

WADSWORTH

Maybe I was. You don't know. You never ask about my life.

I'm not leaving you here alone. I love you. You could slip and fall. If I'm not here there's nobody to rescue you. When they find you you'll be floating face down, cold, white, blue, swollen.

REMINGTON

So what? Can't contaminate this water.

WADSWORTH

A dead body could.

(long pause)

I'm sorry.

Can we please go home?

---

(REM continues to fish.)

WADSWORTH

START → You never mentioned this park or pond. If you ever came here, you didn't tell me.

REMINGTON

Before.

WADSWORTH

Before we knew each other?

REMINGTON

Yes.

WADSWORTH

You been here all day?

(no reply)

You catch anything?

(WADS looks around for evidence of fish.)

Maybe you like sushi. Maybe you ate them raw already. Let's go home. Pretend we were out on a yacht all day. Drank so much beer and ate so much seafood we're cross-eyed. We're gonna watch a little tv on our giant tv, then snuggle on our memory-foam mattress under a silk duvet. We'll float off to dreamland with memories of today humming happy tunes in our heads.

(REM pretends to hook a fish, pretends to take it off the "hook," holds it up as if displaying it.)

That's what I'm talkin! What a beauty! Five feet if it's an inch! Don't move. I'll take your picture.

(WADS pretends to take a photo as REM poses with a "fish.")

Big smile.

(MORE)

CONTINUE →

Bigger Than Pretend – Wadsworth and Remington- Side 1

Page 2 of 2

bigger than pretend/8/19/2020 / 6.

WADSWORTH (cont'd)

(pause)

Come on, Remington. Lemme see those pearly whites.

(REM sinks down on the ground, deflated.)

REMINGTON

You'd add it to the pile of pictures of us mountain-climbing in the Alps, para-gliding in Ecuador, scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef...

WADSWORTH

Sure.

REMINGTON

You can't take a picture of what doesn't exist, Wadsworth.

WADSWORTH

Whadda you mean?

REMINGTON

I tried your way. I been pretending with every hair, every toenail and fingernail, ears, teeth, with every inch of skin. I been pretending there are fish in the pond. Didn't need to hook one. Just a jump, or nibble on the line. Didn't need to be big. Just a jump or nibble.

WADSWORTH

We can --

REMINGTON

What happened is bigger than pretend!

(REM breaks the stick in half, heaves it at WADS's feet.)

Been trying for a year to picture things as okay. Used to come here often. One day there's a tanker truck. On the side it says "Chem-Pure." White truck. Red letters. Air smelling like bleach. There's a hose from the truck to the water. I ask what's happening. Man in a Chem-Pure uniform says: "We want sparkly clear water." I say: "'We' who?" He says: "The people. It's a municipal pond." Truck's there all day with its hose in the water. Tuesday, April 17, one year ago. I met you that night.

WADSWORTH

You looked like you needed a friend. ← END

---

REMINGTON

~~You, sitting by a Kenmore refrigerator box with holes in your shoes. Shit-eating grin on your face. Living on the street -- happy as a lark~~