

TIME - Screenplay (Short)

written by

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PERSON (O / S)

Okay, is this thing on?

We walk in to shot and sit down.

PERSON

Okay, what am I doing here.  
You'll assume I am crazy,  
remember this, I am only a little  
crazy. I am not completely  
barking! Hah! Well, I may be. Who  
knows? I am not yet in a rubber  
room. So I can't complain.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Well, I could complain. I like a  
good moan me, but I won't.

Claps hands together

PERSON (CONT'D)

Right, to the point. I am here  
because of time. Time, you may or  
may not know is a bitch. Just  
when you think you have it in a  
corner it either runs away  
screaming like a toddler in a  
tantrum or bitchslaps you like an  
aggressive teen.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Wait, no that is wrong, and off  
point

Gets up and walks behind the camera. Cut to black.

Camera comes back on, he's sat back in front of it.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Okay time. Most people see time  
like this. A to B to C. A being  
the past, B the present and C the  
future. Most people think that if  
we are going to travel in time we  
can go from point B, the present.  
To point A, the past. But we  
can't! There is no Sports Almanac  
to be had. Sorry Mr Tannon!

He leans over and grabs something from a table, a couple couple of pills.

PERSON (CONT'D)

They have me on these pills,  
first it was Donepezil

Holds up a pill

PERSON (CONT'D)

Then it was Memantine

Holds up a second pill.

He takes the second pill, swallowing it whole, he puts the first back

PERSON (CONT'D)

Crazy, see I told you! But drugs are drugs, and free drugs are better. But legal kids, always legal! So, A. B and C. The future is unfolding right, it is not yet written as the Terminator told us.

PERSON (CONT'D)

B to A is impossible, stop trying. B to C though, or I suppose A to C, now that is a different matter. Yes, we can see the future if we wanted too.

Camera cuts, then comes back

PERSON (CONT'D)

Can't go back, it is shite and something you don't consider. I mean think about it, if you could go back someone would have assassinated Hitler, got a selfie with Jebus or some such nonsense.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Forward we can do. It is not time travel really, it is more of a trick with time. A conning of time. We have all done it in a minute way, it is doing it in a large way that is troublesome.

Person grabs a load of papers, covered with mathematical equations. He looks at them

PERSON (CONT'D)

Notes, this part is tricky. I need them for this bit, brain isn't quite what it once was. So, forward in time. We can't jump to one point in an instant, what you can do is play tricks with time. The faster you go, the slower time moves. So when you are going at, lets say 70mph, time is moving for you at a faster rate than someone going at 4mph.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Now, obviously, this is a miniscule difference at those speeds. It is something you would never notice, and why would you. But, lets say you go in to space. Then you will be a couple of seconds ahead! A few seconds, it is not much but it got people thinking.

PERSON (CONT'D)

So thinking about this

He taps his head, as if to indicate thinking

PERSON (CONT'D)

We can't go faster than the speed of light, we all know this. Einstein taught us that yonks ago.  $E=mc^2$ . This is simple stuff. The faster you get to the speed of light,  $c$ , the bigger the mass,  $m$ . So you cant exceed that speed. If you do, Its the end of the world...

The last line "Its the end of the world" starts to be sung, in the REM song tune

PERSON (CONT'D)

But I feel fine...

Person pauses, daydreaming for a second, staring of to the side. He snaps out of it back to the camera

PERSON (CONT'D)

Sorry, drifted into a daydream there. Old song, I don't know if you know it. Came out around my 40th, feels like yesterday.

Pause

PERSON (CONT'D)

All my troubles seemed so...

He drifts for a second, remembering a memory. Snapping back to the camera with a smile.

PERSON (CONT'D)

But what if we could do 99.9 percent the speed of light? What if we pushed the limits, to the very edge of what is possible. Now that is possible, that can be done.

Looks at notes

PERSON (CONT'D)

So, if we travel for two and a half years at the 99.9 times the speed of light, upwards. Zoom, off we go. Two and a half years, then turn around and two and a half years to get back. Five year round trip.

Waves notes at the camera

PERSON (CONT'D)

We've travelled for five years, but here's the clever bit. Time back home on earth has forty years forwards. The maths is a little off, hey, I am not a mathematician, but it is close enough for this example. Here is the problem, here is the thing you don't consider when signing up.

Pause

PERSON (CONT'D)

You can't go back. You're stuck out of place, and out of time.

Camera cuts to black, and then back.

PERSON (CONT'D)

So, whaddya do? Going back isn't an option so you need to do something else. You can stay and live out your life, but why do that? It gets you nowhere, nowhere slowly. So you go forwards. And zoom, away you go.

Grabs a cup and uses it like a space ship to demonstrate.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Two and a half up, two and a half down. Now you're eighty years out of place. And they still have not worked out a solution. Bugger! Panic sets in, Shit I am really stranded. So back you go, Zooming into space and then back. One hundred and Twenty, the darts announcer screams. Now you are well out of place. You didn't stop to think, you should have stopped. Impulsive that has always been your problem!

He crashes the cup back to the table.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Now you are really stuck, you are so far out you don't know a soul and your ship is broken. You can't fix it, you are not a damn Engineer. You can't even fix the a car. You check the things you were taught, but you can't find a problem. Shit, shit, shit, shit.

PERSON (CONT'D)

You turn to the people who created it originally. They deny all knowledge. Secrecy? Disowned Project? The pitfalls of messing with time? I don't know. I only know that when I returned the ship was gone, I was alone. It was all gone.

Camera Black, and back.

PERSON (CONT'D)

Family is important you see. I can't remember now, maybe it is time messing with me. You are not supposed to play with time, so maybe my brain cannot take it. Maybe I am crazy, do you think so? Maybe I am. I remember little bits, glimpses of a past that moves like ripples, starting clearly and then fading. I can remember some things, I just feel like they are there. Ready to be grabbed, but I reach out

He reaches out

PERSON (CONT'D)

But I can't grasp them. Like ghosts, drifting in a wind. I..I, its so close, I think I had children, I can't say for sure. It slips from me, just when I think it is there it is gone, the memory in the corner of my eye.

He is getting visibly upset

PERSON (CONT'D)

I just don't know any more, did I have a family? Did I ... I just, it won't come. I just can't make it come.

He holds his head in his hands, blubbering

CUT BLACK.