

Rock Paper Scissors

by
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EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

Rows of orange trees stretch for miles and a dirt path cuts through the grove. A rumbling and yelling can be heard getting closer - a tire rolls by with PENNY (9, baseball cap) curled inside. The whine of a small motor follows and BRENT COCHRANE (9, freckled, wife beater) zips by on a motorized bike. The grove is momentarily quiet until TINY (9, gut hanging out) jogs past breathing heavily.

A group of workers on the way home from the fields, pauses momentarily as the tire rolls by them.

EXT. JUNKYARD - DAY

The tire rolls by a tall mound of junk surrounded by a tall fence adorned with warning signs. Brent follows the tire closely and Tiny stops for a rest. A vicious dog slams up against the fence sending Tiny running.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

In the parking lot, a group of men and women look up from their lawn chairs and put down their beer as the tire passes by. An old man stops strumming his guitar momentarily, but starts again once the tire is out of sight.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

The tire rolls by rows of rundown bungalows that used to be white, adorned with Christmas lights strung over satellite dishes. It comes crashing to a halt in a poorly kept garden. Penny spills from the tire onto the ground and stumbles as she tries to gain her footing. Brent arrives out of breath followed by Tiny, both bend down clutching their knees.

TINY

That...was...awesome.

PENNY

I totally beat your record, by like a trillion miles.

BRENT

So what? I bet you won't climb to the top of the junk pile.

PENNY
Neither will you!

They both look at Tiny who just shakes his head.

BRENT
Rock, paper scissors.

Penny and Tiny look at each other reluctantly and then hold out their clenched fists. The three fist converge -

SUPER: ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

- the sound of a motor approaches and the children lift their heads in time to see TAYLOR COCHRANE (19, scrawny) and AMANDA (18, short-shorts) zip by on a moped. Amanda's blonde hair flies in the wind and she smiles, hugging Taylor tightly. Brent and Tiny stare - mouths slightly open. The moped rounds the corner and Brent takes off in pursuit, Tiny and Penny follow.

EXT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW - DAY

Underneath the rusted out shell of a car Brent lies flat on his stomach with his hands raised to his eyes like binoculars. Tiny lies to his right, and Penny lies beside him. All three are intently watching the action across the street where Amanda is sitting on Taylor's lap. Brent puts down his binoculars and looks to his friends.

BRENT
We have to be careful, these animals can be dangerous.

Taylor slides his hand up the inside of Amanda's leg.

PENNY
Why is he doing that?

BRENT
Because stupid, they're gonna do it.

Taylor and Amanda disappear into the house. The children run across the street to the garden. Brent helps Penny up onto Tiny's shoulders so she can peer in through the window.

BRENT (CONT'D)
Well?!

PENNY
They're on the couch...and they don't
have any shirts on!

TINY
How come they have their shirts off?

BRENT
Cause they're fucking.

TINY
Huh?

BRENT
(rolling his eyes)
You know...rubbing bellies together? I
bet you'd be good at it, your belly is
huge!

Tiny looks down at his stomach and turns red.

TINY
You think so?

BRENT
Are you kidding? This right here...
(puts hands on Tiny's belly)
Is every lady's dream.

MR. COCHRANE (50, balding) stands in the driveway holding
a pack of beer staring at Brent as he cups Tiny's belly.

MR. COCHRANE
What in the name of hell?

Tiny spins around causing Penny to desperately cling to
the windowsill her feet crashing against the side of the
trailer. The door swings open and Taylor is standing in
the doorway with no shirt on. He looks at Penny clining
to the window and then down at Brent.

TAYLOR
I'm gonna kill you Brent!

Penny falls onto her bum and the children scatter.

EXT. DIRT PATH - DAY

The three children clutch their knees and gasp for
breath.

BRENT
That was so cool.

TINY
I wish I had a girlfriend, just so I
could do it.

PENNY
(casting a glance at Tiny)
You wish you had a girlfriend?

TINY
Not to like hold hands and stuff.

BRENT
No way, holding hands sucks.

PENNY
Yeah only mom's and grandma's do that-

BRENT
But fucking is awesome. I bet you'd be
too chicken.

Tiny shakes his head in defiance. The sound of a man's
voice yelling startles the children. They turn towards
the back porch of a green trailer where MR. THOMPSON (45,
beer gut, wife beater) is yelling at RACHEL(13, dark
haired, plaid skirt) and MARILYN(12, dark haired, punk
clothes).

MR. THOMPSON
What did I tell you girls about smoking?

RACHEL
Not in the house.

MARILYN
Not in the house.

Mr. Thompson slams the door and Rachel and Marilyn
simultaneously light up.

PENNY
I heard Rachel Thompson got caught in the
bathroom at school with Danny Staines.

BRENT
Yeah and my brother, says her sister,
sometimes drinks beer with them at
parties.

TINY
I bet they do it all the time.

Brent and Tiny watch as Rachel and Marilyn smoke their cigarettes. The boys look at each other at the same moment.

TINY (CONT'D)
I'll do it if you ask them.

BRENT
No way, you ask them.

TINY
Rock, paper, scissors.

Tiny and Brent clench their fists and face each other, at the same time they both turn to Penny who is playing with a piece of gum.

PENNY
What?

TINY
Rock, paper, scissors.

PENNY
No way, I don't want to have sex with them.

BRENT
It doesn't matter, it's rock paper scissors, you can't say no to rock paper scissors. That's the rule.

Penny sighs and shakes her head, but she clenches her hand in a fist and signals that she is ready. Brent, Tiny and Penny chant "Rock, Paper, Scissors" in unison while pumping their fists.

EXT. THOMPSON TRAILER - DAY

Penny stands on one side of the fence staring at her feet. Rachel and Marilyn are looking down at her in disbelief.

RACHEL
(exhaling from her cigarette)
They want to know what?

PENNY
They want to know if you guys will, you know, do it...with them.
(Penny looks up expectantly)
But you don't want to, right?

Rachel and Marilyn look at each other seriously for a moment and then burst out laughing.

MARILYN

Sure, tell them to meet us down by the river tonight.

PENNY

What?

RACHEL

What?!

Marilyn shoots Rachel a look that silences her.

MARILYN

But tell them they have to bring beer.

Rachel glances slyly at her sister, then back to Penny.

RACHEL

And cigarettes.

The two girls look at each other again and burst out laughing as Penny shuffles away.

EXT. DIRT PATH - DAY

Brent and Tiny look at Penny in expectation.

PENNY

(depressed)

They said they'd do it.

The boys whoop in excitement.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(Quickly)

But they said you have to bring beer and cigarettes.

BRENT

Of course, my parents always drink before doing it.

TINY

Yeah my dad always smells like cigarettes after he does it with my mom.

PENNY

Your dad always smells like cigarettes.

BRENT

That's cause his dad is always doing it,
even if it isn't with his mom.

Tiny punches Brent in the shoulder.

PENNY

(mock depression)

Too bad you guys don't have any beer or
cigarettes.

Brent thinks for a second then takes off running. Tiny quickly follows. He looks back and sees Penny standing still.

TINY

C'mon!

Tiny waves and Penny reluctantly follows.

INT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW - DAY

Brent sneaks into the kitchen and opens the fridge, but there is no beer inside. He pokes his head into the living room and looks around. Mr. Cochrane is sitting in a Lazy-Boy with his back to the entrance, he has a cooler on one side of his chair, and the dog is sleeping on the other side. The football game is playing on television.

BRENT

Dad?

Brent's father does not respond, but his snoring can be heard. Brent gathers some courage and begins to creep across the living room. Tiny's face appears in the window and quickly disappears followed by a crash. Brent looks expectantly at his father, no movement. He continues across the floor, as he gets closer the dog lifts his head and barks. Brent puts his hand up to quieten the dog and then glances up at his father. Mr. Cochrane is still snoring and a small bit of drool is hanging from his mouth. Brent quickly covers the remaining steps and reaches into the cooler, he pulls out two beer bottles and as he does so they clink together. Mr. Cochrane's arm shoots out grabbing Brent. Brent yells, drops the beer bottles and bolts out the front door.

EXT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW - DAY

Brent runs up to Tiny and Penny who are hiding in the bushes. Tiny looks disappointed as he sees Brent returning empty handed.

BRENT

I was lucky to get out of there alive.
What about your dad?

TINY

My mom doesn't let him drink anymore.

Both boys look at Penny pleading, but she just shakes her head. Brent and Tiny sit down in the dirt utterly depressed. Penny looks at her friends and sighs.

PENNY

What if we got some money?

EXT. TINY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Tiny's father BRODY (44, rail thin, smoking) is standing with a soapy sponge in hand looking down at Tiny in disbelief.

BRODY

What do you need money for?

Tiny looks around sheepishly, he looks back to the bushes where Brent and Penny are hiding, they urge him to ask with their frantic gestures.

TINY

Girls.

Brody laughs until he realizes his son is serious.

BRODY

(Bending down)

Tiny you remember when I bought your mom that shirt, and then she wanted the pants that matched?

Tiny nods.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Well don't make the same mistake that I did and buy the shirt.

TINY

I promise I'm not gonna buy a shirt dad,
can I please just have some money.

Brody shakes his head but fishes in his pocket for change. Tiny grabs the money from his hand and begins to run away.

BRODY

(calling after him)
You're gonna learn the hard way.

INT. GENERAL STORE/GAS STATION - DAY

The bell chimes as the door opens, flies buzz in the windows and a fan keeps the warm air moving. RUSSELL (25, greasy, toothpick) stands at the counter and watches Brent, Penny and Tiny make their way down the aisle towards the refrigerator. They see a couple standing at the fridge and they stop to watch. MRS. BELLE (28, skinny, short skirt) is standing on her tiptoes reaching for some beer while JEFF (35, slick hair, ripped jeans) holds her waist. Penny sees the couple and stops in her tracks.

BRENT

I'd like to do it with her.

TINY

Isn't that your mom Penny?

Brent and Tiny turn around to find Penny hiding in the makeup aisle. They shrug and continue on down towards the refrigerator.

BRENT

I'd still do her.

Penny picks up a compact and studies her mom in the reflection. She sees JEFF slide his hand up her back, then the couple runs to the front of the store to pay. Penny steals a glance at her mom, taking note of her bright red lipstick and heavily made up face.

At the back of the store Brent stands on a milk carton and grabs a case of beer. The boys walk towards the counter but stop in front of a shelf of condoms. Brent grabs Tiny's arm.

BRENT (CONT'D)

We need to get these. I always see them
in my brother's room.

Brent picks up a pack of flavoured condoms.

TINY
What are they for?

BRENT
I think they make the girl scream.

TINY
Scream?

BRENT
Yeah like (sex noise) Ooahh!

Penny turns to watch Tiny as he laughs at Brent's antics. She then looks at her own reflection, and tries taking off her hat. She looks to the counter where she sees Russell watching the boys and she quickly stuffs the compact and some lipstick into her pocket.

Brent and Tiny bring the beer and the condoms up to the counter and place them down on the counter. Russell looks down at them skeptically.

TINY
And some cigarettes please.

RUSSELL
What brand?

Brent and Tiny look at each other and then look up at the rows of cigarettes behind the counter. The first name they see is "VIRGINIA SLIMS"

TINY
(With authority)
Virgin Slimes.

RUSSELL
Look kid, I'm not gonna sell you this beer, or the cigarettes cause you have to be 21.

Brent and Tiny are crushed.

TINY
How bout these?

He holds up the box of condoms. Russell shrugs and takes the change from Tiny's hand and puts the condoms in a bag.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

An old man sits on a bench strumming his guitar and singing a sorrowful Spanish love song. Brent and Tiny plop themselves down next to him. Tiny is inspecting the contents of the box of condoms, he shoves one in his pocket. Penny approaches the bench cautiously, her hat is in her hands and makeup is poorly applied to her face. She nervously sits at the edge of the bench and begins to inch herself closer to Tiny who stares off into space.

Rachel and Marilyn walk down the street on the way to the general store. Marilyn is wearing a short top, revealing her belly button ring. The two girls giggle as they wave at Brent and Tiny.

TINY

Man did you see her belly.

BRENT

(Depressed)

Definitely fuckable.

Penny shoves her hat on and storms off down the road.

TINY

What's her problem.

Brent shugs, Tiny gets up and follows Penny.

EXT. GAS STATION (BEHIND THE BUILDING) - DAY

Tiny struggles to catch up with Penny.

TINY

Wait up, where are you going?

Penny pivots on a dime and turns back to Tiny, she crosses the distance between them cornering him.

PENNY

Let's do it.

TINY

What?

PENNY

(nervously)

You know...uh...Fuck.

Tiny looks at Penny totally confused.

PENNY (CONT'D)
I thought you wanted to do it?

TINY
I do, but...

Penny awkwardly lifts up her shirt and sticks out her belly, Tiny looks at her exposed belly button and then up at her nervous face. He looks around to make sure no one is looking and then rolls up his shirt. The two rub their stomachs together.

TINY (CONT'D)
Do you feel anything?

PENNY
Not really

TINY
Oh, wait - I almost forgot.

He pulls a condom from his pocket and hands her one.

PENNY
What do I do with this?

Tiny shrugs, Penny looks at the colorful wrapping on the condom, she opens it and smells one.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Strawberry?

She licks the condom and grimaces.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Eeeew.

She offers it to Tiny who licks it and then throws it onto the ground frustrated.

TINY
They must be broken.

PENNY
Doing it kind of sucks.

TINY
(crimson red)
No you suck, Rachel and Marilyn would know what to do.

Penny turns and storms away.

TINY (CONT'D)

Penny wait!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Penny stomps along a dirt path, her anger gradually subsiding. In the thicket she hears men's voices yelling, she pushes aside the brush and begins to trek into the forest. She comes to a clearing where there is a crowd of men sitting in their lawn chairs in a circle. Many of the men are drinking and have coolers beside them. In the centre of the circle a man is wrestling an alligator. The audience cheers as he struggles with the animal. Penny crawls on her hands and knees towards the edge of the circle where a fat man is sitting. Beside his chair is a cooler and on top of the cooler is a pack of cigarettes. Lying flat on her stomach she reaches up and grabs the smokes stuffing them in her pocket. She reaches up again struggling to open the cooler. She reaches her hand inside pulling out two beers. The alligator momentarily manages to get out of the man's grasp and the crowd yells. The fat man in the lawn chair sways to one side, his chair teetering momentarily on one side. The chair comes down with a thud trapping Penny's ponytail underneath. There is fear in Penny's eyes as she struggles to free her hair. With her face pressed against the ground she can see the man in the centre grappling with the beast. The man looks directly at Penny and winks, then he thrusts the animal onto its back. The crowd stands up cheering, including the fat man that has Penny trapped under his chair. Penny scrambles away to safety.

INT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW - DAY

Brent and Tiny are watching TV, the box of open condoms sits on the coffee table in front of them.

BRENT

Why'd you buy those things anyways?

TINY

I thought we might still do it with Rachel and Marilyn.

BRENT

Yeah right. You're such an idiot Tiny.

TINY
Are you scared?

EXT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW (GARDEN) - DAY

Penny tramps furiously through the garden stopping beneath the window.

BRENT
No I'd be doing it right now if you
didn't mess up with the beer-

TINY
Me? How's it my fault?

BRENT
(mockingly)
Virgin Slimes

TINY
You didn't know what they were called
either.

BRENT
Whatever. If we had beer and cigarettes
I'd so be doing it with Marilyn.

Penny chucks two cans of beer and a pack of cigarettes through the open window and stomps away.

INT. COCHRANE BUNGALOW - DAY

Brent and Tiny look at the beer and cigarettes and then look at each other.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

Brent and Tiny stare, mouths hanging open, at the exposed bellies of Rachel and Marilyn.

RACHEL
Where'd you find this cheap shit?

The girls stand non-chalant, hands on hips, taking drags from their cigarettes. Tiny and Brent continue to stare not saying anything, noticing the girls lips, smoke exhaling, breasts, occasionally catching snippits of conversation.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

So Mar, do you want the deaf kid or the mute kid?

MARILYN

Okay boys close your eyes...

RACHEL

...I'm gonna put my nipple in your mouth.

Brent and Tiny look at each other and wipe sweat from their foreheads, they close their eyes grimacing, lips puckered. Rachel and Marilyn turn around and fish in a cooler pulling out two soggy hotdogs. They turn around to find that the boys have disappeared.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - NIGHT

Brent and Tiny walk along the dirt path avoiding each others eyes, Brent is throwing rocks at the trees.

BRENT

Marilyn looked kind of fat.

TINY

Totally fat.

BRENT

So you want to like, throw eggs at their house or something?

Tiny shrugs, he looks over towards the junk pile, a bright white light shines across the yard. He peers closer noticing a small person sitting at the top of the heap. The white light illuminates her.

BRENT(CONT'D)

What are you lookin at.

TINY

Huh? Oh, nothing.

BRENT

I've got some eggs at my place.

EXT. JUNK YARD - NIGHT

Penny sits on the hood of a car staring out over the orange groves. A dog is sleeping in the front seat.

There is a rattling sound and Tiny's face pokes up over the hood of the car. Penny notices Tiny and turns her back on him.

TINY
Can I sit down?

PENNY
It's a free country.

Tiny sits awkwardly on the hood away from Penny.

PENNY (CONT'D)
So how'd it go?

TINY
Rachel's not really my type.

Penny tries to hide a smile.

EXT. THOMPSON BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Brent lobs a few eggs unenthusiastically at the house. Getting no response he shrugs his shoulders and begins to wander away. He hears a soft strumming of a guitar and rounds the corner to investigate. A small group of community members are gathered together around a fire. The old man is strumming the guitar while Mr. Cochrane and Mrs. Cochrane dance. Brody is smoking a cigarette with his wife curled up in a blanket on his lap. Mrs. Belle accepts a beer from her boyfriend and smiles appreciatively. Brent stands alone in the dark.

EXT. JUNK YARD- DAWN

Tiny and Penny sit awkwardly side by side staring out over the orange grove. Tiny glances at Penny out of the corner of his eye, he creeps his hand slowly along the hood of the car, leaving it resting next to hers. Penny looks down, takes Tiny's hand in hers and smiles. The sun rises over the orange grove silhouetting the young couple.