

A time watch

By

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EXT.-CEMETERY-DAY

It is a rainy day at a cemetery.

JOHN SMITH, a 14 year-old boy, looks at a grave while wearing a RAIN COAT.

He reads the tombstone: BEN PARKER; 2000-2014; Son, Brother and Friend (focus on the word friend).

JOHN (VO)
Tell me. Why now? Why am I seeing
this now.

John tries to hold back his tears.

FLASHBACK:

EXT.-STREET-DAY

John and Ben chat while they walk over the sidewalk.

JOHN
I'm telling you, someone messed
with my head while I was sleeping.
That's why I'm acting so weird.

BEN
I think that's called puberty.

JOHN
This is bigger than puberty, this
is a conspiracy.

BEN
Uhu. So what's the big deal, you
like Catherine. I think...

JOHN
Don't say her name! She's a demon
sent from hell that appears every
time you say her names three times.

BEN
Catherine, Catherine, Catherin...

John covers up Ben's mouth with both of his hands.

JOHN
Not cool bro.

John takes his hands off Ben's mouth.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I think its finally time for you to end that silly rivalry you two have had since first grade...

John rolls his eyes as he brushes off Ben's statement.

Ben notices that John ignores his statement.

BEN

And besides, you totally want her to show up every time you say her name, don't ya?

John blushes when he hears Ben's question, but then quickly snaps out of it.

JOHN

Shut up Ben.

Ben laughs.

The two friends continue to walk until they reach a crossroad.

They stop to see that the streets are empty and that the traffic light is on red.

Ben notices a RING in the middle of the street.

BEN

Look John, there's a ring over there.

JOHN

Why is a ring on the middle of the street?

BEN

Maybe it's a sign that says you will marry Catherine in the future.

JOHN

Maybe it's a sign for you to shut up Ben.

A faint noise of a speeding car begins to build.

The two boys stare at ring for a short while until Ben decides to cross the street.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Ben what are you doing?

BEN
You'll thank me later.

The noise of the car becomes noticeable.

JOHN
You're dead if you pick up that
ring!

BEN
Sure man, whatever you say.

Ben picks up the ring and waves it around so John can see it.

Then a SPEEDING CAR appears and the scene pauses.

The car is just about to hit Ben and yet both friends haven't reacted to the speeding car.

The street light is still red and when the scene returns to normal, a thump is heard and the light turns green.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT.-CEMETERY-DAY

John starts to cry heavily.

JOHN (VO)
It's not fair. You didn't have to
take him now.

After some time has passed, John leaves Ben's grave and notices a WATCH under a tree.

John stops and questions himself.

JOHN (VO)
Why is there a watch under that
tree?

John walks towards the watch and picks it up.

He examines the watch and sees that it has a monitor with the time and date. There are also four buttons beneath it that, from left to right, have the icons of rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (VO)
What a strange watch.

John gets curios and pushes the pause button.

The time in the watch's monitor and the rain drops surrounding John stop.

John is in amazement of what he sees.

JOHN (VO)
What the? What's happening?

John then takes a long look at the watch and pushes the play button.

He sees that everything returns to normal.

JOHN (VO)
Is this... a watch that controls time?

Images of his friend flash on John's head and then he smiles.

JOHN (VO)
So it was a mistake. And you're giving me this as an apology for you mistake, aren't you?

John puts on the watch.

JOHN (VO)
Well, apology accepted.

John presses the rewind button.

The time displayed in the watch begins to go backwards and the environment around him moves in reverse (like rain drops rising up instead of falling down).

John notices that another version of him moves in reverse also (drops watch, walks in reverse to Ben's grave, cries over Ben's grave, etc.)

JOHN (VO)
I wonder...

He then snaps out of his thought and keeps an eye out on the time displayed on the watch.

When the time reaches four days into the past, John presses the play button.

It is now a sunny day.

JOHN (VO)
Did it work?

John heads to where the grave of his best friend is supposed to be and finds that the spot is empty.

John then falls down and cries tears of happiness.

JOHN (VO)
It's not there, it's not there!

John stops his tears.

JOHN (VO)
But it could still happen.

John rushes out to the street where the accident happened.

EXT.-STREET-DAY

John arrives at the crossroad where the accident is supposed to happen and finds the ring on the middle of the street.

John sees in the distance past versions of Ben and him.

JOHN (VO)
So I was right. Traveling back in time creates two copies of me: the John that went back in time and the John that is supposed to be there.

John then hears a faint sound of a speeding car getting closer.

JOHN (VO)
Oh no.

He panics and runs to pick up the ring from the street and throws it away.

John takes a big breath of relief.

But then John sees that Ben and the past version of him are closer and starts to panic again.

JOHN (VO)
Should I let them see me? Better not risk it, he's still not off the hook yet.

(CONTINUED)

He decides to hide his face with the hood of his rain coat and stand at the opposite corner of where Ben and him are suppose to stop.

Ben and the past version of John reach the corner and check to see if any cars and cross the street.

The two friends cross the street and the John in the rain coat watches closely, his heartbeat increases as the two friends walk.

As soon as Ben and the past version of John reach the sidewalk of the other block, the speeding car passes by.

The boys get surprise by the speed of the car and look at the car ride away.

John takes a breath of relief when he sees the speeding car pass by.

JOHN (VO)

He's safe. He's finally safe.

However, John begins to have a major headache and disappears, the time traveling watch is left behind.

At the same time, the past John has a similar headache and flashes of the memories of the John that just disappeared go through his head.

Ben notices his pain and gets worried.

BEN

Hey, are you okay?

JOHN

Yeah, I'm okay. Uh, what just happened?

BEN

Some crazy dude was driving at the speed of sound. I wonder why we didn't hear him coming?

When Ben finishes his question, John gets a bigger headache and more memories of the now gone John flash before him, this includes the location of the time traveling watch.

BEN

Are you sure you're okay?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Yeah, it's just a strange case of
Deja vu. Hey listen, I'll be right
back.

John heads to the spot where the time traveling watch was
left behind.

JOHN (VO)

It appears that any major change
done to a time line causes the
person that did the change to
disappear.

John arrives at the spot where the watch is located.

JOHN (VO)

However, it appears that the
memories of the person who just
disappeared go to the version of
him that is supposed to be there.

He puts it on and gets a headache with all of the memories
of the previous John appearing to him.

JOHN (VO)

But not all the memories come back
at once. It appears that they need
to be triggered by something
related to the time line that never
happened. Deja Vu.

John smiles.

JOHN (VO)

I think I'll keep this watch. Just
for safekeeping.

He heads back to where Ben is.

INT.-SCHOOL-DAY

The final bell of the day rings at the boy's middle school.

Ben and John pack their things into their book bags so they
can head home.

BEN

I saw you looking at Catherine.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

How long are you going to keep this up?

BEN

When you admit you were looking at her ches...

John starts to talk loudly so he can stop Ben's sentence.

JOHN

HEY BEN, HOW ABOUT YOU GO OUTSIDE NEAR THE STAIRS AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE. OK? OK. HA HA HA HA HA.

BEN

You're a lost cause.

Ben leaves the classroom and John finishes packing up.

When John leaves the classroom, he sees Ben near some stairs.

JOHN

You're a dead man you know that.

BEN

I've heard that before.

John then remembers the time he said to Ben in a previous time line.

JOHN

Hey man, sorry about that.

BEN

About what?

JOHN

It's nothing.

Ben looks at John with a confused look.

JOHN

Let's go home.

BEN

Um, sure.

As soon as Ben heads down the stairs, he trips and falls pretty hard on his face.

John watches in horror a puddle of blood form on the floor Ben landed on.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (VO)
Wait, what? What is happening.

John starts to breath heavily as the students and teachers notice Ben and they start to panic.

STUDENT 1 (OS)
Oh my god, what happened?

STUDENT 2 (OS)
Somebody call 911.

STUDENT 3 (OS)
Ben just fell down.

TEACHER
He's not breathing! We need help.

John stays in shock, still with his hard breathing, as he hears the comments and then finally screams.

JOHN (VO)
NO! THIS ISN'T SUPPOSE TO HAPPEN! I
WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

John pushes the rewind button on his watch and goes back in time ten minutes earlier.

John is now ten minutes into the past and hears the school bell ring.

JOHN (VO)
I will not let you take him away
from me.

He runs down the stairs and hides from the students that are going down the stairs until he hears Ben talking to past John.

As soon as he hears Ben's "Um sure" line, John rushes upstairs and catches Ben just as he's about to fall down.

The students and Ben see both Johns and start to get confused.

BEN
Thanks, John?

Both Johns start to have a headache.

The John that caught Ben disappears and the past John begins to have the memories of the John that disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

You're still having headaches?

John watches Ben, who is downstairs, and replies.

JOHN

I'm fine. What just happened?

BEN

Well I almost fell down the stairs,
but I managed to regain my balance.

John then remembers the alternate time line where Ben fell to his death.

John then checks his wrist to see if he still has the time traveling watch, which he does.

BEN

Why are you looking at your watch?

JOHN

Just wanted to see if I hadn't lost it.

BEN

I've been meaning to ask you,
what's up with those buttons on
your watch?

JOHN

Even I don't know.

BEN

Ok. Are you coming down?

JOHN

Yeah, sure.

As John starts to head down, he starts to think.

JOHN (VO)

It appears that even if I appear in front of my past self in front of everyone, the time line will be re-written to something that still has the same result. But why did Ben just die again?

INT.-CONVENIENCE STORE-DAY

Ben and John look for food at a convenience store but then are interrupted by a robber with a GUN and a bag.

ARMED ROBBER
Put the money in the bag!

CLERK
Okay, don't shoot.

Ben and John try to sneak away from the scene but are interrupted by the robber.

ARMED ROBBER
Don't move.

The boys stop but then John starts to get a headache and sees images of Ben, with a bullet hole in his head, lying in a pool of blood and him stopping time to grab the robber's gun so he can shoot the robber's hands and legs.

When John's headache stops, the robber drops the gun and screams while lying down on the floor in agony.

ARMED ROBBER
IT HURTS! MY ARMS, MY LEGS! WHY
DOES IT HURT! AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

John quickly grabs the gun and notices that his hands are shaking.

JOHN (VO)
Did he die again? Why is this
happening? Are you testing me?

John starts to breath in a deep and fast manner as he looks at Ben, who is with the clerk.

BEN
Are you okay? Call the police so
they can...

JOHN (VO)
Fine. I accept your challenge. I'll
make sure he won't die.

MONTAGE :

John continues his thought while various images of Ben's death appear.

These images include:

Ben being set on fire on a kitchen.

Ben being stung by various bees at a park.

Ben passed out in a cafeteria because of food poisoning.

Ben drowning at a beach.

Ben being struck by lightning on a street.

JOHN (VO)

I'll be there, to stop every one of them. I'll be his angel. I will not rest, until he gives him back to me. EVEN IF IT TAKES ME MY WHOLE LIFE!

MONTAGE END

INT.-BEN'S HOSPITAL ROOM-NIGHT

John is in a hospital room with a sleepy Ben on one of the beds. There are two chairs and table with a CUP OF PILLS next to him.

Ben wakes up when he sees John's calm numb face. He tries to cheer him up in a sickly response.

BEN

Why the sad face? There have been plenty of times when I thought I was going to die and then survived. No virus is going to take me away, you'll see.

John takes a deep breath and reassures Ben.

JOHN

I know it won't I'll make sure of it. Now go back to sleep.

Ben smiles at John and goes to sleep.

John goes to sit on one of the chairs next to John and starts to think.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (VO)

How am I going to save him now?

A mysterious man with a SIMILAR CUP OF PILLS appears out of nowhere and tells John.

MYSTERY MAN

Just replace the pills the doctors gave Ben with these. They look the same so nobody will know they're different pills.

John looks closely at the mysterious man and slowly takes the pills out of his hand.

When he replaces the pills, John's head starts to hurt again and sees images of him grown up in a medical school, him in a laboratory making some sort of pill, and receiving an award for his newly created medicine.

John then takes a long look at Ben.

JOHN (VO)

I wonder how much time have I bought him?

EXT.-PARK-NIGHT

John sits in a park bench and looks at the night sky.

JOHN (VO)

Why don't you let me keep him? Are you that committed to fixing the flow of time?

John's train of thought is interrupted by a voice.

BEN (OS)

What are you doing here so late?

John moves his head to see Ben.

JOHN

Just enjoying the tranquility of the night.

Ben then sits next to John and both of them look at sky while they talk.

BEN

Something's bothering you isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
You could say that.

BEN
It's Catherine isn't it? You're probably thinking how to confess you're feelings, right?

John takes a long pause to answer.

JOHN
Yes.

BEN
Wait did I hear that right? Did you just say yes?

JOHN
Yes Ben, I just said yes.

BEN
My god, you still have hope.

JOHN
Shut up Ben.

BEN
It's been a while since I was able to talk to you like this. You've been kind of acting serious lately.

JOHN
I think that's called growing up, Ben.

BEN
Well, I fear that you're growing up too fast. We're still in middle school, you should enjoy your youth, life gives us plenty of opportunities to enjoy it.

JOHN
Life sometimes doesn't do that you know, sometimes life wants us to suffer in despair.

BEN
Well I can't exactly say that's false. But people should try to move on from those moments in order to get to good ones.

John doesn't answer.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I've been having these nightmares recently. You know those moments where I thought I was going to die? Well in my nightmares I actually did die. But strangely enough, that's not the part that makes me scared. The part that makes me scared are your reactions.

John moves his head towards Ben.

BEN

You first started to cry in my dreams when I died. But then, as my dreams went on, you started to become numb to my deaths like you've been accustomed to see that on a regular basis. That's when my dreams became nightmares. If I had a could wish upon one of those stars that I see right now, I would wish that the dream version of me would stay dead so that the dream John wouldn't be so numb to death.

John then looks at his time traveling watch for a while and asks.

JOHN (VO)

So he does appear to get some memories of the previous time lines. I wonder who else has experienced this?

JOHN

If you had the ability to go back in time, what would you do?

BEN

Mmmmmmmmmmm. I don't know. What would you do?

JOHN

I would make sure those closest to me don't leave me.

BEN

But if you're talking about the people closest to you, then they never really leave you. Right?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

People have to die someday Ben.

BEN

Yeah, but the memory and spirit of that person will always stay with you. It may not seem like that at the beginning, but as time moves on, you'll start to realize that the bonds you had with other people will last forever.

Ben then moves his head to smile at John.

John starts to analyze what Ben said and remembers all of the good memories he has experienced with him.

John then starts to cry.

JOHN

Your right Ben. We'll always be together. Friends no matter what.

BEN

Why are you crying? Was my speech that good?

John rubs off his tears.

JOHN

Yeah it was buddy. It was.

John stands up and looks at Ben.

JOHN

Hey Ben, can you do me a solid and lend me some money?

BEN

Huh? Why?

JOHN

I want to buy Catherine something. I was thinking I could give her a ring.

BEN

A ring? Wow, you're going all out there buddy. Sure, I'll lend you some money but I want to see you give that ring to her okay.

Ben takes out his WALLET and gives John some MONEY.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Don't worry buddy, you will.

BEN

You know, there was jewelry store that had a going out of business sale a couple of weeks ago. Maybe I'll use that as my time traveling journey.

John smiles at Ben.

JOHN

You got it buddy.

John uses the watch to go back in time.

EXT.-STREET-DAY

John arrives at the street where Ben's first death occurred but now John has a ring in his hand, THE SAME RING that caught Ben's attention.

John goes to the middle of the street and leaves the ring.

John hears Ben and the past version of him talk and goes to a corner to hide.

John watches Ben notice the ring and the events leading up to the speedy car run Ben over.

John prepares himself for the headache and disappearance, but few seconds later, John notices that he has not received a headache and has not disappeared.

John presses pause on his watch in order for him to analyze the situation.

John then looks at the ring that's in the middle of the street next to Ben's corpse.

John goes over and picks up the ring.

JOHN (VO)

Huh, I never really found out what happened to that original ring.

John then takes a look at his past self.

FLASHBACK:

INTER CUT-STREET-DAY

John and hugs his friend in the hopes that he would wake up.

JOHN

Hey, wake up. It's not funny, Come
on man, wake up. Don't leave me,
please don't take him now.

John starts to cry.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

John puts the ring into his pocket and looks at his past self.

JOHN (VO)

Don't worry, you're going to have a
long journey that'll clear up your
mind.

He presses fast-forward on the watch.

EXT.-CEMETERY-DAY

John arrives at the tree at the cemetery where John originally found the watch.

John takes off his watch and leaves it on the floor.

He leaves the tree behind and gives one last look at the watch.

He smiles and says to himself.

JOHN (VO)

Come on buddy, I have a promise to
keep.

John leaves the cemetery and starts to rain.

After a while, John with a rain coat stumbles upon a time traveling watch.