

ADVANCE MAN

Written by

A nonymous

(c) 2023

xxxxxxx
xxxxxxx

FADE IN:

EXT. LASALLE STREET, CHICAGO IL. - DAY

A two lane street corner, one going North, the other South. There is a walkway that has no stop light, only a sign to stop for pedestrians.

ALLAN PRATT, a White man, lean, nerdy glasses, fifty-four year old corporate tax consultant is at the crosswalk and walks alongside...

OLD MAN is a bearded, White man, probably in his late seventies, early eighties, on a cane who hurries across. The cars stop for them on the North direction street but when they reach the South direction street, the old man gets to the middle of the street...

CAR

Barrels down on the old man trying to get through the cross walk before the old man does.

ALLAN

Races to the old man and throws himself into him, hurling them both onto the sidewalk. The man's cane hits the car as it races by.

The old man Looks at the speeding car and then at Allan.

OLD MAN

Sonny. I thank you for what you did.

ALLAN

No problem sir. You have to watch the cars, not the stop sign.

The man stands up and dusts himself off. Then suddenly, EVERYONE FREEZES. People walking behind Allan stop in mid walk, a window washer stops in mid wash and even the water stops by his squeegee stops.

OLD MAN

Do you know how long I have been crossing that same street, waiting for a hero to emerge?

ALLAN

Why?

OLD MAN
Its my job.

ALLAN
You're God?

OLD MAN
He's the boss.

ALLAN
Oh my God. Am I going up?

OLD MAN
First, don't take my boss's name in
vain and no, you're not going,
you're being rewarded.

ALLAN
Rewarded? Riches? Money?

OLD MAN
Depends on how you look at it. If I
give you something, you can make it
priceless.

ALLAN
What?

OLD MAN
You tell me.

Allan thinks for a moment. He looks around at all the frozen people around him. Even the vehicles are stopped, with some drivers talking on their phones or to other people.

ALLAN
You're putting me on.

The old man levitates into the air amid the frozen people.

ALLAN (CONT'D)
Oh man.

OLD MAN
Anything else?

ALLAN
Time travel!

OLD MAN
Time travel? No super strength to
be tougher than a prize fighter, no
super speed to be faster than the
fastest runner?

ALLAN

I made a lot of mistakes in life
and if I can relive them, perhaps
change them, I'd be a better person
in a better position in life.

OLD MAN

Interesting. Do you know what it
takes to navigate through time?

ALLAN

Do I know the pitfalls of time
travel? I've seen the movies. I
only want to occupy myself in that
time period. I just want to see
what I did wrong.

OLD MAN

You merely doing that could change
things.

ALLAN

You asked me what power I wanted.
Are you going back on your promise?

The Old Man nodded and then sweeps his hand across Allan.
Allan begins to get faint and images fly by him as if people
are moving again.

INT. TAX GURUS CONSULTANTS - MOMENTS LATER

Allan is in front of his desk, with his head back when he is
suddenly slapped on the face with a file folder. He looks and
there is red headed Korean Ae MI-OK, fellow corporate tax
advisor.

AE MI-OK

Better not let the boss see you
dosing.

Allan nods and looks around as if unaware how he got here. He
then looks at the monitor when a...

RED ALERT goes off on his cellular phone and the screen
BLINKS red. The same happens to AE MI-OK's phone.

AE MI-OK (CONT'D)

What the hell?

Allan looks at his cell. The word EMERGENCY flashes across
the screen with NUCLEAR CALAMITY and smaller words that it
happened in your area and to seek shelter in a basement or
underground area.

Allan switches the monitor to the CABLE aux. CNN has the same EMERGENCY crawl and a stern looking female anchorwoman tells the viewer about the situation.

FEMALE ANCHORWOMAN

-- getting emergency calls from all over the world! All missile launch facilities are going on line and launching their nuclear cargo--

Allan and Ae Mi-OK look out the window and see in the distance mushroom clouds and smoke streams rising into the sky.

AE MI-OK

OMG. How...how is this happening?

ALLAN

Wait. All this seems familiar...

AE MI-OK

What?

ALLAN

He went and did it.

AE MI-OK

What? Who?

ALLAN

This is his doing.

AN EXPLOSION

Rocks the building and a huge flash of light envelops the room.

Allan activates his power and finds a photo forming in his head of a lab and a bi-speckled Allan and an British man in lab coats.

INT. FLORIDA LAB - DAY

Allan finds himself in 1992 in a lab coat in his younger self's 24 year old body. Allan looks at his hands and steps off his chair and fishes through a drawer and finds a mirror. He looks at himself, and feels his face.

Allan's colleague is THEODORE PAULEY, a White, nerdish looking scientist.

THEODORE

You have a date later?

Allan looks back at Theodore.

ALLAN

Its nothing. Look, what are you working on?

THEODORE

I told you. The calibration unit for nuclear missiles.

ALLAN

And you actually think tis will work.

THEODORE

One day you'll wish it did. You see the doomsday clock. The world is two minutes to midnight from nuclear armageddon.

ALLAN

And this is to stop missiles from leaving their silos.

THEODORE

Yes. As sort of a fail safe from some power mad dictator President.

ALLAN

That's all its supposed to be?

THEODORE

Yeah.

ALLAN

And in who's hands is supposed to be?

THEODORE

Are you insinuating that I'd sell this to some world power?

ALLAN

Or you'd alter it so that it sets off the nuclear arsenal rather than stop it.

THEODORE

Why would I do that? That would destroy the world. I just want a fail safe.

Allan nods but then activates his power and forms a picture of the two men sitting on a park bench in twenty-fifteen.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Theodore is sitting on the bench and looks disheveled and depressed. His clothes are wrinkled as if he never ironed them.

ALLAN

What happened, Theo?

THEODORE

My name is Theodore.

ALLAN

What happened.

THEODORE

You think you know someone.

ALLAN

You mean your wife?

THEODORE

She wants a divorce. Says life with me is boring. Says I have no ambition.

ALLAN

Theodore, maybe you should forget about her for now --

THEODORE

She criticized my project. Said I have no ambition.

ALLAN

Theodore, forget the project. You've been working on it so long you're putting it ahead of everything else, including your marriage.

THEODORE

I'm trying to save lives! Why doesn't she--why doesn't anyone know that??

ALLAN

And that's why you've worked on it for so long? You think we're inches from nuclear death? Theodore, listen to yourself. You're obsessed and you need to stop this project and clean up your life.

THEODORE

You too?

ALLAN

You work on that, obsess over it because you don't know how to live life! You obsess over death! Stop thinking about saving us, wasting your life and live it!

THEODORE

gets up and stalks off.

ALLAN

Stands up as well, activates his power and disappears.

EXT. HUANAN SEAFOOD MARKET - DAY

Allan materializes in Wuhan, China in the year 2020 in front of a fish market with other Chinese citizens buying fish. Away from him is THEODORE holding a device that he waves in the air, a box shape with a digital readout on it.

VAN

Drives up.

UNKNOWN CHINESE MEN

Wearing black suit and ties exits the van and walks up to Theodore. One of the men, seemingly the leader of the group face Theodore and looks over the device

Allan RUNS OVER and TACKLES Theodore and KNOCKS THE BOX. All three men FALL to the ground. The other Chinese men run and grab Allan and hold him down. Theodore gets up and finds the outer case of the box SMASHED TO PIECES with wiring sticking out.

CHINESE MAN

Looks at the smashed apparatus then looks at Allan and Theodore, SNAPS his fingers. The other Chinese men release Allan. All of the men return to the van and drive away.

Allan gets up and wipes himself off.

Theodore gets up and cradles the broken device in his hand.

THEODORE

What are you doing here?

ALLAN
Friends of yours?

THEODORE
They were potential clients!

ALLAN
For a device that you told me would
stop nuclear deployment in silos.

THEODORE
I told you it would save the world!

ALLAN
You alter your device to set off
nuclear weapons in their silos and
end all life on Earth. You figured
that if you can't enjoy life, no
one else will. You're no better
than a gunmen shooting up a place
full of people.

Theodore collapses and tears run down his eyes.

THEODORE
(weakly)
No one should have to suffer.

ALLAN
People suffer every day. They have
the will to go on. You will too.

Allan helps Theodore up.

THEODORE
Do you know what you've done?

Allan looks up to the sunny sky, smells the fish in the air.

ALLAN
Yeah. I just saved the world.

Allan fades away, presumably to the present.

Theodore nods his head as if coming out of a trance. He looks
back at the market and the people around it and sees BATS ON
STICKS ready for being cooked and consumption.

Theodore stares at it as if coming up with an idea.

FADE OUT