

LET'S GO TO CALI

by Herbert M. Midgley
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A small college town in the south

CHARACTERS:

REMO – A virgin in his 30's

TAWNY – Not a virgin in her 20's

SCENE ONE

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 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 worst 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*! Ahhhhhhhhh!!

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 frowns.)

THE END