

In Time

"Pilot"

Written by  
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COLD OPEN

1 EXT. COLONIAL STREET - 1775 - NIGHT

1

A colonial man and woman, DAN and DEBORAH, emerge from the pitch black into the romantic light of a street lantern. He's dashing and gallant; she's a 27 year-old whose beauty and good heart stand out in a filthy, harsh world. GIGGLING and holding hands, they stop to embrace.

DAN

Sssh! Everyone's asleep, it's 6 p.m.!

DEBORAH

I feel so alive right now. When will I see you again?

Dan gazes off into the distance, stoic.

DAN

I don't know. I have to go to... Philadelphia.

DEBORAH

(gasps)

That's so far. So... exotic. Is it true there's a giant bell there?

DAN

Yes. The Liberty Bell.  
(gestures with hands)  
It's like this big.

DEBORAH

We truly live in incredible times!

BRITISH SOLDIER #1 (O.S.)

Halt!

DEBORAH

(sotto, to Dan)

Oh no.

BRITISH SOLDIER #1

What have we here? A couple of rogue colonists?

British Soldier #2 puts a bayonet to Dan's throat.

BRITISH SOLDIER #2

(to Soldier #1)

You think anyone would miss him?

DAN

My mom might... I have a cat...  
My sister, depending on when you  
ask her...

DEBORAH

Maybe this will make you forget  
what you've seen here.

Deb pulls something from her pocket and hands it to British  
Soldier #1. He looks at it. It's a potato.

BRITISH SOLDIER #2

Potato! Ahahaha! Tonight we shall  
celebrate like kings!

Soldier #2 removes the bayonet from Dan's neck and the  
soldiers walk away.

DEBORAH

That was going to be a birthday  
gift.

DAN

When did those British troops get  
here?

DEBORAH

Last night.

DAN

How come no one fought them? I  
heard that was going to happen.

DEBORAH

(shrugs)

All anyone is talking about is that  
pumpkin wearing a hat. They want  
to put it on trial for being too  
much like a man.

DAN

Aren't you concerned?

DEBORAH

About the gentleman pumpkin?

DAN

No, a revolution!

DEBORAH

This is why I love you. Who else  
would talk politics with a woman?

DAN

I should go. I have four letters  
to deliver. Goodbye, Deborah.

They kiss, Dan throws a satchel over his shoulder, and climbs clumsily onto his horse. Deborah takes a running leap, jumps on her horse, and rides off as Dan watches in awe. The CLIP-CLOP rhythm of the horse's hooves racing across ground SOUND DISSOLVES TO...

EXT. BEDFORD, MA STREET - MORNING, PRESENT DAY

The WHEEZING engine of Dan's crappy car stopped at a red light. Dan, much nerdier than last night, looks at his phone, skimming Google results for "Paul Revere's ride." His mother, REBA, talks on the Bluetooth.

REBA (O.S.)  
...Judy, Denise, Barbara, these are  
all people I know who had strokes.

DAN  
Uh huh.

A LOUD HONK. Dan notices the light turned green, then turns to the ANGRY DRIVER behind him.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry!

ANGRY DRIVER  
Don't apologize, just drive!

DAN  
Ma, I gotta go!

REBA (O.S.)  
Do whatever the man says, Daniel!

The light turns red. Dan turns to the Driver again.

DAN  
Sorry!

Dan puts his phone away in the satchel from last night, and notices a gift crudely wrapped in burlap. He reads the note.

DEBORAH (V.O.)  
Dearest Dan, You are the bravest  
man I've ever known, risking your  
life so others may experience the  
divine miracle of postage. May  
these keep your belly full until we  
meet again. Love, Deborah. P.S.  
When you're done, the tails can be  
tied together to make a scarf!

Dan lifts a string, revealing a line full of dead squirrels. He smiles, and puts the squirrels back into his bag.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. CLASSROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dan stands in front of his class, eight bored students in a mostly empty lecture hall. He's just finishing attendance.

DAN  
Okay, we have thirty-two absences today, but for those who did show up... back-end databases. So--

Dan suddenly notices A STUDENT wearing a t-shirt with the Union Jack on it.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Why are you wearing that shirt?

STUDENT #1  
Why does anyone wear any shirt?

Dan notices ANOTHER STUDENT.

DAN  
And what are you eating?

STUDENT #2  
Fish and chips.

DAN  
That's what British people eat, right?

Student #2 shrugs.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Oh my God. I gotta go.

Dan sprints up the stairs and out of the room.

STUDENT #1  
Is he coming back?

STUDENT #2  
Hopefully not.

3 INT. ADAMS HALL - SAME

3

The most Boston-y SECURITY GUARD in the world sits, reading the sports section. Dan rushes up and slides his ID.

SECURITY GUARD  
I tell ya, the Revolution could win it all this year.

DAN  
What?

SECURITY GUARD  
The New England Revolution.  
Soccer!

DAN  
Why do you care about soccer?!  
You're American!

Dan reaches across the counter and grabs part of the paper.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Obama's still the President, right?

SECURITY GUARD  
Not much longah!

Dan EXHALES, relieved, then dashes down the hall.

4 INT. LECTURE HALL - MOMENTS LATER

4

Professor CHRIS PARISH, African-American, cool, dapper, 30s, lectures in front of a hundred fully-engaged students.

CHRIS  
So for every Napoleon, there are millions - whose names we don't know - whose individual actions and decisions shaped the world. It's not even noon. How are you going to make history today?

The BELL RINGS, and students APPLAUD. The class starts to filter out, revealing Dan, annoyed, next to a FEMALE STUDENT.

DAN  
Do people always clap?

FEMALE STUDENT  
Every time. Usually way longer.

DAN  
Chris!

CHRIS  
Hey, Dan. Long time no see.

DAN  
That's because I'm never invited to any faculty events because I make everyone uncomfortable.

CHRIS  
(unconvincing)  
Nooooooooo...

DAN  
 Anyway, I have some questions about  
 colonial Massachusetts.

CHRIS  
 I have office hours Wednesday...

DAN  
 It's urgent.

CHRIS  
 You have urgent questions about  
 colonial Massachusetts?

EXT. BEDFORD COLLEGE QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Chris stroll on a beautiful New England fall day.

DAN  
 So, thought exercise, what would  
 have happened if Paul Revere never  
 took his ride?

CHRIS  
 Well, the ride allowed the  
 colonists to surprise the British,  
 so-- hello, Dean.

Chris and Dan run into DEAN WILEY, the cocky 30 year-old head  
 of the college.

DEAN WILEY  
 Chris, Dan. I didn't know you two  
 were friends.

DAN  
 I had some questions about history.

DEAN WILEY  
 Okayyy, this makes sense now. Dan,  
 been meaning to talk to you. Your  
 student feedback came in and... *no  
 bueno.*

DAN  
 Well, you can't really put stock in  
 anonymous--

DEAN  
 We put enormous stock into it. I  
 know you teach Computer Science but  
 you need to be... way less boring.  
 Does that make sense?

DAN  
 I guess.

DEAN WILEY

Good. Chris, you're doing great,  
no notes! See you at faculty poker  
tomorrow, right?

CHRIS

You know it.

DAN

I play poker.

DEAN WILEY

Yeah, we might cancel it though.

(British accent)

Tally ho, chums.

Dan looks alarmed as Dean Wiley walks off. Chris and Dan stand in front of the campus Starbucks. Through the window, Dan notices employees putting up a big new display for...

DAN

Tea! Oh my God! You see that,  
right?! Not coffee, tea! I'm not  
totally crazy?

CHRIS

No, that's definitely tea. Well,  
I'm going in, I'll see you.

DAN

You need to come to my house right  
now.

CHRIS

What? Uh, no. No thanks.

DAN

I have artifacts you need to see.

Dan pulls a bunch of 1700's paper money and gold coins out of his pocket and hands it to Chris.

CHRIS

Colonial currency. Where did you  
get this?

DAN

There's way more of this stuff at  
my house. I'll explain on the way.

INT. DAN'S CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Chris sits in the passenger seat.

CHRIS

So are you going to explain--

DAN  
I need to focus on driving! Stop  
pressuring me!

Dan cautiously goes 20 mph. Chris's eyes catch the dead squirrels in Dan's bag. He registers panic.

INT. DAN'S TOWNHOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Chris and Dan enter. Dan's living room is empty except for a folding chair and a rope. Chris looks wary.

CHRIS  
(re: living room)  
What's going on here?

DAN  
I was practicing tying knots. Come  
on, everything's in the garage.

CHRIS  
I'm not going in your garage.

DAN  
Why not?

CHRIS  
You have no furniture and a bag  
full of dead squirrels, you psycho!

DAN  
Those were a gift! Come on, I have  
something to show you. It's life-  
changing, I promise.

CHRIS  
I'll go, but only if you give me a  
knife, so if you try anything, I  
can stab you.

INT. DAN'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

It's dark.

DAN (O.S.)  
Get ready to have your mind  
blown...

The light FLICKS ON, revealing Chris, holding a large knife, ready to stab Dan. There's a bunch of computers and not much else. Chris relaxes and puts down the knife. Dan dramatically reaches into a hidden compartment, takes something out, and SNAPS it forward, revealing it's...

CHRIS  
A duffle bag?

DAN  
No, it's a time machine.

CLOSE ON Chris' hand subtly picking the knife back up.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Kevlar fiber. Totally portable, yet indestructible. I go to the past pretty much every weekend. And some Tuesdays.

Dan UNZIPS the bag, revealing wafer-thin circuitry.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Get in and let me zip you inside.

CHRIS  
No way.

DAN  
Why not?

CHRIS  
Never heard a story that began with someone getting in a duffle bag, then had a happy ending.

DAN  
Something screwed up the American Revolution and you're the only person who knows enough history to help! I mean, you must have noticed the changes.

CHRIS  
What changes?

DAN  
The security guard reading about soccer! Kids eating fish and chips! Starbucks's new display for tea! The present is changing because so is the past!

CHRIS  
Honestly, this kind of stuff is why you're not invited to poker.

DAN  
Fine, but explain how a computer professor would get these colonial postage rate charts!

Dan reaches into his satchel from the cold open and hands Chris vintage 1700s postage charts. Chris examines them.

CHRIS

Wow, these are real! Do you have any idea what they're worth?

Dan grabs the sheets from Chris and TEARS them apart.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?! No!

DAN

I don't care because I can get way more. And see this colonial pipe? Bye bye!

Dan throws it to the ground and STOMPS it beneath his foot.

CHRIS

Don't!

DAN

And I bet you'd love this priceless authentic colonial mantel clock made by Caleb Leech?!

CHRIS

I would!

DAN

Too bad! Now you'll never have it!

Dan throws it against the wall and it SPLINTERS making a hilarious "B-DONG" SOUND.

CHRIS

That was a hundred thousand dollar b-dong!

DAN

Today you asked your class how they were going to make history. I'm offering you the chance to start the American Revolution. If there's even a .0001% chance I'm telling the truth, don't you owe it to yourself to find out?

EXT. DAN'S BACKYARD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

We see a WIDE SHOT of two bodies inside the bag.

INT. DUFFEL BAG - SAME

Dan and Chris, both wearing colonial clothes, are awkwardly mashed together.

CHRIS  
This feels stupid. And what's at  
my feet?

DAN  
A ham. You can eat it, trade bites  
for favors... ham in 1775 is like  
diamond-covered heroin.

Dan taps his cellphone a few times and the bag starts  
RUMBLING. Chris looks alarmed.

CHRIS  
What-- what's happening?!

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The duffel bag sits in the brush. It opens. Dan and Chris  
climb out, and Chris points at a colonial village.

CHRIS  
It's real!

Chris turns and THROWS UP.

DAN  
I forgot to warn you, the past  
smells horrible. Just poop  
everywhere.

CHRIS  
We're in the past!

DAN  
Yeah, anyway, one last thing, if it  
comes up, and it probably won't...  
you're my slave.

CHRIS  
What?!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. COLONIAL STABLE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dan feeds his horse an apple. Chris watches as British troops mill about the town square.

CHRIS

Why can't I be a free black man?  
Those exist in 1775.

DAN

I know you're a history expert, so  
what's the nice way of putting  
this? You're totally wrong. 1775  
Massachusetts is pretty backwards.

CHRIS

So it's April 21st and the American  
Revolution hasn't occurred?

DAN

Is that bad?

CHRIS

Yes! What have you been doing back  
here?

DAN

Just hanging out. It's not like  
2016. I'm kinda popular here.

CHRIS

Do I need to worry about all of  
history? Where else have you gone?

DAN

Just here. You can only time  
travel to the same location you  
are, and I'm scared of flying.

CHRIS

But you're okay with time travel?

DAN

Weird, right? I think it's because  
there's no lines. So how do we  
start the American Revolution?

CHRIS

All the key players at the time  
hung out at Buckman Tavern, so  
let's go there.

Some men pass, and Chris doffs his cap with a flourish.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Good morrow, sires.

DAN  
Don't try to speak all past-y.  
Just be normal.

EXT. COLONIAL STREET - LATER

Dan rides his horse. A nervous Chris rides bitch and grips Dan tightly.

CHRIS  
Why am I so itchy?

DAN  
The time machine has bedbugs. It's  
1775. They're everywhere.

CHRIS  
Aah! I gotta take a shower!

DAN  
Hasn't been invented yet. If we're  
lucky, it'll rain.  
(beat)  
We gotta make a stop.

EXT. COLONIAL HOUSE - LATER

Dan THROWS A FEW PEBBLES against an upper-story window.

EXT. BRUSH - MOMENTS LATER

Dan stands with Chris in the woods.

CHRIS  
What are we doing?

DAN  
Can you leave me alone for a  
second? I'm meeting someone.

CHRIS  
Where am I supposed to go?

DAN  
Just hide behind that tree.

Chris hides. Deborah comes running.

DEBORAH  
Daniel! You're back!

She throws her arms around him, while holding something big and furry.

DAN  
Hi! Okay, eww-- what's that?

DEBORAH  
It's a hat. Put it on.

Dan puts it on. It's a bear hat a la, "True Grit."

DAN  
It's very warm, thank you!

DEBORAH  
You're welcome. I tracked the bear for three days, then battled it for hours. Right before it died, it bit my leg. I had to reach down its neck and tear its throat out.

DAN  
And I wrote you another song.

Over the following we INTERCUT between Dan singing, Deb being moved to tears, and Chris looking like, "What the fuck?"

DAN (CONT'D)  
(clears throat)  
EVERY NIGHT IN MY DREAM / I SEE  
YOU, I FEEL YOU / THAT IS HOW I  
KNOW YOU GO ON / FAR ACROSS THE  
DISTANCE / AND SPACES BETWEEN US  
YOU HAVE COME TO SHOW YOU GO ON /  
NEAR, FAR, WHEREVER YOU ARE / I  
BELIEVE THAT THE HEART DOES GO ON /  
ONCE MORE YOU OPEN THE DOOR / AND  
YOU'RE HERE IN MY HEART / AND MY  
HEART WILL GO ON AND ON

DEBORAH  
Daniel, that's incredible!

DAN  
The hat's neat too.

Chris COUGHS. Deborah instinctively and rapidly takes an arrow and shoots toward the noise.

DAN (CONT'D)  
No!

Chris SCREAMS. Dan and Deborah turn and see Chris has been shot clean through his tricorne hat. Chris gingerly steps out from under the hat, which is stuck to a tree.

DEBORAH  
Who are you?!

DAN  
Deborah, this is, um... Queequag.  
I'm helping him go North.

CHRIS  
Hello.

DAN  
The only word he knows is "Hello."  
He's from the West Indies.

Chris glares at Dan, who glares back.

DEBORAH  
Oh, then he must speak some Dutch.  
Queequag, waar kom jij vandaan?

Chris LAUGHS politely.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
I just asked where he's from. Why  
does he find that funny?

DAN  
Queequag was, uh, kicked in the  
head by a mule, so he's kind of  
scrambled. And how do you speak  
Dutch?

DEBORAH  
They never let me go to school, so  
I taught myself. I know it's  
crazy, but I want to travel the  
world someday, and when I do, I  
don't want to be ignorant.

DAN  
You're amazing.

DEBORAH  
You're the amazing one. Helping  
this half-wit to freedom. Well, I  
have to go. My parents will be  
looking for me.

She kisses Dan and runs off. Chris comes out of hiding.

CHRIS  
Who was that?

DAN  
My girlfriend.

CHRIS  
And you're trying to pass yourself  
off as, like, a male Celine Dion?

DAN  
 Hey, that's half the fun of being here. Just take stuff that works and use it as your own.

CHRIS  
 If you want to impress her, why don't you just say you invented time travel?

DAN  
 You don't get it. You're not a geek. Even that's not enough.  
 (beat)  
 Also, you're standing in poison ivy.

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKMAN TAVERN - MINUTES LATER

INT. BUCKMAN TAVERN - SAME

Dan and Chris enter the tavern, filled with colonial men.

DAN  
 FYI, everyone here loves me and they go kinda nuts when I walk in.

Three COLONIAL MEN spot Dan and offer restrained greetings.

COLONIAL MAN #1/COLONIAL MAN  
 #2/COLONIAL MAN #3  
 Dan. / Dan Chambers. / Daniel.

DAN  
 These people are really dry. That's, like, insane for them.  
 (then, sotto)  
 Oh, tip your hat down.

Chris does, covering his face. Dan and Chris reach the bar.

BARKEEP  
 Gentlemen, what'll it be?

Chris lifts his cap to order. The BARKEEP reacts in horror.

BARKEEP (CONT'D)  
 Slave!! Slave!! Who brought a slave in here?!

The bar QUIETS, and grows menacing. A few men begin the minute-long procedure of loading their muskets.

DAN  
 It's okay. He's with me.

CHRIS  
Maybe I should go.

DAN  
No way, screw these jerks.  
(to Barkeep)  
He bought his freedom from me  
today. So a toast to my former  
slave, and now friend, Christopher.

The Colonial Men raise their glasses.

COLONIAL MAN #2  
If he's a free man, let him speak  
like a free man! Speech!

CHRIS  
(sotto, to Dan)  
What do I say?

DAN  
There's no TV. Literally anything  
will entertain them. Try a joke.

Chris gets up and raises his glass. Everyone stares.

CHRIS  
Thank you. So, when I first saw  
this guy bidding on me, I was like,  
"Aw no, man, anyone but him..."

People LAUGH, and Chris begins to pace like a comic.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
You should have seen what a mess  
his place was when I got there. I  
was like, "Please, take me back to  
the slave ship!" And the slave  
ship was obviously awful. But not  
as bad as this guy's syphilis, am I  
right?!

ANGLE ON a SYPHILITIC MAN GUFFAWING. Chris is killing.

SYPHILITIC MAN  
I'm blind and I can't feel my feet!

CHRIS  
But seriously folks, Dan is an  
honorary black man. I even think  
half my kids are his. The man has  
sex with so many slaves, his  
nickname is "Thomas Jefferson"!

Chris smiles broadly, but the crowd has completely turned.  
Dan subtly gives Chris the "Kill it" gesture.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
 Anyway, one last thing: Show me  
 the money! Show me. The. Money!

Everyone erupts in LAUGHTER and APPLAUSE and chugs their  
 drinks.

BARKEEP  
 Strike up the band!

A FIDDLE BAND breaks into a ROUSING SONG. All the men begin  
 dancing. Dan grabs Chris and starts swinging him around.

DAN  
 Great job. Chicks aren't allowed  
 in here, so this is what we do.

Chris spots two men standing just outside the bar.

CHRIS  
 Oh my God, that's Sam Adams and  
 John Hancock!

DAN  
 Yeah, Johnny and Sammy.

CHRIS  
 They'll know about a revolution.  
 Introduce me.

DAN  
 Not before we finish our dance,  
 mister.

Dan dips Chris as other PATRONS CHEER.

EXT. BUCKMAN TAVERN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Chris and Dan approach JOHN HANCOCK and SAM ADAMS, who are  
 both smoking and drinking. Hancock is loud and boorish.  
 Adams is nebbishy and insecure.

DAN  
 John, Sam, this is Christopher.

JOHN HANCOCK  
 Helluva speech, son. I've never  
 seen anyone get up and be funny  
 before. Interesting approach.

CHRIS  
 Thank you. Have you two fellows  
 heard anything about fighting the  
 British?

JOHN HANCOCK

Nary a word. A month ago it's all anyone was talking about, but then Paul Revere sort of fell off the map.

DAN

Is there anyone else who can lead it? Maybe you?

JOHN HANCOCK

No, after the last meeting, that was left on his plate.

SAM ADAMS

Yes, it's Revere's call, he's kind of the point man on this. And I haven't seen him for a few weeks.

JOHN HANCOCK

So he's probably dead. Anyway, you want to try Sam's new beer?

CHRIS

Sure.

John Hancock hands Chris a huge stein. Chris takes a sip while Sam Adams and John Hancock CHORTLE.

JOHN HANCOCK

You like it?

CHRIS

(grimacing, polite)  
It's pretty good.

JOHN HANCOCK

Really? Because you just drank from the chamber pot.

Chris does a huge SPIT TAKE. Dan, Hancock and Adams LAUGH. Hancock CLAPS Chris on the back.

JOHN HANCOCK (CONT'D)

Don't worry, we've all fallen for it.

Sam Adams hands Chris a mug.

SAM ADAMS

Here's the real thing. Maybe some day, Sam Adams will be a great beer.

CHRIS

Maybe some day Sam Adams will be an okay beer if there's nothing else.

EXT./ESTAB. PAUL REVERE'S SHOP - NEXT AFTERNOON

Dan and Chris approach a colonial Boston silver shop.

CHRIS

So, a little background on Paul Revere. His father was a French Heuguenot named Apollos Rivoire. His mother was from a prominent--

DAN

I'm going in.

Dan walks away.

INT. PAUL REVERE'S SHOP - SAME

Dan and Chris enter, and PAUL REVERE saunters out of the back, despondent. He has a deadpan Steven Wright quality.

PAUL REVERE

Can I help you?

CHRIS

(sotto, to Dan)

You haven't let me do anything yet. Let me handle this.

Chris approaches the counter and leans in.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Brother, a sea of discontent is on the rise against our former friends from the east.

PAUL REVERE

What?

CHRIS

The seeds of anger have sprouted into the corn of revolt.

PAUL REVERE

I still don't get it.

DAN

Do you want to fight the British?

PAUL REVERE

I have more pressing concerns. You two have your ears to the ground, maybe you can help me.

CHRIS

Sure. What do you need?

PAUL REVERE

I arranged a marriage for my daughter to a wealthy blacksmith, and she won't go along. She's been spotted with some blaggard, and rumors say she may even be... a harlot.

CHRIS

Good heavens!

PAUL REVERE

I know. Hopefully God will destroy her, right?

DAN

That seems a little extreme.

CHRIS

Can't you be mad at this "blaggard" and still help start a revolution?

PAUL REVERE

With the shop, I really only have time for one outside activity. And it's finding and killing the man who is with my daughter.

DAN

I would bet your daughter is a lovely, amazing person and you're blessed to have her and should honor the choices she makes.

PAUL REVERE

What do you know about my daughter?

A genuinely tense stare down. Then...

DAN

Nothing, sir. Nothing at all. I was out of line. Ham?

Dan takes a slice of ham out and offers it to Revere.

PAUL REVERE

We're square. That's awful big of you.

Revere takes the ham and gladly starts chewing it.

EXT. COLONIAL BOSTON STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Chris walk down the street.

CHRIS  
 It's pretty simple. We just have  
 to find the guy dating Paul  
 Revere's daughter and break them  
 up.

Dan stops.

DAN  
 Yeah, about that... Just one little  
 thing, that guy is me.

CHRIS  
 What?!

DAN  
 That girl you met earlier - I've  
 been seeing for three years - is  
 Deborah Revere. Paul's daughter.

CHRIS  
 Your little relationship is  
 screwing up the entire American  
 Revolution!

DAN  
 How do you know that's it? It  
 could be anything.

CHRIS  
 Paul Revere said that's it!

DAN  
 Well we can't do anything about it  
 now. It's 5 p.m.

CHRIS  
 So?

DAN  
 So, everyone's going to bed! God,  
 for a history professor, you know  
 nothing.

EXT./ESTAB. GREEN DRAGON INN

INT. INN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Chris sits glumly outside the room. A tricorn hat hangs on  
 the doorknob. A beat, then Deborah exits and approaches him.

DEBORAH  
 Dear innocent Queequag. I know  
 nothing can penetrate your idiotic  
 haze, but perhaps somehow you can  
 understand: The best man I've ever  
 met will bring you to safety.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
 No matter how bleak life seems, so  
 many care, and you shall overcome.  
 Godspeed, Queequag. Godspeed.

Deborah dramatically hugs Chris tightly, close to her bosom.

INT. INN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Chris take off their clothes and get ready for bed.

CHRIS  
 You have to break up with her.

DAN  
 No way.

CHRIS  
 You owe it to history.

DAN  
 What has history ever done for me?

CHRIS  
 History is what made everything we  
 know! Would you rather be stuck in  
 the past? It sucks!

DAN  
It doesn't suck, you just suck at  
 being here.

CHRIS  
 Why are you going to 1775 anyway?

DAN  
 You have no idea what it's like,  
 being the smartest person in every  
 room you enter, but no one cares  
 because you're not "Cool."

Chris starts LAUGHING.

DAN (CONT'D)  
 What?

CHRIS  
 Time travel could be used for  
 infinite good and instead you're  
 just trying to get laid!

DAN  
 I'm not "Getting Laid" I'm in love!

CHRIS  
 If you love Deborah, let her marry  
 that blacksmith.

DAN

She's brilliant and society treats her like garbage! I'm saving her from a life of serving a moron!

CHRIS

Good or bad, that's her destiny! That gets Revere to start the war, and you go live the life you're supposed to, instead of putting the whole world at risk!

DAN

Maybe America would be better under British rule. I might be improving the future, you don't know.

CHRIS

Exactly - we don't know! And what's your plan? Revere wants to kill you, you selfish jerk!

DAN

I'm selfish? You teach history, I brought you back in time, and you haven't even said "Thank you"!

CHRIS

Thank you?! All that's happened is I puked, got bedbugs and poison ivy, shot by an arrow, treated like a slave and a Dutch imbecile, and I DRANK JOHN HANCOCK'S URINE!

DAN

Well, sorry you don't fit in the past! Now you know how I feel in the present!

Dan and Chris climb into bed head-to-toe. DAN puts on his sleeping cap and blows out a lantern as we CUT TO BLACK.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You haven't even offered to pay for a single thing since we got here.

CHRIS (O.S.)

Fine, what do I owe you?

DAN (O.S.)

(calculating)

Lunch, dinner, hotel, horse rental... like twenty-eight cents.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. COLONIAL ROAD - NEXT MORNING

Dan and Chris, both annoyed, ride a slowly trotting horse, with Chris on the back.

DAN

I don't even know *how* to break up with someone.

CHRIS

What do you mean?

DAN

I'm not some player who's constantly dumping people, like you. I've never broken up with anyone. People have just broken up with me.

CHRIS

Well you know all that stuff they said to you?

DAN

Yeah?

CHRIS

You just say it to them.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Dan stands with Deborah in a secluded area while Chris watches from hiding.

DAN

I'm not ready for commitment.

DEBORAH

What commitment? There's a flu going around. We'll be lucky to live through the winter.

DAN

Maybe you should marry Blacksmith Gish. He can give you a better life than I can. One with stability, and... all kinds of steel objects.

DEBORAH

He's a dunce. I once saw him try to milk a cat. Why are you doing this?

DAN  
You wouldn't believe me if I told  
you.

DEBORAH  
You owe me the chance to believe  
you.

Dan pauses, not knowing what to do.

DAN  
I'm from the future.

Deborah LAUGHS and Dan takes her hands, completely sincere.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I am from the future. 2016. And I  
hate it there, I just feel... out  
of place. So I invented a way to  
travel through time, hoping I'd  
find people who were less shallow,  
and then I met you... but now our  
being together changed some things  
in history that were important.

Deb starts CRYING.

DAN (CONT'D)  
You don't believe me?

DEBORAH  
I'm crying because I believe you!

DAN  
You do?

DEBORAH  
It all makes sense! Your wondrous  
songs! How you believe the things  
I say that everyone else calls  
nonsense. About women being equal,  
and everyone deserving opportunity.

DAN  
In the future, it's happened. It  
came true. Everything you wanted.  
You're just ahead of your time.  
Women can even die in a war.

DEBORAH  
That's so wonderful. Did you know  
I dreamed of you before I even saw  
you?

DAN  
Really?

DEBORAH

Yes! I thought I was a witch but now I know I'm not. We're meant to be together, and I think you're the most brilliant, accomplished and worthy man I've ever met.

DAN

I don't know about that...

DEBORAH

It's true! You have all your teeth. You don't have lice. Your toenails aren't black. You're like a god. And you always know exactly what to say.

DAN

Deborah... I love you. You... complete me.

DEBORAH

Aww...

DAN

(can't stop himself)  
And you had me at hello. You had me... at hello.

CHRIS (O.S.)

Hey! Let me go!

BRITISH SOLDIER #3 (O.S.)

Fat chance of that. I'm sure someone will give us a nice reward for you.

DAN

I think something's happening to Queequag!

Dan grabs Deborah by the wrist.

EXT. COLONIAL ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Deborah emerge from the woods and see Chris, hands tied, being taken away on a British Soldier's horse, while a second British soldier rides alongside them.

DEBORAH

They'll kill him! We have to get him back!

DAN

(sighs)  
Yeah, I guess we do. Separate horses?

DEBORAH  
No, I've seen you ride a horse, get  
on.

Deborah leaps on her horse, while Dan tentatively climbs on  
the back.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
Come on, Dan!

DAN  
Sorry...

EXT. COLONIAL STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The British soldiers ride by with Chris. Deborah and Dan  
follow. They're gaining ground.

DAN  
What are you going to do if we  
catch them?

DEBORAH  
Let me worry about that.

EXT. COLONIAL STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The British soldiers continue down the street at breakneck  
pace. Deborah yanks the reins and veers her horse off road,  
up a hill.

DAN  
Where are you going?!

DEBORAH  
I know the area much better than  
they do!

EXT. TOP OF HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Deborah and Dan sit on their horse, looking down.

DEBORAH  
Hand me an arrow.

Dan reaches into her quiver and does. She pulls the bow  
back. As we see the British ride by below, she releases.  
The arrow flies through the air and PIERCES the British  
soldier's chest, directly in front of Chris. The soldier  
falls off the horse, dead. A beat, then:

CHRIS  
(LONG, HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK)

EXT. COLONIAL STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Deborah and Dan ride out of the woods and onto the road. Deborah's bow is again drawn. Chris sees them and stops SHRIEKING.

BRITISH SOLDIER #4  
(horrified)  
A woman soldier?!

DAN  
That's right, a woman soldier, you  
chauvinist pig!  
(beat, then to  
Deborah)  
Sorry, I shouldn't speak for you.  
That's part of the problem.

DEBORAH  
No, that's alright.  
(then, to Soldier #4)  
You make a move for your musket and  
you'll join your friend.

British Soldier #4 rides off, terrified.

CHRIS  
Oh, thank God.

DEBORAH  
It's a miracle! Queequag speaks!

DAN  
Deborah, this isn't Queequag. His  
name is Chris. He's a history  
professor who's also from 2016.

CHRIS  
Thank you for saving me!

DEBORAH  
So in 2016, black people and white  
people are friends?

DAN  
Yeah.

CHRIS  
Kinda, sometimes.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
I knew that would happen!

DAN  
We have to get out of here.

Dan takes out the duffel bag and unfurls it.

CHRIS  
Praise the Lord. Let's go.

DAN  
Not you and me. Me and her.

CHRIS  
You can't leave me here!

DAN  
Deborah has to go. Once that  
soldier gets to Boston and spreads  
the word, the British will hang  
her.

Dan gets down on one knee.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Deborah, will you come to 2016 and  
marry me?

DEBORAH  
Yes, yes! I'd love to! Yes!

They embrace, as Chris looks on angry.

CHRIS  
What the hell am I supposed to do?

DAN  
"Congratulations" would have been  
nice.

CHRIS  
You can't leave me! I'm terrible  
at being back here! They'll kill  
me!

DAN  
Chris! Everything that makes you  
successful, all your knowledge and  
charisma? Use it back here. You  
can be one of the heroes you're  
always teaching in class.

CHRIS  
How?

DAN  
Everyone loved you at Buckman  
Tavern...

CHRIS  
Okay, maybe if... I go there and  
tell them Paul Revere's daughter  
was taken by a British soldier?

DAN  
They'd go crazy.

CHRIS

And so would Paul and maybe they'd mount a fighting force?

DEBORAH

That's brilliant!

DAN

This is why I brought you. You do that, I'll bring Deborah to the future, and I'll meet you back here in just one hour, okay?

CHRIS

(beat)

Okay.

DAN

We can start this war, together. Then we'll go back to 2016, and you're going to be the best man at my wedding!

CHRIS

Wow, you really don't have any friends in the present, do you?

DAN

No I do not.

As Dan moves to go, Chris grabs his arm.

CHRIS

Hey, you're right. I do need to say thank you. Living real history is the experience of a lifetime.

Dan reaches into his pocket and dramatically hands Chris a silver box.

DAN

No, thank you, "Bro." Be careful, and take this, you'll need it.

CHRIS

What is it?

DAN

Diarrhea medication.

They share a solemn hug. Then Chris watches Dan and Deborah climb into the time machine.

DAN (CONT'D)

And you choose where we time travel next!

CHRIS  
By the way, how does time travel  
work?

DAN  
You're not going to understand.

CHRIS  
I might.

DAN  
Okay, gluons are vector gauge  
bosons that mediate strong  
interactions of quarks--

CHRIS  
Never mind, I'm not gonna get it.

Just before Dan zips it up, Deborah sticks her head out.

DEBORAH  
Screw you, 1775!

EXT. DAN'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

The duffel bag sits in Dan's yard.

INT. DUFFEL BAG - SAME

Deborah and Dan are smooshed together.

DEBORAH  
I can't believe I'm in the future!

DAN  
You're going to love it.

DEBORAH  
Is there anything else I should  
know?

DAN  
My last name isn't actually  
Chambers, it's Fertman. I thought  
you'd think it was too Jewish.

DEBORAH  
What's Jewish?

DAN  
It's-- it's not important.

He unzips the bag and Deborah gets her first glimpse of 2016.

END OF ACT THREE

END OF SHOW