

# PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

## Jeremy suspects he might be gay

“HOW does somebody become gay?” Jeremy asked. Jeremy and Miranda sat at Cafe Venetia, her new favorite coffee shop on University Avenue, having a latte.

Jeremy was on his way up to the Aquarius, where he worked as a ticket guy, refreshment guy and general factotum.

The best part of the movie theater job, according to Jeremy, was that he got to stand in front of the audience before rolling the film, and say things like:

“My name is Jeremy. I will be your film concierge for the afternoon. The popcorn is fresh today, and really good. If the film is too loud, please come and tell us.”

Then he would tell the audience that he was an aspiring filmmaker, and do a couple of jokes.

This is part 38 of a 48-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

“I’m a bit of a ham,” he had told Miranda. But today he asked her, “How do you become gay. Are you born gay, or do you become gay?”

“Do you think you might be gay?” Miranda asked.

“Maybe,” said Jeremy.

“What makes you think so?” Miranda asked.

“I like to go over to my girlfriend Taylor’s house and put on make-up with her,” he replied. “At first I told her it was practice for my film. Then I realized I like looking like a woman.”

Miranda’s hairdresser at Edge Salon

on University Avenue had told Miranda that he figured out he was gay when he was 12.

“I’d look at pictures of women in a magazine,” he told Miranda, just the week before when she was having her hair done, “And it didn’t do anything for me. Then I would look at pictures of men, and get all agitated. That’s how I figured it out.”



JEREMY

Jeremy thought about it. “I wonder if Taylor will be upset,” he said finally. “You know her, the one who serves coffee at Coupa, and always says, ‘Perfect.’”

Jeremy was giving Miranda a little tease there. She had seen Taylor perform in “West Side Story” at Lucie Stern theater, and knew she was talented.

“Saying ‘perfect’ to everyone is just

Taylor’s way of managing chaos,” continued Jeremy.

“She knows she does it. She says she does it on purpose to buy emotional space from people in front of her. So they don’t take too much away from her. I kind of get it.”

“But if I’m gay,” he continued, “Will she be upset? I think she will, but I’m not sure. Sometimes I think she’s gay. So maybe if we both turn out to be gay, it will work out. What do you think?”

“Just follow your heart,” said Miranda.

“If I follow my heart, I might get in trouble,” said Jeremy.

“Yes, you might,” said Miranda, thinking of her own past romantic journeys.

**More tomorrow.**