

Tomorrow Never Knows

by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The place is a mess. Party detritus everywhere - lager bottles, pizza boxes. On the table, a handwritten note sits, weighed down by a full ashtray.

SUPER - LIVERPOOL ENGLAND                      THE PRESENT

ROB(V.O)

I know you're gonna be angry  
brother...but I can't stay in  
this world any longer.

A bedroom door opens and JONNY(20) emerges, wearing only jeans. Behind him in the ruffled bed sleeps MAGGIE(21).

Jonny GROANS as he surveys the damage...

ROB(V.O)

No job prospects, no future.  
Even me guitar can't help me here.

Jonny takes a long swig of water from the fridge. He SIGHS and starts the cleanup.

He sees the note, carefully holds it up to his face, blinking. Behind him, Maggie stirs.

ROB(V.O)

I'm sorry but I have to do this...

Maggie pads out, grins wanly at Jonny. He hands her the note. She scans it slowly, eyes widening. Almost sober now...

MAGGIE

Oh, shit, he's only  
sixteen...he hasn't topp\_\_well,  
you know. He wouldn't do that...  
(beat)  
Would he?

Jonny frowns, heads to the other bedroom. He pushes the door open, looks in, and SCREAMS in fury.

JONNY

Fuuuck!!

Maggie moves to the door but avoids looking in.

MAGGIE

Jonny, has he...is he in there?  
Dead?

Jonny breaks off his tantrum, looks at her.

JONNY

Huh? Oh, no...no, nothing like that, babe.

MAGGIE

Oh, thank god...

(beat)

Well then, what has he done that's so bad?

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Jonny moves to a corner. He crouches, holds up some electrical wires, and some kind of control switch.

JONNY

The bastards nicked my fucking time machine...

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MORNING

People wait at a bus stop. ROB(16) steps from behind a tree. An acoustic guitar is slung across his back.

He looks around, smiles. The waiting commuters wear...old-fashioned clothes.

SUPER - LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND JUNE 1957

ROB(V.O)

My plan was simple really...

He moves forward as a red double-decker bus rounds the corner. The destination sign reads 'WOOLERTON'.

An old lady gives Rob a scathing glance...

ROB(V.O)

Make friends with them. Play for them.

INT. BUS - MORNING

Rob steps onto the bus, takes in the nineteen fifties feel of everything. He flips some coins to the driver, receives a ticket...

ROB(V.O)

Gran's old coin collection came in handy...

EXT. BUS - MORNING

...and continues up to the open upper deck. No one else there.

ROB(V.O)

...as did Pop's old guitar.

He strums the instrument. It sounds pretty good, and is recognisable as the opening chords of 'I Want To Hold Your Hand'.

He loses himself in the music, then pauses.

ROB  
Oops...hasn't been written yet,  
has it?

He continues PLAYING, and LAUGHS into the breeze. The bus continues towards another stop.

Rob stops strumming, peers over the edge. The bus pulls up. People get on. Rob smiles.

BACKGROUND MUSIC - THE MIDDLE EIGHT OF THE BEATLES' 'A DAY IN THE LIFE'

PAUL MCCARTNEY(V.O)  
'Found my way up stairs and had  
a smoke...and somebody spoke  
and I went into a dream...'

The MUSIC builds to the classic crescendo, then...SILENCE.

PAUL(15) and GEORGE(14) come up the stairs, LAUGHING, school bags over their shoulders. George carries a guitar too.

Rob softly PLAYS, ignores them. Paul and George look at each other, listen intently.

They approach Rob. He pauses, looks up, nods.

ROB  
Hey.

PAUL  
Hey yourself.

GEORGE  
Sounded pretty good.

ROB  
Aye. I've heard you lads are  
good too.

Paul and George exchange glances.

PAUL  
Wanna smoke?

ROB  
Sure.

Paul pulls out a bent ciggie from his jacket pocket. He lights it, has a puff, hands it over. Rob takes a drag. George sits down, starts playing his guitar.

ROB

Thanks.  
(beat)  
I'm Rob.

GEORGE

George Harrison. The cute  
bugger here is Paul McCartney.

ROB

Cool.  
(beat)  
Lets play.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF BUS - MORNING

The three teenagers huddle, oblivious to the world. George and Rob play.

ROB(V.O)

They didn't even ask me where  
I was from or my background.  
They didn't care.  
(beat)  
The music was all that mattered.  
(beat)  
Later, when they got off at  
their stop, they gave me their  
addresses, and promised to keep  
in touch.

EXT. BUS - MORNING

Rob waves to Paul and George as they walk along the footpath. The bus rolls on. He starts strumming again.

ROB(V.O)

I didn't tell them I already  
knew where they lived.

He LAUGHS, plays the opening chords of 'Yesterday'.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Jonny sits on the bed, holding the switch. Maggie paces in front of him.

MAGGIE

You built a time machine? Is  
this some kind of joke? God...

JONNY

I swear, Maggie, its true. I still don't know exactly how it works but...

He throws up his hands. He scans the room in despair. On one wall is a huge poster of the Beatles walking across Abbey Road. He looks past it, frowns...

MAGGIE

Ok, lets say there was a time machine, and Rob has taken it. Where the hell would he go?

Jonny doesn't answer. He stares at the poster. Eyes widening, he gets to his feet, but stumbles. He falls to his knees in front of the poster.

MAGGIE

Now what? You need to go back to bed.

Jonny's almost hyperventilating. He points to the wall.

JONNY

Look...at...it.

Maggie checks out the poster. Frowns, shakes her head.

MAGGIE

What? Beatles crossing Abbey Road. Iconic pic, but so what? How is that...oh jesus...

She slumps to the floor next to Jonny. They both stare at the poster.

George, bearded, dressed in denim...

Paul, barefoot, holding a cigarette...

Ringo, clad in black...

and...

Rob, an older Rob in his late twenties, leads the way.

FADE OUT.

THE END