they talked about getting laid in high school, I must've been out sick that day.

TAWNY

It just... happens.... (TAWNY moves closer to REMO and stares into his eyes) Nature will... take it's.... (TAWNY moves in to kiss REMO. That second REMO jumps to his feet) course.

REMO

Can you believe that I have never had a girl throw herself on me? Can you image that?

TAWNY

Yeah... I can. (Tawny stands up slowly)

REMO

Yeah. (Beat) (REMO sits back down) So Tawny, what do you said that you and me drop everything and buy a VW bus and go to Cali and live like hippies? (TAWNY sits back down a bit closer to REMO)

TAWNY

When do we leave?

REMO

How about after I put this hamburger in the fridge? (REMO shows his hamburger in his hand)

TAWNY

Ok. Let's go.

REMO

Tawny what would your mom say if we ran off to Cali?

TAWNY

My mom likes you. She would be cool with it.

REMO

Your mom likes me because I fix her computer at work. (Beat) You two look the same.

TAWNY

It's cool to know that I'll still be hot at fifty.

REMO

If we just didn't have responsibilities Tawny. (Beat) I would do it in a minute. (Beat) I guess I could fix computers or teach guitar lessons. Let's see, what could you do? (Beat) There has to be *something* that you could do.

TAWNY

I guess I could sell weed.

REMO

Great! We could all go to jail! Why don't you just sell tie-dyes instead?

TAWNY

No way! The coloring in a tie-dye comes from animal products.

REMO

So. The cow has to die sometime. Selling weed is a better choice?

TAWNY

It's natural. Everything natural is good for you.

REMO

So is the cow. (Beat) Man, it would be crazy to do that. Let's see, where else should we go? What about Hawaii? I loved Hawaii.

TAWNY

I don't know if I would like Hawaii. Swimming would be nice.

REMO

I can't swim. Maybe you could be my lifeguard.

TAWNY

Lifeguard. Well make it nine then. I forgot about the lifeguard.

REMO

Amazing. I bet if we kept on talking we could get that number up to the hundreds!

TAWNY

*No!* (Beat) How long have we been talking anyways?

REMO

I guess three hours since we started talking after class. (Beat) I have a guitar lesson in thirty minutes.

TAWNY

And I have to get to the day care before five.

REMO

Tawny, you ready to go to Cali.

TAWNY

Yes.

REMO

Let's go.

TAWNY

Ok.

REMO

Tawny one last question for today. How long have you been in love with me?

TAWNY

What kind of question is that!?! I'm not answering that.

REMO

Tawny, the rule is that we would never lie to one another and that we can talk about anything.

TAWNY

How long have I been in love with you? (Beat) The first time I met you. (Beat) How about you? When did you know you loved me?

REMO

The first time I looked in to your eyes in your mother's office.

TAWNY

Why don't you kiss me then?

REMO

The same reason I didn't bang you when you were throwing yourself on me a few minutes back. (Beat) Because I am the *good* and you are the *bad*. They don't mix. (Beat) And it would never work out.

TAWNY

Not even for a while?

REMO

For a few months, about the length of how long you date one of your loser boyfriends. You would get tired of me, and move on. (Beat) You would've gotten tired of being treated nice by me.

TAWNY

Well at least you would've gotten laid.

REMO

I don't want to get laid, I want to make love. I've waited this long, I can wait a few more years. (Beat) I want to fall in love and get married.

TAWNY

You're missing out *Remo*.

REMO

I know. And when I'm a ninety-year old virgin sitting watching Star Trek, I'll remember that one beautiful girl would've let me. And I'll smile.

TAWNY

Ninety! I hope I'm dead by then.

REMO

You will be, only the good die young.

TAWNY

(Shake head) That doesn't make sense.

REMO

I know. It's going to mess with your mind for the rest of the day isn't it?

TAWNY

No... Yes!

REMO

That's right. Maybe you're the good and I'm the evil that's in every man's heart. (Beat)  
I like that.

TAWNY

What!?

REMO

But we both know that ain't the truth. But we can pretend.

TAWNY

Ok. We'll pretend then.

REMO

Yeah. (Beat) My special little hippie girl. The one that I could never have.

TAWNY

It's your choice.

REMO

Ok, you're right. It's my choice. I hope you enjoy scummy dudes licking you in bars  
screaming cuss words.

TAWNY

And I hope that you enjoy the few seconds of Klingon cleavage you see on TV.

REMO

Ok. (REMO looks into TAWNY'S eyes)

TAWNY

Ok. (TAWNY stares at REMO'S face)

REMO

My special little hippie chick. Let's go to Cali. If not for real, at least in our minds.

TAWNY

I'm already there...with you.

REMO

I know. (Beat) Me *too*. (They both look at each other for a pregnant moment) (Beat) We had better go and take care of our responsibilities. (Both stand up)

TAWNY

Ok.

REMO

Tawny, do you know what a special hippie chick gets when she wishes on a star?

TAWNY

No. What?

REMO

Anything she wants. (REMO gives her a big smile as they walk out. TAWNY smiles for a moment then frows.)

FADE TO BLACK

**ACT TWO**  
**(GRAB EVER BIT OF HAPPINESS YOU CAN)**

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

Boy, 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 not 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 hot, 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 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 is 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 is 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

I like you, but not in that way.

REMO

I know. 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 met 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 the 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! 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. It wasn't it. (Beat) Well at least I still have Star Trek to watch, that will 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!?

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 hugs you. 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 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. Your 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 ever 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 will 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 will 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

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. To rush in at the last moment and protect me from the fire breathing dragons.

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 Booth, 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. 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 every 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 so much 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

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

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. (Beat) You bought up Shakespeare and it's the one passage that I've memorized from Shakespeare. 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 ever bit of happiness, huh.

REMO

Yeah, Amen.

FADE OUT

**ACT THREE**  
(THE TAWNY SITUATION)

REMO walks in to a bar during an open mike night. TAWNY is standing half way between the entrance and the stage. REMO and TAWNY both look at each other.

REMO

Hello Tawny. How you doing?

TAWNY

So you have decided to talk to me again?

REMO

Yeah. I wanted to talk to you last time I saw you, but you *dissed* me!

TAWNY

Only because you *ignored* me the other time!

REMO

I didn't ignored you! I said hi.

TAWNY

That's all you said to me the whole night.

REMO

That's not true. When you told me I sucked because I didn't talk to you all night as I walked out, I said and I quote "Rock and Roll".

TAWNY

Great conversation that was!

REMO

Rock and roll baby! That's what I do. The Tawny situation is now over. I apologize. I should've talked to instead of being upset with you.

TAWNY

All is forgiven. You can get a second chance to be my friend, but no one gets a third chance.

REMO

Really? Huh. (Beat) Things going well for you Tawny?

TAWNY

Forget about me, it appears things are going *great* for you.

REMO

No, not really.

TAWNY

That's not what I heard. I heard about this *hot* girl you have been dating.

REMO

We never dated. I was too old for her and I'm not a loser.

TAWNY

Uh huh. That's not the word around the campfire. (Beat) So can you still wear white at your wedding Remo?

REMO

Yes! Yes I can thank you very much Tawny.

TAWNY

I don't believe you.

REMO

No Tawny, I'll always be able to wear white at my wedding. A wedding that I'll never have.

TAWNY

Uh huh. What's her name? It's something that you sit on. Like a chair, a stool, no a booth, Boothie! That's it! Boothie is her name. Who would name their child Booth? "Booth come get your fish sticks and macaroni and cheese." I've never heard of that name before.

REMO

The name Booth is old English and it means 'from the hut', whatever that means. That's her name and we never dated. It turns out that we're only friends.

TAWNY

Look at me in the eye. (REMO looks into TAWNY'S eye) Ok, you can still wear white at your wedding. (Beat) So how far did you get with her?

REMO

I held her hand for a few moments.

TAWNY

That's sad. Three months and all you did was hold her hand. Your life isn't a Beatles song. Remo, didn't I tell you what to do?

REMO

And holding her hand was a joke too. (Beat) Yeah you told me what to do, but I liked her a lot. So much. I had so much fun hanging out with her I didn't want to make her feel nervous around me. So I never press the issue. I never really *asked* her out.

TAWNY

How many times did she come over to your house?

REMO

I don't know, five or six. Maybe ten times.

TAWNY

Remo, if you don't kiss a girl after the second date you'll never will!

REMO

Well, we never had any *real* dates. She would always meet me wherever we went. And she would always show up late! I would stand outside while everyone was looking at me until she would show up at the last possible moment.

TAWNY

Hot girls are never on time.

REMO

Well I hate that. Who did she think I was? I'm the captain of the Enterprise! I shouldn't have to wait for anyone! She should've been waiting there for me!

TAWNY

Girls are never on time. If you wanted her to be on time, you should've picked her up.

REMO

Yeah. That would've been better than having me look for her as she drove up. And after the *fake date* was over, she would drive home with me standing waving goodbye to her. With a stupid grin on my face.

TAWNY

You got stuck in the friend zone. You were nothing more to her than a place holder until she found her next boyfriend.

REMO

You think so?

TAWNY

Trust me. A pretty girl can't *stand* to be alone. She has to have someone tell her she's pretty, or at least have someone look at her like she's beautiful. It's in *our* nature.

REMO

You're *pretty* Tawny!?! I haven't noticed that you're beautiful.

TAWNY

I haven't had any complains Remo.

REMO

So what happened to you and the scary man that you were dating?

TAWNY

Scary man? Oh it's over. It's been over for a while.

REMO

Tawny he was a bum, I couldn't believe that you would even look at him.

TAWNY

My mom hated him, so I had to date him.

REMO

That's sick Tawny. You mom is so cool, why do you want to treat her that way?

TAWNY

She gives me a lot of garbage and grief. Garbage for the life that I live.

REMO

She *loves* you Tawny.

TAWNY

She sees so much of me in her.

REMO

I know. We've talk about you a few times. She really *does* care about you.

TAWNY

I can't believe that you talk about me to my mother! Just fix her computer and don't talk about me! How'd you like it if I talked to your mom about you!

REMO

You can reach her on planet Vulcan or is she on Kronos, the Klingon homeworld this week. No that's right, she's on Vulcan this week. You can find her on Vulcan. Would you like to use my starship to get there?

TAWNY

I'll go there! Well, what does *she* say about me.

REMO

It hurts her to see you make all of the same mistakes that she made in the 70's.

TAWNY

My mom, the flower the child. She was wilder than me back then. Who is *she* to tell me anything?

REMO

She doesn't seem proud of any of it. I can't get her to tell me any stories about herself back then.

TAWNY

She must be ashamed of her former life. You can't believe the grief she gives me over my life. It's *my* life! I'll do what I want!

REMO

No matter what you may think, your mom loves you and doesn't want you to have to go through all of the same mistakes she made.

TAWNY

So she tells me. Time and time again.

REMO

Her faith in God is strong because she believes that she should be dead from all of her former adventures. All of the alcohol, drugs and diseases that she was exposed to and she's still alive. In her mind God must've had a plan for her or else she surely would've died all those years ago.

TAWNY

Really? (Beat) She never told me that.

REMO

It's sometime easier to talk to someone not related to you about your feelings, than it is to tell your own child. Of course I'll never how it feels to have a child, or family. I can't even get a real date. (Beat) Tawny, how does it feel to be a mom?

TAWNY

It's hard! I never would've thought it was possible for me to do the things that I've done in the past three years. It was too soon, I planned to party for another ten years. I wasn't ready to be a parent at my age.

REMO

You weren't prepared for the hold that the little one would have over you, huh?

TAWNY

No.

REMO

Your child is a part of your life, and you love him more than words.

TAWNY

Like you said, I guess you'll never know. (Beat) Well at least not until you learn how to make out with a girl and not just hold her hand. I'll have to show you sometime.

REMO

I'm an expert at starship command operations and you're an expert with experiencing carnal knowledge. Now who's going to go down in the history books between the both of us? Someone that saves humanity or someone that corrupts it?

TAWNY

Who cares if they're in book that no one will read. Who reads books anymore?

REMO

Only time will tell whose actions will be remembered.

TAWNY

You really care about that junk?

REMO

It appears that's all that I'll have in my life. I've always known that I would die alone. So it *does* matter to me. It's all that I'll ever have....

(REMO and TAWNY both watch BOOTH and her BOYFRIEND as they walk in. If this is only a two person play, they can pretend to see them.)

TAWNY

She didn't even look at you.

REMO

Booth, no she's pretty mad at me.

TAWNY

Did you burn the bridges?

REMO

Not all, but most of them. I'd be surprised if she ever talked to me again. (Beat) And open mike night is *my* night! She can have the rest of the week, but Thursdays are *my* night. Doesn't she know that she's lost all of her open mike night privileges? This is one night a week that I look forward to and now I have to pretend to ignore her as she sits there with her new boyfriend! That's not fun, that's a chore! How am I supposed to *act* with her looking at me! And now I can't play any of the songs that I wrote about her! Man, why did she have to come here tonight?

TAWNY

Remo, don't you know that this guy is going to mess up and she'll want someone's shoulder to cry on. And could be *you* if you didn't mess it all up by burning your bridges with her. And please don't play any of your Emo songs about her tonight. I'm depressed as it is.

REMO

I don't want her that way. She made her choice, now she has to live with it. (Beat) And so do I. So does he. So does the world.

TAWNY

Sad. So sad Remo. You're the saddest little man in the world right now.

(REMO and TAWNY both look at BOOTH and her BOYFRIEND.)

REMO

Wow! She never did that when she was with me.

TAWNY

What? Hug you?

REMO

No, she did that all the time. Drink. I didn't know that she drank alcohol. And it looks like she can drink a lot too. I'm surprised to see her drink like that. With all of her claims of being so religious and such. I wonder what her church would think if they knew about her gluttony in a bar.

TAWNY

Ok let me get this straight, she hugged you all the time and you never made a move on her? Is there something wrong with you Remo? That's a sign, no a billboard that she liked you.

REMO

Yeah, forgive me for respecting women. Some of us like girls for more than just their bodies. No, all of the hugs were platonic ones, they didn't mean anything.

TAWNY

Remo, a girl only touches a guy if she is attracted to him. Trust me I never touch a guy that I only like in a platonic way.

REMO

Well I guess that Booth is attracted to everyone she meets.

TAWNY

She's not hugging *him* in a platonic way.

REMO

(REMO looks towards BOOTH and shakes his head) Yeah you're right, she never hugged me *that* way. Does he have his hand on her....

TAWNY

Ah huh, he does.

REMO

Wow, I never thought that she would've allowed that, and in public. (Beat) Wow. Well that's it! There're no more nice girls in the world.

TAWNY

Correction, there aren't any nice girls that look like that. They all have boyfriends that touch them like *he's* touching her.

REMO

So Tawny you're an expert on carnal knowledge, have they....

TAWNY

(TAWNY stares at them for a moment) He has and she has done almost everything except the actual *act* itself.

REMO

(REMO stares at them for a moment) Really!? Wow, if I would've know that I wouldn't have wasted my time on her. Damage goods you know. You know a lot about that don't you Tawny? About milk and a free cow?

TAWNY

Remo you're crushed aren't you? Ok, let's see if you have a right to be so crushed. (Beat) You're a computer nerd, so the only way for you to commutate with a girl is though email. Did she email you? And if so, how did she end them?

REMO

She did and she would end them with 'I heart you', 'you rock my world' or something to that effect. She would also tell me that sometimes after one our *fake dates*.

TAWNY

'I heart you'? 'You rock my world'? What's she in? Junior High? And to a nerd like you that must've been like a proclamation of her love for you. How many girls did she think would ever tell you this?

REMO

You never told me that 'you heart me' Tawny.

TAWNY

I know. I'm not trying to crush you. (Beat) She led you on Remo. Boy did she lead you on. I wonder if she got a good laugh out of it? Telling all of her girlfriends and laughing at you the whole time.

REMO

I don't think so. She isn't that way.

TAWNY

How little you know us. Well who's laughing now? You the boy that got crushed by a pretty face or the frat boy octopus over there?

REMO

I'm laughing because *she* missed out. She missed out on me!

TAWNY

She doesn't *seem* to be missing out on anything now.

REMO

(REMO looks at them) I suppose you're right. The thing about it that makes me sad is how it ended. And how I found out.

TAWNY

How did you found out, was it on the internet computer geek boy?

REMO

We had hung out all day. So I go to send her an email telling her how much fun I had with her. I'm lazy so I would usually go to her webpage to cut and paste her email address and there it was on her blog. I'm dated this great guy and the *great* guy wasn't me.

TAWNY

What's a blog Remo? I don't understand all of your computer nerdspeak.

REMO

It's like an online journal. She would talk about her cats and what new catnip she fed them. And of course she would talk about her new boyfriend.

TAWNY

You found out on the internet! That's so sad. So sad. I may be broke because my baby's daddy hasn't paid child support for six months but this makes me feel better. I'm not the biggest loser on the planet! A nerd that gets shot down on a blog! Ironic isn't it.

REMO

I say that it was more coincidental than ironic. Anyways, I was shocked. We hung out the entire day and she never said a word. Not one word! I can't believe that she thought so little of me not to tell me to my face. I would never do that do anyone, especially someone that I *hearted*!

TAWNY

Maybe she only thought of you as buddy. No that's not it. Remo she led you on. You were a place holder that she used until she found a guy that she was attracted to. A guy that she wanted have to touch her. Move on and forget about it. Forget about her. A girl that doesn't let you down in person and does her talking on the internet isn't someone you could trust. She's not the girl for you Remo. You're better than that right? (Beat) What do you think is going to happen now? Are you under the delusion that she's going to throw her frat boy's arms off her and run to give you a *platonic* hug and you both live happily ever after on planet Vulcan? Get a life! That's not going to happen, ever. Not with a girl like that!

REMO

I know. I knew it when we were hanging out. It was just fun to hang out with a pretty girl that laughed at my jokes and put a smile on my face. I'll miss that.

TAWNY

You could still be friends with her.

REMO

No. The one thing that you can never get back is trust. Honesty. We would never have trust and honesty in our relationship or friendship. Tawny since day one with you, our agreement that we would never lie to one another means that I can always trust you. I may not like your decisions, but I know where I stand with you. I also now know where I stand with Booth. Break the glass in case of no boyfriend. Tawny do you know what I was to her?

TAWNY

What?

REMO

She told me that she had the most fun with me, so to her I was an amusement park ride. "Ladies and gentlemen step right up and ride the Remo Ferris wheel and if you get tired of that ride why not march over to the Remo bumper cars?" All I was to her was a stupid ride that made her laugh and at the end of the day when she was bored with me, she would go home to her boyfriend and tell him all about it. To let *him* hold her. Touch her.

TAWNY

Yep, the Remo Ferris wheel. That's what you were. Do you feel used?

REMO

No. She never told me that she was in love with me or that she liked me. We were just friends. Buddies. All I really wanted from her was to have fun. You know like going to the movies, going for long walks in the park, going to the zoo and having picnics together. Just spending time getting to know one another. I figured that if she got to know me, perhaps something would happen between us. Then if we dated, it would've been because she and I really liked each other.

TAWNY

(Looking at BOOTH's table) It looks like she found what she was looking for. And it wasn't a Junior High date with you. Going to the zoo? That's where you take your granny not a hot girl on a date!

REMO

You know that sad thing is that he, her and you will all have kids. My genes will die with me. I'm going to be a genetic zero! I'm going to *die* a genetic zero!

TAWNY

The odds are that they aren't going to have kids together. They'll break up long before that.

REMO

I know that! If they last longer than month together I'd be shocked. I don't mean that *they're* going to have kids this second. I mean that he will get married, have kids and his frat genes will live on. She will also find some guy that will get her pregnant and her pretty genes will go on. You and mister non-paying child support already have a child, so both of your drunken lazy genes will go on. Me, I'll never find that right girl so I'll die a genetic zero! Alone. I'll die alone without any heirs.

TAWNY

Does it matter?

REMO

Yes it matters, because guys like me that are good never have a chance to enrich the gene pool. It guys like the dude that knocked you up or Booth's boyfriend over there that enrich the gene pool with loser traits. Loser traits that all of you pathetic girls long for. It must be in the reptilian part of your brains, find the biggest loser and mate with him. And wait for him to dump you while he finds someone else to chase after. Something younger and fluffier than you.

TAWNY

I'm not a genetic zero, so who's pathetic between us?

REMO

My genes, all that I'm and all of what my decedents could've been will be lost to oblivion. Time will never know how great humanity could've turned out if people like me were permitted to have offspring. Instead of the Homer Simpsons of the world.

TAWNY

Well why don't you just go ahead and do it and get off your high horse? Wearing white at your wedding isn't *that* important.

REMO

You make it sound easy to experience carnal knowledge. Maybe it's easy if you are blessed with slutty genes. But to those with high morals, it's not. I need to love girl before I can be intimate with her. And she needs to love me too before I will.

TAWNY

Than quit you wining about you *genes* and being a genetic zero. A pathetic zero that is. Perhaps that's evolution at work. Survival of the fittest.

REMO

"Mankind is something to be surpassed. What have you done to surpass mankind?"

TAWNY

(Beat) Nietzsche? Right?

REMO

Someone has been paying attention during philosophy class, huh? Yeah it's Nietzsche. It was also used in an episode of "Enterprise". But answer the question.

TAWNY

Nothing. I'm doing what I want to do. Living my life the way that I want to. And because of people like me, there will always be new children to take our place.

REMO

Humanity will have a population but it's morals will be corrupt. I'm still surprised that humanity has gone on this long. Perhaps it's time for the cockroach to rise to power on this planet. And stamp out the human race for once and for all.

TAWNY

I'm surviving.

REMO

It's not enough to just survive. When I looking into your eyes I see that you are bereft of passion, kindness, trust, tenderness and above all, love. You're crying your heart out longing for something more out of your existence. Tawny surviving isn't enough. Mankind needs more than to just survive. Or we're certainly doomed.

TAWNY

You know that you're too complicated to talk to. Your big words hurt my little head. Talking to you sometimes is like talking to an encyclopedia. (Beat) And it's your own fault too, for liking pretty girls. They're nothing but trouble you know?

REMO

You know after hanging out with a beautiful girl for a few months, I learned something about you creatures.

TAWNY

What?

REMO

That no matter how beautiful a girl is on the outside, one can always find a flaw.

TAWNY

Did Booth have a flaw?

REMO

Yes and so do you. (Beat) Beauty is a paradox. Beauty isn't important, everyone is ugly and beautiful at the same time. Beauty is only skin deep. To our eyes the symmetrical outlines are to be lusted and coveted. But that doesn't matter. I've learned just how insecure you all are. By not being perfectly symmetrical, I'm more real and alive than you or her could ever be. I now know how to deal with beautiful girls, they're people deep inside, you just have to dig down to their bottomless pits to find their souls. Regular people's souls are closer to the surface, that's why I smile so much. And love life. And not a drunk! I'm at one with my soul and the world. Are you?

TAWNY

Wow. So you know our little secret huh? What're you going to do now?

REMO

I'm going to tell you one of my secrets.

TAWNY

Really? Go on.

REMO

I only like Booth as a friend. I *used* her. There was another girl that I dreamt about.

TAWNY

Do I know her?

REMO

Yeah, you do.

TAWNY

But if Booth didn't have a boyfriend right now, you would be sitting over there with her, right?

REMO

Probably. (Beat) Maybe.

TAWNY

So what I'm I suppose to think about that?

REMO

The real reason that I'm here next to you instead of her.

TAWNY

She has a boyfriend right?

REMO

If I really wanted her I could go over there right now and sweep her off her feet, but I'm not going to do that.

TAWNY

Because she's sitting next to her boyfriend?

REMO

*Frat boy over there?* His personality comes straight from the bottle that he's drinking from. He's no match for me. My personality comes from my soul. *I'm* real. He'll never have a personality that isn't alcohol based. You take away his bottle and all of his frat powers would vanish like dust. So no, that's not the reason.

TAWNY

Why?

REMO

Do you remember Phil Hartman?

TAWNY

I think I do. He was on *Saturday Night Live*, right?

REMO

Yes, he was on *SNL*. But that's not the reason that guys like me remember him.

TAWNY

Then why do you remember him?

REMO

Phil Hartman met and fell in love with a beautiful woman. As a matter of fact she was drop dead gorgeous. But she, like all of you, had a Persian flaw.

TAWNY

What was her Persian flaw?

REMO

She was crazy. So the lesson that all of us regular looking guys learned from Mr. Hartman was that if you marry a crazy, beautiful girl, she will shoot you dead with a gun. And no matter how drop dead gorgeous a chick is, she ain't worth dying over to just have a trophy to hang on your arm.

TAWNY

So is Booth....

REMO

Yeah, she is.

TAWNY

How do you know?

REMO

Oh, I know. Remember that I'm the Captain of the Enterprise. I can tell. My tricorder's crazy meter went to eleven when I first met her.

TAWNY

Well what about crazy regular nerd guys, are they dangerous?

REMO

No, they're too busy fighting Klingons on their Starships. We're harmless.

TAWNY

Wow. Are you sure that Booth is....

REMO

Yeah, only someone crazy would hang out with me.

TAWNY

That doesn't make her crazy! She might've felt sorry for you and gave you a mercy date. You're just making this stuff up right?

REMO

Booth is crazy. Not so much because of a chemical imbalance but rather because she chose *him over me*.

TAWNY

You know you have a problem of self-esteem.

REMO

What? I don't have low self-esteem.

TAWNY

No, everyone knows that you don't have low self-esteem. You're too cocky for that. Your problem is that you have too *high* of self-esteem.

REMO

It goes with the uniform. The problems of command.

TAWNY

See what I mean. Booth is normal, it's you that's crazy!

REMO

Believe what you want to believe. And I'll believe what I want to believe. (Beat) What I know.

TAWNY

Am I crazy?

REMO

*Am I crazy?*

TAWNY

Yes, but not really.

REMO

And to you. (Beat) I trust you too. That's something that I could never have with her again.

TAWNY

Honest is important.

REMO

You are honest? Are you fair? That if you be....

TAWNY

Don't quote Shakespeare to me! I'm not an actress! I'm a human being all right?

REMO

All right, I guess you are. Who could ever trust an actress? If they are good at acting they could make you believe *anything*.

TAWNY

Don't you act at times Remo?

REMO

Yeah, but I'm not that good. We all act and play our roles when we have to.

TAWNY

I suppose that we do. Honesty huh?

REMO

Honesty is something that you can never get back. It would be impossible for her and I to trust one another again. To *really* trust one another you have to be able to talk about anything and everything without lying.

TAWNY

Like us?

REMO

Like us kiddo. Like us. She and I could never have that trust. Looking at her now, maybe they'll have it one day. The bond of trust. Or at least the appearance of that bond. Like I said before, she would never do what she's doing right now if I was sitting next to her.

TAWNY

What do you mean?

REMO

Tawny, you know that I fix computers. Your mom's computer always seems to be broken. It's a conspiracy I tell yah.

TAWNY

I know, she talks about you a lot.

REMO

Does she really? Wow. I think that she likes me you know. More than you at times! Well, do you know how many times I go to fix someone's computer and without doing a thing, the computer works?

TAWNY

Really?

REMO

Yeah. It happens all the time. Someone's email isn't working and I walk in and stand near the computer and all of the sudden, like magic, it works! I have a gift around technology.

TAWNY

You're blessed. Truly blessed Remo.

REMO

I'll always have a job. It's like that with people too. The way that I'm, the way that I present myself brings the *good* out of people. I always have had that effect on people. Friends that would act *bad* when I wasn't around, would act *good* when I was next to them.

TAWNY

Narc.

REMO

No. Not I. I never had to *narc* on anyone because my presence alone would make people do the right things. They would choose the right when I was there to help them see the light. I try to make humanity a better place though example. I've even made strippers act good around me.

TAWNY

Mister holier than thou has been to a strip club?

REMO

Hey, I'm a guy even if I can't get a date. I've been to Vegas. And it has always been with friends, never alone.

TAWNY

So what do you do in a strip club, I can't see you paying for dances, you're too cheap!

REMO

While my friends are getting private dances, I sit at the table and have the girls come over and hustle me. But they fail to realize that I too cheap to pay twenty bucks for a three minute lap dance.

TAWNY

So you're hustling the hustler?

REMO

Exactly! And I turn the tables on them. I talk to them like they're a regular person instead of a dancer. I love talking to strippers because their lives are so messed up they'll tell you anything because they don't care about life anymore. And they're crying on the inside for someone to treat them like normal person.

TAWNY

So do you make them choose the right too?

REMO

Every stripper that I've talked to hates being a dancer. They're all saving money to go back to school to become a dental hygienist or something like that. I might be the first guy to talk to them like they're human beings instead of objects in that club. There's a twinkle in their eyes after I talk to them. They only walk away because they have to make money.

TAWNY

So you go to strip clubs to talk to strippers? Remo you are amazing!

REMO

I'll always remember this, one time we were all leaving and one of the strippers that I had been talking to came up to me naked and shook my hand as I walked out. She gave me a big smile and as I looked into her eyes, I could tell that I helped her. Someone talked to her as a human being without wanting anything from her. Talking to her like this change her life for the better. By being who I am, I really do help people choose the right. Be more than what they are.

TAWNY

Do I choose the right when I'm next to you?

REMO

You tell me Tawny. Do you choose the right when I stand next to you?

TAWNY

Yes. That's why I don't stand near you all night.

REMO

I know. I figure when you're ready to choose the right all of the time, you'll be by my side all day and all night.

TAWNY

So Booth wasn't ready either?

REMO

She'll never be ready to be with me. I hope that she can be happy one day. She's a lot like you, both of you aren't ready for happiness. When happiness comes into your life you have to open that door to let it in. So let her find someone she thinks can make her happy. Someone else that isn't me nor like me. She'll dream about me and maybe one day even wonder how it would've been if she choose me instead of a guy like him. Or perhaps not. In any case it will all work out in the end.

TAWNY

It always does, huh?

REMO

It always does. (Beat) Do you know when you are over a girl?

TAWNY

When you start to look at Klingon cleavage again?

REMO

No. You're over a girl when you stop looking for her type of car on the road.

TAWNY

Cars?

REMO

Think about it Tawny, when you meet someone that you like and you see a car with the same style and color as theirs drive by, you stop and look to see if it's them.

TAWNY

Continue with your theory.

REMO

Haven't you notice how many little red Mustangs there are on the road?

TAWNY

You drive a red Mustang right! Why red anyways? Why not blue?

REMO

Red is the color of command. Maroon actually is the color of command but the dealership didn't have any maroon Mustangs. Anyways I used to notice all of these brown trucks when they drove by.

TAWNY

Let me guess, Booth drove a brown truck.

REMO

Exactly! I was hoping to see her drive by so that I could wave hello to her.

TAWNY

She doesn't look like a truck driver. What is she a cowgirl?

REMO

No, she gets into a lot of accidents so she needs a big ride to keep her from getting squashed. But anyways, I no longer look for brown trucks! Therefore, I'm over her!

TAWNY

So Remo, what are trying to say to me?

REMO

*Hope* is a dangerous thing.

TAWNY

What?

REMO

If you don't have hope, it's dangerous? And there're *no* good girls that are left. Perhaps there never were. Perhaps there has never been a good girl ever born. You creatures suck the life force from *us* and turn *us* into monsters.

TAWNY

She really tore you up inside, huh?

REMO

Booth was my last hope. My last hope for a girl that had good morals and that I liked. She didn't really have high morals, it was only when she was around me. It turns out that we are nothing but animals, stuck with instincts that keep humanity from growing. This world is all that it is, nothing more is after it. It all goes back to the reptilian part of the brain which we'll never evolve beyond.

TAWNY

It sounds like you don't include yourself as one *us* animals, creatures or monsters.

REMO

Perhaps I've grown beyond that. Evolved beyond that. That the carnal needs that are possessed by the rest of you aren't in me.

TAWNY

I bet that I can get some carnal *needs* out you.

REMO

Only if I *choose* too. I can make that choice, not my genes not my instincts, I choose what I'll do or not do. Can you make the same claim Tawny?

TAWNY

I choose too. I can and have lived by my decisions, my choices.

REMO

Poor decisions. Bad decisions. Stupid decisions! You chose to get wasted at every chance you can? Your mom told me what it's like to have a hangover, she said it was like having the flu every morning. Puking in to the toilet, praying to your ceramic god for hours and feeling horrible all day until you can get your next drink. Then you repeat the process over and over again until you can't remember why you hate life so much!

TAWNY

It's not always that way. Sometimes I only get a headache and a few aspirin makes me feel better. But she's right about it most of the time.

REMO

You choose be a drunken slutly girl. That's your choice Tawny?

TAWNY

Is that all that I am you Remo?

REMO

No. (Beat) You're my special little hippie chick girl that I'm going to run away to California with in a VW bus. With long beautiful hair and smile that can make me do anything. And you don't even need any makeup. I can see through all of your garbage and your mistakes. I can see the real person behind all of your tears. I trust you and care you. I pray for you every night before I go to sleep. That's why it hurts so much when I see you with your drunken losers that you date. That you're with.

TAWNY

Instead of you?

REMO

Instead of me.

TAWNY

I guess it was love at first sight. (Beat) Were you in love with Booth the first time you saw her little brown truck?

REMO

There was someone else that I fell in love with first. Booth was just a place holder until someone was single again.

TAWNY

*She* was the place holder huh? Ok.

REMO

You only have one chance to be my girl and her little brown truck has left the stadium.

TAWNY

She drove right out of your heart?

REMO

A girl should know the second they meet me, that I'm the one. She should've had no doubt. If she had and plans that didn't involve me, she should've cancelled them just to be next to me. My presence alone is all that should be required for her to make her decision.

TAWNY

A bit cocky for a guy that was dumped, aren't we?

REMO

I dumped her, by acting really nice. I treated her like a queen and I was the gallant captain ready to do her bidding. Don't you know that girls don't like nice guys? Girls are only attracted by men that treat them badly. That's nature way to make sure that *men* will always run the world!

TAWNY

(Beat) You're right. It's easier to dump a jerk than a nice guy. So at times it's better to date a jerk or loser. You don't want to hurt the feelings any guy that's nice. That would be wrong.

REMO

You, her and the rest of the girls on this planet go from one loser to the next over and over again. I'll never figure out why it takes you forever to realize that playing musical *jerks* isn't the way to have a happy life.

TAWNY

And when you meet a guy that is nice to you, us girls don't believe it. We've been lied to and cheated on so much that when you finally find someone that is nice you, you automatically assume that he must be a fraud. There's no way a guy would treat you good if he didn't want something from you.

REMO

Talking to you Tawny makes me believe that every girl is messed up in head. Us good guys aren't the problem, it's your environment. All because of the few losers that you've been exposed to. You grow up being with garbage your whole life so you don't know how to be with anyone that's good. Any guy that would treat you right, you can't be with. (Beat) Look at you Tawny. Going from one loser to the next. That last one was a complete screw-up! And you were with him. *With him*. (Beat) So what was the real reason you broke up with the scary man?

TAWNY

He took a glass out of the bar and when he got caught, he blamed me!

REMO

So I'm sad huh?

TAWNY

The sad thing is that the glass only had ice in it. I almost got band from that bar because he wouldn't own up to his actions. And it was a glass of ice!

REMO

And you wanted to date that loser?

TAWNY

There was someone else, but he didn't act quickly enough. So I moved on.

REMO

Perhaps that guy wanted to get to know you first. And let you know that he liked you more than just for your body. He wanted to get to know the real you, your soul too. And it was the hardest thing that he had ever done, letting you go without telling you how he felt about you.

TAWNY

When an opportunity like that is presented, one shouldn't turn it down.

REMO

When one is presented with someone that they really like, there are a lot of emotions. A lot of emotions that one doesn't know how to deal with always. One can't control one's emotions as they flow out of your heart and soul. It took him a time to know that she was the one.

TAWNY

I wished that person would've let her know all of this before she dated the scary man.

REMO

He was six hours late. He went to every bar in town to find you. By the time he saw you again, you already had made your decision. And it hurt him more than anything that Booth ever did to him.

TAWNY

Every bar, huh?

REMO

Every last bar in town. And you know that I don't even drink Tawny. (Beat) Tawny do you want to play that game again?

TAWNY

Which game?

REMO

I'll answer any five questions that can be answered in a yes or no fashion.

TAWNY

Ok. You go first this time.

REMO

Do you like to eat?

Yes! TAWNY

Do you like to eat alone? REMO

No. TAWNY

Do you like to go out and eat? REMO

Yes. TAWNY

Have you eating out lately? REMO

No. I have no money to eat out, right? TAWNY

REMO  
Then why don't we go to the Chinese Buffet? It's been awhile since I've been there and I'm ready to get back on the saddle again. It's time to face the dancing robots with laser too. Let's call it another Tawny situation if you will.

TAWNY  
Is that a question? (Beat) Robots? Lasers? Situation?

REMO  
No, but this is the million dollar question. (Beat) Yes or no Tawny, are you still in love me?

I.... TAWNY

FADE OUT

**ACT FOUR**  
(THREE HEARTS, CELL PHONES AND SOME ROBOTS)

TAWNY and REMO walk into REMO'S apartment holding hands and are very close to one another.

TAWNY

You're going to have so much fun tonight Remo.

REMO

I know Tawny. (Beat) I can't believe that *it's* going to finally happen. And before I turn forty! And don't you mean that *we're* going to have so much fun tonight?

TAWNY

Shh. Kiss me Remo. Kiss me all the way up your stairs to your bed.

(REMO moves closer to TAWNY and kisses her. This kiss appears to be more special than the kiss he gave BOOTH.)

REMO

What do you think Tawny?

TAWNY

Not bad for your first kiss. You'll get better.

REMO

I've been kissed before.

TAWNY

Your mom and your granny doesn't count Remo.

REMO

No, I got kissed by three girls in my life. Three different girls!

TAWNY

That many? (Beat) Were they drunk?

REMO

Two of them had some alcohol in them.

TAWNY

And you didn't try anything Remo?

REMO

No, of course not! I was in a state of shocked that any girl would've kissed me.

TAWNY

Remo, it was the booze that kissed you, not them.

REMO

True. I can't argue with that, but it was still cool to me. That doesn't happen to me every day.

TAWNY

Well let the fourth one teach you a few more lessons. Kiss me again and don't stop this time.

(TAWNY moves closer to REMO and kisses him. This time it isn't as special.)

REMO

Tawny, let's talk.

TAWNEY

You're thinking about *her* aren't you?

REMO

What?

TAWNEY

Her. Boothie right? You're thinking about her. Right now. Right now while kissing me!

REMO

Right now I'm thinking about us. And that I'm with a special little hippie chick girl that loves me so much that she's going to give me a special gift. A gift that no other girl would give me.

TAWNEY

All right. But you had better not call out her name when we do it!

REMO

I won't. What's her name anyways? I knew it at one time, she must've not been that important.

TAWNEY

A man that's trapped thinking about two girls doesn't deserve either one.

REMO

Right now I'm only thinking about one.

TAWNY

Good. What color is her hair?

REMO

Brunette.

TAWNY

That's right Remo. And don't you forget it!

REMO

You know Tawny this reminds me of an episode of *Star Trek* when Captain....

TAWNY

Here we go again. Remo you're about to blow it. Don't talk to me. Don't bring up *Star Trek*! (Beat) Bang me! Bang hard, right now! Right here! You act cocky all the time, so prove it!

REMO

First you have to tell me that you love me.

TAWNY

Why do I need to do that?

REMO

I need to hear it. If you and I love each other, it's ok what we're about to do.

TAWNY

It's ok to do it if we aren't in love too. (Beat) What if I don't love you?

REMO

Tawny, you do.

TAWNY

I know that. But if I didn't, were you still going to turn me down?

REMO

Well, I've waited this long, what's a few more years.

TAWNY

Your fortieth birthday. Remo don't die a virgin, take me now. You may never get another chance.

REMO

Are you quite sure that I'm not taking advantage of you Tawny?

TAWNY

Remo, I'm practically raping you.

REMO

(Stops and thinks for a moment) Yes I suppose that you are. (Beat) Say it. Say it and I will Tawny.

TAWNY

I don't want to say it. I shouldn't have to say it. It shouldn't matter. If you want me, take me now. Let's make each other feel good tonight.

REMO

Don't play games Tawny. Tell me that you love me and it will change our lives forever. For the better.

TAWNY

I can't Remo! Please don't force me.

REMO

Tawny when you look at me, do you hate what you see? That here's a man that likes you when you are sober. When he's sober. And that scares the living daylights out of you, doesn't it?

TAWNY

No.

REMO

When you look at me, you hate me. You can't stand to be treated like a human being. In your mind you're no longer a human being capable of deserving respect. Love. You long for a guy to treat you like trash. So when I treat you like a princess, you don't know what to do, or how to act. Or how to treat me. I love you Tawny. I want to treat you like you're my queen.

TAWNY

I'm *nobody's* queen. I'm not a queen.

REMO

You are to me. (Beat) Tell me what I need to hear so we can go up stairs. (Beat) *Please* Tawny.

TAWNY

I can't do that. Not at this point in my life. I've been hurt so many times Remo.

REMO

You have to. Tawny I can look into your eyes and see how much you love me. Tell me and I'll show you how to love another person. To *really* love another person.

TAWNY

I.... I love you Remo.

REMO

I know. And I love you Tawny. Come closer to me.

(REMO kisses TAWNY. TAWNY'S cell phone rings. They stop kissing and TAWNY's grabs her cell phone.)

TAWNY

I better answer. It could be the babysitter.

REMO

Yeah. (REMO moves away from TAWNY.)

TAWNY

(Talking on the phone.) What? No, did you give him the purple cough medicine? Not the red, he doesn't like the red one. I know. How long has he been crying? Why didn't you call sooner? I'm not mad. I'm not mad at you. Tell him that mommy is coming home soon. Ok, I'll come home now. I should be there in ten minutes. Bye.

REMO

You need to go right?

TAWNY

Right when I was about to rock your world too. And I would've too.

(REMO and TAWNY both look at each other and laugh.)

REMO

That's ok. We have the rest of lives to rock each other's world. (Beat) May I have a rain check Tawny?

TAWNY

Yeah. I'll think about it.

(TAWNY kisses REMO softly.)

REMO

Maybe it was a sign Tawny. A sign that we weren't meant to be together.

TAWNY

Remo you've done good up to now, don't blow it with some stupid Volcano logic.

REMO

You mean Vulcan logic. Well I'm just saying that right when *it* was about to happen, you get a call. That could be a sign.

TAWNY

Listen Remo, my son is ill. Toddlers get sick all the time. It's the cheap daycare I'm forced to put him in. When one baby gets sick, they all do. There's no sign. I'll come back if it's not serious and I can put him back to sleep.

REMO

Go take care of your son Tawny.

TAWNY

I'll be back in one way or another Remo. I'm not done with you yet.

(TAWNY kisses REMO on his cheek and walks out of the apartment. REMO sits down and picks up a video game controller. A second later the door bell rings.)

REMO

Tawny, you back already? Girl you must really want a piece of the R-machine.

(REMO gets up to open the door. BOOTH is standing in front of the door and stares at REMO for a pregnant moment. Then BOOTH slaps REMO hard on the face. REMO yells and grabs his face.)

REMO

What's that for!?

BOOTH

I can't believe it!

REMO

I don't want to burst your bubble, but that's not the first time I've had a chick slap me. Man it ain't even the first time *today* that a chick has slapped me!

BOOTH

Knock it off. What's that a line from *Star Trek*?

REMO

*Pulp Fiction*. (REMO rubs his face.)

BOOTH

Well then, don't quote *Pulp Fiction* lines to me. I'm an actress remember? I can tell when you're trying to act. (Beat) That's for writing a song about me and playing it at open mike night! How dare you write a song about me! How dare you talk about my personal life! You had no right to do that to me! And in front of my friends too! I can't believe you!

REMO

That song could be about anyone. (Beat) You're so vain, I bet you think that every song is about you. Huh, Booth? *Boothie!*

BOOTH

Knock it off. (Beat) Not only are you writing mean songs about me you're hooking up with a slut now! That *was* Tawny leaving your apartment? Right? So you banging trash now? Is that all that you wanted from me? To bang me? I bet you haven't written any mean songs about her!

REMO

I haven't laid a finger on Tawny. And by the way, why do you care? You got a boyfriend right? So why do you care about what or who I do? (Beat) He's hands were all over you and I didn't say anything.

BOOTH

You're a *good* man Remo, I don't want to see you get hurt. I've heard *stories* about Tawny.

REMO

I'm already hurt. (Rubs his face) I hurt enough as it is. (Beat) Is it wrong to want a little fun in your life? Huh? A little love? To have someone hold and touch you because they *want* you?

BOOTH

Don't try to pull your mind games on me. (Beat) I never led you on. You never took me out on a date. You never asked me out on a date. I had no obligation to tell you anything about my personal life.

REMO

No. You didn't. You didn't led me on. You didn't owe me one thing. (Beat) But you dissed me hard girl, and I'm not use to that. Out of all the people in the world, I would've never though that it would've been *you* that dissed me like that. I trusted you. I believe in you. I thought of you as my friend that I loved spending time with.

BOOTH

I thought of you as a friend too. How could you? How could you hurt me like that? Publicly humiliated me like that? I have to see those people everyday. At school and work. They're all going to talk about me behind my back. The things that you said about me in your songs. And did you have to post them on the internet? So not only my friends have heard them live at open mike night but the world can download them and listen to them on their iPods too!

REMO

I don't write songs to sit on my shelf to gather dust you know. Booth you dissed me for a moment in time but as a songwriter I can diss you for an eternally. After you and I have beamed up to final frontier, people will hear and learn from my songs. (Beat) Booth it's your own fault. I did tell you that when you broke my heart I would write about it. You said that it was cathartic and you did the same thing with your 'man hating poems'.

BOOTH

I never thought you would perform them in front of me and my friends much less post them on your website! (Beat) I never thought that my friend would say or think the things you said about me. Your right, I'll always hurt because of the words you said about me. If you wanted to injure me for my lifetime, you achieved your mission Captain. (Mockingly salutes REMO) With those songs and words you wrote about me, you practically *raped me* in front of the world.

(REMO stares at BOOTH. BOOTH'S eyes look away from REMO.  
REMO looks at the floor, then back up to BOOTH'S direction.)

REMO

I don't know what to say Booth. There's no retort to that charge.

BOOTH

There's nothing you can say. Your songs say it all. (Beat) You were my friend and you did that to me? How could you? I never would've done that to you. (Beat) Don't you think that I've got a lot of 'man hating poems' about you? I've haven't shared them with anyone. No one. I could never intentionally hurt you with my poems. With my words. How could I Remie?

REMO

Booth, you should. It's not good for you to bottle up your feelings. Give them to the world. That won't hurt me anymore than I do already.

BOOTH

No. I write poems so that my emotions don't take control over me. They're private. I won't share them with anyone. There's no way I could bring myself to read them in front of anyone. Or let anyone else read them.

REMO

Isn't that part of your problem Booth? You're not one hundred percent honest with yourself. You'll never know true happiness in your craft until you do. (Beat) Hold nothing back. Once you do that, the world had better look out.

BOOTH

That's what I love about you Remo. You're the one friend that I learn so much about myself from. (Beat) You never stop amazing me Remo.

REMO

I'm your friend? A friend that you couldn't talk to about your personal life to. We spent the whole night talking and singing songs and you didn't say anything about getting new boyfriend. Not one word! Nothing. Maybe this would've ended smoothly if you would've just told me instead of me finding out on the web. (Beat) Friends trust one another. If you can't trust that person, then you have acquaintance instead of a friend.

BOOTH

I knew how you felt about me. You know that I'm not stupid. My hair is blonde but that doesn't mean I dumb. I've had guys after me all of my life. But I liked you as person so much. You have this aura around you that makes me so happy and feel so safe, I couldn't tell you. The time wasn't right, that night was too special for me end it on a sour note.

REMO

Did you know that I couldn't eat after I found out? It took a whole month for me to start eating again. Even then it wasn't much. People kept asking me if I was losing weight. I told them I was getting in shape for a music video shoot. How could I tell them the real reason? The girl of my dreams dissed me for a frat boy. (Beat) That thought still makes me sick to my stomach.

BOOTH

I'm sorry you couldn't eat. I didn't feel like eating much afterwards as well. (Beat) Finding a boyfriend was suppose to a highlight of my week, instead I felt sad over losing you... as one of my guy friends. One of my great guy friends! (Beat) The time I spent with you was awesome, it was worth putting up with a few of your lame come-ons. You were so cute and clever with them. I can't remember how many times you made me blush. (BOOTH smiles at REMO.)

REMO

(Deadpan) I never came on to you.

BOOTH

Yes you did. You know you right well did Remo.

REMO

No, I didn't. (Beat) Did you know that I never had any fantasies about you? I have fantasies about every fine girl I see, but I never had one about you. Not one! (Beat) Because I *liked* you so much. It was so special being next to you. I guess I liked you too much to have *those* type of thoughts about you.

BOOTH

I knew that you would never try anything. That's why I loved hanging out with you while I was between boyfriends.

REMO

I was your amusement ride park.

BOOTH

Excuse me?

REMO

Amusement ride park, I was something fun to do until your boyfriend got done with his minimum wage job.

BOOTH

That's not what you think isn't! No Remo, I really liked you. You. You're so special, everyone can see it. When I was with you, only you were on my mind. I told him not to call during our time together. (Beat) It turns out that all I did was hurt you. And that was the last thing that I wanted to do to you.

REMO

Yeah. You know that I can't even look at you. I can't look into your eyes anymore. Not really. I point my eyes in your direction, but I don't see my Boothie any more. All I see is another girl that wouldn't take that chance to get close to me. To get to know me. The real me. Another girl that was like all the rest. (Beat) In so many ways you are worst that Tawny. With Tawny she never hid what she was, you on the other hand conned me into believing that you were the last good girl on Earth.

BOOTH

I never conned you. I'm a good girl. I'm not perfect, but I'm a good girl.

REMO

In the same way that Tawny is a good girl. (Beat) You never led on that you liked to drink or smoke.

BOOTH

It's true, I do like the occasional drink, that doesn't make me a bad person. And you know that I would never smoke a cigarette.

REMO

You know now, I don't know anything about you. Everything that I thought about you has vanished. In to thin air. (Beat) I bet that you've even gotten high before.

BOOTH

I'm not answering that. (Beat) But who hasn't it? Only you haven't Remo. (Beat) You're the one last incorruptible person in the world. The rest of us are weak and imperfect. (Beat) Isn't that why you're the hero of this story and I'm the villain?

REMO

I suppose that you are. (Beat) What's puzzling me right now is why you're here and not sinning with your boyfriend there.

BOOTH

Because I'm hurting so much at what happened at open mike night. I came to hug you and you put out your hand. I dissed you! That was the biggest dissed I've ever gotten! I came to you with love in my heart and you greeted me with scorn and contempt. It was like you ran over me with a steamroller. I wanted to die right at that moment. It took all that I had within not break down right there, in front of everyone.

REMO

All of this over a stupid hug. I've never been much of a hugger. Booth I only hug people that I trust. That I can implicitly trust. You don't have that privilege anymore. If I wanted to be sadistic, I wouldn't have given you an option to shake my hand.

BOOTH

That's so mean and cruel. You hate me that much?

REMO

Hate is a strong word. I don't *hate* you, I do hate what you did to me. And to how many other guys have you done this to? Huh? But Booth, I'm not a regular guy. And you treated me like I was the normal scum you date. That you associate with. What was it you told me one time, you were only dating losers. So I guess I should take you actions toward me as some type of a sick compliment. By not dating me with your demented logic, I'm not a loser. At least that's something. (Beat) Booth, I can't apologize for my songs or actions. It's me being honest about the way I feel.

BOOTH

I understand what you've done here, Remo. But I think the lesson could have been learned without the loss of our friendship.

REMO

Oh please Booth. If you can't take a little bloody nose, maybe you ought to go back home and crawl under your bed. Being in any kind of relationship isn't safe. Relationships are wondrous, with treasures to satiate desires both subtle and gross. But they're not for the timid.

BOOTH

*Star Trek?*

REMO

Yeah, but you set me up that time.

(REMO smiles then looks into BOOTH'S eyes, then looks down to the floor.)

BOOTH

You can't even look at me?

REMO

Booth, as a starship commander I have to make a command decision in one second. I have a split second to read someone. Is this person a friend or a foe? Will this person kill me or will this person die to protect me? This has to be done in a microsecond, my life, my crew's life depends upon me making those decisions. When I first met you, I read you wrong. What you portrayed to me wasn't the true Booth. My instincts were wrong about you, and that could get me killed. So when I look at you, I see my mistake. And I could never look at you the way that I used to because you're not that person I thought you were. I don't even know who or what you are now. A friend told me one time to never trust an actress. They can make you believe anything they want you to.

BOOTH

I should slap you right now.

REMO

Why not pull out your phaser and make sure it's not set for stun. If you really want to hurt me. Pull the trigger! (REMO stares at BOOTH for a moment) Don't think! Do it!

BOOTH

Shut up. Can't you see that I feel horrible that I hit you? I never stuck anyone before. When you opened the door and I saw you, I just didn't know what to do. All of these emotions hit me at once and I saw my hand slap your face in slow motion. I'm sorry Remo for the slap, but not for the way I feel. How hurt I am because of your actions. (Beat) It's me being honest about the way I feel.

REMO

I don't want to burst your bubble but it won't be the first time someone has pointed a phaser at me.

BOOTH

Stop with your fantasy world. Stop it. Please. *Remo*. (Beat) Can't you see *that's* the reason that you don't have a girlfriend? Why you never had a date? Why you lost me? Why you've lost every girl you liked. You block out everyone you met with your *sci-fi shtick*. What girl wants to be known as the Captain of the Enterprise's girlfriend? No girl does. *No girl!* You may not care what people think about you, I do! Other girls do too. All girls do.

REMO

Any girl worth having would be proud of my Starfleet background. (Beat) You know that I could of given you the world with the (REMO snaps his fingers) snap of my fingers. Maybe even the universe. But instead you have chosen a life of mundanely. My plague for your dowry is the dull and monotonous life that you're going to live because of your dignity. Who knows, maybe you'll marry some lucky guy with a job in waste water management. Traveling the stars or looking at refuse. What a choice that is!

BOOTH

Maybe you are from outer space.

REMO

No, I'm from Texas. I only work in outer space.

BOOTH

Funny. (Beat) You don't know what you're talking about. I want a family and a normal life. There's no way that I could've had that with you.

REMO

(Beat) That simple, huh kiddo? A normal life? What's a normal life? (Beat) So that's it. As soon as I told you that others were talking about us, you picked the first loser that wouldn't embarrass you to have a relationship with. You let what others thought about you influenced your relationships. And you can still look at yourself in the mirror? What a piece of work you are!

BOOTH

Just shut up. Shut up! Can't you see that I am torn up over you! I'm not over you! I'll never forget you! (Beat) You're the type of person that no one forgets. I have to go the rest of my life with those memories of complete happiness that I had with you. You'll have happy times no matter who you're with or alone. I can't be alone. (Beat) It's not fair.

REMO

Life ain't fair kiddo. (Beat) That's the biz sweetheart. (Beat) That's the last time I'll offer to shake your hand.

BOOTH

So you don't even want to touch me again? You'll never hug me again?

REMO

If I hug you, I know that I might not let go of you. (REMO stares at BOOTH for a moment.) And we can't have that can we?

BOOTH

What about shaking my hand?

REMO

That too. (Beat) I don't want to make your boyfriend anymore jealous than he is already. I don't want you to *ever* cheat on your boyfriend.

BOOTH

Can you cheat by only holding my hand? Shaking my hand? A hug? (BOOTH covers her face with her hair.)

REMO

You can cheat with a look if you try hard enough. You can cheat with a thought too. (Beat) You hate the way that you look.

BOOTH

What? (BOOTH drops her hair away from her eyes.)

REMO

I see you when you go out, hiding your face with a hat. Covering yourself with a heavy sweater. You're ashamed of how you look.

BOOTH

That's ridiculous! I look good, especially after I put my face on. There's no way I can have others see me out without looking perfect. I do have some pride you know.

REMO

God has given you one face and you make yourself another. (Beat) I finally get it. All of the pieces are falling into place now! I couldn't figure out why you would've picked that frat boy over me. A frat boy? Over me!?! (Beat) Pride. That's why you hooked up with that frat boy! When you knew that others were talking about you and me, your perfect world couldn't handle it. The thought of others talking about you and someone that wasn't perfect made your little head hurt. Your little blonde head. That's why the next day you got yourself the first appropriate boyfriend you could find. And you had to tell the world so that their idle water cooler chat would end about us. Your pride was more important than your happiness. Huh?

BOOTH

Shut up. Shut up! You don't know the kind of pressure that I under. Do you!?! So you can shut your mouth about what you think about me. (Beat) I don't care what you think about me...now.

REMO

I didn't go over to your house and slap you did I? Tell me, who's playing with a full deck of cards? You (Beat) or me?

BOOTH

Shut up. I told you that I was sorry, didn't I. I didn't post my 'man hating poems' about you on the internet!

REMO

No. Instead of words you used your hand. My words in my songs never used your name. Your hand hit my face. There's no guess who you were trying to injure.

BOOTH

Shut up. You didn't use my name, but one that rhyme with it! You Jerk! Just shut up!

REMO

Tell me I'm wrong. Booth *tell* me that I'm wrong!

BOOTH

You don't know me. When someone looks at me, all they see is this pretty face. They don't care about what I say to them. They don't care how smart I am. They don't care about anything except the way that I look. (Beat) Don't you know that the only reason that *he's* with me is because of my looks. I'm blonde but I'm not stupid. When I see him looking me, I know what he wants. What every pubescent male wants since I was fourteen. (Beat) But Remie, when you looked at me, I knew that you like being with me. Me! For the me on the inside. But you're right, when you told me how others were talking about us I freaked out. Maybe it was pride, I not sure. It was like I was hearing all of these people talking about us, you and me, in my head all at the same time. Their voices wouldn't stop. I didn't know what to do, so I took the easy way out. (Beat) I told you I was weak.

REMO

Spare me your sanctimonious platitudes. That's so typical. Booth I thought that you were special. Different from the rest, but in the end you are the same weak little daddy's girl that I have been trying to avoid like the plague since Junior High...

BOOTH

Tell me how you feel about her.

REMO

Who? Tawny?

BOOTH

Yes Tawny. How do you feel about her?

REMO

I like her a lot.

BOOTH

Do you love her?

REMO

Yes, I love Tawny.

BOOTH

So why haven't you hooked up with her?

REMO

We're trying to do that tonight, before she had to go take care of her sick child!

BOOTH

Tawny has a kid?

REMO

Yeah. Yeah she does. But I was going to over look that and do it anyways. (Beat) She's honest with me.

BOOTH

But you know that you won't. Why? You may not be able to read me but I can still read you like a book Remo.

REMO

She has so much baggage. All of the men she has been with. She has a child out of wedlock. Not a dime to her name. She's been abused both mentally and physically. And every man she has been with has hurt her. That's why she'll never trust me or any other good guy.

BOOTH

You know that you'll never hook up with her much less marry her. But you still love her, right?

REMO

Yes.

BOOTH

It's the same with you and me. When I look at you I see the greatest guy that I've ever met. I like and love you so much it hurts. But because you are so much older than me, I could never have a relationship with you. And that's the truth. It's that simple Remo. What would my friends think? What would my mom think? Then there's the *sci-fi shtick* too. You would always be the center of attention instead of me. And I want a partner in my life not a rock star. (Beat) So Remo I love you, but I'm not in love with you.

REMO

I know. I see it when you look at me. (Beat) That which you could never have. You covet what you see you know?

BOOTH

That's deep Remo.

REMO

Is it? (Beat) Do you ever think about life? That this life is all there is and perhaps there's nothing after it?

BOOTH

No. I believe in an after life. Do you?

REMO

At times, there's a part of me that thinks that this life is the only one that we have. Once we're dead, that's it. Game over. This makes me want to live as long as I can and live my life to the fullest.

BOOTH

When I die, I plan go to Heaven.

REMO

I hope that I go to Heaven too. But I don't use that as a safety net. If I mess this life up, I'm not banking on a second chance. (Beat) I'm grabbing all of the happiness I can in case this life is it.

BOOTH

Remie, that's another reason that it wouldn't of worked between you and me. The guy that I'm with now isn't perfect, but he believes the way I do.

REMO

Or you believe what he says he believes in. Free thinkers have always had to live with discrimination with those that have closed minds. (Beat) Did you know at one time the Sun revolved around the Earth?

BOOTH

What? No it didn't!

REMO

At one time it did. Until Galileo proved that the Earth revolved around the Sun. Even though Galileo had proof, he was forced to denounce his own work and not to teach it because the Church said it was in conflict with Church doctrine. Then Galileo was convicted on suspicion of heresy and sentenced to a lifetime of house arrest because he dared to write about his work. So see, in the minds of everyone on the planet at that time, the Sun did revolve around the Earth. And it was only took 359 years for the Church to admit they were wrong about Galileo. The Earth did revolve around the Sun. (Beat) There are always two sides to every story. Every relationship.

BOOTH

I always learn things from you Remie. You're so smart even if you can't spell. (Beat) I should've been more honest with you at the beginning. You were...

REMO

I know. (BOOTH looks REMO in the eyes then to the floor.) I'm only being honest about how I feel.

BOOTH

Don't be mad at me.

REMO

I'm not mad so much at you as I am at this situation. Why implant the desire if there's no way that I can act upon it? Huh?

BOOTH

Remie....

REMO

You know I just found out that Dave has gotten laid. Dave! Dave has hooked up before me! Dave's a bigger nerd than I am! And you know what that makes me? Huh? I'm the last one from the video game club that hasn't scored! The last one! And in my mind, I know may never hook up!

BOOTH

Remie, you'll find someone one day.

REMO

No! Don't! Don't do that. Don't say that! Not to me and not again. That's a cop out and you know it! Saying that makes *you* feel good not me. You know good and well that I'll never find anyone. The same reason that you aren't going to hang out with me any more, every other girl on this planet uses! Because deep down inside I'm the good and you're the monsters that make this world a cesspool to live in! (Beat) I wash my hands of world and you.

BOOTH

That makes me so sad. (Beat) Love is powerful, but there are other issues that we all have to deal and live with. I'm not a monster Remo. And I'm not psycho either, I'm just facing the truth. I love you. But we will never be.

REMO

You know I love my parents. More than life. I love them more than anyone else in the world. There's nothing I wouldn't do for them. And when there're gone, I'm not sure how I will survive. How I'll live with out them. No matter how much I love them, when they have pasted away, no one will remember them. No one. Only me. The love that I have for them in my heart will be the only memories of them. My parents had me so that they will survive long after they have left this moral coil.

BOOTH

I know how....

REMO

Boothie let me finish. (Beat) Please. (Beat) The only reason that my parents will be remembered is because of me. They had me, their son, a product of their DNA, will be known forever. They sacrificed for me. They worried about me. And they loved me. I will never have a wife or a family. So my offspring will be my songs, writings and videos I make. That's how *I'll* be remembered. (Beat) Booth, you'll be just like my folks. Your memory with only remain in your offspring. Once you're dead, no one will remember the name Booth. Because you can't stand being alone or be hundred percent honest in the work. Your only chance to live forever is to past on your DNA on via your children.

BOOTH

I want a family.

REMO

So do I. (Beat) But fate doesn't always give you what you desire. It's not logical, but it's often true.

BOOTH

Remo, why did you have to tell me how you felt about me at that stupid Chinese Buffet? Why couldn't you've let us kept doing what we were doing? (Beat) I miss my Remie so much. All those fun times are over now.

REMO

So it's the Chinese Buffet that's stupid? Huh?

BOOTH

We had so much fun and happy times together, why ruin it with a relationship? Relationships only mess up good things.

REMO

Gee Booth, I don't know. Maybe because we not in Junior High any more. We're both too old to act like we are. Two adults have to have an adult relationship. Well at least sooner or later.

BOOTH

You should've just kept it to yourself. I'm not stupid. I told you I knew how you felt about me.

REMO

It's wrong not to be honest with yourself, or others. A lie of omission is still a lie. You have to accept the whole person. You can't choose only the parts that you want to accept. It's all or nothing. Sometimes you have to roll the hard six.

BOOTH

If you knew what I was going to do, then why destroy a good thing. (Beat) Remo I've had so many guys that wanted to hang out with me and I never gave them a minute of my time. We got to spend some of my best moments of my life together. That makes you special. We'll have those memories Remie.

REMO

I realize that. I know that. I on the other hand don't have thousands of girls that want to spend time with me. That doesn't mean that I would just hang with just any girl. Booth, you were so special to me as well. And I loved the moments we were together. (Beat) I do miss you too.

BOOTH

I miss you so much Remie! I love hanging out with you. I want those fun times back into my life! We can get my roommates together and hang out and sing songs all together some time!

REMO

Hang out with you and your roommates. We can do that. But don't kid yourself Booth, you know the real reason that you don't want to be alone with me any more. You know that if you spend time with me alone, that you would actually fall in love with me. Then you'll never be able to leave me. (Beat) Whoa! The tension in the air is really thick right now between you and me.

BOOTH

What do you want me to say Remo? That you're right? Ok, you're right. Every second I spend with you makes me fall more in love with you. Every moment that you look at me and make me smile makes me want you more and more! Ok. You win.

REMO

Booth this isn't a game to me. (Beat) I feel the same way. That's why I told you that I didn't fall in love with you the first day I met you. It took time. In time I realized that I loved you with all of my heart and soul. And that you put the soul back into me.

BOOTH

Wow. That may be the sweetest thing anyone has ever told me Remie!

REMO

Boothie I didn't fall for your beauty. All the stuff on the outside isn't important to me.

BOOTH

I know that. I know how you feel about me. It's that when you and I started to hang out all the time, I realized that I was doing exactly what I said I wasn't going to do. A few months before I was engaged and about to get married. I wanted to date as many guys that I could so that I could be sure that I'll marry the right guy. Spending all of my time with you went against that plan. (Beat) When we started to get close, I had to pull back. Can you understand that Remie? I'm not sure that I do, but I do feel that I'm doing what I'm suppose to do. Even though at times I feel miserable.

REMO

You thought I was going to ask you to marry me?

BOOTH

Weren't you?

REMO

One day, I would've. But it was going to take a lot more than a few months together singing songs to make me drop to my knee. (Beat) You ran away from me because you didn't want to be smothered. And now you feel miserable.

BOOTH

Maybe not miserable. But I do feel a bit trapped.

REMO

So it's fine that you're trapped? Miserable?

BOOTH

If I can have romance in my life, it's worth it.

REMO

(Beat) Tiffany. You're going to end up like Tiffany.

BOOTH

Who's Tiffany?

REMO

She *was* the girl. The girl that I compared every other girl too....until I met.... (REMO looks at BOOTH in her eyes, then drops them to the ground.) Well anyways, Tiffany was this perfect girl. Well at least in my mind. She was smart, had talent playing piano and she was beautiful.

BOOTH

Was she short, had a great body and a perfect face? That's the type you like right?

REMO

No. She was another tall chick that had a great body and a perfect face. A brunette with green eyes. (Beat) Why do I like all of these tall chicks, I'm threaten by height you know.

BOOTH

What made her so special Remie?

REMO

It's hard to say. I chased after her so long I might've forgotten. Maybe it was because she had the right amount of the characteristics that I was attracted to. Whenever I saw her, my heart dropped. For a long time I was tounge-tied when I tried to talk to her.

BOOTH

So did you ever get her to date you?

REMO

Boothie you know the answer. No. No I didn't. I spent five years of my life chasing after Tiffany and we never had a real date. (Beat) I swore that I would never do that again. I would tell the next girl that I really liked how I felt about her. No matter what would happen if I told her. (BOOTH looks at REMO in his eyes then looks down.) My heart couldn't handle *that* again.

BOOTH

Why am I going to end up like Tiffany?

REMO

You are both the same. All girls are the same. You're looking for a type of love that doesn't exist. The romance that come from novels and Hollywood movies isn't real. That kind of love is a fantasy you'll never find. Tiffany found her romance and married a guy with a doctorate in waste-water management. (Beat) Waste-water management. She chose a guy that was in to waste-water management. That's the romance you're going to find. After you find your true love, you'll wake up ten years later and ask yourself, 'what was I thinking?' And the answer will be you weren't. You let your heart led you to a place that was dull and boring. Hollywood romance only leads to a life full wanting. There's no happiness there. (Beat) You know where there's happiness. All you have to do is take a chance girl. And truly a billion years from now, who would care what you did or who you did it with. In the here and now, I'm going to have as much fun and happy times as I can. You're welcome to join me on my crazy adventures! So what do you say Boothie, you care to take a ride on the Remie Express instead of the Loserville Bus?

BOOTH

I want romance in my life. It doesn't matter if it exist or not, I want that in my life.

REMO

Maybe it's right before your eyes and you can't even realize it. (Beat) If you were happy with your choice, I could live with that. But whenever you and I stand next to one another, I know that you not. A blind man could see that you aren't happy with who you're with. And you know it too.

BOOTH

I should've never gone out to eat with you. That stupid Chinese Buffet. I wasn't even hungry.

REMO

Booth here's a question for you, how are you going to feel when you finally see me with another girl on my arm?

BOOTH

I'll be happy for you Remo.

REMO

Think about it. Seeing a girl with her hands all over me. How's that going to make you feel? Be honest.

BOOTH

Disappointed.

REMO

Disappointed huh? You're trying to keep me around as a back up. In your mind you know that I'll never get another girl, so you can go out with other guys and when they diss you, you'll hang out with me. Like nothing happened.

BOOTH

I would try to be happy for you Remo. If the girl is like Tawney, I'll feel bad for you. Because you could do so much better than trying to hook up with a slutty girl.

REMO

Tawney is just being true to herself. She knows what she has done and is cool with it. Her past is her past, I'm not going to try and compete against that.

BOOTH

I don't think you ever could compete against her past. You've never had those types of experiences!

REMO

Booth, it's true that I haven't had much experience with girls. The one thing that I do know is that you shouldn't hold back your intentions. Maybe I should've just come out and told how I felt about you instead of using what you called 'lame come-ons'. But like I said before, I didn't fall in love with you the first time I hung out with you. It happened slowly, developed during the times we spent together. (Beat) Well at least I know where I stand with you. And you know where you stand with me. The truth is always better than not knowing.

BOOTH

Truth is important between friends. Honesty too. (Beat) What else do you have to say to me Remie? Any more hypothetical questions?

REMO

No. Here's a statement for you. You know I can say three words to you and we would be together. But right now I not going to do that. You have to make your choice on your own.

BOOTH

Tell me those words Remie. (Beat) I want to hear them.

REMO

That song...

BOOTH

What song?

REMO

The song that you slapped me over. The one I played at open mike night with the name that rhymed with yours in the a chorus.

BOOTH

Oh, that one.

REMO

I'm going to tell you why I wrote it.

BOOTH

To hurt me!

REMO

(REMO looks at BOOTH and shakes his head no) No Boothie. No. (Beat) I was in San Antonio at this computer convention. I just gotten done with my supper at a Mexican restaurant. The taco salad I had was great. It was a balmy night, unseasonably warm for a night in February. As I walking back to my Motel 6, I looked up at the sky and the moon and thought to myself what person would I like to share this moment with? Who's the one special soul in the whole world that I would want to be by my side at that moment. It was you. My Boothie. My special friend who I love with all of my heart and soul! I wanted to be with you not to say anything, only to look at you and smile. Us smiling together! At that moment in time, words would've messed everything up. Then it hit me. The first line of the song came to me and I ran to my motel and wrote the song. It was late and I had to be at the convention at 8am to give a speech, but I stayed up all night and wrote and recorded your song on my laptop. I wasn't sure if I would've ever give it to you. But that didn't matter, because at that point in time, you and I were soul mates once again. And we'll always be that way.

BOOTH

How can I go back to him now?

REMO

I don't know (Beat) I'm going to do something special for you. Remember the time I told you that you were the most special person that I've ever met in my life?

BOOTH

Yes. I'll never forget that day.

REMO

Well I'm going to give you a gift that I've never given any other girl. (Beat) Boothie, I want us to spend the rest of time together.

BOOTH

Remo, I'm in a relationship.

REMO

I'm not talking about this world or time line. I'm talking about our souls hanging out until the end of time.

BOOTH

What?

REMO

Boothie long after this world is gone, our essence will remain. And I want to spend my time with you. Boothie let me hold you're hand. (BOOTH gives REMO her hand) Look can you see the Rings of Saturn? A planet made of marshmallows? Mountains of diamonds on that world over there? Look out! Over there is that a black hole. And to your right a star is forming before our eyes!

BOOTH

How much fun you are Remie!

REMO

It doesn't have to end Boothie. Just say the word and it will happen.

BOOTH

We're friends? Right?

REMO

I don't know what we are. (Beat) There is a Vulcan word, (BOOTH sighs and rolls her eyes at REMO.) t'hy'la. It roughly translates into the English word, friend, however it means much more than that. T'hy'la also means brother, lover and soul mate. The Vulcans don't have friends like we do. They can marry someone that isn't their t'hy'la. The word t'hy'la is used only to describe the relationship of two people that are closer than any words could describe. Booth you're my t'hy'la. And I'm your t'hy'la, even if you never see or talk to me again.

BOOTH

I want to be your friend. We can still hang out. (Beat) You have to know that we'll never be intimate. Never. Never ever Remo. I don't think of you that way.

REMO

I may not be in your heart, however I'm in you mind. That's what really matters to me. When you look at me you don't have to say anything. I know how you feel about me. When I look at you, I guess you know how I feel about you. (Beat) How often do you think about me Booth?

BOOTH

Everyday. (Beat) All the time. I dream about you and me sitting next to one another singing songs and smiling at one another. Those are my happy dreams. (Beat) You are my t'hy'la Remo.

REMO

Do you love me Booth?

BOOTH

Remo.... (BOOTH'S cell phone rings. She answers it.) Hello, oh it's you. I'm kinda busy. Sure I can come over and see you at work. What? No one's there? Your boss has left early? You want to do what? We'll talk about that when I get there. (BOOTH looks at REMO) I'm talking to a special friend. No, not her! She doesn't hate you. I'm sure. I'll tell you later. Yes I coming. Soon! Bye.

(BOOTH hangs up the cell phone and looks at REMO. REMO walks over to BOOTH and kisses her softly on her lips.)

REMO

Go. Go to. I'll have no more of it. It has made me mad. Go. (Beat) Have fun chasing Remo from now on.

BOOTH

What?

REMO

So you don't know lines from sci-fi or classic movies either. (Beat) Just go Booth.

BOOTH

Remo I'll talk to you later, I have to go. This isn't over. I'm not done with you yet. I may call you on your cell later tonight.

REMO

It's never over when more than one person is involved in a relationship. I say that we have no more marriage, and the world would be a happier place. No more relationships and there would be peace on the Earth. (REMO stares into BOOTH'S eyes for a moment. BOOTH'S breaks the stare and looks down to the floor.) Bye.

(BOOTH walks towards the door and looks at REMO before she walks out of REMO'S apartment. REMO sits on the futon and picks up a joystick to a video game. REMO'S cell rings. He picks up the cell phone.)

Tawny. No it's cool. I understand, take care of your son. Is he all right? Good. No. No. No! Have a good night. No we didn't do anything. Are you sober now? Don't worry, I wouldn't have done anything anyways. What do you mean that I'm complicated! And you aren't? I knew it! I knew that you were yanking my chain! What was it? Hum, I guess it was the 'practically raping you' line. Yeah that was classic. Yeah, it was in *Time After Time*. Mary Steenburgen. Yeah. Ok. By the way, did I ever have a chance with you? (Beat) Ok, so I never had a chance with you but you did think about it! How long did you think about it? (Beat) Thirty seconds!?! That's all? Well I guess that would be all that I would've needed anyways. So you only date really tall guys or really rich ones? I see. I wonder what would've happen if I tried something sooner? Yeah, I guess we'll never know. Ok. Yeah. I'll see you out and about next week. No I can't, I giving a computer security talk in Austin next week. Maybe the next week. I have a few coupons left. Ha ha! Don't take that tone with me young lady! Ok, I'll talk to you when I see you kiddo. Yes, you'll always be my special little hippie chick. I can't wait when we go to Cali. Yeah one day. Me too. Goodnight.

(REMO goes to his computer laptop. He types a few characters on the keyboard. Then looks at the screen.)

Finally I'm alone. Dealing with all of these broads is giving me a headache. Less drama when I just stay home and watch *Star Trek*. Hey, (REMO looks at his watch) it's almost time for *Star Trek* to come on. Rock and Roll baby! Ok, I still have to check my email. (Beat) Sera? I got an email from Sera? Man, haven't seen or heard from her in a long time. I wonder what she wants? I'll have to get her to go out with me to the Chinese buffet when she gets back in town. Well it's been a long day. I guess I'll sleep well tonight. Having dreams about dancing robots. With lasers too! Three hearts (REMO looks at his cell phone), cell phones and some robots, what a dream that'll be! Maybe there will be a few hot girls in my dreams as well. Some Starships too. I can always....hope.

(REMO'S Cell phone rings.)

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.)

FADE OUT

THE END