

Outta Time

By

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT -- DAY

JASON WILKES (early 30s) walks in and slams the door.

He sits next to his phone, runs his fingers through his thinning hair, and presses the message button:

FRIEND (VO)

Hey bud, heard about the pitch. Happens to the best of us. I've stopped counting myself, but we plow ahead, right? Keep your chin up. Later.

RYAN (VO)

Jase, sorry about the pitch this morning. Don't let the bastards get you down. Your script was fucking amazing, you know that. Give me a call, bro.

MOM (VO)

Jason, it's mom...I saw your post about the production company meeting...Hon', you've been in Los Angeles for so long now. Maybe it's time to come home, find a rea...a job with some security. You've given it your best shot. We're proud of you.

Jason looks at the floor, even more dejected.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT -- DAY

JASON and RYAN stand amongst stacked boxes.

RYAN

Five years, bro, you've only been in L.A. for five years. I've been here, like, 15 or something.

JASON

It's plenty of time to realize you're not cut out for...

RYAN

Stop. You've got talent up the ass. You're a screenwriter, Jason.

JASON

I'm a car salesman. I sell cars
for a living.

RYAN

Bullshit, you've got a day job like
everyone else. You're here, in
L.A., trying to realize a dream. A
dream you're prepared to shitcan.

JASON

So you going to drive me to the Los
Cinco or what?

RYAN

Yeah, sure. But still don't know
why you won't stay with me on your
last night here. Valley ain't good
enough for you?

JASON

You know why. When I first got
into town I stayed at the Los Cinco
Hotel, the Five Spot.

RYAN

Yeah, everybody did.

JASON

I want to leave the same way. It's
a way to get some closure.

RYAN

Sounds depressing as
shit. Remember all the talks we
had about movies, how they
transported us, how they made us
feel. Dude, you still haven't
written your "Casablanca." Your
"Back to the Future."

Jason looks at Ryan.

JASON

That's just it. I thought I had.

INT. LOS CINCO HOTEL LOBBY -- EARLY AFTERNOON

JASON checks in at the retro two-story hotel in
Hollywood. The CLERK hands him his room key.

CLERK

Room 121. Check out at 11 a.m.

JASON

No problem. Need to catch a plane at 7.

CLERK

Ahh, leaving on a jet plane. Happy hour is from 5 to 6 o'clock. Free drinks while they last, in the lobby.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

JASON naps on the bed. The alarm SOUNDS, and he jumps up, looks at the clock. It reads: 5:00 p.m.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Jason walks in and sees MALIK, an African-American (early 20s); and KARL, (early 20s), drinking beer.

He spots some beer and a few bottles of chilled white on a table, and walks over to help himself.

MALIK

(to Jason)

Get it while it's still lukewarm. I think this shit's got an expiration date.

JASON

(almost to himself)

Like we all do.

Malik gives Karl a look, shrugs his shoulders.

KARL

Join us if you like.

JASON

Thanks.

Jason sits with them, beer in hand.

JASON

You guys just get into town?

MALIK
Two days ago.

KARL
Last night for me.

MALIK
Came to chase my dream of becoming
a comedian...
(exaggerated)
Because, you know, black dudes are
funny as shit...

Jason kind of smiles.

MALIK
(joking)
Figure there can't be many more in
town like me, right?

JASON
Nah.

KARL
About as many screenwriters. That's
what I'm hoping to do.

JASON
I've written scripts.

KARL
Really? Would love to read some of
your stuff.

JASON
Sorry, but I don't think I could
take that kind of rejection.

Karl half-smiles.

MALIK
So when you get into town?

JASON
Five years ago.

MALIK
Wow. Okay, so how's it goin'?

JASON
Not good. Leaving for home
tomorrow morning...But don't let me
spoil the party.

Jason raises his beer.

JASON
I envy you both. The very best of
luck, gentlemen.

Karl and Malik raise their beers, say "thanks."

ABBY, a wide-eyed pretty girl, (early 20s), walks in. The
guys immediately notice her. She smiles at everyone.

ABBY
Hi.

They all say hi. Malik is a bit awestruck.

MALIK
Drinks are over there. You have to
get it while it's there...it's
lukewarm...over there.

ABBY
(slightly bewildered)
Thanks.

She leaves for a drink, comes back toward the table.

ABBY
May I?

MALIK
No doubt.

She smiles, sits.

ABBY
I can't believe I'm finally
here. After so many years of
dreaming.

MALIK
You just get into town?

ABBY
This morning.

KARL
Surreal, isn't it?

ABBY
Yeah. Like a movie.

They laugh.

MALIK
So what's your dream?

ABBY
Acting. I want to be an actress.

JASON
(surly)
Ever act before?

ABBY
High school and college plays. A couple of musicals.

JASON
Good for you. You wouldn't believe how many people come to L.A. with tons of acting ambition but zero actual experience.

ABBY
I take it you're not new in town.

JASON
About as new as an old shoe.

KARL
Jason's on his way home. After five years in the TMZ.

ABBY
(sarcastic, to Jason)
Well I'm glad it hasn't made you bitter.

Jason half-smiles, drinks his beer.

INT. LOBBY -- END OF HAPPY HOUR

The booze is gone and the four are feeling good, even Jason.

MALIK
Okay, everyone. What's your favorite movie?

ABBY
Jaws.

MALIK
(quickly)
No black people but I like it. The first ever summer blockbuster.

JASON

Summers are great...It's when people fall in love with movies for the first time.

KARL

They're awesome. Pure entertainment.

JASON

They can be thought-provoking, too.

ABBY

(to Jason)

What's your favorite summer movie?

JASON

Back to the Future.

ABBY

Nice.

MALIK

Great pick.

KARL

Agreed, but how is "Back to the Future" thought-provoking?

JASON

Here's something to think about: Why don't George and Lorraine recognize their son, Marty, as the guy they met back in the '50s?

KARL

I don't know, why?

JASON

That's just it, we don't know. Maybe because it was 30 years ago, they had no picture of Marty and their memory faded.

MALIK

(to Karl)

It's also a movie about time travel, right, so you kind of have to suspend belief.

They smile at Karl.

KARL
(to Malik)
Good point.

JASON
A lot of the scenes were filmed in
the L.A. area. I had always wanted
to visit some of the locations, but
never got the chance.

The rest look at each other, smile.

JASON
No.

ABBY
Oh yeah.

ABBY, MALIK AND KARL
(in unison)
Road trip!

KARL
I've got a car.

JASON
I've got to get up in the morning.

MALIK
I can find the addresses on my
smartphone.

They all smile together, including Jason.

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

JASON, ABBY, MALIK and KARL ride in the car.

JASON
I don't believe this.

ABBY
Sure it's here?

MALIK
Should be.

JASON
(looking out the window)
There it is.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

is unmistakable, especially the front view: huddled between two massive trees. It's Whittier Union High School in Whittier, Calif., but more easily recognized as the high school in BTTF.

They stop, exit the car, and look at the school.

ABBY

Hill Valley High.

JASON

(half-joking)

I wrote my first piss-poor screenplay in high school.

ABBY

Knock it off. How many people write full-length screenplays in high school? Give yourself some credit.

KARL

(to himself)

Certainly no director will.

JASON

You're right, I wasn't a slacker, was I? Remember when Strickland calls Marty a slacker at school. Says he's going nowhere. Here's a life lesson, guys. If you want to make it in this business, don't be a slacker. You've got to be willing to work hard every day to make your dream a reality.

ABBY

That advice can apply to anything.

JASON

That's right.

(to Karl)

See, we can learn something from a summer movie.

Karl smiles as they look at the school.

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Jason, Abby, Karl and Malik continue on their journey.

KARL

Next stop?

ABBY

Let's go to the Hill Valley town square.

JASON

Can't. It's on the Universal Studios backlot.

ABBY

You'll have to take me sometime.

Jason shakes his head but they both smile.

EXT. MARTY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

The car pulls up in front of one of the most iconic houses in southern Cal: Marty's McFly's house located in Arleta, Calif. They quietly exit, look at the home.

KARL

So cool.

JASON

Hasn't changed much at all.

They look down the street.

MALIK

The final scene kicks ass. Marty comes back to an altered reality. His brother and sister are in business clothes and shit. George got his first book published.

ABBY

Marty's dad was afraid of failure. Didn't want to show Marty his writing.

Jason thinks for a second, speaks from experience.

JASON

He wasn't so much afraid of failure as he was worried about being

JASON
judged too harshly. Of being
criticized...He wasn't
confident. Think how the world
would be different if Ernest
Hemingway wasn't confident.

MALIK
That's right. You gotta stand
tall, boy.

ABBY
Life lesson?

JASON
Be confident in your
ability. Self-confidence is the
building block for success in
life. Believe you're just as good
as the next person.

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Karl, the driver, swerves around a bend too fast.

MALIK
Mother fuck, that's Deadman's
Curve. Watch your ass.

ABBY
What Malik is saying is...
(Huey Lewis impression)
"Please don't drive 88..."

Silence for a second, then...

JASON
"Don't wanna be late again..."

EVERYONE IN UNISON
"So take me away, I don't mind.
But you better promise me, I'll be
back in time. Gotta get back in
time."

MALIK
"Get back, get back."

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

The crew stands on an embankment looking down at the Puente Hills Mall in Industry, Calif. The expansive parking lot looks big enough for a car to reach a high rate of speed.

KARL

This is it?

JASON

Went through some major revisions a few years ago.

ABBY

I can still picture it.

MALIK

Let's check it out.

They walk down the embankment, stand in the lot. Jason looks around.

JASON

1:15 in the morning at the Twin Pines Mall.

ABBY

Which later became the Lone Pine Mall.

They laugh. Karl notices something on the pavement, walks over and sees two spots marked with tape.

KARL

Hey, check this out.

The rest gather.

MALIK

Whatta they mean?

Jason gets his bearings, looks at the mall.

JASON

It's where Doc and Marty were standing.

ABBY

You're right.

KARL

Yup. Look at the angle.

Karl stands on one of the markings. Jason moves to the other tape mark. The camera angle is the same as BTTF.

ABBY

The spot where Doc's longtime dream becomes a reality.

MALIK

With Einstein the dog.

JASON

As the first time traveler.

KARL

(to Jason)

So is there a life lesson here?

JASON

Yes, through Doc...If you want to follow your dreams, you have to set your own course. Not be afraid of what people may think. Doc, he had all these failed experiments, people thought he was nuts, but he realized failing was a crucial part of the process. You're going to fail; and it's not the end of the world.

They look down the desolate parking lot.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- NIGHT

The car pulls up to the Hollywood United Methodist Church, a big red ribbon on the side of the building.

They exit the vehicle.

ABBY

Beautiful church. Perfect place for a scene about rebirth.

Jason smiles.

MALIK

Where's the gym?

JASON

Let's find out.

They walk up the front stairs, enter the unlocked door.

The group moves through the entryway, to a side door and down a hallway. They see two double doors.

KARL

Let's check it out.

They open the doors. Malik turns on the lights, and there it is: the setting for "The Enchantment Under the Sea" dance.

JASON

So cool.

They see the stage and the familiar windows on each side.

JASON

The Johnny B. Goode segment was Michael J. Fox's favorite scene.

They look at the stage.

ABBY

A pivotal scene. Where George and Lorraine shared a dance...

KARL

But not a kiss...

MALIK

Where Marty's family almost totally disappeared...

JASON

And Marty himself.
(holding his hand in front of his face)
Right before his eyes, unable to play the guitar any longer...

Abby looks at Jason.

ABBY

But the kiss was sealed...

JASON

(to Abby)
And Marty was reborn.

Jason and Abby begin dancing, exactly like George and Lorraine did. They smile at each other.

KARL

So what's the life lesson for this scene?

Jason twirls Abby. She spins out of his grasp, stops.

ABBY

That's easy. At the end of the Johnny B. Goode scene, Marty realizes that nobody likes his playing, and says, "I guess you guys aren't ready for that yet."

MALIK

Yeah.

ABBY

He doesn't take it as a sign of rejection, doesn't get dejected. He realizes it's just the wrong audience. Marty will continue to do everything he can to follow his dream.

She looks at Jason.

KARL

He taught us one simple truth.

JASON

And what's that?

ABBY

If you put your mind to it...

MALIK

You can accomplish anything.

They all look at Jason.

ABBY

Whatta say, Jason?

JASON

I say it's time to get back to the hotel.

EXT. HOTEL -- CONTINUOUS

Jason lays on a pool-side recliner, looking at the stars.

Abby walks up to him.

ABBY

Got a big day ahead, thought you would go right to bed.

JASON

I don't want to leave.

ABBY

Then don't. It doesn't have to end.

JASON

Yeah, it does.

ABBY

Jason, look. I don't know you, but when we first met, in the lobby, there was no life in your eyes. You were lost. But boy did I see a transformation after we got in the car. And the advice you gave us was inspirational. Why were you the only one not listening?

JASON

Because life is not a movie, Abby. Life is bills, life is obligations and responsibilities, to your family, to...

ABBY

To yourself.

JASON

Look, I will always love going to the mov...

ABBY

You were meant to make movies, not just watch them.

JASON

Well you're right about one thing. You don't know me.

She waits.

ABBY
 I know enough to realize you've
 been wallowing in self-pity for so
 long it's probably turned people
 off.

Jason looks at Abby, realizes she might be right.

ABBY
 (sincere)
 Thank you, Jason, for a wonderful
 evening. It was the best first
 night in L.A. I could ask for. I
 wish you only the very best in the
 future.

She leaves.

EXT. HOTEL POOL -- MORNING

ABBY lays out by the pool. KARL and MALIK stop by.

MALIK
 So did he leave?

ABBY
 I don't know. Where you guys
 headed so early?

MALIK
 To the Improv to see when the open
 mike nights are.

KARL
 Checking out the WGA office, see if
 I can get any leads.

She smiles.

ABBY
 Remember, you guys can do
 anything...

MALIK
 Yup, we know.

They smile, leave.

Abby takes a drink of her water, lays back down, closes her
 eyes. Suddenly we HEAR:

MAN

"Please don't drive 88. I don't want to be late again."

She looks up and JASON is standing at the fence, a bottle of water in his hand.

ABBY

I think you missed your flight, Huey.

JASON

Missed alot of things in life.

ABBY

That right? Well it's good to see you. What changed your mind?

Jason walks toward Abby, sits down next to her.

JASON

I realized that once you leave something, you can never go back.

ABBY

Only in the movies, right?

JASON

Yup. And I also need to take you somewhere.

ABBY

Where?

JASON

Universal Studios.

She smiles.

ABBY

That would be nice.

He smiles, raises his bottle of water as a toast.

JASON

To the future.

She raises hers, smiles.

ABBY

To the future.

FADE OUT