

AS YOU WISH

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

SPENCER, 29, wears pajama pants, beanie, and a baggy t-shirt. Searches through cabinets. Finds can of baked beans. Opens can. Grabs spoon from drawer.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sits down on couch, turns on television, and eats. Notices a magic eight-ball on end table. Puts down can with spoon inside. Picks up eight-ball. Shakes it. Looks disappointed. *

Turns off television. Paces room. Puts hand to chin. Strokes goatee. Looks over to fireplace. Grabs crystal ball sat on mantle.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lights candles. Sits down on floor. Sets out an altar cloth. Puts down crystal ball. Stares into it.

SPENCER

I wish upon my very soul.
I pray thee to make me whole.

Places hand to heart.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Bring to me my deepest desires.
Conspire to make my dreams
transpire!

A GENIE, immortal, appears in an oriental outfit, holds a lit thurible. Puts it down. Sings a hypnotic chant with hands in prayer. He bows.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Where did you come from?

GENIE

From the space where all dreams
take place.

SPENCER

Who are you?

GENIE

Some call me ZAMAR. Don't ask me
why. I know, it sounds bizarre.
You will understand, all in due
time. As for now, your wish is my
command.

Rolls out scroll.

ZAMAR

As long as you sign this contract,
I may grant you three wishes, but
be aware that you cannot redact.

Holds out quill and ink. Spencer hesitantly reaches for
quill. Signs contract. Zamar rolls it up.

ZAMAR (CONT'D)

Everything is now in order. Keep
in mind you cannot turn back now
that you have crossed this border.

Draws line in carpet.

ZAMAR (CONT'D)

Now for your first wish, but first
you must riddle me this.

Points at Spencer with index finger.

ZAMAR (CONT'D)

What divides space but decorates
time. Gives meaning to life, line
by line. Joyful or melancholy, but
always sublime. Designs itself
through rhythm and rhyme?

Spencer puts hand to chin. Strokes goatee.

SPENCER

Novels?

ZAMAR

Good guess, but no dice. You have
two more chances.

SPENCER

Poetry?

ZAMAR

Wrong again.

SPENCER

Music!

Zamar shakes head yes.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Ah ha!

ZAMAR

What is it you wish for most of all? I can make all your dreams come to fruition. Listen to your gut, and use your intuition.

Spencer pensively looks up at ceiling.

SPENCER

How about a magical guitar that will make me play the most masterful of melodies?

ZAMAR

As you wish.

Snaps fingers. Spencer holds a twelve-string guitar. Looks at it in awe. Plays a few riffs. Puts it aside.

SPENCER

Wow! What else can you do?

Zamar reaches behind back. Pulls out a deck of cards. Shuffles them extravagantly.

ZAMAR

If you can beat me in a game of Djinn Rummy, I will grant you a second wish. Runs of primes trump the rest. Pairs are second best. Let's see if you can pass the test.

Deals five cards each. Puts deck down. Flips over card from top of deck. They look at their hands.

Spencer takes card from top of deck. Puts card from hand onto discard pile. *

Zamar takes card that Spencer puts down. Discards a card.

Spencer takes card that Zamar discards. Discards a card. Lays hand down. Zamar follows suit.

ZAMAR (CONT'D)

Let's see if you can withstand what I have in my hand. *

SPENCER

Bring it on, like Mahjong.

They look at Zamar's hand. An ace of diamonds, a three of diamonds, a five of diamonds, and two jacks.

They glance over at Spencer's hand. An ace of hearts, five of hearts, a seven of hearts, and two queens.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Does the ace count as a one,
eleven, or both?

ZAMAR
Both.

SPENCER
Does that mean that I win?

ZAMAR
Unfortunately for me, yes you do.

Spencer pumps fist downward.

SPENCER
Yes!

ZAMAR
You are getting the gist of this.
Now for your second wish.

Spencer closes eyes. Takes deep breath.

SPENCER
I wish for the ability to record my
music.

ZAMAR
As you wish.

Snaps fingers.

A laptop appears in Spencer's lap. Eyes widen.

SPENCER
Say what! A brand new laptop? Most
ingenious.

ZAMAR
I thought you might enjoy that. Now
let's see if you have enough
finesse to beat me in a game of
chess.

SPENCER
Someone is cruising for a bruising.
I hope you're not a sore loser.

Zamar gives poker face. Shakes head in dismay. Face palm.

Snaps fingers. Chess board appears with all pieces laid out.

ZAMAR
Loser goes first. Since I lost the
last match, that means I get to go
before you.

SPENCER
Fair enough.

MONTAGE

- A) Zamar and Spencer take turns moving pieces.
- B) Zamar takes Spencer's queen.
- C) Spencer reaches Zamar's side with pawn. Takes queen back.
- D) Spencer puts Zamar's king in checkmate.

END MONTAGE

ZAMAR
How on Earth did you do that?
Nobody has ever beat me at chess.
Unless, you cheated!

SPENCER
I won fair and square.

ZAMAR
Impossible!

SPENCER
He who is the accuser is most
likely a sore loser.

Zamar flips board over. Pieces fly across room.

ZAMAR
I demand a rematch!

Spencer shakes head.

SPENCER
Fine, but this time we play by my
rules.

ZAMAR
You're on!

SPENCER
I challenge you to a guitar duel!

ZAMAR

I suppose you're under the
assumption that you can beat me.
Let's see if you have enough
gumption.

SPENCER

Who will decide the winner though?

ZAMAR

Leave that to me.

Snaps fingers.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer holds twelve-string guitar while Zamar holds six-string guitar. Spencer looks around. A REFEREE, 30, appears. OBLIVIOUS JUDGE, 25, SUPERSTITIOUS JUDGE, 35, and SNARKY JUDGE, 45, appear sat on couch.

REFEREE

On your mark, get set, go!

Blows whistle. Three judges watch.

Spencer and Zamar take turns on rhythm guitar. Trade off solos in three rounds. Judges hold up numbered signs after each solo. Referee blows whistle.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Time for the judges to make their
final decision.

Judges huddle together. Discuss amongst themselves. They turn back around.

OBLIVIOUS JUDGE

No contest. Zamar won!

SNARKY JUDGE

I would have to disagree. I think
Spencer won without a doubt.

SUPERSTITIOUS JUDGE

I hate to break it to you guys, but
I think it was a tie.

Judges argue between themselves. Referee shakes head. Blows whistle. They look up.

REFEREE

Enough of your bickering. You know what this means? Sudden death match! One game of Spencer's choice since we are playing by his rules.

Spencer looks puzzled. Strokes goatee.

SPENCER

Rock, paper, scissors is the name of the game. Best two out of three.

REFEREE

Alright, so be it. On the count of three!

SPENCER & ZAMAR

Rock, paper, scissors!

Zamar chooses rock. Spencer chooses scissors.

Zamar chooses paper. Spencer chooses scissors.

REFEREE

Final round.

Zamar chooses scissors. Spencer chooses rock.

ZAMAR

Fine. You win! I will grant you a third wish, but on one condition.

SPENCER

Deal.

ZAMAR

What is your final wish?

SPENCER

To be a famous musician.

Zamar produces contract for record deal.

ZAMAR

You must sign this under your own volition.

Spencer signs contract. Spencer and Zamar shake hands.

ZAMAR (CONT'D)

As you wish.