

BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD

Written by

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OVER BLACK:

RADIO BROADCAST (V.O.)
NASA reports that the eighty-mile
asteroid, known as Icarus, was
knocked by another space rock,
changing its course, and will now
be arriving ahead of schedule.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A RED COUPE is stationed at the muddy side of the road.

RADIO BROADCAST (V.O.)
It is only a matter of minutes for
it to collide, so this will be our
final broadcast.

INT. CAR - DAY

BILLY (early 30s), shy, plain-looking, sits frozen - sweaty
hands on the wheel. His friend, GINA (late 20s), sexy in a
nerdy way, is beside him, a somber look in her face.

They listen to the radio with rapt attention.

RADIO BROADCAST (V.O.)
We advise you to say your final
prayers and prepare for the end.
It's been a pleasure to bring you
the news of the end of the world
with all your classic rock
favorites. This is KUNT-FM and that
was our last transmission.

The broadcast is replaced by "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay.

Billy and Gina don't blink, the words still echoing in their
ears. He's the first to speak:

BILLY
(re: the song)
Really? Viva La Vida?

GINA
(soft)
Billy

BILLY
I mean, Coldplay isn't even a
classic rock band...

GINA
Billy...

BILLY
These guys have a twisted sense of
humor...

GINA
(losing it)
Billy!

Billy notices Gina's talking to him.

BILLY
Yes?

GINA
I've got to tell you something.

BILLY
Okay.

She looks down, sheepish.

GINA
I love you, Billy.

It takes a moment for Billy to process what she said.

BILLY
What?

GINA
I said that I love you.

Billy's eyes widen with surprise.

BILLY
What?! But we've been friends...

GINA
I wanted to tell you since we first
met but never found the occasion.

BAM. BAM. BAM. Billy starts to bang his head against the
window. That's not the reaction she was expecting.

GINA (CONT'D)
You okay?

BILLY
(to himself)
Idiot, idiot, idiot...

He stops banging his head and opens the glove box. Takes a bouquet of withered roses and a crumpled box of chocolates out of it. Hands them to Gina.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Don't eat the chocolates. They're stale. A couple years old.

She takes the box and the bouquet, unsure.

GINA

What's this?

BILLY

I wanted to ask you out several times but never did. Saved these to remind me what a pussy I am.

A quiet moment as they take in the implications. And then --

Gina drives into Billy, kissing him hard. Out of control. He doesn't hesitate and kisses her back.

Billy gropes Gina's body as they paw into each other with the libido of a 17-year-old couple, years and years of self-restraint melting in a split second.

She guides his hands across her body, taking her navy-blue sweater off, exposing a strikingly perfect sculpted body.

Billy gasps at the sight.

He takes off her pants with desperation, then goes to undo his but -- HIS ZIPPER DOESN'T OPEN!!

BILLY (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me...

He keeps insisting and insisting, but the fly doesn't budge.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Open up, buddy... Open up!

Gina looks at the clock nervous, her perfect body exposed.

GINA

Hurry, they said there's not much time left...

BILLY

I know, I know, baby. I'm trying. Don't put more pressure on me...

The zipper is stuck.

GINA
Can I help you?

He doesn't answer, embarrassed. Just keeps fighting with the quarrelsome fastener.

BILLY
Fuck!

Gina takes his hands in hers, soothing him.

GINA
Here, let me help you...

Billy looks at Gina with bated breath. She pulls down the zipper several times but it doesn't move. Gina keeps working it. No luck.

GINA (CONT'D)
It's caught in the fabric... Do you have a pair of scissors? Something we can use to cut it?

Billy furrows his brow, hesitant.

BILLY
I don't know if bringing something pointy so close to-

GINA
(losing her patience)
Be a man!

BILLY
Okay, okay...

His hands start to search under the seats, in the glove compartments, inside the door pockets... when --

Suddenly, a beam of white light fills the sky.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Oh, no, no, no... Not yet!

Billy starts to tug the zipper down like mad. Fast. Rough. Like his life depends on it.

With the last pull, he finally manages to unzip the pants.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Eureka!

But the white light is already filling the car.

Gina offers a sad smile at him. There's no more time left.

Billy nods... a look of resignation on his eyes.

They look into each other's eyes, knowing these will be their last words --

BILLY (CONT'D)
Love you, baby.

GINA
Love you too.

-- just before we-

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

The flash of white light vanishes. Billy and Gina are still looking at each other, eyes narrowed, not understanding.

The song finishes playing. A moment passes. Then another radio broadcast comes to life.

RADIO BROADCAST (V.O.)
Welcome back listeners. NASA issued a last-minute report. There was an error in their estimations and Icarus just skimmed Earth's atmosphere causing a bright beam of energy. The failure has been attributed to a glitch in the computer algorithm and the experts apologize for any...

Billy turns to Gina, his face lit up with hope.

BILLY
So, the world didn't end?

She smiles at him.

GINA
It seems so.

They look away awkwardly, unsure of what to do. Then:

GINA (CONT'D)
(playful)
What if we find a motel and finish what we started?

BILLY
God, I was hoping you'd say that.

GINA
You dirty boy!

With a laugh, Gina pushes up his zipper. Hard.
Instantly, she realizes something's not right.
Billy's face reddens...
His eyes start to bulge...
His features contort with pain...

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Blue skies. Birds chirp. All calm. Quiet. Until:

BILLY (V.O.)
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

GINA (V.O.)
Oh, sorry...

FADE OUT.