

PLEASE DON'T WALK OUT THAT DOOR.

By Herbert Midgley

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TIME: Present, Mid February, in the afternoon.

PLACE: A computer lab in the school that SKINNY works at and URI attends.

CHARACTERS:

SKINNY is thirty. He is a tall skinny white guy that wears jeans, white tee shirts and a baseball cap. He has a job as warehouse manger in a school district. He never went to college.

URI is twenty-two. She is a short and thin with long black hair and is second generation Korean-American. She is a college student that is studying pre-medicine. She also works in the Chinese Buffet that her family owns.

SKINNY walks to the computer lab and tries to unlock the door. He fumbles a bit with the key.

SKINNY

Man, that stupid door. It always sticks. I thought that maintenance was supposed to fix that last week. (SKINNY shakes his head) I can't believe that I didn't get all of those serial numbers off the computers the last time I was here. I guess that I had someone on my mind. That girl could make anyone forget anything. Uri, the love of my life, girl you are driving me crazy. I wished I had the nerve to tell. Maybe one day.

(As SKINNY opens the door he sees someone sitting in a chair. He can hear someone crying. He flips on the lights.)

SKINNY

Whose there? (SKINNY looks at the person.) Uri, is that you? What are you doing here?

(URI continues to cry. She is looking down at her hands. SKINNY walks over to her.)

SKINNY

Uri, what's the matter honey?

(SKINNY stands there for an awkward minute. Then an article from a newspaper falls to the ground from URI's hands. It is an obituary. SKINNY bends down to pick it up. And reads it out loud.)

SKINNY

Kwan Kim, 24, passed away Tuesday night in Longview, Texas in a motorcycle accident.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Sunrise Chapel.

Mr. Kim is survived by his father, mother and sister.

(SKINNY puts down the obituary and gets closer to URI. URI is now balling stronger than ever. SKINNY puts his arms around her. URI remains still.)

SKINNY

Uri, I don't know what to say. I am too stunned to talk. What can I say? Uri? Do you want to talk about it?

URI

No.

SKINNY

Kwan was always so cool to me. I can't believe that he is gone. I know that you two were close. How are your parents taking it?

URI

They are still in denial. My mother hasn't left her room all day. My father is still in shock. He hasn't said a word to anyone since it happen.

SKINNY

Tell me your feelings. Uri what are feeling?

URI

I can't focus right now. There is this pain that is running all through my body. An emptiness, a void in my gut that can never be filled again. He was my brother, and I can believe that he is gone. That stupid bike. Why did he what to drive that thing, I still don't understand. Did you know that my mother begged him not to buy it?

SKINNY

Yeah. He told me.

URI

He never would listen to advice like that. He was so bull headed sometimes, that I wanted to scream. I am so mad at him right now. But that doesn't take way the pain. I don't know if I could ever be happy again. He has only been gone a few hours and I miss me so much.

SKINNY

Kwan loved life. He loved you a lot. He told me if I hurt you that he would Kung-Fu me.

URI

He didn't know Kung-Fu.

SKINNY

I know. But he cared about you so much. He talked about you all of the time. So proud that his sister was going to be a doctor one day. He loved your family a lot.

URI

I know. He also loved that buffet.

SKINNY

Man, he did so much work at the buffet. From can to can't as I told him one time. This was a saying that my grandpa use to tell me all the time. That's a sign of a good man, he would always tell me. My grandpa would have like Kwan. He liked hard workers like your brother. Man, Kwan used to live at that buffet. I think that he was there more than your father was. He wanted to make that place a major success.

URI

The buffet was his life. It was a dream that he and my father had. It is hard to have a Chinese Buffet in East Texas. No knows what sushi is.

SKINNY

Yeah, by the way, what is sushi?

URI

You see what I mean? (URI smiles for the first time. Then she goes back to her frown.) Skinny, you know that I will have to drop out of college now.

SKINNY

Your parents won't let you do that. They worked so hard so that you could become a doctor. Kwan told me that was the main reason they opened up the buffet in this college town was so that they could put you through school.

URI

Skinny, the buffet is barely making any money. That is why we have only a hand full of workers. That new sushi bar has put a dent in our business. Before us, no one even knew what sushi was in this town, and now everyone wants to eat high price sushi. Like they even know what sushi is supposed to taste like. I don't even know what sushi is supposed to taste like.

SKINNY

Uri, honey, don't worry. We'll find a way to get you through college. Even if you have to go only part-time and take night classes, you'll graduate. You'll become a doctor.

URI

No. No I won't. I'll spend the rest of my life in that buffet. To continue the work that my brother and father had started. There is no other way. You don't see how exhausted my father and mother are when they come home. I *have* to help out. They are killing themselves to put me through college. I have to drop out.

SKINNY

We'll find a way. If not, you still have me. (SKINNY winks in a joking manner to URI. URI doesn't react.)

URI

No.

SKINNY

What do you mean no?

URI

We are-

SKINNY

What are you trying to say?

URI

It is tradition that when you have lost a family member that was close to you that you have to morn one full year. During this time of morning, I can't have any fun or joy.

SKINNY

That doesn't make sense. This is the time when you need me the most. Uri I care for you so much. Don't do this.

URI

I have to. I care for you too. But this is a time when my family needs me more than ever. I have to follow the traditions of my family and culture. Please understand and respect that.

SKINNY

Uri, it's not only that I care for you. I am in love with you. I have to be with you. Without you, I am not complete. I'm sorry I haven't told you before now.

URI

It wouldn't have mattered. You're not Korean. My dad would have found out sooner or later and forbid me from seeing you.

SKINNY

Uri, you are in a state of shock. Let's talk about it later.

URI

There is nothing to talk about. Goodbye Skinny.

SKINNY

Uri, don't do this.

URI

I have no choice. I don't want to do it, but can't you see that I have to? I have no other alternatives. Have a good life, Skinny.

SKINNY

I'll wait for you. A year isn't that long of a time.

URI

Don't. Move on.

(SKINNY tries to block URI from walking out, but URI walks around him. She looks in to his eyes before she closes the door. SKINNY sits down in the same chair that URI was in a few moments before. SKINNY starts to weep.)

THE END

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