

Wrong Place, Right Time

By

Heidi Strand & Stian Dale

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INT. ERNST & NATALIE'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY (NORWAY, 1920'S)

Weird and impractical inventions all MOVE, HISS, and HONK in rhythmic harmony. Green plants abound and meander in every corner. It's a colorful and MAGICAL WORLD.

Hands supply themselves from an abundance of food on spinning, multiple floor cake platters. In 1-2-3, a slice of bread is decorated as a smiley face.

Pregnant NATALIE, 40, gives it to ERNST, 40. His BEATING HEART APPEARS as he gazes lovingly at her and swallows the slice of bread in a jiffy.

In 1-2-3, Ernst decorates a slice of bread as a babyface. He gives it to Natalie and her BEATING HEART APPEARS.

NATALIE

Aww.

The way they look at each other says it all... Sparkling eyes. Cute smiles. Indeed, they are very much in love.

Natalie eats the piece of bread handed to her but spits it out in an instant with a look of disgust.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Ew.

She studies the slice of bread and notices a THICK slice of cheese.

A GRAY CLOUD FORMS over the table as Natalie, downcast, makes a new slice of bread. She doesn't look at Ernst. He picks up a magazine, but only looks at her, sad.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

The house is surrounded by mountains and deserted green valleys. The crockery HANGS on a clothesline.

Ernst flushes it clean with the garden hose while gazing mournfully around the garden. He looks at his workbench and at Natalie through the kitchen window, who is clearing away the enormous cheese from the breakfast table.

Ernst looks at his workbench again and stares at a wooden planer. In SLOW MOTION, Ernst breaks the fourth wall, looking straight at us with a huge smile. A LIGHT BULB APPEARS SHINING over his head, blinding us in white light.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

THWACK! A JET OF WATER hits the window. Natalie turns abruptly and sees the DOOR to the shed being SLAMMED shut. Discarded on the ground, the hose pumps out water.

EXT. SHED - DAYS & NIGHTS

TIMELAPSE - Spring turns to autumn. The sun continuously goes up and down in a never-ending cycle...

Through the window, we see Ernst working NORMALLY. He is taking his time. Drinking coffee. Dancing to the RADIO. Enjoying himself as he hammers, welds, and saws.

THE THING he makes remains hidden for us to see, being below the height of the shed's window.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Their baby, ADRIAN, now born and 6 months old, plays on the floor. At the kitchen table, Natalie reads the newspaper. Ernst comes in and kisses Adrian on the cheek.

Natalie flips a page, bends closer, and studies: "Shooting stars tonight at 22:00." Ernst supplies himself with a cup of coffee from the dripping coffee maker. He kisses Natalie's cheek and she shows him the article, inviting him. He nods...

ERNST

Uh-huh.

...Doesn't mean it though. He glances at the clock on the wall, which reads 12:30. Eyes the shed through the window, eyes the clock again, hesitantly.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The time reads 22:30. With her arms folded, Natalie annoyingly stares at the shed.

NATALIE

Hmph!

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

SUN RAYS CRAWL towards the bed where Natalie lies asleep. Ernst rapidly tip-toes over and steps on the SUN RAYS which reacts like a scared cat trying to get loose. Ernst closes the curtains.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

By the counter, with his back against us, Ernst prepares THE THING. Still, we can not see it. Natalie walks by, half-asleep in her nightgown.

Ernst turns to her, proud and smiling, reaching his arms out, trying to show her THE THING. But she completely ignores him.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Ernst pokes his head out from the kitchen, confused.

Natalie is in the bathroom, on the toilet, flipping the pages in a magazine. Carefully, he tries to show her THE THING again. But she keeps on giving him the silent treatment and slides the door shut.

Ernst scratches his head wondering what he did wrong.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Natalie enters the pitch-black kitchen. She flips the light switch and the lightbulb hanging over the table lights up THE THING. Lying on top of the big cheese is Ernst's newest invention, a cheese slicer.

PING! The shiny metal sparkles. A CHOIR OF ANGELS SING in perfect harmony.

CHOIR OF ANGELS (V.O)

Aaah...

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Still scratching his head, Ernst lifts up Adrian from his crib.

Natalie rushes in, happy and munching, her mouth full. She embraces them in a hug. THE CURTAINS LIFT like a smile and floods the room with light.

Ernst sees her holding a half-eaten slice of bread with thin slices of cheese. He smiles happily.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Adrian crawls around the table at full speed. Laughing, Ernst and Natalie crawl after him.

MATCH FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (4 YEARS LATER)

Ernst and Natalie goof around, taking long steps as if they were astronauts on the moon as they follow Adrian who runs ecstatic and giggling.

Natalie violently coughs, takes a seat. Ernst and Adrian stop and look at her, with concern plastered on their faces. She waves her hand, "not to worry", so they keep on playing.

Ernst catches Adrian, lifts him up, and flies him around. In the background, Natalie slices and enjoys some cheese.

Out of breath, he puts Adrian down and waves his hand "run along". The calendar on the wall catches his attention. Some days have been crossed out, some months ahead, it's written: "Adrian 5 years!"

ERNST

Hmm.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Ernst opens the bedside drawer and reaches for his wallet. As he opens it, three MOTHS FLY out. It's empty.

INT. SHED - DAY

Ernst searches around, PULLING OUT large objects from small drawers. Then he finds what he was searching for - an old soapbox cart. He lifts it up on the workbench and squints his eyes.

Ernst POV - A VISION of a bedazzling red soapbox cart appears, shaped like a rocket.

His lips curl into a smile.

He picks up an old and rusty paint bucket.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Adrian blows out five candles on his birthday cake. Ernst and Natalie punch their fist in the air.

ERNST  
(sotto)  
Yeah yeah!

NATALIE  
(sotto)  
Yeah yeah!

Ernst pulls out a big present. Adrian gets excited.

His smile fades as he opens it. The soapbox car is far from pretty, unevenly painted with a THICK and LUMPY PAINT.

Embarrassed, Ernst scratches his head.

INT. SHED - DAY

Ernst studies his ugly paint job. He puts his paintbrush into the paint bucket and lifts it. Lumpy paint dribbles from the paintbrush.

Ernst searches around his shelves and finds a clear liquid. He pours it in and stirs. He tries it, but now it's too thin so it shreds off.

Disappointed, he looks at it.

BANG! Ernst reacts alarmingly at a sound nearby.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Like in a nightmare, Ernst tries to run to the house, but it's like something is holding him back and he can't run fast enough. Benches and tables MOVE in front of him, he climbs them to get past.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Natalie lies, almost passed out, on the floor coughing violently. Ernst throws himself at her, she coughs out blood on his shirt and he hurries over by the phone.

Natalie's HEART APPEARS, slowly beating now. It splits in half and one of the parts fades away.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Through the window, we see Natalie pulling up in a cab. Ernst and Adrian embrace her and help her inside.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ernst reads a letter from the hospital.

INSERT - LETTER "Option 1: 100.000.000.000..." The zeros turn into a long, unfocused line that doesn't seem to end.

Ernst shakes his head and squints his eyes.

INSERT - LETTER "Option 2: You poor bum!" We hear CONDESCENDING LAUGHTER.

Ernst sinks in his seat. The papers slip out of his hands. One of them glides under the counter.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Ernst cleans the crockery. He gazes up at the sky and sees shooting stars. They fill the sky. Ernst moves after them, enthusiastically. The last shooting star falls behind the cheese slicer. He takes it down and studies it.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The sun shines in. Natalie wakes up hearing Adrian laughing.

Adrian applauds and laughs at Ernst goofing around in front of the mirror. He's wearing a burgundy red suit, velvet bow, and a vintage shirt with laces.

Ernst holds his arms out, asking Natalie if the clothes are nice. Natalie looks at him questioningly. Ernst puts the cheese slicer in his breast pocket and makes rain movements with his fingers, making COINS FALL, CLINKING.

Ernst lifts Adrian, spins him around, and puts him down on the bed. Ernst covers his velvet bow with his hand, asking Natalie "with or without?"

Natalie straightens his bow and nods in confirmation. Ernst straightens up, nods in confirmation, and takes a big breath. With a sly smile, he walks out the door sideways like a crab, his arms up, pinching like crab claws. Adrian and Natalie burst out laughing.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Through the window, Natalie and Adrian look at Ernst still walking like a crab. Ernst smiles and winks at them. They giggle and wave.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

THUNDER RUMBLES. Through the window, we see Ernst walking apathetically with his hands straight down. A DARK RAINING CLOUD HANGS only over him.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ernst is dripping wet with tears in his eyes. He turns on the TV.

On TV: THOR BJØRKLUND is interviewed by a REPORTER. They talk rapidly in a high pitch tone, a mouth similar to those from Canada in South Park.

REPORTER (V.O.)  
Wanna show your new invention?

THOR BJØRKLUND (V.O.)  
Yes, of course! Here it is!

Thor Bjørklund pulls out his cheese slicer from his back pocket.

THOR BJØRKLUND (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The cheese slicer! Now all of you at home can get nice, thin cheese slices for your sandwiches!

REPORTER (V.O.)  
So brilliant Thor! So bri-li-ant!

Natalie shakes her head "don't be sad". Adrian does the same. She wipes away his tears, kissing him on his cheeks. She hugs him and Adrian embraces his legs in a hug.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Ernst hangs the dirty blood-splattered shirt up on the clothesline. He studies it. A LIGHT BULB faintly flickers above him.



A splash of water hits his shoulder. Ernst looks down at Adrian aiming at him with a water pistol. Adrian shoots a couple of times before Ernst reacts. He looks at the water pistol, at the shirt, then at the pistol again.

TIME SLOWS DOWN and Ernst looks straight at us with a big smile. The LIGHT BULB explodes in white light.

EXT. SHED - DAYS & NIGHTS

TIMELAPSE - It quickly changes from day to night. Through the window, we see Ernst, who is working at normal speed.

INT. SHED - DAY

Ernst lifts up and studies his new invention, a SPRAY CAN. PING! The metal sparkles.

CHOIR OF ANGELS (V.O)

Aaah...

Ernst turns to the ugly soapbox car and his mouth curls into a smile.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Adrian drives the soapbox car, he's ecstatic. It's beautiful, sparkling red.

In her rocking chair, Natalie looks at him smiling.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dressed in his burgundy suit, Ernst fills a cup with coffee, no spilling this time.

He hears harsh coughing so he hurries outside, forgetting his coffee.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Concerned, Ernst puts a comforting hand on Natalie's shoulder. Her coughing stops. Ernst kisses her cheek, puts the spray can in his pocket and gives her a wink. It makes her smile.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

THUNDER RUMBLES. Ernst's soaking hand turns on the TV.

On TV in black & white: The reporter stands with ERIK ROTHEIM who's showing off his spray can.

REPORTER  
Marvelous Erik! Sold for five  
million!

Adrian and Natalie stand on each side of Ernst, holding around him. Ernst's HEART beats into view, half of it falling, fading away.

Something under the kitchen counter catches Ernst's attention.

Ernst pulls out a piece of paper. It's the letter from the hospital, he looks at it with all hope gone. The roof above him CRACKS.

INT. SHED - DAY

By the window, depressed Ernst gazes out the window, fiddling with a steel wire.

Ernst's POV - Natalie tries to watch Adrian playing with the soapbox car, but her horrendous coughing makes it hard.

Ernst's eyes glide over at the steel wire, which he has fiddled into a paperclip. He just looks at it as if it is nothing and snaps it away.

The paperclip falls on top of the hospital papers, already lying on the workbench together with the cheese slicer and the spray can.

Ernst looks closer at the hospital papers and lets go of a heavy sigh. He tosses them aside and leaves. A little spider crawls into the window frame, the light goes out.

MATCH FADE TO:

INT. SHED - DAY (FALL - 1950'S)

The window frame is covered in dust, spiderwebs, and dead insects. All of Ernst's inventions and Natalie's empty plant pots are now cluttered away in here.

Through the window, we see a small wheelchair ramp, going from the doorstep of the house and down to the garden, where gray and crooked NATALIE, 75, sleeps in a wheelchair. She breathes heavily, helped by an oxygen tank. Her chest beeps. Years and illness have not done her justice.

An approaching MOTORCYCLE ROARS. The world is now more real, more lifelike but pale. Sounds are rougher and more chaotic. THE MAGIC HAS DISAPPEARED.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mess and dirty dishes everywhere. Wearing a motorcycle helmet, ADRIAN, 35, enters.

ADRIAN

Hi.

He puts his hand on the shoulder of ERNST, 75, who's sitting depressed and bitter in front of the TV. Ernst looks up from a comic book about time travel. He just gives a little nod and reads on.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Where's mom?

Ernst shrugs.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Oh, for fucks sake.

Now, so many years later, it's not the first time Ernst has neglected Natalie.

Adrian goes to look around.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

Mom? ...Mom?

Ernst becomes aware of the television program - A HOST is behind several inventions that are exhibited on podiums. He gestures with his hands and speaks with good pressure.

HOST (V.O.)

The creators of these inventions have made an enormous amount of money. And they have sold their products in every corner of the world. You will now meet these men to get to know how they came up with their ideas, how they went

(MORE)

HOST (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 about making them, and not the  
 least, how it changed their lives  
 forever for the better.

AT THE SAME TIME, Ernst's eyes glide across the screen.  
 CLOSE ON Thor Bjørklund's cheese slicer. CLOSE ON Eirik  
 Rotheim's spray can. Ernst doesn't show a sign of emotion.  
 CLOSE ON a paperclip. Ernst's eyes go wide and he bends  
 closer.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Adrian wakes up Natalie.

ADRIAN  
 Hey... Hey... How long have you  
 been out here?

She's short of breath and seems somewhat senile, but lights  
 up when she sees her son.

NATALIE  
 Oh, hi!

ADRIAN  
 How long have you been out here?

NATALIE  
 Oh. Um, I don't know.

Ernst trots by, heading for the shed.

ADRIAN  
 Um, dad? How long she's been out  
 for?

Ernst doesn't respond. Adrian reacts with a sigh, he warms  
 Natalie's hands.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
 Jeez, you're freezing. Let's go  
 inside.

INT. SHED - DAY

Ernst tears the door open. He moves and pushes all the  
 clutter aside to get to the workbench.

He finds his paperclip, picks it up, and studies it closely. He then sees the hospital papers. He brushes off the dust, looks at them with sorrow, bending his head. Teardrops hit the paper.

The door is pushed open.

ADRIAN  
Jesus christ...

Adrian struggles to get the door open due to all the clutter Ernst pushed aside.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Hey. What have I told you, leaving her out like that?

Adrian reacts frustrated due to his father's lack of response.

Adrian collects himself and calms down.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
It's not good for her anymore...  
Living here.

Ernst takes Adrian's arm and tries to say something, but his silent tears stop him, too afraid to burst out sobbing.

Adrian reacts surprised by his father's tears. He gives Ernst a long, good hug and gathers his thoughts.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
If you love her, you need to let her go.

Adrian lets go of his father. Ernst sighs.

ERNST  
This wasn't... This wasn't the way I wanted our lives to be.

Adrian takes the hospital papers out of Ernst's hands. He looks at them.

ADRIAN  
Don't dwell on the past like that, it doesn't make it any better.

Miserable, Ernst looks up at his son.

ERNST  
I could have changed everything.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ernst, Adrian, and Natalie are eating dinner. It's dark and cozy with candlelight on the table. Adrian slices the meat for Natalie. Ernst sits with his head buried in a magazine.

ADRIAN  
--They'll come to pick her up on  
the 12th. I'm out of town that  
week, but you got this, right?

Ernst looks at him and nods reluctantly.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Can't change the past.

Ernst ponders on that remark. The light bulb hanging from the ceiling above Ernst's head slowly begins to glow dimly.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Ah, it's for the best.

Adrian notices the light bulb and squints his eyes.

The light bulb SHINES and the bulb CRUSHES. Adrian and Natalie look up incomprehensibly. Ernst smiles wide and looks straight at us.

EXT. SHED - DAYS AND NIGHTS

TIMELAPSE - Some days and nights go by.

Through the window, we see Ernst working fast and focused while drinking lots of coffee. A time machine takes shape. Made of metal like an oval dome, with a door that has a window, just enough space for one person.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Seated in her wheelchair, Natalie slowly moves her feet across the floor to get to the day calendar.

She tries to tear off the note for the 10th, but clumsy she gets two sheets instead of one. She notices it in time and only tears of the note for the 10th.

The note for the 11th remains hanging, only attached a little in the corner.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

THE MAIN DOOR OPENS. THE WIND BLOWS. The gust of wind grabs the note with the 11th, so it loosens. THE MAIN DOOR CLOSES. The note falls to the floor and under the counter. Now, it shows the 12th.

Ernst grabs the coffee pot and pours himself a cup of coffee. He looks at the calendar twice before reacting, he sighs.

Behind him, a similar cup of coffee appears in loose air. SWOP! It falls to the floor. CRUSH! Ernst turns around in shock. On the floor, coffee lies spilled and the cup in thousand pieces.

WE MOVE IN CLOSER at Ernst, as he stares at the broken cup in wonder.

INT. SHED - DAY

THE RADIO plays CLASSICAL MUSIC.

INT. TIME MACHINE - CONT.

Expectantly, Ernst puts his coffee cup nicely down in the chair seat. On a display, he turns the time back a few minutes and turns on the main switch.

INT. SHED - CONT.

Ernst closes the door and takes a few steps back. The time machine slightly shakes.

INT. TIME MACHINE - CONT.

The display shows 3... 2... 1...

SWOP! The coffee cup is gone.

Ernst looks in through the window in the door. He smiles wide.

INT. SHED - CONT.

He moves backward, touches his head in astonishment.

THE RADIO catches his attention.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)  
 Joining us in the studio today, one  
 of Norway's greatest inventors,  
 please welcome, Thor Bjørklund!

APPLAUD and CHEERS from some people in the studio.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
 So, Thor, a little birdie told me  
 you think time travel is possible?

THOR BJØRKLUND (V.O.)  
 Yes, that's right. In fact, I'm  
 building a time machine right now.

Ernst's eyes go dark in anger. He marches outside and slams  
 the door shut.

WE MOVE IN CLOSER on the radio.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)  
 Say whaaat?! What a sensation!

THOR BJØRKLUND (V.O.)  
 Oh, but it's not that simple. The  
 problem lies in Earth's constant  
 motion. Around the sun... And the  
 entire solar system moves inwards  
 in the galaxy, so one has to  
 calculate for the place too, not  
 just time.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Trying to act as everything's fine, Ernst covers Natalie  
 with a blanket.

ERNST  
 There you go. Any minute now...

He shifts, now filled with regret. He sits down in front of  
 Natalie and holds her hands.

ERNST (CONT'D)  
 Um, I, I know I haven't always been  
 here for you, and for that I'm  
 (MORE)



ERNST (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
 sorry. Everything has just been  
 so... So dark, you know? I just  
 wanted to make you happy.

She strokes his cheek and says with love and compassion.

NATALIE  
 Oh, I wouldn't wanna change it for  
 the world.

This makes him smile with tears in his eyes. He gives her a long kiss. Half of their HEARTS come into view, they move towards each other and become one HEART.

They smile at each other. Ernst stands back up.

ERNST  
 You know, I'm gonna fix it.

NATALIE  
 Oh. Good. That's good.

Ernst sees that whatever clarity she just had, it's gone.

INT. TIME MACHINE - DAY

Ernst is ready. The spray can, cheese slicer, and paperclip are all in place in his breast pockets.

He holds down a button, setting the display 35 years back in time. He turns on the main switch.

3...

The time machine shakes.

2...

Ernst clings on tight.

1...

The time machine shakes violently. BLOP! He's gone.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - CONT.

A powerful wind blows in Ernst's face. Colored streaks of light pass him by in rapid motion. A strong jerk takes a hold of him. Then everything becomes quiet.

The darkness surrounds him, only the sun lights up his face. It dawns on him where he's at. He looks straight at us and ironically clicks his tongue.

He's alone, hovering far from earth.

TIMELAPSE FAST FORWARDS: The earth moves away from Ernst and behind the sun. Ernst becomes frozen. Time moves faster and faster. Earth passes him by several times, getting closer and closer each time it passes by.

The last time, the earth is so close that Ernst ends up in the atmosphere. His body takes off towards the ground and catches fire.

EXT. FRONT YARD - PRESENT DAY

Natalie still sits waiting at the same spot. She sees what she thinks is a shooting star and smiles wide.

NATALIE

Ernst! Come look, come look!

From the shed, she hears BLOPP! She flinches. The power goes out. She looks to the sky and laughs.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

You missed it.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

It's chilly now. Natalie dozes off falling asleep. Her breath turns into cold steam.

EXT. FRONT YARD - SUNRISE

A white carpet of frost lies on the grass.

Natalie sits hunched forward, dead.