

IN THE HANDS OF TIME

Written By

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INT. STUDIO SET

Alice (115) sits on the interview chair looking at the production crew getting ready to record.

Mark (35) stands behind the camera looking through a monitor, he holds a questionnaire

MARK (O.S.)

Ready?

Alice nods "yes"

MARK (O.S.)

Ms Alice Smith, You are a retired nurse, a mother and a grandmother of one hundred and fifteen years old with the look of a 60 year old lady, but you're 70. And this incredible aging gap in your physical appearance is the cause of an experience you've had with time.

ALICE 115

That is correct.

MARK

Tell us how--, how the eldest woman in the world has not aged for 45 years.

Alice breathes in as she begins to tell her story, she looks directly in the camera

ALICE 115

It was 90 years ago in a light winter that had brought us the new year.

FADE TO BLACK.:

TITLE FADES IN AND OUT.

EXT. THE HOUSE

We fly over a neighborhood of single family homes to close in on the main house.

CUT TO:

INT. THE HOUSE, LIVING

Pan over framed pictures of a young couple with friends and family. The wedding photos express joy and happiness. There are valuable items and gifts displayed around the house that characterise the symbols of their union.

ALICE 115 (V.O.)

My husband and I lived in a single family home outside the city. Our story started in high school, we were sweethearts, friends, confidants and in love- we've collected items that meant a significant moment in our lives to remind ourselves of the times we've shared if any of us were to get lost in the ways of the world.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM

Sunlight brightens the room through the window. Alice wakes up and sits up on the bed. she seems exhausted,

She gets off bed to the-

INT. BATHROOM

There, she looks in the mirror and picks up a pregnancy test to unwrap it. she sits on the toilette to urinate. She takes the test and it reads "positive". She smiles.

ALICE 115 (V.O.)

It was early in the morning, and Ben had waken up hours ago. although we were young and in the mix of our careers, we were trying to expand our love, have a child and start building a family.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE/BASEMENT, BEN'S WORKSHOP

Pan over blueprints of time machine and the studies of black holes, engineering tools and gadgets, electronics related to physics and science.

We then reveal Ben (28) putting together a device (the time traveler device)

ALICE 115 (V.O.)

Ben was a student of science, his  
(MORE)

ALICE 115 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

passion for physics in our universe and his obsession with time led him to spend most of his days searching for an accessible way to the black hole. That was his thing.

INTERCUTS

Ben stands facing chalk board that is filled with equations and arithmetic drawings. He erases the board and translates the equations in simple presentation drawing that makes sense to the ordinary person.

Ben paces around thinking. He sits to go deep on his thoughts. He then holds a voice recorder and speaks to it.

BEN (V.O)

Time, aren't we traveling in it? Alice is a young professional in a busy society, therefore she has a certain obligations and commitment that defines the activities in her life.

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INTERCUTS

INT. KITCHEN

Alice walks in the kitchen. She opens the blinds to let daylight in. She turn on the stove to heat water in a pot. She opens a cabinet to grab teabags and a tea set. she makes hot tea. She stands to drink it while keeping her eyes on a clock hanging on the wall.

BACK TO

BEN(V.O.)

Those activities occur in different locations and she must attend all of them at different times within a 24hr period that is a day. Her residence is location A, her workplace Location B, her evening classes are Location C, and in between she must grab lunch at some random location that is unknown, so X, and later, she will meetup with a friend for a drink at location D, and then get back to location A to rest.

He illustrates everything on the board.

BEN (V.O.)

All the locations are accessible by foot, bicycle, and automobile, a car. If she were to travel by foot from her base location that is A to B, C, X, D, and get back to A, it will cost her 20hrs of travel time, she will save 6hrs by bicycle, and by car it will only take 2hrs. Instead of traveling with the pace of time by foot, she takes a car to travel against it. And that allows her to attend all of her activities within the 24hrs period.

Door knocks with Alice calling for Ben as he finishes assembling his device

BEN

Come in.

Alice enters the room, Ben puts the device down to look at her

BEN

Good morning

ALICE

Hi.

Alice approaches and Ben holds her in his arms, they kiss and look in the eyes,

BEN

Slept tight?

ALICE

I did, you?

BEN

I've been working.

ALICE

Time travel, how is it coming along?

BEN

Just about done, I have to run some tests and I will be able to tell you all about it.

She puts her head down with a straight face, Ben senses that she has something on her mind

BEN

What?

She looks him in the eyes, silence reigns for a few..,

ALICE

I'm late--, I think we might be pregnant

Silence.., Ben smiles,

BEN

I want a girl

ALICE

A girl uhn?

BEN

That's right

ALICE

I will try--, I have to go to the doctor and confirm, will you come with me?

BEN

Absolutely, you give me 10 minutes and I'll be up to get ready.

ALICE

Okay.

They kiss. Alice leaves the room while Ben remains still, he is happy.

He turns around to pick up the device, he looks at it and sets it up for test.

The device vibrates as he holds it, the energy is tense, he takes a moment, looks at time on his wrist, it reads "9:05"-

INTERCUTS

INT. CLOSET

Alice is getting dressed, the light flickers in the room, she stops and looks at it, she feels vibration.

ALICE

(whispers)

Ben!

She rushes out- ROOM TO STAIRWAYS she comes down fast-

BACK TO BEN:

Ben presses a button found on the device. suddenly, he vanishes into an air-blow.

Door opens, Alice gets in, she looks around- We can see that the vibration has shaken things up and there is an after effects of particles in the air.

Alice stands still realizing that Ben has succeeded in his research, she doesn't know what to make of it and she remains still.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE FRONT

Ben appears out of an air-blow, he looks around, the neighborhood is still the same with a slight change of appearance. He looks at time on his wrist, it reads 9:05.

BEN

It worked

He smiles, he seems excited and accomplished, he tries to open the door but it's locked, he rings the bell and knocks on the door.

Door opens, and there stands Alice at age 70, they look in the eyes motionlessly- they recognize each other after 45 years.

ALICE 70

Ben?

BEN

Alice?

Alice is emotional, tears fill her eyes

ALICE 70

My god, you did not age

BEN

How long it's been?

Alice wipes her tears.

ALICE 70

I turned 70 last month

BEN  
45 years?

ALICE 70  
where have you been?

BEN  
In the workshop, I've traveled time  
in seconds ago

He shows her the device, Alice glances at it

ALICE 70  
And I've waited for 45 years

In tears, Ben holds her tight in his arms

ALICE  
I've missed you.

He looks at her in the eyes.

INTERCUTS

INT. STUDIO SET

Alice is emotionally on pause,

MARK(O.S.)  
--, what did it feel like seeing  
him again?

She remains silent

MARK(O.S.)  
Were you happy to see him?

ALICE 115  
I felt relieved, I was uncertain on  
how to deal with him given the age  
difference.

MARK(O.S.)  
What happened next?

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING

Ben walks in looking around, everything is still the same.  
He walks up to the wall where hang their pictures as a young  
couple. He turns around to look at Alice who approaches,

BEN  
You haven't changed a thing.

ALICE 70  
I knew you'd be back, I kept  
everything as they were so you  
wouldn't forget our times together.

She is still in tears, Ben puts the device down and  
approaches her to holds her face, he wipes her tears. Ben is  
equally emotional,

BEN  
Did you go to the doctor?

ALICE 70  
You wanted a girl, and a girl she  
is.

BEN  
What's her name?

ALICE 70  
Laurie

BEN  
Laurie, where is she?

ALICE 70  
Let's sit down

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING - LATER

Alice picks the remote off the table to cut on the tv,

BEN  
Television?

ALICE  
It's not just a television, it is  
smart and it holds memories  
forever. Watch.

Tv monitor cuts on displaying pictures of Alice: Missing  
Ben, Progress of pregnancy, Baby is born, Alice raises baby,  
She is a little girl, She is in school, She graduates, She  
gets married, She has a son, family photos without Ben, etc.

Ben sits next to Alice on the couch watching the tv, he is  
sadly happy.

ALICE 115 (V.O.)

And we sat on the couch to watch the slide-show of the moments that sum up the events that took place while he was gone. I raised Laurie as a single parent and she turned out fine. she had grown into her own person, married and had a son named after Ben, and they had never met. He had seen the future in the past, and in it, he was absent.

Slide-show ends, Ben looks at Alice

BEN

I've missed it all

ALICE 70

can you go back? back all the way to where we started

BEN

If I could I would, but then I would be here sitting with you having this conversation at this very moment.

ALICE 70

- can you not relive the past and choose a different path

BEN

time is irreversible, it only moves forward, and in the present the future is unpredictable, no you can not relive the past.

Alice turn her head to the side, she is sadden

ALICE 70

I've waited 45 years for your return, and now that you're here we can not be together

Ben touches her,

BEN

Of course we can, you're still the girl I fell in love with and married

Alice looks at Ben

ALICE 70

I'm 70 of age and you're only 28,  
so young, I can't be a wife to you.

Ben thinks for a second, he looks at the time travel device, he gets up to it and picks it up. Alice looks at it as he holds it

BEN

Yes you can, in the future

Alice is motionlessly nervous,

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE/BASEMENT

Darkness, door opens and the lights cut on, Ben and Alice enter the room.

Everything is covered in plastic and dust. Ben removes the plastic to look at his workshop. Everything is in place as he left it.

ALICE 115 (V.O.)

And he brought me to his workshop down in the basement where I kept all of his belongings in the spot he left them. He had proposed that I skip the present and meet him in the future where we're both in the same class of our generation again.

He turns around to face Alice

BEN

This is where it has to happen

Alice seems a little worried,

ALICE 70

What if it doesn't work out, what if I end up some place else, perhaps on a different planet.

Ben walks to the board. He looks at his equations and illustrations

BEN

My equations are solved with the defined error of 45 years and It

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

might take me a lifetime to fix it.

He walks to Alice to look deep in her eyes while holding her hands

BEN

It is programmed for you to appear where ever you think of, before you travel pick your destination.

ALICE 70

Where should I meet you?

BEN

I would like to open the door for you, kiss you, hug you, and welcome you in as you did for me.

ALICE 70

The front door

BEN

Yes

Alice holds the device in Ben's hands, looks at it and looks at Ben in the eyes, she is nervous

ALICE 70

I'm scared

BEN

It will only take a second

ALICE 70

A second of 45 years

BEN

You waited for me, I will wait for you. Now take it and go on.

They touch head

ALICE 70

I love you

BEN

I love you more.

Alice steps aside holding the device, while Ben stands still behind

Alice turns the switch on, the device creates vibrations, she looks at Ben, he nods "yes"

ALICE 70  
See you in a bit.

BEN  
See you in a bit.

She looks at the device, closes her eyes and presses the button. Boom, she vanishes. Ben stands still and looks at time on his wrist, it reads "11:10".

INTERCUTS

INT. STUDIO SET

MARK(O.S.)  
And you traveled through time

ALICE 115  
I did. And he was right his equations were were solved with a defined error.

MARK (O.S.)  
45 years.

ALICE 115  
Yes.

MARK(O.S.)  
What was the welcome when you appeared at the front door.

ALICE 115  
Good, but not what expected.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT DOOR

Alice appears out of thin air at the door steps. She looks at the door, throws the device away and hurries to the door.

She rings the bell. Door opens, and there stands Grandson Ben at age 45

Both are motionless at first sight

GRANDSON BEN  
Alice?

ALICE 70  
Ben?

Ben smiles, they hug tight and then look, Alice seems

concerned

ALICE 70

It seems that you haven't aged  
much.

GRANDSON BEN

That's because I'm your grandson.

ALICE 70

Ben junior,

He nods "yes", they hug. She holds his face to look him in  
the eyes

ALICE 70

you grew up to look just like your  
grandfather--,

She takes her hand off of his face,

ALICE 70

he was supposed to open the door  
for me

Grandson Ben demeanor changes,

GRANDSON BEN

I know, let's get inside.

They get in, door closes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING

They walk in, everything is still the same as Alice looks  
around

ALICE 70

He didn't make any change to the  
house

GRANDSON BEN

He wanted everything to remain the  
same till you returned.

Alice turns to look at Grandson Ben

ALICE 70

Where is he?

GRANDSON BEN

Let us sit down

Alice sense that something is not right, she approaches Grandson Ben

ALICE 70  
Is everything alright?

GRANDSON BEN  
You should hear it from him as he wished

They sit down on the couch, Grandson Ben picks up the remote control to the tv and cuts it on.

As they watch, Ben appears at age 68.

ON TV SCREEN. He lies in his deathbed suffering from cancer.

BEN 68  
Hi Alice, yes I've missed you, I've missed you so much. I've gotten to know our daughter soon after you were gone and helped raise Ben who is probably sitting next to you, and we have had a great time looking forward to your return. I'm recording this video just in case you don't make it back on time. I was diagnosed with cancer 30 years after you've left, I was given 3 years but so far I made it to 10, and I have 5 more years to go till I see you again, if not then maybe in the next life. I've rushed the time of our lives and I'm sorry. I love you.

Ben turns his head to the side and closes his eyes.

Alice is in tears, Grandson Ben holds her in his arms as she breaks down.

BACK TO:

INT. STUDIO SET

Alice wipes her tears and looks at Mark

ALICE 115  
And he now rest in peace.

MARK  
-what of the time machine, his work?

ALICE 115  
I destroyed it all.

MARK  
I understand your reason, but let  
me, let the audience hear it from  
you.

Alice takes a deep breath and thinks for a second, she looks  
at the camera.

ALICE 115  
Existence is of time, it gives us  
birth, teaches us about the world  
and beyond, we evolve through it as  
it brings us the things we know and  
the things we have yet to discover,  
it defines everything we do, and  
before it brings us death, it gives  
us the gift of now, the present.  
Now is all that matters, live it  
well and celebrate it fully by  
doing what you love, Now is all  
that counts, share it with who you  
love, do it and do it now before  
it's gone in the hands of time.

CUT TO BLCAK:

The end.....,

- ① There are intercuts in which Ben speaks and does not speak the lines. At times he is thinking, some illustrating, some pacing around, sitting..etc..,  
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