

## ***GONAD'S REVENGE***

### **About Revenge**

Revenge is basically getting back at someone who did you wrong through insult, injury, etc. The need to inflict revenge on others can truly be a beastly driving force. There are countless quotes that provide insight into the nature of revenge, most of which communicate a recurring theme – it is ill advised. Here is one such example: “When you begin a journey of revenge, start by digging two graves: one for your enemy and one for yourself.” -Jodi Picoult

The story you are about to read is one of a well calculated and creative retaliation by a former “geek.” The targets of his ire are two affluent, entitled and obnoxious high school classmates. Those classmates pulled many of the well-known pranks that bullies typically inflict on their victims such as: de-panting them, giving them wedgies, placing a kick me sign of their backs, stuffing them in lockers or even large trash cans. They also resorted to name calling in public settings like a classroom, the cafeteria, the gym, etc. But, these particular bullies eventually crossed the line into more serious methods of intimidation and humiliation which the victim Harrison Gonad did not forget. He developed a systematic plan to avenge their heinous actions with disregard to the wisdom in the quote above.

### **What is a Gonad?**

I will answer that question in terms of nouns, specifically two types of nouns: common and proper. A common noun is the generic name for a person, place, or thing in a class or group. Common nouns are not capitalized unless they either begin a sentence or appear in a title. A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place, organization, or thing. Proper nouns begin with a capital letter.

Gonad the common noun, which is pronounced /'gō̄,nād/, is a sex gland in which gametes are produced. A gamete, by the way, is a reproductive cell of an animal or plant. Gonad the proper noun, which is pronounced /'gō̄,nād/, is a very rare family surname with its origins stemming primarily from India. There are also rhyming variations of that proper noun: Ghonad, Gonnad, and Gonaud to name a few of many.

Generally speaking, outside of the United States, the family surname Gonad /'gō̄,nād/ and its variations tend to be properly pronounced. But, in the rare occasions that a person has that unique surname in the United States, it is usually mispronounced using the common version /'gō̄,nad/. Whether mispronounced unintentionally or intentionally, it does not sound flattering and it can be demeaning. For example, please consider this hypothetical scenario. Some asshole who is trying to bully or mock a person named Bobby Gonad, might purposely mispronounce his name in front of a crowd of people to insinuate that he is a sex gland. “Hey Gonad, how are they hanging?” I think you get the picture.

### **The Gonad Family**

Sofyan Gonad was born in India in 1948 to a low-income family that was struggling to survive. At his parent's urging, he hastily migrated to the United States immediately after he graduated from high school. He had only one contact from his native land, one of his father's elderly friends who worked as a chef at Callahan's Irish Pub in Milton, Delaware. That's right, an Indian dude cooking Irish food, and he did a masterful job. Sofyan reached out to his father's friend and got a job at Callahan's washing dishes, bussing tables, etc. He gradually learned how to prepare the Irish cuisine and worked his way into becoming a chef.

Callahan's Irish Pub was a family run operation and they were extremely hesitant to hire employees outside of their family's inner circle. But they took a liking to Sofyan and, in due

time, welcomed him as a vital member of their team. Sofyan was a tall Indian man with striking good looks. The Callahan's had a daughter named Daniella who was a blonde haired and blue-eyed Irish Catholic immigrant, and worked as the restaurant's maître de. Her charming Irish brogue and her spunky demeanor worked well with their regular clientele. Over time, Sofyan and Daniella formed a nice friendship that evolved into romantic feelings. They eventually got married and later had a son in 1978. Daniella was a huge Beatles fan, and her favorite Beatle was George Harrison, so they named their son Harrison. Harrison experienced a relatively normal American upbringing, but his father made sure that he learned about his Indian heritage and culture.

Throughout his school years, Harrison was a stereotypical geek. He was a tall, thin and lanky kid with horn rimmed glasses and at one point a massive set of braces. He was a bookworm who excelled in Math and Science, and was always on top of the latest video games, early computer software advances and the progression of the Internet. Along the way, he experienced his share of bullying, especially in the public Middle School he attended. His mother decided it would be best if her socially awkward half Asian/half Caucasian son parted ways with the mean kids in public school and attended a private Catholic high school. Her hope was that the students of high school age in a Christian environment would be less inclined to harass or bully her dear son.

### **St. Katherine's Catholic High School (1992 – 1996)**

Life as a high school Freshman was generally good for Harrison. He excelled academically and found his niche' socially among his fellow geeks. He tried out for the school's soccer team and made it as a reserve. He loved the game and practiced hard although his playing time was limited. He experienced his share of light bullying from some students, but it was

nothing serious. He did, however, feel tension from two soccer teammates, Rex and Benjamin, who for whatever reason seemed to despise Harrison. They would occasionally make a disparaging comment about Harrison's limited soccer ability. They even mocked his family name a couple of times, always in front of other teammates. For good measure, they would periodically call him Harry instead of Harrison to form the entirely demeaning name – Harry (as in hairy) Gonad. Clever – right? Wrong! Although embarrassed, Harrison just shrugged it off and coped, which he had learned to do so well in Middle School.

Harrison's Sophomore year also went fairly well, but he noticed that Rex and Benjamin seemed even more hostile to him, especially during the soccer season. They stepped up their harassment and bullying a bit by pulling an occasional stunt in the cafeteria or in a large class. Those attacks were very humiliating for Harrison, but he felt helpless and did not retaliate. The provocation lightened up after soccer season, but it was still a mental burden for him. During soccer season in their Junior year, a much-improved Harrison started getting more playing time which irked the bullies - Rex and Benjamin. Harrison survived his Junior year in spite of being humiliated a few times and he was ready for summer.

Although he began high school as a lean and lanky dork, Harrison gradually filled out physically and developed into a rather attractive and physically fit young man. Also, he experienced a huge growth spurt late in his Junior year into the following summer. While attending a summer soccer camp, he developed a nice friendship with a fellow camp attendee, Julia Smith, who played on the St. Katherine's girls' soccer team. She was a bit of a nerd herself, but she was spunky, intelligent and a great match for Harrison. She actually reminded Harrison of his Mom.

## **A Partner In Crime**

The friendship between Harrison and Julia evolved as they became more and more comfortable with each other, and they began dating early in their Senior year. From afar, Julia had observed much of the bullying that Harrison experienced over the past few years and initially thought he was weak. As she became close with him, however, she could see in his eyes the hurt he was experiencing, but she noticed he also had a stern look of steely determination. Ultimately, Julia admired how he kept his composure throughout his painful saga.

He returned for his Senior year looking different: bigger, stronger and much more confident. Plus, his soccer skills were vastly improved. He earned a starting role on the soccer team which took even more minutes away from Rex and Benjamin, and they were pissed. So, Harrison's nemeses decided to ramp things up and go big with a rather perverse and inhumane bullying stunt. One afternoon after soccer practice, they told Harrison that they would like to talk with him to clear things up and make peace. He agreed and the three of them would meet in the locker room with no one else around. Harrison was anxious to do this and reflected, "Hopefully this will end the bullying from these two dipshits."

## **The Cucumber Incident**

Harrison finished his post-practice shower and slowly walked toward his locker wrapped in a towel. Shockingly, he was tackled from behind by two guys who he couldn't see. They forced him to lie on the cold tile floor and held him face down. Harrison felt a hard cold object being pushed against his ass and he squirmed to resist. "What the fuck! Get off of me you assholes."

With his recently gained strength, Harrison managed to quickly roll over and escape the clutches of his two assailants. He jumped up now completely naked and saw his two attackers –

Rex and Benjamin. They pushed and shoved Harrison in an attempt to get him back down on the ground. Harrison responded by chest kicking Rex who fell backwards, and then ran toward the bathroom intending to lock himself in a stall. At that point, the janitor arrived and yelled, “What’s going on in here? And what the hell is that?”

Harrison grabbed his towel and covered up in shock. Benjamin responded to the janitor, “It’s a cucumber and you don’t need to worry about it. Just mop the floors and clean the toilets old man. Do you have any idea who my father is?”

“I don’t know your father, but I’d love to meet him you spoiled and disrespectful little punk. Were you two assholes trying to rape this kid with a cucumber?”

Realizing that the tables turned against them, Rex and Benjamin panicked and hurriedly exited the locker room, hopped in their vehicle and split.

“Are you okay young man?”

A stunned and dejected Harrison responded, “Yes sir. Thank you so much for helping me out. I can’t believe they tried to do that to me.”

“You know you can press charges against them, right?”

Harrison reflected for a moment then calmly stated, “That’s okay. I have a long-term plan for those fuckers.”

Harrison felt good about how he handled his attackers’ attempt to penetrate his virgin sphincter with a phallic-shaped vegetable. That evening, he and Julia were hanging out talking about their days. Typically, Julia avoided talking with Harrison about the hurt he had been experiencing from the incessant bullying, but today’s episode drove her to dig deeper.

“Harrison, was today the first time you retaliated against those two dickheads for harassing you?”

“Yes it was. I needed to do that, but I didn’t want to overreact.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, let’s just say that I’m storing what they’ve been doing to me in my revenge database.”

With a very concerned, yet intrigued facial expression, Julia responded, “That sounds scary. What do you mean?”

“I recently read a great quote about revenge. ‘I will destroy in the most beautiful way possible, and when I leave, you will finally understand why storms are named after people.’ Plus, my mother’s Irish and they just know how to retaliate with force. Her older brother, my Uncle Declan, is kind of a badass. I’m quite sure he was involved in some sort of Irish Mafia back in Dublin before he came to America. He now runs a security and investigation company, and he has offered his assistance with these two fuckers a few times. When the time is right, I’m going to surprise each of them with a nice Indian-Irish vengeance combo.”

“Well, whatever it is you’re plotting, I’m in. I can’t stand those two bastards.”

Harrison smiled a coy smile and nodded with confidence. “I may be part Indian, but I’m no Ghandhi as in ‘turn the other cheek.’ I have a long memory and I’m way smarter than those two pampered and spoiled silver spooners. In due time, they’ll face my wrath.”

### **Post High School**

Harrison and Julia’s relationship continued to thrive and they were falling in love with each other. After high school, they both attended the local junior college with a clear vision. They would study Hospitality Management, graduate in 1998, and immediately start their own events planning business - which they did. After the typical early challenges, their business grew into a solid livelihood. They got married in 1999 and decided to hold off on having children. When his

elders asked Harrison why they were delaying having children, he responded, “I want to wait until our business’s foundation is rock solid and I have some other important business to take care of.”

Harrison’s two “would be rapists” – Rex and Benjamin – went on to pursue their individual careers. Upon graduating from college with a degree in Political Science, Rex immediately entered the world of local politics. He was running for Councilman as a “family values” candidate, with the November election rapidly approaching. Benjamin inherited his family’s food catering business and took it to the next level. He also served as a Deacon in the local Catholic parish. With his immediate access to wealth, he became a strong supporter of Rex’s political career and very publicly backed his “family values” policies.

As the fifth anniversary of their graduation from St. Katherine’s High School neared, Harrison and Julia received a bevy of emails about the upcoming event. Being professional event planners, Harrison and Julia offered to plan and organize the banquet which would be the culmination of a series of activities including a pub crawl, a golf outing and a wine tasting event. The timing of the reunion had a slightly ominous feel as it was on the heels of the fairly recent 9/11 attacks, so security concerns were the new norm. Harrison’s Irish immigrant uncle offered to handle security pro bono.

### **“Go Time” - The Five-Year Reunion**

The five-year class reunion for St. Katherine’s High School Class of 1996 nostalgically took place in June 2001 in the school cafeteria. Harrison and Julia, with the support of a committee of former classmates, handled planning the culminating banquet. In a “let bygones be bygones” gesture, they actually hired Benjamin’s food catering service at a discounted price to prepare and serve the food. Harrison’s uncle provided two security guards pro bono strictly as a

precautionary measure. Plus, four of their classmates formed a very capable garage band years ago and they still performed as a part-time hobby. So, they hired them to provide the entertainment. Their plan was in place and Harrison agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The agenda included:

- A happy hour with an open bar and easy listening music in the background.
- Dinner and Dessert
  - Benjamin (the Deacon) was asked to provide the Invocation.
  - There would be a running sound-on-slide show of high school memories.
- Announcements and Recognition
- Dancing and Socializing

It was show time and the room gradually filled up with attendees as pleasant music played, fun conversation took place, and adult beverages were consumed. Unbeknownst to the planning committee, Harrison's uncle actually provided six security guards. Two of them, looking like secret service agents with dark suits and walkie talkies in hand, stood vigilant – one on each side of the cafeteria. The other four, who were massive and muscular human beings, dressed in black jumpsuits and "monitored" the hallways behind the scenes.

About 15 minutes into the Happy Hour, one of the security guards discreetly asked Rex and Benjamin if he could talk with them in private for a few moments. They agreed and, in clandestine fashion, he guided them out of the ballroom and into the hallway which was dimly lit. Within seconds, the other four security guards (the big boys in jumpsuits) who were also wearing ski masks, aggressively grabbed them from behind. Two of them on Rex and two on Benjamin. They stuffed their mouths with small wash cloths, and hogtied them with zip ties.

Assured that they had the situation under control, the other security guard quietly slipped back into the ballroom and assumed his original position.

About 30 minutes later, as he stood watch, Benjamin's and Rex's wives asked the security guard if he saw their husbands. "I have not. I'm sure they're around somewhere. Let me check the Men's Room."

He returned from the Men's Room and informed the ladies that they were not in there. As he did, Rex and Benjamin walked up looking like they saw a ghost. They were clearly flustered with extremely nervous looks on their faces. Rex's wife scolded him, "Where have you been? What's going on? And why the hell are you both holding cucumbers."

"It's no big deal, Benjamin and I decided to walk the hallways for old time's sake. It's kind of dark and we were riled by a bird that flew at us from out of nowhere." After a short pause, he continued, "And the cucumber is an inside joke, part of a lost bet. No need to worry darling."

Buying his explanation, they headed over to the bar to get a fresh round of drinks. For some reason, they each tucked their cucumbers in their pockets. Harrison and Julia happened to be standing near the bar chatting with a few old friends sipping on their favorite wine - Chianti. As Rex and Benjamin approached, Harrison excused himself, walked over to them and firmly shook their hands. "Enjoying Happy Hour fellas? Is everything okay? You boys look shook up."

A very nervous Rex frowned and sarcastically replied, "Oh, we're having a grand old time *Harry*."

Harrison leaned over and walked right up close to his two former assailants, firmly squeezed Rex's shoulder and whispered eerily, "Harrison, my name is Harrison. Got it assholes?"

Rex and Benjamin both obediently nodded in agreement as that exchange severely stunned them. After a very long silent pause, Harrison asked them, “Are those cucumbers in your pockets or are you just happy to see me?”

Clearly angered and frustrated, Rex and Benjamin just glared back at Harrison who coyly instructed them, “You can throw them away now boys. And you should wash your hands before you eat your meal. You just don’t know where they’ve been – right?”

The subsequent banquet and all of the reunion weekend happenings were viewed as huge successes.

### **Next Steps**

On the Monday evening following the Class reunion, Harrison and Julia sat in the private banquet room at the back end of Callahan’s with Uncle Declan. They were enjoying a few appetizers as they sipped on glasses of Chianti. They were there to quietly celebrate the successful first phase of Harrison Gonad’s revenge. They were also there to discuss precautionary measures and the execution of Phase Two – the final phase. Harrison proposed a toast, “To our amazing Uncle Declan and the successful completion of Phase One – Intimidation.”

Uncle Declan provided Harrison and Julia with a detailed explanation of exactly what happened at the Reunion on Saturday evening. “Well, my four resident Samoans grabbed them, hogtied them and stuffed their mouths with wash cloths so damn fast, they didn’t know what hit them. They then stuffed them head first into two large, brand-new awaiting trash cans. We didn’t want them to get their pretty Holiday outfits dirty. They let them squirm and stew in there for about five minutes. Pardon me but I’m about to get graphic here Julia.”

With a devious smile Julia responded, “Oh, it’s okay Uncle Declan. I’m loving this, please tell us every detail.”

“Well, my guys then each grabbed a cucumber and jammed them with as much pressure as possible against their respective assholes over their pants. And those two dickheads groaned in pain like helpless little bitches. I instructed my guys to taunt them a bit as they did it. They then tipped the trash cans over and pulled them out leaving them lying on the floor - still hogtied.”

Harrison interjected, “Man I wish I could have watched that.”

Uncle Declan continued, “One of my guys knelt down directly in front of them and read them the riot act. He said something like ‘I think you clowns know why we’re doing this - right?’ They both nodded in fear, then he explained that this 15-minute experience doesn’t even come close to what you did to that young man over a four-year period. He continued by warning them that if they tried to retaliate in any way, they would be met with a painful firestorm that would physically change their lives forever. He told them he was going to let them go in a few minutes and when that happened, to each grab their cucumber, and carry them into the Reunion until Harrison tells you to trash them. Using a small pair of scissors, they then cut one of their wrists free. They left the scissors lying nearby on the floor and took off in a hurry. We verified in advance that there were no cameras in there. I’d say that it went off without a hitch.”

Harrison reflected, “Man, they must be stewing right about now.”

“Do you think Harrison and I are safe after all of that?”

“Yes, I do. I’m going to have my team keep a watchful eye on your home and your office for a few weeks. Keep in mind, that Rex is wrapped up in his election campaign, so he’s insanely busy and he can’t afford any negative press.”

Julia responded, “That’s comforting to hear. Thank you Uncle Declan. So, what’s next?”

“So, the Saturday evening prior to Rex’s election, the news of his affair with his former mistress will be reported in the local news. The next day she’ll get interviewed, verify the affair, and reveal that he paid for her to get an abortion. And we have documentation to prove it.”

Harrison took a deep breath, and responded, “Man, it sounds so severe, but regardless of what he did to me in high school, the people in his District need to know about his hypocrisy.”

Uncle Declan said, “I absolutely agree. I feel like we’re vigilantes with a just cause aside from your revenge.”

Julia chimed in, “And what about Benjamin? Is that plan looking solid?”

“Yes indeed. We have a ton of documented evidence that he was systematically stealing a significant chunk of Rex’s campaign funds – close to \$100K - and funneling them into a private account. Rex had no idea, so when we inform him we’re confident he’ll expose everything.”

“What about the timeline for that part of it?”

“We figure that Rex will have a tough couple of months into early next year. Who knows how his wife will respond and what he’ll do next? But, he’ll find himself in dire straits, so we’ll decide on the right time to have Rex discover what happened. We’re confident that he’ll reveal everything to the authorities and Benjamin will have to face the music so to speak”

They all then sat in silence slowly sipping on their wine for several minutes. Harrison intervened, “Like I said earlier, it all feels so severe. I never intended for this to go beyond a one-time retaliation so they could feel how humiliating their bullying was for me. This could ruin their lives.”

Uncle Declan interrupted with confidence, “I get what you’re saying and how you’re feeling Harrison. And yes, it will likely ruin their current state of life, but they can rebound. *They* made bad decisions, not us. From this point on, the vengeance or karma or whatever we want to

call it, is on me and my crew. Imagine there is a steel firewall between what *we* did at the Reunion and what *I* am going to do going forward. Who knew that once we started to investigate those two bastards for wrong doing, the flood gates of crime would burst open? And, as I've said before, I didn't feel confident turning over our evidence to the local authorities. Their two wealthy families own them. I'm confident that we have to first publicly expose them with factual proof and get Rex's constituents riled up. Then we can get the authorities involved. I realize that it's all a bit Machiavellian, but I know how things work from a 'street smart' standpoint."

### **Closing the Deal**

As planned, on Sat. Nov. 3, 2001 with the election just three days away, the news of Rex's affair with his former mistress was reported in the local news. The next day she got interviewed, confirmed the affair, and also revealed that Rex ("Mr. Family Values") paid for her to get an abortion. And she provided documentation to prove it. Initially, Rex persistently denied the reports, but still lost his election in a crushing landslide defeat.

Rex's wife begrudgingly supported him and stayed with him. Shortly after suffering that dramatic public humiliation, Rex actually did the right thing and admitted to his wrong doings with sincerity and humility. He chose to end his political ambitions before he got them off the ground. After stepping away from the spotlight of local politics, he worked for his brother in his home improvements business.

Harrison's Uncle Declan seized that opportunity and expedited the next phase of the revenge plan. In late November, he had his people discreetly share their documented evidence of Benjamin's theft of Rex's campaign funds with him. Predictably, Rex was livid and immediately provided the evidence to the local authorities. Benjamin was eventually tried and convicted, and is now serving his four-year sentence.

## **Reflection**

As all of the dreadful news about Harrison Gonad's high school tormentors unfolded, his wife Julia asked him how he felt about the situation.

“On one level, I feel the emotional burden somewhat lifted. Seeing them suffer was satisfying, but only on a very cursory level. I now realize that getting past those difficult years and letting go of all of the embarrassment and humiliation I experienced is a choice I have to make. And having you by my side makes that choice easier. I love you Julia and thanks for having my back along the way.”

## **A Final Quote**

“The paradox of vengefulness is that it makes men dependent upon those who have harmed them, believing that their release from pain will come only when their tormentors suffer.” -Laura Hillenbrand

## **The End**