SKULLGUMMY: OUT TO LUNCH

written by

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REVISION 658

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EXT - WINDY KEY, FL - SUMMER - MORNING

It's a sunny day in Windy Key, Fl. SKULLGUMMY (12) stands next inside a palm tree grove. She scans the sky with her video camera. She films a bright green parrot as it darts across the blue sky and lands in a Royal Poinciana Tree.

The parrot blends in with the tree. She zooms in but the bird has disappeared. SkullGummy looks disappointed.

SKULLGUMMY

Parrot Camo.

SkullGummy is a cute kid. She has shiny, shoulder length black hair. Her hair is so black that it's nearly blue. She's small, slender and stands at five foot in height. Her dark blue eyes sparkle with curiosity as she watches the sky.

She takes a piece of candy out of her pocket. It's a red skull shaped piece of gummy candy. She pops the candy into her mouth and looks around for something else to film.

Two lizards catch her attention. One is green and the other is brown. The lizards stand on an old palm tree log. The brown lizard bobs his head and puffs out his red throat fan. The green lizard bobs his head. The brown lizard slowly approaches.

SkullGummy zooms in.

SKULLGUMMY

An epic showdown begins.

Her cellphone RINGS. Her ring tone is the JURASSIC PARK theme song. She reaches for her phone. Her sudden movement causes the two lizards to scurry away. She answers her phone. Before she can say a word, she's hit by a verbal tidal wave.

TEA CUP

Good morning SkullGummy! Do you have any plans for today?

SkullGummy tries to speak but she's cut off.

TEA CUP

How would you like to come along with me for a regalement on the Bay?

SkullGummy looks confused.

TEA CUP

Luncheon and refreshment on Sir Niccolo Arlotti's yacht. He's an Italian merchant. My dad's very good friends with him. He stays at his villa whenever he's on business in Europe.

SKULLGUMMY

I was going -

TEA CUP

Crudites - those are vegetables, fresh seafood, Kobe beef burgers and imported European Truffle Pie!

SKULLGUMMY

To Big Top Burger for lunch.

Now Tea Cup pauses for a beat.

TEA CUP

Big Top Burger? Totally gauche.

SkullGummy is distracted by a lady bug struggling to free itself from a spider web. An enormous garden spider emerges from its hiding place on a branch. It quickly moves in for the kill. She reaches for her camera and then pauses.

SkullGummy picks up a twig. She breaks the web and frees the ladybug. The ladybug escapes and the garden spider nearly lands on her shoulder.

She darts out of the way. She watches the spider crawl up the tree and disappear from sight. She SHUDDERS.

Tea Cup continues

TEA CUP

And they're serving Parfait. That's really high end. Flavored sparkling water is so much better than just regular pop. Oh and quess what?

SkullGummy tries to answer but she's cut off.

TEA CUP

Sir Niccolo says that I can bring anyone I want. Fire Fly, Digger, Chef. Even Cinnamon. So pass it on OK? Meet at my place by 11:45.

SKULLGUMMY

But I -

TEA CUP

This is a first class experience so tell everyone to dress nice. Especially Digger. No shirts with the collars all chewed up. Ciao!

Tea Cup hangs up. SkullGummy turns and makes her way out of the cluster of palm trees. She trips on a log and falls to the ground.

She opens her eyes and she's face to face with the brown lizard. The lizard bobs its head and opens its red fan. The lizard cautiously sizes her up.

SkullGummy slowly reaches for her video camera. She's about to film the lizard when it scurries away.

She lays in the grass for a moment and then sits up. She reaches for her phone. SkullGummy scans through her address book and finds Fire Fly's number.

EXT - WINDY KEY, FL - SUMMER - MORNING

DIGGER (12) and FIRE FLY (12) stand at the edge of a canal. The HUM of insects in the tall grass fills the air. Digger is small and thin. He has a mop of unruly brown hair that sticks out from underneath an old straw hat.

His yellow guayabera shirt is dirty and one of the collars is chewed up. He adjusts his glasses and looks at an old tackle box submerged in the water.

DIGGER

The question is, how to get down there and extract it?

Fire Fly fold her arms. She furrows her brow and concentrates hard on the question. Fire Fly is also on the small side. Her hair is blonde and she wears a colorful visor to protect herself from the sun.

FIRE FLY

We swim underwater and get it.

Digger looks at the dark, forbidding water. The orange tackle box sits on the muddy canal bottom. It's partially covered in weeds and mud.

DIGGER

Ok. The question is, how do we get down there and extract it without swimming under the water?

FIRE FLY

I don't think you're getting that box without going into the water.

Digger carefully climbs down the concrete slope leading down to the water.

DIGGER

I bet it's filled with all kinds of neat old lures and stuff.

Fire Fly spots a turtle basking on a pipe in the middle of the canal. She runs over to the thick pipe that crosses the canal.

FIRE FLY

I'll be right back. Don't fall in!

Digger watches her climb on to the pipe and make her way across the canal.

DIGGER

You're not supposed to climb that.

FIRE FLY

I know.

She carefully crawls along the pipe and approaches the turtle. She quietly watches him for a moment. Her doe-like brown eyes are filled with natural curiosity. She smiles at him.

FIRE FLY

Hope you didn't forget your sunblock.

The turtle turns his head and regards her with his reptilian eyes. A moment later is slips into the water and swims away. Fire Fly crawls over and puts her face close to the water. She watches the turtle as it swims into the murky depths.

Suddenly a snake pokes his head up from under the water. Fire Fly freezes in places as she's face to face with it. The snake's tongue flicks out.

She keeps her composure and ever so slowly crawls backward along the pipe. She nervously sings an impromptu song under her breath.

FIRE FLY

Snakes are good. They won't bite as long as you don't give them a fright. So if you see one in the water some day just back away. Back away.

The snake quickly loses interest in her and slides back into the water. She hears a giant SNAP behind her. She turns and watches Digger haul a giant branch over to the water.

DIGGER

I'll use this to drag it out.

He pushes the branch into the water. The branchs isn't long enough. He shakes his head. Fire Fly's phone rings. She sits on the pipe and answers it.

FIRE FLY

Hello from the middle of a canal!

SkullGummy speaks to her from the other end of the phone.

SKULLGUMMY

Are you with Digger?

FIRE FLY

I'm helping him excavate.

Digger SHOUTS as he nearly falls into the water.

SKULLGUMMY

Want to come to a regalement?

Fire Fly tilts her head as she considers this.

FIRE FLY

That would depends on what a regalement is.

SKULLGUMMY

It's lunch. On a boat.

FIRE FLY

Whose boat?

SKULLGUMMY

I don't know. It's Tea Cup's idea. She wants us all to come.

Fire Fly watches Digger struggle with a bigger branch. Suddenly he drops the branch and starts to dance around. He rubs his legs.

DIGGER

Red ants!

FIRE FLY

Well we're kind of busy but I've never had lunch on a boat.

She SHOUTS at Digger.

FIRE FLY

Want to go to a regalement?

Digger frantically swipes ants from his legs.

DIGGER

Do I have to change my clothes?

FIRE FLY

No. You're good.

DIGGER

Ok.

Fire Fly smiles.

FIRE FLY

Digger says he'll go.

SKULLGUMMY

Meet at Tea Cup's house by 11:45.

FIRE FLY

You got it.

Fire Fly hangs up.

EXT - IN FRONT OF WINDY KEY PUBLIC LIBRARY- WINDY HILL, FL - MORNING

CHEF (12) sits on a bench in a park next to the tiny Windy Key Public Library. Chef is cute, skinny kid and his clothes look one size too big for him. His dog SHORT PANTS sits in the grass next to him.

He smiles and opens up his lunch box.

CHEF

This is it Short Pants. Time for breakfast. You ready?

Short Pants wags his tail excitedly. He unwraps a package.

CHEF

Chef's Crispy Summer Florida Roll.

He holds it up for the dog to see. The roll is saggy and

soggy. It's definitely not crispy. Short Pants tilts his head. He stands on his hind legs.

Several Muscovy Ducks approach the bench. They HISS and wag their tails.

CHEF

A little for you. And a little for $\ensuremath{\mathsf{me}}$.

He breaks off a piece of the squishy roll and hands it to the dog. Short Pants tentatively sniffs it. He licks it and then rejects it. Short Pants lays down in the grass. He looks at Chef with big, sad eyes.

CHEF

Hey, it's not that bad.

Chef takes a big bite of the summer roll. He makes a face and forces himself to swallow it. He tosses the roll to the ducks.

CHEF

None for me and a lot for you.

The ducks inspect the roll. They look up at Chef and walk away. Chef places his head in his hands. He runs his fingers through his afro.

His phone rings. He SIGHS and answers the phone.

CHEF

Not now. I'm in mourning.

SKULLGUMMY

You doing anything?

CHEF

Just picking up the pieces of a failed, soggy summer roll.

There's a pause on the other end of the phone.

SKULLGUMMY

Tea Cup invited us to lunch on a boat.

CHEF

I'm not really in the mood right now.

SKULLGUMMY

One of her father's friends invited her. It's a big yacht on the bay.

He buries his head deeper into his hands.

SKULLGUMMY

Lot's of good food. Kobe beef burgers. European Truffle Pie.

Chef looks up. He takes a sudden interest.

SKULLGUMMY

Oh yeah. Crudites too. That's -

CHEF

A traditional French appetizer made from whole or sliced raw vegetables usually dipped in a vinaigrette!

He stands up. Short Pants watches him and tilts his head.

CHEF

I could speak to the chef. Think of what I could learn!

SKULLGUMMY

That too. Just like when you walk into the kitchen at Bob Taylor's and ask them if you can watch them cook.

His eyes light up.

CHEF

Only better. Because this food won't be microwaved!

SKULLGUMMY

So you're in?

CHEF

I'm in.

 ${\tt SKULLGUMMY}$

Meet in front of Tea Cup's by 11:45.

He hangs up the phone. He casts a quick look at his soggy summer roll in the grass. Its surrounded by an army of ants. The ants efficiently disassemble the discarded roll and carry the pieces to their hive.

CHEF

At least somebody likes it.

He pats Short Pants.

CHEF

Come on. Time to go to school.

Chef and Short Pants walk down the road.

INT - WINDY KEY, FL - CINNAMON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

The bright morning sun shines in through an open window. Cinnamon's bedroom is colorfully decorated. The predominate color scheme is "Cinnamon red". The room is clean and immaculate. No stray items of clothing on the floor. No dust on the lamp shade. Not even a wrinkle to be seen on the cinnamon red bedspread.

CINNAMON (12) sits at her desk. She patiently works through a math problem. On her desk is a stack of reference books. the stack, of course, is neat and tidy.

She's a pretty girl. She has dark, shoulder length chocolate brown that's perfectly straight and even. She wears a Cinnamon red top and a cinnamon red skirt. Her almond shaped dark eyes are sharp and expressive.

She reads the word problem out loud.

CINNAMON

Mr. Lutz has six orange trees and he has two fewer banana trees than orange trees. He also has seven more grapefruit trees than orange trees. How many trees does he have in all?

Cinnamon shakes her head. She looks at the book cover.

CINNAMON

Everyday Math. Seventh Grade.

She slams the book shut.

CINNAMON

Really? I should be moving on to something a lot more challenging than this.

Her phone rings. She looks at the caller ID and considers not answering. She answers on the fourth ring.

CINNAMON

I'm studying.

SKULLGUMMY

School's out.

She rolls her eyes.

CINNAMON

School's never out. You should take your academic career more seriously.

SKULLGUMMY

Tea Cup invited us to lunch on a boat. At the Bay.

Cinnamon clicks on her computer. She opens her MYLIFE page. She scans through her friends list and finds Tea Cup's page. Sure enough, there's a post. She reads it.

CINNAMON

Regalement on the Bay this afternoon! Can't wait!

She scrolls down.

CINNAMON

Twenty likes. You liked it. Chef commented with a thumbs up.

She narrows her eyes.

CINNAMON

How come you didn't give me a like for my post this morning?

SkullGummy pauses.

SKULLGUMMY

I didn't see it. Hold on.

Cinnamon crosses her arms and shakes her head while she waits. Suddenly there's a little BLIP sound from the computer. MYLIFE notifies her that "SKULLGUMMY likes your post".

SKULLGUMMY

So are you coming? Tea Cup really wants you to tag along.

Cinnamon looks at herself in the mirror as she talks. She looks at herself approvingly and brushes her hair.

CINNAMON

She's always bragging about herself.

SKULLGUMMY

But -

CINNAMON

Self praise stinks and when she's around I always smell an odor.

She looks at herself in the mirror for a moment longer before turning back to her computer.

CINNAMON

I'm going to the mall with my mom this afternoon. So I can't make it. Why don't you come with us?

SKULLGUMMY

I told Tea Cup I'd go with her.

CINNAMON

Suit yourself.

She files her perfectly even nails.

CINNAMON

I see Chef's going. Please tell me he's not cooking.

SKULLGUMMY

No.

CINNAMON

At least you'll be spared that culinary cluster bomb.

 ${\tt SKULLGUMMY}$

Well the offer stands if you want to come. Meet at Tea Cup's by 11:45.

She blows on her nails.

CINNAMON

Tell her thank you. Maybe next time.

She hangs up. She looks at the calendar on her desk. It reads "Word of the Day: Irony". Cinnamon opens another text book and gets back to work.

EXT WINDY HILL, FL - MORNING

SkullGummy rides her bike down a quiet street. She spots a curious figure slumped under a tree. She drives her bike closer to the tree to get a better look.

Its an old man made of straw. He has a coconut for a head. The straw man is dressed in old coveralls. She gets off her bike and starts to film the straw man.

She hears a VOICE behind her.

SAVANNA

That's Senor Coco. He's usually in the back yard but Mr. Pampa brought him to the front yard today.

She turns around and sees SAVANNA (8) looking up at her. She has a bright smile on her face.

SAVANNA

My mom says Senor Coco is creepy but I think he's OK.

SKULLGUMMY

What are you up to today Savanna?

Savanna proudly displays a coupon.

SAVANNA

I'm going to Big Top Burger for lunch today. This is a coupon for a *Ringmaster* Special meal. Not just the regular one. This one comes with a limited edition toy.

SKULLGUMMY

Pretty neat. I was going to go to Big Top today too.

SAVANNA

Why aren't you?

SKULLGUMMY

I'm headed to a lunch on a boat.

Savanna looks impressed.

SAVANNA

You're so lucky!

She pauses.

SAVANNA

But I'm happy with my Ringmaster Special Meal.

Savanna pockets the coupon.

SAVANNA

Guess what happened yesterday?

SKULLGUMMY

Anything interesting?

She nods enthusiastically.

SAVANNA

I was watching TV with Grandpa and eating candy. We saw something funny and we both start to laugh. Then, his teeth fell out!

SkullGummy suppresses a grin.

SAVANNA

So you know what I did? I went right upstairs and brushed my teeth big time. No more running the toothbrush under the water for me.

SkullGummy nods in approval.

SKULLGUMMY

That's a good thing.

She films the smiling girl.

SAVANNA

Are you making a movie?

SKULLGUMMY

I'm just filming bits and pieces at the moment.

SAVANNA

You should have filmed Grandpa when his teeth fell out. That's not something you see every day.

SkullGummy checks her phone. She reads a text message.

TEA CUP

(text message)

Are you on your way? I'm ready. Chef is here.

SkullGummy gets back on her bike.

SKULLGUMMY

I better get going. Have fun today and stay out of trouble.

SAVANNA

I will. Have fun at your boat party!

Savanna waves goodbye and runs down the street.

EXT - WINDY KEY, FL - IN FRONT OF TEA CUP'S HOUSE

SkullGummy arrives at Tea Cup's house. Her front lawn is nearly manicured. A weathered, gnarly old garden gnome sits next to a bird bath. A bird takes a bath in the water. SkullGummy snaps a quick photo of the bird in action.

The gang has all arrived. Tea Cup is dressed in a naval/sailor outfit complete with a white sailor's cap. She adjusts her white gloves and looks at the assembled crew.

Chef is dressed in a traditional black chef coat, black chef pants and a black chef Skull Cap. Fire Fly wears pair of jeans and a star print t-shirt that reads "REACH FOR THE STARS AT WINDY KEY PLANETARIUM". She wears a huge pair of pink sunglasses.

Tea Cup takes a look at Digger. His shirt and shorts are dirty. His shoes are covered with canal muck. The tip of his shirt collar is chewed.

TEA CUP

I thought I asked -

He bangs his straw hat against his leg. He looks at her and grins.

DIGGER

It fell in the canal this morning.

Tea Cup SIGHS.

TEA CUP

Let's go.

She walks over to SkullGummy.

TEA CUP

(Whispers)

Why is Chef dressed as a chef?

SkullGummy shrugs.

TEA CUP

I hope he doesn't do anything to embarrass us as a group. A Bayside regalement is a dignified event.

Chef reaches into his pocket and hands a granola bar to Fire Fly.

CHEF

It's better than my last one. I switched up the recipe.

Fire Fly takes the granola bar. She cheerfully indulges him and samples it. She tries to bite into it but its way too hard.

Chef tries one. He gnaws on it to no avail.

CHEF

It's a brick. It wasn't this hard this morning. That's weird.

Fire Fly smiles at him. She pats him on the shoulder.

FIRE FLY

But its a healthy brick.

She politely pockets the granola brick.

FIRE FLY

I'll try again later.

Tea Cup adjusts her sailor cap.

TEA CUP

My cousin might be there. He's the one with the tennis court, Olympic sized pool and three thoroughbred horses.

SKULLGUMMY

You mean Tattoo?

TEA CUP

No, not him. Mom says he's -

She pauses.

TEA CUP

Away on vacation for awhile.

The kids mount their bikes and ride down the street.

EXT WINDY KEY, FL - STREET

The gang rides down a quiet residential street. There's not a car in sight in either direction. They make a turn and they're about to cross the street when MAYOR shouts at them.

MAYOR

You can't cross the street wherever you want. You have to use the crosswalk.

Mayor (11) all four feet one inch of him stands under a tree in his front yard.

DIGGER

There's no cars around.

Mayor puffs out his chest.

MAYOR

That's no excuse to break the law.

FIRE FLY

Hi Mayor. On patrol today?

Mayor folds his arms.

MAYOR

Somebody's been picking avocados from my tree and I'm going to catch them.

Fire Fly points to a partially eaten avocado in the grass.

FIRE FLY

Are you sure its not the squirrels taking them?

MAYOR

Its not squirrels. Its bad guys.

Digger looks around.

DIGGER

There's no crosswalk.

Mayor considers this for a moment.

MAYOR

Then look left, look right, look left again and then cross. You only looked left and right.

Tea Cup rides across the street.

TEA CUP

Left, right, left again. Whatever. We don't have time for this. We have plans.

SkullGummy gives him the thumbs up.

SKULLGUMMY

Keep up the good work Mayor.

The Mayor straightens up in an effort to look taller.

MAYOR

Don't forget to vote for me someday when I'm old enough.

SkullGummy looks left, right and then left again. She rides off.

SKULLGUMMY

You got it.

FIRE FLY

Go easy on the avocado snatchers. They're probably just hungry.

MAYOR

No promises.

Mayor watches the gang ride away down the street.

EXT - WINDY KEY - BIKE PATH NEXT TO THE OCEAN

The gang ride their bikes on an Oceanside bike path. SkullGummy stops to film a parasailor. The parasailor waves to the gang. They wave back.

The sky is starting to darken. A bolt of lightning snakes across the sky. A loud CLAP of thunder shakes the ground. A storm is coming in from the Ocean.

CHEF

Whoa! Where did that come from?

DIGGER

So much for the boat lunch.

Tea Cup scoffs at this.

TEA CUP

A little rain isn't going to ruin it.

She rides ahead of the group. SkullGummy films the dark storm clouds.

SKULLGUMMY

(To herself)

I'm not so sure about that.

She follows her friends on the path.

EXT - WINDY KEY, FL - WINDY KEY MARINA

They arrive at Windy Key Marina. The sky opens up and it starts to rain. Tea Cup looks around.

TEA CUP

Signore Arlotti's yacht is in slip E6.

They start to search for slip E1. Thunder booms in the distance.

CHEF

Imagine if a waterspout came now?

DIGGER

What's waterspout?

CHEF

A water tornado. They can suck you down under the ocean and then up into the sky!

FIRE FLY

I've seen those before! They're fun to watch. SkullGummy could film it!

TEA CUP

No water tornadoes are coming. Stop living in fantasy land.

Tea Cup leads her friends through the Marina. SkullGummy gets a text from Cinnamon.

CINNAMON

(Text)

Getting rained out? Look at it this way, at least Digger's getting a shower. LMBO! You should have come with me. At least you'd be dry. And fed.

A photo is attached to the text. It's a photo of Cinnamon enjoying lunch at a eatery at the mall.

SkullGummy follows her friends. The rain comes down harder.

TEA CUP

We're getting close. I hope all the seats aren't taken.

They find the E Dock section and look for Mr. Arlotti's yacht.

EXT - WINDY KEY MARINA - SECTION E

SkullGummy finds Slip E6. The FISHER KING bobs in the water. The Fisher King is a nice but moderately sized boat. Tea Cup frowns.

TEA CUP

Are we early?

She pauses.

TEA CUP

Where's the music? Where are the guests?

DIGGER

Where's the yacht?

MR. ARLOTTI (45) cleans out an ice chest. He looks up and sees Tea Cup and the gang. He frowns. He speaks with a thick Brooklyn accent.

MR. ARLOTTI

You're David's kid aren't you? What are you doing out here on a day like this? Your dad know you're here?

Tea Cup tries to hide her concern.

TEA CUP

Good afternoon Mr. Arlotti. We're here for the regalement. On your yacht.

Mr. Arlotti looks confused.

MR. ARLOTTI

My what on what yacht?

TEA CUP

The fancy luncheon on the Bay. The one my dad told me about.

He frowns.

MR. ARLOTTI

We had a party on the owner's yacht last weekend. As for the Fisher King, she's nice but she ain't no yacht.

Tea Cup folds her arms as if she doesn't believe him.

TEA CUP

No lunch on the Bay?

MR. ARLOTTI

This ain't exactly the day for it.

CHEF

No Crudites? No fresh seafood and Kobe beef burgers?

He pauses.

CHEF

No European Truffle Pie?

FIRE FLY

Or Parfait?

Mr. Arlotti considers them for a moment.

MR. ARLOTTI

I've got a package of wieners and half a thing of soda pop if you're still interested.

Digger smiles and rubs his hands together.

DIGGER

That works for me,.

Tea Cup looks around at her friends.

TEA CUP

Well I was obviously given bad information.

Chef looks disappointed.

CHEF

Guess I can always improve my hot dog grilling skills.

TEA CUP

Wieners and pop. How am I going to explain this to my one thousand five hundred and three friends on MYLIFE?

Fire Fly pats Tea Cup on the shoulder.

FIRE FLY

It's alright. It's an honest mistake.

Tea Cup rings out her sailor's hat.

TEA CUP

So what now?

SkullGummy thinks for a moment.

SKULLGUMMY

I have a suggestion.

EXT - WINDY KEY - MR. ARLOTTI'S BOAT - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The gang sits on the deck of Mr. Arlotti's boat. They sit under a canvas tarp that blocks out the rain. SkullGummy eats her Big Top burger. She turns to Fire Fly. She eats a giant Big Top Healthy Choice garden salad.

SKULLGUMMY

How's yours?

FIRE FLY

Very good. Would have been nice to have a few more mushrooms though.

SkullGummy films her friends as they eat. Tea Cup pokes at her burger.

TEA CUP

Not exactly Kobe Beef.

An insect crawls across the bun. She lets out a SCREAM. She's about to flick it away when Fire Fly stops her. She smiles.

FIRE FLY

No need to hurt him.

She carefully takes the bug and places him on another part of the boat.

TEA CUP

I can't eat this now that a bug's been crawling all over it.

DIGGER

Can I have it?

Tea Cup waves it away. Digger takes the partially eaten burger and chomps into it. Chef hands Mr. Arlotti a plate. On the plate are three charred hot dogs.

CHEF

They're a little well done.

 $\mbox{\rm Mr.}$ Arlottie looks at the blackened hotdogs and forces a smile.

MR. ARLOTTI

Thanks kid.

FADE OUT