"THE TIME MACHINE

Ву

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"THE TIME MACHINE SKETCH"

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

Raymond Elliot, science reporter, is holding a microphone. Standing next to him is Fielding Sturdley, inventor wearing a white lab coat.

RAYMOND

Welcome to the "World of Science Report. I'm Raymond Elliott reporting on the world of science. Tonight's report introduces you to a man who has invented a time machine. His name is Fielding Sturdley. Is that true, sir?

STURDLEY

Yes. It's true. My name is Fielding Sturdley.

RAYMOND

And you, sir, have invented a time machine?

STURDLEY

Yes, that's also true. I have invented a time machine.

RAYMOND

How long have you been working on this amazing new invention? It is safe to call it amazing?

STURDLEY

Well, yes, it's fairly amazing.

RAYMOND

And how long have you been working on this amazing new invention?

STURDLEY

I have been working on this amazing new invention for a long time.

RAYMOND

Precisely how long, sir?

STURDLEY

Well I don't know. I don't have any clocks in my house so I really don't worry about time that much.

RAYMOND

Still it's a very amazing machine. Think of all of the great events in history we could witness. The great historical figures we could meet and interview.

STURDLEY

Well I'm sorry. That's not possible with this particular time machine because my time machine only goes forward. It cannot go back.

RAYMOND

Oh, well that does raise some issues. If a passenger were to volunteer to be a traveler in your machine and went into the future, how would he be able to return?

STURDLEY

We haven't quite figured that out yet. That might be why we haven't gotten many volunteers.

RAYMOND

I see. Still future cures in medicine, future civilizations, the evolution of our planet -- it is still amazing.

STURDLEY

Yes, we can see future cures in medicine, future civilizations, the evolution of our planet. Amazing is the precise word for it, yes.

RAYMOND

Approximately how far into the future can you send someone, Dr. Sturdley?

STURDLEY

It's not approximately. We can pinpoint exactly the time we go into the future.

RAYMOND

Exactly how far into the future do you go, Doctor?

Two seconds.

RAYMOND

Two seconds?

STURDLEY

Yes, that is correct. My time machine, which I have invented, can send a passenger two seconds into the future.

RAYMOND

Two seconds. Well, Doctor that is amazing. Even if somewhat less amazing than I previously thought. But it is a breakthrough of historic proportions.

STURDLEY

No, we only go into the future.

RAYMOND

Of course. What practical functions do you see for this invention, Doctor?

STURDLEY

At the present time, none.

RAYMOND

Do you see any other use you could put it to?

STURDLEY

Well think of the breakthroughs in medicine, you can see in the future, future civilizations ---

RAYMOND

Yes, of course. This is a great breakthrough. Well you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure that out.

STURDLEY

Actually being a rocket scientist would help. I have to admit.

RAYMOND

Certainly. Are there any risks involved with time travel, Doctor?

Although it is a great temptation when going into the future, a traveler should remember not to interfere with the civilization that he finds. This is known as the first rule of time travel. So far it's the only rule of time travel but I'm sure we'll come up with others.

RAYMOND

Can you now show us the amazing time machine invention?

STURDLEY

Yes, I'll show this amazing invention. You're sitting on it.

RAYMOND

This is it? Why it looks like an ordinary chair?

STURDLEY

Thank you.

RAYMOND

I can't tell it from any other chair.

STURDLEY

We did that so that it wouldn't give a fright to our friends in the future.

RAYMOND

I see. Doctor, have you received a patent yet on this invention?

STURDLEY

A patent? What's that?

RAYMOND

A patent. A legal designation that you are the time machine's inventor? It entitles you to future royalties and payments for the invention?

STURDLEY

Really? What a good idea. I'll have to have the research department look into that.

RAYMOND

Research it you mean?

STURDLEY

Yes, I guess you could say that.

RAYMOND

How have you tested the time machine, Doctor?

STURDLEY

By using it.

RAYMOND

So you have yourself traveled into the future?

STURDLEY

No, we still use inanimate objects for that. Don't want to put any lives at stake foolishly.

RAYMOND

Can we, along with our viewers in the public audience, witness firsthand, or secondhand for the viewers in the public audience, a demonstration of this slightly amazing time machine?

STURDLEY

Yes, of course. I thought that was the whole point.

RAYMOND

Yes.

STURDLEY

Well it wouldn't do for you to just interview without seeing the machine in action. In fact, it'd be rather silly.

RAYMOND

Yes, Doctor. Let's see the machine in action.

Doctor puts a funny object on it (one that doesn't move -- chia pet, bowling ball, etc.)

RAYMOND (cont'd)

What is your background in physics? Your scientific credentials?

None. I was in the used aluminum game.

RAYMOND

Oh.

STURDLEY

Not new aluminum. We didn't touch that. Strictly used aluminum. Navy surplus

RAYMOND

And now we are ready to see the machine in action.

STURDLEY

We will perform it on this authentic 1978 Reggie Jackson action figure.

RAYMOND

Yes. I know you and our audience are eagerly anticipating this historic, or dare if say, futoric, event.

STURDLEY

Wait for it. Okay, that's it.

RAYMOND

Well, Doctor, I don't see any difference.

STURDLEY

Remember, it's just two seconds. Remember this action figure is experiencing everything two seconds before we are.

RAYMOND

But Doctor we still see the doll --

STURDLEY

Action figure.

RAYMOND

Action figure -- in front of us and it never disappears.

That's a common misconception among those not familiar with the time travel game. That's the residue-effect whereby the object projected into the future leaves a residual image.

RAYMOND

And how long does the image last, Doctor?

STURDLEY

Usually about two seconds.

RAYMOND

Oh, I see. That explains it then. Doctor, is there any scientific way we can verify that you've, in fact, broken the time barrier?

STURDLEY

Well if you'd wait a couple of seconds.

RAYMOND

Is there any other way, Doctor?

STURDLEY

I don't know. I don't suppose you'd take my word for it?

RAYMOND

I'm sorry, Doctor. We're out of time

STURDLEY

Do you need two seconds? I could give them to you. Theoretically the show could go on forever.

RAYMOND

It feels like it already has. That's all tonight for the World of Science Report. Be sure to join us next week on the World of Science Report, when we'll meet a good samaritan who helps the underprivileged by secretly rotating their tires. This is Raymond Elliot.