

"Time Bungalow"

Written by

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"Time Bungalow"

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

ALICE is on a bench reading a book. Enter BOB.

BOB

Hey, I just found a time machine in  
the park. Want to explore history  
for a while?

Alice checks her phone and puts down the book.

ALICE

Sure, why not?

Exeunt.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Alice and Bob are making their way to the time machine.

ALICE

So what's a time machine doing all  
alone out here?

BOB

Donno. The keys are still inside  
and everything.

ALICE

Wait, it just occurred to me that  
we're stealing a time machine.

BOB

It's not stealing if we leave it  
back when we found it, is it?

ALICE

I guess not.

They have arrived. A large cardboard box in the rough  
shape of a house, bearing a nameplate which says "Time  
Bungalow", stands alone in a small clearing.

ALICE

This... is... awesome.

They step inside.

INT. TIME COTTAGE

The interior is slightly more spacious, but no less cheaply made. Bob takes the controls.

ALICE

You know, I've always wanted to have a time machine.

BOB

Well, pay more attention in your engineering classes, and who knows? Maybe you'll invent one one day.

ALICE

Yeah, as if. I don't know the first thing about temporal mechanics.

BOB

Anyway, we have all of Earth's history waiting at our fingertips, so... where to?

ALICE

(Thinking)

That French restaurant on Main Street, two months ago.

BOB

Any particular reason?

ALICE

It was a good restaurant, but they got shut down for health code violations.

BOB

Sounds cool. Here we go!

He pulls a lever and the world turns in on itself. Wind bubbles absorb the scene as the vessel transports itself across time and space.

EXT. BOG - DAY, 10,000,000 BC

The cottage materializes in a primordial marsh. Alice and Bob step out.

ALICE

Hey, where are we?

BOB

Well, you have to understand, I've never flown a time-ship before. My piloting may not have been perfect.

ALICE

(Pointing downwards)

What's that?

BOB

Oh, that's a primordial pool. A miasma of proteins and other organic molecules, just waiting to become living organisms.

ALICE

Well, close enough to a French restaurant.

BOB

But that means...

Bob checks his phone.

BOB

Hmm. It seems I've made a small miscalculation.

ALICE

How small?

BOB

Considering the trillion trillion years the universe will exist, my piloting was almost supernaturally accurate.

ALICE

How small of a miscalculation?

BOB

The year is roughly ten million BC.

ALICE

And you could tell that by looking at your phone?

BOB

It has a calendar app.

ALICE

Ah. Well, maybe we could look around for a bit. Who knows what exotic, long extinct things we might see?

BOB

Actually, we should probably get back. Now.

ALICE

What's wrong?

BOB

Our bodies are teeming with microbes which shouldn't exist yet. To us, they're harmless, but if they're let loose here, the butterfly effect could be catastrophic. If we contaminate anything, it could be the end of human life as we know it.

Alice sneezes. Bob gives her a disappointed glare. He steps back into the cottage. Alice follows. The vessel dematerializes.

INT. TIME COTTAGE

Bob is focusing on working the controls. Alice looks on.

ALICE

I didn't mean to.

BOB

Could we please just go one week without one of us possibly dooming the entire human race? We're going back to right before we left, so we can stop ourselves from leaving in the first place, and prevent all of this.

ALICE

Will that really work?

BOB

If we work fast enough, we should be able to set things right before the timeline re-forms around us. I read that in a YouTube comment.

EXT. WORKSHOP - AD 2058

The cottage materializes, and the travelers step outside.

ALICE

This looks like my grandfather's workshop. He said he'd pass this place down to me when he died.... What year is it?

Bob checks the date.

BOB

Uh... we're much closer this time. I'm improving.

Alice stares him down.

BOB

AD 2058.

Just then, laser bolts fly across the scene. A sphere of pure energy is bouncing around the workshop blasting everything.

BOB

We're too late! Earth is run by spheres of living energy.

The FUTURE VERSIONS of Alice and Bob enter, firing back. Alice points.

ALICE

Look!

BOB

We've aged well, haven't we?

A laser hits the time cottage, causing it to collapse in a pile of cardboard, duct tape, and dryer tubing. Meanwhile, the future versions dispatch the sphere.

ALICE

The time machine!

BOB

Stay calm. I'm sure we can fix it.

FUTURE BOB

If I had a U. S. Grant for every time--

FUTURE ALICE

Hey, look, it's us from the past.

They approach themselves.

FUTURE ALICE

(To Future Bob)

Do you remember this?

BOB

Our future selves! We've made a huge mistake. The world is controlled by energy blobs, and now our time machine is ruined...

FUTURE ALICE

No it's not. Relax.

FUTURE BOB

This is just extreme laser tag with one of your more "creative" inventions.

ALICE

"Creative?"

FUTURE ALICE

It was supposed to be a 360 degree flashlight, but I accidentally made it sentient.

BOB

Then we didn't alter history?

FUTURE ALICE

Look, kids, time travel doesn't work like that. You can't just alter history by becoming part of it. It's called the Novikov self-consistency principle.

FUTURE BOB

By traveling to the past, you only ensured the inevitable--that ten million years ago, the two of you appeared, sneezed, and vanished. It has always been your destiny. Everything that has happened, was always going to have happened, and everything that will happen, has always been going to be happening. Put simply, you can't change history. Not one line.

ALICE

Oh? That sounds interesting.  
Confusing, but interesting.

FUTURE ALICE

I know. That spark of an idea was  
what inspired me to invent the Time  
Cottage.

ALICE

I invented the Time Cottage? That  
means you can help us fix it!

FUTURE ALICE

Better yet, you can take mine. I'm  
bored with it, anyway.

ALICE

Thanks, me!

BOB

Don't take any wooden nickels!

They all walk off to the workshop.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The cottage materializes back where the first one  
originally stood. Our "heroes" leave it one final  
time. Bob checks his phone.

BOB

There we go, just a few minutes  
off. See? I've already improved  
countless orders of magnitude.

ALICE

That's the last time I cross the  
boundaries of human knowledge with  
you.

BOB

Yeah, that's what you say every  
time. I'm hungry. You up for  
Indian?

ALICE

Sure.

They walk off. Seconds later, Bob approaches from the  
other direction.



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BOB

Oh, neat, a time machine.

THE END