

THE TIME TRAVELER AND THE LAST MAN ON EARTH

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN PLAINS - DAY

JASON (65) walks along a barren plain. He has full beard, long hair, and wears a hodge-podge of clothes, some newer, some animal furs. He carries a spear-like stick.

He comes to a large log and crouches behind it. In front of him, a rabbit hops about. He waits patiently. As it gets closer, he throws his spear.

He walks back, holding the dead rabbit. He also has a few pieces of trash he has found tied together and hanging over his shoulder. The items are worthless, but he seems to want them.

He comes upon a decrepit building. It is run down, almost a ruin. Looks to have been an old hut or storage building.

He approaches it with no concern. He does not seem to be worried about anyone being around.

INT. RUINED BUILDING - DAY

Jason walks in and puts down his spear and trash. The room is sparse, with junk all about. Some books are visible.

On an old sofa, there is a creature that Jason has made. It looks like a man, but has a gourd for a head, some old clothes to form a body. A face has been drawn on the gourd.

JASON

Evening, Jack. How has your day been.

Jason goes about his business, as if this were normal.

JASON (CONT'D)

I got us some rabbit, so good eating tonight. Give me a minute and I'll get a fire going and cook it right up. You want any wine with dinner.

The soulless companion just stares at him.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING - DUSK

Some time has passed. The light is fading. Jason has a fire going in a makeshift fire pit. A rabbit is on a spit, that he is watching, and periodically turning.

Jack has been moved outside and sits by the fire as well.

JASON

Went way down by the pond today.
Thought there might be something
there. But no luck. I think
everything has moved on. Guess
maybe we should to.

He surveys the horizon.

JASON (CONT'D)

Don't want to though. You know
that. Oh, well, maybe it will get
better.

(beat)

I think this is about done. White
or dark meat?

Time has passed. It is dark now, and Jason is reclining after eating. The fire is lower, and Jack continues to watch. The landscape is illuminated by a bright, full moon on a cloudless night.

Jason has a small book, with blank pages. He tries to write, but his hands shakes, and he is using a crudely sharpened piece of coal. He tries to make marks but fails.

JASON (CONT'D)

Ah, who am I kidding? No one to
read it anyway, right Jack? Just
you and me. Whatever we know dies
with us. Just how it is I guess.

He puts the book down. Suddenly he has a major coughing fit. He finally regains control.

JASON (CONT'D)

Speaking of things dying, did you
get a chance to check the solar
panel today?

Jack says nothing.

JASON (CONT'D)

Damn it Jack! I need your help
around here. I don't ask for much.

He acts a bit perturbed, then smiles.

JASON (CONT'D)
Oh, it's OK. I'm not really mad at you. I'll take a look at it tomorrow.

He begins to cough again. Then, getting on top of it, he lays back down. As he relaxes, he hears a HUM, faint at first, then louder, over the hill just outside the area around his building. He sits up, listening. Confused, he grabs his spear.

JASON (CONT'D)
Jack! Did you hear that?

He gets up and slowly heads toward the sound.

Before he clears the hill, a blinding bright light flashes on the other side. Instinctively he crouches, then curiosity overcoming fear he climbs up to take a look.

He looks down to see a strange device, almost an open sided cage. Several lights flash on a dashboard. A man, THOMAS (30) sits in a chair in the midst of the cage. He's wearing a heavy leather coat.

Jason watches, confused and concerned. He both raises his spear and pulls it closer to him.

Thomas turns a key on the device and turns it off. The key is on a gold chain, that he puts around his neck. Then he gets out and looks around.

He doesn't notice Jason, so he heads off, walking right toward him. Jason gets down low, in the grass, and waits.

As Thomas passes by, Jason springs and puts the spear to his throat.

THOMAS
Whoa, fella. I'm not here to hurt you.

JASON
Who... what... are you?

THOMAS
I'm Thomas. As to what I am...

JASON
Where'd you come from? You with another tribe? Where? Where do you hunt? How many are you?

Thomas carefully pushes the spear away, but Jason puts it back.

THOMAS

Like I said, I'm not here to hurt you. Can we maybe sit down, talk? I'll try to answer everything I can.

Jason sizes him up, then moves the spear and points toward his fire. Thomas sees it and heads that way.

As they approach, Thomas is not aware that Jack is a gourd from the back. He starts to approach with his hand out to shake.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Hi, my name is...

He stops as he realizes that it isn't a person.

JASON

That there is Jack. Jack, he says his name is Thomas.

(beat)

No, I have no idea where he came from. I'm as confused as you.

Neither is as confused as Thomas is now.

THOMAS

Nice to meet you... Jack...

He sits down, confused.

He leans toward Jason and lowers his voice.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You do know he's not real, don't you.

JASON

If he's not real, why you whispering? Besides, he said the same thing about you.

He positions himself so he can look right at Thomas.

JASON (CONT'D)

So, you said you would answer some questions?

THOMAS

I sure did. Like I said, my name is Thomas.

JASON

Don't really care about your name. Care where you came from.

THOMAS

Well, that's a bit tricky.

JASON

Tricky? Can't be that tricky. You came from the lake? Maybe over in the far prairie? Doubt the mountains. You don't dress like you live in the mountains.

THOMAS

Well, no. Actually, I come from here.

JASON

Here?

THOMAS

Yep, right here. Or rather, over there, where that machine is. That's my laboratory.

JASON

That's a field.

THOMAS

Apparently now. But once, a long, long time ago, it was part of my house. And this whole area was a great city. Can't believe that there's no sign of it now.

JASON

City?

THOMAS

Yes. Millions lived here.

Jason stares, blank.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Where is the closest city now? To here I mean?

JASON

There are no cities.

THOMAS
Where do the people live?

JASON
There are no people.

THOMAS
Well what are you?

Jason looks at Jack, and signals with his eyes for Thomas not to forget him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
And Jack, of course.

JASON
We're the only people. The last people.

THOMAS
Last people?

JASON
Everyone else is gone. Long time now.

THOMAS
You can't be serious. Are you saying that you're the last man on Earth?

Jason hangs his head.

JASON
I guess so.

THOMAS
Well, what happened to everyone?

JASON
What didn't happen. Legends talk about war, disease, crop failure. Whole planet just died.
(beat)
There used to be small tribes. I was in one of them. But then everyone got sick. Most died. A few of us lived, but not many. I was one of the young ones. Over the years, the others died. I'm all that's left. Well, Jack and I.

THOMAS
No one else?

JASON

Not that we've seen. Haven't seen another person for longer than I can remember. Until you, that is. Now how is that possible?

THOMAS

Well, I am a time traveler.

JASON

Time traveler?

THOMAS

That's right. You see, I was one of the scientists that invented time travel. We wanted to go back and see history but turned out that was impossible. Apparently that's how you avoid the whole paradox problem...

Jason's eyes glaze over.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Never mind. That's neither here nor there. So I decided to go forward. I set it for way in the future. See what has happened to us. Can't say I'm real encouraged.

JASON

And you live, with lot's and lot's of people?

THOMAS

Sure. Like I said, there's a great city here. You see, a time machine can't change locations. So it was in my laboratory, and it just moved forward. This is where the city was. In fact, if I'm not mistaken this was about where the University would have started. I work there. Can walk there for work every day.

JASON

University?

THOMAS

Sure. A big school.

JASON

School?

THOMAS

Sure, a school. You must have had schools. Where did you learn things?

JASON

From the others. The older ones. They taught me. I would have taught the younger ones, but they all died.

Thomas appears sorry he brought it up.

THOMAS

Never mind. We are getting distracted. I want to learn more about you and what happened here. I want you, to teach me.

Jason starts to cough again.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You OK?

JASON

Yeah, I guess. Just this cough. Jack's got it too.

They both look at the gourd.

THOMAS

Have you taken something for it?

JASON

Taken something?

THOMAS

Yeah, like cough medicine or...

Jason has no idea what he is talking about.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Right, you wouldn't have anything like that. May I?

He comes over to Jason, carefully, and puts his ear to his chest and listens.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I can't tell for sure, but you don't sound good. I think you are pretty congested.

He takes off his coat.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Here. You need this more than I do.

Jason puts on the coat over his other clothes.

JASON

That's what happened before, when everyone died. Probably means it's the end for me and Jack.

THOMAS

But you said that there's no one else?

JASON

That's right.

THOMAS

But if that's the case, when you die, mankind disappears.

JASON

So? Has to happen eventually. I'm getting old.

THOMAS

No, I can stop this.

JASON

How?

THOMAS

Come with me.

He gets up and heads back to his machine. Jason follows, getting more concerned as they get closer.

JASON

I'm not going in that thing.

THOMAS

I know. And you can't anyway. Only takes one. And it can't go on autopilot, so I can't go back and send it to get you. But I do have an idea.

JASON

Idea?

THOMAS

Yep. I am going to go back, and get you some medicine.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

No time will take place here, no matter how long I'm gone. You stand here, I go back, get you what you need, and as soon as I leave, I'll be here again with what you need. Then we have lot's of time to talk, and plan, and whatever.

Jason is uncertain.

JASON

O... K...

Thomas sits in the machine and turns it on. Some of the lights flicker and go off. He turns some knobs and adjusts it.

THOMAS

This thing is not as stable as I would like. Something I have to work on one of these days.

He hits one panel, scaring Jason.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Sorry. Like I said, stubborn.

Everything seems to be working.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

OK. Now just step back. And I will be right back.

The machine starts to HUM, and as it gets louder, a bright light flashes. The machine is gone, and Jason is alone. He starts to cough again. This is a bad one.

He waits. There is no sign of Thomas.

DAYLIGHT

Jason has waited through the night. There still is no sign of the machine.

He waits.

EVENING.

Jason has moved Jack to the area where the machine was. Jack is wearing the leather coat Thomas left. There is a fire going. The two wait. Jason's cough is worse.

DAYLIGHT

Jason is laying on the ground. He starts to cough. Blood comes out of his mouth. He breaths heavily. He slowly dies, waiting with Jack.

He lays there for some time. Then the HUM starts O.S.

FADE OUT.

THE END.