Outta Time

By

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT -- DAY

JASON WILKES (early 30s) walks in and slams the door.

He sits next to his phone, runs his fingers through his thinning hair, and presses the message button:

FRIEND (VO)
Hey bud, heard about the pitch. Happens to the best of us. I’ve stopped counting myself, but we plow ahead, right? Keep your chin up. Later.

RYAN (VO)
Jase, sorry about the pitch this morning. Don’t let the bastards get you down. Your script was fucking amazing, you know that. Give me a call, bro.

MOM (VO)
Jason, it’s mom...I saw your post about the production company meeting...Hon’, you’ve been in Los Angeles for so long now. Maybe it’s time to come home, find a real...a job with some security. You’ve given it your best shot. We’re proud of you.

Jason looks at the floor, even more dejected.

INT. JASON’S APARTMENT -- DAY

JASON and RYAN stand amongst stacked boxes.

RYAN
Five years, bro, you’ve only been in L.A. for five years. I’ve been here, like, 15 or something.

JASON
It’s plenty of time to realize you’re not cut out for...

RYAN
Stop. You’ve got talent up the ass. You’re a screenwriter, Jason.
JASON
I’m a car salesman. I sell cars for a living.

RYAN
Bullshit, you’ve got a day job like everyone else. You’re here, in L.A., trying to realize a dream. A dream you’re prepared to shitcan.

JASON
So you going to drive me to the Los Cinco or what?

RYAN
Yeah, sure. But still don’t know why you won’t stay with me on your last night here. Valley ain’t good enough for you?

JASON
You know why. When I first got into town I stayed at the Los Cinco Hotel, the Five Spot.

RYAN
Yeah, everybody did.

JASON
I want to leave the same way. It’s a way to get some closure.

RYAN
Sounds depressing as shit. Remember all the talks we had about movies, how they transported us, how they made us feel. Dude, you still haven’t written your "Casablanca." Your "Back to the Future."

Jason looks at Ryan.

JASON
That’s just it. I thought I had.

INT. LOS CINCO HOTEL LOBBY -- EARLY AFTERNOON

JASON checks in at the retro two-story hotel in Hollywood. The CLERK hands him his room key.
CLERP
Room 121. Check out at 11 a.m.

JASON
No problem. Need to catch a plane at 7.

CLERP
Ahh, leaving on a jet plane. Happy hour is from 5 to 6 o’clock. Free drinks while they last, in the lobby.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON
JASON naps on the bed. The alarm SOUNDS, and he jumps up, looks at the clock. It reads: 5:00 p.m.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS
Jason walks in and sees MALIK, an African-American (early 20s); and KARL, (early 20s), drinking beer.
He spots some beer and a few bottles of chilled white on a table, and walks over to help himself.

MALIK
(to Jason)
Get it while it’s still lukewarm. I think this shit’s got an expiration date.

JASON
(almost to himself)
Like we all do.
Malik gives Karl a look, shrugs his shoulders.

KARL
Join us if you like.

JASON
Thanks.

Jason sits with them, beer in hand.

JASON
You guys just get into town?
MALIK
Two days ago.

KARL
Last night for me.

MALIK
Came to chase my dream of becoming a comedian...
(exaggerated)
Because, you know, black dudes are funny as shit...

Jason kind of smiles.

MALIK
(joking)
Figure there can’t be many more in town like me, right?

JASON
Nah.

KARL
About as many screenwriters. That’s what I’m hoping to do.

JASON
I’ve written scripts.

KARL
Really? Would love to read some of your stuff.

JASON
Sorry, but I don’t think I could take that kind of rejection.

Karl half-smiles.

MALIK
So when you get into town?

JASON
Five years ago.

MALIK
Wow. Okay, so how’s it goin’?

JASON
Not good. Leaving for home tomorrow morning...But don’t let me spoil the party.
5.

Jason raises his beer.

JASON
I envy you both. The very best of luck, gentlemen.

Karl and Malik raise their beers, say "thanks."

ABBY, a wide-eyed pretty girl, (early 20s), walks in. The guys immediately notice her. She smiles at everyone.

ABBY
Hi.

They all say hi. Malik is a bit awestruck.

MALIK
Drinks are over there. You have to get it while it’s there...it’s lukewarm...over there.

ABBY
(slightly bewildered)
Thanks.

She leaves for a drink, comes back toward the table.

ABBY
May I?

MALIK
No doubt.

She smiles, sits.

ABBY
I can’t believe I’m finally here. After so many years of dreaming.

MALIK
You just get into town?

ABBY
This morning.

KARL
Surreal, isn’t it?

ABBY
Yeah. Like a movie.

They laugh.
MALIK
So what’s your dream?

ABBY
Acting. I want to be an actress.

JASON
(surly)
Ever act before?

ABBY
High school and college plays. A couple of musicals.

JASON
Good for you. You wouldn’t believe how many people come to L.A. with tons of acting ambition but zero actual experience.

ABBY
I take it you’re not new in town.

JASON
About as new as an old shoe.

KARL
Jason’s on his way home. After five years in the TMZ.

ABBY
(sarcastic, to Jason)
Well I’m glad it hasn’t made you bitter.

Jason half-smiles, drinks his beer.

INT. LOBBY -- END OF HAPPY HOUR

The booze is gone and the four are feeling good, even Jason.

MALIK
Okay, everyone. What’s your favorite movie?

ABBY
Jaws.

MALIK
(quickly)
No black people but I like it. The first ever summer blockbuster.
JASON
Summers are great...It’s when people fall in love with movies for the first time.

KARL
They’re awesome. Pure entertainment.

JASON
They can be thought-provoking, too.

ABBY
(to Jason)
What’s your favorite summer movie?

JASON
Back to the Future.

ABBY
Nice.

MALIK
Great pick.

KARL
Agreed, but how is "Back to the Future" thought-provoking?

JASON
Here’s something to think about: Why don’t George and Lorraine recognize their son, Marty, as the guy they met back in the ’50s?

KARL
I don’t know, why?

JASON
That’s just it, we don’t know. Maybe because it was 30 years ago, they had no picture of Marty and their memory faded.

MALIK
(to Karl)
It’s also a movie about time travel, right, so you kind of have to suspend belief.

They smile at Karl.
KARL
(to Malik)
Good point.

JASON
Alot of the scenes were filmed in the L.A. area. I had always wanted to visit some of the locations, but never got the chance.

The rest look at each other, smile.

JASON
No.

ABBY
Oh yeah.

ABBY, MALIK AND KARL
(in unison)
Road trip!

KARL
I’ve got a car.

JASON
I’ve got to get up in the morning.

MALIK
I can find the addresses on my smartphone.

They all smile together, including Jason.

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

JASON, ABBY, MALIK and KARL ride in the car.

JASON
I don’t believe this.

ABBY
Sure it’s here?

MALIK
Should be.

JASON
(looking out the window)
There it is.
THE HIGH SCHOOL

is unmistakable, especially the front view: huddled between two massive trees. It’s Whittier Union High School in Whittier, Calif., but more easily recognized as the high school in BTTF.

They stop, exit the car, and look at the school.

ABBY
Hill Valley High.

JASON
(half-joking)
I wrote my first piss-poor screenplay in high school.

ABBY
Knock it off. How many people write full-length screenplays in high school? Give yourself some credit.

KARL
(to himself)
Certainly no director will.

JASON
You’re right, I wasn’t a slacker, was I? Remember when Strickland calls Marty a slacker at school. Says he’s going nowhere. Here’s a life lesson, guys. If you want to make it in this business, don’t be a slacker. You’ve got to be willing to work hard every day to make your dream a reality.

ABBY
That advice can apply to anything.

JASON
That’s right.
(to Karl)
See, we can learn something from a summer movie.

Karl smiles as they look at the school.
INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS
Jason, Abby, Karl and Malik continue on their journey.

    KARL
Next stop?

    ABBY
Let’s go to the Hill Valley town square.

    JASON
Can’t. It’s on the Universal Studios backlot.

    ABBY
You’ll have to take me sometime.

Jason shakes his head but they both smile.

EXT. MARTY’S HOUSE -- NIGHT
The car pulls up in front of one of the most iconic houses in southern Cal: Marty’s McFly’s house located in Arleta, Calif. They quietly exit, look at the home.

    KARL
So cool.

    JASON
Hasn’t changed much at all.

They look down the street.

    MALIK
The final scene kicks ass. Marty comes back to an altered reality. His brother and sister are in business clothes and shit. George got his first book published.

    ABBY
Marty’s dad was afraid of failure. Didn’t want to show Marty his writing.

Jason thinks for a second, speaks from experience.

    JASON
He wasn’t so much afraid of failure as he was worried about being
JASON
judged too harshly. Of being criticized... He wasn’t confident. Think how the world would be different if Ernest Hemingway wasn’t confident.

MALIK
That’s right. You gotta stand tall, boy.

ABBY
Life lesson?

JASON
Be confident in your ability. Self-confidence is the building block for success in life. Believe you’re just as good as the next person.

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS
Karl, the driver, swerves around a bend too fast.

MALIK
Mother fuck, that’s Deadman’s Curve. Watch your ass.

ABBY
What Malik is saying is...
   (Huey Lewis impression)
   "Please don’t drive 88..."

Silence for a second, then...

JASON
"Don’t wanna be late again..."

EVERYONE IN UNISON
"So take me away, I don’t mind. But you better promise me, I’ll be back in time. Gotta get back in time."

MALIK
"Get back, get back."
EXT. MALL PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

The crew stands on an embankment looking down at the Puente Hills Mall in Industry, Calif. The expansive parking lot looks big enough for a car to reach a high rate of speed.

KARL
This is it?

JASON
Went through some major revisions a few years ago.

ABBY
I can still picture it.

MALIK
Let’s check it out.

They walk down the embankment, stand in the lot. Jason looks around.

JASON
1:15 in the morning at the Twin Pines Mall.

ABBY
Which later became the Lone Pine Mall.

They laugh. Karl notices something on the pavement, walks over and sees two spots marked with tape.

KARL
Hey, check this out.

The rest gather.

MALIK
Whatta they mean?

Jason gets his bearings, looks at the mall.

JASON
It’s where Doc and Marty were standing.

ABBY
You’re right.

KARL
Yup. Look at the angle.
Karl stands on one of the markings. Jason moves to the other tape mark. The camera angle is the same as BTTF.

ABBY
The spot where Doc’s longtime dream becomes a reality.

MALIK
With Einstein the dog.

JASON
As the first time traveler.

KARL
(to Jason)
So is there a life lesson here?

JASON
Yes, through Doc...If you want to follow your dreams, you have to set your own course. Not be afraid of what people may think. Doc, he had all these failed experiments, people thought he was nuts, but he realized failing was a crucial part of the process. You’re going to fail; and it’s not the end of the world.

They look down the desolate parking lot.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- NIGHT
The car pulls up to the Hollywood United Methodist Church, a big red ribbon on the side of the building.

They exit the vehicle.

ABBY
Beautiful church. Perfect place for a scene about rebirth.

Jason smiles.

MALIK
Where’s the gym?

JASON
Let’s find out.

They walk up the front stairs, enter the unlocked door.
The group moves through the entryway, to a side door and down a hallway. They see two double doors.

KARL
Let’s check it out.

They open the doors. Malik turns on the lights, and there it is: the setting for "The Enchantment Under the Sea" dance.

JASON
So cool.

They see the stage and the familiar windows on each side.

JASON
The Johnny B. Goode segment was Michael J. Fox’s favorite scene.

They look at the stage.

ABBY
A pivotal scene. Where George and Lorraine shared a dance...

KARL
But not a kiss...

MALIK
Where Marty’s family almost totally disappeared...

JASON
And Marty himself.
   (holding his hand in front of his face)
   Right before his eyes, unable to play the guitar any longer...

Abby looks at Jason.

ABBY
But the kiss was sealed...

JASON
(to Abby)
And Marty was reborn.

Jason and Abby begin dancing, exactly like George and Lorraine did. They smile at each other.
KARL
So what’s the life lesson for this scene?

Jason twirls Abby. She spins out of his grasp, stops.

ABBY
That’s easy. At the end of the Johnny B. Goode scene, Marty realizes that nobody likes his playing, and says, "I guess you guys aren’t ready for that yet."

MALIK
Yeah.

ABBY
He doesn’t take it as a sign of rejection, doesn’t get dejected. He realizes it’s just the wrong audience. Marty will continue to do everything he can to follow his dream.

She looks at Jason.

KARL
He taught us one simple truth.

JASON
And what’s that?

ABBY
If you put your mind to it...

MALIK
You can accomplish anything.

They all look at Jason.

ABBY
Whatta say, Jason?

JASON
I say it’s time to get back to the hotel.
EXT. HOTEL -- CONTINUOUS

Jason lays on a pool-side recliner, looking at the stars.

Abby walks up to him.

ABBY
Got a big day ahead, thought you would go right to bed.

JASON
I don’t want to leave.

ABBY
Then don’t. It doesn’t have to end.

JASON
Yeah, it does.

ABBY
Jason, look. I don’t know you, but when we first met, in the lobby, there was no life in your eyes. You were lost. But boy did I see a transformation after we got in the car. And the advice you gave us was inspirational. Why were you the only one not listening?

JASON
Because life is not a movie, Abby. Life is bills, life is obligations and responsibilities, to your family, to...

ABBY
To yourself.

JASON
Look, I will always love going to the mov...

ABBY
You were meant to make movies, not just watch them.

JASON
Well you’re right about one thing. You don’t know me.

She waits.
ABBY
I know enough to realize you’ve been wallowing in self-pity for so long it’s probably turned people off.

Jason looks at Abby, realizes she might be right.

ABBY
(sincere)
Thank you, Jason, for a wonderful evening. It was the best first night in L.A. I could ask for. I wish you only the very best in the future.

She leaves.

EXT. HOTEL POOL -- MORNING

ABBY lays out by the pool. KARL and MALIK stop by.

MALIK
So did he leave?

ABBY
I don’t know. Where you guys headed so early?

MALIK
To the Improv to see when the open mic nights are.

KARL
Checking out the WGA office, see if I can get any leads.

She smiles.

ABBY
Remember, you guys can do anything...

MALIK
Yup, we know.

They smile, leave.

Abby takes a drink of her water, lays back down, closes her eyes. Suddenly we HEAR:
MAN
"Please don’t drive 88. I don’t want to be late again."

She looks up and JASON is standing at the fence, a bottle of water in his hand.

ABBY
I think you missed your flight, Huey.

JASON
Missed alot of things in life.

ABBY
That right? Well it’s good to see you. What changed your mind?

Jason walks toward Abby, sits down next to her.

JASON
I realized that once you leave something, you can never go back.

ABBY
Only in the movies, right?

JASON
Yup. And I also need to take you somewhere.

ABBY
Where?

JASON
Universal Studies.

She smiles.

ABBY
That would be nice.

He smiles, raises his bottle of water as a toast.

JASON
To the future.

She raises hers, smiles.

ABBY
To the future.

FADE OUT