

The Bet

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The Bet

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Summary

(Complete)A simple argument leads Yakko and Wakko down into terrible betting territory. It was just a simple bet proving once and for all whether Yakko really could act. The victim chosen wasn't even a big deal. Who knew a small little bet could hurt so much.

Making the Deal

This is a remastered story, just like Just An Experiment. It's older writing so I have to refix it, and add some small editing details. Not a whole lot, I'm not rewriting it, it's mostly grammar and simple mistakes. Older tech, dates, or events that may occur in the story are kept preserved.

This story is scheduled to update on Wednesdays here. Please enjoy.

*I often reuse my original characters in different stories, sometimes similar settings, and the warners are always grown up characters.

The Bet

Chapter One: Making the Deal

"I'm ready," Dot yelled out as she packed her suitcase nice and tight for her trip. She missed her family and she was going to go home for at least a whole month. She came out of her room in a hurry. "Is she here yet?"

"Nope," Yakko said. "You pack everything?"

"Yep!" Dot held up her suitcase. "I'll be back in about a month."

Wakko was in front of the TV flipping through channels. "Aroma's still not here."

"Awww," Dot whined. She crossed her arms angrily.

"Don't worry, I'm sure she'll be here," Yakko said. "She wouldn't miss the opportunity to get away from everyone to come to me-to here." He corrected himself.

"You be good this time!" Dot warned Yakko. She looked over at Wakko. "You too! I don't want to get called back because *you* couldn't control yourselves! She's *supposed* to be me here."

"What?" Wakko asked innocently. "We were being affectionate with our sister."

"Yeah. Affectionate," Yakko agreed.

"Chasing her down the streets, glomping her, kissing her, and peeking at her is not affectionate." Dot strongly disagreed. "I swear, daddy was about to come over here and have a talk with you guys!"

"We know, we know," Yakko groaned. "Last thing we want is for dad to visit."

"It was hard to get her to agree to come back," Dot warned both of them.

"We already said we won't mess up," Wakko whined. "Still, I mean we are guys."

Yakko whistled and traced a set of curves in the air.

"She'll make public appearances as me, but don't expect her to be so friendly as the last time," Dot warned them. "This is supposed to be her chance to get away from the warner guys on our planet, not get cornered by them."

Yakko frowned. "Fine, fine. We get the hint already." He crossed his arms. "If you'd stop being such a 'daddy's little girl' you wouldn't have this problem."

"I don't stop to see them every fifty years like you guys!" Dot yelled at them. "You guys are really bad. You didn't even spend more than three days there."

"Well it's not like we have a cover," Wakko protested. "Aroma can look just like you and she's willing to switch places."

"Yeah. Last time I checked there aren't a lot of guys that really want to leave for some isolated planet and pretend to be someone they're not." Yakko grinned. Perfect hit!

"Just be nice," Dot grumbled to both of them. "I don't want my visit cut short because you couldn't control yourselves again."

"Neither do I."

Yakko, Wakko and Dot turned around. A female warner stood at the opened tower door.

"Aroma!" Dot shouted gleefully as she went to hug her old friend. "Glad you could make it. How was the trip?"

"Fine." Aroma smiled sweetly. "Are you leaving already?"

"Yep!" Dot smiled at Aroma. "I'll talk to you more when I get back. Enjoy your break, okay?"

"You enjoy yours." Aroma smiled back as she watched Dot leave. She knew she had to hurry, her ride to her planet Anima would be leaving without her if she didn't. She looked over at Yakko and Wakko suspiciously. ". . . hello again."

"Hellooooooo Aroma!" Yakko and Wakko quickly took off by her side. They wouldn't move that boldly until Dot was gone.

"Did you miss me?" Wakko asked as he gave her a kiss on the cheek.

"Hey, that's not fair! You love your other brother more than me?" Yakko whined as he gave her a kiss on the other side of her cheek.

Aroma groaned. Why did she agree to this again? How did Dot always talk her into this?
"Hello, Yakko and Wakko."

"Well that long trip must have worn you out!" Wakko grinned at her. "Ready for bed?"

"Yeah. We all share one bed now. Wanna sleep in the middle?" Yakko asked excitedly.

"No, I'm fine," Aroma said quickly. "Dot told me she slept in a different room."

"Ah, she did?" Yakko whined.

"I'm going to go unpack," Aroma said as she went straight to Dot's room.

Yakko and Wakko just stared happily at the door as she closed it. For a whole month, they would have to treat her like Dot on the outside of the tower. On the inside though, she was fair game.

Aroma sighed heavily against the door. Dot's brothers. Ugh! She moved to the bed and started to put her things away. It was nice to get away from Anima though, and it always gave her more options. Still, her brothers could be such handfuls. She could never let her guard down that long.

They were okay most of the time, as long as she kept her appearance as Dot up. Even when she didn't keep the appearance up, they got a 'little' out of control, but she'd seen far worse than the duo. In fact, she had been on good terms with them when she was much smaller. Her family moved away, but her and Dot stayed good friends. When her family decided to move back though, she was much too mature and the guys were warner guys.

Shortly after Dot, Yakko and Wakko left for Earth and Aroma was called. Dot was always a bit of a 'daddy's girl' and she needed to see her dad at least once every decade. Aroma had started to agree to replace Dot's role on Earth for her on short trips, so no one would question where Dot had went. Questions did not have nice answers and Anima refused to let warners who lived on different planets stay more than a week without a backup.

Aroma set her bags down and started to put her stuff away. She could handle Yakko and Wakko easily in the past. The last time she visited though, it hadn't been good. They practically ran around the city chasing her! Well, this time she was positive she would be fine. As long as they kept their perversion to a minimum, she could handle it.

She quickly turned her sexy mature body into a cute and innocent one. She placed in an exact replica of Dot's flower on her ears and wore a very similar pink skirt. She looked in the mirror.

Cute enough to kill. Perfect.

She came out of her room and saw Yakko and Wakko just grinning madly at her. "How's this?"

They groaned.

"You changed already?" Wakko whined. "We weren't going to go out for a little while."

"What do you mean?" Aroma grinned and made her voice squeakier to match Dot's voice. "Don't you wanna go visit Scratchy?"

The Warner Brothers rolled their eyes. Already changed, looked and sounded *exactly* like Dot. Dang the luck.

"Sure, why not?" Wakko shrugged. "Then we should go see Plotzy."

"Sounds great," Yakko agreed. He smiled over at Aroma. "Alright, come on 'Dot', let's go!"

That night...

Yakko frowned at Wakko. It was midnight in the water tower. 'Dot' was asleep but the two were too riled up to go to sleep. Their argument started simple enough. Their show 'Animaniacs' had been cancelled for years. Yakko, Wakko nor Dot had any job and the money to live off of was dwindling. They'd be lucky if they lasted another year. Yakko was currently trying to convince Wakko to give another show a shot. Only thing was, the Warner Brothers lot wasn't in a comedy trend right now. Hadn't been for awhile. They'd have to act in something else.

Unfortunately, most of the parts were either horror or romance. Yakko tried to convince Wakko that they could probably get a part. They were pretty good actors, and they had experience.

Wakko didn't believe they could act anymore though. Maybe comedy, but they couldn't pull off romance, horror or drama. It wasn't their nature. "We just can't pull it off, Yakko."

"Can too." Yakko disagreed. "There was a weird guy who wanted us in his movie about a year ago, remember?"

"Oh, he just wanted us because we were goofy and he wanted goofy. He couldn't get it off the ground though, so it didn't matter." Wakko smiled back. "Come on, admit it. We could never be actors again. In fact, we were even bad back then, remember?" he laughed. "We could never be anything but funny. Like, when we made our show 'Animaniacs'."

"Well, we could have," Yakko said. "We're best at comedy, but we could do drama or romance or whatever. At least I could, I know it!"

Wakko just laughed again. "Drama? Romance? Yeah, right. No, you couldn't."

"I could." Yakko said determinedly. "I could, if I had an acting part, I could do it. We need something Yakko, or forget Dot needing a substitute. We'll all have to go back home."

Wakko shrugged.

"I prefer comedy by leaps and bounds, but to stay on Earth, I can do more. I do have the acting touch. Besides, we need something. What else would we do?"

"We'll figure out something," Wakko said confidently. "Anything besides comedy isn't gonna work though. You can't pull off anything besides comedy, Yakko."

Yakko crossed his arms. "I could do any drama. I could do any romance. I could!"

"Oh Yakko, give it up." Wakko groaned. "You don't even know a thing about romance. How many dates have you been on?"

Yakko frowned. "Alright, I admit it, but girls are easy. All you have to be is charming and crap and you can get anyone you want." He grinned. "I bet I could get any girl I want if I just acted the part. You'd see."

"Yuh huh. You could nab one?" Wakko chuckled. "No way. I'd pay money to see that."

"Oh yeah?" Yakko asked interested. "What kind of money?"

"A stash I have," Wakko said, leaning forward. "You really think you could?"

Yakko grinned. "I could. I know I could."

"Pretty confident." Wakko looked at him with interest. "If you lost, what would I get?"

"Hmmm, whatever price we both named." Yakko agreed.

"Price, huh? Okay, I bet ya 100, naw 200 bucks you can't make a girl fall in love," Wakko agreed. "They say in movies and stuff it's harder than it looks. Prove me wrong, Yakko."

"200?" Yakko stopped to think. 200 was a good deal. He grinned. "Maybe. I want something more though. I want *you* to try for a part too! I'm not bringing in the income alone."

"Oh, but I just like comedy!" Wakko whined.

"Come on Wakko, we *need* work." Yakko frowned. "The money from our first contract is almost gone. Our 'Animaniacs' contract, that's already been gone. Pay or play shouldn't have been the way to go with that one."

"Oh fine," Wakko groaned. He didn't want to do drama or romance or horror. Why couldn't there be any comedy roles right now? "No matter which girl, I could pick the hardest one to get, and you really think you could bag her with some acting?"

"Anyone." Yakko grinned. "Easy as pie. I've watched lots of old movies."

"Alright then, make Aroma say she loves you." Wakko grinned evilly. If he was going to be doing drama, he'd make sure Yakko got the hardest and most difficult girl possible.

Yakko looked at him, a little disturbed. "Aroma? You mean 'the warner sister' right now?" He waved his hands emphatically. "That's not even fair! People will think we're related! Besides, I'm not that high on her list. There's no way she'd go for it."

Wakko laughed. "You can't really expect to prove anything if you get to be Yakko Warner, can you?"

"Oh, yeah. Sure." Yakko rolled his eyes. "Like another warner guy would just walk up to the tower? We're the only warners on Earth, Wakko!"

Wakko shrugged his shoulders. "I guess your right. You just *couldn't* do it."

"I could too." Yakko whined. "I could make her fall in love! I know, I could do it easily! Were on Earth though, not our native planet. How would another warner just show up out of nowhere?"

Wakko laughed slightly. "I've been eavesdropping on Dot." He grinned. "You know, she's been helping Aroma find someone who's not a hound for years. Well, she's got her set up on everything, even on Earth's Internet Dating, and I know her identity on it!"

"Well, that would work. A long lost warner." Yakko grinned evilly. "That'd be perfect! Heck, she's not too familiar with Earth, she might think it's possible." He started to think. "I would have to use my best disguise though." He smiled. Aroma would be an easy 200 bucks. All he had to do was be charming. Heh! He might even get more out of the deal. He grinned at the thought. "I could date her a couple times, get some willing kissing from her, make her admit her feelings, dump her and watch her eat ice cream for a week. I could do it!"

"Are ya sure?" Wakko laughed. "What if she's 'the one'?"

"What? She's got a nice set of curves, but nothing worth jeopardizing my freedom for," Yakko laughed. Really. The one.

"You *really* think you can do it?" Wakko smiled. "If you get in tough spots, I'll help cover for you, but that's the only help I'll give. After all, I don't want to work in drama."

"Agreed," Yakko said. "Making Aroma say love. Can't be that hard."

"Well, if you do win then maybe afterward she'll feel lonely?" Wakko smiled. "Then she'll need someone to comfort her." He grinned. "I think I'd still win."

"Yeah, maybe she'll need duo comfort!" Yakko said happily.

It was perfect. Be nice, get some kissing fun on the side, make her confess love, dump her, and done. It was absolutely perfect! Nothing could ever go wrong with this bet! Right?

Meeting Devin

Chapter Two: Meeting Devin

Two nights later...

Aroma couldn't believe her eyes as she read her mail. Dot had always helped her try to find the right kind of warner for her. When it came to matchmaker, Dot never gave up for some reason. Dating sites all over the universe. If it existed, Dot had set up a profile for it. At first, Aroma did not like it but she found that no one ever really contacted her that was real anyhow. Rarely did it even bother her, but an Earth site Dot hooked her up on just sent out an automatic response telling her she had mail. *A response? On an Earth dating site?* She opened up the email and started to read.

Her handle was 2cute and his was goofguy. He said that he knew there were only four other warners on Earth besides him, and asked if she was related. He said her profile seemed nice and he couldn't forgive himself if he missed an opportunity to meet such a sweet warner companion. He apparently lived in New York, but he traveled to California to attend conferences and wanted to meet her.

He of course assumed she was with the Warner Brothers instead of their cousin, and said he could drop by the water tower if she were interested.

Well, an actual response from a warner. She started to type back a response and sent it.

In the other room, opposite of her...

Yakko and Wakko were both waiting at 'Devin's' email address.

"Didn't she get it yet?" Wakko frowned. "It has an automatic response, doesn't it?"

A few seconds later, Aroma's message came.

"Bingo!" Yakko laughed trying to be quiet. Aroma admitted that she was temporarily staying to help their sister out. She thought it would be nice to meet but she wanted to talk to the Warner Brothers to see if they'd ever heard of him.

"Talk to us?" Yakko whined. "Wakko? Go knock on her door and see how she's doing."

Wakko nodded. He left Yakko's room and knocked on Aroma's door.

Aroma turned her computer screen away and went to the door. She smiled sweetly, still disguised as Dot. "Yes?"

"Hi!" Wakko waved. "What are you up to?"

"Just on the computer," Aroma said. "Why?"

"On the computer?" Wakko ducked into her room and turned the screen to him. "Oh, you're talking to someone?! Who?"

Aroma groaned. Well, she did need to ask them anyhow. Dot never mentioned any other warners living there on Earth. "Someone. Wakko, do you know if there's any other warners on Earth?"

"Besides me and Yakko?" Wakko smiled. "Sure, there's our Uncle Sakko and uhh...Devin!"

Aroma smiled, so there had been someone. "Do you know him well?"

"Uhhh, sort of?" Wakko chuckled. "Yakko knows him *really* well. Dot's never met him though."

"Well, is he nice?" Aroma asked.

"Really nice!" Wakko looked at the computer. "Is this him?"

"I think so," Aroma remarked. "Are you sure he's safe?"

"Absolutely!" Wakko grinned. "Trust me. He's as safe as..." he chuckled. "As Yakko and me!"

Aroma looked at the computer. "Wakko? He wants to meet me. He seems nice."

"Sure, he's great." Wakko was too excited about something. "Well, I better go now. You should invite him over. In fact, I think he's coming tomorrow."

Aroma watched as Wakko started to leave. Odd guy.

Wakko dashed back to Yakko's room. Yakko was asleep, drooling at the computer. "Bored much?"

Yakko woke back up, stretched and yawned. He watched the computer again. He watched it longer. "Girls take forever to make up their minds."

After he said that he finally got a response from Aroma. He read it. "She wants to meet tomorrow with us there too." He could finagle that. He answered back that he'd make reservations for 5:30.

The next day. 5:00...

"Okay, have fun!" Wakko and Yakko both started to head out of the tower.

"Wait! Where are you going?" Aroma frowned. "You two said that-"

"We're gonna go see a movie instead, Sounds funner," Wakko replied.

"Yeah," Yakko said, "Don't worry. Devin's a great guy. I've known him since forever."

"Yeah," Wakko insisted. "Just keep a mallet ready if he tries anything."

Aroma was upset, but she nodded her head. Not much choice after all. "I guess I'll go upstairs and change back to myself."

"Yeah!" Yakko seemed a bit too giddy at the thought. "Since you don't have to be Dot," he added. He nodded at Wakko. "Let's go, Wakko."

Aroma watched as the duo both took off.

5:30...

Yakko chuckled as he started to walk toward the tower. The warners tended to look very much alike since they didn't really grow facial hair, so a simple change here and there should be good. Doubting Aroma had ever watched their old show *Animaniacs*, he confidently wore his suit from the episode of 'The Christmas Plotz', and even added a pair of small glasses to complete the look.

Swinging his cane, he smiled in spite of himself as he started to head up the tower. He politely knocked on the door with his cane as he fixed his top hat. He leaned against his cane, trying to look as debonair as he possibly could when she opened the door.

As he saw Aroma though, his debonair went a little off as he leaned too far on his cane and tumbled.

Aroma had worn a red strapless sequined dress. Something she wouldn't have worn if the Warner Brothers had stayed. "Are you alright, Devin?"

'Devin' instantly got up. "Yeah, fine!" He laughed. He stared at Aroma up and down, until he forgot who he was supposed to be. *Nope, settle down, that'll blow it. Acting, Yakko.* He faked a blush for good measure as he looked into her eyes. "Your eyes are as beautiful as the setting sunset."

"Okay," Aroma said. Not the best comeback line. "Yakko and Wakko will probably be a bit late."

"That's fine," Devin said as he tipped his hat. "Are you ready?" He held out his arm for her to take. Aroma accepted his gesture and placed her arm in his before they started to take off. "I made reservations at one of the finest seafood restaurants," Devin boistered as he twirled his cane. "Too bad the other gentlemen could not come. They would have adored the array of wonderful choices."

Aroma nodded. "It sounds lovely."

"Devin." Devin pushed slightly. "Devin is just fine, Aroma."

"Well, Devin," Aroma said. "Is there a last name to that?"

"Devin Dufe." Devin made up on the spot. "Did I mention how radiant you look tonight? Very smashing."

"Yes, you did." Aroma sighed.

Devin felt like patting himself on the back. *I'll have her eating out of my hands soon!* He waved politely to the cab he had waiting.

Devin pulled his elbow back in an excited gesture before Aroma saw him. *Yes!* he thought triumphantly. He talked plenty about New York and his money, that would help. The restaurant he picked was known for its romantic view too. *Score again.*

Sitting down at one of the outdoor eating areas, Devin wasted no time.

"I would like the filet mignon with a side of the lobster tail," Devin said boastfully to his waiter. "You, Aroma, my sweet?" He asked Aroma gently.

Aroma looked at the menu. "Ohh..." Aroma kept staring. "There's nothing under twenty bucks."

"Don't worry my sweet Aroma," Devin said kindly. "Choose whatever you wish. I have no reason to fret about such a simple thing as money."

Aroma looked back at the menu. "I guess the shrimp with lobster sauce," she decided as she handed the waiter her menu. "I don't much about Earth's sea creatures."

As the waiter left, Devin turned on the charm again. "Aroma, you've captivated my attention from the very moment I saw you."

"...uh huh." Aroma didn't look right though. "Look, Devin. This isn't going to work out."

Devin just gave her an odd look. "Huh?" He gestured around himself. "The restaurant?" He pointed toward some food a waiter was bringing as he went by. "The food isn't good enough?"

"No," Aroma admitted, "it's not the food. It just isn't going to work out."

"But-what the heck?!" Devin protested. "I brought you to a fancy restaurant, I've done nothing but compliment the way you look, and I'm rich! What am I missing?!"

Aroma crossed her arms. She seemed to be angry a moment but then shook her head sadly. "Duped again. What else is new?"

"Duped?" Devin whined. "What do you mean? What did I do wrong?"

"Don't, just don't," Aroma insisted as she stood up. "Let me make this clear. I'll even use your Earth lingo. There's no 'one night stand' here for you."

"What?!" Devin's voice squealed slightly. "No way, I wasn't trying to do that, honest! I just thought you were attractive and we'd work well together."

Aroma didn't buy even one word. "Nice to meet you, Devin. Goodbye."

"Wait! Wait, wait, wait!" Devin whined as he got up and ran in front of her. He stood in her way. "It's not like that! I did all this 'cause..." *Think Yakko, think!* "...I'm not good with females."

Aroma examined his look carefully. "What do you mean?"

"Well, I have lots of money," Devin began to lie, "and a lot of the women on this planet are only interested in that, but I don't want them. I want a warner female. So, when I heard there was a female, I wanted to impress you as well as I could. To, well, get a decent chance with you."

Aroma still looked like she wasn't buying it. "There is the Warner Sister."

"Huh? Eww!" Devin looked very disgusted. "Dot's like my-!" He caught himself in time before he made the big mistake of saying sister. "Dot's like my complete opposite. She's rude and crude. And uhh...the Warner Brothers wouldn't like me very much if I was interested anyhow."

Aroma sighed. "Okay."

Devin grinned. She bought it. "Now, let's sit back down and enjoy our meal, okay?" He pulled her chair out and once she sat down he pushed it in very gentlemanly. He then went and sat down himself, but he noticed Aroma was still uneasy. "My sweet? What is it?"

"I'll give you another chance," Aroma agreed, "but I don't want anymore of this 'fake self' you've been portraying."

"Fake?" Devin almost whined it out. "Whatever do you mean?"

"Oh please." Aroma almost groaned. "Your foot is tapping like a mad man. You're obviously a more energetic warner than you're letting on."

Devin smiled nervously. "Busted?"

Aroma chuckled and started to stand up. "Can we go back to the tower now? Surely the guys should be home."

"You don't want to eat my sweet?" Devin asked curiously.

"Devin," Aroma insisted. "I've been to enough fancy restaurants to have a big enough tab to own one. Money doesn't impress me."

Shoot! My money angle is going out the door then! "Well then, why stay here then?!" Devin laughed as he got up. *If money doesn't impress her then I'm not forking over 70 dollars for food.* "Where would you like to go my dear?"

"Out in the woods to find my kin?" Aroma teased.

Devin didn't get it.

"Just call me Aroma. Please?" Aroma insisted.

No dear or darling or love? Well, great. Another way of getting close just went bye bye. At this rate, I'm not gonna have anything left. "Where do ya wanna go then?" Devin asked less than enthusiastically. His gimmicks were all going down the drain.

"What about a regular restaurant?" Aroma smiled. "I've never really been to one of those."

"A regular restaurant?" Devin groaned. "Well, great, why don't we just slip on over to Burger King then?" He answered sarcastically.

"Burger King?" Aroma smiled. "That is the, oh, what's the word. Quick eats?"

"Fast food," Devin corrected her. *You've gotta be kidding me. There's no way she'd actually-*

"Fast food. Simple, messy, and quick," Aroma chuckled. "The Warners took me to some fast food a couple of times. It's very tasty and takes little time to get your food."

Score well on the wallet anyhow. A few bucks for supper sounds good. "If that's where you wish to go, Aroma, then let's go!" Devin almost sounded a bit too cheerful. Truth was, Aroma was right on the mark. He had such a hard time trying not to just run the heck out of there. It was too calm, nothing like what he wanted.

Several hours later...

Aroma kept laughing at Devin as she was trying to go back to the tower. It was their first date together, and already she had stayed out with him longer than she had planned. It was so unlike her, but she couldn't help herself. Devin was so full of energy and life! "I had a great time tonight."

Devin nodded his head politely. "Eh, it was alright." He knew he didn't have anything else left to impress her with. Instead of wasting the rest of the night trying to 'woo' her, which obviously wouldn't work, Yakko decided to just be himself. He went and ran through the streets with her, made some faces at people in restaurants, and pretty much acted like himself. Heck, if he was stuck on a lousy date that wouldn't work, he was going to have fun on it. Dangit. "Had fun at least at the end."

Aroma grinned. "Well, when are you coming back to Burbank?"

Devin looked at her strangely. No way. *Is it really possible?* "I'll be here for awhile. Why?"

Aroma smiled sweetly. "I had fun, and if you want..."

"You wanna go out again?" Devin looked enthusiastic.

"When?" Aroma smiled.

"Well, you leave in a month," Devin reminded her. "Why waste time. Tomorrow night?"

Aroma nodded her head. "Alright, tomorrow. 9:00?"

"9:00? Sure," Devin agreed. "9:00 it is. I'll go make reservations at a fine restaurant, so we can go by it and have some fun."

"Dancing on the tables again?" Aroma chuckled. She nodded. "Sounds wonderful."

"I'll see ya then." Devin waved as he started to walk off. *Wow, I don't believe it.* He twirled his cane confidently. Now he knew how to get Aroma. Just be himself! Strange, but it was so much easier anyhow and funner than having to be polite all the time. *Ooh!* He started to get excited. *I bet I can get a kiss next time. A genuine kiss!* His mind started to get away from him for a second. *If not then, by the third. Oh yeah. This is the sweetest bet I ever made! There's no way this can go wrong.*

Feeling Different?

Author's Note: Yep, I know I haven't put up this one for some time. I had a lot of things going on in my life, but I have slowly gotten it back together. Well, a new life. The result being I can take some time for myself and get back to my own writing better. I don't have all the free time in the world I used to, but when I get a chance, I am more likely to reach out and write again.

Two WEEKS later...

Devin sighed as he walked Aroma back to the tower. Again. They had already dated like 10 times and he STILL couldn't even get a kiss! Let alone make her say she loved him.

"Love you?" He blurted out, hoping maybe his blurt would help. It certainly couldn't hurt.

Aroma looked at him a bit in awe, then in suspicion. "Are you kidding me, Devin?"

"No, I love you." Devin grinned from ear to ear. "So come on! Say you love me too!"

"I uhhh..." Aroma started to seem a bit nervous. "I don't think you understand what you're really saying to me."

Devin whined. He was at the freaking halfway point and NO progress! Even blurting it out hadn't helped. "What?" he complained. "I do too, and we've had like ten dates, can't I get even ONE kiss?"

Aroma started to take a step back. "Devin, I told you. I don't just kiss anybody."

"Ten!" Devin whined again. *You're impossible!* "I love you already."

Aroma felt Devin get closer to her, but she quickly pushed him back. "NO MEANS NO!!"

Devin was a bit surprised with how ferocious she had just become. He'd only pressured her a little in the eyes of their race.

Aroma noticed the way Devin was looking at her. "Goodnight."

"Wait!" Devin called out to her. He sighed. "I'll wait longer," he groaned. "When do you wanna go out again?"

"I've had fun Devin, I really have," Aroma started. "I think we've reached our limit though."

"Nuh uh." Devin replied. *Not for another couple weeks.* "Come on. You're not gonna quit dating me because of a little misunderstanding? I-I can wait, really."

Aroma sighed. "I know you don't want to go slow."

You're telling me. "I will though." Devin smiled as charmingly as he could. "I want to be closer, but I can be a good warner. I'll do anything to stay with you."

Aroma blushed slightly at his comment. Yakko couldn't help but grin. Score a point, a romantic gesture actually got through!

Aroma tried to hide her blush. "Are you in town again tomorrow?"

"Yeah. 9:00." Devin repeated the time they had gone at on almost all their dates.

Aroma nodded. "Alright." She smiled sweetly. "9:00."

Devin just watched her go into the tower and groaned. *She won't say she loves me. I can't even wrangle a single kiss!* He started to walk away from the tower. *I've gone farther with Scratchy's nurse in ONE day than I can with her.* He started to take his glasses off. In a few minutes he'd return to the tower as Yakko Warner. *And Wakko just laughs.* He growled to himself as he mocked his brother. *He'll just say 'You still haven't gotten even a kiss? You're never gonna win!'* He groaned as he started to put his original outfit back on. *How am I gonna win?*

Inside the tower...

Aroma was starting to head to bed, thinking about that night. She knew Devin had always wanted at least a kiss, but an 'I love you?'. *It doesn't make sense. Why does he want me to say that so much?* She started to pull back the covers. *And how could I? I barely know him.* She smiled. *He is cute though. He's borderline psychotic, that's a plus for a warner.* She couldn't help but giggle a bit. *He's so funny and his expressions are so memorable. Oh, and the rare*

moments when he's at complete ease. She started to crawl into the bed. His tail starts to wave and curl into a perfect S. I've never seen that with another warner before. She started to get cozy. He's a real nice warner. He even accepts I don't want to move so fast...but love him? Aroma closed her eyes. He was one of a kind, but love?

BREEP!**BREEP!

Aroma groaned but started to get out of bed. Her warner 'laptop' was dinging, meaning Dot was trying to connect. She went over and looked at it. She started to type, but the satellite connection from one planet to another was very limited. She tried to hold it up around the room, trying to find the best source for the signal. She had played around with it so much, but she hadn't found a good signal until she was in the kitchen. She set the laptop down and started to type on the warner 'instant messenger'.

Aroma says: Hello Dot

Dot says: Hi there! Enjoying your stay?

Aroma says: Yes I am!

Dot says: Good! Umm...did I mention how NICE of a warner you are?

Aroma says: What's wrong.

Dot says: I know you're only supposed to stay for a month but I really REALLY can't help it! A storm has fallen on Anima!

Aroma says: A storm? Anima's weather is always clear. An actual storm?

Dot says: Yeah, I know. Mother nature's making up for all the beautiful weather now. It's gonna be at least three weeks before it passes.

Aroma says: I understand. They are so rare, it's hard to believe.

Dot says: Right when I get home too! The snow just won't let up and it's already halfway past the door. Can't even go outside now. Barely get enough reception for this little message.

Aroma says: I understand. It's okay, it's not too bad here. In fact, there was someone I met.

Dot says: Good for you! Tell me about him!

Aroma says: Well, he

"What're you doing?" Wakko interrupted as he came out of his room and saw Aroma typing on the stove.

Aroma smiled at him. "It's your sister. Would you like to talk to her?"

"Dot's talking with you?" Wakko asked a bit nervously. He quickly went over to the laptop, trying to make his nerves sound more like excitement. "Oh, I've sure missed her!" Wakko started typing to Dot about everything he could. He stayed online until Aroma finally decided to just go to bed. He promised to log off for her at the end. And even though it was nice to hear her words again, that wasn't why he spent so long on there.

Yakko had stayed out about half an hour before he started walking back to the tower. When he arrived inside, he knew by the look on Wakko's face something was wrong. "What is it?"

"Dot." Wakko sighed. "She's caught in an Anima storm. She'll be a week late."

Yakko grinned. "Extra time?" Then he frowned. "Wait, how do you know that?"

"She just messaged Aroma through the computer." Wakko informed him.

"Are you kidding?" Yakko whined. "Did she tell Aroma something?"

"I don't think so." Wakko explained. "Aroma was just about to tell her about 'Devin' when I came into the room."

"Oh." Yakko sighed and looked at the computer. "Well, not much we can do but-oops?" Yakko purposefully dropped Aroma's laptop. "Butterfingers." He shrugged his shoulders. "I'll buy her a new one for that 'accident' of mine," he chuckled.

Wakko grinned. "You're so lucky I got here before Dot spilled anything. So, how was your date?" He teased. "Did you get a kiss yet?"

Yakko suddenly wasn't feeling chatty. "I'm not giving up."

Wakko just smiled as he watched Yakko head for his own bed. If he couldn't even get a kiss by now, extra time or not, there was no way he could bag Aroma.

The next night at 9:30...

After running through a park from someone they had probably pissed off, Devin started to slow down. "I think we gave him the slip."

Aroma nodded and fixed her dress casually.

Devin just sighed and stared at her. He had gotten no closer to her as being 'Devin' than he had as Yakko Warner. He may have another week but if he didn't do SOMETHING, then even another whole month wouldn't matter. "Aroma? Let's talk for a bit, huh?"

Aroma turned to look at Devin. "What?"

"I know you wanna take it slow." Devin began. "But at the same time, we can't. I like you and you like me, right?"

Aroma started to get quiet again.

"Well what's it gonna matter if you leave in just weeks?" Devin asked smartly.

Aroma didn't know how to answer that. "You've known I wouldn't be staying too long."

Eh, a lie. Another dumb lie, what could it hurt? "Yeah but...what if you are the one for me?" Devin asked, a pang of hurt in his voice. "I love you like no other. If you just trust in me, we could see just how far this could go. Aroma..." Devin took her hand gently. "...if we're meant to be, I'll leave back to Anima with you."

Feeling Devin's soft touch and looking into his eyes, Aroma couldn't help but hold her breath. "...you would?"

"Yes." Devin answered as he smiled. "There's nothing to fear but not trying. If it's not meant to be, we'll figure it out. But we can't know anything...if you can't even kiss me."

Aroma glanced at the ground briefly and then back at Devin. She nervously bit her lip. "Devin. Maybe we could, but I'm not sure. Are you really telling me the truth?"

"Of course." Devin just grinned.

Aroma looked back down at the ground and fidgeted with her fingers. Even her tail was getting very fidgety. She looked at him and started to think. *One of a kind. Smart, funny, and just so...unique* "That's a biiiiig leap."

Devin recognized that look. He was going overboard to her. "Not a real big leap. Actually, I've been thinking about leaving. My company has changed so much and I was considering leaving before you even came here. You'd just seal the deal."

Aroma smiled slightly. *Well, maybe he is telling the truth? Just please don't be lying Devin.* Aroma slowly started to move closer.

Devin's smile was starting to grow wider. *Yes, finally. Yakko, you are on your way.*

Aroma took a deep breath and looked at Devin one more time in the eyes. Then, she kissed him.

Devin's eyebrow raised slightly. It had just been a tiny kiss on the lips? That was it? Nuh uh.

Aroma's eyes flew wide open as Devin suddenly pulled her very close to him and started to force her mouth open for a hard kiss! She pushed him back some and getting the hint, Devin backed off his force slightly, but he wasn't giving her the little kisses she gave him.

The force had thrown Aroma off her guard, but the kissing Devin was now doing wasn't half bad. In fact, she couldn't help but start to get into it herself.

As they continued to kiss, Aroma couldn't help but feel like she was in some fantasy. The wind was blowing slightly colder than normal but with Devin pressed up against her she felt so warm and protected. They stayed there, kissing in the moonlight for minutes on end, neither one wanting to end it.

All good things come to an end though. Aroma was the first to stop the kissing, but she hadn't backed away. Instead, she had layed her head down on his shoulder.

Devin just looked at her strangely. He wasn't used to that. He wasn't even used to getting kissed back. It had been REALLY nice, but she was leaning against his shoulder? *What am I supposed to do now? Hold her or something?* Realizing he just gave himself his answer he started to hold Aroma closely next to him. As he held her though, he realized he was starting to feel different. She felt so warm and velvety with her fur so close to his. He even felt her breath on the back of his neck, and it made him feel different too.

Everything felt so...different? *Weird. Why do I feel so weird?* He looked up at the sky. *...maybe it has something to do with the extra burrito I ate?* He started to feel a little uncomfortable at that thought. *Whoah if it is, maybe she shouldn't be standing so close.* He started to crack a smile.

Aroma felt his mouth move and turned to look at him. He had the 'I wasn't planning on doing anything look on him'. "...". She looked at him a bit strange and just wondered for a second. Deciding the romance was definitely gone she started to back away.

Devin just started to whistle the Animaniacs theme song.

Aroma just laughed at him. Yeah, the romance was definitely over.

Progress or Regrets?

Three WEEKS later...

Wakko watched as he saw Yakko look in his mirror. It had been over three weeks since they heard from Dot now. The storm they must have had was vicious. And since Yakko had smashed the computer, they didn't know what was going on.

Yakko was working on positioning his ears. He noticed when his ears hung over to the left more than usual Aroma seemed to act like he was a bit cuter. Why?

"Yakko?" Wakko called out to him. "What are you doing?"

Yakko couldn't answer him. He tilted his head farther to the left. "She said I was...I mean, nothing." Yakko couldn't answer Wakko right now. Aroma was just in the other room. "What's up?"

Wakko gestured to the outside. "She's long gone. Went to the store for something." Wakko looked over at Yakko. "Is there any way our computer's could reach Dot?"

"I doubt it." Yakko said knowingly but sadly. "Don't worry she said a week. I'm sure she's coming." He stood up and fixed his ears right again. "If she doesn't, I don't know. We'll just have to get the other computer fixed somehow."

Wakko nodded. Together, he and Yakko could probably get it figured out. "So, what are you doing with your ears?"

"Eh, I notice I get better responses out of her if I tip my head and my ears fall to the left." Yakko chuckled. "I can get almost anything that way."

Wakko laughed. "Right now's about the time Dot should say it's because you look cute that way?"

"Cute as a bunny or whatever, I don't care." Yakko crossed his arms. "As long as I can get her to say she loves me! I am so running out of time."

"Still nothing?" Wakko just shook his head. "Why don't you just give up then?"

"Nah, nah I can do it. I can do it!" Yakko heard the door close meaning Aroma had come back. Time to shutup. "Hi Aroma. How are you?"

Aroma turned to look at Yakko and smiled. For some reason on this trip, he had been a lot more friendly and less perverted than usual. Was it because he felt bad about dropping her laptop? She didn't know where the change came from, but she wasn't going to question a good thing. "Pretty good. I bought something for my date tonight."

Wakko and Yakko both stared at the bag. Their minds started racing with possibilities.

Aroma noticed a funny expression on Yakko's face. It was less perverted and more...impatient?

"Oh!" Yakko whined. "But you don't go out until tonight."

Aroma just gave him a weird look. "So?"

"What dya buy?" Wakko asked excitedly as he bounced up and down. "Come on, tell us?"

"No." Aroma frowned. "It's not any of your business, it's girl stuff."

Yakko was practically ready to jump up and down too! *What did she get?* Normally they wouldn't care so much but she had a bag labeled 'Amour'. A place where men wouldn't go unless they wanted to be thought of as pervs.

Aroma just smiled oddly at the duo and shaking her head started to walk away. Whatever they were thinking, she didn't want to know about.

Wakko looked over at Yakko. "I don't think the word 'love' is gonna be a problem anymore."

Yakko had an odd grin on his face. "Told ya. I could make anyone fall."

"Fall for what?"

Yakko and Wakko both shut up as Aroma showed up behind them unexpectedly.

"For jokes!" Yakko laughed, trying to cover up. "For jokes of course, what else?"

Aroma hadn't cared too much she was just curious so she let it drop.

Later that night...

"And I'm off." Yakko started to dress as Devin again. Aroma was currently out of the water tower and this was the best chance to get away and become Devin without looking suspicious.

"Why don't you just give up?" Wakko frowned. "You've only gotten to the point of kissing her Yakko, she'll never admit love."

"Oh yeah she will." Yakko laughed as he put 'Devin's' glasses on. "Trust me Wakko, she's falling for me really hard! I think she was always surrounded by goody two shoes who just had lots of money. Gaining her trust was really easy." He chuckled. "Plus, she shopped at Amour! For ME!" He said confidently wiggling his eyebrows. "I've just gotta reel her in tonight."

"Yeah..." Wakko started to scratch the back of his head. "It's just that, I've been thinking you know?"

"Uh oh. You didn't hurt yourself, did ya?" Yakko joked casually.

"I'm thinking maybe this isn't such a good idea." Wakko confessed.

Yakko tiskied. "Wakko? Trying to get out of our bet? I know you don't like drama, but you are definitely finishing this and getting a drama role."

Wakko had a sour expression on his face. Yakko just didn't get it yet. Everytime 'Devin' went out with Aroma, the more she became attached to him. Which was what they wanted. But the more he saw the couple together, the more he started to realize what they were doing was very wrong. He had teased Yakko to quit, but the truth was he was growing a conscience. The shopping at Amour proved it that day. The bet was just going too far.

'Devin' now stood proudly in front of the mirror. His greatest accomplishment was about to happen. Aroma was getting easier and easier since he'd given her that whole spill about leaving to Anima with her. In fact, if he just played his cards right he was sure he could get her to confess that night. Nothing could stop him.

Wakko sighed and started to leave. There wasn't anything he could really do. Aroma would be showing up soon and her and 'Devin' would go on their date. Again.

Water Tower. 9:00.

Devin showed up as always at the water tower, tipping his hat. "Ready ta go?"

Aroma wore just a casual dress and smiled at him. Half the things they did on their dates didn't require fancy apparel. "Sure! What do you want to do tonight?"

Devin grinned. Most likely she'd expect their usual. Running around the lot. Making new friends who eventually threw something at you. Greeting old friends who yelled at you. Well, tonight wasn't going to be the usual. "I've got something special planned."

Aroma gave him a suspicious smile. "Oh?" She had a feeling she knew what it was.

"Yep! See this here?" Devin brought out a map and pointed to a small area. "We're gonna have a picnic. Just us two, out in the park."

"...oh." Aroma didn't seem as enthused. "I thought maybe you wanted to show me where you lived finally."

Devin raised his eyebrow at her. "Ex..." He tried to watch himself. Ex-squeeze me was more of Yakko Warner's phrase. "...Excuse me? Where I live?"

"Well, we have been dating awhile." Aroma reminded him. "You've never even talked about where you live or really what you do Devin." She tilted her head slightly. "In fact, you've never even mentioned any of your friends besides Yakko. And to me, Yakko hardly talked about you."

Oooohhh...suspicion. He could feel it radiating off of her. "Uhhh..." *Careful!* "Well, I...you said that money didn't matter so I figured, you wouldn't be impressed by my big place!"

"That's not the point." Aroma frowned. "You want to see if we are right for each other, but every time I bring up your life, you shy away."

"Shy?" Devin stuck out his tongue. That definitely didn't fit him. "Nah, it's just...boring."

"It's your life." Aroma frowned. "If you want me to be a part of it, then let me be a part of it."

Devin groaned. "Fine, okay! You can...go someday. Just, can we go already?" he whined. Great, just great! She was supposed to giggle and be happy about such a nice and thoughtful gesture! He'd get her when she was at her weakest point emotionally through the whole sappy thing, then Whammo! He'd get her confession of love.

Didn't look like it was gonna turn out that way.

Aroma crossed her arms and started to walk alongside Devin. 'I weakened my defenses and kissed him. The least he could do is tell me more about him! If Dot was here, she'd tell me what to do about him. How to make him spill!' She looked over at Devin's grin. 'And he'll really go back to Anima with me if he feels like I'm the one? Oh, I'm doubting that more and more...'

Noticing the gloomy expression on Aroma, Devin knew he wasn't going to make much head way tonight. He'd be lucky if he could even get a make out session.

True, Aroma wasn't one to kiss that often, but when she did, she kissed like a warner. Not with much force, but with a lot of passion. Yakko liked that part of the whole bet, made everything well worth it!

As they headed for the little spot Devin had set up, Aroma still seemed a bit bitter. "What is it?" Devin whined. "Oh come on! I told you, I'll tell ya later. I mean, I put a lot of effort into this."

Aroma just groaned bitterly. *Effort? It's sandwiches in a picnic basket.* She had come to know how Devin thought a lot better than he knew. He and Yakko both had the same kind of pattern with their moves. "What are you trying to get out of me?"

"Huh? Nothing!" Devin faked a hurt expression. "I just thought it would be nice. Excuse me for trying to please you."

Aroma just looked at the ground bitterly.

Devin groaned. There was only one thing he could do, and he really didn't want to do it. She wasn't gonna trust in him though if he didn't talk about it. "I'm a business associate at a company." He lied. "We help clients with their mortgage problems. I attend conferences in California because the head of the company lives up here and doesn't want to travel back and forth."

Aroma started to soften a bit. Finally, he was talking about himself. "What's your company called?"

"Ida...dufacto..." Devin groaned. He hadn't thought of any of this. "It's a foreign name I can't pronounce. It's run by a guy who moved to the US."

Aroma started to soften a little bit more. "And where is it exactly you live?"

Too close. "Aren't we done yet?" Devin whined. "Come on, I don't ask you all kinds of questions like this."

"Why not?" Aroma asked. "I'll tell you whatever it is you want to know."

"I don't want to know anything yet. I just want to get to know you, and nothing else." Devin blurted.

Aroma raised an eyebrow at him. "That made absolutely no sense."

Stuck. Stuck, oh he was so stuck! "... " Devin fidgeted and bowed his head. The only card he had left to play was the nervous card. "If you get to know what I do, you might not like it. So, you might start hating me instead." Did she buy it? Devin raised his head and looked at her. *Ha! Hook, line and sinker!*

Aroma looked sadly at Devin. "Well, if it's a company about mortgages, maybe it isn't the best job ever. I assume you're probably really tough on people." She smiled at him. "But I wouldn't hate you Devin. It's just your job. I understand the difference between a job and your true self. Okay?"

"So ya wouldn't leave me, if you didn't like what I did?" Devin asked curiously. "Really?"

"No, never." Aroma chuckled. "I really like you Devin. I won't judge you based on what you do. I just want to know about you more. About the life you always seem to hide from me."

"Oh. Well, good." Devin smiled.

"I just want to get to know the real you." Aroma smiled. "So far, I hardly see a difference between you and Yakko Warner. So, there must be a LOT I'm missing."

Devin's mouth dropped. 'Crap!' "Huh? Y-Yakko Warner?"

"Well, you've got this slide in your voice like he does." Aroma confessed. "Your sense of humor is very alike, and so's your laughter." She shrugged her shoulders. "If it weren't for the way you tried to control yourself when another woman came by, I'd almost say you were him."

Devin laughed nervously. "...yeah. Maybe a twin or something." He tried to joke.

Aroma looked at him curiously. "In fact, if it weren't for the glasses and the-"

"Hey, why don't we sit down and eat?" Devin interrupted. "I'm starving!" He dropped to the ground unceremoniously and started to pick out some food for the basket.

Aroma had also been hungry and dropped to the ground like him, picking up a sandwich too. She had forgotten all about what she was gonna say. It hadn't been that important anyhow, it was just a correlation. Not real shocking, many warners looked alike. Yakko and Devin though, were almost well...identical in every way.

Still, it was just a weird thought. A weird observation. Besides, Devin couldn't ever be Yakko.

Dot's brother could never be that cold.

Devin watched her out of the corner of his eye. "...so I thought I saw you out shopping today. I was going to stop you, but I wasn't sure if it was you." Shoot, he had to know what she got!

Aroma stopped eating and looked over at Devin. "Yes." She slightly blushed. "Guess you caught me?"

"You were outside Amour then?" Devin pushed. "W-what did you buy?"

Aroma clicked her tongue and then bit her bottom lip. "It was supposed to be a surprise."

"It's still a surprise. I don't know what it is!" Devin shouted excitedly. "So, come on! What is it Miss I-take-forever-to-even-kiss?"

Aroma sighed but she had been caught red handed. She pulled out her Amour bag from out of nowhere and handed it over to Devin.

Eagerly Devin looked inside! But..he was puzzled. "Huh?"

"It's a locket." Aroma explained.

Well, that's a ripoff! Yakko whined to himself. *I shoulda known she wouldn't get anything good.* "What's it for?"

"It' is for many things. It can replace he, she, people and places." Aroma joked.

"Eh heh." Devin gave her a sarcastic laugh. "What's the locket for?"

Aroma pointed to the locket he was holding. "Trust. It's a sign of trust I'm giving to you."

Devin didn't get it. He opened the locket and instead of seeing a picture of something he saw a tiny key. He picked it out carefully. "What's this for?"

Aroma just sighed. Dot's phrase was definitely being echoed in her mind. "Devin, it's a symbol. Now it's your decision." She looked seriously over at Devin. "Dot will be coming back any day. Are you coming back to Anima with me?"

"..." Devin looked at the locket again. He wasn't as stupid as everyone thought he could be. "...key to your heart." He said softly. He groaned. "Can't you just say you love me? No symbols, just say it?" Aroma didn't reply. His actions were the only thing she'd listen to. *I haven't finished the bet yet! But, well maybe if I just say it she'll FINALLY say it?* Devin

wondered. Great another lie on top of another. "Yeah of course. 'Cause I love you," he said as a reminder. Hoping he'd finally get her to admit it too.

"I didn't think it was really possible." Aroma's stiff wall she had put up was completely falling to the ground. She went over to Devin and started to hug him. "Momma and Dot were right. I'm so glad I didn't give in."

Devin was just enjoying the extra attention now. "Give in?"

"Yes." Aroma gave him a gentle kiss. "Devin, I need to tell you something. I've wanted to tell you for some time, but I just didn't want to say anything if you were leaving me."

Devin just wore a casual smile. He was fine, he just won the bet! She would finally say it! "Yeah?"

"Well...in the past..." Aroma started to fidget anxiously. She didn't want to tell him, but now he had the right to know. "I was the prize of a very ugly bet."

Devin's face suddenly wasn't smiling anymore. "Huh?"

"I don't know why they did it." Aroma began. "It was when I was starting to mature. I was young and naive..." She started to speak softer. "They were my closest friends..."

Suddenly Devin's confidence was waning. "But...Uhhh Yakko and Wakko never mentioned anything about that."

"They don't know. They were long gone with Dot when it happened." Aroma sighed then gulped. "I told her never to tell them. They're nice warners, but they were growing up and warner hormones...I just didn't want anything leaking to them."

Devin just stared intently at her. "You've been hiding a secret? You only told Dot?"

"Yes." Aroma confessed. "I feel like we really have a chance." She smiled at Devin sweetly. "A real chance. And, I haven't ever had a real boyfriend before."

"You ain't what?" Devin couldn't believe his ears! Aroma was a warner who could land a guy in mere seconds! He was beginning to have second thoughts to the smart move of making this bet.

"A long time ago." Aroma began. "I made some friends. They were nice and played with me just fine as we grew up. Their names were Yanfa and Gilfar."

Devin remembered them, but he couldn't say anything. Yan, Gil, Aroma, Yakko, Wakko and Dot were all pretty good playbuddies when they were little warners.

"After some time though, I started to develop." Aroma continued. "... She really didn't want to talk about it. She'd rather just forget it but Devin deserved to know. "Yanfa said he felt there was something between us." She said softly. "He started being extra nice, brought me small gifts and he eventually asked me out. Gil started doing the same thing, but I couldn't lead them both on. So I said yes to Yanfa." Aroma's eyes started to drift down to the ground. "On our very first date, Yanfa took me to the beach. It was in the tourist section so there was

a small little bathroom section and a tented shower nearby. He wanted to go swimming with me and even brought me a bathing suit." She didn't even look at the ground anymore, she just closed her eyes. "In moments the tent was ripped down and pictures of me were taken from every direction."

Devin didn't say anything. His expression couldn't be read. He just stood there staring at the ground as well now too.

"I ran as fast as I could, but the damage was already done." Aroma took a deep breath. "They couldn't pin anything on him. He claimed someone watched me go in and then knocked him out. But later...I overheard his friends. It was all a bet. On who could earn my trust enough to get me naked on the beach."

Devin suddenly felt very sick.

"My first date and...I couldn't do it anymore." Aroma started to lift her head, still not looking into Devin's eyes. "I just wanted to sign everything over to my parents. Let them decide who was best suited. When I told Dot though, she told me not to give up. That there would be a nice warner out there somewhere."

Oh, Devin was REALLY starting to feel sick.

Aroma took a moment to compose herself and wiping the few tears she let escape her turned to look toward Devin. "I thought you should know. You...saved me." She smiled. "Devin, you don't know how close I was to giving up and just letting my family choose my fate! They had someone all lined up too, all it took was a word. Now, that's over." She flat out grinned and gently turned his face toward hers. "You've given me faith that I'll be okay again. Even if it doesn't work out somehow, I know! Someone out there does want to be with me. Not because of what I look like...or because of what I can give them...or because..."

'Don't say it, don't say, don't say it!' Devin screamed in his head as he saw Aroma's trusting face in his.

"...of a bet." She finished. "Now, love IS a strong word but maybe it is in the cards?" She smiled slightly. "One step at a time though, right?"

Devin didn't know what to say. She'd been a part of a nasty bet? When she was younger? On a first date?! And-and HE was the one who saved her?!

"...Devin?" Aroma started to look a little worried. "There were many pictures taken and copies too. Most are gone now, but there's probably some out there still. I just thought you should know. You deserved to know." She grinned. "Devin?" She was starting to get a little more worried. "Devin, are you okay?"

Devin just didn't know what to say.

"Devin?" Aroma asked again.

Devin was suddenly remembering everything about their past. About their play times with Aroma. About Yan and Gil. They were all good friends. But they did that? They did that?! And now, he couldn't help feeling sooo low as he looked into her happy eyes.

She was nothing but a bet. Nothing but a bet for Yan and Gil. And now, nothing but a bet for him and Wakko...

Nothing but a bet.

Computer Time With Dot

Author's Note: Little editing from original copy. The formatting actually worked better, even though it probably looks spacey to you, guys. Formatting is a tricky thing with older programs sometimes.

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The Bet

Chapter Five: Computer Time With Dot

That night...

Yakko was trying to be as quiet as he could as he tried to put Aroma's old computer back together again. Everything had elevated to a whole new level he wasn't prepared for and like it or not there was only one warner who could possibly help right now!

His little sister.

Yakko was doing the best he could but he was no computer technician. Most of the stuff had just got a bit jumbled but some of the receiver was damaged and things were not looking too good.

Nothing was looking too good.

Wakko had gotten up to use the potty, a usual occurrence because he always drank too much before he went to bed. As he looked over at the panicked expression on his brother though, he knew something was wrong. "Yakko?"

Yakko just glanced at Wakko.

"What's wrong? Why are you trying to fix the computer?" Wakko asked curiously. He looked down at some unknown pieces lying around the laptop.

"...I've gotta talk to Dot." Yakko finally replied. "I'm in so deep Wakko, I never should have made this bet."

Wakko just sighed. Apparently Yakko figured it out a bit late. "I told you."

"Oh you don't get it." Yakko frowned. "She's had a really bad past and now Devin's the only reason she won't let her parents choose her fate."

"Choose her fate?" Wakko asked questioningly. "You mean like-"

"I mean like let them pick who'll be hers." Yakko whined. "And now, if I suddenly break up with her she'll lose her entire faith in all warners and settle."

"Ouch." Wakko frowned. "How did you get her that attached to you?"

"It doesn't matter, but I need to talk to Dot." Yakko looked back at Aroma's room wearily. He had been watching out for her all night long, making sure he didn't blow anything. "If Devin breaks up with her, I don't know what she'd do."

"Yeah, going off the deep end wouldn't be good." Wakko agreed. "What are you going to do?"

"Give up on the bet and TRY to get out of this alive." Yakko groaned. He pressed enter on the computer again. "Come on Dot, connect already."

Then somehow, he got some reception. It sucked but it worked.

Dot: Hi!

Yakko just smiled awkwardly. Now it was time to get his butt chewed out for this.

Yakko: Where have you been?! When are you coming home?

Dot took several moments to reply back.

Dot: You're worried about me? You know I can take care of myself. Anyhow before I lose connection you should know. They aren't allowing any world traveling off Anima for at least another month.

Yakko just gawked at the screen: Another month?!

Dot: Relax big brother, I'm fine.

"No, no, no." Yakko whined as he typed again.

Yakko: Come back home! I need help!

Dot took a couple seconds to respond.

Dot: Help? What's wrong?

Yakko double checked toward Aroma's room and looked bravely at Wakko. "Wish me luck?"

Wakko nodded. Over the laptop or not, Dot was going to give him an earful.

And after Yakko told her, she certainly did!

Dot: YOU DID WHAT?! You did WHAT to our old friend?! You made her a bet? A bet?! Do you have ANY idea how messed up that was?! Oh when I get home there won't be anywhere safe for you Yakko Warner! You have no idea what Aroma's been through! You have no clue what you just did!

Yakko's ears winced. Even if he couldn't hear her, he could just imagine what she sounded like right now.

Yakko: Easy Dot. I know about Yan and Gil, she told me! And you should have told me that too!

It wasn't even a couple seconds later Dot replied:

Dot: She wanted to keep it a secret and how was I to KNOW my own BROTHER would pull such a cruel stunt?!

Yakko wished he had something better to say than what he typed back.

Yakko: Seemed like a good idea at the time.

Yakko watched as Dot continued to type furiously at him. Finally, he got in a reply:

Yakko: Knock it off and help already. What do I do?

Dot took a whole minute before she typed back.

Dot: You promised to go to Anima with her. Well good luck big brother!

Wakko and Yakko both frowned. That wasn't very useful.

Yakko: Knock it off! What do I do?! Come on you're a girl. You've gotta know about this mushy stuff.

Dot took another minute until she typed back.

Dot: I'm really angry with you and I'm only helping you for Aroma's sake! I don't want her to get a broken heart and end up with whoever her parents choose just because of your idea of a joke!

Yakko nodded his head at the computer. He was hoping she'd type that.

Dot: Be your annoying self. That'll probably drive her away. That drives anyone away. She shouldn't feel hurt, just confused how she could have ever fallen for you.

Wakko smiled. "Hey, she had a good idea! It shouldn't be that hard to go from Mr. Perfect to yourself, right?"

"Uhhh, I..." Yakko's voice slid uncomfortably. "...I don't know. I've been myself since the end of the first date."

"What?! That's not fair, you said you would be acting like a prince charming." Wakko crossed his arms bitterly.

"Hey, I still got her didn't I?" Yakko shot back. He began to type back to Dot what he just told Wakko.

Dot: She liked you for YOU?

The blinker on the computer blinked for several seconds before she replied back.

Dot: She liked YOU for YOU? My annoying brother? For who he really was? And you did this to her? You're a real idiot!

Yakko rolled his eyes.

Yakko: Could you be more helpful here?

Dot: Grrr...fine! Try...being overly annoying? Or being like Pip? Or Baloney, I don't know. I'd never stick around him with free will.

Yakko smiled. 'That's a great idea! If I start to get really really bad, that would have to work!'

Yakko: Thanks Dot!

Dot: Don't thank me and don't expect me to be sympathetic when I come home!

Yakko knowing the conversation would be focusing on fighting again broke the connection with a grin. "Okay, I should still be able to get out of this."

"Hope so." Wakko smiled. "Otherwise you'll either have to be Devin permanently and move to Anima or be the one guy that broke her heart in an unmendable way."

Yakko just looked at Wakko. "Yeah, I don't like either of those choices." He chuckled. "This won't be too hard. Our next date will be our very last date, I'll make sure of it!"

On their next date...

Devin tapped his fingers on the restaurant's table annoyingly as Aroma looked at the menu. Ever since he started that date he TRIED to be overly annoying. He was getting closer to using the Pip's speech method if nothing worked.

He saw the salt and pepper shakers on the table. He started to bounce them up and down, but that wasn't annoying enough. He took one and ate it whole like Wakko would. 'Oh, I should have chosen the salt!'

Aroma gave him a slightly strange look. "Did you eat a whole shaker of pepper?"

"Yeah, sure. What's wrong with that?!" Devin answered back forcefully.

"Nothing, I just didn't know you were the type to eat everything." She smiled. "I learn more about you everyday."

Annoyed? No. Amused? Yes. NOT what he was going for. "Well stop trying to learn everything about me! Haven't you ever heard of space?!"

"Sure!" Aroma chuckled as she pointed up. "We're only from there you know."

Devin whined and looked away. Even yelling at her didn't do anything? "It's boring!" He jumped on the table and started to dash across other people's table.

"What are you doing?"

"Hey, you ruined my meal!"

"Stop! Are you nuts?!"

Devin stopped at that suggestion. He crossed his arms and was about to say something when someone else interrupted.

"Technically yes, but what concern of that is yours? Surely sir, that is very rude!"

Devin looked beside himself where Aroma had suddenly appeared. Her face still happy as could be even though he just ruined the beginning of the date.

Usually they went nuts after they ate, but he had jumped the gun. It just wasn't enough to phase her.

After they were both thrown out, Aroma picked herself up and dusted herself off. "Well, where to now Devin?"

Devin just whined and looked up. HOW was he gonna drive her away? "You know, I have an interesting story about cheese balls."

Aroma laughed. "I bet you do! You know, Yakko and Wakko told me about one one time! It was about a really annoying guy named Pip."

Devin's ears sank. They told her about Pip? That angle was gone.

"Are you okay?" Aroma had to ask. "You haven't seemed like yourself all night honey."

Honey. Oh yeah, he was a honey. "Nothing." He growled. "Do you ever stop and wonder if maybe we're moving too fast?"

"Moving too fast?" Aroma just smiled. Surely Devin wasn't serious, he was the one who always scheduled their time with each other. "A couple friends Pete and Repeat did. Pete thought we should slow down, but you know which one didn't agree?"

"Huh?" Devin shrugged. "Repeat."

"A couple friends Pete and Repeat did. Pete thought we should slow down, but you know which one didn't agree?" Aroma repeated.

"...stop." Devin sighed. This just wasn't working. She was being overly annoying back!

Which meant only one thing:

Aroma just grabbed him by the arm. "What's with you tonight Devin? You're being a bigger flirt than usual."

Yep he thought so. 'Oh great, she thinks I've been flirting?! The more annoying I am, the more she thinks I'm flirting! What is she, psycho?' Taking into account the way she seemed to like him, he decided that was probably true.

After all, he was pretty psycho. Oh what was he gonna do? He looked over at her as they proceeded to walk. When they were first going out, Aroma was suspicious of everything he did. He had to try really hard to earn her confidence. And now that she thought she found the perfect guy?

She wasn't even looking for flaws anymore.

Devin watched as they headed into the park again. 'Nothing's working! I can't use Pip! None of my tactics worked! I've got Baloney, but that is really pushing it. I don't WANT to go to his place, it's scary!'

Aroma stopped, took him by the hand and spun in front of him giving him a kiss.

Well there was something new.

Devin blinked but grinned goofily as she finally stopped kissing him.

"...I love you." Aroma finally said it and smiled. "I think I loved you since the first time we met."

Oh no, no, no! That was it. Things just turned up really high and there wasn't much choice. He was going to have to get drastic to get out of this now! "...okay." Devin finally replied. "You know I have this big dinosaur friend over on-?!" He was interrupted though as Aroma grabbed him by his tie and started to kiss him again. This time, it wasn't like any of the times before. It wasn't like a long drawn out sweet kiss or a fun makeout kiss.

It was a KISS.

Wrong, wrong, wrong! Devin knew he needed to stop but Aroma had never kissed him like that. He didn't even know kissing could be like that. It wasn't until she was starting to press tighter against him and deeper in his arms that some of his senses started to return.

It was finally coming to him, what was so different about it. That wasn't just a normal kiss, that was a kiss that wanted to lead them somewhere else!

And that was definitely a no-no!

And he really needed to stop. He knew he had to.

But he couldn't. He was frozen there with her, his arms wrapped around her tightly and only getting tighter. Aroma was falling more into his embrace by the minute.

Things were getting deeper, but he didn't have the willpower to stop himself.

Luckily, Aroma did have her wits about her. She stopped and smiled at him. No words were really needed at the moment.

"How do you get some of that?"

Devin's brain started to function again as he saw two passerby's staring at them. Well no wonder, they were rolling around on the ground? He started to dust himself off. "Do you mind?"

The two guys were just staring at Aroma whose dress was slightly more jostled than usual.

"Hey! How much do you think it would take to ride that attraction?"

Aroma's mouth just dropped and she couldn't do anything but blink. She was used to hearing that from guys, especially on Anima. But Devin? Just went over, grabbed the offending duo and hurled them across the street?

Well...that was sweet.

Devin just shook his head. His mind was so confused right now! He just got so angry, he couldn't help himself! Usually when the Warners swung people like Scratchy it would be for fun. This though, it wasn't for fun and that point fell across very fast as he watched the two guys running further away.

Aroma got up, dusted herself off and fixed her dress a little more decently. She went over to Devin. "Are you okay? They're just typical guys, I've had worse."

"Yeah." Devin still felt a bit odd. Why'd he get so angry? They didn't try anything, they simply made a comment about Aroma. "I just felt like a little exercise."

"Exercise or not." Aroma chuckled as she rubbed her nose playfully along his. "That was really sweet."

Devin didn't nod or shake his head. "...I think it's time to go home."

"Maybe. It is getting pretty late." Aroma agreed.

Later that night...

Yakko lied in his bed, staring at the ceiling. That night couldn't have gone worse! He was supposed to be trying to drive her away, and instead he just drives her deeper to him and then acted like some knight in shining armor!

He was no knight in shining armor and why he got so aggressive, he still couldn't figure out. Why couldn't he stop kissing her? Why'd he toss those guys around?

Why was he feeling so confused? Everything felt so right at times even though he knew it was so wrong!

He tossed and turned, trying to get it out of his mind. The way she laughed, the way she smiled, the way she joked, the way she kissed, the way she did everything. He just couldn't stop thinking about it.

What the heck is wrong with me?! I need to drive her away! Why can't I just drive her away?
He whined as he finally got up. He just couldn't sleep.

He started to leave his room when he saw Wakko up. He was talking on the computer with a weak reception.

Wakko looked at Yakko a bit unsurely. "I got up to use the potty, but I decided to talk to Dot about you."

When Yakko had come home, he felt so much pressure on himself, he had to talk to Wakko. But he was talking to Dot about it?!

Wakko gestured to Aroma's room. "How'd you sleep?"

"Sleeping like a baby. Isn't it obvious?" Yakko growled.

I doubt that. "I'm going back to bed but Dot wants to talk to you." Wakko replied as he got up off the couch. "Nighty night."

"Nighty night." Yakko mocked him back as he went to the computer. *Did he have to talk to her? She didn't need to know this, she's just gonna get even madder.*

He sat down and started to type

Yakko: Yeah?

Dot's reply took a few seconds to come.

Dot: You idiot. You're starting to like her!

Huh? That wasn't the response Yakko was expecting.

Yakko: What do you mean? I'm not starting to like her.

Dot's reply did not take long.

Dot: Yes you are! Wakko told me what happened! That's it, you've got to end this as quick as you can! If you don't, who knows how much more will happen!

Yakko frowned.

Yakko: Nothings gonna happen. She just surprised me with such powerful kissing. That's all, my hormone's just couldn't control themselves!

Dot took a couple seconds to reply.

Dot: Why is it that guy warners use hormones as an excuse all the time? Face it Yakko, you're starting to like her and it isn't right! This is not gonna end good, big brother. You're gonna have to visit Baloney on your next date, like it or not.

Yakko growled.

Yakko: I already planned on it. And I will end it on the next date! Okay? I am not starting to like her, I haven't fallen into my own setup. I am in complete control and next date she'll be running for the hills.

Dot replied back one more time.

Dot: For your sake, Yakko, I hope you're right.

Aroma Meets Baloney

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Chapter Six: Aroma Meets Baloney

Aroma gave Devin an odd look of curiosity. He usually dressed very well mannered, usually with a tie and such. As he arrived for her unexpectedly during that day, she couldn't help but notice his new wardrobe.

He was wearing a blue and red plaid flannel with suspenders.

"That's a new look." Aroma smiled at him. "Hey Devin, what are you doing here?"

"Surprise visit!" Devin grinned a little too wide. "You wanted to meet my friends, so I decided to let you meet one. We have to go meet him now though because he doesn't stay up very late past 8:00."

"Oh? Now?" Aroma looked around. "Well, Wakko and I we're sitting down to eat. We're just waiting for Yakko to come back."

"What?" Devin sounded offended. "You always told me you wanted to know more about my friends and stuff. I come all the way down here just to introduce you to one, and you're blowing me off because it's dinnertime?"

"No." Aroma frowned. "I wasn't expecting you, Devin, I'm sorry. Maybe you could join us?"

"No, we're gonna go eat with my friend." Devin said firmly.

Aroma wasn't sure she liked his tone. Devin was very standoffish today. "Alright then. Let me tell Wakko I'm going."

Devin looked at himself. *I can't believe I have to do this. She better run early because I don't know how long I can do this!*

Taking a cue from Devin's outfit, Aroma didn't dress up at all as she started to follow Devin out.

It wasn't long until she saw who must have been his 'friend' waving to them.

"Goshy and golly uckums! You must be Devin's friend!" A big pinkish red dinosaur with huge eyes made a strange laugh. "I'm Baloney!"

"..." Aroma looked over curiously at Devin, but he just grinned wholeheartedly.

"Baloney and I are the best of friends." Devin grinned. "Isn't that right, Baloney?"

"Yeah! Best of friendly friendly friends!" Baloney laughed strangely but scarily again.

Aroma just watched as Devin jumped over by Baloney and started to dance side by side to him.

"We're the best of friends! Friends of friends of friends! He's my best friend! Friend of friends of friends!" Devin sang.

"We're the best of friends!" Baloney sang next. "Friends of friends of friends! He's my best friend! Friend of friends of friends!"

Aroma just watched the duo sing the strange song. ...*this is kind of spooky...*

Still, if they were really good friends she had to be nice.

Baloney laughed. "Neato completo yippie! I love that song. So Aroma, do you like playing with your imagination too?"

"Of course." Aroma smiled. "Baloney. You have a show on SBS don't you?"

"Why golly gee! You recognized me." Baloney laughed. "Yeah, I feel happy!"

Okay. Why was Devin such good friends with a strange kiddie dinosaur from SBS? *Maybe he saved his life or something?* Aroma tried to guess.

"We're going over to the park to play astronauts in space and wild west cowboys and all kinds of fun stuff like that!" Devin grinned spookily. "Wanna join us?"

"Of course. Then are we going to eat?" Aroma smiled at Baloney and clapped her hands. "Baloney. What is it you like to eat?"

"I like to eat food! Yummy uckums food that's gollycious fun." Baloney laughed.

Devin felt a bit uncomfortable at the moment. She was getting along with him? Okay, time to turn up the heat!

"We're having the greatest dinner." Devin started to dance near Baloney. "It's seafood, it's meat, it's poultry, it's sweets! We're eating everything, right dearest of funny yum pals?"

"That's right. We're using our imagination," Baloney laughed. He held his hands out. "I'm eating a taco."

Devin held his hands out wide. "And I'm eating a biiiiiiiiig fish!"

"..." Aroma just looked at the duo strangely, but sighed. *I'm wishing I could eat real food.* "Well, I think I'll have..." She kerplunked to the ground. "Some grilled lobster." She pretended to get a plate for her lobster. "A nice thick cut of ribeye steak." She pretended to have sharp knives in her hands. "A delicious baked potato with sour cream, bacon slices, some cheese and chives." She even set her cutlery down for a second. "Let me just put some Worcestershire on my steak first and I need to mix up a garlicy butter sauce for the lobster." She gestured toward Baloney. "Would you like some?"

"Goshums wow. She has real imagination." Baloney laughed as he landed next to her. He stared at her fondly as she poured the fake Worcestershire all over her steak and ate her potato.

Devin just stopped smiling and stared at Aroma. She was actually surviving?

But it was more than that...

Baloney laughed and started to blush. "I've never met a girl with such a wild imagination. You're a lot like me."

Aroma laughed at the comment. "Well golly fun yuckums, maybe I am?"

Devin looked defeated as he tried to butt in, but Baloney scooted over closer to Aroma.

"Gee Aroma! You have a really neat and fun name!" Baloney laughed.

"Well gee fun and doodle dum. Thank you very much, Baloney." Aroma smiled at him.

Devin was confused as to why Baloney moved over, but headed for the other side. He had to try to drive her away somehow. But instead, Baloney swung his tail in the other spot next to Aroma where he was about to sit?

"Yeah! You're lots of fun! You should come down to my show sometime and meet all my friends! You like kids right? They're so full of life and fun and imagination!"

"I do like kids." Aroma replied. "Maybe I'll stop by one day."

"Yeah!" Baloney gave Aroma a huge hug. "I've never met someone like you! You have as much imagination as a kid! As much as me! No one's ever had as much as me!"

Huh? What am I, chopped liver? Devin thought bitterly. He had way more imagination than some two-bit kiddie entertaining dinosaur. "Hey pal, why don't we play a different game now?"

"I know! Let's sing another song!" Baloney stood up and started to dance. "I learned this from some of my other friends a long time ago!" He started to bounce up and down. "It's made of solid iron, it weighs a ton or two! I know you'd like to meet it!"

He pointed straight at Devin. "It wants to meet you too!"

"Huh?!" No way, did Baloney just sing the anvil song on-?!

WHOMP!!

"Devin?!" Aroma shouted as she tried to help him up.

"Come on, it's a game," Baloney declared. "We're gonna play tag and he's gonna catch us!" He picked Aroma up and laughed wildly out of the park.

It took a few extra seconds before Devin finally got out from under the anvil. It was huge and had pretty much made him see stars. "Ooh, it's like running through the studios..." He said strangely. He shook his head as he snapped out of it.

Okay, what the heck just happened? Baloney wouldn't let Devin sit down, he started hugging Aroma and then he just pulled the anvil song and used it on him? "This can't be happening." Devin groaned. "He's falling for Aroma?"

Devin soon found the duo having actual lunch at a nearby restaurant.

"Wheee! This is fun! Are you having fun?" Baloney laughed as he pretended to make his hamburger fly.

"Tons." Aroma frowned. Why in the world would Devin want to play tag with them?

"You're it." Devin growled as he touched Baloney from behind.

"Oh, hi!" Baloney laughed as he patted Devin on the head. "My good friend of friends. Hello. Aroma and I were just eating."

"Pull up a chair." Aroma replied. "Your friend was just telling me about himself."

About himself? There's nothing to him, he's a huge dumb dinosaur. Devin pulled up a chair anyhow. "So Buddy. Pal. Greatest friend in the universe." He growled. "Go on, tell her about yourself."

"Okay!" Baloney laughed clueless to the anger in Devin's voice. "I'm great with kids! I love kids! One day I'll find someone with as much imagination as me and I'll have kids. Golly gee, it'll be great."

"Fascinating," Aroma said politely.

"Yeah. Real intriguing." Devin leaned into his seat. "Met her yet?"

Baloney blushed and laughed. "What do you mean? I mean, I don't know my good friend." He waved his tail up and down. "So Aroma, how did you and Devin meet? Was it a long time ago or was it just recently?"

Oh Devin was really starting to hate this dinosaur.

"Recent." Aroma smiled politely again.

"Yeah! I mean...good for you." Baloney said making no sense. "It's good your happy. You should always be happy. If you aren't happy, I'm sure there are lots of others who would lovey dovey love to make you happy!"

Aroma just looked over at Devin. She couldn't even count how many times his expression had changed during their time meeting Baloney.

"A good sense of humor and security, yeah! They really matter!" Baloney hugged Aroma.
"Did I ever tell you how much I make playing the yum funny yummy shows?"

"No, I don't think you did," Aroma said trying to smile through the hug he was giving her.

"I make-!"

"She doesn't care what you make!" Devin couldn't take it anymore.

"Huh?" Baloney stopped hugging Aroma. "Why best friend of friends, what is wrong? Why so yucky sour glummy?"

Aroma watched as Devin and Baloney went to have a conversation somewhere. She saw only Devin running back.

"Move it, anvils never hold him down for long!" Devin grabbed her arm and started to run as quick as he could.

"Oh, did you two have an argument?" Aroma asked as they finally slowed down.

Devin kicked a rock. His plan had failed. Not only did she not run away, the creepy dino was starting to like her. "Just a small argument."

"Oh. I hope you won't think I'm trying to get between the two of you but I really think he was flirting with me," Aroma informed him.

"Oh, you don't say?" Devin said sarcastically.

Aroma chuckled. "Well good, I hope you weren't blind to that. So how did you two become friends?"

"Oh, somehow." Devin didn't feel like making anything up. "I figured you'd go running down the hill screaming. Yakko, Wakko and Dot could barely take him."

Aroma just laughed. "Well, he was your friend. I don't know how, but he was your friend, Devin. I would never run away from you and your friends. Even though..." She confessed. "...he was a bit *creepy* I'm still glad I met him."

"You're glad?" Devin just looked at her as if she was nuts.

"Yes." Aroma smiled at him. "You've finally introduced me to one of your friends." She took his hand gently. "You're opening up more to me." She stood in front of him and gave him a quick kiss. "So? You want to go finish using our imaginations?"

No, don't! "Heck yeah!" Devin grinned. "I love using my imagination with you."

Wrong. He knew it was so wrong.

And he was just as bad as last time.

Aroma just hummed softly in Devin's arms on a swing. "Everything always feels so right with you."

"Well, I'm better than some overpaid huge dinosaur." Devin smiled.

Aroma just chuckled and gave him a small kiss. "When you come back to Anima, will you meet my family?"

The smile on Devin's face suddenly disappeared. "Meet your family? Uhh...that's a big step."

"You're coming to Anima, that's already a big step." Aroma smiled. "A giant step that should tumble someone to the floor."

Devin just kept swinging with Aroma in his arms. "..."

"Devin?" Aroma asked again.

"Huh?" Devin held her closer and started to kiss her more, hoping she'd forget about the question.

"Uh oh." She looked toward the back of a window when a light came on. "I think we've been discovered."

"Bummer." Devin started to get up with Aroma. "Let's head a couple blocks that way I saw a pool."

"A pool? That could be fun." Aroma flirted with him as they started to jump out of the stranger's backyard before he came out yelling.

To the pool...

"So?" Aroma began again as they stared at the pool. "What do you think?"

"Go for it. I'll watch you." Devin grinned.

Aroma hit him playfully. "I meant about my family."

Devin shrugged his shoulders.

"Well then, what about your family?" Aroma asked.

Devin shrugged his shoulders again.

"You're being difficult." Aroma frowned.

Devin looked down at the water questioningly. He had to get her off his case quick. "Tell ya what, skinny-dip in that form and we'll meet each other's family."

Aroma just gawked at him. "Skinny-dip? In this form?" Looking like Dot's innocent self would be no problem, but as she was right now?

"Yeah? What are ya, chicken?" Devin teased her. "Ba-gawk!"

Aroma looked down at the water. Then back at Devin. She kissed him unexpectedly for a few seconds and started to spin him around!

When Devin stopped he grabbed his spinning head and looked around.

Aroma was in the swimming pool on the edge smiling. "Mom and dad usually eat early so we could eat supper with them at 6:00 or so for introductions."

Devin just stared at the water. The refracting light couldn't let him see anything. "Did...d-did you?"

"You didn't say you had to watch," Aroma laughed. "So, what exactly is your family like? Any brothers and sisters?"

Devin bent down quickly to the ground next to her. Aroma held his head steady.

"Too much refracting light, you know it." She smiled as she grabbed her dress beside her. "Well?"

Exciting, dangerous and oh so wrong. He went from creepy fun time with Baloney to convincing Aroma to skinny dip in a stranger's pool.

"I've got some brothers and sisters." Devin finally gave in. "A good mom and a good dad."

"Good to hear." Aroma looked at her dress and back at Devin. "You're not gonna turn around for me to get out, are you?"

"Golly uckums." Devin just laughed. "No way."

"Hey, who is out there?!"

As Devin turned around to see the lights come on, Aroma made her move and got out quickly pulling on her dress. "Oops." He whined. "Why do they always get so mad at us just having a good time?" He turned around and saw Aroma fully dressed. "...not fair." He smiled. "Although with your body wet your dress has become-!"

"Gawk later, come on!" Aroma urged him as they took off again.

"Well golly gee, that was fun!" Devin smiled as they started to head to the tower.

Aroma smiled back at him as he dropped her off in the front of it. "That was fun but don't forget our deal now." She gave him a quick kiss goodnight. "Pleasant dreams, Devin."

Devin watched as Aroma climbed into the tower. It was a long late date, he hadn't gotten anywhere close to driving her away from him and what was worse...

He knew he didn't want to. He started to walk away from the tower. *How could Dot be right? I really do like her? But I can't like her because this is a charade. I'm Yakko, not Devin. I can't keep this up forever, and I can't go to Anima with her! Stupid, stupid, stupid!*

How could this have happened? All because of one lousy teeny tiny bet?

Devin went back to his usual clothes and headed for the tower as Yakko again. He didn't bother having much of an announcement as to where he had been. He just smiled over at Aroma. "How was your night?"

Aroma shrugged her shoulders. "Fine." She yawned. "I need to take a shower though."

Yeah, after jumping into a cold pool naked I would too. Yakko chuckled to himself.

"Don't even think about interrupting." Aroma gave him and Wakko warning looks. "If you have to, knock. Got it?"

Wakko nodded.

Yakko nodded too as he watched her take off to the shower. They waited until they heard the water start to run before they talked.

"So?" Wakko looked over at Yakko. "How could it not work?"

"You don't wanna know," Yakko whined. "I don't know if I can do this."

"Do what?" Wakko had to ask.

Yakko looked toward the shower. "...what if Devin convinced her to stay instead?"

"What?" Wakko didn't look too pleased.

"Sure, why not? It's only one more warner in the tower," Yakko reasoned. "Then I wouldn't be pressed for time."

"Yakko." Wakko couldn't believe what he was hearing. "You're not Devin. You need to drive her away."

"I will in due time, but why do I have to rush?" Yakko frowned. "I mean, if Devin just convinced her to stay instead of leave-"

"You'd keep playing Devin." Wakko finished sourly. "And if you didn't drive her away? You'd get closer and closer and it would be harder to want to leave you. Not only that-" He pointed squarely at Yakko. "You already like her. What if you get in too deep?"

"How I feel isn't the issue," Yakko disagreed, "and I won't get in too deep."

Wakko crossed her arms. "And if you do? Would you become Devin? Permanently? Lie to her forever?"

"No," Yakko growled. "It's hardly a lie. A name, a made up home-"

"A made up life," Wakko warned him. "You can't have a made up life forever."

Yakko sighed. Wakko was of course right. He couldn't keep going for months on end as Devin. Years? Who knew how deep he'd get. "I don't know how to turn her away anymore."

"Well..." Wakko shrugged his shoulders. "What if someone else kept her from falling?"

"Huh?" Yakko didn't get it.

"What if someone comforted her after she broke up?" Wakko smiled. "Like what we originally planned as a bonus! Actually, that sounds like a great idea."

"Comforted her..." Yakko slowly started to smile. "That's it! She wouldn't go running off all heartbroken and...and I could comfort her and make her mine! Good going Wakko!"

"I have moments." Wakko said proudly. "I don't suppose you still want to share?" Wakko shut up as he saw his brother's look. "Nevermind."

Yakko knowing Wakko got the 'back off' hint just beamed. *Okay, so all Devin has to do is break up. Easy enough. She'll cry and be vulnerable and...and the rest is history.*

It was a perfect plan! Nothing could go wrong with it.

Right?

Final Date

Author's Note: Little editing from original copy. The formatting actually worked better, even though it probably looks spacey to you guys. Formatting is a tricky thing with older programs sometimes.

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The Bet

Chapter Seven: Final Date

On their final date?

Devin just smiled awkwardly at Aroma. *Alright, this is it. Just say it. Afterwards she'll grieve a bit but I'll make her feel better before she goes back home. So don't worry. Just say it.* The repeating thought kept coming into Devin's head. He had to break up and he had to do it quick. Aroma would have to grieve and do her ice cream thing for a bit before Yakko could come into the picture. So the quicker, the better.

If he took too long and Aroma wasn't feeling better before Dot came back, he'd be out of luck!

Just say it! I don't want to date you anymore. I don't want to be with you anymore. Leave me alone? Devin just whined inside. *I have to do this tonight, I know I do!*

"Devin?"

Devin turned to look at Aroma.

"Are you okay?" Aroma asked him. She pointed to a person walking past him. "That guy was prime for having fun with and you didn't even glance at him?" She asked worriedly.

"Honey?"

Oh, not honey again.

"...what's crawled up your butt?" Aroma joked. "What's on that mind of yours?"

Now or never. Now or never. "Aroma..." Devin started. "You know, you ever think maybe this isn't right?"

"What, that it's left?" Aroma smiled.

"No. I mean right as in right. As in, maybe this isn't right?" Devin replied geniusly.

"What's not?" Aroma frowned. "What's wrong, Devin?"

Devin shook his hands and started to crack them. *I can do this. This isn't hard. Think about the rewards afterward.* "Us? You've never had a real boyfriend so maybe you just think you really like me. I'm a real catch, true, but maybe not for you?"

"...wh..."

Reward after. Reward after. Reward after! Devin kept telling himself but he could see something very emotional in Aroma's eyes. Something that made him wanna turn and run away.

"...you...are..." Aroma didn't even know what to say. "You don't like me anymore?"

"Oh. Well..." Devin just couldn't continue. It was done, she got the hint.

"Anima? Is it Anima? Or the family thing, you're not ready?" Aroma asked worried. "I'm sorry if I went too fast. I'm not used to even dating Devin, maybe I did move too fast? I'm sorry, you don't have to come. You don't. I can visit Earth? Maybe?"

Hurt. Worry. Everything Devin never wanted to see arose in Aroma's eyes.

"...is it that?" Aroma started to look down at the ground. She knew she was starting to get emotional.

Devin couldn't even look at her.

"..."

Not a bit.

"..."

Until he heard the lightest of snuffles. His ears lifted up and he glanced over at her.

Her ears sunk low and her face wasn't showing. He did however make out a streak of a tear running down the side of her face.

And he couldn't do it!

"No, no! You don't get it! I'm not-it's not-!" Devin just couldn't do it. He grabbed her and hugged her closer. "I can't see you like this, please don't do this. You don't understand, things are gonna get much better!"

Aroma didn't even know how to handle that weird statement as she tried to push herself away. Her heart was already crushed, she didn't want to be close to him at the moment.

"Look! It's-!" Devin just groaned. "I just asked if I was good enough for you! That's all I meant!"

Aroma slowly looked back at Devin. Her eyes confused but still so sad. "Are you good enough for me?"

"Yeah. I mean, you don't feel like your settling?" Devin asked. "I just need to know, that's all."

"No." Aroma slowly started to smile. "I'm not settling for you."

"Well...good." Devin finished. "Then, stop crying and let's go. Okay?"

Aroma started to smile and wiped her eyes. "I'm sorry. I just thought you didn't want to be with me anymore."

Devin just closed his eyes, angry at himself. *I had her there! She understood! Maybe I should have ran off? Oh dangit, I just couldn't do it. She was just so...*

He messed up and he knew it. Even trying that again wouldn't be a good idea. They went to a restaurant, ate and caused havoc. As usual. They went running through the lots. As usual. They were even being chased by police.

As usual. Devin didn't try to break up with her again and it was nearing the end of the date.

Devin looked up at the tower. *I can't fail again. I can't see her like that and do that though!* He knew what he had to do and it wasn't pretty.

In fact, it was something only a completely shallow creature would do.

Aroma smiled at Devin. "When will I see you again?"

It was something Devin always gave her a reply too. Instead...

He kissed her.

Aroma was a bit puzzled why he kissed her like that. It wasn't a fun kiss, it was more of a pleading kiss?

"...I'll call." Devin finally answered. "Night." He quickly turned around and started to head away.

I just had to steal a kiss one more time. Devin thought angrily at himself. *I just don't know when she's ever gonna do that again. But I didn't deserve that. Especially not after this...* He looked at his phone and started to walk further away.

He didn't want to do it, but he had a feeling he'd have no choice. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a recorder.

He dialed Aroma's number.

"Hello?"

Devin took a deep breath and put the recorder up to the phone. The recording was no longer than 30 seconds. After it finished, he quickly hung up.

It was finally done. He started to change his clothes back to old Yakko Warner, but knowing how bad Aroma would feel after that call, he wasn't ready to head back to the tower yet. He started to run off to town.

He had to find something to do to take his mind off of what he just did.

Much later that night...

Yakko finally went back to the tower. He went in the door and looked around. No one was up. He slowly started to move across the floor.

Aroma's door was closed. Wakko's door was closed as well. He headed for the kitchen and opened the freezer.

The ice cream he'd bought for her, knowing what he'd do, was still untouched. *I thought all girls went for ice cream after breaking up?*

Maybe it was just too soon? He closed the fridge and started to head for bed.

After a good nights rest, Aroma would probably be done with the crying and move into angry tomorrow. It wouldn't be a fun day, but it had to come.

The next day...

Yakko got up a bit later than usual. He got dressed and headed for the kitchen.

Wakko just stood looking at some cereal.

"She's not up yet?" Yakko asked as he sat down. "Weird, I overslept." He gestured toward the fridge. "Do you think I should have bought just two containers of ice cream?"

Wakko shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know. How'd you do it by the way?"

"You mean, she didn't tell you?" Yakko asked surprised. Usually a woman would start to get emotional and yell, right?

"No." Wakko shook his head. "One moment she stepped in and I was watching T.V. The next she went to her room and never came out again."

"Huh. Well, she'll come out soon." Yakko smiled. The hard part was over, he knew there was nothing more to worry about. He'd really miss the kissing at first but once she grieved he'd scoop her back up again.

2:00 P.M....

"I can't believe she's still not out," Wakko commented.

Yakko nodded. She was taking way too long. He walked over to the door and smiled cheerfully. "Aroma! What's up, you've been in your room all day! Come out already,

sleepyhead!"

Not a sound came from the room.

"Are you sure she's in there?" Yakko asked doubtfully. "Hey Aroma! Hellooo?! Am I just talking to myself?" He grabbed the door handle and tried to turn it. The door was locked. "Guess she is in there."

"Maybe she needs extra time?" Wakko asked. "I know! Let's head over to Scratchy's place for a bit."

"Yeah, it is his day off." Yakko smiled. "What better way to spend it than with us?"

4:00 P.M.

After having fun for the day, Yakko and Wakko headed back to the tower.

Aroma's door was still locked.

The ice cream still remained untouched.

"Ummm..." Wakko knocked on her door again. "Aroma? Look, we know you broke up or something. But staying in a room all day isn't healthy."

"The guy isn't worth it," Yakko added as he knocked on her door too. "Will you just come out already?"

"...we have ice cream and sweets?" Wakko tried to coax her.

Aroma did not even answer.

9:00...

"She hasn't eaten all day," Yakko stated sadly as he stared at her door from the couch. "Not ice cream, not anything. She's gotta be hungry."

"She won't even say a word," Wakko added. "Why won't she at least talk to us?"

Not a sound came from the room though.

2:00 am...

Yakko's ears perked up in bed when he finally heard her room open up. He was waiting in bed but he just couldn't sleep. He got up and started to hear her walking along the floor outside.

In a way, he really wanted to talk to her but he couldn't yet. What if she went back in the room again when she saw him? No, she had to at least have a bit of ice cream. She hadn't eaten since last night.

He waited a few minutes and then proceeded to leave his room to the kitchen.

Aroma was sitting down quietly munching on a sandwich. She was not in her usual 'Dot' form that she always stayed in around Yakko and Wakko. In fact, her nightie was actually exposed underneath an untied robe. She didn't even care though.

Not even knowing if she saw him, Yakko started to walk over. "Well hey there! It's about time you came out."

Aroma didn't answer as she continued to eat her sandwich.

"Loved the choice of wardrobe too." He joked. "How are ya?"

Aroma just shrugged her shoulders.

"Don't worry, everything'll be fine," Yakko grinned. "You'll see. That guy just wasn't right for you."

Aroma didn't reply.

"You'll find someone better." Yakko tried to coax her. "Buck up!"

Aroma just took another bite of her sandwich.

Yakko groaned. "Will you at least talk to me?"

Aroma just put down her sandwich and stood up. She started to walk away again.

Yakko got up as he saw her heading for her bedroom. "Oh no, don't go back there again." He started to run after her. "Tell me you just need to sleep and you won't-"

He stopped as he looked at her bedroom. It was a mess. Pictures were scattered all over along with Kleenexes. A half eaten sandwich lied on the floor on a plate. Then as she took a spot devoid of tissues on the bed he was starting to realize she had probably not even left that bed much since she'd been in there.

As she tried to gather some tissue to throw away, he took another look at her. Even in her true form complete with a nightie and robe...

She looked like a disaster. Her ears hung low, her eyes were red, and even her cherry red nose seemed to be a more dimming color.

And for the first time she finally spoke. "Just go away," she whispered.

"...but..." Yakko just looked helplessly around the room. It was finally occurring to him as he saw some photos he had taken with her as Devin. She wasn't just hurt from the break up. She wasn't angry. And she wasn't recovering...

She was crushed inside and out.

"You don't get it...he's not..." Yakko tried to come near to Aroma, but she just started to slide away.

He couldn't comfort her as Yakko, only as Devin. In this situation, there was nothing he could do. "It's not worth this. He's just a guy. Just an average schmo, Aroma."

Aroma just looked down at the bed. "...just...go."

Yakko stood there several seconds, trying to think of something to say. Something to make her feel better. But it didn't matter what he tried, he was just Yakko to her.

Just Dot's older perverted brother.

He looked down at the floor in defeat.

As Devin, he had the power to make her happy like no one else.

As Yakko, he didn't even have enough sway to make her talk.

Giving up, he finally granted her wish and started to leave.

As he walked back to his room though, he heard his own feet echoing on the ground in his head. The tower was quiet and lonely.

So lonely...

He headed for his bed, trying to think of the good things. He'd eventually get her back, this time as himself. No fake life, just his regular self, the way it should be. He tried to remember that so he could forget what she looked like right now. So he could forget how miserable she was right now.

Everything would be okay. It was just gonna take more time than he thought.

If He Wants to Play, We'll Play

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The Bet

Chapter Eight: If He Wants to Play, We'll Play

Two weeks later...

Aroma was getting better slowly. She had started to speak to Dot a lot though and started to follow her advice. She tried to get out with the Warner Brothers and have a good time again. She was even slowly smiling again.

Although, most of it was just for show. Inside, she still felt hurt and betrayed. She went through everything in her head day by day to try and figure out how everything went wrong. She tried to see Devin in a different light, tried to see how he could suddenly want to break up with her.

In the end, she always came to the same conclusion. She pushed too hard. Everything was her fault. Still she plastered on a fake smile and went on with her life. Dot told her it was the right thing to do. To just move on and forget it all. There would be someone else out there one day.

"Morning." Aroma smiled at Yakko as she came down for breakfast. She looked around. "Where's Wakko?"

"Out." Yakko grinned as he quickly headed over to the stove. "I'm fixing breakfast personally today. What would you like?"

Aroma shrugged her shoulders. "Don't bother, I'll just have cereal."

"I could make something really good though," Yakko tried again. "Or we could even go out for breakfast if you want."

"I'm fine." Aroma grabbed a box of cereal and started to head for the fridge.

Darnit. Yakko watched as she started to pour herself some cereal. He knew she wasn't completely better but at this rate, she just wouldn't be until she had to leave. He couldn't wait that long. "Anyhow, you like the movies right?"

"Yeah." Aroma started to take a bite of her cereal. "Who doesn't?"

"Then let's go. There's a lot of good stuff playing tonight." Yakko smiled. "What do you say?"

"I don't know. Maybe," Aroma replied. "What do you and Wakko wanna see?"

"..." Right over her head. "Wakko doesn't want to see a movie with us."

Aroma gave Yakko a strange look. "Wakko's not coming?"

"He's busy. It'd be just us." Yakko smiled. "Then we could go eat afterwards too."

Aroma just smiled politely. "...not really interested."

"Why not? It'll be fun." Yakko pushed.

Aroma just rolled her eyes. "A hoot and a holler I'm sure."

Yakko just tapped his foot. It'd been almost two weeks since he'd been able to get close to Aroma. No touching, no kissing, no nothing! No dates and no fun. Not to mention the fact she always looked like Dot now again. He'd hardly get to see her true form now.

He was getting tired of waiting! "It'll be good for you," Yakko continued. "Maybe going out with someone else will make you forget everything."

Aroma just took a little extra time to study Yakko as she sucked on her spoon. "Don't push your luck."

"What kind of answer is that?" Yakko frowned as he saw her get up from the table.

"Even if I was ready to date, I don't think I'd start with Dot's brother." Aroma replied bluntly. She knew exactly what that warner was up to. He thought she was hurt and still vulnerable and he could get somewhere with her.

Well, she wasn't that stupid.

Yakko didn't look too pleased at the comment but seeing Aroma's expression, she knew what he was up to. "I didn't say dating." He lied. "Why would I date you anyhow? I just thought getting you out would cheer you up. Excuse me for trying to be nice!"

Aroma just left the room. She didn't trust a thing either of Dot's brothers said. They were typical warner guys with typical warner minds. They had no clue how to even act appropriately with real women.

Yakko just hit the table bitterly with his fist. *Not even an opening!*

How was he gonna get her in just two weeks?

Later that day...

Wakko came back and he and Yakko took off again. Aroma wasn't in the mood though. She wanted to talk to Dot about something. She stayed at home but bitterly thought about what Yakko tried to pull.

What a jerk! I haven't even been broken up a month and HE tries to slide on in? He had no interest in me before, why now? Well that's pretty obvious. Jerk, jerk, jerk! She knew he probably wouldn't back off easy either. Not a brother of Dot's. She headed over to his room.

He might have some secret he didn't want people to find out about. If she could find something on him, then these stupid ploys for 'friendly dates' would stop in their tracks!

I shouldn't feel bad about this anyhow. How many times have they walked in my room without knocking? Aroma thought bitterly as she opened Yakko's door.

If he had anything she could use, she'd find it.

"Are you supposed to be in here?"

Aroma jumped! She looked around and saw her warner friend Gyro standing there. She grabbed her still beating heart. "Don't do that."

"This doesn't look like your room." He smiled. He walked in. "What are you doing?"

"Getting a Warner Brother off my back before he becomes a problem," Aroma answered. "What are you doing here? I thought it was impossible to get away from Anima right now."

Caught red handed. "...I did anyhow?" He chuckled. "Alright, I'm sorry. I just knew where you were headed and I wanted to make sure you'd be alright. Alright?"

Aroma groaned.

"I haven't been spying much. I just wanted to be at least on the same planet as you," Gyro informed her. "I did see you dating a guy for a little while but then you didn't leave for awhile either. I'm guessing I know how that turned out."

"Yes." Aroma sighed. "I don't wanna talk about it." She started to look around the room again. "I need to find something against him before he comes back."

"This is uhhh...." Gyro's voice slid slightly. "Very unlike you."

"I've had a rough stay." Aroma smiled suspiciously. "Anyhow, you didn't have to come down and follow me. I've told you before, I'll be fine."

"I know. I just worry a bit." Gyro stuck his hands in his pockets. "If it had worked out with that guy...nevermind." He smiled. "As long as you'd be happy."

Aroma looked at him sadly. Gyro was a good friend of hers, but he also really liked her. He was the one she was supposed to settle with one day if she didn't find someone she liked. He was trustworthy, decent and one of the few warner males she could ever trust with everything. He was wonderful.

But she just wasn't in love with him. One day though, she'd probably just settle and give in. After all he really did love her, so at least one of them would be happy.

Aroma started to look around again.

"I guess I'll go outside." Gyro smiled. "A girl being found sneaking around in a guy's room is one thing. A stranger sneaking around is another. I'll see ya around."

Aroma nodded and went back to work. *I should have known he'd...what's that?* Seeing some clothes that were not in Yakko's fashion, she pulled it out.

"..."

She held the strange shirt uncomfortably.

"..."

It was Devin's shirt?

A shirt like Devin's. She corrected herself. Still, why did Yakko have a shirt like Devin? She started to look around some more, this time in drawers. Her curiosity was way too peaked now.

Then she found it. Second drawer. In the back.

All of Devin's clothes. She stepped back slowly looking at the strange sight. *This is...it...*

Walking far enough back she bumped into his shelves, some stuff came tumbling.

"Look Aroma, I just don't how to say this to you."

Aroma's eyes grew wide as she heard Devin's breakup speech coming from out of the stack of things that fell.

"We just can't be together. We're not right for each other. You deserve someone better than me and I just don't love you the same way."

Aroma fidgeted anxiously until she saw the source. A recorder. She picked it up in her hands unsteadily.

"We just want way different things and I'm not ready to give up everything for you yet. Don't call back, I won't answer. This is the end forever. Bye."

Aroma's eyes started to water as she heard the recorder click off.

She picked the recorder up slowly with her...

"Aroma?" Gyro looked back into the room. He didn't feel like dealing with the Warner Brothers who didn't know him but she'd need a heads up if they did come home. "What was that?" He saw the horrified expression on her face. "Aroma?"

"Devin..." Aroma breathed in disbelief. "Is... Yakko?"

"What?" Gyro frowned. "What's wrong, Aroma?"

Aroma bit her lip anxiously. "Why? Why would he do that? Why would he pretend-why?!" She dropped the recorder to the floor. "He pretended he loved me."

Gyro looked sadly at Aroma. She had been duped?

"And he wants to do it again..." Aroma started to cry softly. "I'm nothing to him. Nothing but a game? Maybe..." She looked at Gyro sadly. "...maybe even a bet?"

Gyro strolled over and wiped her tears. "It's alright. Come here." He held Aroma slowly. "Come with me. You don't have to stay here anymore. I'll go get your things."

Aroma just stood there as Gyro left. She looked around the room bitterly. *Nothing. I was never anything to him! He tricked me, it was all just a game to him!* She picked the recorder back up. *A pawn. I was just some piece in his twisted game?! She threw the recorder on the bed. He manipulated me! He made me believe he was Devin! He's...he's...!*

"Aroma? I..." Gyro's voice slid a bit as he walked into the room. "I don't think I found everything."

Aroma looked over at Gyro. This was it. Yakko Warner would not get away with hurting her like Yan and Gil. She would learn why he did it. How he did it.

And in the process she'd make sure *he'd pay*. "Gyro? Will you put this on?"

Gyro looked at a shirt Aroma handed him. He put it on for her.

"Can you make your voice higher?" Aroma asked.

"Higher?" Gyro changed his tone. "Like this?"

Aroma stared at him. *Dead ringer...* "Gyro...I'll do it."

"What?" Gyro had to ask.

"I'll settle. I'm done, I'll be with you on one condition," Aroma informed him.

"Really?" Gyro's heart skipped a beat! She would finally be with him?! *If she does then after time she'd eventually love me back and we'd have kids and life would be perfect!* "What condition?"

Aroma started to put things back the way they were in the room. He'd pay. Oh ho, Yakko Warner would pay for messing with her heart like that!

Step one... Aroma looked over at Gyro. New York.

A half hour later...

Yakko and Wakko came back again. It hadn't been that long of a trip, they mostly needed to talk about Aroma. Yakko really needed help to convince Aroma he wasn't just after her because she was vulnerable.

They didn't come up with too much though and decided to head back home.

But Aroma wasn't there?

Yakko was the first to spot a letter on an end table. "Huh?" He picked it up. "Dear Yakko and Wakko. I can't take anything anymore. I'm off to New York...to try and find Devin?"

"What?" Wakko whined as he read the letter. "New York? How could she ever find him?"

Yakko read on. "I don't think Devin ever gave me his last name, but I figured out a long time ago where he's been working. I'll be back in a couple days?" He whined. "Wait. How did she ever figure out a place?"

"What did you tell her?" Wakko asked.

"Nothing much. It was a big company that I came back and forth for." Yakko tried to think. "What else did I ever say?"

"She thinks she knows and she's heading there," Wakko frowned. "We can't just let her leave and not find him!"

Yakko groaned. "Great. I have to breakup face to face? And I don't even know where to-Oh wait!" He slapped his hand across his face. "I told her it was about mortgage and the head guy lived here! That's why I traveled back and forth," he whined.

"Is that it?" Wakko questioned. "We need more than that."

"I'm thinking." Yakko tapped his foot. "I said some kind of name but then I said it was foreign and I couldn't pronounce it. It was...dufacto or something?"

Wakko whined. "That's so vague!"

"Which is why I said it," Yakko frowned. "Shoot. So what, did she find the boss here or did she find the company in New York first?"

"Both of them are gonna be hard," Wakko reasoned. "Let's check her room, maybe she wrote it down?"

In New York a day later...

Aroma prepared herself. The stage was set. Gyro would be useful later, but for now it was up to her to play the damsel in distress. *Yakko will become Devin again. I will drag him down so deep...* She thought bitterly. *If he wants to play, we'll play.*

She knew the boys would be on their way. She left a name of a company called Ipso Defacto. No, it didn't follow everything Yakko said but knowing the creep he'd take the easy way and find the slip with the name instead.

She calmed her breathing and pretended to start to cry. It was almost time.

Yakko and Wakko ran through the door first to make sure they had the right place.

"Aroma?" Wakko walked over to Aroma's whose head was sinking so low to the ground. "What's wrong?"

"...Devin..." Aroma tried to dry her tears. "He was just using me!"

Yakko slowly strolled over. She beat them to it, she knew Devin lied about where he worked now. "Could he have meant anywhere else?"

"No." Aroma just stared at the ground. "I asked the secretary about him. His full name here is Devin Davinporter."

What? She found a Devin? Yakko thought anxiously.

"He has a wife and kids already." Aroma gulped. "I was just his toy!"

Wife and kids? Oh great! "Maybe he's..." Yakko didn't know what to say. She found a fake Devin with wife and kids?

Oh that was harsh.

"I should have known. The way he always said I love you so easily at first." Aroma sniffled. "The way he was so secretive. He just used me until he couldn't use me anymore."

Ouch.

"He must know..." Aroma started to hold onto Wakko for support. "I'm so stupid, he must have known the truth about me!"

"Truth?" Wakko tried to pat her back. "What truth?"

"Well..." Aroma shrugged her shoulders. "On one of our dates, we had just had fun crashing a party, but this one was like a fraternity one."

Yakko frowned. He was remembering crashing a lot of parties. The fraternity one, it rang a big bell.

"They must have poured something in the punch and we were just in party mode." Aroma sighed. "I woke up with him in a motel room."

"What?!" Wakko looked over at Yakko anxiously.

Yeah, so? Yakko wasn't picking it up. He tried to give Wakko a 'nothing happened' look, but his brother wasn't buying it. *But nothing did happen! She said she remembered everything! We got wild, started to bug someone at a motel and then crashed.*

"I told him nothing happened." Aroma said softly. "Truth was, I lied. I just didn't remember anything either and I didn't want him to get anxious."

Yakko's eyes grew very wide.'

Aroma fidgeted with her fingers. "I thought it was an accident, but I guess it was intentional." She started to cry. "He must have known I've had suspicions."

"Suspicions?" Wakko asked weakly. "About what?"

"It's too early to tell." Aroma shrugged her shoulders. "But I might be pregnant."

"..."

"He probably knew so he ran away," Aroma choked. "That's gotta be it. It's the only thing that makes any sense."

"..."

"I can't take this anymore, I'm heading back to Anima." Aroma sniffled. "Mom and dad have good connections, I should be able to get there safely. I'll marry the one my parents like the most and he can be the daddy if there is one on the way. Well, if he can stand to be the daddy of another warner's baby." She looked over at Yakko. "Are you okay? You look as bad as I do."

Yakko didn't know what to say. He slowly held his finger up as if to ask a question...

And then ran away to the nearest bathroom exit.

Aroma sighed. She looked over at Wakko. He looked pretty out of it as well. "Do you think I should tell Dot about this too? Or should I wait and see?"

Wakko didn't know how to answer as he heard his brother starting to make unsavory noises in the bathroom. "..."

Aroma slowly reached for her purse. "I really hope it isn't true." She touched her tummy tenderly. "Getting pregnant in someone's game isn't the way I wanted to bring life to the world." She reached out for Wakko's hand trying to lightly sniffle now. "Thanks for everything, Wakko. And thank Yakko too. You guys have been really great during my stay. So long."

Wakko watched as she started to slowly walk away. *Yakko...he could be?*

"WAIT!!"

Wakko watched as Yakko came shooting out of the bathroom. He had quickly dressed like Devin again.

"Aroma?!" Devin was out of breath as he reached her. "What are you doing here?" He tried to smile.

"Don't play with me anymore," Aroma yelled. "I know about you. Just leave me alone forever. It's what you wanted anyhow!" She started to cry as she tried to push him as he tried to hold her.

"Wait, wait! I messed up! I'm not ready to break up, I'm not!" Devin tried to hold on. "I-I was just confused! Really, really, really! And there is no other life! Okay?!"

"You have a wife and kids!" Aroma protested.

"No, no, that's another Devin! I'm uhhhh...Ditterbee," Devin said trying to come up with a logical last name.

"It wasn't you?" Aroma stopped fighting against him. "You don't have a wife and kids?"

"Nuh uh. There's no one but you," Devin promised. "I'm sorry I broke up and I didn't mean it! I-I am ready for the big steps now! I am I was just scared. I don't really like Anima."

"Devin." Aroma smiled slyly. "We don't have to go to Anima then. Maybe...I could move in with you?"

"Move in? With me?" Devin blinked.

"Too fast still?" Aroma rubbed her tummy. "Devin, there's something...no not yet. I mean, I don't know for sure and I don't want to make you worry."

"...we'll figure it out." Devin settled on. "We'll figure it all out. I promise."

"Oh Devin!" Aroma started to hug him tightly. "I love you so so much! We'll figure everything out. If you don't want to come to Anima, then I'll come stay with you. I know you have plenty of room in your *gigantic* house for little old me, right?"

"...right."

"Oh Devin." Aroma gave him a light kiss on the cheek. "What I have to tell you...I'll be happy either way with it." She rubbed his nose affectionately. "Just don't ever leave me again?"

"...yeah."

Wakko looked at the ground sadly. Just a bet. Yakko was almost free, but Aroma could be pregnant? Just because they crashed a fraternity party?! *If she isn't then he's free, but if she is?*

Would Yakko have to be Devin? Permanently?

Yakko Isn't Devin?

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The Bet

Chapter Nine: Yakko...isn't Devin?

Stuck, stuck, stuck...

So far Aroma hadn't actually mentioned the 'could be pregnant' situation to Devin. Not one bit! It was already a week later and the topic never came up even once!

'She does want to know for sure.' Yakko told himself over and over. But geez, around him and Wakko she was looking through baby books and delighted as could be but around Devin she wouldn't mention a thing!

The chances were so small that anything even happened, but Aroma seemed to be a firm thinker that she might be pregnant. And yet, she wouldn't say a thing to Devin!

Which was driving Yakko crazy! Until he knew for sure, how was Devin supposed to dump her for good?

But then again the Warners could never be left out of a loop for long...

Yakko was pacing back and forth while Aroma was out. 'There's no way it could be true. None! I mean, she won't even tell Devin! But she wants to be sure first, she keeps saying that and it's driving me nuts! What if it is true? What if it isn't true? Do I just dump her and make her go through all that misery again? She didn't deserve that. I just don't know!"

Wakko was getting on the computer to try and communicate with Dot again. Yakko's pacing back and forth was driving him crazy. "I can't seem to get through no matter what I do."

"Oh, one problem easily solved." Yakko whined. Not the one he wanted solved but at least he could do something. "With this whole thing going on we've talked to her so much. You probably have to delete out old conversations for memory."

"Oh. That makes sense." Wakko looked at the computer. "Where do we find those?"

Yakko stopped pacing and started to punch some keys on a keyboard. "There. There should be a copy of everything we've talked about so far. Just erase that."

"Okay." Wakko started to erase the conversations one by one. None of them were really worth saving. "Wow. Aroma talked to her a lot too."

"Yeah. Probably about how thrilled she would be if she was a mommy and pinned down Devin." Yakko complained.

Wakko opened up the conversations. "...uh uh."

"Uh uh?" Yakko looked over at Wakko. "She's acted happy. You mean she wouldn't be?"

"No. Oh..." Wakko whined. "Yakko? I don't think Aroma's a problem anymore."

"What do you mean?" Yakko asked confused.

"Look." Wakko backed off the computer. "She knows!"

"She what?" Yakko started to get down to read the old conversation.

-----Old Conversation list-----

Dot: I heard the news. Are you scared? I would be!

Aroma: Not really no.

Dot: Have you taken a test yet? Gotten an appointment?

Aroma: No

Dot: Aroma! This is super SUPER important! If you are then you need to tell Devin too!

Aroma: Drop it.

Dot: Drop what?

Aroma: Dot! He's your brother and I'm sure he told you.

Dot: Oh. He is?

Aroma: I was nothing but a game! How could you not tell me?!

Dot: So if you think it's Yakko? Then why didn't you just tell him?

Aroma: No! He's gonna admit it.

Dot: He'd never admit it, even if it was him.

Aroma: He will as time goes by. He's gonna crack.

Dot: Aroma! Are you even pregnant?!

Aroma: I don't know. Most likely not. I don't remember anything but I doubt we did anything but bug a motel person.

Dot: You're lying?!

Aroma: He tricked me!

Dot: Maybe. This is too big though!

Aroma: Too big is the only way to bring him down.

Dot: So you don't think you're pregnant at all?

Aroma: Not in the least.

Dot: I can't believe your lying!

Aroma: I'm not lying, I just embellish a bit more for emphasis.

Dot: But most likely your not!

Aroma: Probably.

-----end of old conversation-----

"It goes on in the next segment." Wakko said sadly. "She knows Yakko."

"She knows..." Yakko growled. "She knows and she just wants me to admit it?!" He crossed his arms. "I'm not backing down for her."

"This isn't a game Yakko." Wakko frowned. "Just give up."

"And tell her I know now?" Yakko groaned. "She made me believe she might be pregnant! She doesn't even think so and THAT makes more sense! She's just acting more certain about it, but the chances she is is...crazy!"

"So nothing probably happened." Wakko agreed. "So just fess up?"

"No way! She wants to keep playing with me, then I'll play!" Yakko growled. He looked at the computer and opened the next conversation. "It would have been too early during this conversation. Maybe...did she just take her check book or her whole purse?"

"Why?" Wakko didn't like that look on her face.

"She thinks she's getting away with this she's got another thing coming!" Yakko strolled over to her purse and looked inside. "Equate. Got it!"

"A pregnancy test?" Wakko wasn't liking the way things looked. "Yakko?"

"I'm off to the store!" Yakko beamed.

Wakko just watched as Yakko left. 'This doesn't look good. Why won't they just tell each other they know?!' "It isn't always fair in love and war."

What was Yakko gonna do?

Aroma arrived back before Yakko, but Wakko acted like he had no idea what was going on. Yakko arrived soon after.

'For going shopping, he doesn't have any bags.' Wakko thought wearily.

Yakko glanced at Aroma every once in awhile, as if he was waiting for something.

Aroma didn't do much though at first. It was an hour later before she finally made her move.

Yakko glanced at her as she grabbed her purse. His timing would have to be perfect.

"Yakko?" Wakko frowned. "What are you going to do?"

"Nothing much. Play with stickers." Yakko smiled.

Inside the bathroom...

Aroma wasn't nervous at all as she brought out her test. She was only taking it to make herself feel better. 'There is really no way.' she thought casually. 'I'm sure I was just my usual zany self just a bit zanier.' Still, there was a slight chance something may have gone wrong. Taking the simple test would make her feel loads better.

Outside the bathroom...

Yakko waited a little while until he heard a trickle. "Wakko, go outside and call to her. Tell her you see a giant cheesecake and flowers outside."

"Yakko?"

"Do it now." Yakko urged him.

Wakko sighed. "Aroma! There's a giant cheesecake and flowers outside!"

Aroma quickly opened the door. "There is?!" She started to check outside. She had a real weakness for sweets.

Yakko quickly made his move and headed for the bathroom as Aroma started to go outside.

Aroma climbed down the tower gleefully as she saw some cheesecake and a whole pile of flowers with a card. She bent down and looked at the card.

Sweets for my sweet!

Devin

Okay... Aroma smiled. Usually he didn't do that kind of thing. She really didn't plan on it right now either, but she wouldn't complain. She brought in the flowers and cheesecake.

Yakko was just grinning from ear to ear as she walked by. "What's that?"

As if he doesn't know. "A gift." Aroma smiled.

"Devin, huh? You know he is the best guy in the world." Yakko smirked.

Wakko just looked oddly at Yakko as Aroma started to put the gifts in the kitchen.

Yakko watched her very closely as she headed back to the bathroom.

"What did you do?" Wakko asked.

"I told you, I just played with stickers." Yakko held his finger up in the air. "One...two..."

"AAAAAaaaAAaaAAaAAAaaAAaHHHHhhhHHHhhHhhhHhHhhhHHHH?!"

"...three." Yakko chuckled.

Aroma came out of the bathroom as white as a ghost. "..."

"Aroma?" Yakko just smiled innocently. "Gosh, what's wrong?"

"..."

"You don't look so good. Do you need to lie down?" Yakko asked trying to be sincere.

Wakko just watched as Aroma strangely walked across the room. He looked over at Yakko.
What did he do?!

Yakko just grinned at Wakko as Aroma went to her room without a word. He just held a small sticker on his finger.

Wakko looked at it carefully. It was a simple sticker with just a pink cross.

"Fit perfectly. I measured an exact copy." Yakko smiled evilly.

"..." Wakko just blinked. "You made her think...that she really is?"

Yakko held his finger up to Wakko. "Ssh. Let her get some rest. After all, the 9 month fun for her is just beginning right?"

Wakko just looked at him in disbelief. *First he makes a bet and then dumps Aroma. Aroma tricks him into believing she might be pregnant and now he's tricking her to think she really is pregnant?* "When are you two just gonna quit already?"

"I'm not just gonna let her win. I'm not confessing, she's gonna confess first," Yakko said with determination.

"You already know that she knows! Why are you being so..." Wakko didn't have any words.

"Because she does know but she doesn't know that I know that she knows." Yakko smiled.

Wakko just shook his head sadly. Why didn't they just admit it and be done with it? Why did they have to keep hurting each other?

"What? Come on, Wakko, nobody gets away with tricking us," Yakko said firmly. He watched as Aroma came back in the room. "Aroma?" He smiled playfully.

With Aroma thinking she really was pregnant, she'd spill that she knew Yakko was actually Devin now. Easy as pie.

"..." Aroma took a deep breath. *How...but I didn't really think...* "...I'm..."

"You're what?" Yakko urged her.

"I...I'm..." Aroma just couldn't say it. It just couldn't be possible. Even if something happened it would only be once. Just once! "I'm..."

"You're?" Yakko pressed again.

"...I'm pregnant," Aroma finally said. "I really am?"

"Well, congratulations!" Yakko grabbed her hand and started to shake it. "You get to be a mommy? Isn't that great!"

Isn't that great? Aroma looked bewildered at Yakko. *He's Devin! How can he be so happy?*
"Have you wanted kids?"

"Me? Nah, I hate kids." Yakko chuckled. "I like acting like a kid instead. Naw, I would be horrible as a dad. Good thing I'm not!"

Aroma just seemed even more confused. *I don't get it! But Yakko's Devin...right?* "How do you think Devin will take it?"

"Me? I don't know. I'd go running for the hills personally, but I have no clue what that guy will think." Yakko smiled innocently.

Too steady. Not nervous at all? Aroma was downright dizzy trying to figure this out! *Dot never admitted it was him. It's got to be him though! The shirt, the tape recorder, the whole nine yards!*

But Yakko just stared at her as if nothing important in his own life changed.

Then is he...not Devin? That didn't make any sense! Ipso Defacto. It was close to what he said. The secretary... *He ran out on cue though! Coincidence? Just too big of a coincidence!* "You're driving me crazy!" She yelled suddenly at Yakko.

Yakko just shook his head. "Hormone's already kicking in?"

Aroma just started to walk back to her room.

Yakko just chuckled. Yep, she'd have to admit it soon.

In Aroma's room...

Aroma grabbed her cell and started to dial the number to Ipso Defacto. It was close to what Devin said, but it couldn't have been it, right?

Ipso Defacto?

"Is Mr. Ditterbee there?" Aroma asked. It just couldn't be.

Mr. Ditterbee? Please hold on.

Mr. Ditterbee is in an appointment right now. Would you like to leave a message?

"...no." Aroma hung up the phone.

Yakko wasn't Devin after all? It was all just a coincidence?

But the recorder and the clothes! Aroma whined. If Yakko was Devin though, he should have been at least a little freaked at hearing the news!

Aroma just couldn't tell anymore. But she'd find out tonight.

Later that night outside the tower...

Devin groaned. *Come on already.*

Aroma took slightly longer coming down for their date. "Devin?"

"Duh," Devin chuckled. "What's the holdup? Let's go!"

Aroma just examined him. He looked like he could be Yakko, but then again, Gyro looked perfect as Devin too. "Devin?"

"Yep?" Devin replied.

"Do you let Yakko borrow your clothes?" Aroma had to ask.

Do I let myself borrow my clothes? Devin had no clue what she was trying to get at, but he wouldn't fall for it whatever it was. "Sure! He borrows mine and I borrow his every once in awhile."

Borrowed clothes. "Do you own a tape recorder?" Aroma had to ask.

What is up with her weird questions? "Yeah."

"Did you let Yakko borrow it?" Aroma continued to ask.

"Maybe?" Devin frowned. "I don't know, maybe I left it in my clothes. What's with all the dumb questions?"

"Sorry." Aroma looked at the ground. *Borrowed clothes. I was so sure he was Yakko!* She looked at Devin again. *Devin is so much sweeter though, he's nothing like Yakko. Is it all in my head?*

"What is up with all the strange looks already?" Devin frowned. "Can we just go?"

Yakko was an actor but it wasn't possible to act that good, right? And if Yakko just borrowed his clothes...

Devin's not Yakko? Aroma realized. *None of the pieces fit anymore.* "Devin..."

"Yeah?" Devin groaned.

"There's something I need to tell you," Aroma said softly.

You already told me! Why can't she just confess already? "What is it?" Devin smiled.

"Well...do you remember that night at the frat party we ended up in a motel? And I said I remembered everything and it was just fine?" Aroma began.

Going through the whole spew too? Not a bad actor. "Yeah, I remember." Devin replied.

"Well...I lied. I didn't want you to worry and I wasn't really worried either. Even on the rare chance something did happen, it should have been f-fine." Aroma stuttered. "But I uhh...I took a..."

She's a really good actor. Devin had to give her that. "Took a what?"

"I took a test." Aroma said softly.

"Okay. Did you ace it?" Devin chuckled.

Aroma just looked at him strangely. "A pregnancy test Devin...I'm pregnant."

Devin faked a look of shock. "...nuh uh!"

"Tests can be wrong, but it's rare," Aroma continued. "It was a solid plus."

"Well make it a solid negative," Devin whined as if he just heard the news.

"I can't do that," Aroma admitted. "I don't know what to do. I just thought you should know." She looked seriously back at him. "I don't know what arrangements should be made. If you aren't ready for this, I understand. We could split custody if you like?"

Devin had to admit, she was a real good actor. *She does know I'm Devin, right? She has to, she told Dot about me! It's gotta be real good acting and I can't just cave!* "This is really sudden! I don't know what I wanna do! I don't wanna lose you again though. I was stupid the first time and I don't wanna do it again."

"Okay. Until we get it figured out I'll stay on Earth then," Aroma commented. "When Dot comes back I'll find a place of my own until we figure things out."

"Alright then." Devin nodded his head. *Like she'd actually stay. Bluff, bluff, bluff and I refuse to fall for it! No one tricks Yakko Warner!* "Sounds like a plan."

Aroma nodded as well. "I don't know if you still want to go out after all this."

"Well, I really need time to absorb everything," Devin kept playing along. "I'll call you later instead, all right?"

"Alright." Aroma agreed. "...night, Devin."

"Night." Devin just walked off quickly. *Still not caving, she's really good! But I'm a lot better though and there's no way I'm giving her the satisfaction of winning this!*

He quickly became Yakko again and headed for the town. He wouldn't come back real quick from playing Devin just to give her more reason to be suspicious and pin him! He'd just go out and have fun for now.

There's no doubt in my mind. Aroma sighed. Yakko isn't Devin at all. I was just so lost and angry...what a jump I made. She started to head to the computer slowly. I just wanted him to hurt like I did. It was all just a mean game like what he played! But it wasn't a game... She looked at her belly. ...and this isn't fake.

Wakko just sighed as he saw her expression. Yakko tricked her. She tricked him. He tricked her back.

When were they gonna stop? He tilted his head slightly as he saw her fiddling with the computer. "Didn't you already tell Dot the news?"

"I'm not connecting to Dot," Aroma said, almost ashamed. "I can't hide this from them forever." She started typing away. "Please answer, Zenny."

Zenny?! Wakko tried to act cool and smile as he watched Aroma. Zenny was Aroma's brother. *Oh no! Yakko's toast now if Zenny finds out it is him!*

Was she going to tattle?

Wakko went over and sat on the couch smiling. Maybe if he was there she wouldn't tattle about Yakko being Devin.

Aroma didn't seem to mind as she finally connected to him.

Zenny: Hello Aroma, what's up?

Aroma: Things. Really BIG things. I met someone on Earth.

Zenny: Yeah a warner. Devin or something like that?

Aroma: Yes

Zenny: So what's wrong? Did he dump you? Did he trick you?!

Exclamation points aren't a good sign. Wakko thought sadly.

Aroma started to type again.

Aroma: We broke up temporarily but we got back together.

Zenny: He better be good enough then. So why the transmission?

Aroma:...

Aroma took a moment to breathe before she continued. It wasn't going to be an easy thing to say.

Aroma: I'm pregnant.

It took a few minutes before Zenny responded.

Zenny: I'M GONNA KILL HIM!!

Wakko closed his eyes. Not good! Not good!

Aroma: Zenny it was both our fault! We crashed the wrong party and drunk something spiked.

Zenny: You know better than that!

Aroma: Devin was always a pro at crashing events though.

Zenny: No excuse! So now what?

Aroma: I don't know. I need to figure it out with Devin. I don't think he wants to leave Earth though.

Zenny: Oh yes he is!

Wakko just looked back from the computer to Aroma. He didn't know what to make of anything.

"I'm home!" Yakko grinned as he bounced through the tower door. "Did I miss anything?" He noticed the expression on Wakko's face. "I did?"

Wakko got off the couch and headed over to his brother. "She's not talking to Dot." He warned him.

Yakko watched Aroma groan as she typed on the computer more. "Then who?"

"...Zenny." Wakko finally replied.

"..." Yakko looked at him a bit in disbelief. *Wait, wait, wait. Zen? But she hasn't even confessed that she knows I'm Devin yet!*

Aroma sighed as she continued typing to her brother. She knew he would start to react this way. "You guys?" She looked over at Yakko and Wakko. "I'm afraid you're getting an uninvited visitor soon."

Bluff, bluff, bluff! It's got to be a bluff! Yakko thought to himself. *If she knows I'm Devin she's going to use her family to make me crack! Right? "Who?"*

"Zenny insists he'll find a way here." Aroma closed her eyes. "When the weather gets better mother and father will come too."

"...fine." Yakko smiled. *It's a trick. It is! She's just making me sweat, trying to twist the knife!*

"I don't know what you're going to do." Wakko said to his brother after Aroma went to bed. "Her family? With Zenny?"

"She just thinks I won't take it that far," Yakko responded. "She thinks I'll break and tell her the truth."

"Are you sure?" Wakko asked worriedly. "Are you sure she's not...binding you?"

"Binding me?" Yakko frowned. "Huh?"

"She knows your Devin. She doesn't know that you know that she doesn't." Wakko tried to reason with him. "What if she is trying to trap you into being Devin forever?"

Yakko couldn't even give him a serious look. "What?" He chuckled. "Wakko, it's Aroma. She couldn't ever do that."

"She did fake the pregnancy thing," Wakko warned him.

"Well, not really. She just lied about remembering that happened." Yakko shrugged his shoulders. He looked at the ceiling. "I've got to remember not to crash anymore fraternities." He smiled. "Move on to sororities."

"Yakko." Wakko started to fidget. "I just don't think this is worth it anymore. Why can't you just-"

"She isn't winning." Yakko said defiantly. "She knows Wakko! You saw that old conversation. A Warner Brother won't be fooled that easily."

"You really won't tell her until she confesses she knows?" Wakko sighed.

Yakko wouldn't give in though. He stood up and stretched. "She started it."

Classic excuse. "Actually you did," Wakko reminded him.

"Doesn't matter, I'm winning," Yakko declared. "I don't care what she does, I'm not confessing."

"I don't get it." Wakko frowned. "When you hurt her before you were really sad about it. You're doing much more this time! Why?"

"Why should I care?" Yakko frowned as he crossed his arms. "Her beloved 'Devin' was perfect in every way but me? Oh ho, what would she want with a perverted has-been actor huh? The so called 'Brother of Dot'?" He uncrossed his arms. "Nothing but to beat me at my own game. So fine! Winner take all!"

Wakko just watched his brother stomp away. *Whoah*. Aroma didn't have to play with him at all. She'd apparently hurt him already.

She didn't love Yakko, just the guy he pretended to be. Wakko thought he understood it but Yakko's feelings had rung clear in that declaration.

He didn't think she'd ever love him for who he was.

This isn't a win or lose game. Wakko thought sadly. "It's lose-lose no matter what."

Long Gone

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The Bet

Chapter Ten: Long Gone

Fabulous.

That's the only word that came to Yakko's mind as he saw Dot and Zenny standing next to each other staring at him in the tower.

"I'm back." Dot gave him a knowing look. "Weather was better and Zenny got me a ride. What great luck, huh?"

Yakko and Wakko just looked at each other.

Zenny wasn't exactly close friends to the pair. He was older than all of them and didn't really share in their childish games when they were younger. He did however have a hot streak for watching over Aroma as she grew older.

Knowing about what Yan and Gil did now, made his actions make more sense. Yakko just smiled innocently. "Zenny. Hey. What's up?"

"You haven't been chasing my sister again, have you?" Zenny growled at him and Wakko.

"No! No, we learned our lesson." Wakko just smiled. "We've been good. Really good. Right Dot?"

Dot just frowned at both of them. "Where's Aroma already?" She growled. "We need to have a girl to girl talk. Now."

Yakko gestured toward her room and watched Dot leave angrily. He looked back over at Zenny and smiled. "So? How was the trip?"

"Who IS this guy Aroma's messed up with?" Zenny asked his own question instead.

Messed up with. Nice way of putting it. Yakko had a feeling the conversation with the warner probably wouldn't be oh so delightful.

Aroma just stared at the very angry Dot. "What are you so angry about?"

"Devin." Dot remarked. "You told Zenny about Devin?! You're getting desperate to making Yakko confess." She crossed her arms and tapped her foot.

"Oh." Aroma shook her head. "I'm sorry about that Dot. I was wrong, Devin's not Yakko." She rolled her eyes. "I must have had a screw loose to believe that in the first place."

"What?" Dot gave her an odd look. "But you said you knew it was Yakko?"

"I was just upset and connecting pieces that weren't really there." Aroma admitted. "Devin's not your brother Dot." She looked very ashamed at her. "I'm sure if he was you would have told me anyhow."

"..." Dot just whined. Things were getting too difficult around here! *Yakko IS Devin but I can't tell her that. But Yakko's tricking her with the pregnancy thing? But she started it! But...now she doesn't...* "Why can't you just stay making sense?!"

Stay making sense? Aroma watched as Dot just left the room. *What did she mean by that?*

Dot looked over at Yakko and gave him a look. Not a look that said 'I'm cute' or 'I'm mad'. No it rang 'you are screwed!'

Yakko ignored the look. He had already told Dot that Aroma really wasn't pregnant and that he knew that she knew he was really Devin.

"So where is this mysterious Devin guy?" Zenny asked bitterly.

Yakko just smiled innocently. "He really is a good guy. You're not gonna try and get in a fight with him are you?"

"Maybe, maybe not." Was all Zenny would reply.

"Yakko." Dot tried to smile at her brother. "We need to talk."

"No we don't." Yakko disagreed. He knew what it was about. The same thing Wakko didn't like. Letting Aroma keep thinking she was really pregnant didn't seem to sit well with either of them.

"Yes we do." Dot frowned at him.

"No we don't now drop it." Yakko stated as he stood up and walked off. He wouldn't feel bad about fooling Aroma with the pregnancy thing. She'd figure out when she got it confirmed by a doctor anyhow.

No big freaking deal.

"Did you know this Devin guy doesn't want to go back to Anima?"

Okay that caught Yakko's attention again. He came back to where he was at.

"No way, there is no way I'm letting Aroma stay here on Earth with some random warner." Zenny said firmly. "He's coming back to Anima."

"Not everyone wants to go back home though." Yakko said in Devin's defense.

"He did the crime he'll do the time!" Zenny insisted. "He got Aroma pregnant there is NO WAY he gets to choose what planet he's most comfortable on. Aroma's home is on Anima and HE is coming to Anima!"

"I think you're overreacting." Yakko frowned.

"Overreacting?" Zenny gestured to Dot. "Say Dot had actually met someone and got pregnant on Anima. Would you let her just start living on Anima?"

"No way!" Yakko and Wakko both yelled.

"That's a different situation." Wakko frowned. "Dot would never do anything like that."

"Well Aroma never would but this all-knowing PRO thought it'd be fun to take her to the wrong kind of party." Zenny reminded Wakko.

One party. Geez, we've all crashed more than one. Yakko thought bitterly.

"I don't like it. One party in one night? I bet he had it planned!"

"He did NOT have it planned."

Yakko, Wakko, Zenny and Dot all watched as Aroma started to stroll out of her bedroom.

"It just happened." Aroma said softly. "Zenny."

Zenny just looked sadly at his sister. "Aroma."

"You showed up earlier than expected. I haven't even got a chance to talk to Devin about you." Aroma frowned.

"Well isn't life full of surprises." Zenny smiled oddly. "So where is he?"

"In New York supposedly right now." Dot said glancing over at Yakko.

"At Ipso Defacto?" Zenny asked suspiciously.

"Zenny." Aroma gave him a warning. "I will introduce you."

'Well she better.' Yakko growled. Flying all the way to New York to beat Zenny to that dumb place wasn't his idea of a fun time.

Actually, meeting Zenny as Devin wasn't gonna be fun at all.

"And you're absolutely 100% positive that this Ditterbee is the guy?" Zenny questioned.

"Just what are you saying?" Aroma gave him a warning look.

"It was a messed up party. Are you sure he was..."

Yakko and Wakko both scooted away from the couch. Zenny was stepping into some bad territory!

"...the only one?" Zenny finished.

Aroma's mouth dropped. "Yes!"

"Prove it! Where was this party at?" Zenny demanded. "Can anyone remember you two hanging out? Was there someone with a camera or a video?"

Aroma was silent for a moment. "...there was someone with a camera I think."

"Then let's go, I've got all day." Zenny stood up. "Where was this party at?"

Yakko rolled his eyes. Leave it to Zenny to drag them around for impossible clues.

At the fraternity house...

Finding the house again was easy. Finding the cameraman was a bit more difficult. The warners all helped themselves to feeling more at home as they waited for the guy to get out of his class.

Dot, Wakko and Yakko were very social and outgoing. A bit destructive but not too much. Zenny on the other hand was as tough as a rock just standing there waiting for the guy. Aroma stood there next to him.

Playing around in that place right now just didn't feel like a good idea. Especially with Zenny there at the moment.

Zenny just stood staring at the door. 'How could this happen? One little trip to Earth?! This was supposed to be her sanctuary not her doom! She should have just ended up with someone like Gyro! I've never even met this guy. I bet it was all planned out too! When I get my hands on that warner...'

As the honored guest finally arrived he was a bit surprised to see all the funny creatures. A quick talking with with Zenny though and he cooperated and got his videotape from that night. He pushed it in the old VCR and let them all watch...

"Chug!Chug! Chug! Chug!"

"Who is Chug? That's a strange name."

Aroma appeared in front of the camera.

"Hey there! Whatsup?"

Devin was looking upside down into the camera. "Are you recording for posterity?"

Devin and Aroma went off camera for a little while while sounds of confusion were heard from members of the fraternity.

The cameraman eventually found them again.

"What the heck are you guys?"

"Well I'm not a guy for one thing." Aroma pointed out.

"And I be hungry." Devin added. "Let's see...these parties usually have something yummy."

"There's some cookies!" Aroma smiled as she grabbed the bag of goodies.

The cameraman lost his concentration on the camera for a moment. Then everything came back into focus. "Geez! She ate our entire bag?!"

Devin smiled. "She's got a weakness. What can I say? I guess I have more-WHOSE THAT?!"

"DEVIN?!"

"I mean...'cause whoah she shouldn't dress like that." Devin caught himself as he stared at a female that walked by off camera.

"Who invited you anyhow?"

"Ewe's at a party?" Aroma looked at the camera strangely.

"Heh, that would be ba-a-a-a-d!" Devin laughed as he started to run off to another room, Aroma at his side.

The tape was fast forwarded for half an hour before Aroma and Devin came back.

"Oh great not those things again."

"Chill dude! I'm telling you they'll do less damage if we just let them stay. I've heard of them before they're nuts!"

"Whose youse...calling an acorn?"

Devin appeared back on camera.

-----off camera-----

"Whose youse calling an acorn? I said that?" Yakko looked at Wakko and Dot who were giving him strange looks. Apparently he had already gotten into the punch at that time.

-----on camera-----

Aroma started to laugh uncontrollably from underneath Devin's arms. "That was hilarious! Acorn! Yer an Acorn Devins Doos!"

-----off camera-----

Aroma gulped as she tried not to make eye contact with anyone. 'Oh geez. Devin's Doo's? I don't even wanna know what Zenny must be thinking!'

-----on camera-----

The next few minutes consisted of the worst jokes possibly heard from warners on the camera. It was as if they had no sense of what was really funny anymore. They laughed at everything.

"Dome, do, dodo. Do! Dooo!" Devin started to laugh saying stuff that made no sense. He just giggled and looked at Aroma. "Yours the bestest and prettiest!"

Aroma touched his nose. "Yours the bestest and prettiest!"

Devin just giggled again until he saw the female from earlier walk by. "Yippeee! She's the bestest and prettiest...hey, hey, HEY!"

-----off camera-----

"No, no, no!" Yakko closed his eyes. If he said Hello Nurse it was over!

-----on camera-----

"Hey, hey, HEY!" Aroma growled at the two as Devin jumped on her and gave her a kiss. "Get off! What?! Are you like...drunk or something?"

Devin just ignored her as he held tightly to his screaming beauty. "Two's better than one I always say!"

"OH?! Oh, OH YEAH?!" Aroma jumped on the nearest guy on her and started to make out with him.

THAT caught Devin's attention very quickly! "NO! Get hands off! THat's MINE!!" He immediately jumped off the woman and popped the poor guy in the nose.

"I didn't! She started-OW!" The poor guy whined as he grabbed his nose.

The cameraman just watched the guy head up to his room. "Man...these things are nuts!" He brought his focus back to the two crazy creatures who were now making out with each other.

A lot.

-----off camera-----

'Whoah, whoah, whoah!' Yakko closed his eyes as his cheeks started to burn red. He was starting to fondle her on camera?!

Wakko and Dot just looked at the camera shocked!

Aroma couldn't even stand to look.

Zenny shook his head in disappointment. "...you're right. He's probably the guy. Anything coming back to you now?"

-----on camera-----

"Geez, they should just go get a room."

"Either that or this'll turn into a porno."

"Go away already! Go get a room or something!"

Devin and Aroma both giggled as they finally left the party.

"Whoah. This was a pretty bizarre party.

"Well the night's just beginning for them. That guy'll probably score."

-----finished camera-----

The cameraman pulled out the tape. "I've got to get to my next class. Here just keep the tape if ya want."

Zenny took the tape without saying a word.

Aroma just stared at the ground red with embarrassment. That wasn't like her at all. "Zenny."

"It was the Earth's poison." He remarked bitterly. "You are NOT staying on this planet Aroma." He growled. "If I have to knock him out and drag him back to Anima I will!"

Yakko didn't say a word as he thought about the tape. They'd done that before but it was in the park late at night. Not around anyone! 'We had no inhibitions of any kind? Soo...did we?'

Wakko and Dot didn't know what to say. They'd all crashed parties several times.

Maybe there's just some parties that shouldn't be crashed...

At the tower two nights later...

Yakko fidgeted with his tie nervously. It was time for him to meet Zenny as Devin. Something he never suspected! Zenny wasn't supposed to be involved in anything. Plus him seeing the tape of that night? He was gonna be ready to hang him! 'Aroma did say she tried to talk some sense into him. Oh I hope she did accomplish that!'

Getting into a fight with Aroma's brother was not his idea of a great night.

Devin fidgeted with his tie once more as he knocked on the tower door. "Aroma?"

Aroma answered the door and smiled wearily. "Devin. Uhh...this is Zenny."

Devin watched as Zenny came over to the door. "...hello kind sir."

Zenny tried to smile. "So? You're the big to do around here?"

Aroma gestured for Devin to come in.

Inside the tower...

Devin just bopped his leg up and down. "So? The tower. Haven't been here for awhile."

"Yeah. You haven't been here in ages, have you?" Dot frowned at Devin.

Devin just ignored her. "So Zenny! You're Aroma's big brother huh?"

"Can the small talk." Zenny warned him. "You got my sister pregnant by taking her to a wild party." he growled. "WHAT are you gonna do about it?"

"Oh? That?" Devin smiled innocently. "It's all so sudden."

"Sudden or not you're going back to Anima with us." Zenny declared. "Or you are going to prove to me you can take care of her right here."

"I can do that. I've got plenty of money and stuff." Devin smiled.

"Then she'll move in with you?" Zenny asked.

Move in?! "Move in?" Devin just smiled strangely. "What?"

"You ARE the dad, you have to take care of them. She isn't just going to stay here in the tower with Dot and the others." Zenny replied. "Otherwise we're all going back to Anima."

Wakko looked over at Devin in fright. *Yakko doesn't have a place! There's no way this lie can go on!*

Great, a place? Have her move in or be dragged back to Anima?! Devin sighed. *I wanted to win this. She didn't deserve to win this! She...doesn't even... "...care."*

"What?" Zenny asked confused.

"..." Devin glared over at Aroma.

Aroma just gave him an odd look. *What's that about?* She had already given him warning her brother would be tough but not to worry about what he said. He just wanted the best for her but she was in charge of her own life.

So what was wrong?

No way. No way, I won't let her win! If this is it then...then fine, this is it! But I won't confess! No way! Devin stood up and crossed his arms. "I'm not going to Anima and she isn't moving in with me. I don't love her that much and it was a huge mistake I'll never make again."

"Like hell!" Zenny yelled as he stood up as well. "Your doing one or the other! Your the father!"

"It was the wrong thing to do and...I don't want to be a father!" Devin protested. "I just wanted to have fun with her. Since I can't do that anymore this is over."

"WHAT?!" Wakko, Dot and Zenny all yelled.

Aroma just stared at Devin with wide eyes. "..."

Devin wouldn't give in though. "It's over! Pick another warner to be the daddy! I'm outta here!"

Before Zenny knew what happened Devin darted out the tower door.

Zenny tried to follow him but lost the trail. He was huffing out of breath.

The warner was long gone.

Never Again

Disclaimer: I do not own Animaniacs. Yakko, Wakko and Dot and all of the other characters belong to their own respective owners. I only created Tiger and Caress and some other original characters. I claim no rights to any of this. This was made purely for entertainment. No profit is made off of this. I have no rights to Burger King either.

The Bet

Chapter Eleven: Never Again

Mean! Horrible!

Dot angrily went out looking for Yakko while Wakko tried to convince Zenny not to take Aroma back to Anima yet.

Aroma seemed so out of it she didn't put up a fight either way.

Dot knowing Yakko well knew he didn't go too far away from the tower. It wasn't long before she found him running down a street. "YAKKO WARNER?!"

Yakko groaned as he saw Dot running at him. "What? I wasn't gonna confess!"

"You broke up with her! Really cold!" Dot yelled at him.

"She knows who I am, does it matter?" Yakko frowned.

"No you nitwit! That is why I've been trying to talk to you before." Dot crossed her arms. "She doesn't know that you are Devin."

"Don't even play!" Yakko whined. "She knows. I saw an old conversation of yours, don't lie!"

"Well she thought she knew," Dot confessed, "but she thinks she was angry and confused. She doesn't think it's you anymore. Not even a bit."

"What?" Now Yakko was confused. "So she doesn't know it's me?"

"No! She hasn't been playing a game with you in some time," Dot admitted. "She really thinks Devin is just Devin."

"...oh." Yakko looked a bit guilty at first. "Well I shouldn't have done it so rough then but at least it's behind me. No more acting like Devin. I don't have to be rich or smart or sweet anymore. Just myself," he said bitterly.

Dot just shook her head. "I thought you wanted her though."

"She doesn't want Yakko Warner, she wants Devin Ditterbee!" Yakko complained. "I don't have tons of money, I'm not a sweet guy and I don't dress like that. I'm not him. I'm me."

"She doesn't care about that, remember?" Dot reminded him. "Besides, you said you were acting like yourself with her in the end."

"She doesn't see me as anyone but 'Dot's perverted brother'." Yakko crossed his arms. "And this pregnancy thing to make me stay Devin? I thought I knew her."

"She liked you, you idiot," Dot growled. "We all do strange things when we're hurt by someone we love! Besides, didn't that sort of made you even? You are manipulating her into thinking you're Devin."

"Well I'm not anymore! I'm Yakko Warner, not some uppity pish posh freakin'...Devin." Yakko growled.

"Fine. Zenny's ready to take her back," Dot informed him.

"Figured so. I don't care." Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "Devin would care but he's dead. For good this time."

"Yakko, she's gonna go back to Anima and find someone! You know that! That's the reason you were supposed to be easy in a breakup! Did you completely forget?" Dot started to yell at him.

"She would have anyhow eventually!" Yakko yelled back. "If she never met Devin and she never should have. I don't feel guilty about that anymore."

Dot didn't know what to say. Yakko was hurting Aroma but he was so messed up himself he just didn't care anymore!

"Tell her Yakko Warner says so long but he's got a life and went out to chase women. After all, isn't that all I do?" He said bitterly as he started to take off again.

"..." Dot didn't know what else to say. What could she? Yakko was long gone now. She sighed and started to head back to the tower.

Back at the tower...

Wakko sighed in relief when he saw Dot coming through the door.

Dot saw Zenny sitting in a chair mad as hell.

Zenny looked over at her. "Aroma wants some time alone first. She wants me to head back." He growled. "He would have done it eventually even if I wasn't here to confront him!"

"It's not your fault," Dot insisted. "If he was a coward at heart he would've just strangled her along."

Wakko just looked at Dot's expression. She had definitely talked to Yakko alright.

"I'll help her out and we'll pack up next trip," Dot answered him back.

"It won't be for awhile if she doesn't come now. So many warners were trapped booking any kind of flight is really hard right now." Zenny pulled out his tickets. "I bought two round tickets just in case something happened. She's not ready to go back yet though."

Wakko just looked at the ground with guilt. "What if that test was messed up?" He said softly. "I mean what if it was a fluke? She should take another one. Earth's not always accurate."

"Yeah that would be a dream come true." Zenny shook his head. "Don't even mention that right now to her. She's too upset."

"I'll go talk to her." Dot insisted. "Nothing like a girl to girl talk to make someone feel better."

Zenny just groaned and stood up. "Guess I better head out then." He looked at his ticket. "She doesn't even want to talk to me right now. Will you tell her to reach me on the computer when she's thinking straight again?"

"Sure." Dot insisted. "Take care."

Zenny nodded at Dot and Wakko. "Take good care of her." As he was starting to walk out Yakko came in.

He just shook his hand. "I'm out but Aroma's staying for a little while. Take care of her alright?"

Yakko just gave a placid smile. "Fine." He watched as Zenny started to leave.

"Cold!" Wakko marched up to his brother. "Why?!"

Dot covered Wakko's mouth. "Just drop it," She whispered harshly. "What's done is done. I've got to try and do what I can for her now. Keep the decimals down though."

Dot started to head to the room Aroma was occupying. "Aroma?" She knocked on the door. "Yo girl? Come on, we need to talk for a bit." She opened the door and looked inside. "...Aroma?"

Aroma just sat on the bed staring ahead of herself.

Dot sighed. She knew this wouldn't be easy.

Two hours later...

It had to happen anyhow. Yakko reminded himself again as he watched T.V. trying to forget what happened.

Dot finally emerged from Aroma's room two hours later. "I told Aroma that she could stay as long as she wanted."

Wakko nodded and Yakko shrugged his shoulders.

Dot bent her head and turned away, not saying another word.

"Whoah." Wakko looked over at Yakko as Dot left to her own room. "Did you see what I saw?"

Yakko just ignored him.

"Aroma made her cry, Yakko." Wakko frowned. "Things must have been really bad in there."

Yakko still didn't reply.

"Did you see that look she gave us?" Wakko asked sadly. "I don't think she's ever looked at me that way before."

"What's done is done," Yakko grumbled. "And if that girl hadn't have conjured up that whole pregnancy thing then she wouldn't be in this position. She would have been over and done with it."

Wakko couldn't say anything more to Yakko. He just stared at the T.V. and crossed his arms.

The next several days...

Aroma didn't come out that much at all. Dot spent most of her time looking after her friend, completely ignoring her brothers.

Yakko and Wakko decided to get out of the tower so they didn't have to deal with it so much. They were mostly out on the studio lot all day and evening. Sometimes they were even doing things at night.

Wakko didn't like knowing he had a part in all of Aroma's hurting. Like it or not, he was the one who agreed to the bet in the first place.

As for Yakko, he seemed to be in denial of everything. He acted as if everything was her fault, not his.

Then, Aroma started to slowly come out more and more. Dot became a bit cheerier for her friend and always had something planned for just the two of them when she finally came out.

Soon, Aroma was back to more of her old self again.

There was just one problem, and throughout the days of talking to Aroma, Dot had to correct it. Whether it worked out or not, Yakko had to understand the truth.

Dot walked up to Yakko while Aroma went out. "Big brother?"

Yakko smiled oblivious to everything she was about to say. "Yeah?"

"I want you to ask Aroma out tonight." Dot smiled at him.

Yakko's expression turned grim. "Why?"

"Will you JUST do it?" Dot said firmly.

"She won't say yes, she doesn't want me. She wants the guy with the money and the charm." Yakko mocked. "She wants Devin."

"Will you-?!" Dot started to become very frustrated. "What harm is asking gonna cause huh? Just DO it!"

"Fine, it doesn't matter." Yakko crossed his arms. He'd already gone down this path.

As Aroma entered the tower, Yakko didn't take any time at all. It didn't matter, he knew what she'd say.

"Aroma. Wanna go out tonight?" Yakko mumbled to her.

Dot felt like clobbering him. Way to put some effort into it! Dot looked over at Aroma and smiled. "Well? Remember what I said."

Aroma nodded at Dot. "I remember." She smiled at Yakko. "Where would you like to go?"

Yakko just took a second to understand what was going on. *She wants to? With me?* "How about a movie?"

"Sounds great." Aroma nodded her head. "Just give me a second to get ready."

Yakko watched Aroma's back with wide eyes as she walked past him. He looked over at Dot. "What'd you say to her?"

Dot sighed. "That Yakko is really worried about you even though he doesn't know how to show it. He wants to get you out of the tower to make you feel a little better. She thinks you're going out as a friend. The way you wanted to nab her the first time?"

"Yeah but she didn't want me last time." Yakko said. "Why now?"

"She had a persuasive actual friend here to help. Just knock it off and go out with her. Just have fun," Dot said firmly.

Yakko chuckled, not being able to help a small smile. Aroma was going out with Yakko Warner for once? Friend or not, she was going out with him. "You must have done a lot of convincing."

Dot didn't reply to his comment. "Just go?"

"Okay." Yakko picked up the phone and dialed a cinema number.

Friend or not, he had a very small opening now. If she actually liked him back anyhow.

Yakko didn't mess up on the friendly get together at the cinema. He didn't make a move on her, didn't catcall her when he saw her all dressed up, and didn't even tell her she looked nice.

Nope, he just smiled and laughed and treated her like he would treat her in the tower.

Surprisingly, Aroma didn't seem to mind as she munched on the rest of the popcorn on the way out. "Was it just me or did that movie really suck?"

"It sucked." Yakko agreed. "It was either that though or some chick flicks though."

"Right. Who needs chick flicks right now," Aroma agreed as she finished off her popcorn. "Well, that was fun. Now what? Should we head back to the tower?"

Yakko just smiled. The whole night she hadn't kept anything against him, gave him a warning look, nothing.

It was like she really believed he was only there as a friend. *Wow, Dot must have been a smooth talker.* "Nah, let's head this way." Yakko pointed to the right. "Plotz is having a special dinner with a bunch of interested foreigners."

"Ooh," Aroma chuckled. "Now that sounds like fun." She placed the empty bucket of popcorn on Yakko's head. "Where are we headed?"

Yakko looked out from underneath the bucket. "This way. Let's go before things get boring!"

"Boring?" Aroma chuckled as she ran right beside him. "I don't think that will be possible if we're around."

12:00

Dot looked at her watch as she finally saw her brother and Aroma walk in. "You two have fun?"

Aroma grinned at Dot. "Absolutely."

Yakko just smiled too. "It was a blast!"

"I'm guessing, it is midnight." Dot chuckled. "Wakko's already in bed."

"I'll probably be heading that way too after my shower." Aroma agreed. She smiled over at Yakko. "See you tomorrow?"

"Yep! Tomorrow night." Yakko winked at her as she took off for the shower. After he heard the water starting to run he ran over to Dot quickly. "It was perfect! She didn't seem to think anything was wrong at all."

"Of course not. You went out as friends." Dot frowned. "You were on your best behavior though?"

"Like I'd screw this up?" Yakko frowned. "What'd you say to her though? I mean last time she made her point really clear she didn't want anything to do with me."

"I convinced her you just wanted to see her happier." Dot smiled at Yakko. "I talked to her about older times. Before you and Wakko became all hormonal. You know, when we were smaller?" She chuckled. "It made her feel better. In fact, when she was little..."

"What?" Yakko pressed.

"Nothing." Dot just smiled. "She just had maybe a little crush on you."

"...eh?" Yakko blinked. "She wha-?"

"You guys were both small so you probably missed it." Dot smiled. "See? She likes you for you Yakko. You just need to give her time to get Devin out of her system. After all, if she crushed on you when she was smaller, maybe it could happen again?"

"Starting out as dating as friends." Yakko grinned. *I don't believe this! She had a crush on me when she was little?* "This couldn't be better."

"You're right, it can't be better." Dot suddenly frowned. "Once Aroma starts feeling better you know she's heading back." Dot waved a ticket. "I bought this for her today. Everything's so booked I'm sure she'll believe this is the soonest day she can get back."

Yakko looked at the ticket. "A month?"

"Yeah, we can't book it much further or she'll suspect something." Dot put the ticket away. "I'll show her it tonight before she goes to bed." She pointed over at Yakko. "You got one month to do the same thing you achieved as Devin, Yakko. Oh! And by the way..." She rolled her eyes. "You should have stuck to one last name."

"Huh?" Yakko looked confused.

"You told her Ditterbee but while she was going through everything, she started to think about a lot of things. Including your first date." Dot frowned. "And recalled the last name Dufe instead."

"...shoot." Yakko groaned. "I forgot, I did say that? Okay well, that's easy. He has lots of money so he only tells those he trusts about his real last name so they can't find him."

"Is that the best you have?" Dot groaned. "Alright then."

"Besides, she's going out with me now. Devin's out of this picture." Yakko beamed. "Even if she figures he was lying she doesn't think it could possibly be me."

"But the last name was what-"

"No, it was more of my reaction to the pregnancy," Yakko interrupted her. "It'll be fine. She'll just think of the last name thing as another sign he wasn't right for her."

"Good point." Dot confessed. "This is your absolutely last chance, Yakko. Don't mess this up? I mean it, she is so close to giving up on everything and heading back to Anima with Gyro."

"Who?" Yakko frowned.

"The one guy who's always treated her nicely she says." Dot sighed. "To me, a total stalker. He followed her all the way here when she first came. She told me on the computer."

"...a stalker?" Yakko didn't seem too happy about that. "How much did he stalk her?"

"Will it matter if she goes back and just ends up with him?" Dot reminded him. "Forget him and just work on wooing Aroma slowly. Like I said, you only get one month to flip that friend card." She held up her finger. "Flip it too early and she's definitely not falling for it. Flip it too late and you won't have enough time with her to convince her to stay longer."

Yakko crossed his arms. "...and if I screw this up she's heading to Anima with that Gyro guy?" He growled. "Well that's just dandy."

Then the two stopped talking as the water stopped. Aroma came out soon after. She smiled and wished them both goodnight then took off for bed.

Dot trailed in after her with the ticket as Yakko started to head to his own room.

'One month. I've got a whole month. This can't be too hard. Starting as friends this should be super easy.' Yakko thought as he closed his door.

From friend to boyfriend, it couldn't be that hard.

The Best of Friends

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The Bet

Chapter Twelve: The Best of Friends

Note: The song playing is of course Disney Aladdin's A Whole New World.

Yeah. It's gonna be easy. What the heck was I thinking? Yakko tried to smile at Aroma as he finished his pop. "Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh."

"-so she said you know I just don't get it." Aroma continued on and on. "I mean if it is a royal red for the eyes then they should have named it royal red not a shimmering pink. Ugh! She was so mad I swear that-"

"Uh huh." Yakko tried to stay awake as Aroma chattered on about another friend from Anima. As Devin, she never yacked constantly about dumb stuff. Oh but as her great friend Yakko?

She'd talk his freaking ear off! "Hey! I got an idea!" *Why don't you shutup for a little while!* "Wanna go Karaoke again?"

"I don't know." Aroma belched and scratched her ear. "Damn, this itch is never gonna stop."

So genteel she now was. "You know that's not very becoming of you." Yakko informed her.

Aroma just laughed at him and wiggled her tail like he told a joke.

Yakko sighed. "So what do you want to do?" He plopped one of his hands under his chin haphazardly. At least if she wasn't into Karaoke there'd be no tragic love songs he'd have to hear over and over.

"Mmm...I don't know." Aroma shrugged her shoulders. "What do you want to do?"

"I don't know. What do you want to do?" Yakko asked her again.

"I don't know. What do you want to do?" Aroma asked him again.

"Mmmm...miniature golf?" Yakko finally recommended.

"I don't know. That fun center we went to last time had some seriously nasty burritos." Aroma commented. "I swear I got so gassy you stood about four feet away the whole time."

"Oh yeah. Bad idea." Yakko remembered. Not exactly the words she needed to use. Whatever happened to the shy and cute warner he used to know?

"We could go somewhere else I guess for that." Aroma stirred a drink in front of her. "You know, once me and some of my friends went bowling and-"

Blah, blah, blah... Yakko rolled his eyes. Great, she was still gonna yabber on.

"Hello?" Aroma frowned at Yakko. "What's wrong with you? You've hardly talked all night long, that is definitely not like you."

"Probably because you talk enough for the both of us." Yakko said lazily. "I mean, did I say that out loud?!" He looked apprehensively over at Aroma. Had he hurt her feelings? She wasn't gonna cry, was she?

Aroma made a small grumpy noise at him. "Well...true." She shrugged her shoulders. "I can yabber when I get bored sometimes with my friends."

"Yeah, I guess so. I sorta do that to." Yakko watched her stir her drink. *I'm falling deeper and deeper into this friend thing. No manners, continually yapping, no inhibitions of any sort coming from her!* He continued to watch her hand move. *...feels like forever since I've even touched her hand.*

After Aroma finished stirring she sucked on her spoon and lied it down taking a drink of her beverage.

It's been a while already, maybe it is time I try getting out of friend mode? Yakko wondered as he slowly tried to touch her hand.

Aroma didn't notice since she was still drinking. When she finally finished she put her beverage down on the table. "BUUUURP! That was pretty good!"

Lovely initiation into this. "Aroma...you know uuhh...it's been over a month since the whole Devin thing."

"Yeah like I haven't been counting the days?" Aroma said sarcastically. "Why are you reminding me of that?" She finally noticed him trying to get close to her hand. She gave him an odd look. The look didn't indicate 'I think I get what you're trying to do'. Nope, it said something else.

"Really Yakko." Aroma frowned. "I'm not gonna pull your finger here, do it yourself."

What? Yakko just looked at her in disbelief. *I'm trying to be serious here!*

Yakko quickly placed his hand on top of hers.

Aroma placed her other hand on his.

"?" Yakko placed his other hand on hers.

Aroma quickly brought her hand from the bottom to the top.

"..." Yakko sighed. She thought he was playing a hand game. Just great. It'd take more bold moves than what he had done so far. He reached over and grabbed both her hands.

Aroma seemed a bit confused at first but pulled his hands toward hers.

Yakko pulled her hands back to him.

Aroma then pulled his hands back to her.

"Okay that's it! This approach isn't working." Yakko whined as he let go of her hands. *Back to square one.* "It's been over a month since your breakup."

"Yeah." Aroma frowned. "What about it?"

"Well, that's an ample amount of time for things." Yakko began.

"Hey," Aroma warned him. "Don't start thinking you can make fun of me. It hasn't been nearly long enough for that."

"I wasn't gonna do that." Yakko frowned. "I was gonna say something else."

"Well then what?" Aroma asked as she stared at him.

"Well, over a month is plenty of time." Yakko continued.

"Yuh huh, for what?" Aroma asked, confused.

"Will you just let me talk?" Yakko whined.

"Okay, talk." Aroma crossed her arms and looked at him seriously. "What is it?"

"..." Yakko started to tap his foot. A lot of things started to come to his mind. What if it was too soon still? What if she rejected him? What if she didn't reject him? What if she made a connection? *Don't think about that. Just ask her! But how? Just blurt it out?*

"But mommy I wanna go home and watch Bambi!" A kid shouted from behind Yakko as his mother was trying to keep him under control.

Bambi? Dot had rented some Disney films for Aroma in the past few days. No one did romance like those guys. *Hey, I got it.* She'd easily get the hint after this.

If she didn't, her head was as hard as a rock. He jumped onto the table.

"~I can show you the world

Shining, shimmering, splendid

Tell me, princess,

now when did You last let your heart decide?~"

Yakko grabbed Aroma's hands and pulled her to the table.

"~I can open your eyes

Take you wonder by wonder

Over, sideways and under

On a magic carpet ride~"

Aroma chuckled as Yakko started to take off down the street still holding her hands. He started darting everywhere and eventually reached the top of the psychiatric building.

"~A whole new world

A new fantastic point of view

No one to tell us no

Or where to go

Or say we're only dreaming~"

Aroma laughed and started to sing as Yakko spun her around.

"~A whole new world

A dazzling place I never knew

But when I'm way up here

It's crystal clear

That now I'm in a whole new world with you!"

Yakko smiled. ***"~Now I'm in a whole new world with you~"***

Aroma started to take off on her own. ***"~Unbelievable sights***

Indescribable feeling~" She started to make her way down the building.

"~Soaring, tumbling, freewheeling

Through an endless diamond sky

A whole new world~"

Yakko followed close behind her. ***"~Don't you dare close your eyes~"***

"~A hundred thousand things to see~" Aroma looked back at Yakko.

"~Hold your breath - it gets better~" Yakko ripped off the top of a dumpster and grabbing Aroma put her on it and started to push it.

"~I'm like a shooting star~" Aroma laughed and sang. ***"~I've come so far***

I can't go back to where I used to be.~"

Who's making all that racket?!

Yakko stopped pushing as they reached a hill and jumped on with her. ***"~A whole new world!~"***

"~Every turn a surprise~" Aroma smiled.

Yakko held on to her tighter. "*~With new horizons to pursue~*"

"*~Every moment red-letter~*" Aroma laughed sinking into his embrace.

Watch out!

Get out of the way, the Warners are loose!

Aroma and Yakko just sang not caring what anyone thought. "*~I'll chase them anywhere*

There's time to spare

Let me share this whole new world with you~"

As the hill stopped descending the dumpster lid slowed down. "*~A whole new world~*"
Yakko sang slowly.

"*~A whole new world~*" Aroma repeated.

Yakko nodded. "*~That's where we'll be~*"

"*~That's where we'll be~*" Aroma repeated him again.

Yakko grinned. She definitely got it. "*~A thrilling chase~*"

Aroma just smiled. "*~a wondrous place~*"

They both finished the song together as the dumpster lid came to a stop. "*~For you and me~*"

Aroma smiled lovingly at Yakko...then her expression...changed?

No, no, no. Look lovey dovey again! Come on! Yakko smiled at her, trying to press her into saying something without ruining the moment he worked hard to create.

Aroma's breathing seemed to get slower. *I...what is going on?* "Yakko? What was all this?"

"Oh, don't play dumb," Yakko whined, already knowing the moment was spoiled. "Come on! Take a chance?"

Aroma started to step off the dumpster lid but Yakko quickly grabbed her hand.

"You like me and I like you!" Yakko yelled at her. "It's not really complicated."

"Yes it is." Aroma quickly let go of his hand. "I can't do this."

"Why not?" Yakko complained. "We've been friends for a long time now. Can't we be something more yet?"

Aroma just looked at him in a sense of sadness and confusion. "...no."

Yakko tried not to grit his teeth. "Why? Do you need even more time?"

"No. Yakko. I." Aroma took a deep breath. "I know you like me, and I have come to like you a bit more than a friend too."

"Well then where's the problemo?!" Yakko whined.

"Yakko. Did you forget?" Aroma asked him sadly. "Remember? I'm having Devin's baby."

...oops . Yakko blinked. He forgot all about that. That lie was gonna 'cause problems. "No, you're not."

Aroma looked at him strangely back. "Yakko. After me you were the first one to know."

"Yeah but that's not...well it..." Yakko winced. *Shoot! I forgot about how sticky that whole thing is!* "Earth technology is very lacking in that sort of thing though." He pointed at himself. "You know if I took a couple tests one would probably say I was pregnant. You're probably fine."

"Yakko, that is just wishful thinking," Aroma said softly.

"No it's not, and you know it's been awhile, you need to go to a doctor anyhow," Yakko reminded her. He smiled. "And then if it comes back negative you'll be in the clear."

"Well, I guess I would," Aroma admitted. "The likelihood is-"

"Great. Like I said, Earth technology is different," Yakko reminded her. "Then if you do get a fat negative...?" He looked at her, wanting her to continue.

Aroma sighed. "Then you want to be together?"

Yes! "So let's head over there tomorr-!"

"Stop." Aroma held her hand up in his face. "This...isn't right. Yakko, I-oh this is complicated."

"What?" Yakko frowned. "It's either positive or negative."

"No. Yakko." Aroma sighed. "Even if it was somehow true I wasn't pregnant, it just wouldn't work. You see, Devin-"

"No, no, no!" Yakko whined covering his ears. "No Devin nothing, he's not a part of your life. He hasn't called you, he's left you all alone! Why won't you give up on him?"

"Because." Aroma squeezed her eyes shut. "I...think over time that I've started to fall for you...but..."

Yakko just hung his head. *Oh great, here it comes.*

"I love Devin too," Aroma finished. "And I can't love two different warners. Besides, if I stay with you, I'll never fully get over anything."

"Eh?" That didn't make any sense to Yakko at all. "What do you mean?"

"I know that you really don't want to hear this." Aroma said gently. "But...you're a lot like Devin."

"Come again?" Yakko frowned.

"The way you laugh, the way you smile, even the way you joke." Aroma tried to explain delicately. "I mean, for a little while I uhhh...I actually thought you were Devin."

Great. A confession. When it doesn't matter anymore? "What do you mean?"

"Well I knew you were friends but when I found Devin's clothes in your room..." She started to look embarrassed. "Yes, I went snooping through your room. I'm sorry."

"Snooping through my room?" Yakko seemed a bit surprised. Of course, that would make sense how she figured it out then. He shrugged his shoulders. "No biggie, we do that all the time too."

Aroma raised an eyebrow. "What?"

"What?" Yakko asked innocently. "Continue, what were you saying?"

Aroma sighed. "I found Devin's clothes and his tape recorder which he said he probably left in the clothes. I didn't think about you actually sharing clothes, and I just jumped to a really bad conclusion."

"Well, you know. Hurt love isn't always smart," Yakko lied.

"Oh, I know that," Aroma admitted. "I even thought I was getting revenge on you by embellishing the frat party incident. Believe me, at first I didn't think anything happened." She shook her head. "I'm a really horrible creature."

"Well, uhh...you know revenge and warners," Yakko said trying to make her feel a little better. *Great. She confessed everything to me? Why?*

"So." Aroma started to fidget with her fingers. "Yakko. You see-I..." she groaned finally blurting it out. "I don't know if I've been in love with you because you're a lot like Devin, or if I've been in love with Devin because he's a lot like you."

Yakko blinked. "Could you repeat that?"

"I don't think I can make it any simpler." Aroma said sadly.

So that's why? Okay, I should be able to get around this! "Well it's really me because you liked me a really long time ago." Yakko smiled. "I'm the first, so it has to be me."

Aroma started to blush. "Oh great. I thought you were too young to notice that."

Yakko chuckled. He just got Dot in trouble. "Girl talk?"

"Oh, Dot squealed?" Aroma whined.

"Yeah, so when exactly was it?" Yakko smiled.

"A long time ago," Aroma embellished. "I was starting to get the hang of walking still."

Yakko just gave her a funny expression. "That long ago? For how long?"

"I don't know." Aroma chuckled. "It was just a crush, probably disappeared after you left the neighborhood the first time."

Yakko grinned with pride. "Yeah, well....what can I say? I have a way with ladies." He bragged. "So then, the situation's solved now right?"

Aroma looked at him strangely. "You aren't even a little curious as to if it's the other way around? I mean, aren't you uneasy about this at all?"

Yakko clicked his tongue for a second. "No, I just know. I..." *Say something mushy and cliché, she'll fall for that.* "...I can see it in your eyes."

Aroma started to blush. Romance wasn't something she ever really got from Yakko.

"So that's settled." Yakko smiled.

"Yakko. If you trust in that, then maybe I could give it a shot, but there's still that huge thing. You know, the baby thing?" Aroma reminded him.

"Just go get examined. You have to do that anyhow." Yakko said.

"But Yakko, I can't GET examined," Aroma said as if it should be fairly obvious. "Once I start an Earth bill I have to stay until it's paid. It's the law Anima follows. When I get to Anima I will get examined."

Oh. The bill. That's it? Yakko smiled. "That's easy. It's one exam, we'll take care of it."

"You'll take care of it?" Aroma asked. "Are you sure?"

"I can handle one little bill." Yakko said with certainty. "I just don't want you to head back if something else could happen. You know, between us?"

Aroma bit her lip. Yakko just wouldn't give up on her. "Okay. If you can pay the bill and if it is negative...I'll stay a little longer on Earth."

Yakko grinned.

"But only if it's negative." Aroma reminded him. "Yakko, you already told me once you don't like children and this is a really big responsibility. No matter what I feel I can't just bring you down with me."

"Oh yeah but Gyro?" Yakko frowned.

"Gyro likes kids." Aroma informed him. She didn't bother asking how she learned about him. "Gyro's always made it clear no matter what he'd stick by me." Aroma heard a deep growl coming from Yakko. "I don't care for him more than a friend, Yakko. Never have but he cares a lot for me."

Oh yeah. That was supposed to make him feel better? *Wait, what am I doing? This guy's no big deal once she gets her negative. Duh.* Yakko quickly changed his expression. "If that's what you want."

"Well it's too late for anything else," Aroma said sadly. "If something would've happened before Devin...but that's not this story."

"Yeah. We could still be friends though?" Yakko smiled trying to sound sincere.

"Yes." Aroma grinned. "We could do that." She rocked back on her heels once. "So, are you ready to go back to the tower?"

"Almost." Yakko smiled wide as he stared at Aroma.

In less than 24 hours she'd be completely his for good. No Devin issue, no pregnancy issue, no Gyro issue. Just Aroma and Yakko Warner, the way it should be.

The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Warners

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The Bet

By: Paradox

Chapter Thirteen: The Best Laid Plans of Warners and Men

Note: The song playing is Love Hurts by Nazareth.

"Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding!" Yakko rang the hospital bell constantly. "Yo! Hellooo?! Is anybody here or what?" He couldn't wipe the smile off his face. Everything was about to work out finally.

"I'm right here, please stop ringing the bell." An attendant finally came up and took the bell away. "What may I do for you?"

"I need a doctor to examine her." Yakko said as he pointed at Aroma. "She's pregnant. And can we hurry this up, we kind of have lives."

"To be examined she needs to have a positive test from the center. Does she?" The attendant asked.

"The what?" Aroma frowned.

"Go to the Pregnancy Center. They'll do a free test." The attendant started to draw a little map of it's location. "Once you go there and get it confirmed we'll set up an appointment."

Free? Ha, even better! Yakko grinned from ear to ear. He wouldn't have to shell out a dime then. "Okay! See ya around!" *Not!* "Come on Aroma, to the Center!"

At the Center...

Yakko tapped his feet anxiously on the ground. With everything finally coming together, some other thoughts were popping into his head. *Okay, if I kiss her will she sense me kissing like Devin? Do others notice that? Should I change it up? Well, how would I change it up?* He started to walk around the room as he waited for her. *Then she could probably stay in the tower, there's plenty of room. But oh geez, I don't know if her brother actually liked me or not. Zenny isn't someone I want to get in an argument with. Ducking him is really no fun.* He looked up at a small painting with a mom and a baby. They seemed to be everywhere in that place. *Maybe he will? He didn't seem to have a problem with me just Devin. Then again I wasn't dating his sister. That guy's always overkill with his sister.* Yakko frowned. *Of course with what Yan and Gil pulled on her? Yeah if someone ever did that to Dot...* He shook his head in disgust. *No way, not even going down that road! Zenny shouldn't be too bad of a problem I guess if I'm good, but the kissing thing? Or when I touch her, will she associate any of it to Devin?*

"Yakko?"

Yakko turned around and smiled at Aroma. He couldn't tell if she looked happy or not. "Well?"

Aroma chuckled sadly but happy in a way too. "Well, they gave me P.J's with bunnies and birdies on them."

"Uhhh...did you tell them money was more applicable?" Yakko joked. "Why would they give you pajamas?"

Aroma looked at him a bit strange. Surely he was joking to unintensify the situation. "They aren't really my color. Do you want them?"

"Nah, I have plenty." Yakko laughed. "So? Are we ready to go back to the tower?" He started to walk out of the Center.

Aroma started to follow him. There was no hurry to head back to the hospital yet she guessed.

At the tower...

Yakko went over and poured some breakfast cheerfully. "Didn't we have anything besides this health stuff?"

"I don't think Lucky Charms is considered real healthy." Wakko chuckled noticing his mood. "I'm guessing things are probably getting better?"

"You bet!" Yakko grinned as he shoved a spoonful of cereal in his mouth. "Although they gave her pajamas as a parting gift. What a weird place."

"...Big Brother?"

Yakko looked over at Dot who was looking at him in worry. "Hey there. What's wrong, did your latest crush escape again?"

"Big brother?" Dot repeated more urgently. She had just got done speaking to Aroma. "How are you?"

"Super." Yakko smiled blissfully. "Did you have cereal already?"

"...I..." Dot looked like she was at a loss for words.

"Is there anything good to eat?" Aroma questioned as she entered the kitchen. She smiled at Wakko while she held a small bag. "Is there any Cocoa Pebbles?"

Wakko shook the Lucky Charms box. "Not right now. There's some of this."

Aroma sat her little bag down and started to pour herself some Lucky Charms.

Dot just stared at Yakko longingly like there was something very very wrong.

Yakko just raised his eyebrow. "What's so wrong, Dot?" He started to walk over to her in concern.

Wakko looked at the small yellow bag. "Is that your gift thingy?"

"Hmm?" Aroma sat down and looked at her little yellow bag. "Oh yeah." She scooted it toward Wakko. "It's PJ's and a couple other little things."

"Big brother..." Dot said once more.

Yakko just looked at her once more. "What's so wrong, Dot? You look like your about to cry."

Wakko peeked into the bag. "?!". His voice instantly started to get dry. "But?! Uhh...w...w-why would they give that to you?"

Aroma's mouth was now filled with cereal so she couldn't answer.

Dot looked at Yakko knowingly. Apparently he hadn't figured it out. Not knowing the words to use she went over, grabbed the bag and handed it to Yakko. "Yakko."

Yakko looked at her confused and then into the bag. Inside were two newborn diapers, two baby spoons and a small little pair of baby pajamas. "What's this?"

Aroma finally swallowed her cereal and answered. "Those are the pajamas and the little knick knacks remember? For the positive pregnancy test?" She said it as if it should have been obvious.

Dot watched as Yakko dropped the bag on the floor. His face was the whitest she'd ever seen. "..."

Aroma didn't notice the reaction as she continued to eat her cereal. "We need to remember cocoa pebbles next time. I really want cocoa pebbles." She sat down her spoon. "Maybe I should go to the store and get some?" She looked over at Dot. "Do you wanna come with me?"

Dot slowly nodded. "I'll be back, Yakko. Have some time alone with Wakko. I think he wants to talk to you about something."

Aroma and Dot both passed Yakko who seemed frozen in place.

Wakko started to stand up and walked over to his brother. He saw the gift bag that fell to the floor and picked it up gently. He fidgeted with it a bit. "...Yakko?"

Yakko just stared straight ahead like a zombie.

"T-tell me? I-is it possible?" Wakko asked. "You didn't play with stickers again? Right?"

Yakko didn't answer as he simply stood there.

"Yakko?" Wakko asked again. "W-what are you going to do?! If that was positive then she's going back to Anima really soon a-and she's gonna settle down with someone!"

Yakko was still out of it.

"Yakko?!" Wakko whined. "What are ya gonna do?!"

Yakko's answer wasn't the best. There were no words involved in it. Just the sound of feet leaving the tower.

Much later that night....

"Und for my lieblich a little rose she will love!" Scratchansniff smiled as he sniffed a rose he held. He was on his way to see his date when something strange caught his eye. "Hmm?"

A figure on top of a water tower. It was dark but it had the ears of the Warners. This tower wasn't their tower though. So could it be a Warner Brother or their sister? Scratchansniff held his hand up to try and see. It was getting darker outside. "Helloo?!"

The figure didn't move.

Scratchansniff sighed but putting his rose away he started to head to the tower the figure was on.

As he climbed the anchored ladder as far as it would go he got off and looked up. He could see clearly who it was now. "Yakko?"

Yakko still didn't speak to him.

"What are you doing way over here?" Scratchansniff frowned. "Your tower is on the other side of Burbank."

Yakko still didn't answer.

Scratchansniff looked sadly at the Warner. Definitely not his jolly self, something was very wrong in his usual carefree life. "Why not come down und talk for just a bit? Yakko?"

Yakko leaped down to where Scratchansniff was. He knew the old guy wasn't going to leave him alone.

"What is so wrong tonight, hmm?" Scratchansniff asked thoughtfully.

Yakko just leaned over the tower rails and looked down pitifully.

Ohh...a session is definitely in order. Scratchansniff thought about his date but he couldn't just leave the Warner Brother like that. "I think perhaps we need to have a talk, ja?"

"...ja." Yakko finally admitted softly. His life was so screwed up now only Scratchansniff would be able to find a way out.

IF he could find a way out.

"Why are you up on zis tower?" Scratchansniff asked.

"I don't know. Just running away." Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know..."

"Running away from what?" Scratchansniff questioned.

Yakko groaned. "Scratch, you wouldn't understand it all even if I told you."

"Try me." Scratchansniff insisted. "I assure you I've heard of everything in the book."

Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "I started to go out under a different identity with a girl to prove I could make her fall in love in a bet I made with Wakko. Only thing is she'd been really hurt before and the bet was going awry. I dumped her and tried to date her as myself but it didn't work. Instead she figured out I was the guy she had been dating and she started to fake this embellished pregnancy thing. I figured it out though and I got her back by playing with her test and making her think she was pregnant. Then in the middle of all this, she starts to believe I'm not really the guy and then I break up with her again and then I date her as myself again as a friend and I almost made that leap back to boyfriend but...she really is pregnant."

"..." Scratchansniff blinked. "...everything in the book but that."

"What do I do DOC?!" Yakko jumped up on him. "I'm the dad but I can't tell her that, she'd never forgive me! But if I don't say something she'll leave forever! I-I-I don't know what to do!"

"Okay, okay!" Scratchansniff tried to keep Yakko from choking him. "Calm down! Calm down! Okay...let's take this from the top only a little bit slower, ja?"

Even later that night...

Aroma waited patiently at the front of the tower walking back and forth. She thought Yakko understood. Had he really expected it to be negative?

His denial made everything so much harder.

Finally, Yakko started to walk in. "..."

"Yakko?" Aroma asked in concern. "Are you alright?"

Yakko half nodded his head and half shrugged his shoulders.

"You knew it would be positive though, didn't you?" Aroma asked sadly. "I'm really sorry things didn't work out. Really I hoped a bit but either way I couldn't be gleeful. I really like you Yakko, but I've gotten used to the idea of the baby too."

Yakko just slowly nodded his head.

"But we can still be friends?" Aroma smiled. "Remember?"

"No..." Yakko's voice sounded a bit hoarse. "I can't." He took a deep breath. "Stay here in the tower, I can help take care of it."

"Oh Yakko." Aroma shook her head. "I can't do that to you."

"It's not a bad thing. I can do this." Yakko said trying to convince her.

"Yakko, you hate kids. You told me that." Aroma frowned. "This would just ruin your life. It's not your responsibility."

That's what she thought. "No, it is. I want you to stay." Yakko said more firmly. "I can handle it, I promise!"

"No." Aroma frowned. "Please stop this. Okay?"

"So what, you're just gonna go home and have some fake super happily ever after with some other warner?!" Yakko yelled at her angrily. "No way, I forbid it!"

"Yakko, you don't get a say." Aroma sighed. "I know it's hard to accept, but we never really even went out. What you'll miss is the what-if ending. We've always been friends and we need to stay that way. I'm sorry, I really am. But you knew this was inevitable and so did I."

Yakko groaned. "You don't get it."

"I do but you don't get it." Aroma sighed. "Even if you were kidding about hating kids a baby is a BIG responsibility. It's not worth trying to raise one with me just to try and date for a little while."

"But it's more than just a dating thing." Yakko whined. "I promise, no matter what I'll be right here."

"Oh. Yakko Warner." Aroma gave him a sad smile. "You are a terrific warner, you really are. But you and I both know you aren't ready for this." She sighed in disappointment. "You deserve someone who can be with you with no strings attached. I mean, the baby isn't yours. That's a LOT of extra baggage. You don't deserve that and I can't do that to you."

"Yes you can!" Yakko whined. "Easy. Just stay."

"Look, I know you must feel a lot for me." Aroma tried to get through to him. "But like I said we never even dated as anything more than friends. A future together only rests in your imagination." She gently took his gloved hand.

Yakko looked sadly at the gesture. She finally touched his hand.

"You'll meet someone one day and forget all about me." Aroma said confidently. "When you do, you'll be happy I did this."

"...Gyro?" Yakko whined.

"Has always made it clear for as long as I've known him he'd be the one. Even my parents think he's perfect." Aroma smiled. "It's gonna be fine. We never crossed any line, I made sure of that. So please, don't take this so hard?"

"So...no matter what?" Yakko fidgeted with his fingers. "What if I secured you?"

Aroma just laughed as if he made a joke.

Yakko felt around in his pocket. Anything at all that would work? He pulled out a small 25 cent ring and gave it to her. "I know that's not the best but it would work for now."

Aroma looked at the play ring and smiled. "That's a sweet gesture but you have no clue what you're doing."

"Yes I do." Yakko said through gritted teeth. "Just agree!"

He stared at her but Aroma's expression wasn't changing. She wasn't going to budge an inch.

"Dot and Wakko are already in bed. I hope you do the same soon." Aroma simply replied.
"Goodnight Yakko."

Yakko watched as she strolled away.

What was he going to do? He sat down at the couch and tried to think things through. *She won't accept me as it stands now because she doesn't think it's mine and she refuses to ruin my life. Dammit, why did she have to have a conscience?* He groaned. *I'd have to tell her but if I did, there's no guarantee she'll accept it. She might just run to Anima anyhow and she's the female. She has the power on Anima to choose the dad, not me. Dad...* The word felt so foreign on his tongue. Never in a million years had he imagined she would have actually been pregnant. From just one night.

There is Devin. He groaned. *But what about him? I mean I can't stay that guy forever! I don't have money, I don't live in New York and I definitely don't work for some dumb company! Him showing up out of the blue, it would just postpone the inevitable.* He bent his head back over the couch. *Even if he did why would she take him back? I've told her a thousand times she was better without him and he's dumped her twice. Twice! The second time so freaking hard in front of everybody. There's no reason she'd want to take him back. Besides, she was getting over him and slowly falling for me instead.*

He started to slump onto the couch. *I have to tell her the truth. And just hope she doesn't run away forever?* He started to practice in his head. *Hey Aroma, everything's gonna be fine. I know you don't think I'm ready but the thing is I really am the dad. You were actually right when you thought I was Devin. It all started as a simple bet between me and Wakko to see if I could make you admit love. That's all.* "Ohh...that'll never work." He whined pathetically. *She'll make a run so fast to Anima she won't give me any kind of chance! Why should she? She was just a bet at first...* He grabbed his head trying to think. *I'm losing her no matter what? And I'm losing a baby? How am I supposed to feel about this?*

He started to stand up and headed out the tower. Bedtime or not he couldn't sleep and he had to clear his head.

"Sir? Maybe you consider leaving soon?" The bartender asked Yakko as he cleaned a glass. It made him nervous enough having Yakko Warner in his bar. Everyone thought of the cartoon as a kid, but technically he'd been around since the 30's and he couldn't legally throw him out.

Yakko just stared at the counter at his drink, not saying anything to the bartender. He had gone over and over the situation in his head. Everytime though, he ended up at the same point. Nowhere. He started to let his ears droop more as he took a swig of his drink and started to listen to the radio play.

*"~Love hurts, love scars,
Love wounds, and marks,
Any heart, not tough,
Or strong, enough
To take a lot of pain,
Take a lot of pain
Love is like a cloud
Holds a lot of rain
Love hurts,
ooh ooh love
hurts~"*

Yakko couldn't help but dwell on the words in the song. Normally he never paid attention to love songs but the words were cutting straight through him.

*"~I'm young, I know,
But even so
I know a thing, or two*

I learned, from you

I really learned a lot,

Really learned a lot

Love is like a flame

It burns you when its hot

Love hurts,

ooh ooh love hurts~"

Yakko laid his head on the table.

The bartender didn't have anything to say. Yakko looked like a lost puppy that was looking for the home it once knew.

"~Some fools think of happiness

Blissfulness, togetherness

Some fools fool themselves I guess

They're not foolin me

I know it isn't true,

I know it isn't true

Love is just a lie,

Made to make you blue

Love hurts,

ooh,ooh love hurts

Ooh,ooh love hurts~"

"Last drink. On me." The bartender announced as he slipped one more shot under Yakko.
"Then you better hit the road."

"~I know it isn't true,

I know it isn't true

Love is just a lie,

Made to make you blue

Love hurts,

ooh ooh love hurts

Ooh ooh love hurts Ooh ooh...~"

Hit the road. To where. The tower? Yakko grumpily grabbed his last shot and started to swirl it.

Outside the window though...

Gyro grinned as he watched Yakko's reaction. *About time.* He stopped glancing in the bar window and stared up at the moon. Like he would EVER let Aroma go?

Gyro had been watching everything since day one. When Aroma first discovered Yakko was Devin it made him very happy. After all, he really deserved her not Devin. Then when she started tricking Devin with the pregnancy thing?

Well she would have had a positive anyhow. He'd been hiding in the bathroom ducts the entire time that day. In fact, it was just a coincidence that was how she wanted to get her paybacks. And it was his even better luck Yakko beat him to the punch. Because well, the real truth was...

Nothing happened that night at the frat party. He had tagged along that date, knowing he had to do something! Devin and her were getting more serious and he would be out of the picture entirely soon.

A little spill of some good old Anima alcohol into the punch and it was all done. They went crazy for a little while, went to a hotel...

Bugged the others at the hotel then getting tired found a room and went to sleep. *Nothing more.* Gyro just winked at the moon. *Then that Yakko had the gall to try and steal her for himself? Way to go.* He growled. *Didn't quite work out how he wanted though.* he chuckled.

Gyro had every corner covered. He even knew she'd have to visit the Pregnancy Center first.

You'd be surprised how cooperative volunteers were when you offered them more than their usual paycheck to smile and say 'Congratulations, you're pregnant.'

Besides, miscarriages weren't rare. They couldn't get blamed for it.

Now Yakko was sunk, Devin was done for, and believing she was pregnant Aroma was perfect bait when she headed back to Anima. By the time she figured out she wasn't pregnant anymore he'd be completely hers. Done, done and done. "There's no way Yakko Warner will trick her anymore." Gyro grinned from ear to ear. He turned around to start to walk away with plans of how their ceremony should go when he bumped into someone. "Oh, sorry stranger." He smiled not even recognizing the person and went on his way.

Scratchansniff looked back at who he had just bumped into. *There's no way Yakko Warner will trick her anymore?* He frowned. *That doesn't sound good.* He looked in the window and saw Yakko sitting at the bar. Hmm? He opened the door to the bar. "Yakko?"

Yakko was about to finish his shot when he saw his psychiatrist walk in. "Aww...crap. How'd you find me?"

"By walking and with my luck I suppose." The doctor sat down next to him. "You should not be here right now. I already warned you."

"Look if I tell her the truth, I'm screwed. What do you not get about that?" Yakko frowned.

"The truth will set you free." Scratchansniff warned him. "Have you thought of anything else?"

"No." Yakko said with a rotten look on his face. "I lose no matter what."

"Then lose with a clear conscience." Scratchansniff warned him. "She may hate you but I keep telling you ze chances of you getting to see-"

"You don't know us okay?" Yakko warned him. "You don't know anything."

"Vell...I do know zat it doesn't seem to matter whether you want to confess ze truth or not." Scratchansniff frowned. "I saw zomeone who looked very similar to you say a very peculiar phrase outside zis bar."

"What do you mean?" Yakko frowned. "Who?"

"I don't know but he said 'There's no way Yakko Warner will trick her anymore'." the doctor replied.

Yakko balled up his fists. "Must be the mysterious stupid little...submarine mother..." He stopped looking at Scratchy. "The Gyro guy? He knows?" He hung his head down to the counter again. "That's just great. Everything went perfect for him."

"You should tell her before he does." Scratchansniff warned him. "It will be a softer blow that way."

"He won't care to tell her." Yakko replied. "He's probably known for awhile. I'm sure he's just enjoying watching me dangle in the breeze."

"That was your last drink. You need to start heading out." The bartender warned Yakko.

"Yakko Varner, you must accept the truth." Scratchansniff tried to convince him. "There is notheeng else you can do. Please, for once in your life, listen to me?"

Yakko jumped down from the bar stool not replying at all.

"This is a very serious matter." Scratchansniff warned him. "This is NOT small in any way!"

"Like I don't know that?" Yakko gawked at him. He started to walk out.

"Tell her the truth Yakko." Scratchansniff warned him. "There is no way you can afford to hide the truth any longer."

Yakko just walked out of the bar not giving a response. *No way you can afford to hide the truth. Duh.* Yakko shoved his hands in his pockets. *Afford. Heh. Like I could afford anything right now. I couldn't even afford Devin's' rent.*

He stopped. He had meant it as a joke, but something had occurred to him.

What if I could? He slowly started to walk again. What if I could afford to be him long enough to marry her? Then when she learns the truth she'd have no choice! She'd have to learn to accept it and...and she could stay here! He started to smile. It would take a long time to get over the whole disguise thing, but at least there'd be a shot! If I propose an Earth Marriage Anima would have to accept it. She'd HAVE to stay and she couldn't run away to anyone else or any other planet!

It would take a long time to get over it. A long, long time but meanwhile he'd have the power over her. Until she accepted it, he'd still have say so over her and the future kid!

But I'll have to do something that makes my belly tingle... Yakko looked up and started to see the chairman's building come into sight.

He'd have to make a deal with the devil.

He'd have to make a deal with Plotz.

Hello Again Devin

Disclaimer: I do not own Animaniacs. Yakko, Wakko and Dot and all of the other characters belong to their own respective owners. I only created Tiger and Caress and some other original characters. I claim no rights to any of this. This was made purely for entertainment. No profit is made off of this. I have no rights to Burger King either.

The Bet

Chapter Fourteen: Hello Again Devin

The next morning...

Yakko looked at the chairman's door pensively. *I've gone through everything a thousand times over in my head! This is the only thing I can think of that even has a shot of working.* He slowly opened the door. "Yo Plotzie!"

"Aahhh!! Security!" Thaddeus Plotz pushed his security button angrily.

"Plotz, hold up!" Yakko insisted. "I'm not here to play with you today."

"Yeah right! Security!" Plotz yelled again.

As Ralph came sailing in, Yakko jumped over to Plotz' desk.

"Well gosh T.P." Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "If you really don't ever wanna get rid of me then keep doing what your doing."

"What?" Plotz asked confused.

"I told you I'm not here to play." Yakko said seriously. "I got a...problem and uhh...if you play your cards, I might be out of Burbank. For good."

"Really?!" Plotz jumped up and down and rubbed his hands excitedly. "Well sit down, sit down! Let's discuss this! Ralph, go away!"

Ralph scratched his head but did as the chairman said.

"So getting tired of Burbank?" Plotz asked excitedly.

"Yes and no." Yakko smiled. "I've got a really good idea of what I want and where I want to be. I really think if I try it out, then maybe I'd just move out of the tower for good."

"Out of the tower? Away from the studio?" Plotz asked. "Away from Burbank?"

"Away from California." Yakko finished from him. "New York T.P."

"New York?!" The grin on Plotz' face could not be washed away. "Fine! I could get you a plane ticket this afternoon!"

"Now, now, now. Not like that Plotz." Yakko frowned. "I told you. I know what I want. I don't wanna go there and huddle up into a little tower with no job or friends." He grinned. "I'm ready for a big change! Time to get away from Dot and Wakko and this whole scene."

Plotz leaned back in his chair. "What is it your wanting?"

"A job at a place called Ipsy Defacto and a really nice house for starters?" Yakko smiled innocently.

Plotz just gave him a funny look. "Why?"

"Why not?" Yakko smiled.

"No, no, no." Plotz pushed a button and closed all the shades in the room. "There is a purpose to that place I'm sure. I'm a business man I can tell when someone is holding back."

Yakko sighed. *I knew it'd be too easy.* "I met someone..."

Plotz leaned against his desk. "Go on."

"I told her some really big lies to get her to date me." Yakko continued.

"A girl? A Warner Brother actually likes one girl?" Plotz seemed rather amused. "Continue."

"I can't keep the charade up forever by myself." Yakko frowned. "I need some backup."

"Not even considering telling her the truth?" Plotz chuckled.

"Heck no." Yakko stuck out his tongue. "That's what Scratchy kept spouting! I can't let her know the truth, things are too big for that now!"

"Oh? And how so?" Plotz almost smirked. "What kind of trouble did you get into?"

"...she's kinda sort pregnant." Yakko admitted.

"?!" Plotz' eyes grew very wide. "P-t-what?! Are you saying there's gonna be another one of you wild things running around this lot?! How is that even possible!"

Yakko just gave him an awkward smirk.

Plotz was standing straight up in his chair. "So let me guess. If you tell her the truth she'll never want to see you again. Most likely it will never end up on this lot?"

No, no! "Don't think like that Plotz!" Yakko yelled.

"And why not?" Plotz smiled.

"Why get rid of one future problem?" Yakko asked. "It's a waste. Help me out a bit and you'll get rid of one of your current problems and a future problem."

"...I'm listening." Plotz sat back down in his chair. "What exactly was your lie?"

Yakko sighed. "Devin Ditherbee slash Dufe, works at Ipsos Defacto in New York and has a huge house with lots of money?"

Plotz looked very intrigued. "Now that's a lot of lies to keep up with. Expensive lies with a lot of loopholes."

Yakko stayed quiet. Trying to explain why he had to do this or trying to look desperate didn't work for the chairman and he knew it.

"This is interesting." Plotz said as he rubbed his chin. "Very interesting. And if I helped you out you would stay gone?"

"I didn't say that." Yakko reminded him. "I said I might stay gone. There's no reason to stay if she somehow figures out it's a huge scam."

Plotz groaned. "Then you would be back on the lot taking out your suffering on the studio I assume."

Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "Better to rage out than in you know."

Plotz growled. To take this Warner Brother at his word was risky. "No matter what. If you kept the lie up, you would NOT come back? Ever?"

"Nope. Wakko and Dot would have to come visit me." Yakko said firmly. "I'd never take another step in Burbank again."

Plotz pursed his lips. *This is very risky, trusting a Warner Brother. But what if there is another one on the way? It shouldn't be possible but it there is?! And if he could just keep up the lie he would NEVER return back to the studio? Ever?! With all the damage they've caused...the damage they WILL cause...the damage the FUTURE annoyance will cause...*

Dollar signs were being burned in his eyes. "A house. Some money and some extra cover."

"And Ipso Defacto." Yakko pointed out. "That's a biggie, she's actually found the number and everything."

"Ipso Defacto. A huge house, some money and extra cover." Plotz started to think. "That's not exactly cheap." 'But with the damage they cause? 1/3 less damage compared to that pricing...'

Damage was more expensive. *And if I don't help him out and she finds out he'll be filled with rage! Factor that in too...* Plotz just stared at Yakko while he sat. "If you break your word..."

"You'd tell her, I figured that out." Yakko said seriously. "So?"

"So." Plotz started to pull out papers from the drawer.

Yakko tried not to look nervously at the papers. Obviously this wasn't gonna be based on word alone...

One week later...

Yakko slowly got up from the couch. He sighed as he looked at his little sister and brother. "I'm going out for a little while. I'll be right back."

Wakko and Dot nodded while Yakko took off. He'd been taking off a lot more those days, but they understood why.

"I wish he'd just stop this and tell her the truth." Dot whined. "It's not doing him any good not telling her anything."

"He will eventually." Wakko reminded her. "He won't just let her leave without knowing."

Ring!Ring!Ring!

Dot reached the phone first. "Hello?!"

"Hey Dot. Listen. I'm gonna have to be gone for about a month. Okay?"

"What?" Dot asked confused. "But Yakko-"

"There's no time right now. Talk to you later okay?"

Dot just looked at the phone in shock. Yakko just hung up on her?

KNOCK KNOCK

Wakko eagerly answered the door. "...?!"

In the tower doorway Devin stood very straight. "Wakko. How have you been? Is Aroma here?"

Wakko and Dot just stared.

"What are you doing? Whatever your trying Yakko it's-!"

Devin put his fingers to his lips. "Don't! Please?" He looked over at Dot. "I'll explain soon I promise."

As the toilet flushed Aroma came out casually until she saw Devin at the door. Her mouth dropped. "..."

"Aroma? Can we talk for just a bit?" Devin asked. "Alone?" He looked at both Wakko and Dot.

Neither of them seemed happy as they left the tower for him. Just what was he up to now?

"...Devin." Aroma said softly. "What are you doing here?"

"I've come to talk." Devin confessed. "The baby and your brother, it was just too much to deal with. I-I just needed time."

"You never even called." Aroma said sadly. "You just left. You left me without a care in the world!"

"I know, I'm sorry." Devin apologized. "I didn't mean what I said though. I really do love you Aroma."

"No..." Aroma whined painfully. A few sparkles of tears came to her eyes unwantingly. "Not again."

"I swear I won't hurt you again!" Devin promised. "I'm gonna take care of you and the...kid." He brought out a picture. Knowing he'd hurt her really bad in a breakup TWICE he knew it would take more than words to get her back this time. "See? It's my house. I made room and arrangements for you."

Aroma looked at the picture. "You want me to move in?"

"Yeah, I do." Devin insisted. "I swear this is no trick! Please?"

Aroma closed her eyes trying to think. 'He hurt me so much! But he wants us to move in? To his house?'

"One more chance? I swear I won't mess this up!" Devin pleaded. "Just one?"

'Am I a glutton for punishment?' Aroma thought sadly. Everything in her mind said no but everything in her heart said yes.

She just loved him too much. But then again, she loved someone else very much too. "I can't. Devin...my feelings are still strong but I..."

"I know, I know. Yakko, right?" Devin said knowingly. "Hearts can get confused, but that doesn't matter right now. That baby is part mine and you do still love me. I still love you too."

"...I can't." Aroma shook her head. "I don't belong with you. Yakko's told me that so many times, I don't deserve to be treated this way."

NOW she wanted to listen to him? "Yakko's a good friend of yours, but he was my friend first." Devin replied. "I've already talked to him about this."

"Well I haven't." Aroma frowned. "There's no way I can accept what your trying to do right now."

"Fine." Devin growled. "I'll tell you what. Why don't you wait for him. When he comes BACK, you can talk it out. Okay?" He said trying to add a hint of jealousy. "I won't be far away."

Aroma nodded and watched him leave the tower. She waited several minutes before Yakko showed up.

Play it well, don't make it look like you're faking. "Hey." Yakko smiled nervously at her. "How are you?"

"Yakko? Did he talk to you?" Aroma asked in concern. "Or was it just another lie?"

"No, he talked to me." Yakko admitted. "And uhh...the guy is really bad news the way he treated you the other times."

"I know." Aroma agreed.

"But I've talked to him one on one." Yakko said sadly. "And he really, really means it this time." He sighed. "He even wants you to move in with him."

"I heard." Aroma admitted.

"He is the dad." Yakko said softly. "It's up to you but..."

"But?" Aroma looked at him questioningly.

"It's either Gyro or him, right?" Yakko said bitterly. "Well, you do still love him."

"...I do." Aroma admitted. "But it's not as clear cut anymore. I..." She looked nervously at Yakko. "...nothing."

"He swore to me up and down he'd be true this time." Yakko said bitterly. "If he's not he's agreed that Zenny and me and Wakko and well...we'll just make sure he feels physically the same way as you do emotionally."

Aroma gave him a small smile. "He's willing to be beaten up?"

"Within an inch of his life." Yakko replied. "And he'll pay the hospital bills."

"Gosh...Yakko, I just don't know." Aroma whined. "I know Gyro will be faithful."

"But you don't love him." Yakko reminded her. "And...I just want you to be happy not stuck."

Aroma looked seriously at Yakko. "A house is a really big step."

"Whatever you decide." Yakko coughed. "I'm gonna go now. For a little while. Just...do what makes you happy?"

Aroma nodded and watched him head out. *What makes me happy?* She felt so screwed up now she didn't know what made her happy. *Yakko thinks I should give him a chance. A house is a really big step...* She waited a few minutes knowing Devin should show up. He had said he wasn't very far away.

Right on cue, Devin appeared at the door. "Well?" *Oh please, oh please, oh please!*

"This is it." Aroma finally replied. "This is the last chance Devin. I swear, I can't take anymore!" She said her voice almost cracking. "If you mess this up I'm heading back to Anima and I'm settling."

Devin nodded. "I promise! I'm committed to this no matter what!"

Aroma wiped her eyes. *Please let him be telling the truth this time! Yakko thinks he is. Is he just being deceived too? I don't know but if there's a chance he's really ready now. "...okay."*

"Okay!" Devin smiled. "You pack up and I'll go talk to the Warners about everything. When you come out, I'll be ready."

Aroma nodded her head and went to go pack.

Meanwhile Devin headed out to talk to Wakko and Dot.

Wakko and Dot just eyed Devin suspiciously.

"We're heading out." Devin informed him.

"Heading out to where?" Wakko frowned. "Whatever your planning isn't good! You can't stay Devin forever!"

"It's not forever." Devin insisted. "About a month I'll be back as Yakko Warner. I promise."

"A month? Why?" Dot whined. "It doesn't make a difference Yakko!"

"Yes it will." Devin sighed. "It'll give me enough time to...well, secure her."

"Wait, wait, wait!" Dot yelled. "Secure her? You don't mean-?!"

"I can't tell her I'm Devin, she'll never agree to stay! I can't be Devin because he's made up! I can't just let her leave to Anima though or I'll never see her again!" Devin stated firmly. "If you guys have any thoughts feel free to jump in. But come on, even Scratchy couldn't give me anything foolproof."

"If you do it, she'll hate you." Wakko frowned.

"I know, but maybe overtime she'll get over it?" Devin said more to himself.

Neither Dot nor Wakko answered that question.

"My options are limited." Devin said sadly. "I know I can't have everything. This is all I can do."

Dot and Wakko just looked at each other.

"Just promise me you won't call or show up?" Devin pleaded. "Give me one month?"

"Where are you even gonna stay?" Dot groaned.

Devin pulled out a picture of a house. "Here it is." He handed the picture to Dot.

Dot and Wakko's jaws both dropped!

"Where did you get THAT?!" Dot cried out.

"Plotz." Devin confessed. "I guess after all these years of having fun with him and the studio, when I told him I was thinking of leaving Burbank, he was happy to help. He gave me some money, this house and some help." Devin looked at the pic. "He's paying for about a month. If I decide to stay he said he'd get me the house and make it worth my while."

"That's an expensive house. Plotz? Are you kidding?" Dot frowned.

"Well if you calculate the damage we cause and what we'll probably do in the future?" Wakko reminded her. "Yeah, if Plotz could get rid of one of us he'd do it."

"Heck yeah this is chunk change." Devin agreed with Wakko. "Don't worry, it's only temporary. I won't really take the deal."

"And how are you gonna get around?" Dot questioned. "Did you hire a chauffeur? What about food?"

"Everything's taken care of." Devin replied. "Keep the pic for Zenny. Just in case maybe he's a little mad still."

Dot and Wakko both nodded.

"And keep that Gyro guy away too." Devin warned them. "He is NOT gonna help things. I'm pretty sure he knows who I really am."

"I think he's the least of your problems now." Wakko said sadly. "We won't tell him anything."

"No more than a month!" Dot warned him. "I still really hate this."

"I know but what's done is done." Devin reminded her. "Aroma should be coming down soon. Goodbyyyyye water tower for a whole month."

"And what am I, undercooked turkey?" Dot frowned.

Devin smiled. "Oh you know I won't forget you or Wakko! Or Scratchy. Or TP. Definitely not Ralph he was loads of fun." Devin smiled.

"That's so sad! It's so beautiful Rita."

Devin turned around and saw Rita and Runt looking through some nearby trashcans. "Oh no!" He whined. "What did you guys hear?"

Rita just wiggled her tail as she and Runt came over closer. "How in the world did you end up playing some guy named Devin?"

"Looks like you got a kitty problem." Dot pointed out.

"Aww...this is so sad!" Runt howled.

"What is so sad?"

Devin saw Aroma coming down from the tower. 'Oh crap!'

Runt whimpered. "Well that-"

"That uhh..uhhh!" Devin was stuck! What was he supposed to say?! "They're sad about leaving!" *Oh great, is this the only thing I can think of?!* He knew he couldn't take long though and he'd already started it. Not to mention he needed them to shut up and fast! "They're originally from here and they'll miss their friends when we go back home!"

"Go back home?" Runt asked confused.

Seeing the opportunity Rita climbed on Runt and covered his mouth. "Of course! We live with Devin now!"

Yep, Rita had no problem acting.

Dot and Wakko chuckled while Devin just stared at Aroma hoping she bought it.

Aroma just nodded. "Okay." She looked over at Dot feeling a bit ashamed. "I know what you're thinking."

"It's your life." Dot sighed. "Go live it while you can. Don't forget to write."

"I won't." Aroma took a deep breath. *Oh, is this really what I should do? Can I really trust him after everything? Can I really love him the same way? I mean, what if Yakko was right and I saw him inside of Devin?*

Devin just smiled at her as the cab finally pulled up. He opened the door and helped her in.

Rita and Runt didn't miss their opportunity either.

Devin rolled his eyes. A cat and a dog? Just great!

"Don't forget to write back!" Dot yelled at them. "I mean it!"

Devin just waved and climbed into the already packed cab. He took one more deep breath of the Burbank air he'd really miss. His real home, his real family and his real self.

He'd miss it all. "Alright, let's go."

Adjustment

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The Bet

Chapter Fifteen: Adjusting

Home Sweet Home in New York...

Geez this place IS huge! Devin looked around the house trying to figure out where the kitchen was. It should be on the first floor obviously.

Then when he turned the corner he finally found it. "That took forever." He went over to the refrigerator and looked inside until he finally saw his goal.

Aroma stood in the living room rubbing her shoulders nervously. *Even with doubt, he is the father and I can't just turn away. It's just hard to get close, he's hurt me so much.*

"Here we go!" Devin came into the living room holding a special homemade dessert he had Plotz order ahead of time. He knew Aroma wouldn't instantly be forgiving so he'd have to work on her weakness for sweets.

He'd been able to get her to do anything for the right kind of temptation. "New York Strawberry Cheesecake?"

Aroma's mind went out of whack as she stared at the creamy concoction. "Oohh..."

Devin patted himself on the back. He was getting better. "Now sweetie, I know that we've had some-?" He watched as she stole the cheesecake from his hand and started to eat it. "...some issues. Do you need a fork?"

Aroma blushed slightly as she licked the excess off her face. "Maybe?"

A butler who stood beside them presented a fork. "Please do not hesitate to call."

Maybe he should have used one of those servants to get the cheesecake for him? Did she notice his slip up?

Clearly she didn't as she started to dig in.

"Well as I was saying before." Devin continued as he sat next to Aroma. "I'm really sorry for the way I acted. The stress it just really got to me and your brother just had this look in his eye like he was ready to beat me up."

Aroma looked up from her confection at him. "I told you not to worry about him."

"Well yeah you said so, but it didn't mean he wasn't gonna lay into me." Devin explained.

"Then why didn't you just run out?" Aroma said giving him an unconvinced stare.

"I just didn't think I could handle it." Devin tried again. "It's a big thing. After the outburst, I knew what I did wrong but I knew you needed some time after that. I went to go see a professional to get some help with this psychological adjustment."

Aroma looked at the half eaten cheesecake. "...you took a while."

"Well, I needed time to myself to figure things out too." Devin smiled. "But it's fine, I mean everything's fine. I probably did take a little longer than I should, I was just enjoying the last of my carefree days." He sighed. "Of course once I heard Yakko was starting to make a move, I knew it was time to go back and see you." *Nailed it!*

"Yeah..." Aroma looked at the last piece of cheesecake left. "Yakko was..."

Devin smiled for a second until he realized what he was doing. *Don't smile, act jealous or something!* "Well he's completely out of the picture now. I won't just let you go again, I absolutely promise. No more outbursts, no more anything."

Aroma just sighed as she started to eat the last piece. "You never should have taken so long. Called, wrote, something..."

"I know." Devin replied. "I'm not perfect though, I make mistakes."

Aroma took the littlest amount of cheesecake on her finger and put it in his mouth.

Devin grinned. If she was sharing a little, that was a good sign. He licked his lips. "It'll all work out this time."

Aroma started to clean up the rest of the cheesecake that was left on the sides. *Only time will tell...*

Devin groaned on the inside. *Yep, a month. Hopefully in a month.* He knew there was absolutely no way she'd accept any kind of proposal right now. She was trying to figure out how to forgive him. *That and put Yakko out of her head.* He smiled. Then frowned. *Quit that!*

I can't be happy that she likes me as Yakko right now. I need to stay focused. I am Devin Ditterbee not Yakko!

Aroma looked at him a bit perplexed at his changing looks. What was he thinking about?

"Master Dufe, would you like another cheesecake for Miss Aroma?"

"No, not yet." Devin replied. He noticed the look on Aroma's face. *Uh oh. Please let this work!* "What?"

"Devin?" Aroma looked at him suspiciously. "What's your last name?"

"Why Ditterbee my dear but others call me Dufe." Devin smiled. "You see in my line of work I've made some enemies along the line. It's easier to stay out of the way if everyone calls you by a different last name."

Aroma looked a bit uncertain on that one. "So you change your last name so others can't find you?"

"Well I have lots of money too, lest we forget." Devin chuckled. "Only those who know me as Ditterbee are allowed in my house without an appointment."

"Okay." Aroma still looked a bit perplexed. "I guess that kind of makes sense."

"Well of course it does! Why wouldn't it?" Devin smiled. "Now do you want a tour of the house?" He snapped his fingers calling the butler this time, not wanting to make the same mistake.

Back at the tower...

Gyro stared up at the tower. So far, Aroma hadn't come out once. She should be done with the sulking, so what was going on? He headed up the tower and knocked on the door.

Wakko answered it. "Oh...hello?"

"Hello. Is Aroma around?" Gyro asked apprehensively.

Dot quickly came to the door. "Aroma? Oh, Aroma. No, no. She needed to get away for a little while so she's visiting another planet before she heads home."

"Yeah, another planet." Wakko smiled.

"A vacation on another planet?" Gyro frowned.

"Zenny said it would be good for her." Wakko added.

"So Zenny is with her on another planet?" Gyro frowned. "Oh, wonderful."

"Don't worry. She'll be heading back to Anima in three or four weeks." Dot groaned. "Then you can trap and bait her with no interruptions I'm sure."

"I'm not trying to trap and bait her." Gyro frowned. "I was just worried. When I got up this morning...well I just haven't heard from her."

'More like you haven't seen her come out of the tower in hours stalker.' Dot thought bitterly.

"Do you know which planet she went to?" Gyro asked casually.

Dot just gave him a suspicious look. *He'd go follow her again, wouldn't he?!* "Not off hand. If she contacts us, we'll let you know where she scampered off too."

"Alright." Gyro smiled. "Pleasure to meet you again. I'll see you around."

Wakko watched as Gyro headed down. "Whoah. He's obsessed."

"Told you." Dot frowned as she crossed his arms. "Let's just hope Yakko pulls off his grand trick in time before he does find out where she really is."

"Yeah." Wakko sighed. "I can't believe this is really happening. I mean one party? And we don't drink a ton at the fun but dangerous ones."

"I know. It just doesn't make any sense." Dot agreed. "Surely big brother should have noticed something was wrong. Or not drunk as much. I mean, Earth alcohol isn't that big of a deal. Anima alcohols much more potent."

Wakko shrugged his shoulders. "It's confirmed though. There's nothing Yakko can do now. Except this."

"She is going to hate him so much." Dot frowned. "It's not right!" She shoved her brother in his shoulder with hers. "Why were you two so stupid in the first place?"

"It was just supposed to be a tiny little bet." Wakko whined. "Okay? We know it wasn't right."

"Yeah but because of that bet Aroma and Yakko will never make it." Dot frowned.

"Yakko's gonna marry her." Wakko reminded his sister. "By Anima's ways he'll have control over her."

"Control and love are two separate things." Dot growled. "Sure she can't leave him and take their little kid, but that doesn't mean she'll run into his arms, Wakko." She leaned on the tower rails. "I just hope he's enjoying his last chance with her. It's not gonna last at all."

"I know." Wakko leaned on the rail alongside his sister. "Love really sucks. I never wanna fall in love."

"Oh, love doesn't suck." Dot chuckled. "Just the hurt afterwards when it doesn't work out. Or if you find out you were deceived the entire time into believing someone was somebody else. That's all."

Wakko shook his head. "No way. It's whistling and jumping on women for me and that's it. After seeing what Yakko's going through there's no way I'll EVER do that."

Dot just smiled playfully at Wakko. At least he wasn't going to get into big trouble anytime soon.

The next morning in New York...

"Sir?"

Devin grumbled at the maid trying to wake him up. Butlers and maids were not something he was used to.

"Sir, you need to get going to work." The maid smiled at him.

"Work?" Devin yawned and stretched. "Oh yeah. Can't hang around all the time."

"Your limousine is waiting outside." The maid smiled. "I will attend to the lady of the house while you are gone."

Devin didn't answer as the maid left. He got dressed up into what he figured was a good business look and headed out of the house.

Ipsa Defacto...

"Devin Ditterbee?"

Devin heard his name as he stared straight ahead at somebody in the building. "Yeah?"

"This way. Your office is on the fifth floor." The man announced.

Devin smiled. Plotz really did take care of the cover! He probably had a number and everything. Less and less loopholes to fall through now!

Devin followed the man to the fifth floor and watched as his office was unlocked. He stepped in and looked around. "Wow. Not bad."

"No, senior positions have very good offices." The man said as he grabbed a bunch of papers from a nearby chair. "On the list and office position everyone will assume your higher up." He stacked the papers on the table. "Instead of lower down. Try to have these filed by the dates before the end of lunch."

Devin's expression was now changing. "Wait, what?!"

"Thaddeus Plotz was pretty tight with one of the head people here." The man smiled. "But there's no way you'll stay even with him on your side if you don't work." He looked at his watch. "I'm on the second floor. Just turn right and walk up three doors from the elevator."

"Wait!" Devin whined. "Are you telling me I really have to work?"

"Yes or you're fired." The man looked at his watch. "Shoot, I'm late." He groaned. "Do the work or you're fired. If you need a break you can head to the secretary's lounge on the first floor and get some water or chat or whatever you secretaries do."

Then he turned and walked away.

Devin blinked. He glanced around the office and then looked at the giant stack of papers all over the desk. "Work? I actually have to work?" He whined. "I'm a secretary?"

Yeah. Plotz had everything covered alright!

If I don't work, I'm fired. Well that's just great. Devin jumped on the table and picked up the first piece of paper...

...and watched as the entire stack fell like the blocks in a game of Jenga!

The papers were all over the chairs, all over the floors and all over the desk.

Devin groaned. This was gonna be a LONG month...

Life On Easy Street

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The Bet

Chapter Sixteen: Life On Easy Street

One week later...

Aroma yawned as she watched Rita and Runt sleeping on the floor next to her. They seemed very content, but she was bored. There was never anything to do until-

"I'm home."

Aroma grinned as she saw Devin stroll in. "How was today?"

"Same old, same old." He groaned as he patted his briefcase. "I still have a little more I have to do."

"Oh." Aroma sighed. "Alright."

Devin trudged up the stairs with his briefcase in hand. To her it was just some important papers he had to look over. To him, it was the work he didn't get finished at the end of the day. *I always thought being a secretary would be easy.* It was a lot funner when he was Plotz' secretary instead of an actual real one.

Aroma watched him head up stairs. "Devin? Don't suppose you want to do anything tonight?" she called out to him.

Do anything? I just wanna lie down! Devin complained to himself. Still, it wasn't gonna help Aroma to get any closer if all he did was work and sleep. "Sounds like fun. You know I'm always up for it." he lied.

As Devin came down he plastered on a fake grin and some fake energy. "So! What do you wanna do?"

Aroma noticed he wasn't as peppy as he should be though. They must have been running him ragged at work. "How about a movie?" She settled on, knowing he wasn't in the mood to take off down the streets.

"Perfect." Devin smiled. He could sit and watch a dumb movie. That would be easy!

"So when do you visit Burbank?" Aroma asked questioningly.

Devin just chuckled. "Oh, not for a little while. I just I...I took the month off of the traveling portion so I could spend more time with you." He smiled.

"Oh." Aroma smiled lovingly at him. That's why they were giving him more things to do obviously. *He's working harder just for me?*

Devin did have his moments.

"Then afterwards maybe we could get something for the baby?" Devin smiled knowing his mojo was already working on her.

"You want to buy something?" Aroma said in surprise. "It's very early though."

"Yeah but I'm a little eager to see what they have." Devin grinned.

"So? You're more excited now instead of feeling like it's the end?" Aroma chuckled.

"I guess." Devin smiled. *Score! Excited dad, more trusting.* "What do you say?"

"Okay." Aroma smiled. "After the movie, we'll go look at stuff."

After the movie and looking around at baby things...

Aroma cuddled up close to Devin as they watched a simple program on T.V. She didn't know how he did it. No matter how much he hurt her, he always managed to tangle himself back up in her heart. *Maybe Yakko's not right. Maybe I saw Devin in Yakko instead?*

Devin didn't seem to care about the dilemma. He was just happy to be off his feet. *Oh...I miss home so much. Dot. Wakko. Having the energy to run down the streets instead of filing stuff and making coffee and running errands and...ugh!*

There was something about tedious tasks that somehow seemed to suck the life out of him. *At least I'm getting closer.* He smiled lazily at Aroma who had fallen asleep by his side. *Less than a month and we'll be home.* He just stared at her. *Less than a month and you'll hate me for all eternity.* He brought her slightly closer to him. *This isn't right. Nothing should have happened. Earth alcohol shouldn't have been that strong and surely I should have tasted it! I mean was I coming down with a cold or something?* He touched her ear lightly. *Whatever happened happened though. I can't reverse anything. I really don't want to do this!* He sighed and looked away. *I've gone through this a thousand times in my head though. This is my only option.* He looked back down at her. *I really can't do anything but enjoy it while I can.*

Aroma cuddled closer to Devin in her sleep. "Mmmm..." She chuckled. "Yakko."

"?!" Devin just stared at her in excitement. *She said Yakko? She said Yakko!* He tried to calm himself down. *She called out to me? She didn't say Devin...but I am Devin now.* He grumbled. *I can't enjoy her saying Yakko, I need to get her to say Devin again. I won't get her to accept the proposal easily if she's conflicted. How do I get my real self out of her mind?*

"Mmmm..." Aroma mumbled in her sleep. "Ooh, so good..."

Devin looked down at her in surprise. *Just what IS she dreaming about?*

"Ooh...yes...Wakko." Aroma mumbled some more.

Wakko?! Devin just stared at her with a blank expression. *What the-?!*

"Dot, no...mmm...my cheesecake, back off..." Aroma groaned.

Devin just hit his head. *False alarm. She's dreaming about us trying to take her cheesecake?* He just groaned. She had some strange dreams.

"Devin..."

Oh I guess I'm taking her cheesecake now. Devin rolled his eyes.

"Devin?"

Devin looked down and noticed she woke up. "Well hey there." He smiled. "Good morning."

Aroma yawned. "Sorry, I fell asleep."

"I didn't mind." Devin smiled. "I kinda missed having you so close again." *Perfect line!*

"You did?" Aroma smiled kindly. "Well I've missed having you so close too."

Oh I wish I could... Devin started to smile. *Wait, I'm out of the Yakko friend loop I'm Devin now. I can!*

Aroma seemed a bit surprised as Devin started to kiss her. It didn't take long before she started to kiss him back.

Some time later...

Devin just had a magical grin on his face as Aroma cuddled up next to him. Work may suck but at least as Devin he did get to kiss her, make out with her, roll around the floor...

"Sorry about your lamp." Aroma chuckled. "It wasn't too expensive was it?"

"No way." Devin chuckled. "It was worth it. Can we do that again?"

"Maybe later." Aroma smiled. "I'm getting tired. Goodnight Devin."

"Night night." Devin smiled as he watched her take off. *Less than a month? I might be able to bag her within the end of the week! Of course the sooner I pull the move...* He started to frown. *The sooner it's over.*

"That was really smart." Rita stretched as she woke up from her cat nap. "You just need to propose Romeo, not tackle her."

Devin rolled his eyes. "Look just enjoy your free ride as long as you can and stay out of the way."

"I'm just saying you should be careful." Rita warned him. "Remember your own advice. You won't be here forever. When she finds out the truth, there won't be any of those romping sessions."

"I am careful." Devin frowned. "And knock it off I know what I'm doing. The closer we get the better my chances are."

"No, just the closer romantically you get." Rita frowned. "There's a difference."

"Oh just leave me alone." Devin whined. "I'm heading to bed so I can get up in the morning and be rode all day again."

"Hi Rita!" Runt yelled as he came bounding up to his friend. "I got lost. Definitely, definitely lost. Did I miss anything?"

"An interesting game of wrestling, that's about it." Rita commented as she stretched again. She watched the Warner Brother head off to his own room.

She hoped he understood her advice.

Water Tower...

Wakko sighed. "I miss Yakko. Do you think he misses us?"

"Miss us? While he's living it up on Easy street?" Dot joked. "Yeah right, time's probably flying right by for him."

KNOCK KNOCK

Wakko answered the door and saw Gyro. "You again?"

"Did you find out what planet she's on yet?" Gyro asked politely.

"Nope, she hasn't called." Dot smiled. "I tried to call her but she's not answering." That part wasn't fake either. Most likely Yakko got rid of her cell phone to stop all contact from everyone. It was probably 'missing'.

"Dang." Gyro frowned. "Okay. If you find out-"

"We'll tell you." Dot faked a smile. "Okay? Alright, bye bye now." She closed the tower door and frowned. "That guy is always around now."

"No kidding." Wakko frowned. "He stops by everyday. I wonder how much he was actually keeping tabs on her?"

"Yeah." Dot chuckled. "Even with a stalker though Aroma and Yakko managed to get privacy."

"Wait...did they?" Wakko frowned. "I'm betting he was watching them on all their dates."

"Yeah, you might be right." Dot agreed. "Couldn't be there for all of them though. Nothing would be happening right now if he'd been along at that dumb fraternity party they went to. Probably couldn't keep up."

"..." Wakko glanced over at the tape the fraternity cameraman gave them. It had gotten covered with stuff here and there over the past few days. "Are we sure he wasn't?"

Dot frowned. "What do you mean?"

Wakko popped in the tape and pressed play. They watched the same thing occur over again. "Guess he wasn't."

"I'm pretty sure he would have stood out." Dot shrugged her shoulders. "And like I said if he'd been there...wait! Stop right there!"

Wakko stopped the tape while Aroma was consuming the cookies. "What?"

"The corner. Look at the corner!" She rewinded the tape slightly and started to play in slow motion as Aroma continued to devour the cookies. Devin had moved slightly to the right, probably to avoid flying crumbs. "Right there! See?"

Wakko looked closely at the television set. "The window went up in the background?"

"Not only that, look." Dot pointed to something black off in the corner. "It's a bit blurry but I would say that's a warner tail."

"You're right." Wakko agreed. "If Yakko and Aroma's up there then that must be Gyro." He looked perplexed. "But when they started going nuts he would have interrupted I'm sure."

"Yeah. So why didn't he?" Dot growled. "I'm starting to like this guy less and less."

Oh What A Night

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The Bet

Chapter Seventeen: Oh What a Night

One week later...

Devin hit the water stand bitterly. "Would you come out? I'm thirsty and I've still got stuff to do!"

"Yelling at the water stand new guy? Rough day, huh?"

Devin looked behind him and saw a person just smiling at him. "You could say that."

"Don't worry at least payday is today." The guy smiled. "Name's Jim."

Polite conversation? That's something he wasn't used to. "Name's Devin." Devin smiled.

"Pleased to meet you." Jim walked over to the water stand and jiggled the handle slightly. "There you go. It's just touchy."

"Thanks!" Devin grinned. "I'm so thirsty, I haven't even got my lunch break yet."

"Sounds rough. Who you working for?" Jim asked as he got his own water.

"Clyde Duffus." Devin growled.

"Ah, you work for doofus." Jim chuckled. "Tough break. He's a real ass. I started under him but I got moved. Just keep your nose clean and he'll eventually give you a break."

Devin wiggled his nose. "Don't matter what I do with my nose he's still gonna be a pain in the butt."

Jim shrugged his shoulders. "Sorry, can't say anything else that's helpful." He threw away his empty water cup. "See ya round Devin."

Devin just nodded and threw away his own cup. *Just two more weeks of this place and I'm out.* He started to walk out of the lounge.

When he saw Aroma standing in front of him. "Hey..." He smiled. "What are you doing here?"

"Sorry. I don't have a phone so I couldn't call." Her voice had a bit of irritation. "I was going to once I found it. Hiding underneath one of your sofa's."

"Under a sofa?" Devin chuckled nervously.

"Yeah. I wanted to see if you could catch lunch with me." Aroma frowned. "But as I was dialing your lovely cat went crazy." She held up what was left of her phone. "She grabbed it

out of my hands with her mouth and I had to chase her all around until I finally found it. Completely destroyed."

Good going Rita! "Ohhh...darn." Devin faked. "Sorry about that. I can have a lunch break in about an hour?"

"Alright then." Aroma smiled. "Then we need to discuss some stuff. Like how I can contact my family?"

"Yeah it's a bit hard with your computer gone." Devin finished for her. "Probably my strange cat again. We'll find it."

Aroma nodded her head. "Do you think I should make an appointment at the hospital yet? They didn't seem to care until I was at least two months."

"We'll talk about it later." Devin smiled. "Go hang out around town and I'll meet ya back here in an hour."

Aroma nodded and continued on her way out.

"Awww...you're going to be a daddy?"

Devin rolled his eyes. Great. The OTHER secretaries he knew. "Yes. I'm going to be a daddy."

"That's so sweeeeet!"

"Oh babies are soo cute!"

"And life changing. Your life will be filled with diapers and happiness."

Devin rolled his eyes.

"Congrats man, I didn't know."

Ooh, a male voice? Devin turned back around. "Jim?"

"You should tell Doofus about it. He likes kids. Might even give you a raise." Jim smiled.

"A raise. Okay." Devin smiled politely and walked away. Heh, a raise. Like he would even get paid? He had to work there to not have his cover blown. A paycheck probably wouldn't be involved.

Lunch time...

Devin yawned as he looked at the food in front of him. "This looks good."

"Yep. Nothing like a home cooked microwave meal." Aroma teased him. "Are you sure it's alright if I eat with you?"

Devin shrugged his shoulders. "Why wouldn't it be? What are you holding there?"

Aroma handed him an envelope. "Came in the mail. Figured you'd want it to cash just in case you came home too late."

He looked at the envelope. It was from Ipso Defacto. *Whoah! Am I getting paid?!* He opened it up and looked at the amount.

Apparently secretaries did pretty good there. It wasn't anything he'd be making in the high position but it wasn't exactly just breadcrumbs either.

"Are you okay?" Aroma asked him as he looked stunned at his check. "Are you alright?"

"Super." Devin grinned. "Thanks!"

"Don't mention it." Aroma smiled as she looked at her watch. "Guess I better get going." She sighed. "Take care. Don't work too awful hard okay?"

"I don't, I work pretty hard, not awful." Devin joked as he waved goodbye. He sighed in relief. *That was a close one! If she found her phone and someone called her that wouldn't be good. Or if Gyro figured out what I was doing.*

At least the pets were earning their keep.

Runt jumped on the couch as he wagged his tail, ready to play.

Aroma tossed a ball with him back and forth for a little while gently. "Why don't you go outside for a little while?"

Yeah, so she can find her computer. Rita just waved her tail and rubbed up on her leg.

"I'm home!" Devin shouted through the door as he came inside. "Did anyone miss me? No wait-?!"

Aroma just laughed as Devin got toppled over by Runt who started licking him and wagged his tail.

Rita just covered her eyes. How embarrassing.

"Alright. Alright, down Dino!" Devin whined as Runt finally got off of him.

Geez, an owner for just two weeks and the dog was already in love with him?

"How was your day?" Aroma smiled.

"It was better before I got trampled." Devin said after standing back up and dusting himself off. He looked back at Runt and saw him wagging his tail holding the ball excitedly in his jaws.

Devin took the ball, noticed the slobber all over it and tossed it for him.

"I got it! I got the ball! I got it! I got it! I got it! Whoops! Sorry! Coming through! Sorry! I got it!"

"Ooh, you shouldn't have thrown that hard." Aroma chuckled.

Devin tried to wipe the drool off his hands. "It's fine, whatever he destroys I can pay for." He smiled as he fixed his vest straight again.

Aroma got down on her knees and tried to help out with his briefcase contents that went flying about with Runt.

Devin looked down and suddenly looked nervous. He just bought the ring today with his extra cash. He had hid it in the briefcase and he was going to wait for the moment to be right! "It's okay!" Devin helped her quickly up. "You shouldn't be bending down anyhow. I can take care of it." He quickly picked the papers up and felt the jewelry box below the stack. He shoved everything haphazardly into the briefcase and snapped it shut.

"Are your papers okay?" Aroma asked in concern.

"Super fine sweetums." Devin lied as he headed upstairs. "I just got a little more work to do then I'm free! Okay?"

"Okay." Aroma watched him suspiciously as he went up the stairs. *It's no big deal right now to bend over. I'm not glass. Why did he act like that?*

Upstairs...

Devin pulled the jewelry box out of the suitcase. "Idiot! Everything was almost ruined. She's not gonna say yes 'cause she accidentally sees it." He hid it in one of his drawers. "She'll have to be persuaded. The whole romantic setup tonight would have been for nothing. I can't take a chance that I can just throw it at her and ask her! She'd never say yes."

He felt something rubbing up along his leg.

"Most likely not but you never know." Rita said as she started to lick her paws. "So when will you pop the question? Weddings take forever to even take place."

"Not when your rich." Devin grinned. "Or if you go to Las Vegas."

"You're gonna do that?" Rita frowned.

"It's fast, it's cheap and she doesn't know Earth customs extremely well." Devin explained.

"Oh for the love of fish." Rita rolled her eyes. "Good luck."

Devin looked back at the ring he bought. *There's really no going back after I do this.*

But there wasn't much choice.

That night...

Aroma looked all around her. Flowers and candles adorned everything, including the little eating area they were at on the back porch. "Wow. This is really nice Devin."

"Waste no expense." He grinned as he popped a cork off a bottle of wine. It ended up falling into the pool. "Oops."

Aroma just laughed. "It wanted to go swimming I guess." She took the wine glass Devin handed her. "You know, I'm not really that into wine."

"I know but it's a special occasion tonight." Devin recovered. He grinned as the dinner platters were brought out.

"Lobster?" Aroma smiled. "A whole lobster? And steak?"

"Completely fresh." Devin added. "Plus dessert is a chocolate marble cheesecake covered in chocolate strawberries." He grinned as he saw her expression. *Fully recovered and then some!*

"Now that sounds good." Aroma grinned from ear to ear. "Can we eat that first?"

"Not yet. Let's enjoy dinner." Devin replied as he started to dig into the food.

After Dinner, dessert came.

"Alright! Which side do you want?" Aroma asked.

"It's all for you tonight." Devin grinned.

"Really?! This is a special occasion!" She started to devour the cheesecake. "Why is it such a special occasion though?"

Devin waited for her to finish the dessert first before he answered. "Well I know it's been a short...while...you've got filling on your mouth."

Aroma wiped her mouth.

"Nope, still there." Devin grabbed a napkin and gently wiped it off. "...like I was saying." He tossed the napkin away. "I know it's been a short time since we've known each other but I can't imagine what my life was like without you."

Aroma smiled. Why was he being so romantic?

Devin slowly got out the jewelry box. "I know we've had a couple tough moments, but I think the fact we got passed them made us stronger. And all the tough stuff ahead just makes us stronger."

Aroma gave a small but quick gasp as she saw the jewelry box.

Devin went over to her and got down on one knee. "Aroma I just can't imagine my life without you anymore. Even though it hasn't been that long, I really feel like..." *'Shoot! Stuck! Going swell, come up with something!'* "...like it should be this way. Maybe fate knew we should be together? Maybe that's why we're having a baby after only one night of... *word, word* ...romance? So..." He opened up the box and presented it to her. "Will you marry me?"

Aroma looked dumbfounded as she stared at the beautiful ring. "This is really sudden."

Devin just continued to grin.

"I..." Aroma covered her mouth but a few tears started to escape from her eyes. "Ye...yeah, yes. Yes!"

Devin caught Aroma as she leaped into his arms. *Bingo! I knew she'd say yes if I did it right!* She could have said yes that afternoon but chances were smaller. Him being the dad and living with her almost guaranteed it but he couldn't mess it up. "We probably don't need anything real big, just-?!"

He was a little surprised she started to kiss him so passionately.

"Uh oh." Rita waved her tail back and forth while she watched from the inside of the house. *Remember what I said...he didn't.* She watched as Devin started to kiss her back as well. She just shook her head knowingly.

Runt came over and put his paws in the window. "Awww...hey they're wrestling! Rita, wanna wrestle too?!"

"No thank you." Rita frowned. "And he shouldn't be wrestling with her either. He got his yes, he needs to stop that."

"Whoah!" Devin laughed as he caught Aroma before they both fell into the pool. "Let's not go overboard!"

"Why not?" Aroma laughed as she wrapped her arms around him and kissed him some more.

Toppling them into the swimming pool.

They kissed for a few more minutes until they finally quit and just laughed.

"I don't believe this is happening." Aroma smiled. "I need to find a payphone and call Dot."

"You can use my phone." Devin urged her instead. "We can both tell her."

"Hmmm...an Earth marriage." Aroma chuckled. "We've got a ton of planning to do."

Oh great. She did know Earth customs after all? Devin just smirked. "We can keep it small and we can have it faster."

"Faster?" Aroma chuckled. "Alright, as long as it's not one of those...what are they called? Las Vegas weddings?"

Damn! "Of course not, I wouldn't dream of it." Devin smiled. There was a risk she had known about that but that's why he popped the question so soon. "But let's just keep things simple. We don't need like a huge bash, right?"

"No, but our family has to be here." Aroma replied.

Family. Family?! "Oh...sure. Just uhh...family related though?" He asked her. "I don't like real huge events. Oh! And definitely not Gyro."

"Gyro? Oh, you knew about him?" Aroma asked a bit surprised.

"Yeah uhhh...I was warned about him." Devin lied. "I don't want him to try anything to destroy the wedding."

"Gyro's not that type." Aroma smiled. "He's just a friend."

Devin frowned.

"He won't be here. I won't even tell him until after we're married." Aroma chuckled. "Does that make you feel better?"

"Tons and tons." Devin grinned. "My family's pretty busy though, we'll just have to see if they make it or not."

"Well I'm sure they could fit time for you in their schedule." Aroma said with certainty.

Oh no they won't. Devin just smiled.

"We should invite Dot and the others though." Aroma smiled. "I can't have Dot not be here at the wedding."

"You bet." Devin smiled. "A lovely ceremony with friends and family and we'll be official at the end of the month."

"The end of the month?" Aroma asked. "That soon?"

"Why wait? I've already started to arrange the basics." Devin grinned. "That's not too fast right?"

"Well...it's a bit fast." Aroma chuckled. "But I don't have a problem with it! I love you so much Devin."

"I know." Devin said smugly as he started to kiss her again...

The next morning...

"Runt." Rita started to wake up as her comrade's tail started to swish in her face. "Runt!"

"Gotta get the rabbit. Gonna get the rabbit." Runt mumbled in his sleep as he started to jerk his legs and growled.

Deciding it was time to get up anyhow, Rita stretched and started to jump off the couch. *Aww...the good life. I'm really going to miss this.* She stretched her front paws leaning toward the back to loosen herself all up.

Having a home, food and someone to play with. Getting petted everyday, watching Runt chase the ball merrily. It was the future they had always dreamed about.

Too bad it was only temporary. Two weeks from then it would be over. Back to the Burbank parking lot. Still, it was fun while it lasted and she was enjoying every minute. She pranced through the house as she usually did on her morning walk.

"Hey kitty, hi there! How are you doing today, huh?!"

Rita stopped walking and looked at Devin strangely. Usually she didn't get that kind of greeting.

"Well I'm off to work!" He nervously laughed. "Work, work, work! It's who I am and what I do! So you stay here and-?" Devin stopped as he knocked over a vase. He pretended it was no big deal and continued to back up. "-and do the kitty things you do so bye!"

Rita scratched her head and frowned.

"I got it! I got the ball! I got it!"

Rita looked behind her and saw Runt's play ball land right beside her. She quickly jumped onto a nearby chair and watched as Runt came down on the ball.

"I got the ball! I got it! I got it!" Runt's tail wagged as he started to take off back down the hall.

"Good boy! Come on, let's catch it again! Go get it!"

Rita was surprised to hear Aroma's voice. Usually at this time she was the only one who was up. *And playing catch?*

Aroma and Runt soon came into her view.

"Hello Rita!" Aroma grabbed the kitty and danced around with her. "How are you this fine morning, hmm?" She dug through her pockets and pulled out something. "Kitty want a treat?"

"Mrowr!" Rita eagerly took the treat. Now this was a good way to wake up.

"And here you go, here's a ball of yarn." Aroma smiled as she rolled some yarn over to Rita.

Rita just grinned goofily from ear to ear. Yarn? Oh she loooved yarn.

Aroma sat down in a nearby chair and sighed. "Guess what? Devin proposed last night!"

Rita and Runt both shook their heads.

"At the end of the month I'm really going to be his wife." Aroma beamed. "Forever and ever..."

Yeah honey, forever and ever. Rita thought sadly. At the end of the month Aroma would say that phrase with less gleefulness.

"It's just hard to believe. The warner I love is going to marry me." Aroma smiled. "Even if I am having his kid, he's not running away from me anymore. Finally." She got up and looked out the window. She'd felt a come-hither and then a constant need to run from her for as long as she could remember. He always seemed like he wanted to be with her forever but then he'd just run away. Fearing commitment.

"Well, no more worrying about that." Aroma smiled. There was no sense of running she felt from him anymore. There was no doubt in her mind he was fully committed now. Enough to be a husband, be a father, to being with her for the rest of eternity.

Rita watched her lay her head dreamily on the glass. She looked at the ball of yarn guiltily. Sure 'Devin' was marrying her but she wasn't getting the happily ever after she thought she was getting.

She went over and rubbed up on Aroma's legs. *Poor girl. The truth is gonna hit her really hard.*

Aroma noticed the gesture and picked her up. "Hello Rita." She looked around herself. "Is Devin around here somewhere?"

Rita just shook her head.

"Went to work?" Aroma smiled. "Uh oh! He'd been so out of it this morning I wonder if he forgot his briefcase?" She started to head to Devin's room with Rita. "He always has work in that I'm sure he'll need it."

She put down Rita as she entered the room. She shook her head knowingly as she saw his briefcase on the floor. "I should've remembered that when I saw him this morning."

Saw him? Rita looked perplexed. Usually Devin was up first since he had to head for work.

"Agh?! Uhh...hey." Devin appeared nervously in the doorway. "You're up?"

Aroma smiled and handed him your briefcase. "I'm guessing you need this?"

"...yah." Devin quickly took the briefcase.

"See you later." Aroma replied as she looked at the bed. "Do you want me to make up the bed?"

"If you want, bye!" Devin yelled as he ran out of the door in a hurry.

"Well he's energetic." Aroma chuckled. "So Rita, want to help...Rita?"

Devin took off full speed down the hallway. *Nothing wrong. I didn't do anything wrong! I'm fine! It's fine!*

"Yakko!"

Devin stopped as he saw an angry looking Rita staring at him.

Rita walked around the house all day, she knew shorter ways to her destination better than anyone. She wiggled her tail once in accusation.

"Hey kitty..." Devin looked around and noticed the yarn she was playing with earlier. "Look, yarn! Kitty want yarn?!"

Rita didn't move. "Mind telling me what happened last night?"

Devin just chuckled strangely. "Happened? Oh well I proposed and she said yes."

"And?" Rita frowned.

"And we uhhh...talked and...celebrated-and-went-to-sleep." He said even quicker.

"...you...ya didn't." Rita said sadly. "You wouldn't."

"Excitment, wine, everything's a blur!" Devin whined. "Stop looking at me like that!"

"A blur huh?" Rita frowned. "Sounds like she remembers..."

Devin looked around in the room nervously.

Rita tilted her head. "...what about you?"

"Shutup!" Devin covered his ears. "It doesn't matter, I'm marrying her! Everything's fine, what do you know you dumb cat?! Leave me alone!!"

Rita watched Devin run off around the corner from sight.

Oh yeah. He remembered.

Longer?

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The Bet

By: Paradox

Chapter Eighteen: Longer?

Ipsa Defacto Lounge...

I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't do anything wrong.

"Devin."

"Agh?!" Devin dropped his water cup in surprise.

"Whoah! Talk about excitable." Jim smiled at him as he poured him another cup. "What's up with you this morning?"

"Nothing. Nothing happened!" Devin yelled as he took the water and started to drink. His throat was dry.

"Okay. Personal, I get it." Jim held up his hands and backed off. "See ya round."

Devin didn't answer as he went back to drinking more water.

When his pager went off. It was only connected to his boss so he knew to head up to the third floor. Quickly.

Clyde Duffus' office...

"Yeah?" Devin asked as he stepped into the office. "More files? Another Mocha Cappucino?"

"No Ditterbee. Did you finish filing my reports?" Duffus asked him.

Devin nodded his head quickly.

Duffus looked at him strangely. He seemed more edgy today. "Good. Start bringing them down. Afterwards a trainer will come down and show you what to do."

"A trainer? What to do?" Devin looked at him strangely.

"Yes. Now go, I'm busy." Duffus remarked as he shooed him out.

Devin went up and down from the fifth floor to the first floor bringing all the reports he had just filed until someone stopped him at his door.

"Devin Ditterbee?"

Devin turned around and saw someone he'd never seen around the place. "Yeah?"

"Come along." He replied. "We have a full day ahead so if you want to eat, you better eat now."

6:00...

BRING! BRING!

Devin trudged into his office. "Hello?"

Well hello there Devin!

Excited voice but recognizable. "T.P?"

How is everything working out? Did you like the maid, cook and butler? I figured they would be helpful for the moment since you'd never seen the place. Didn't want you to screw up on the first day.

"I figured that out." Devin replied. "Don't really need them though anymore."

Good! I'll take care of them by the end of the month. So how is everything? Enjoying your new job? New city? New home? I know it's not a mansion but since it is bigger than your tower and she's never seen it I figured it would work. But is there anything else? Any more assistance?

Gee. Did Plotz really want to keep him out of Burbank that bad? "Everything's fine Plotz...but you threw me a loop today."

Yes, yes I know. Well you said you needed to be Devin in about every way and I don't want to support you all your life. You'll get paid while your being trained too, a nice bonus.

Devin rolled his eyes. "You're turning me into a mortgage guy Plotz!"

Which is what Devin was, which was part of the contract. You wanted to be him in every way.

Devin groaned. Plotz had him.

Look I put you in an opening where you had to beat out college degrees! It wasn't easy, don't blow it. Oh yes and while being trained in your new career you'll make more money than being a secretary. The further along you'll get the more money you'll make until I'm not even needed anymore. You'll be able to provide for your own family. Nice, huh?

"More money?" The secretary money wasn't that bad.

Devin was not a secretary. Plotz reminded him. *I'm simply filling in my part of the contract. So how is everything? Comfy? Cozy? Is New York everything you've wanted it to be?*

Devin tapped his fingers on his desk. "Everything's peachy keen Plotzy. Look, I've got to get home. This training is making me late enough as it is."

Of course. If you need anything else though, just call.

Back at the house...

"I know I can't believe it myself."

Devin stared as he saw Aroma on her laptop. "?! "Aroma? Where'd you find that?"

"You're finally home?" Aroma smiled at Devin. "Underneath one of the back sofa's. I needed to call my parents so I had to look really hard. I mean we only called Dot last night before we...got distracted." she chuckled.

"Yeah, yeah. Uhh..." Devin stared at the laptop. "Okay, just finish up?"

"I will." Aroma went back to talking on her laptop. "Really, that storm is such a pain momma." Aroma closed her laptop and sat it down on the table. "When should we have the ceremony Devin? Momma said the earliest flight out to Earth right now wouldn't be for three weeks."

"Three weeks?!" Devin whined. "That long?"

"Yes, the blizzard started up again but it's not supposed to be half as bad this time." Aroma explained.

"Three weeks." Devin sighed. That'd put him a whole week over schedule. *Just one week. I guess I'll have to tell Dot and Wakko later.* "Alright, we can have it in three weeks."

"Okay." Aroma smiled and pointed at some catalogues at the table. "There sure is a lot to an Earth ceremony. The dress, the flowers...do you want to help?"

"Me? Nah, have fun." Devin grinned. "Get whatever you think you need. I'm going upstairs for just a bit. It was a harder day today."

"Okay then." Aroma started to look at the catalogues. Where in the world was she supposed to start? She didn't know everything about an Earth ceremony. What was essential? What wasn't. *Oh...maybe the maid would know?*

Devin stretched and woke up two hours later. Training was much harder than being a secretary. He strolled down the stairs and smiled at Aroma. "That's better. How've you been?"

"Busy." Aroma frowned. "But the maid's been helping me a lot." She yawned. "I wish you would have helped instead."

"Earth marriage is traditionally something females take care of." Devin smiled.

Aroma strolled over and started to hand him some cards. "Here's the basics."

Devin pretended to study the cards. Plotz was picking up the bill, all he needed to do was show up for the ceremony. There wasn't much need for him to worry about the stuff. "Looks fine."

"So you agree with all that?" Aroma asked. "Are you sure?"

"Looks fine and dandy." Devin replied as he handed everything back.

"Alright then. I'll contact everyone and tell them to book their flight in five weeks." Aroma replied.

"Five weeks?!" Devin whined. "What?"

Aroma raised her eyebrow. "You did look at the cards, right? It'll take two weeks for a cake, four weeks for the dress, and a band can't schedule us in for about five weeks."

"Oh...yeah, I looked." Devin lied. "I thought it was longer." *Another two weeks?*

"Are you sure there's nothing you want to change?" Aroma asked. "Really, I don't know the Earth tradition. I've only gotten help from the maid and Dot."

"Dot?" Devin looked down at the phone. Oh great, he'd been so worn out he forgot to hide it last night! He plastered on a fake smile. "Right, Dot. Could I see that phone for a minute?"

At the tower...

"And I'd probably date him although he'd have to shave off-"

RING! RING!

Dot answered her phone cheerily as she put her magazines down. "Hi!"

Dot Warner! You're not helping you know!

Dot just smiled. "Big brother? How are you doing?"

Dot! The three weeks just went to five weeks!

"So?" Dot frowned. "You know, you're gonna stab her in the back after everything anyhow. Shouldn't new sis have a nice wedding? It's the least you could do."

What about Gyro?

"He's buying everything we tell him." Dot replied. "Aroma's out with her brother on vacation. Unless Zenny shows up we're in the clear. Another three weeks shouldn't be that hard."

Fine, but don't let her get any further away! Please?

"Fine, fine." Dot mumbled. "But here's a clue. Set a permanent date."

Good idea. Alright, talk to you later

Dot hung up the phone and went back to her magazines. "Now he'd be okay, but that outfit doesn't suit him..."

Two weeks later...

RING! RING! "Ditterbee." Devin said on reflex.

"Well Devin, it's been a whole month. Are you enjoying yourself still?"

"Great." Devin was busy looking at some papers. "I don't have long, Plotz, I've gotta get these papers filled out and meet with some important people so let's speed this up."

Sounding like a true New Yorker! Excitement was heard in Plotz' voice. *So? Are you going to stay for longer?*

"I'm in the process of getting married right now. I need an extra month to decide." Devin looked at his watch. "I've run out of time Plotz, if you wanna call again pin something in with the secretary who transfers the calls."

Sounds wonderful Mr. Ditterbee! Alright, take that extra month to decide, no rush! No rush!

Devin hung up the phone and started to pick up his papers to head out.

At Devin's home...

"Rita? Have you seen my ball?" Runt frowned. "I haven't seen it all day."

"That's because we've been alone all day." Rita frowned. "Mr. Ditterbee took out the soon-to-be Mrs. Ditterbee."

"Yeah but they're home now! Do you think they wanna play catch?!" Runt asked as he jumped up and down.

"Naw Runt. They are both busy." Rita growled. "Again."

"Oh." Runt put his ear up to Aroma's door. "They're wrestling again?"

"Close enough." Rita sighed. "Come on, Runt, I'll help you find your ball."

The tower...

Dot smiled as she answered the tower door. "Hi Gyro!"

Gyro didn't look very pleased. "Aroma's still on vacation with Zenny?"

"Sure." Dot smiled innocently.

"And Yakko Warner is still on his own vacation?" Gyro growled.

Dot shrugged her shoulders. "He must be enjoying himself." She didn't really worry about Gyro being suspicious. What could he do? He didn't know where anyone was.

Gyro just glared at her. He wasn't buying the excuses anymore. "Confess! He's trying something with Aroma!"

Dot just continued to smile at him. She shrugged her shoulders.

Gyro started to stomp off. *I knew it. I knew it! This is taking too long and Yakko Warner is still gone himself?! What is he doing? What is he planning?!* He growled. Well, he wasn't going to get away with it.

One way or another, he'd find them.

Manipulation

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The Bet

Chapter Nineteen: Manipulation

Author's Note://///stuff in here is from the past chapters/////

"~This is of course song like always between this~"

Note: With this particular song it works better if you just listen to it playing in the background. The song is With or Without You by U2.

One day before the wedding...

Not again. Devin started to look through his papers. There was always so much work to try and keep up with.

"My, my, my! I tell ya now This is a sight! Yakko Junior doing actual work?"

"..." Devin froze as he heard the familiar sounds. "...oh no." He looked up and saw...

Two goofy grinning warners. Not just any warners either.

It was his parents.

"Why so shocked, Yakk?" His father Yakko Sr. joked. "I mean really you're getting married, how could we not be here?"

"Ohh..." Devin whined. "How did you find out?"

"How would we not find out?" His mother Honesty frowned. "You're marrying the next door neighbor for crying out loud."

"Yeah." Yakko Sr. laughed. "Devin."

"Oh great. Dot and Wakko told you." Devin rolled his eyes. "This really isn't something you need to be involved in though. It's more for security than love."

"Eh, when is it not?" Yakko Sr. smiled before he got hit upside his head. "Ow! I mean, of course love should come first."

Honesty chuckled as she watched her husband rub his head. "Yakko Jr., I can't believe you're actually getting married! Even if it is a bit of a con, it still counts. And a grandbaby?! Oh I can't wait to see Aroma!"

"Wait, wait, hang on!" Devin whined. "You guys, she doesn't think she's marrying me! You can't just go over there, she knows you!"

"Well pardon us Mr. Deducer." Yakko Sr. frowned. "I suppose we wouldn't be any good. Oh yes except that we've already seen her family while we all traveled." He pointed at his clothes. "You're not the only one who can pretend you know."

"Yeah. I'm surprised you noticed it was us." Honesty remarked.

"Well dad yelling out Yakko was a pretty dead giveaway." Devin replied. "I can't believe you showed up."

"Well I can't believe you got yourself into this situation." Honesty growled. "Really Yakko Junior! Knocking up the next door neighbor while pretending to be someone else?"

"Mom, turn the volume down!" Devin begged. "Yeah okay. It's not the best situation."

"Not the best?" Yakko Sr. rolled his eyes. "Honesty sweetie? Why don't you look around the place for a bit?"

Oh Devin knew this was coming. "Just don't destroy anything too much."

"We'll see." Honesty smiled as she left the room.

"Alright. Yakko." Yakko Sr. looked over at his son. "I think it's time we have a little father/son talk about what's going on here."

Devin groaned. "I know, I know! Trust me, this is the last thing I want to do! I don't want to hurt her anymore. I just never thought this would happen."

"And you think she'll be so mad at you she won't even let you see it." His dad said knowingly. "I get it, it's not real hard to miss. Your situation is...unique."

Devin looked at the pencil on the desk. "I just didn't see any other way."

"So you're going to marry her, then tell her you're actually Yakko Warner, and then expect a happily ever after?" His dad frowned.

"No dad. I'm not that dumb." Devin frowned. "I know she'll hate me but what else can I do?"

"Hmm...let's see." His dad started to drum his fingers on the desk. "You could try...oh I don't know, telling her the truth?"

"Not you too." Devin whined. "It's not that easy! She has all the power and even if...if uuhhh..."

"Fatherhood is a concept you don't quite understand, it's something you don't want taken away?" Yakko Sr. replied. "Yeah I know. I get it Junior, I get it."

Devin just went back to looking at his papers. "There's nothing I can do."

"Well...you could always stay Devin forever?" Yakko Sr. laughed. "I mean you've got all the angles covered." He waved it off. "I'm kidding. Well kid...nobody could hammer you in any further than you're already nailed."

"Thanks." Devin replied sarcastically.

"If I were you though, I think I would have tried something else." Yakko Sr. smiled. "Like getting her to sign a tricky contract concerning the father?" he grinned.

Devin just frowned. "Yeah, right. She has absolute power, even contracts don't matter anymore."

"Sure they don't. You would think that concerning how long you haven't bothered visiting home." Yakko Sr. frowned. "Maybe if you had you would have known about our new law change." He spun around in his chair. "Might have saved you a bit of aggravation."

"Law change?" Devin raised an eyebrow. "You mean I do have some rights now?!"

"Yeah, after the prince had his little shall we say..." Yakko Sr. winked. "...accident with a commoner the king thought it best to finally change the books. I mean even as king he had no say as it stood."

"..."

"Trick her into a contract and you are set." Yakko Sr. grinned.

Devin whined. "Really?! Oh no! Why didn't you call earlier and just tell me?!"

"Because you never called home." Yakko Sr. sighed. "You should have called home. You should have talked it out with Wakko or Dot more. Thought it through." He shrugged his shoulders. "Love blinds us all sometimes."

Devin covered his face half in embarrassment and half in shame. "I'm an idiot!"

"No comment." Yakko Sr. chuckled. "It's okay. So? Are we still celebrating a wedding tomorrow or you think maybe it's time to listen to your dad's advice? Personally I think Honesty wants you to marry her but it's your decision."

"She wouldn't be stuck. She might not hate me as bad..." Devin reasoned.

"Yeah but she ain't coming back either." His father warned him.

"She's not coming back no matter what." Devin admitted. "I already know that."

"Not all games are meant to be played." Yakko Sr. replied. "At least you know now." He smiled. "You can remember it the next time a girl comes along!"

"...next time?" Devin frowned. "Huh uh! There'll never be a next time."

"Oh you're just hurt right now because you're gonna lose your girlfriend." His father said knowingly. "You'll be fine. I mean it's not like you were really serious, right?" He smiled. Then, he started to frown. "Right?"

"..." Devin started to play with his pencil on the table.

"Oh no." Yakko Sr. whined. "Yakko Junior! Just how serious did you get?!"

"And uhhh...that's pretty much it." Aroma smiled as she looked back at her family. She had been showing them around the place once they arrived. "Well?"

"Not bad..." Her father Grumpy growled. "...not exactly what I'd call a mansion."

"Now now Mr. Grumpy." Aroma's mother Scented smiled. "He was probably bragging, but this is really very nice."

"I don't care how nice it is." Zenny frowned. "I don't trust the guy." He looked at his sister pleadingly. "He walked out on you. Twice!"

"I know, it was more nerves than anything. I've told you that Zenny." Aroma frowned. "You're going to have to deal with it. You will be his brother in law."

"I understand." Scented smiled. "He was just scared of commitment. Some guys are like that but I'm glad he snapped out of it." She looked around the room and spotted Rita and Runt. "Oh how cute! Look at the cute little Earthling pets!"

Rita and Runt just looked at each other as Scented came over and picked...

Runt up?

"Oh he's so fluffy and big!" Scented said as she swung him around. "What's his name?!"

"Runt." Aroma smiled, happy that at least her mother seemed to be okay with everything.

"Runt? What a neat name. Hi Runty!" Scented set him back down and grabbed Rita. "And isn't she adorable too! Hi there, I'm Scented!"

"She's Rita." Aroma informed her. "They're Devin's pets."

"Oh, see? He must be a good guy to have such nice pets." Scented smiled as she rubbed noses against Rita's then set her back down. "So when does your future hub come home?"

"Boingy! Boingy! Oh look at this! What is this?" Yakko Sr. asked as he rode in the back of the car.

Devin looked back. "That's the car handle dad!"

"Oops." Yakko Sr. tossed it behind him. "Well it looked different than what I've seen." he chuckled. "Loosen up Junior! I swear, that job has taken a lot of your funny away."

"Well at least he had a serious job for a little while." Honesty remarked. "What about the jobs you've done in the past?"

"Food got on the table. What did it matter?" Yakko Sr. argued. "Are we there yet?"

"Almost." Devin kept watching the road carefully. It wasn't really the job that was making it difficult to laugh right now.

It was the fact he knew he had to break Aroma's heart fairly soon. One more last manipulation.

As he turned into the driveway, Devin whined softly as he saw Zenny coming toward him. *Great. I knew they'd already be here.* "Hey...Zenny was it?"

Zenny strolled over to the car not looking too ecstatic. "I swear, if you do anything to hurt Aroma there is no way you're leaving this house without going to a hospital," he growled.

"Well, that puts a damper on your plans." Yakko Sr. grinned.

"Dad?!" Devin looked back at his dad then back at Zenny's. "H-he's kidding! He's a kidder!"

Zenny just looked at him suspiciously and then stopped leaning on the car. "Everyone's waiting inside."

Yakko Sr. just smiled. "Ah little Zenny hasn't changed much has he, Junior?"

Devin just got out of the car. "So what did you guys call yourselves?"

"Yonesty and Hakko." Honesty smiled. "We thought it'd make a good cover."

Devin just gave them a blank look.

"Dee Dee and Devin Sr. Geez." Yakko Sr. looked at his son. "So uptight boy. You'd think you'd never broken and manipulated an innocent young woman's heart before."

"Thanks dad. Just rub it in," Devin growled. "How am I gonna do this now?"

"Well we'll sleep upstairs and everyone else can sleep downstairs." Honesty smiled. "I'm sure there's plenty of room. Afterwards we'll get up, eat breakfast and start the ceremony!"

"Mom." Devin sighed. "I already talked to dad. I'm not marrying her."

Honesty humphed. "Well you know you're gonna hurt her either way so why not just marry her?"

"Honesty? Honestly." Yakko Sr. sighed.

Honesty whined slightly. "...still no daughter in laws. Or son in laws. I swear, my family is never going to expand."

Devin just ignored his mom as he headed to the house. *First thing first. Telling Aroma? Maybe I should distract Zenny first, he might not be too happy after he finds out the truth.*

In Burbank at the water tower...

Wakko stood outside the tower and sighed. Things just weren't the same with Yakko missing. "He should have been back by now."

"Just a day or two." Dot insisted. "He'll be back before you know it. Besides! We'll be seeing him soon at the wedding!"

"Yeah, but we haven't seen Mr. Stalker for awhile." Wakko frowned. He pointed in the direction Gyro always came from. "If he's gone, maybe we should go visit his place before we go?"

"Ooh, great idea!" Dot grinned. "Snooping is always fun. Maybe we'll find something really embarrassing he'd never want Aroma to know. Those are always fun to find."

The two came down from the tower and started to head to Gyro's apartment. They'd seen him come back and forth from it a thousand times before.

Inside...

Dot and Wakko looked all around the room. The guy was definitely strange.

"Look at this." Wakko held up multiple tapes. "AD-1st. Ad-2nd. AD-3rd?"

Dot grabbed one and put it in the old vcr on the tv set.

"Huh?!" Dot watched as Yakko and Aroma appeared. "This is the first date?"

"Fifth. Sixth. Seventh. They're all here." Wakko frowned. "He wasn't just on the dates, he recorded them?"

"This guy creeps me out." Dot frowned as she pulled out the tape. "Huh. Think he's a tad obsessed?"

It didn't take long to look around the room and find something else even more intriguing.

His journal.

"Oh, I bet there's some scary stuff in here." Dot said as she wiggled it.

"Yeah, like Halloween spooky." Wakko replied as he tried to reach for it. "Me first!"

"You first? I found the eerie thing!" Dot whined as she held it in her hand. "Me first, me first!" She opened up to a random page. "My Aroma seems to be snapping out of her sad state. I had to head over to see her. Aroma was so heartbroken when she found out Yakko was Devin, she wanted to make him pay severely. With my help, she'd convince him she was pregnant. Then she'd trick him into thinking..." "..."

"Dot?" Wakko frowned. "What's wrong?"

Dot started to read several more pages. "...no way. This is...she wouldn't!"

"What?" Wakko took the journal and started to look himself. "What?!"

"She knew. She never stopped believing! She manipulated me even?!" Dot said in disgust. "Even now she's trying to trap Yakko into being Devin! The house, the money, the job!"

"So what do you mean?" Wakko whined.

Dot growled and glared at the journal. "He knows where Yakko is. According to this, Aroma's been faking it with him! After Yakko pays for everything and everyone comes for the wedding...sh-she's leaving."

"That...that can't be." Wakko frowned. "I mean, she wouldn't go that far for revenge. Right?"

Dot looked at the journal. "Everything makes sense though. He's even got how he tricked the test for her the second time around." She whined softly. "She's gonna marry Gyro after this is all over."

Wakko took the journal and looked at it. "This can't be happening. Yakko's gonna be..."

Hurt.

Back to New York....

RING! RING!

"Ditterbee." Devin greeted as he picked up his phone.

Yakko...I've got some bad news.

"Dot?" Devin frowned. "What's wrong?"

It's about Aroma big brother. She's...

"She's what?" Devin frowned. "Dot?"

She's just getting even with you!

"I don't understand." Devin scratched his head. He noticed Aroma in the corner talking to his parents.

She knows you're Devin, Yakko! She never stopped believing! What's worse...you're not gonna be a daddy.

"What...what?!" Devin just shook his head.

I know it doesn't sound possible, but it's true! We went to Gyro's and he's got everything written in the journal! Not only that, he was there at the party where you two got frisky. He's been planning everything with her!

"No way." Devin shook his head and started to whisper harshly. "No way, not possible Dot! You just, you don't get it. I'm manipulating her, it's not the other way around."

She's leaving for Anima on your wedding day to marry Gyro. I'm sorry Yakko...

"Well...it's not true." Devin frowned. "Okay? I can't believe it!"

Reservations for the time and place are set for them. Me and Wakko checked it out...it's legit Yakko.

"..." Devin didn't know what else to say. He noticed Aroma smiling at him. "This isn't right. Something's not right."

Yakko? Me and Dot did check it out. We checked out everything. In fact, Gyro's not even here anymore. He's probably waiting on Anima for her.

Devin gripped the phone tighter as he heard Wakko talking. "No lie?" He asked softly, his voice slightly squeaking.

No lie. She wanted to get you back, we knew that. We just didn't know how far she'd go.

"...that can't be..." Devin watched as Aroma was laughing at something his parents said. "You don't get it. I mean we've...she wouldn't after everything."

He watched as Aroma started to come over with his parents.

Come back home Yakko! You don't even have to talk to her, I'll do it for you.

"Dot." Devin started to feel sick to his stomach.

Just come home. There's no need to play Devin anymore, Yakko. It's over.

Devin just stared at the phone for a little while after he hung up. They'd gone passed jokes and kisses. They'd gone passed a lot.

It was the reason everything was gonna be so hard when he told her. But...she knew? She never stopped believing? There wasn't a baby, there was nothing? That just couldn't be true!

"Devin?"

Devin turned around and saw Aroma. "..."

"Are you okay?" Aroma asked sadly. "You don't look very good."

"Well, maybe he has something on his mind." Devin's father looked over at his son. "Well son? Isn't there something you want to tell her?"

...lying. Could Aroma really be lying? Devin thought. "Did you get yourself checked out here yet?"

"Devin?" Aroma looked at him strangely. "What do you mean?"

All a game. It was nothing but a game? She didn't care, she didn't care at all! Everything that had happened was nothing but a huge game! "...hospital." Devin finally responded. "You are far enough along. Did you ever go to a hospital yet?"

Devin's father just gave him a confused look.

Devin didn't bother looking back at him. "...did you?"

Aroma just frowned. Just goes to show how concerned he really was. "I've already told you but I guess you weren't listening. Duh, of course I went! Everything is fine."

"Well what did they do? Did they just measure your tummy or something?" Devin frowned. "Or do another test?"

Did they measure my tummy? Blood tests? Aroma glared at him. *He doesn't remember anything I said?! Oh of course not, I mean why would he? He was probably thinking about his dumb job at the time!* "They did more than measure. My freaking. Tummy."

Honesty frowned at Devin too. "You didn't pay any attention on the first visit? You didn't even try and go?"

Devin just stared at Aroma. *Angry. Definitely angry. So she really is faking it...*

"Okay, let's not lose track of what's important here." Yakko Sr. smiled at his son. "Don't you have something to tell Aroma?"

Aroma looked over at Devin, still a bit miffed. "Well what is it?"

Devin frowned. "Nothing." He sighed. "Nothing at all. Everything's fine, tomorrow we'll have the perfect wedding."

Devin's parents both looked at him questioningly.

Devin ignored their looks. "...the perfect wedding."

The next morning...

Devin got out of his bed slowly. She thought she'd win? It was a cruel game, the cruelest she could have ever played. Well...

it didn't matter who won or lost anymore. It didn't matter if he made her confess, it didn't matter if he dumped her at the wedding. The only thing he wanted was out.

He strolled out of his room making sure no one else was up.

Well, no wonder was. He saw Rita cleaning herself as he started to pass by.

"Kind of early for a day off." Rita remarked. "Where are you going?"

"..." Devin didn't say a word as he laid a piece of paper on the table and continued walking off.

Rita jumped on the table and looked at the paper. "You won? What's that mean?" She looked back down the hall but Devin was now out of sight.

Out on the road, going nowhere...

Yakko didn't know what to do as he listened to the radio and watched the road in front of him. Should he face her? Ah, he couldn't even face her right now...

"~See the stone set in your eyes See the thorn twist in your side I wait for you~"

//////////Swinging his cane, he just smiled in spite of himself as he started to head up the tower. He politely knocked on the door with his cane as he fixed his top hat. He leaned against his cane, trying to look as debonair as he possibly could when she opened the door. As he saw Aroma though, his debonair went a little off as he started to lean too far on his cane and tumbled. Aroma just chuckled. She had worn a red strapless sequined dress. Something she wouldn't have worn if the Warner Brothers had stayed. "Are you alright? Devin?" ////////////

"~Sleight of hand and twist of fate On a bed of nails she makes me wait And I wait without you With or without you With or without you~"

Would he yell at her? Say he was mad? For once, that just didn't seem like enough.

//////////Devin's smile was starting to grow wider. 'Yes, finally! Yakko, you are on your way!' Aroma took a deep breath and looked at Devin one more time in the eyes. Then, she kissed

him. Devin's eyebrow raised slightly. It had just been a tiny kiss on the lips? That was it? Nuh uh.//////////

"~Through the storm we reach the shore You give it all but I want more And I'm waiting for you With or without you With or without you I can't live With or without you~"

//////////Why was he feeling so confused? Everything felt so right at times even though he knew it was so wrong! He tossed and turned, trying to get it out of his mind. The way she laughed, the way she smiled, the way she joked, the way she kissed, the way she did everything. He just couldn't stop thinking about it. 'What the heck is wrong with me?! I NEED to drive her away! Why can't I just drive her away?' He whined as he finally got up. He just couldn't sleep.//////////

"~And you give yourself away And you give yourself away And you give And you give And you give yourself away~"

//////// "Why should I care?" Yakko frowned as he crossed his arms. "Her beloved 'Devin' was perfect in every way but me? Oh ho, what would she want with a perverted has-been actor huh? The so called 'Brother of Dot'?" He uncrossed his arms. "Nothing but to beat me at my own game. So fine! Winner take all!" //////////

"~My hands are tied My body bruised, she's got me with Nothing to win and Nothing left to lose~"

'...why didn't I just listen to Wakko?' Yakko growled at himself. 'I just let myself get deeper and deeper.'

"~And you give yourself away And you give yourself away And you give And you give And you give yourself away"

With or without you With or without you I can't live With or without you~"

////////////////////"We should invite Dot and the others though." Aroma smiled. "I can't have Dot not be here at the wedding." "You bet." Devin smiled. "A lovely ceremony with friends and family and we'll be official at the end of the month." "The end of the month?" Aroma asked. "That soon?" "Why wait? I've already started to arrange the basics." Devin grinned. "That's not too fast right?" "Well...it's a bit fast." Aroma chuckled. "But I don't have a problem with it! I love you so much Devin." "I know." Devin said smugly as he started to kiss her again...
////////////////////

Idiot. Idiot. Idiot! Why would she have ever wanted me anyhow? Devin sighed pitifully. I'm no rich guy. I'm no charmer. I'm nothing to her. That was what mattered. She wanted it all, not me. Not me!

"~With or without you With or without you I can't live With or without you~"

“Fine! If she wanted to go that far to win, than let her!”

"~With or without you~"

“Let her win...” Yakko just stared ahead at the road.

Figuring Out The Truth

Disclaimer: I do not own Animaniacs. Yakko, Wakko and Dot and all of the other characters belong to their own respective owners. I only created Tiger and Caress and some other original characters. I claim no rights to any of this. This was made purely for entertainment. No profit is made off of this. I have no rights to Burger King either.

The Bet

Chapter Twenty: Figuring out the Truth

"There's my sleeping beauty. Ready for the big day?"

Aroma slowly started to open her eyes and saw Devin. "Morning." she smiled.

"And what a lovely morning it is." Devin grinned at her strangely as he presented her some flowers. "For my lovely bride to be."

"Flowers?" Aroma chuckled. What a sweet gesture. "That's sweet Devin but what about the rule about seeing the bride before the wedding?"

"Rule?" Devin looked at her strangely. "Oh right, a rule. Oh, well rules are made to be broken." He smiled. "Sorry, I just can't concentrate. That looks really good on you."

Aroma looked down at her nightwear. "Well sure it does, you bought them for me a week ago."

"...of course. Because they look lovely on you." Devin smiled strangely. "So...darling? What do you say to starting this wedding soon?"

"Devin." Aroma laughed at him. "It's 8:30 in the morning."

Devin shrugged. "The sooner the better."

"Well we can't start without everyone and the band and the priest guy." Aroma reminded him. "You're acting really goofy." she chuckled. "Yesterday you were acting so strange, like maybe you weren't ready for this."

"Oh I'm ready. I've been ready!" Devin announced boldly. "Aroma you have NO clue how long I've been ready to marry you."

"That long?" Aroma looked at him a bit confused. "But, well we haven't known each other THAT long. I mean, this is really rushing things as it is."

"Time makes no difference to me." Devin smiled. "As long as you finally end up with me. A day, a week, a year, it doesn't matter."

Really extra sweet? "Well thanks." Aroma smiled. *He just seems a bit off though.* "I guess I could start getting up at least." she yawned. "Did you feed Rita or Runt yet?"

"..."

"Devin?" Aroma asked. "Did you feed your pets?"

"Oh! No. Not yet." Devin smiled. "I'll get right on that dear." He looked her up and down again one more time before getting off the bed. "I'll get right on that."

Aroma tilted her head and looked at him strangely as he started to take off. *What is wrong with him? He's definitely not himself. Is he alright?*

Rita watched as Devin started to come from Aroma's room. "When did you come back?"

"Huh?" Devin just looked at the cat. "Oh the cat. Now where is that kitchen?"

"Where it's always been." Rita looked at him suspiciously. There was something not right about him today. Not early that morning and not now. "What's going on? Why did you leave that letter for Aroma this morning?"

"Letter?" Devin started to look around anxiously. "I left a letter?"

Rita just gave him a blank look. What was his problem?

Devin looked over at a table and saw a piece of paper. He quickly picked it up. "You won." He smiled and tucked it away. "Oh that, that was nothing. Just a game."

Rita just wiggled her tail suspiciously as she watched him walk off. *Just a game? What kind of game?*

"Devin!"

Devin turned around and saw his father walking toward him. "Yeah?"

"Mind telling me when exactly you'll stop this charade?" Devin's father frowned. "Geez, it's the wedding day already! You were supposed to tell her yesterday."

"Tell her? Oh..." Devin looked around. *Ah I just knew he would know.* "Oh...that."

"Yeah that." his father frowned. "Duh! What's wrong with you?"

"Just haven't had my morning drink yet." Devin smiled. "I'll talk to you later."

Talk to me later? his father frowned. *What the heck is wrong with him now?*

Finally reaching the kitchen...

Devin looked around the bottom cupboards until he found the dog and cat food stored away. "Bingo. One problem solved." *Yakko's parents though? They aren't gonna be easy to deal with if they knew! AND he was going to confess?! What an idiot.*

Clearly he couldn't go through the marriage like nothing was wrong now. *Everything's set up all nice and neat but I can't just get rid of his parents and have the wedding. Darn! On to plan B.*

At the New York Airport...

"Right now, a flight out there won't be for at least another three hours." The flight attendant replied.

"Three hours." Yakko grumbled. "That's just great! So what am I supposed to do?"

"I'm afraid you'll have to wait sir." The flight attendant smiled cheerfully.

Wait? He just wanted to go home! "Great, another three hours..." Yakko whined. "Maybe I should let my parents know what happened?"

Then again, his dad almost got him in trouble with Zenny and did damage his car...

Not right now. They'll figure it out. I don't want to head back there again. Yakko rolled his eyes. *Dot can let them know.* He sat down in a waiting chair. All he wanted to do was go back to Burbank where life was normal again. Where he was Yakko Warner. Where he jumped and hollered at women without a care in the world. No kid. No girlfriend. No fiancée. No job. No responsibility.

No more faking.

BEEP!BEEP!BEEP! Yakko Sr. looked over at his laptop. *Did Yakko tell Wakko and Dot not to come? Yeah, he better answer that.*

Yakko: Hi!

Dot: You don't need to stay. Yakko's not there anymore, he's heading home.

Yakko Sr. scratched his head. "That's weird. What does she mean?"

Yakko: What do ya mean? Your brothers right here.

Dot: No he's not. He's at the airport, heading back to the tower soon.

"Uuuhhh..." Yakko Sr. nudged his wife who was sitting beside him. "Honey? Do you get what she's saying?"

Devin glanced over at the two confused warners. *Well I gotta move a little faster than I thought. Let's hope this plan works.* "Mom? Dad? Can I talk to you in the kitchen? It's really

important."

Yakko Sr. shrugged his shoulders. He began typing again.

Yakko: I don't quite get what your saying. I've got to go talk to your brother in the kitchen now. 'Devin' is having trouble quitting this con still.

Dot: WHAT?

Yakko Sr. and Honesty followed their son into the kitchen.

Airport in New York...

RING!RING! "What." Yakko answered gruffly.

Yakko? I thought you were at the airport.

"I am at the airport." Yakko frowned. "What is it?"

But...but I just-! You're not at the airport, you're still at your place!

"What are you talking about?" Yakko frowned. "That doesn't make sense."

But I just talked to dad! He said you were there and you wanted to see him in the kitchen!

"What?" Yakko shook his head. "You've gotta be confused, Dot."

I don't know. I'm going to try talking to him when he comes back but I'm sure I got it right.

"That I'm there but I'm not?" Yakko frowned.

I don't know! Maybe you should head back? Not as Devin, just to see what's going on?

"Head back. I don't wanna head back, I just wanna get out of here." Yakko grumbled.

Don't even talk to anyone if you don't want! But something isn't right. Dad said you were having trouble ending your con.

"...and he went to talk to me in the kitchen?" Yakko looked around himself. He still had awhile before anything opened up. "Fine. I'll check it out real quick."

Back at Devin's house...

"Aroma my sweet?" Devin smiled as he strolled over to her. "We really need to talk about something. I'm afraid it really can't wait."

"Okay." Aroma nodded. She followed him outside. "What is it?"

"Well...I-I can't..." Devin sighed. "I can't do this anymore."

"Do what?" Aroma asked.

"This." He pointed out in the backyard. "I'm sorry, nothing's going to work out how we thought. I couldn't...I really couldn't afford it."

Aroma just looked at him strangely. "What do you mean?"

"They all cancelled. The checks all bounced." Devin said sadly. "Truth is, I've barely kept up with the minimum house payments. I...I lost my high paying job some time ago. I've been demoted really low."

"Really?" Aroma looked at him full of sadness. "Oh Devin, I'm sorry." She shook her head. "Don't worry about it."

"I can't give you the life you wanted though." Devin continued. "Do you still want to go live on Anima?"

Aroma smiled. "Of course. It's fine, I wish you just would have told me sooner. Is that why you've been acting so strange since yesterday?"

"Probably." Devin sighed. "I couldn't even keep the expensive priest. I'm sorry, I really want to marry you but well..."

"Well?" Aroma asked sadly.

"...unless you're willing to make a couple sacrifices I don't think I can." Devin replied. He brought out a few tickets. "I've only got five, that's all I could do."

Aroma looked at the tickets. "Las Vegas?"

Devin looked at the ground pitifully. "That's all I can do. I'm sorry. The house, the job, everything...I can't give you what you expected."

"Devin..." Aroma hugged him gently. "It's alright if you lost your job or we don't have a big wedding. That doesn't really matter in the end."

"But you'll still marry me?" Devin asked gently. "Even if it's not what you wanted?"

Aroma just smiled and laughed. "All I want is to be with you. I don't need a fancy house or money or anything like that. Even if we have to start from scratch. I just love you for you."

Devin grinned from ear to ear. "I'm happy to hear that."

"So five tickets?" Aroma looked at the tickets.

"I already talked to my parents this morning." Devin replied. "They said they understood." He waved the tickets. "These are for your family. I know they couldn't bear to miss your wedding."

"Not really." Aroma looked at Devin sadly. "But your parents wanted to be there."

"Don't worry! They are planning a whole celebration with us afterwards when we head back home." Devin grinned. "Everything will work out just fine." Devin just smiled at her obsessively. "As long as I have you that's all that matters."

"..." Aroma tried to smile. That look was a bit eerie. "Uhh...okay. What time do we leave?"

Yakko pulled up to house. Considering all the warners that should be inside, it sounded pretty quiet. "...?"

Too quiet. He opened the door and looked around.

Way too quiet. "Hello?"

"What are you doing back?"

Yakko looked down at a confused Rita. "Have you seen 'Devin's' dad?"

"You said he headed back to Anima." Rita replied. "Why are you back as Yakko? Where's the others?"

"Where's the huh?" Yakko frowned. "What others?"

"Aroma and fam!" Runt said as he came bounding up to Yakko with his ball. "Can we play now? Can we? We haven't played all morning!"

"He's getting married, Runt, he hasn't had time." Rita scolded him.

Yakko just looked strangely from Rita to Runt. "...would either of you explain what you're talking about? I haven't been here!"

"Uhh...yeah you were." Rita said confused. "You got up all chipper, talked to everyone for a bit and then you left with everybody else."

"I didn't wake up chipper." Yakko frowned. "And I haven't been Devin all morning!"

"...okay, I don't get it." Runt replied.

"Well there's a new one." Yakko replied sarcastically.

"He's not the only one." Rita frowned. "You have been Devin. You were Devin all morning while you were here! You fed us, spent time with Aroma and left with her family."

"...what?" Yakko whined in frustration. "I haven't been here!"

"Well...then who has?" Runt asked in confusion.

"..." Yakko growled. "So I left with her family? Then where's mine?"

In the wine closet beneath the kitchen...

"Mom?! Dad?! Are you still here?!"

Yakko Sr. started to come to as he heard his son's voice. "...ow." He touched his head. "Yakko Junior!"

Yakko quickly opened the door to the wine closet.

And got punched. "OW!"

"Serves you right!" Yakko Sr. crossed his arms angrily. "What the heck?! Why'd you knock us out for?!"

"Oh, my poor head hurts." Honesty whined. "How could you do that to your mommy? I gave you life!"

"It wasn't me!" Yakko protested as he helped his parents out. "It was someone else pretending to be Devin."

"And who would pretend to be Devin?" Honesty asked not completely believing the wild suggestion.

"I don't know." Yakko frowned. "But I don't like it."

"You don't like it? You weren't the one who got walloped!" Yakko Sr. whined. "And if that wasn't you where have you been?!"

"Airport." Yakko frowned.

"Oh no." Yakko Sr. groaned. "Don't tell me. You were just gonna run away instead of telling her the truth?"

"She already knows the truth." Yakko frowned. "That Gyro Warner wrote it all in his journal how they've been manipulating me!"

"Manipulating you?" Honesty humphed. "Well see, she was perfect for you."

"Uuuhhh..." Yakko Sr. looked at his son. "They were manipulating you?"

"Yeah. Wakko and Dot found proof." Yakko added softly.

"Okay..." Yakko Sr. scratched his head. "So if she was, why would she hire someone else to play you, but knock us out and leave us behind?"

"..." Yakko looked puzzled.

"Uuhhh huh." Honesty sighed. "Goodness Yakko, it's pretty obvious here honey. Your both being manipulated."

Yakko blinked. "They found it in Gyro's journal. He's missing in Burbank."

"And let me guess?" Yakko Sr. added. "Your brother and sister just discovered everything very recently, informed you and being very upset you didn't say a word and just took off?"

"Why...h-he knew? He knew?!" Yakko growled. "He was the only one who knew I was really Devin?" He smacked his fist in his palm. "A-and he must have remembered Ipso Defacto!"

Only a short spying time from there and he would've known everything he needed to know.

"Well, another mystery solved." Yakko Sr. smiled. "So Mr. Smarty Pants. Now what?"

"..." Yakko looked back down at Rita and Runt. "Where'd they go to?"

Rita groaned. "Las Vegas."

"Las what?" Yakko blinked. "No, no, no." He said unconvinced. "Why there?"

"You told everyone you lost your job and couldn't afford anything." Rita explained. "You had five tickets and then took off with her and her family."

"Really? Forgetting all about us, how rude!" Honesty complained.

"No, smart." Yakko Sr. frowned. "He knew we already knew the truth and we weren't gonna let everything go off without a hitch."

"So even though everything was ready, he couldn't have it here." Yakko growled.

"Oh, but isn't it kind of sweet?" Honesty smiled. "Even as a broke fool she still wanted to be with you."

"Yeah no kidding. Way to go son!" Yakko Sr. patted Yakko on the back. "Uh? Oh wait. I forgot someone else is marrying her. Nevermind."

Yakko just stood there with a blank expression on his face.

"So now what?" Honesty asked him. "Are you just going to let her marry Devin? You can't just let anyone raise my grandchild."

"Now, now Honesty. Think it through." Yakko Sr. sighed. "Most likely, there's really no baby. This other guy's just been manipulating her like Yakko has."

"Oh. So really the only one who's about to be hurt is poor Aroma?" Honesty groaned. "I was so close to being a grandma! Are you sure?"

"Well I don't really know." Yakko Sr. replied. "What do you think...Junior?"

Yakko was long gone.

"Are you kidding?! Seven hours?!" Yakko hung up his phone as he pressed his foot harder on the pedal. *How am I gonna make it in time? How do I even know which airport they took?!*

From New York to Las Vegas was going to take some time. How in the world was he supposed to find them? What if they were already up in the air?

"Oh!" Yakko whined as he beat his head on the steering wheel once. "Stupid, stupid, stupid! How could I fall for this?!" He gripped the wheel tighter. *If I had just told her so long ago I was Devin this wouldn't be happening!*

He pressed his foot on the gas harder. *If only I hadn't assumed it was all true. I-If I'd only talked to dad earlier and had a contract ironed out! If only...* "If only I talked it out." Yakko picked up the phone again and dialed Dot.

Hello.

"Dot, I was scammed!" Yakko yelled into the phone. "Aroma didn't know anything, it's all Gyro. And now that guy is pretending to be me!"

Come again?

"Gyro's taken Aroma to Las Vegas for a quickie wedding." Yakko whined. "As Devin! I-I don't know what to do right now!"

So Aroma didn't know anything? That sucks. Well I mean she was going to get suckered into marrying someone that wasn't-

"Dot!" Yakko scolded her. "I know, I know. This is different though. This guy, I don't know what his plans are or how he'd treat her. What if he's a real whack job?"

Eh heh. I guarantee he's a whack job. So what is it you need? Some flowers sent to her?

"DOT!"

I'm just kidding! Aroma has her laptop right? Or did you hide it again?

"I didn't risk it, I threw it out," Yakko said sadly. "There's no way she has it."

Okay. Her phone is destroyed. I could contact Zenny maybe?

"Sure. He'll kill me but good idea." Yakko agreed. "Why didn't I think of that? Oh yeah, I know because he didn't bring it with him!"

Grumpy! Well...this isn't looking too good.

"Dot." Yakko growled. "Please, give me any suggestions?"

You're far away Yakko but we're not!

Yakko grinned as he heard his brother's voice. "Wakko! So, any ideas?"

We can get there ahead of them and stake it out?

Good luck Dots voice interrupted. *How are we gonna cover an entire airport? And if they get passed us the entire Las Vegas area?*

"Good point." Yakko said sadly. "So now what?"

...we'll catch the soonest flight anyhow Yakko.

That pretty much answered his question. "Don't hassle anyone and get thrown out. This is really really...REALLY-"

I know Yakko. We'll do what we can!

Back at the water tower...

Dot stroked her chin as she hung up the phone. "Shoot. Just us two covering a huge airport."

"And we can't mess up or we'll get thrown out." Wakko added. "Not getting thrown out isn't our specialty."

"Yeah." Dot agreed. "You can say that again."

"Not getting thrown out isn't our specialty." Wakko repeated.

Dot ignored her brother. As if Yakko couldn't have been in a bigger jam! "It's only gonna take us an hour. It's like six or seven hours from New York."

"Yeah but that's the only positive." Wakko frowned. "Do you have extra money for tickets?"

"Maybe." Dot frowned. "We haven't worked for awhile though Wakko. If we burn it on two tickets our money supply will deplete faster."

"Darn." Wakko kicked his foot on the tower. "We don't have much choice though."

"...maybe we do." Dot started to grin at Wakko. "Let's talk to big brother one more time!"

A few minutes later...

"Don't really need this, we have wings." Squit said as he took a Las Vegas ticket.

"You better take that ticket! We'll get a chance to relax and let someone else do the flying!" Sasha scolded him as she looked at her own.

"Tick-ets! Tick-ets!" Wakko yelled as he left the birds. "Tickets to Las Vegas, only a small string attached!"

"Free tickets!" Dot yelled. "Completely free! Just help out for a bit then go, free of charge!"

"Free tickets?!" Skippy ran up to Dot and took one. "What do we have to do?"

"Watch out for any cartoons looking like us." Dot smiled. "That easy! If you see one, just call."

"Las Vegas. I remember the last time I went to Las Vegas." Slappy began.

"Okay, good for you." Dot smiled politely and turned away to continue to yell. "Las Vegas tickets! Come one, come all!"

"Las Vegas?" Minerva came over to Dot and picked one up. "I've already been there several times."

"Yeah but the cartoon that spots the target also gets this." Dot held up a separate ticket. "A week stay in Hawaii."

"Hawaii?!"

"I've never been to Hawaii before."

"Okay, I'm in." Minerva grinned as she grabbed the ticket. "A trip to Hawaii! You must really need to find these cartoons to shell out that kind of money."

"What, us?" Dot just laughed. "No, no. Compliments of Mr. Plotz honey. Now run along and tell your friends!"

Bathroom Stall Moments

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The Bet

Chapter Twenty One: Bathroom Stall Moments

In New York...

Yakko tapped his foot nervously. *Someone's bound to help with all those free tickets but still! What if they sneak past them?* He looked at the ticket he just bought. It would be seven hours from then and he still wasn't even on the plane. He'd just missed the last departure by a few minutes.

That was probably the one Aroma and her family were on.

Yakko grabbed his head in frustration. He was too far away to do any good. *Everything was going so well. Why did life have to get so screwy?* He started thinking backwards. *That fake pregnancy thing. No, me goofing around with the pregnancy thing. No, Aroma embellishing the pregnancy thing. No, Aroma not telling me she knew it was me at the time!*

As much as Yakko wanted to blame it all on her though, he knew that wasn't the reason. *No, it's mine for never telling her who I really was...* He looked glumly around the airport. *It's mine because I made that stupid bet!* he kicked his foot against the ground trying to relieve

some frustration. Frustration usually wasn't a problem for a warner, but this one just took the cake.

Who knew Scratchy was right all along? he frowned as his flight was starting to board. I've gotta find her. This time, I've gotta tell her the truth! No more thinking about the consequences. She'll hate me and there's nothing I can do.' He felt a small pain in his chest. 'There's never been a way to win. This was always a losing game. He took a deep breath. But I can't let her marry someone posing to be Devin! I can't! I should have never left without talking to her! No scratch that, I shouldn't have ever proposed! I shouldn't be here in New York, I shouldn't be living in that house and I shouldn't be doing that job! I should be at home and she should be going back. That's how it should have been! He took his seat angrily. If it wasn't for this lousy bet I'd be running around with Wakko and Dot right now! I'd be at home, living the carefree life! I never would have felt all this...this stuff! Life never would have got complicated.

"Hey, quit it."

"We haven't taken off yet."

"Knock it off silly. We'll be up in the air soon."

"So? I've got my seat belt on."

Yakko listened to the giggling couple in front of him who were half flirting and half making out. *I never would have felt all that stuff...*

Back at the studio two hours later...

"Mr Plotz?"

"Not now I'm busy." Plotz grumbled as he looked over some papers.

"It's important sir." A young kiss up said as he came over to Plotz. "It's about one of your credit cards."

"Yakko Warner is getting married, I told you that." Plotz grumbled. "Ignore it."

"Yes but sir...maybe you should talk with them?"

"Upstart!" Plotz took the phone angrily. "What is it?!" He tapped his fingers as his face started to turn a bright red. A very angry bright red.

On another flight to Las Vegas two hours later...

"Is anything wrong sweetie?" Devin smiled at Aroma who was sitting next to him.

Aroma just smiled back awkwardly. Devin still didn't seem like himself. *He's very eager to get married though. It's in my head, he's fine. A lot has just changed in his life after all.*

Devin just smiled at her a little longer and then looked ahead again. *This couldn't have been easier! I didn't even have to knock out Yakko, he just left without a word! Soon very soon! Aroma will finally be where she belongs. With me.*

"...?" Aroma looked down at her belly. *That doesn't feel very good...*

Another two hours later, now in Las Vegas...

"Everyone's in place. They should be arriving fairly soon." Dot looked at her watch. "What about the pigeons?"

"They found a place too." Wakko answered back as he watched a terminal where cartoons were starting to come in. "There's so many coming in and out." he whined.

"Yeah but with all this extra help, we are bound to find them." Dot smiled. "How hard could it be?"

Slappy and Skippy snuck past her easily as they headed for the front doors.

"Are you sure about this Aunt Slappy?" Skippy frowned.

"The city's calling to me Skip." Slappy grinned. "Eh, who needs a chance at Hawaii?"

An hour later...

"Bada bing! Co, look at this place!" Bobby grinned as he walked around.

"Yeah it's too bad we have to stick around here, huh Pesto?" Squit commented.

"What do you mean by that?" Pesto growled. "Are you saying I'm some kind of glue? That I'm some ooey gooey paste kids will eat in Kindergarten? Is THAT what you're saying?!"

"No, no that ain't it!" Squit held his wings up in defense. "I just said we have to stick around here!"

"We have to stick around here?" Pesto repeated.

"Yeah, yeah!" Squit grinned. "That's all I'm saying!"

"That's it!" Pesto jumped on Squit and started to fight. "Here's your sticky! Here's your glue!"

"AAaahhh hahahahaha!" Bobby started to laugh as he fell over.

"Are you okay?" Scented asked her daughter as she saw Aroma's expression. "You don't look very good."

"Jitters I think." Aroma managed to say. "This is a really big step."

"Not too big, he is the father." Zenny corrected her. "After the stunt he pulled, he needed to make this commitment."

"Zenny." Scented warned him. "Be good. This is a very important day." She stopped briefly as she saw something interesting. "Are those birds fighting and laughing?"

Zenny shrugged his shoulders. "This planet's weird. Let's get going."

Devin, Aroma and her family continued to walk away from the strange sight.

Why did she even come. "Will you leave me alone?" Minerva grumbled at the men gathering around her. Even in an airport she couldn't get away from them.

"One date, just one!" A man insisted as he came closer.

Minerva took her purse and swatted him. But they were all like flies and kept coming back for more.

"Poor girl." Scented commented as she watched a mink try and keep another guy off of her. "I thought this planet was supposed to be safer?"

"Well it better be." Zenny looked over at Devin. "You better not let anyone touch my sister on Anima either."

"You know I won't." Devin nodded. "No one will ever come near her again but me. Promise."

Still in the air...

Yakko kept staring at the phone. No call from Wakko or Dot yet. He tapped his foot impatiently. *They'll find her I'm sure! So what if they haven't called yet? Maybe their flight had problems?*

Still, he kept staring at the phone. They had to find her. She would be long gone by the time he arrived!

Probably long gone as Mrs. Gyro whatever-his-name was. *No, no. No worries. We're the Warner Brothers and sister! We can find her! It can't be that hard.* '

Or was it...

Yakko kept staring at his phone as he felt the plane start to land. *Maybe it's running low?* All the bars were full, but something had to be wrong with it.

He got off the plane and started to head away.

Wakko and Dot saw him coming in their direction. Their expressions weren't very happy.

"Yakko?" Dot tried to smile. "How was the trip?"

"My phone. Tell me you tried to call a-and my phone went down!" Yakko demanded.

Dot and Wakko just looked at each other. Dot just waved the Hawaii ticket sadly.

No one had won it.

"Maybe they caught a later flight?" Wakko tried to grin confidently. "Or it wasn't a nonstop flight?"

"..." Yakko just stared at the ground. They would have arrived by now! "There's no way they are here anymore."

"We tried Yakko." Dot said sadly. "We really really did but by now...?"

"Well I can't just give up!" Yakko yelled. "She can't marry someone because she thinks he's someone else!"

Dot and Wakko kept their mouths shut.

"I know what you're thinking but that was different!" Yakko yelled at them. "What am I doing, I don't have time to argue! I-I've gotta figure out where they went!"

"But Yakko, there'll be so many places!" Dot whined. "Even if we get everyone together the chances are-"

"Then what am I supposed to do?!" Yakko yelled as he stomped his foot. "J-just let him get away with it?!"

"She was going to eventually," Wakko said, trying to make him feel better.

It didn't. "Get out of the way, I've gotta get going!"

Dot sighed. By now, most likely Aroma was already married. Yakko was going to do everything he could though. He wasn't going to face the fact he was probably already too late. She just shook her head knowingly. "Wait up Yakko, we're coming too!"

Near a random casino...

"Ah Skippy! I tell ya I'm on a role!" Slappy chuckled.

"Whatever you say Aunt Slappy." Skippy sighed.

"What? I won 50 bucks!" Slappy complained.

"Yeah then you lost it plus 200." Skippy reminded her. "Then the dynamite and the guard-"

"There are other casino's down this strip." Slappy smiled. "One guard getting hospitalized won't bring me down!"

"But Aunt Slappy!" Skippy tried to get through to her again when he saw something strange. "Huh?" He stopped. "Aunt Slappy?"

"What?" Slappy stopped too and looked at the glass door her nephew was looking at. "Huh. Well I'll be a monkey's uncle." She peered closer into the class. "Those are them other lookalikes they were searching for?"

"Looks like no one found them." Skippy smiled. "That Hawaii trip could still be ours!"

"Yeah, yeah. Hmmm...Hawaii." Slappy thought about it for a second. "Eh, why not?"

"Should we interrupt the wedding though?" Skippy asked as he looked inside. "The Warners didn't say anything about a wedding. Did they want to be invited?"

Inside the wedding chapel...

Aroma gulped slowly as she tried to smile at the priest.

Almost mine. She's almost mine! Devin thought excitedly as he looked at her. *No Yakko, no other guy, no one is taking her away ever again.*

"If there is anyone who believes these two should not be joined in holy matrimony, let them speak now or forever hold their peace." The priest announced.

Outside the wedding chapel...

"Well Aunt Slappy?" Skippy asked.

"We just have to call if we see them, not interact." Slappy disagreed. "I've ruined enough weddings in my time, just call them."

"Okay." Skippy agreed. "I guess it is a sacred ceremony, so we shouldn't...oh SPEW!"

Slappy looked wide eyed through the glass door. "Wow. Now that's a wedding to remember."

Inside the chapel...

Scented just grimaced. "I'm going to check on your sister. Zenny? You and your dad go check on Devin."

"That's alright, I'll stay here." Zenny disagreed. "I'm sure he's got it under control."

Scented frowned but took off after her daughter who headed for the bathroom. She knocked on the bathroom door. "Aroma honey?"

The sounds coming from inside were not exactly comforting.

Scented went inside. "Aroma? Are you alright?"

She heard Aroma groaning in a stall. "Sweetie?"

Aroma continued to groan. "...I can't believe this."

"Well it's one for the books at least?" Scented chuckled. "It's okay, I'm sure it will be."

"Okay?" Aroma groaned from inside the stall. "I threw up on Devin!"

"I saw that." Scented tried to smile. "I'm sure he understands. You're nervous and pregnant honey, these things happen."

"Not to me." Aroma groaned again and made more unfavorable sounds before she could speak again. "Everything's been smooth so far. No morning sickness, no back aches, no mood swings, nothing."

"Really?" Her mother sounded surprised. "Usually you have that in the beginning. At least the first nine weeks. And you're just now getting it?"

Aroma's reply came in the form of unfavorable sounds.

"I guess so. Well everyone's different." Scented grinned. "Don't worry, it'll pass and you can continue okay?"

"Continue?" Aroma groaned through the bathroom stall. "I threw up on Devin momma! There's no way we can continue right now."

"I'll talk to him." Scented said encouragingly. "I'm sure there's an extra groom suit we can find somewhere later. Just don't worry! The feeling will pass." Then thinking about what she said more carefully. "I mean you'll feel good enough to get through this anyhow soon. Okay?"

"...okay." Aroma agreed. "Oh I feel so sick..."

"Morning sickness catches up to everyone!" Her mother laughed. "I'll go check on Devin now."

Outside the bathroom...

Scented saw Devin already changing into an extra groom suit. "Oh good, you already changed."

"Yeah." Devin straightened his collar. "Is she ready yet?" He looked at his watch. He was cutting it close now.

"Not yet." Scented said sadly. "But you know, I don't think she liked what happened. Why don't you think about giving it another day?"

"What do you mean?" Aroma's father joked. "Doesn't every bride want to remember throwing up on their husband on their wedding day?"

Scented stopped to glare at her husband. She looked back at Devin. "She'll need some time, the morning sickness just caught up to her." She smiled. "I'm sure it's not you, so don't think about it that way."

Devin doubted that. She wasn't really pregnant after all. *Maybe she caught an Earth virus? Typical foreign planet, travel around it and it makes you sick.* "I'm sure she'll be okay. Tell her everything's okay and I'm ready. Once she's ready to come out." He looked at his watch again. He didn't have that much time. "Or I could always bring the priest over by the door for her?"

Aroma's family all looked at him strangely.

"You want to marry her...through the bathroom door?" Zenny looked at him suspiciously.

"I just don't want her to feel bad." Devin covered up. He motioned over to the priest.

Scented chuckled nervously. "You know what? I'll go talk to her. I'm sure she'd rather wait."

Devin looked at his watch anxiously. Sure Yakko Warner was probably long gone to Burbank thinking Aroma betrayed him but still? What if he wasn't? He just couldn't take that chance!

Scented started to head for the bathroom. "Aroma? How do you feel?"

Aroma just groaned.

"Well ummm...Devin wants to marry you through this door."

"...what?"

"It's fine, don't worry about anything." Devin said as he started to come over with the priest.
"We're practically married now, let's just do it."

"...what?"

"This is ridiculous!" Zenny complained. "You're not just gonna marry my sister through a bathroom door!"

"Wrong! He's not marrying her AT ALL!!"

Devin, Scented, Zenny and Grumpy all turned around to see Yakko burst through the front door.

Devin growled. "Yakko..."

Yakko didn't look very kindly at him either. "...Devin."

"So you two know each other?" Scented smiled. "Oh, but not in a nice way?"

"Yakko, what's wrong?" Zenny asked in concern. He looked over at Devin suspiciously.

"Where's Aroma?!" Yakko demanded. Then he heard some groaning through the bathroom door. "Oh. That doesn't sound good."

"I'm sure it didn't feel good either, did it Devin?" Grumpy joked.

Devin just glared at Yakko. "There's no way she'll believe you without revealing your secrets. So just get out and save the small friendship you have with her."

Yakko didn't back down. "If you think I'm letting you just marry her, you're kidding yourself!"

"Why?" Zenny frowned. "What's wrong with Devin, Yakko?"

"Nothing." Devin growled. "He's just angry because he wanted to-no, he tried to date Aroma but she chose me over him."

"Wait, what?!" Zenny looked over at Yakko. "You were going after my sister?!"

"That won't work." Yakko growled. "Gyro!"

"Gyro?" Scented looked over at Devin. "That's not Gyro."

"Oh yeah it is! That's not Devin, he took Devin's place!" Yakko said as he pointed at him accusingly.

A few seconds later the bathroom door opened up and Aroma looked over at Devin.
"...Gyro?"

Devin just shook his head. "No way, h-he's just trying to ruin everything honey! Honest!"

The neverending sweet, darling, dear and honey. The urgency to get married. The strange way he'd been acting. "...Gyro..." She growled. "You were trying to trick me?"

"He didn't deserve you! He wouldn't make you happy!" Gyro insisted as he threw his dumb fake glasses off. "You're nothing but a game to him Aroma! Don't you see it?"

"Gyro you-?!" Zenny started to yell. "I can't believe you stooped this far to get my sister!"

"I did it for you. I didn't want to see you hurt again." Gyro insisted as he looked at Aroma. "You've gotta believe me, Aroma." He said as he started to walk to her.

Yakko quickly put a stop to that as he stood in his way. "I don't think so, you aren't getting near her!"

Aroma just looked at Gyro in disgust. "...where is Devin?"

"I don't know." Gyro glared at Yakko. "Open your eyes."

"No tricks!" Zenny grabbed Gyro roughly. "You better tell me where Devin is! Did you knock him out, try to leave him behind?! Confess!"

"Stop!" Yakko couldn't take it anymore. "Devin wasn't left behind..." He strolled over to the ground and picked up the glasses Gyro threw. He turned and put them on. "...he's right here."

"..." Aroma held her breath as she was piecing everything together. "...but...it can't..."

"Your Devin?" Zenny let go of Gyro. "Yakko Warner? Your Devin Ditterbee?"

Yakko slowly nodded.

"And number three." Gyro growled. "That's the third time you've hurt her! You see?!" He looked over desperately at Aroma. "You were never anything but a bet to him!"

"That's not true!" Yakko protested. "Maybe at first, but it wasn't..." He just couldn't continue as he saw Aroma's face.

There was no way to describe it. He had to look away it hurt so much. "...I'm sorry..."

"Just get out." Zenny demanded. "Get out. Now!"

"I agree." Grumpy growled.

"Yakko." Scented didn't know what to say. "It's best you just leave. Before you hurt my daughter anymore."

Yakko looked back at Aroma. "I wish..."

Aroma stopped looking at him.

"...there's one more thing." Yakko added. "You're not really pregnant. I just thought you should know." He gestured toward Gyro. "That's his doing, not mine."

"Well not the first time," Gyro insisted. "No, the first test you faked."

"Oh I am liking you less and less anymore!" Zenny yelled at Yakko. "To think you were friends with my sister? You're just like the others! You're worse than Yan and Gil!"

Yakko had nothing to say to that. "Aroma..."

"I was a bet?" Aroma finally spoke up.

"Only at first! Once things started to get deeper I got out!" Yakko insisted. "Until you pulled me back in." He tried to take a step closer but Grumpy blocked his way. "I just want to

explain." He looked over his shoulder. "It was a bet, I admit, but I really did start liking you! I wanted to be with you so I kept breaking up! E-everything was fine until Gyro messed it up with the pregnancy trick! Then I...I thought I didn't have much choice."

"But to con her into marriage and then tell her?" Zenny growled. "That is sooo low."

"...everything was a lie." Aroma leaned against the bathroom door. "...everything."

"Almost, except I really did...I really do..." Yakko tried to make her see. "I really like you. A lot."

"More lies!" Gyro yelled. "He's still trying to win that bet!"

"I put a stop to it before I won it." Yakko insisted. "I swear, I never even finished it! Please! Believe me?"

He knew there was no chance. He knew there was no chance before he came. He knew there was no chance while they dated for a future. He knew there was no chance when the pregnancy thing happened. He always knew there was no chance...

But he never knew how he'd feel as he stood there, finally letting her know the truth. No amount of preparing could help him get through that moment.

"Believe me?" He said weakly. "I...I never wanted to hurt you! I-if I could go back in time before I made that bet I'd-?!" He stopped. He stopped and thought about everything they'd been through. Everything they'd experienced.

He couldn't lie. Even if he knew, he would have still taken that bet. Without that bet, he never would have known what it was like to hold her, to kiss her, to laugh with her, to chase her...

"Stop talking and get out!" Grumpy yelled at him. "You're not Devin and she's not pregnant. How much more are you gonna hurt her?"

"That pregnancy thing was not me though," Yakko protested. "I already told you that!" He pointed at Gyro. "He messed up her tests and her visit!"

"Visit?" Gyro frowned. "I only faked the second test. I didn't figure out where you really were 'til about three days ago."

"What?" Yakko looked over at Aroma. "But they ran a blood test, right?"

"Ohhh...oh no." Scented looked sadly at her daughter. "I think I know why the morning sickness is just starting now." She looked over at Yakko knowingly.

Yakko blinked. "Whuh oah."

"Wait..." Gyro growled at Yakko. "You mean you two? While you were in New York?! But-dammit she was supposed to be mine! How many times?!"

"I don't wanna hear details!" Grumpy whined. "Just get out Yakko Warner!"

"Now, now!" Scented warned him. "If she is...now...then-"

The bathroom door closed in front of Aroma as she went back in.

"No, no, no." Gyro whined. "My sweet and pure Aroma...how could you, she was supposed to be mine!"

"I said I don't need details!" Grumpy yelled again. "Just get out! Gyro! Yakko! Just get out now!"

"..." Yakko gulped. He had no one to blame this time but himself. "I should have listened to Rita..."

"Stop mumbling and get out!" Grumpy yelled at him.

"Grumpy!" Scented warned him. "If Aroma is pregnant now then we need to work something out first!"

"She isn't, it's a virus or something from this planet!" Grumpy insisted. "And I'll not hear anything else! Where are you going?!"

Yakko didn't listen as he headed for the inside of the ladies room.

"Get back here!" Grumpy demanded.

"Hold on Mr. G!" Dot and Wakko both came careening in.

"Yakko knows what he did was wrong, but he needs some time with her." Wakko insisted. "He's not gonna pull anything, he knows where everything stands."

"That's right!" Dot insisted. "He just needs to apologize."

"Well..." Scented looked over at the boys. "Maybe they should work this out first?"

Inside the bathroom...

"Aroma? Please, we REALLY need to talk! Aroma?"

He heard unpleasant sounds coming from a stall. "Just hear me out?"

"...what was the bet?"

"That doesn't matter." Yakko insisted. "Like I said I didn't even finish it."

"...tell me."

Yakko sighed. "Well I bet that Wakko would go out and get a drama role plus...200 bucks." he said weakly.

"...and?"

"If I." Yakko gulped. "Could make you say you love me."

He watched as Anima currency rolled over to the floor to him from Aroma's stall. It equalled roughly...

200 dollars.

"What's this?" Yakko frowned.

"You won. Take it and go."

"No I told you I quit it!" Yakko yelled. "Just come out! Please talk to me?"

He heard some more unsavory sounds coming from the stall. "Okay we can keep talking from here."

Aroma was quiet now though.

"I know what I did was wrong." Yakko insisted. "Everything I did I know it was unforgivable! But I! I...I really don't want to lose you."

Aroma continued to be quiet.

"I just need one chance!" Yakko yelled. "Just one?!"

"...I need pen and paper."

Okay, strange request. Yakko pulled out some paper and a pen he had on him and shoved it underneath her stall. "Just one chance? I swear I'll never mess it up!"

A couple minutes later the pen and paper was slid back over to him.

Yakko looked at the paper. "...". She had made a quick contract. What he had wanted to do instead of having the wedding.

"Just sign it. If there is one, you can see it...just...stay away from me...please..."

Yakko looked at the pen and paper. "I can't. I can't do this now, even if there is..." He put them both away. "I don't want it. I want you."

"Stop with it all! What do you want from me?!"

Yakko's ears tingled reflexively as he heard her start to cry miserably. His presence was only making her cry now. "It all just spiraled out of control. I tried to stop it. If it hadn't been for that pregnancy thing..." He whined in frustration. "Why'd you stop believing I was Devin! Why couldn't you have had a-at least some doubts?!"

"...maybe I did."

"What?" Yakko's ears perked back up.

"You were so alike in so many ways...if it hadn't been for the way you acted when I told you I was pregnant..."

"Well, that was the first time." Yakko explained. "I thought then that you weren't." He got closer to her stall. "But don't you see? Everything else was Gyro's fault."

"What were you planning? To just dump me in front of everyone?"

"No, I did plan on going through with it!" Yakko insisted.

"So...you planned on tricking me all the way through."

"I thought I had to. I didn't know about the use of contracts now. I swear." Yakko moved up closer. "I just followed a dumb bet that went out of control and I didn't even finish it. So come on!" He grabbed the top of the stall. "Just give me another chance? We can start out really slow again if you want?"

"...and the doctor visit?"

"Not me. I don't know if Gyro did anything. He could be lying." Yakko sighed. "I don't know if you have the flu or morning sickness but either way. I just need one chance?"

"Well we would know if you had told me the truth!"

"I told you, I didn't think I had a choice!" Yakko whined.

"No, about me not being pregnant smartass!"

"Well I didn't know about that until yesterday!" Yakko insisted. "If I knew I wouldn't have been in New York in the first place!"

The stall door finally opened. "But you knew you weren't Devin! You were lying to me! Everytime we..." Aroma closed the stall again.

"I know. I know that now." Yakko said softly. "It just felt so right though. Believe me, that wasn't what I was planning! I just needed to gain your trust, propose and marry you."

"Sure! Everything else was just a bonus!"

"It wasn't just a bonus." Yakko grabbed her stall door again. "It wasn't just a bonus!"

"Just sign that paper and get out! Please!"

"That's it." Yakko crawled over the stall and jumped down beside her.

"Get out!" Aroma demanded. "Don't touch me!"

Yakko didn't listen as he held onto her. "I didn't have the house or the money or the charm or the job. I admit it! But Devin WAS me! A different name and a made up life but everything else was me."

"Stop it!" Aroma insisted. She stopped fighting as much as she got a weird expression on her face and shoved it down the toilet stool.

Yakko just sighed and patted her back. "Just...the whole..." It was hard to talk with her at the moment. "...if you just put yourself in my shoes, you'd see how everything fell out of control. You'd see..."

Nope, there was just no talking to her at the moment. He just rubbed her back gently.

Finally, Aroma pulled her head back up. She felt absolutely horrible. Abused, sick and depleted.

"You look pretty."

Aroma rolled her eyes. She was far from being pretty right now.

Yakko grabbed the veil that she had taken off earlier and put it back on her head. "Not exactly how I envisioned you in that but not bad. You pull it off nicely." He joked.

Aroma just gave him an odd look and rested her head on the toilet. "Just leave. Why won't you just leave?"

"I really want one more chance." Yakko replied.

"Everything was a game to you!" Aroma whined. "Even this marriage, you just did it for the baby. You lied to me! Again!"

"...oh yeah." Yakko gulped. He had no words of saving grace for that as he remembered the night he proposed...

/////////"I really can't believe this is happening." Aroma sighed as she looked over at Devin.
"But are you sure about this?"

"Well yah I love you." Devin blurted out. "Duh."

'Real romantic.' "Are you sure you aren't doing this for just the baby? I mean...warner females never turn down the chance to be with someone they love but...you aren't female." Aroma pointed out. "I mean, to you isn't it a death sentence?"

Devin really didn't know how to answer that one.

"I just mean, are you sure you aren't doing this because I'm pregnant?" Aroma asked him gently.

"Partly?" Devin settled on. "But more because I want to end up with you?"

Aroma gave him a knowing smirk. "I had a feeling."

"But it's more to end up with you." Devin insisted again. "Really!"

"Well, as long as it's...at least half for me?" Aroma asked.

"Sure! Like-like 70 percent you!" Devin grinned.

Aroma chuckled. "...close enough." She leaned into him tenderly. "Just be gentle."

"With your heart?" Devin asked as she started to pull him toward her.

Aroma just chuckled at him as she started to tug him her way more. "...partly."//////////

"70 percent my rear end." Aroma whined.

"Alright, I admit it. I lied there too." Yakko replied. "But it wouldn't be like 0 percent. I really do like you. Just after everything, I'm pretty sure you wouldn't be thrilled with me anymore."

Aroma didn't reply.

"Oh come on! Plllease?" Yakko whined. "I know I don't deserve another chance but...I can't help it!"

Aroma flushed the toilet stool feeling like it was all out of her system. "...are you positive?"

"Yes! I mean, why else would I be here helping you out why you threw up?" Yakko smiled. "You don't see Gyro here, do you?"

"Oh don't even say his name." Aroma whined. "I can't believe I almost married him."

"I agree." Yakko looked at her a bit funny. "Wait what?! Weren't you supposed to eventually marry him before?" He frowned. "You always said you had someone lined up for you on Anima!"

"Huh?" Aroma frowned. "Oh." She waved it off. "I wasn't really serious before the whole baby thing."

"You weren't?" Yakko frowned. "You weren't serious?!" He started to gesture his arms around. "But if you weren't serious why'd you keep saying it?!"

Aroma just raised her eyebrow at him. "Because I was hurt. I'd give Gyro a chance finally but actually becoming his for all time?" She scoffed. "Yeah right, never happen." She shook her head. "I'd date the guy maybe but I'd never marry him. I'd probably pick a different suitor."

"Dangit! But that's part of the reason I couldn't just break up so easily!" Yakko whined. "See? You're partly to blame too!"

"Don't you start pinning this on me Yakko Warner!" Aroma yelled at him. "I didn't even know about your bet or your plans!"

Yakko frowned and crossed his arms. "You do owe me another chance!"

"When pigs freaking fly!" Aroma yelled at him angrily. "You used me!" She stopped a moment. "You only used me."

Yakko stopped crossing his arms. "But I've tried to explain. I just want one chance?"

"You had chances." Aroma looked back down at the bowl. "When you broke up with me the first time. When you broke up with me the second time. Do you know how hard it was to even trust you again?"

"But three's a lucky number?" Yakko tried to joke with little success. "It's different though. There's nothing else I'm hiding anymore. This is it, everything's laid out on the table!"

"Oh yeah?" Aroma frowned. "Prove it."

"Prove it?" Yakko asked.

"Yeah, prove it." Aroma replied.

"Prove it. Okay." Yakko cleared his throat. "I like you a whole whole lot and I really don't want to lose you."

"Weak." Aroma shook her head. "You don't care that much."

"Well fine, what would it take?" Yakko frowned.

"Well we're here in a wedding chapel still." Aroma looked around. "You said you'd marry me."

Yakko's mouth dropped. "Well, but- you know this sickness is probably just a virus!"

"So?" Aroma frowned. "Alright. I said I went to the doctor's visit. They only tested me to make sure I was negative for stuff like HIV mostly." She shrugged her shoulders. "This probably is just a virus. So?"

Yakko had a weird expression on his face. "So I have to marry you?"

"For starters." Aroma crossed her arms. "You've got a LOT to make up for."

Yakko sighed like a kid being told he had to stop playing to go in and do chores. "...alright."

"And I liked that lifestyle back in New York." Aroma insisted. "Rita, Runt, the house. It was homey."

"New York?!" Yakko whined. "But-but that was all because of Plotz!"

Aroma wouldn't budge though.

"To keep that I have to stay out of Burbank. Forever." Yakko grew quiet. "I'd have to change my name and it'd be permanent!" He looked at her pleadingly.

Aroma crossed her arms. "Of course it would and it's too big." She sighed. "And this is too big. Don't you understand? I just can't give you another chance!"

"But!" Yakko protested. "It's big but...I could keep the cat and dog?" He could tell by her expression she wouldn't fall for that. "Dammit!"

Aroma watched as he hopped out of the stall and out of the bathroom.

Outside the bathroom...

Yakko saw Wakko and Dot with some of Aroma's family members. "...hey."

"Is she feeling better?" Wakko smiled.

"Sort of." Yakko looked at the ground. "I can have another chance on a few conditions."

"What?" Dot looked at him in surprise. "Are you kidding?"

"But after everything, I thought you said there'd never be a chance." Wakko said confused.

"Duh! If it was me, I'd never give you another chance!" Dot said angrily. "What is she thinking?"

"Marriage and New York." Yakko groaned.

"Huh?" Dot tilted her head. "Run that by me again?"

"She'll stay if I marry her and...and permanently take Devin's life." Yakko said slowly.

"Well, that's not really a chance." Wakko disagreed. "You'd never do that."

"I really don't want to." Yakko whined. "I don't!"

"...you don't know though?" Dot looked questioningly at Yakko.

"What do you mean?" Wakko frowned at Dot. "Yakko would never do that! Right?"

Yakko just whined. "I don't want too..."

"Now that makes more sense." Dot shook her head. "You would have to do something BIG to get her back after everything you did to her." She put her fingers to her lips. "Now that I think about it, that's about the only thing that would get me back too."

"No, no, no..." Wakko whined. "Yakko, you can't! She's just one girl!"

"I know!" Yakko whined back. "But it's...ah I can't explain it."

"He loves her Wakko." Dot said knowingly. "Everyone does crazy things in the name of love. If this brings her back, he might."

"You can't though!" Wakko pushed on Dot. "Go talk to her? Make her give in or something?"

"You don't get it." Dot frowned. "Yakko hurt her a lot. A whole whole lot! There's nothing I can say to change that fact!" She shrugged her shoulders. "I think I understand. Although I'm not 100 percent, you should say yes Yakko."

"Yeah!"

Yakko saw Zenny and Grumpy giving him a dirty look. He just smiled awkwardly.

"Knock it off." Scented frowned at her husband and son. "Dot and I've told you, give them time!"

"Are you kidding?" Wakko frowned at Dot. "Yakko can't say yes!"

Dot crossed her arms. "Look just trust me! I think there's a high possibility it'll be okay if Yakko says yes!"

"But Burbank? And you guys?" Yakko added softly. "No more Yakko Warner." He looked at the ground completely confused. "I don't wanna give myself up."

"And you shouldn't, Dot's crazy!" Wakko whined. "She's just one girl, Yakko."

"Yakko, listen." Dot got up closer to her brother. "I know it doesn't make any sense to you, but you've GOT to trust your cute little sister. Just. Say. Yes."

"No!" Wakko looked over at his brother. "Yakko? She's not worth it, is she?"

Yakko looked back at the bathroom door. '...I hope you know what you're talking about Dot.'

Inside the bathroom...

Yakko hopped over the stall to find Aroma still hanging over the toilet. "Okay."

"I thought I was." Aroma groaned.

"No I mean okay." Yakko sighed. "I'll do it."

Aroma looked at Yakko with wide eyes. "Really?"

"Oh how am I gonna do this..." Yakko whined.

"Wow." Aroma just stared at him. "You love me so much you'd become someone else forever?"

Yakko slowly nodded his head.

Aroma slowly smiled. "Forget it. You don't have to marry me right now or be Devin ever again."

"R-really?" Yakko started to smile. "So you'll-?! One more time? One more chance?"

Aroma sighed. "If you're willing to give your own identity up, I guess you do mean it. So...one more chance."

Yakko grinned from ear to ear! He couldn't believe it, she was giving him another chance?! "How about two? I mean I always have a bit of trouble controlling myself around women."

"One chance." Aroma growled at him.

"Alright, alright!" Yakko agreed excitedly. "Do I still have to start out slow or can we just..." He looked around the stall they were in. "Well we are alone."

"In a stall I just finished getting sick in with my family just outside." Aroma reminded him.

"Well the smell is a bit of a turnoff." Yakko agreed. "I just...I really can't believe you're giving me a second chance! I just don't want to lose the opportunity once you figure out what a horrible idea it is."

"I am so going to regret this." Aroma whined. "Why can't I just..."

Yakko tilted his head letting his ears fall cutely to the left.

"...I hate you but I love you." Aroma groaned. "It's not fair!"

Yakko started to help her up. "Everything'll be fine though! I promise! For real this time! Honest!"

"Yeah, yeah." Aroma groaned as he held her up. "I never would have believed this would happen today. I hate you."

"Aha! But you love me too!" Yakko laughed. "Good thing for me!" He snuck a kiss from her. "Blah!"

"Well think about it." Aroma couldn't help but smirk.

Yakko pulled out a toothbrush and some toothpaste. "Here ya go Stinky."

"Well you go through what I did and see how good your breath smells!" Aroma whined as she took the toothbrush and toothpaste. "You're a real romantic."

Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "Hey you could have asked for a romantic date with candlelight and flowers and stuff to forgive me. Not my fault."

"Oh, you're right!" Aroma whined as she started to brush her teeth. "Instead I forgave you in a toilet stall." She groaned. "Well if we have kids, we'll just leave this part out."

"Heh heh. Yeah, IF." Yakko laughed. He caught Aroma's glance. "What?"

"You're not scoring any points right now." Aroma frowned.

"And talking while your brushing your teeth brought spit all over your dress." Yakko pointed out. "Your not exactly a show stopping number right now."

Aroma growled at him. "Knock it off or we will go back to the basics."

"What, just kissing?" Yakko whined.

"You wish." Aroma unlocked the stall and went to spit.

"Oh you're just a little cranky that our wedding day ended with you retching and single still." Yakko said knowingly.

"Yeah and the fact that I've been lied to for so long!" Aroma added.

Yakko shrugged his shoulders. "So should we go out there now?" He gave her a small smile. "Your breath does smell better."

"Knock it off." Aroma frowned. "If you think you're getting anywhere after all this, you've got a screw loose."

Yakko tilted his head to the left again letting his ears fall cutely. "Please?"

"Don't. That is not gonna work." Aroma whined. "Quit!"

Fifteen minutes later...

Dot, Wakko and Aroma's family watched as Yakko and Aroma finally emerged.

Yakko was grinning from ear to ear while Aroma was slightly red.

"Oh you didn't make up with him?" Zenny whined. "Yakko? Yakko the freaking next door neighbor?"

"Even if he agreed to the marriage thing I don't like it!" Grumpy scolded her.

"Yakko?" Wakko asked sadly.

"No worries! She's staying in the tower with us. No marriage included." Yakko grinned.

"Yet." Aroma added.

"..."

"Yet." Aroma said again.

"Anyhow, everything's fine." Yakko smiled.

"Everything's not fine! You-you!" Zenny didn't even know how to continue. "I can't believe the dork from next door is dating Aroma."

"What Dork?" Yakko frowned.

Wakko and Dot started to chuckle.

"I'm not a Dork!" Yakko crossed his arms. "A dork never would have been able to go as far as-"

"Yakko!" Aroma scolded him. "That's my brother, knock it off."

Wakko grinned and started to bounce. "So everything's back to normal?"

"As normal as it can be." Dot smiled. "Are we ready to go back home now?"

"What and miss the bright lights of Vegas?" Yakko grinned. "Besides what's the rush? Once Plotzy figures out just how much all those extra tickets cost I'm pretty sure he's not gonna be in a good mood."

"Good idea." Wakko and Dot laughed.

"One more makes four." Dot chuckled as she looked at Aroma. "Welcome to the tower for good!"

"I don't know. There still could be five." Aroma smiled.

"Yeah right." Dot chuckled. "Everything was fake. There's no way. Right Yakko?"

"Well, I..." Yakko's voice slid slightly. "I can't be 100 percent. Most likely not though, she hasn't been around Earth that much. She's pretty susceptible to all kinds of stuff."

"You're hoping." Aroma said as she nudged him in the shoulder.

"Huh?" Wakko looked very confused. "But Gyro set the whole thing up, there's no chance now."

"And to totally get off this subject, where is Gyro?" Yakko asked as he looked around.

"Long gone."

Yakko smiled awkwardly at Zenny. "Yo?"

"Well what do you expect." Zenny grumbled. "Aroma's innocence is obviously gone, why bother anymore?"

Dot's mouth dropped. "Excuse me? Pardon me?" She looked over at Yakko. "What?"

"We are not discussing this." Aroma frowned. "Let's just go explore Vegas?"

"I guess that would make sense." Yakko grinned. "Even if he married you he'd never be able to say that-"

"Change the subject! NOW!" Grumpy demanded.

"Oh Grumpy." Scented smiled. "You should be happy. Your daughters finally found love."

"Yeah with the dorky next door neighbor's kid? Completely thrilled." Grumpy growled.

"Dammit, I am not-!"

"Yakko!" Aroma stopped him. "Don't start. And dad, don't start!"

"I bet he didn't even date before this bet." Zenny added. "Dork."

"Zenny." Aroma warned him.

Now let's settle down." Scented smiled. She went over and shook Yakko's hand. "It doesn't matter if you're a dork, just take really good care of her."

Yakko whined. Was that an insult or a compliment?

"Fine." Zenny shook Yakko's hand. Hard. "If you EVER hurt my sister again, I don't care if you even propose. I know where you live, your brothers and sisters live, your mother, father, friends, childhood friends. I will FIND you."

"Eh heh." Yakko just tried to smile. "Have a nice trip?"

"Dammit." Grumpy growled. He looked through his wallet. "Barely enough. Do you have any money Zenny?"

"What's wrong?" Aroma asked concerned. "Do you not have enough money to get home?"

"Not after I deal with Yakko." Grumpy groaned.

"Deal with me?" Yakko seemed confused.

"Not you, your dad." Grumpy growled. "What was I thinking?"

"Time changes everything honey." Scented laughed.

"What do you mean?" Yakko frowned.

"Oh Grumpy just made a bet years and years back that Aroma and you would never get together that's all." Scented smiled.

"What?" Aroma's mouth dropped.

"You made a bet on me?" Yakko whined. "Against me?"

"Don't look at me." Grumpy scoffed. "The only person who won in the pool was Honesty."

"What?!"

Wakko and Dot started to laugh.

"Dad bet against me?!" Yakko said in disbelief.

"Yeah, but he's married to Honesty. In a way, he still won." Grumpy groaned.

Zenny couldn't help but giggle. "He bet against his own son?"

"No, he just bet for Wakko instead." Grumpy replied.

"He bet for Wakko? Instead of me?!" Yakko whined. "Why that-why you! You made a bet on my future?!"

"Don't get so upset." Scented smiled at him. "Why, bet's are apparently what makes everything go round. Without your bet, you never would have even given Aroma a chance."

"Eh heh. No, that's the opposite." Aroma said firmly. "Without it, he never would have scored a date. He's rude, selfish, out of control-"

"-all the qualities you were pining for." Yakko chuckled.

Dot just grinned. Finally, everything actually worked out! Yakko and Aroma could finally be happy together living in the watertower in Burbank.

It all turned out exactly how it should have...

almost...

Epilogue

Disclaimer: I do not own Animaniacs. Yakko, Wakko and Dot and all of the other characters belong to their own respective owners. I only created Tiger and Caress and some other original characters. I claim no rights to any of this. This was made purely for entertainment. No profit is made off of this. I have no rights to Burger King either.

The Bet

Epilogue:

Some years later...

"No way."

"Uh huh."

"That's not true."

"Yes it is. Why would your Auntie lie to you?"

Tiger and Caress both looked at each other.

"Mom and dad never said that though." Tiger disagreed.

"Well of course not." Dot chuckled. "You're supposed to believe they met in the usual ways warners met. Not that your dad made a bet that he couldn't make your mommy fall in love with him."

Rita groaned and covered her eyes. Yakko and Aroma were not gonna be happy about this one.

"That's not true though." Caress whined. "Mommy said it was love at first sight. That they dated, got married and had us."

"Dot Warner! What are you telling them?!"

Dot just smiled as she saw Yakko and Aroma show up at the front door. "Hi! Did you get the shopping done?"

"Dad?" Tiger frowned as he got up and stood beside Runt. "Did you first date mom in a bet?"

Yakko looked accusingly over at Dot. "What do you mean?" He said through gritted teeth. "No it was love at first sight, we dated, got married and had you. End of story."

"Dot?" Aroma said through her own gritted teeth. "Could I see you in the kitchen? Now?"

"What?" Dot frowned. "You two are just gonna hide it forever?" She chuckled. "But it's funny."

"Dot! Kitchen! Now!" Aroma yelled at her.

Yakko just smiled down at Tiger and Caress. "What?"

"She's lying right daddy?" Caress asked softly. "Momma wasn't just a bet was she?"

"I've got a much better idea!" Yakko grinned as he set the groceries down. "You two want a candybar?"

"A candybar?!" Tiger and Caress yelled happily as they started to bounce. Questions already quickly fading from their mind as they saw the succulent chocolate temptations their dad was holding in each of his hands.

Aroma came out of the kitchen smiling with a grumpy looking Dot.

"Fine, but you should tell them when they get older." Dot frowned. "I thought ten was old enough."

"Old enough for what?" Wakko showed up at the front door of the tower behind Yakko.

"Old enough to know the-"

"How are them candybars?" Yakko interrupted as he looked at his kids. "Good?"

The kids just beamed with satisfaction.

Dot crossed her arms. "Give me a break! It's not like I said they were actually conceived in-"

"DOT!!" Aroma and Yakko both scolded her.

Wakko just started to laugh. "Yeah. There's more than one use for a bathroom stall."

"You know Yakko, we haven't gone out for awhile." Aroma growled. "What say me and you go watch a movie or something?"

"Yeah. Dot and Wakko can handle the kids." Yakko said taking the hint. He dug into the grocery bag and found two bags of miniature candy bars. "Here you two, divide this amongst yourselves."

"Wait! Don't do that!" Dot whined. "They'll be uncontrollable! Unstoppable!"

"Please, please don't leave!" Wakko whined as he watched Yakko and Aroma heading out. "Dot started it!"

"We'll be back...whenever." Yakko grinned back at his brother and sister. "You have fun!" He took Aroma's hand gently. "Ready to go?"

Aroma just grinned and nodded her head. "What movie do you want to see?"

The couple just grinned even wider as they heard whines and moans from Dot and Wakko. "How about 'Aunts and Uncles Need to Mind Their Own Business'?" Yakko suggested.

"Oh I've heard great reviews about that." Aroma smiled. "Even though it was over a four hour film time seemed to fly by for those who watched it."

"What are we, wet fish?" Rita complained as she and Runt watched the kids already jumping up and down. "Life is so not fair. We didn't do anything!"

Dot and Wakko groaned as they saw Tiger and Caress start to bounce more uncontrollably.

"Then it's settled." Yakko agreed. "Afterwards we could go out to eat. Burger King?"

"Burger King?" Aroma giggled. "Oh, like on our first date?"

"...yeah." Yakko said unconvincingly.

"Liar. He didn't remember.' Aroma just smiled back not saying a word.

After all Yakko wasn't exactly the most charming guy around. He didn't have much money, he had no career goals, he was selfish, psychotic and couldn't be tolerated by a lot of others.

But...he loved her for who she was and not what she had. And that was what-?! "Yakko?!"

"What?" Yakko whined. "My hand slipped."

Aroma just chuckled and hit him playfully on the shoulder.

Nevertheless, he was still Yakko Warner.

THE END

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