

DREAMS THAT CAN NEVER BE

by Herbert M. Midgley

© 2004 by Herbert Midgley All Rights Reserved

TIME: Present

PLACE: A small college town in the south

CHARACTERS:

ROBERT - college student

TIFFANY - A college student

JANE - TIFFANY's friend

SANDY - ROBERT's sister

DAVE - ROBERT's friend

SCENE ONE

In ROBERT's bedroom. The room is messy with a lot of sci-fi paraphernalia. ROBERT is sitting on his bed writing a letter.

SANDY

(SANDY opens the door with out knocking and comes in laughing)

I can't believe it. I just can't believe it! I know. I know, I know I know.

ROBERT

(Deadpan)

What do you know Sandy?

(ROBERT continues to write the letter)

SANDY

I just know Robert. Robert I can't believe it. It's unbelievable. Who do you think you are?

ROBERT

I'm kinda of busy right now. Do you want something Sandy, or are you just in my room to bug me?

SANDY

Robert, I know *who* you like.

(This gets ROBERT's attention. This is the first time he looks away from his letter. SANDY starts to laugh at ROBERT.)

ROBERT

You don't know anything. Get out of my room! Why don't you go play with your Barbies or something? I think I can hear a dingo eat your Barbies.

SANDY

Her name starts with a T and ends with a Y.

(ROBERT's face goes blank. ROBERT stands up at looks at SANDY)

ROBERT

So what. I'm cool.

SANDY

Tiffany. You like Tiffany. I can't believe it. It took me a few months to finally figure it out. To piece it all together. I can't believe it. It's so sad. So sad.

ROBERT

I don't like her.

(ROBERT looks down at the letter he was writing.)

SANDY

You do. You do. YOU DO! You protest a bit too much me thinks. You have got to be out of you mind! Robert, look at you. And look at her. Tiffany is prim and proper and you. You are the "Captain of the Enterprise".

(SANDY waves her arms around and gives a Vulcan hand sign in ROBERT's face)

You are out of your mind Robert! Man....

ROBERT

(ROBERT sits back down on his bed)

Yeah, I know. I'm too good for her. She is lucky to have me like her.

SANDY

(SANDY gives ROBERT a military salute)

Aye aye, Captain. Yeah you are *too* good for her. *What* was I thinking? Man, is she a *lucky* girl to have you like her.

(SANDY starts to laugh)

ROBERT

I don't see why you are laughing. It is possible for us to hook up.

SANDY

Yeah, if you were both trapped on the planet *Vulcan*. She is a preacher's daughter for crying out loud! Do you think that her daddy is going to let his only daughter go out with you? They don't even allow dancing at her church and you think you have a chance with her? Man, I guess you really are on that *Starship*.

ROBERT

She has feelings for me.

SANDY

She sure does. She has feelings of vomit in her mouth every time she sees you. Maybe that is why she is so anorexic. And what is it with you and skinny girls? Do you think that you could pick up any girls like that? Look at you, Robert. You are a mess.

(SANDY waves her arms at all of the junk in ROBERT's room)

ROBERT

We've talked. She can see the real person on the inside.

SANDY

Ok, then why is it that every time you sit by her, she bobbles her head around looking for a way out? And when she sees you, she walks the other direction. And when she can't get away from you and has to talk to you she looks like she is about to explode with shame. Yeah brother, you are going to get that girl.

(SANDY starts to laugh again)

ROBERT

I will get her to go out with me one day.

SANDY

You can't even get her to go have a cup of coffee with you.

ROBERT

I don't drink coffee.

SANDY

You know what I am saying. Ask her out big boy. And she'll shoot you and your Starship down so fast that even Captain Kirk couldn't save you. You are living in a dream world Robert. Why don't you move out of your parent's basement and get a life and quit telling everyone that you are a Starship captain. If you don't, you'll be thirty years old and still haven't kissed a girl. Grow up or you'll never get any girls to like you.

ROBERT

I don't want any girl. I want Tiffany.

SANDY

She is a preacher's daughter. If for some reason you could convince her to go out with you, her daddy would have a heart attack. And if he even thought that you would try to go out with his daughter, he would write you a check for \$10,000 to leave his precious prim and proper daughter alone. Man, Robert.

ROBERT

It is Manifest Destiny for us to hook up. One day, we will marry. If we don't, I'll give you \$10,000.

SANDY

Woo hoo! That's easy money. Money in the bank for me.

(SANDY walks out of the door.)

What am I going to do with all of that money? Robert and Tiffany sitting in a tree....

(SANDY laughs as she closes the door.)

SCENE TWO

(In TIFFANY's bedroom. Her room is the complete opposite of ROBERT's, it is neat and tidy. JANE knocks on TIFFANY's door. TIFFANY is on her bed writing a letter)

TIFFANY

Who is it?

JANE

It's room service. I am here to deliver the shrimp cocktail you ordered.

TIFFANY

Jane, you silly, come on in.

JANE

Tiffany what you are working on?

TIFFANY

Oh, nothing. Jane how was your day at school?

JANE

I got to talk Robert for a second. He is great. I wished that he would ask me out. I would say no of course, a girl has to play hard to get to get anywhere with a guy. You know Tiffany.

TIFFANY

I suppose so. Did he ask about me?

JANE

Yes he did. He always asks for you.

TIFFANY

I think that he likes me at times. He has never come out and said it, but I get that feeling when I am around him.

JANE

You aren't going to date him are you?

TIFFANY

I suppose not. Robert would never ask me out. He knows better.

JANE

Good.

TIFFANY

Still, there is something about Robert. Something that not everyone can see. He is special. A great guy in a lot of ways.

JANE

Tiffany, he is the "Captain of the Enterprise". He is more than special. But you are right. He is a little bit cute in his own way. I bet that he could make a girl happy if you know what I mean.

TIFFANY

Jane, you had better watch your mouth in my house. If my father were to hear you.

JANE

Where is the *preach* anyways?

TIFFANY

He is at a funeral. It seems like every other week another member of our church dies. At times it seems like we are all just waiting to die.

JANE

I'm glad that I'm *not* a member of your church.

TIFFANY

Jane, you are such a silly today. I don't know what I would do if Robert were to ask me out. What does a girl say to a guy that she can never go out with?

JANE

You tell him that your best friend has a crush on him and that he should ask her out.

TIFFANY

No, silly, I am serious. I like him. I don't want to hurt him.

JANE

You know you can't go out with him. Your father...

TIFFANY

I know. My father. My mother. Even my grandparents. They would all die if I was seen out with him.

JANE

He is not a member of our church. He's not religious is he? Does he even go to church?

TIFFANY

He is religious, not the same way we are. He won't be saved by the Rapture like us, but I don't think that he is doomed for eternity in Hades. We have spent many hours talking.

JANE

Talking about what?

TIFFANY

Stuff. Everything. He can be so kind. I wished that I didn't have to be this way.

JANE

But....

TIFFANY

But I do. Well, it doesn't matter. He won't ask me out anyways.

JANE

I bet 10,000 dollars that you are right. But he could still ask me out.

TIFFANY

Jane Allison Smith, your mother would disown you if you did. Well, I have to finish this letter. I'll see you in a few hours at church.

JANE

Ok. But remember what we have talked about Tiffany.

(JANE gives TIFFANY a wink.)

TIFFANY

Bye bye you silly little girl.

SCENE THREE

(The next day outside a college classroom)

DAVE

Robert, man I don't know what to tell you. You know that I am a stud with the ladies, but my man, you have no game. Captain of a Starship yes, game with the ladies no.

ROBERT

What are you saying Dave? I have game. All the females want a piece of the R-machine.

DAVE

Ok, stud boy, then ask her. There she is. Coming out of class.

ROBERT

Maybe you are right Dave. I should go up there and ask her out.

DAVE

There you go R-Man, go start you mackin' G. I have to get to my physics lab. I'm late already, see later G. Later stud boy.

(DAVE gives ROBERT a high-fi hand shake as ROBERT walks off)

ROBERT

Later man.

(TIFFANY walks out of class with books in her hands. ROBERT walks over to her)

ROBERT
Hello Ms. Tiffany. How are you doing today?

TIFFANY
(She doesn't look at him and muffles)
OK.

(TIFFANY starts to walk away)
ROBERT
(ROBERT gets in the way of TIFFANY)
Tiffany, let's talk.

TIFFANY
I can't, I have to study for my next class.

ROBERT
Well, then sometime when you are not busy, why don't we go out to eat? Do you like pizza?

TIFFANY
I am busy most of the time. You know that I have to do well in school. And the rest of my time goes to my church activities.

ROBERT
I know that you like pizza. You told me that the last time we talked. Everybody has to eat. So why not eat with me?

TIFFANY
Robert, I couldn't.

ROBERT
(ROBERT steps into the spotlight and pulls out the letter that he has been writing)
Dear Tiffany,

I guess that I have to write you another letter that I will never give you. See Tiffany, I am in so much in love with you. My body aches of pain sometimes because of it. Whenever I see you, my heart stops. I can't get you out of my mind. I think about you all of the time. I have tried to chase after other girls, but it doesn't work. All I can see is your face when I look at them. There is something so special about you.

You are not the most prettiest girl on the world. You are not the smartest or the greatest pianist. But that doesn't matter to me. We are soul mates you and I. It was our destiny to meet here in this small country college. And I know that we are meant to be together. I feel it in every fiber of my being. We have to be together.

When I see you talk to other guys, a piece of me dies. When I hear you talk about the losers that you are forced to date, I want to die. And those times when no one else is around, when you can finally open up to me. I can see your soul. And then you see my soul.

See Tiffany, it doesn't matter what others think about us. If it is a true love, like what we have for each other, then it is wrong not to act on it.

Tiffany I have tried and tried to get you to go out with me. You always find a way to get out of it. But I know you. I know that you are in love me. With all of you heart and soul too.

Forget your friends. Forget your family. Forget all of the things that are keeping us apart. We are in love. And you know that deep down in side. You know the place, the place where the little man talks to you. The place that you keep under lock and key when others are around. In that secret place you know that you are in love with me. I can see it in your eyes when you can look at me. Those beautiful eyes that you have. And when I look at them, I see a little girl that is so afraid of what others are thinking or going to think, that she can't be happy. You can't allow yourself to be happy, because that would mean that your whole world is wrong.

Tiffany, please give us a chance. In life, you only get so many chances at happiness, so you have grab each one that you can. Don't make this a dream that can never be.

Tiffany, one date. This all that I ask from you. We will know for sure then. One small date. Please my love, give us a chance.

(ROBERT falls back and TIFFANY steps into the spotlight and pulls out her letter)

TIFFANY

Dear Robert,

Robert I am writing you beg you not to ask me out. Because if you do, I might say yes. And I can't say yes. And you know why. And I hate myself because I can't be with you.

You can't understand what it is to be in my life. Always the preacher's daughter. The good girl. The perfect girl. The girl that will be able to wear white at her wedding. That girl. This is the girl that you fell in love with. And this is girl that can never go out with you. I have no choice.

I can remember the first time we met. The way that you looked at me with your eyes, I started to feel uneasy. But then you said something stupid, and you got me to laugh and I knew that I could trust you. I could feel right away that we should be together. And right there I knew that we couldn't.

Your hair was too long and that worn out jean jacket you had on. What would members of my church think if they saw us together? Or worst yet my parents. But even though I didn't let on at the time, I liked you first second I saw you. And that was the one time in my life that I wished that I wasn't so religious, so that I could be with you.

Then when we started to talk, I realized that you were more religious than I was. I am only religious because I am the preacher's daughter. And for the rest of my life, that is what I'll be, unless I marry a preacher. Then I'll be the preacher's wife.

So Robert, don't hate me for not having the courage to be together. I will all ways love you. With all of my heart and soul. No matter what happens, you'll always be special to me. And I guess that I will always be the girl that you could never get. A dream that can never be. Forgive me Robert.

(TIFFANY steps out of the spotlight)

TIFFANY

Robert, I just can't go out before mid-terms. My mother says I mustn't.

ROBERT

Mid-terms are a month away.

TIFFANY

I know that.

(JANE walks up to TIFFANY)

JANE

Hey girl, you want to get some lunch before our next class. Hi *Robert*.

(ROBERT does not look at JANE, ROBERT and TIFFANY are still focus on each for a pregnant moment.)

TIFFANY

(TIFFANY finally looks away from ROBERT and looks at JANE with a big smile.)

Yes, let's do that. I am so hungry.

SANDY

(SANDY walks up to Robert. SANDY gives TIFFANY a weird look then looks at ROBERT with a big smile.)

So, are you still going to hook up with her?

ROBERT

Maybe.

SANDY

Yeah, as in maybe never. I am already counting my money. Let me buy you lunch big brother.
(SANDY starts to laugh)

(TIFFANY and JANE start to walk away as is ROBERT and SANDY. At the same time, TIFFANY and ROBERT stop walking and look back at one another. They stare into each others eyes. At that moment, they both know that they are in love with one another. Both couples walk off the stage.)

THE END