

I Scream At Genie

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A woman in her mid twenties, THERESA, is walking down the beach. She sees a bottle floating in the ocean and walks out a few steps to retrieve it. She checks it over.

THERESA

This is great. This will look perfect on the mantle under the picture that Ed gave me.

She continues walking up the beach wiping the water off the bottle. All of a sudden the bottle begins to vibrate.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Whoa, I've never seen a vibrator like this before. I wonder if all these bumps will hurt or add to...

The bottle vibrates out of Theresa's hand and drops to the beach. A GENIE appears on the sand with his finger still in the bottle.

GENIE

This is always the worst part.

He works hard to pull his finger out of the bottle.

GENIE (CONT'D)

I don't know if I'm getting slow or the tops of bottles these days are getting smaller. But in the old days. . .

His finger pops out.

GENIE (CONT'D)

. . .things like this never happened to me. But at least I still have a bottle. Because of all this tread lightly on the Earth stuff most of the younger Genie's have been downsized into recyclable cans. It's a little more spacious but I've got to tell you, you really tear the hell out of yourself trying to get out of a can. And they call it progress.

Addresses Theresa directly for the first time.

GENIE (CONT'D)

Enough of my griping, may I wish a good day to you, my dear friend.

THERESA

Excuse me. Who the hell are you and what the hell are you doing here?

Reaches for and grabs the bottle away.

THERESA (CONT'D)

And give me back my bottle.

GENIE

I am Genie and I am here to bring to life any and all of your fantasies.

THERESA

My fantasies, huh? I think you should keep moving down the beach, buddy. I must warn you that I know how to incapacitate a man thirty different ways.

GENIE

There is no need for concern, my friend. I am here to grant you two wishes because you released me from the bottle.

THERESA

Oh, I get it. You're a casualty of the great deadheads versus phishheads drug wars.

GENIE

No, I am a Genie and I am here to grant you the two wishes that will fulfill your wildest fantasies.

THERESA

Okay, listen I don't have all day so I'm going to let you have your little fetish here but I do have two questions. One, how come just two wishes? Everything that I've ever seen is for three.

GENIE

Well, we hired a efficiency team to study the effects of the three wish rule and they came to the conclusion that 89% of the time the third wish was used for something ridiculous. Like the time someone asked for a guy named Newt to be in the papers every day. Between you and me I think that's the one that pushed it over the edge.

THERESA

You really have thought this little role playing game out, haven't you. All right, you're lucky you caught me in a playful mood. Question two, how come you're not dressed in the flowing robes and billowing pants of the rest of the genies?

GENIE

You've got to keep up with the times. Wouldn't it look a little strange for me to be dressed like that in this day and age?

THERESA

Well, that would depend on the beach. And I do know a few clubs where you'd fit right in dressed like a genie.

GENIE

Point taken, but we're trying to fit in with the happening, hep cats of this century. I've got to tell you that sometimes some of your social references and intricate mannerisms have me seriously flummoxed. Let me ask you, what exactly is a Hootie?

THERESA

It's better if I just let the mystery linger.

GENIE

As you see fit. So, why don't we get right to it and shower you with riches beyond your wildest dreams.

THERESA

Listen, it's been real nice to meet you, but I have to get home before the men from the home find you.

GENIE

I can see your trepidation. If I found a bottle on the beach and some guy told me that he'd give me two wishes I'd be a little sceptical.

THERESA

Now that you see my point I think I'll just take my bottle and leave. It's been real.

GENIE

Wait. Let's suppose for a moment that I am nuts and this is all just a hallucinogenic fantasy.

THERESA

I'm glad to see that it's wearing off.

GENIE

Okay, but what if it's not? What if I can give you everything in the world that you ever wanted? All it takes is a couple more minutes of your time. What have you got to lose?

THERESA

And either way I still go home with the bottle?

GENIE

Sure, I'll throw that in as a going away present. So, are you ready for happiness and fulfillment beyond your wildest dreams?

THERESA

I don't know, I've got to tell you some of my dreams are pretty wild.

GENIE

I'll be thirteen hundred and fifty years old next March. I've heard it all. Nothing can shock me.

Theresa leans in and whispers into his ear. Genie's eyes go wide with embarrassment.

GENIE (CONT'D)

Oh my. . .How can. . .Oh my. . .
Doesn't that. . .It makes what
happen to what?

Genie looks at Theresa startled for a moment. I stand corrected. Theresa smiles and nods.

THERESA

Maybe one of my wishes will be to
do that to you.

GENIE

Oh no, please, you don't have to
waste a wish. Just explaining it
gave me enough willies for the next
several hundred years. So, let's
focus and take care of the matter
at hand. Before you begin I want
you to make sure to speak loudly
and clearly. When I go into the
trance that will bestow upon you
your wish it gets pretty noisy in
there and sometimes the wishes get
jumbled. It's just a warning. You
probably don't want the twelve inch
piano that was mistakenly attached
to this guy. He wasn't too happy
but I've got to admit, he got
pretty good at playing with the
thing.

THERESA

All right, let's get this over
with.

Theresa pauses for a moment and comes back with her first wish.

THERESA (CONT'D)

I'd like 100 more wishes.

GENIE

Oh, I'm sorry.

Genie unravels a ten foot roll of paper that says 'Wish Rules and Regulations.'

GENIE (CONT'D)

Right here in the 'Wish Rules and Regulations' in section twenty seven, paragraph eight, subsection four it specifically states: "Don't even try that use a wish to wish for more wishes trick." Nice try though.

THERESA

You never know until you try. All right, how about starting with an unselfish one. Let's try world peace.

Genie goes into a trance to bring the wish to volition.

GENIE

Okay, I think I got it. Here it comes. Here comes your first wish.

Peas come flying at Theresa.

THERESA

What the hell is this? Peas! Stop the damn peas they're starting to hurt. What are you doing here? Why are there peas flying all over the place?

GENIE

Sometimes getting your wish is worse than not getting your wish.

THERESA

Stop with the fortune cookie philosophy, Chester. Explain why I'm covered with peas.

GENIE

That was your wish.

THERESA

Oh yeah, being pelted with peas is definitely one of my top fantasies. What the hell did you think I said?

GENIE

I heard you specifically say 'Let's try hurled peas.'

Theresa screams at Genie.

THERESA

I said world peace you jerk. World peace. You know, putting the military industrial complex out of business and retraining them for jobs that they'd be good at like in the fast food industry.

GENIE

I told you to speak up.

THERESA

I should at least get a do over.

GENIE

You can't do that. Right here in the 'Wish Rules and Regulations' in section. . .

THERESA

. . .that's it, I'm out of here. You're a quack. You can take my last wish and stick it up your. . .

GENIE

. . .come on, anyone can make a little mistake. Listen,

Genie puts his arm conspiratorially around Theresa's shoulder.

GENIE (CONT'D)

if I screw up the next one I can't give you another wish but I will fix it. Come on, give me another shot. I'll get this one right. I promise. What have you got to lose?

THERESA

All right, I'll give it another shot. And, to make it easy on you I'm not going to ask for anything difficult like Natalie Merchant's voice is forever silenced. No, this one will be simple and foolproof. Are you ready? Are you listening to me?

GENIE

Yes.

THERESA

You can hear everything I say clearly?

GENIE

Yes.

THERESA

Okay, here's the wish. I wish I would lose twenty pounds. Did you get that? Lose twenty pounds. That's it. Not goose twenty hounds. Nothing but lose twenty pounds.

GENIE

Lose twenty pounds, got it.

Theresa looks herself over for a moment.

THERESA

Well? Are you going to do it or what?

GENIE

It's done.

THERESA

What do you mean it's done? Where? I look the exact same.

GENIE

Check the wallet in your backpack.

THERESA

What are you talking about?

GENIE

Just check your wallet.

Theresa reaches into her backpack, finds her wallet and pulls out a wad of money.

THERESA

What the hell is this? What happened to my money? This looks like English money?

GENIE

It is. I changed all of your currency into English, at the current favorable exchange rate, and then I lost twenty pounds for you.

THERESA

I should castrate you with a seashell. Are you insane?

(MORE)

THERESA (CONT'D)

Don't they have some type of genie school that you go to before they release you upon an unsuspecting public?

GENIE

Am I to understand that you are not happy with your wishes?

THERESA

Oh, I'm ecstatic. I'm standing here covered in peas, every bit of cash is now English and above that, I'm twenty pounds short. What is that in real money? Five thousand dollars?

Theresa hands the bottle back to Genie.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Listen, take this because I'm out of here. You're insane and I'm sticky, smelly, and broke. All in all it's ending up like most of my dates.

GENIE

Don't leave. Let me make it right.

THERESA

No, I'm sorry. Your track record isn't all that good. You obviously didn't graduate in the top ninety percentile of your class at Genie U. It's been an experience.

GENIE

Please don't go. Give me one more chance. If I fail this time my boss probably will never let me out of the bottle again.

THERESA

I'll be doing humanity a favor.

GENIE

Please. This is the only job I've ever been somewhat good at. I'll get it right this time. I promise.

Theresa looks at the sad Genie for a moment.

THERESA

All right. I don't know why I'm doing this. But let's try it again.

GENIE

Okay, you want to lose twenty pounds. And, as an added bonus, I'll clean the peas off of you. Close your eyes and let's get this one done together.

Genie goes into a trance to bring the wish to volition.

GENIE (CONT'D)

And here you are. You just lost twenty pounds.

Theresa opens her eyes and looks down at herself. After a moment she begins to scream.

THERESA

What did you do with my clothes?

GENIE

It was tough. I almost didn't make it all the way to twenty pounds. Thankfully the English money I exchanged weighed more.

THERESA

This is a nightmare.

Theresa runs naked down the beach screaming at Genie.

THERESA (CONT'D)

You're insane. You should lose your genie's license. If I get arrested I'm going to sue you, you bastard.

Genie shakes his head while watching her run naked down the beach.

GENIE

No matter how hard you try you just can't satisfy some people.

Genie sticks his finger into the bottle.

FADE OUT.