

End Of The World

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LIGHTS UP

ROBBIE, a 17 year old high schooler, sits in a clearing in the woods on a tree stump. He looks at his watch from time to time, not in an impatient way, just marking the clock's progress. KASEY, his girl friend, enters the scene.

ROBBIE:
(turning around) Hey you.

KASEY:
Hey. What are you doing way out here? I thought we were going to go see a movie tonight.

ROBBIE:
Can't.

KASEY:
Why not?

ROBBIE:
I'm kind of busy right now.

KASEY:
Busy keeping that stump from floating away?

ROBBIE:
Nah, just busy waiting.

KASEY:
Well, mind if I wait with you then?

ROBBIE:
Sure. Here.

ROBBIE gets up and offers the stump to KASEY. KASEY sits. ROBBIE sits on the forest floor.

KASEY:
No offense, but this is the least comfortable stump I've ever sat on.

ROBBIE:

Don't worry, we're not going to be here too long.

KASEY:

Why, where are we going?

ROBBIE:

I don't really know.

KASEY:

We could go to the movies like you promised. Or Applebee's. (no reaction at all from ROBBIE) Or we could just sit here in the woods.

ROBBIE shrugs

KASEY:

So, what are we waiting for?

ROBBIE:

The end of the world.

KASEY:

Really?

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

Huh. And it's soon?

ROBBIE:

Another 12 minutes or so.

KASEY:

I guess that rules out the movies. So, how do you know the end of the world is coming?

ROBBIE:

I've seen it.

KASEY:

Really? Huh. And how did you-

ROBBIE:
Time travel.

KASEY:
Really? Huh. And how-

ROBBIE:
(matter of fact) I accelerated the water atoms in my body to the point where they went from matter to energy, then the energy moved at the speed of light to the future. When the atoms cooled my essence was pulled back to just a little while ago.

KASEY:
Did it hurt? It sounds like it would.

ROBBIE:
Nah. I did throw-up a little when I got back though.

KASEY:
And when you were in the future you saw the world end.

ROBBIE:
Yup. It's cool; if it weren't the end of everything. It all kinda folds on itself. There's a big red wave as everything slows to a stop and for one second you can hear the entire world's heart beat together. Thump. Thump. And then it shifts the other way. The light started to turn purple, and then I popped back here.

KASEY:
Because your water atoms cooled from energy back to matter.

ROBBIE:
Yup. I think you'll like it when you see it.

KASEY:
(not believing) It does sound pretty intense. Okay, this stump is putting my butt to sleep. If the world doesn't end in 12 minutes give me a call, we can still go bowling or something. Love you.

KASEY starts to leave, ROBBIE doesn't turn around

ROBBIE:
Yeah, you didn't believe me the last time either.

From almost off-stage KASEY turns around

KASEY:

Robbie, the last time you told me that Elvis and Nixon had switched places and it was Nixon who died on the toilet and Elvis who went to China. So, you can't really blame me.

ROBBIE:

No, I mean last time I told you the world was going to end. Remember, I've been to the future, I've had a lot of this conversation before. But the Nixon/Elvis thing is legit too. If the world weren't ending I'd show you the website again.

KASEY:

Okay then, prove it.

ROBBIE:

I don't exactly have an internet connection here in the woods.

KASEY:

Prove you've been to the future. Tell me my future.

ROBBIE:

Okay. (waves hands about) You die, just like me and everyone else in the world when the universe ends in 12 minutes. Sorry, 10 minutes.

KASEY:

(unamused) Robbie.

ROBBIE:

(mimicking) Kasey.

KASEY:

I'm not waiting around in the woods for 10 minutes just for a lame joke.

ROBBIE:

Fine. Hold on a minute.

ROBBIE begins pacing around

KASEY:

What're you doing?

ROBBIE:

I'm remembering what happens. (gestures in the air to himself) Okay, okay, here comes a

truck.

SFX: Truck

ROBBIE:

Doesn't see the stop sign.

SFX: Tire squeal

ROBBIE:

Other car.

SFX: More tires. Car horn

ROBBIE:

Birds, left to right.

ROBBIE and KASEY watch the birds fly.

ROBBIE:

Now comes your cell phone. "Hello?" "Hey Kasey it's Kelly. You will not believe what Mom is making us do this weekend." "C-c-can I call you back?" and then to me "How did you do that?" Because I've seen the future. "Wow." Yup. In 5, 4, 3, 2-

SFX: Phone ringing

KASEY:

Hello?

KELLY:

(VO) Hey Kasey it Kelly. You will not believe what Mom is making us do this weekend.

KASEY:

C-c-can I call you back?

KASEY hangs up her phone and looks at ROBBIE who is sitting back on the ground

KASEY:

How did you do that?

ROBBIE:

Because I've seen the future.

KASEY:

Wow.

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

Can I sit down again?

ROBBIE:

Go right ahead.

KASEY sits on the stump. They both sit in silence as she tries to wrap her head around what is going to happen.

KASEY:

Wow.

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

You've been to the future.

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

You've seen the end of the world.

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

Will you stop saying 'yup'? You've seen the end of the world! We're all going to die in 10 minutes and all you have to say about it is 'yup'?

ROBBIE:

Hey, yelling at me isn't going to stop the universe from ending.

KASEY:

Well, you could at least panic or something.

ROBBIE:

Like, throw up my hands and run around screaming?

KASEY:

For starters.

ROBBIE throws his hands in the air and runs around screaming, not meaning any of it.

ROBBIE:

Ah-ahhhh-ahhhh.

KASEY pulls out her phone and begins to dial.

ROBBIE:

Calling your mom now, huh?

KASEY:

How did you-?

ROBBIE:

(mouthing) Future, remember?

KASEY stares as the phone picks up on the other end.

KASEY:

Hello Mom? Hey, I just wanted to say that I love you. (pause) Mom! (shorter pause) No I am NOT pregnant! (pause) Because the world's ending in ten minutes and I just thought I should say it. (pause) Yeah, the whole world. (longer pause) Mommmmm. (pause) But the world is ending, and I'm 17 now. (pause) Fine. (pause) I love you too. (ends call) My mom says I have to be home by ten.

ROBBIE:

Good luck with that.

ROBBIE and KASEY both laugh at KASEY's curfew.

KASEY:

I'm sorry I yelled at you earlier.

ROBBIE:

Nah, I'm sorry I didn't react more. Just cause I'm used to the idea doesn't mean you are.

You could go throw up on those bushes like I did, if it'd make you feel better.

KASEY:
Thanks, I'll pass.

ROBBIE:
Not the best offer huh?

KASEY:
No, not really.

ROBBIE:
I could hug you.

KASEY:
That's much better.

They embrace

KASEY:
Do you think it will hurt?

ROBBIE:
Throwing up? Yeah, it usually does.

KASEY:
No, the end of the universe.

ROBBIE:
I don't know, remember I jumped back just before it happened.

KASEY:
Wait, so you didn't actually see it happen?

ROBBIE:
See the universe end? No, oddly enough I didn't stick around for that.

KASEY breaks the hug and begins pacing around. She's on to something and is very excited about it.

KASEY:
Well then maybe it doesn't really end. I mean, like you said, you didn't actually see it

happen. You just saw some lights, right? That could be anything. Like fireworks, or an explosion.

ROBBIE:

An explosion that causes everything to slow to a crawl? I don't think so.

KASEY:

Well it could be. I mean, IF the world was ending, don't you think someone would have said something?

ROBBIE:

I Did. I said it a bunch. I'll say it again. The world is Ending. (checks watch) In Four minutes.

KASEY:

Someone else I mean. Like a scientist or something.

ROBBIE:

I think your dog noticed it. That's why he's been acting so weird this last week. I don't blame him.

KASEY:

Scooter doesn't know the world's coming to an end. Scooter just likes to dig up my mom's garden.

ROBBIE:

Maybe.

KASEY:

And oh yeah, you accelerated your water molecules? You couldn't-

ROBBIE:

Keep my bean plant alive for two weeks in Biology?

KASEY:

...yeah. Maybe if-

ROBBIE:

I'd said I'd built a time machine?

KASEY:

What-

ROBBIE:

Am I doing? We had this conversation in the future.

KASEY/ROBBIE:

Oh yeah? Well- stop it. Seriously. Robbie. This isn't funny. I stiiiiiiii
dooooonnnn't...believeyou. Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in a pot...
fourdaysOLD!

ROBBIE:

(mimes a bird flying away)

SFX of bird flying away, ROBBIE and KASEY watch as it goes.

KASEY stands for a moment as this sinks in and then sits on the ground, defeated.

ROBBIE sits down next to her, an arm on her shoulder.

ROBBIE:

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done that.

KASEY:

No, it's not your fault. It's just... I'm 17, you know? There's so much I wanted to Do! I wanted to take an art class, I wanted to, to canoe in Canada. I wanted to get red highlights. I wanted, I wanted to have twin babies and name them Oreo and Nabisco, you know? I had all these things I wanted to do and now I'll never get to.

ROBBIE:

(beat) I would have liked to have had sex.

KASEY smacks him across the chest

ROBBIE;

Ow! With YOU.

KASEY:

Well looks like neither of us are going to get what we want.

ROBBIE:

(sigh) I can't believe we're going to die virgins.

KASEY doesn't answer. ROBBIE looks at her and continues to pry.

ROBBIE:

Yup, the both of us, dying as virgins. To have never known the touch of another.

UNTOUCHED in EVERY WAY, PURE AS DRIVEN-

KASEY:

All right, all right, I'm not a virgin.

ROBBIE:

What? You told me you were saving yourself for marriage.

KASEY:

I am. ...now.

ROBBIE:

What? When? Who? How? Answer the middle two, I know the last one.

KASEY:

This guy at camp last summer. His name was Eddie, he was from Texas, it seemed like half the camp was doing it, it was after the big dance and this bonfire and... well...

ROBBIE:

Son of a...

KASEY:

I thought you knew. I mean, you've been to the future and all

ROBBIE:

This didn't come up last time, I can't believe you're waiting till now to tell me this.

KASEY:

Well you brought it up.

ROBBIE:

If you'd held out just another minute I never would have known.

KASEY:

Well if it makes you feel any better it wasn't that great.

ROBBIE:

Yeah, with Eddie. It would have been great with me.

KASEY leans against ROBBIE, ROBBIE puts an arm around her

ROBBIE:

Phenomenal even. Yup, I'd go that far. Sex with me would have been phenomenal

They sit in silence for a while.

KASEY:

Why aren't you scared?

ROBBIE:

I don't know.

KASEY:

Sure you do. I've been freaking out ever since I found out the world is going to end, but you, you act like it's no big deal.

ROBBIE:

Well, like you said, it might not even be the end of the world.

KASEY:

But it probably is.

ROBBIE:

It might just be an explosion or something.

KASEY:

But it PROBABLY... is.

ROBBIE:

But it probably is.

KASEY:

And the reason you're so calm is...

ROBBIE:

And the reason I'm so calm is... because ever since I was, 12 or so, I've known that I want to spend my whole life with you. And so my life ends a little early, at least I'm with you when it ends. Really, that's the best I could have ever hoped for.

KASEY:

That's really sweet. (pause) Do you want to have sex?

ROBBIE:

(excitedly) Oh I thought you were never going to ask.

KASEY starts pulling off her top while ROBBIE unbuttons his pants. LIGHTS

slowly start to turn red.

ROBBIE:

No, no, nawwww-It's starting. Stupid universe and its lousy timing. (beat) Wait, how long does this take?

KASEY:

At least a couple of minutes. Even more if it's going to be phenomenal.

ROBBIE:

DARN IT.

ROBBIE and KASEY fix their clothing. They stare out at the light as it continues to grow in intensity.

KASEY:

This is it then?

ROBBIE:

Yup.

KASEY:

It's beautiful.

ROBBIE:

I thought you'd like it.

They stand together, ROBBIE slowly takes KASEY's hand in his.

ROBBIE:

What kind of name is Eddie?

KASEY kisses him quickly as the lights go full red.

SFX: THUMP. THUMP.

LIGHTS switch to purple and then black.