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Foreword

For the past 7 years or so, Gregg, Mark and I have had a text thread going that has brought me more laughter and joy than most anything other form of media I can recall. This thread has gone dormant for days, but never weeks. It's always simmering, and it's always the same joke: a sick, stupid or lecherous scheme or proposition is sent to Mark by Gregg or myself, Mark stupidly takes the bait and things devolve into confusion, anger, accusations and general chaos. So many nights my wife would find me lying in bed, laughing with tears in my eyes. "You're texting with Gregg and Mark?" Many of the threads are simply too mean, gross and "inside" for them to work for public consumption, but this past week, we hit on a vein that felt a touch "accessible?"

For years we talked about doing something with these "wastes of time" and this little snippet; a peek into the thread for 24 hours, felt like it could be a way to test the waters. So here's a taste.

We're all kind of going through hell right now and we hope this short piece (short story? play? What is it?) can give you a few moments of respite.

Please note: This is not "On Cinema Gregg, Tim or Mark."

I don't know who these assholes are! All The Best!

Tim Heidecker April 8th, 2020

April 3rd 2020

7:52 PM

Tim: Hey mark! Marion Howard (granddaughter of Moe Howard) wants to Skype with you.

Tim: She is 57 and has a mental illness FYI

Tim: She wants to see your shiny bald head on her computer.

Tim: What say you?

Tim: Come on my man. This is comic royalty!

Tim: She will pay you 800 dollars for 20 minutes of your time.

8:08 PM

Gregg: Mark, nice way to earn some quick pocket change! Moe was my favorite Stooge!

Gregg: Be sure and ask her where Moe is buried. Would love to find out.

8:55 PM

Gregg: Mark, Darrell has some nude photos of (presumably) Moe Howard that he would like authenticated. Could you show them to Marion and ask her if they are Moe or not?

10:01 PM

Mark: How does she even know about me?

Gregg: Who cares! Can I send Aamos over to drop off the photos?

Mark: Thanks Gregg, but I'd rather not see the photos. More interested in having a conversation with Marion.

Gregg: You don't have to look at Moe's dick. Just show the pics to Marion and let her decide if it's him or not.

10: 06 PM

Tim: Mark, Marion wants to Skype with you tomorrow at 8AM

Tim: She wants to have a virtual breakfast.

Tim: She has some images of Moe she wants to show you.

Mark: Thats a bit early for me. I'm sleeping to around 9 these days.

Tim: OK she can do 9.

Mark: Great!

Gregg: What kind of images?

Mark: Tell her I'm excited to talk all things stooges with her.

Tim: You will need to prepare bacon and eggs so it appears you are having breakfast.

Mark: Fine. Will do.

Tim: Haha, like Larry Fine.

Tim: Gregg, the images are very private.

Mark: What images?

Tim: Of Moe.

Mark: Ah. Cool.

Tim: Mario will be on as well.

Mark: Marion.

Tim: Mario.

Tim: Too.

Tim: Any issues with that?

Mark: Marion or Mario?

Gregg: Have you guys either one of you got the Larry Fine "sauna" pics?

Gregg: Would pay \$\$\$\$

Tim: Mark, Mario will be recording the event for posterity.

Tim: Mario Walters. He is Barbra Walters grand nephew, and a fine videographer.

Mark: Oh, okay. Cool.

Gregg: Darrell knows Mario and can vouch for him.

Mark: No need.

Tim: Marion Howard is very interested to possibly sell the footage to an online site.

Tim: The Show will be called Breakfast with Mark and Marion.

Tim: Awesome right?

Mark: Yeah! Pretty neat.

Tim: Mark get lots of sleep tonight. You have to get up early to make breakfast and be ready for the big show.

Mark: Okay. Looking forward to it. How will I contact her?

Tim: Can you send 5-10 images of your body tonight so Mario can use for some titles?

10:20 PM

Tim: Mark when can I expect those images??

Tim: Mark, Mario has a gun to my head. He wants these pictures now.

Mark: huh?

Mark: What pictures?

Tim: If this doesn't happen I'm fucked.

Tim: Send any pictures of your body.

Tim: Like: now

Mark: What does that have to do with theee stooges?!

Tim: Sorry mark I over promised.

Gregg: Tim I could send some of Mark that Darrell has if that helps you.

Gregg: Just toilet cam stuff though.

Mark: What toilet cam?!

Mark: Tim, what do you mean?

Tim: Yes, anything to keep Mario off my ass.

Gregg: Old toilet cam stuff from your "Office" days.

Tim: Help me Mark. Be a friend. Get me pics of your body.

Gregg: Ok, will send over 1500-2500 pics.

Tim: Then there will be no problems with Marion.

Gregg: Dropbox.

Tim: Got it. Thanks. Saved my ass.

[Mark attaches one image of his chest]

10:48PM

Tim: Unfortunately, we will have to postpone the breakfast show tomorrow. I have received word that Marion Howard just fell down some stairs and has suffered a concussion.

Mark: Oh no.

Mark: That's awful.

Mark: Is she okay?!

Tim: She was so excited to chat with you she tumbled down the stairs apparently.

Tim: Has an awful gash on her face now.

Tim: So sad.

Mark: Geez.

Mark: That's awful.

Tim: Will you record a special message for her?

Mark: When can we reschedule?

Tim: Wishing her well?

Mark: Of course.

Gregg: Tim I heard that Marion died. Maybe just a rumor? Aamos heard it a couple of minutes ago from Tim. Not you - Tim Smith.

Mark: Ugh.

Mark: I hope it's not true.

Mark: Really wanted to chat with her.

Gregg: Mark if it turns out to be true - let's put together a memorial event.

Tim: No she is hanging on.

Gregg: Tim Smith can be unreliable. I should have known.

Tim: No worries. The gash was bad and so is the head wound. She is unconscious.

Tim: They are placing her in a medically induced coma to be safe.

Tim: Mario is with her.

Gregg: Will she be able to ID the nude pics of Moe? Is her vision blurred?

Tim: Those were the images she wanted to show Mark.

Tim: She has them with her.

Gregg: The same ones Darrell has?

Tim: Mario is texting me now.

Tim: Mario is with her.

Tim: Mario is typing something.

Gregg: The ones where Moe has a hard-on?

Tim: Hang on.

Mark: Huh?

Tim: Mario said she is on life support?

Mark: Jesus.

Tim: Mario is asking what he should do.

Omitted: Mark video - wishing Marion well.

Tim: Mark what should Mario do?

Tim: Mark Mario thinks he should take her off life support. What do you think he should do???

Tim: He is asking you.

Mark: How the fuck should I know?!!!

Mark: I never even met the woman!

Gregg: Mark don't do it.

Gregg: Let her have a chance.

Mark: Keep her on it!

Tim: Ok thank you!

Tim: Mario says that as well.

Mark: K

Mark: What's wrong with him?

Mark: Why ask me?

Tim: Mario is stressed out.

Tim: He needs your guidance.

Tim: He will be in touch tomorrow to go over Marion's last wishes if she passes away.

Gregg: Mark time for you to take your head out of your ass and actually do something here.

Tim: Let's hope she pulls through.

Mark: You take your head out of your ads Gregg!!!

Mark: Fingers crossed Tim.

Mark: Why is he relying on me so much?

Mark: I don't know him, do I?

Tim: No.

Tim: Mario is an oddball but Marion trusts him so much.

Tim: It's all good.

Gregg: Mark you don't need to be so aggressive right now. Show some maturity please.

Gregg: Mark do you want to see the Curly autopsy pics?

Tim: Mark this is confidential but Marion wants you and Mario to Manage Moe Howard's intellectual property.

Tim: Not 3 stooges stuff but his personal photography.

Mark: Okay Tim.

Tim: Let's pray she lives through the night. Mario will be by her side.

[Mark attaches thumbs up emoji]

Mark: No Gregg.

Gregg: Curly:

[Gregg attaches a graphic black and white gif of a forehead being pulled away from the skull]

Gregg: Mark would you like to see Curly's brain, or Larry's ass. You choose.

Mark: Not interested Gregg.

Mark: Neither.

[Gregg attaches another graphic black and white gif of a hand touching a brain in a skull]

[Gregg posts a picture of a man's bare butt]

Gregg: Oh sorry I thought you meant both.

Gregg: I will withdraw these pics.

April 4th 2020

10:39 AM

Gregg: Hey Mark any interest in visiting Curly Joe's last residence later today with Darrell, Adam, Aamos, and Caruel? The guy who lives there now has agreed to let us in.

Mark: Why is Adam going?

Gregg: He's changed a lot Mark, he now wants to spend his time enjoying life with friends rather than fighting and provoking violence.

Tim: Bad news. I won't be able to make this. Dealing with funeral arrangements for Marion. Mark, has Mario reached out?

Gregg: Tim, can you do both?

Gregg: This is our only chance to get inside Curly Joe's old house.

Tim: No but take videos.

Tim: Mark where are you at with Mario?

Gregg: Sad about Marion. But life must go on.

Tim: She hasn't passed yet.

Tim: Mario wants to prepare for the worst.

Tim: Smart eh?

Tim: Mark you have to get back to Mario he is freaking out.

Mark: What does he want me to do?!!

Tim: I have no idea.

Tim: You better help out or the stooge community will come for your head.

Mark: Tell him to call me.

Tim: He has called you several times.

Mark: Why does he need my help?!

Tim: He doesn't know what to do with Marion's body.

Tim: I'm sorry, if in the event she does pass.

Tim: Hopefully she will be ok.

Tim: I guess he just wants to talk.

Tim: Hope you agree!

Mark: Tell him to ask you! I don't even know the guy!

Tim: I tried that.

Tim: Mark google stooge family funeral planning and work something up.

Tim: Should take you no time at all.

Mark: Nothing came up.

Tim: Call funeral parlors and get into it man. Do you need me to wipe your ass too?

Mark Why do I have to do this?! Why doesn't Mario?

Tim: I have no idea.

Tim: Marion is up and about!

Tim: Can you do the skipper with her tomorrow?

Tim: Skype.

Tim: She's fit as a fiddle my man.

Tim: Except for her gash.

Mark: Sure! Would love to!

Mark: Glad to hear she's doing better!!

Tim: Great. Same deal as tomorrow without all the drama. [crying laughing emoji]

Gregg: Just heard from Tim Smith that Mario has passed.

Tim: No that was a miscommunication from Mario to the wrong Tim.

Tim: Regarding wrong information on Marion.

Gregg: Oh ok.

Tim: Auto correct.

Tim: Mario.

Gregg: Tim says Marion has passed.

Tim: No.

Gregg: Tim Smith.

Tim: Mario said Mario has passed but that wasn't what happened.

Tim: Sorry.

Tim: Tim said America.

Gregg: Tim said Mario passed.

Tim: Marion but no not Mario.

Gregg: Or Marion, sorry autocorrect.

Gregg: Tim did Mario pass

Gregg: ?

Gregg: Sorry that was meant for Tim Smith.

Tim: No one is gone.

Gregg: Tim says Marion is gone.

Tim: No. Both are healthy at the moment Mario was just released from the hospital.

Tim: Marion.

Tim: Tim doesn't know shit about this.

Gregg: Wait, is this Tim Smith texting?

Tim: No.

Tim: This is a group text.

Gregg: Ok thanks. I'll let everyone know Mario passed.

Mark: Huh?

Tim: What?

Gregg: Hey fellas bad news. Mario has passed.

Gregg: Sorry Marion.

Gregg: Not Mario.

Gregg: She was 89.

Gregg: Confirmed by Tim.

Tim: ???

Tim: No I didn't send that.

Gregg: Tim Smith.

Gregg: He got word just now.

Tim: Tim is mistaken.

Tim: I just spoke with Marion.

Tim: Marion.

Tim: Sorry Mario.

Tim: He spoke with Mario.

Gregg: When? Mario passed only 4 minutes ago.

Gregg: Tim was there, Mark.

Tim: I'm on the phone with Mario now.

Tim: He said all is well.

Mark: Who's Tim Smiths?

Tim: Tim Smith is messing with you.

Gregg: Marion passed. Not Mario.

Mark: Marion passed!?

Gregg: Yes sadly.

Tim: No.

Mark: ?

Gregg: Confirmed by Tim.

Tim: Tim Smith is a prank caller.

Mark: You said she was dine!

Mark: Fine.

Tim: Unfortunately Gregg is getting pranked.

Tim: Not very funny.

Gregg: She was fine until she passed.

Tim: Mario is resting.

Tim: Marion.

Mark: Mario?

Gregg: I will ask Tim if he's pulling my leg.

Gregg: Tim Smith.

Tim: Marion.

Gregg: Bad news. Tim was indeed pulling my leg earlier.

Mark: Who the fuck is Tim Smith?

Gregg: But he just received word that Mario has actually died for real.

Tim: That's good news.

Gregg: No.

Gregg: Marion did just die.

Mark: Jesus.

Gregg: It's bad news.

Tim: Literally on the phone with Mario now.

Tim: She is with Marion.

Tim: She is in Marion.

Tim: With.

Gregg: Marion?

Tim: Mario.

Gregg: Tim said he died, Tim.

Tim: And she is alive.

Gregg: It was touch and go but alas the grim reaper had his way.

Gregg: RIP Mario.

Tim: Wrong.

Gregg: Sorry MARION.

Gregg: The services will be tomorrow in Manhattan Beach. Sorry Tim you have bad info.

Gregg: Mario is dead.

Tim: Oh no.

Gregg: Yes. Tim is with the family now.

Gregg: It's the worst thing that could've happened.

Gregg: Mark, Tim really cared for Marion.

Gregg: Though it's also possible Tim made it all up.

Gregg: Tim Smith is a sick guy!

Tim: Mario is not answering calls.

Gregg: Maybe if Mark calls her?

Gregg: She might answer for him.

Tim: I spoke to Mario.

Tim: Marion.

Tim: She is fine.

Tim: That was at 1:15 today.

Gregg: Tim Smith just texted a grim bit of news from Marion's caretaker Ava. Marion passed away at 1:48 pm.

Gregg: I don't trust Tim but I do trust Ava.

Gregg: Just heard from Ava via Tim Smith. Marion is fine!

Gregg: It was Mario who passed away unexpectedly.

Gregg: Heart attack.

Gregg: 2:06 pm.

Tim: Oh no.

Tim: He was very stressed regarding Marion's funeral preparations.

Gregg: Yes apparently it was too much to bear.

Gregg: How is Marion?

Tim: She's recovering.

Tim: Mark she wants to give you some Moe Memorabilia.

Gregg: Any more nudes?

Tim: I don't have information on that.

Tim: Mark marion passed away this evening from an unrelated illness.

Tim: Tomorrow's session is cancelled.

Tim: She was the last living relative of Mow Howard

Tim: Moe Haoward

Gregg: That's awful. Marion and Marion are now together on Heaven, Mark.

Tim: Yes. Mark Mario was going to handle marions funeral but now he is gone. His son Allan is handling that now

Tim: Is son is handling his funeral. marions

Tim: Sorry Mario's

Tim: So can you help arrange Mario's funeral?

Gregg: Tim Smith tells me that the Mario who was in marion's life was an imposter! He was trying to pilfer her Moe souvenirs. The REAL Mario has been in Alaska for 4 weeks working on a huge land sale. Tim heard from him today. He is very upset someone impersonated him. Honestly I was a little skeptical because the real Mario is not as hefty as the one who died.

Tim: Marion has put on weight recently.

Gregg: Sadly Marion was too mentally ill to be able to communicate to anyone the scam! But she must've known.

Tim: Tim isn't to be trusted on this

Tim: Mark can you arrange funerals.

Tim: Sorry, just Funeral for Marion

Tim: Marion's son is handling his.

Gregg: I just don't know what to think. Marion and Marion were very close Mark. Tim Smith was a witness to that.

Gregg: Marion wanted to be buried next to Marion.

Gregg: Marlon.

Gregg: I do believe the real Marion is still alive and mourning the loss of Marlo in Juneau Alaska.

Gregg: Mario is alive, morning Marion

Gregg: Mark, Marion wanted you to have this stuff, please pick up

by noon tomorrow or you will be charged a storage fee

[Omitted image of a metal storage cabinet and mattress foam]

10:41 PM

Tim: Mark the funeral parlor is getting impatient with you. Please call Marlo at Forest Lawn

Tim: She is the account rep for the cadaver

Tim: This is becoming a big problem mark. No one knows what to do with Mario's body

Tim: Maroons

Tim: Maroons

Tim: Mariana

Tim: Marions

Mark: How the hell should I know what to do with it?

Mark: You said Mario!

Tim: But first call Mario at the funeral home.

Mark: He does!

Mark: Dies

Mark: Died!

Tim: They are waiting to hear from you. Mario made you power of attorney.

Mark: Mario's dead.

Tim: Marion

Mark: Oh

Mark: Why did he do that?

Tim: He didn't. She did.

Mark: Why isn't Mario the POA

Mark: Huh?

Tim: He died?

Mark: Mario

Mark: Is this Tim Smith?

Tim: No. She made you in charge.

Mark: Of Mario?

Tim: No, of Marion's.

Tim: Her will.

Mark: Who died?!!!!

Tim: Mario

Tim: Marion.

Mark: Oh no.

Tim: Both have gone.

Mark: That's terrible.

Tim: Call Mario at Forest Lawn [Cemetery] tomorrow.

Mark: I loved her husband.

Mark: Okay.

Gregg: Mario May be alive, Mark.

Gregg: The Mario May be a fake.

Mark: Huh?

Gregg: Marlo at Forest Lawn can check and see if "Mario" has a Moe tattoo to the right of his balls, on his leg. If not--it's not Mario.

Gregg: Call Marlo and ask her.

Mark: I'm not asking that.

Gregg: I trust you Tim that you have the correct information about Marion's passing.

Gregg: Sorry--that was meant for Tim Smith.

Tim: Mario has been cremated.

Mark: Is Smith still on this chain?

Gregg: Tim is on this chain.

Mark: Thread

Mark: ?

Mark: Smith or Heidecker?

Gregg: Heidecker.

Gregg; I can add Tim Smith if you like. He could clear this all up.

Tim: Don't, he is one of the jerky boys!

Gregg: Tim is very jealous of Tim.

Mark: Please don't.

Tim: He is very close to the Moe Howard gamy.

Tim: Family.

Mark: He was confusing.

Gregg: Tim loved Moe, Mark.

Mark: Heidecker?

Mark: I'll call Forest Lawn about Mario and Marion.

Gregg: Mario is not Mario.

Mark: ?

Gregg: It's an imposter, and the real Mario is in Alaska.

Tim: Mark you need to do 5 things tomorrow: Contact Mario at cemetery. Arrange for ballbesrers. Get a video of Moe's career. Send out a statement to the stooge community.

Gregg: This fake Mario stole Mario's identit

Mark: ?

Tim: Also alert the Fine family.

Gregg: Fake mario stoke from Marlin.

Gregg: Fake Mario stole from Marion.

Tim: Jason Fine (Larry's grandson) will want to hear from you.

Gregg: Jason Fine is a goddamned liar.

Gregg: He is not Larry's grandson.

Tim: There is some dispute but I believe him.

Gregg: His real name is Lawrence Marino. Not Fine.

Tim: His mother was Larry's daughter, correct?

Gregg: Marino conspired with the "Mario" to steal precious Moe nudes.

Tim: Just let the fins know.

Mark: I'll call Forest fine tomorrow.

Mark: Lawn.

Tim: Thank you Mark. Send dick pics as well when you can.

Gregg: Marino is bad news guys. Ex-con.

Tim: Take care.

Gregg: Forrest Fine is Larry's real son.

Gregg: But died years ago.

Mark: What do do dick pics have to do with anything?

Mark: Dick pics

Mark: ?!

Gregg: To confirm it is really you.

Tim: ????

Tim: Don't worry about it.

Tim: I thought it would be a nice gesture.

Tim: Mark Pray for Marions family tonight.

Mark: K

Gregg: Marion's family all Died. The Howard's.

Gregg: Mark, Mario (the real Mario) wants to meet with you when he returns from Alaska to share memories of his beloved Marion. You will love these stories!

Gregg: The fake Mario's ashes should be flushed down the toilet, guys. What a scammer.

Mark: ???

Mark: ???

Mark: ?

THE END