ABOUT TIME

by

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A cramped basement that's been converted into an inventor's workspace. Gadgets, gizmos, wires and other various electronic devices fill the room.

But they are nothing compared to the sleek, silver TIME MACHINE in the center.

DONALD CROWN, early 60s, tightens a screw on the side of the time machine. He then grabs a handkerchief and wipes his brow. He wears glasses and a Mets baseball cap.

WILLIAM "BILLY" CROWN, 27, trudges down the steps into the basement.

DONALD Billy! Come here!

Billy approaches his father.

DONALD (CONT'D) This is it. The big one. I've finally done it.

BILLY Why're you wasting your time with this stuff? You're an I.T. guy, not-

DONALD This is no longer just a hobby, son. This is revolutionary.

BILLY What is it? A freezer on wheels?

He puts an arm around Billy.

DONALD No. It's a time machine.

BILLY Come on, dad. For real.

DONALD This is for real.

BILLY

You're not funny.

# DONALD

We can have first hand accounts of major historical events. Or see what the future has in store.

BILLY Like the Jetsons?

DONALD Don't be a wisequy.

BILLY C'mon, dad. Time travel?

Donald walks behind the time machine and rummages through some boxes and files.

BILLY (CONT'D) You see my iPod? I can't find it anywhere.

His dad returns holding a small MANILA ENVELOPE. It's labeled "DONALD CROWN. TRIP #3." He hands it to Billy.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What's this?

# DONALD

Open it.

Billy opens the envelope. Inside he finds

A PHOTOGRAPH

Billy takes out the photo and holds it closer under the light. It's a photo of President Kennedy's assassination, taken from street level.

### BILLY

So?

DONALD What's it look like?

BILLY

Did you cut this out from our encyclopedia? Mom's gonna be mad.

DONALD

Nope. That's one of a kind. Taken by yours truly this morning.

BILLY

You're really taking this practical joke all the way, aren't you?

#### DONALD

I had to test it. Of course I started with inanimate objects, then a video camera. They came back fine, so I tried it myself.

#### BILLY

If this was even possible, which I'm still not falling for, why didn't you stop this from happening? Or any other tragic event in history? Try to make right what once went wrong?

#### DONALD

Not a good idea. Even with the best intentions, the consequences could be dire.

#### BILLY

Right.

DONALD Aren't you curious?

BILLY I live in the present.

#### DONALD

Suit yourself.

#### BILLY

So, now what?

#### DONALD

My next trip tomorrow will be about fifty, maybe a hundred years into the future. See what's to come.

# BILLY

I'm finally moving out this weekend. Don't blow the house up until after I'm gone.

# DONALD

Good night, son.

# BILLY

Night, dad.

Billy climbs the staircase. His dad returns to inspecting the time machine.

# INT. MCNALLY'S BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Billy and EUGENE, 26, thin with glasses, sit at the bar. Billy takes a swig of his beer.

BILLY

Come on, Gene. If you could time travel, where would you go? I mean, when?

EUGENE

Dude. Why talk about stuff that's not possible? You see that hot waitress over there? Maybe we should get a table.

BILLY Just answer the question.

Eugene gulps down his beer.

EUGENE I don't know. Definitely not the past. High school sucked. Remember Hank Romano?

BILLY "Hank the Tank"? He works at a gym in the city now, I hear.

EUGENE Picked on all of us big time back in the day.

BILLY Him and that fat friend of his. What was his name?

EUGENE Tommy? Timmy? I forget. Bygones, right?

Eugene gets a good look at the attractive BLONDE WAITRESS as she passes by.

# BILLY

Right.

#### EUGENE

Maybe I'd check out the future. See if it turns out like Blade Runner. Those flying cars were friggin' awesome. BILLY You smoke something before you got here?

EUGENE Your the one asking the weird questions, man. Sounding a little like your dad. No offense. How's he doing, by the way?

BILLY He's fine. Just fine.

Billy finishes his beer.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Billy flips through his middle school and high school yearbooks.

In his high school yearbook, he stops on a PHOTO of HENRY "HANK" ROMANO, 17. A tough-looking kid with a blonde crew cut.

Billy then turns back a few pages and finds the PHOTO of himself at 13.

He closes the yearbook and tosses it aside.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Billy sleeps in his bed. He tosses and turns, until he finally wakes up. He checks the time on his ALARM CLOCK: 2:15 A.M.

He climbs out of bed.

INT. BASEMENT LABORATORY - LATER

Billy quietly makes his way down the steps. The stairs CREEK. He walks up to the time machine.

BILLY Old man's really lost it this time.

He shakes his head and turns to the staircase.

The young man glances back to the time machine. He moves closer.

He flips the main POWER SWITCH. LIGHTS on the panels come to life. The machine emits a LOW HUM.

He OPENS the hatch and peeks inside.

EXT. EAST COAST MUSIC STORE - EARLY MORNING (3 WEEKS AG0)

Billy stands in front of the entrance. Behind him are about THIRTY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN in their late teens and twenties.

A sign on the door reads: "ROLLINS BAND TICKETS SOLD HERE".

STONER How early you get here for tickets?

BILLY

About five minutes before you, friend. When they went on sale the first time, I overslept. Now I'll be able to go. Killer.

STONER

This is the first time these tickets are being sold. What're you--?

The TATTOOED SALES CLERK opens the door.

BILLY

YES!

INT. MAIN STREET GRILL - DAY (7 YEARS AG0)

At a table in the crowded deli/restaurant, Billy enjoys an overstuffed Philly Cheesesteak sandwich.

> BILLY Mmm. A crime this place ever closed down. (to the deli clerk) Joe, better get me one for the road. Make that two.

EXT. UPSCALE SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT (4 YEARS AGO)

Billy rushes up the front steps and RINGS the doorbell. He's panting. DAVID, late 20s, soon OPENS the door. BILLY Dave! Wow. It's been a while.

DAVID I just dropped you off.

#### BILLY

Oh, right.

DAVID Did you change your clothes?

BILLY Just listen. First, religion's about faith. It's what a person

gets out of it that's important.

#### DAVID

Really.

# BILLY

Second, your condescending attitude's the reason why me and the guys always teased you and why my ex, Jessica, hated your guts.

DAVID

You said she was just shy.

### BILLY

I lied. And finally, I hate "Stargate". Whenever you went on about that show, I wanted to jump off a cliff.

DAVID

Whatever. Anything else?

#### BILLY

Nope. That's it. Whew! Been waiting a long time to get that out. After you moved, I never had the chance.

DAVID

I'm not moving.

# BILLY

Not yet.

#### DAVID

What?

Billy looks at his watch.

BILLY Look at the time. Gotta run. Later, Dave.

EXT. MILTON AVENUE - PARKING LOT - DAY (15 YEARS EARLIER)

A beautiful autumn day on a quiet suburban street.

12-YEAR-OLD BILLY, wearing glasses and his hair neatly combed back, stands with his back up against a brick wall. EUGENE, 11, skinny and awkward, stands next to Billy just as nervous.

Before them stands HANK ROMANO, 16, and a CHUBBY TEEN.

HANK Where you two girls going?

12-YEAR-OLD BILLY

Um, home.

HANK "Um, home." Pathetic. How much you got?

EUGENE

Here.

Eugene and Billy each take out some change and a few dollars from their pockets.

Hank takes the money, looks at it, and throws it to the ground.

HANK

I can't buy shit with this.

The Chubby Teen SPITS in Eugene's face.

Hank grabs Billy's shirt and PUNCHES him hard in the face.

Billy slams into the wall and falls to the ground. The Chubby Teen smirks.

Hank bends down and grabs Billy. He's about to punch him again, when--

Adult Billy grabs Hank's arm. Hank turns and looks up at him.

BILLY

Hank Romano?

### Get the fuck off me.

Adult Billy lifts Hank up and throws him against the wall. He spins the punk around to face him and SMASHES HIS FIST into the teen's face.

The powerful punch knocks Hank to the ground. Young Billy and Eugene are stunned.

# CHUBBY TEEN

Hey!

Adult Billy turns and gives the Chubby Teen a dirty look. The Chubby Teen runs away as fast as he can.

BILLY God, it felt better than I thought it would. That hurt, Hank?

HANK

Ow, hell yeah.

#### BILLY

Awesome!

Young Billy and Eugene gather their belongings.

BILLY (CONT'D) This loser won't bother you anymore. Will you?

HANK

No, sir.

12-YEAR-OLD BILLY

Thanks.

BILLY My pleasure. By the way, get to know Melanie Cook sophomore year.

12-YEAR-OLD BILLY

Why?

# BILLY

Trust me.

Adult Billy walks down the tree-lined street, whistling.

The two young boys watch him for a moment, then pick up their money, turn around and head in the opposite direction.

FADE OUT.