

A time to be married.

Written by

David 'HexDSL' Smith

Copyright (c) 2023

A Hallmark Showdown - Solo project.

hexdsl@gmail.com

EXT. CLASSIC '50S STREET, NIGHT, COLD EARLY EVENING.

Camera pans down to street level, from an active sci-fi sky, showing a light covered moon. The street is 1950s in tone with futuristic cars, next to autumn trees.

Two people walking down a path, lovingly coupled.

GEORGE

Do we have to go? Really, do we Jane?

JANE

(giggles)

Yes George, you know we do.

GEORGE

Can't I pretend to be sick instead?
all this marriage stuff makes me
uneasy.

JANE

You can't pretend to be sick, it
would break her heart, and you know
it.

GEORGE

(grumbles)

JANE

Besides, she would know. She's a
doctor.

GEORGE

(grumbles)

Fine, but I'm going to feed the dog,
whether she likes it or not!

JANE

You can feed the dog. But no cheese,
last time you gave him cheese he was
sick for a week.

GEORGE

(giggles)

So was I!

JANE

(giggles)

JANE (cont'd)

We may have met the traditional way,
most people are not so lucky, George.
They need a little help.

GEORGE

I've heard the stories about the
impact though, it worries me a lot.

(MORE)

GEORGE (cont'd)
I have always felt a lot safer at
home, where the shield protect us.

JANE
Stop being dramatic, it's one little
excursion and its our own daughter
doing it!

CAMERA PANS BACK EXPOSING MORE OF THE RETRO SCI-FI STREET.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUDY'S HOUSE.

CAMERA SLOWLY ZOOMS IN BEHIND GEORGE AND JANE AS THE
APPROACH A CLASSIC LOOKING 50S HOUSE COMPLETE WITH CHRISTMAS
WREATH ON THE DOOR.

Judy rings doorbell. Door is answered a moment later.

JUDY
(Standing at door
looking pleased and
surprised)
Mom! Dad! You oh my gosh you guys!
You made it!

GEORGE
We wouldn't have missed it for the
world, honey.

JANE
We had to pull some strings but, I
told you we would be here!

JUDY
Oh my gosh, please, come in!

Judy opens door wide. Judy and George step in.

CUT TO:

INT. JUDY'S HOUSE.

INTERCUT STATIC SHOT, FROM ENTRANCE SHOWING COATS BEING
TAKEN, THEN TO LIVING ROOM.

The room is Mostly 50s in style with occasional sci-fi
trinket on show to break illusion.

JANE

I'm sorry we weren't more clear that we could make it, but you know difficult it can be getting back to Earth.

JUDY

Oh, please, I know! I know! I'm just so happy that you could make it!

GEORGE

We're thrilled too. Where's the dog?

Judy smiles widely and whistles, looking over at the corridor.

A moment later a large dog runs in excitedly.

GEORGE (cont'd)

Ronnie! My boy!

George crouches down and begins petting dog. Both the dog (Ronnie) and George appear very excited at this before they exit scene towards garden (George picks up a ball on the way out)

JANE

You know, I don't think he would have agreed to come, if it weren't for that damned dog!

JUDY

(Smiles widely)

Awe, Lunar committee still won't let him have one?

JANE

No. we earn far more than is required and your father has enough social points to allow it but, apparently the lunar colony is at its peak pet capacity right now. Until someones dog dies, we wont even be considered.

JUDY

Mom! That's so grim!

JANE

I know, and I have only occasionally thought of poisoning one at the park!

JUDY

That had better be a joke!

JANE
(shrugs, coyly)

JUDY
Mom! You know you could just move
back to Earth, now you're both
retired.

JANE
It took me weeks to convince your
Father to come here even for this!
He's hardly going to move here is he?
You know how he feels about Earth's
temporal laws. He's a bag of nerves
when it you doing it, imagine how he
would be if a stranger was scheduled.

JUDY
Well, I can hope, can't I. Besides I
really don't know what his problem
with the laws is. I've lived here for
years and just like the government
promised, its all fine.

JANE
Oh yes, dear. All fine, except that
all the men are dead and the
government issue time-traveler
wedding permits.

JUDY
(makes annoyed face)

CUT TO:

INT. JUDY'S KITCHEN

Science fiction looking kitchen with occasional retro
looking kitchen equipment to break up sci-fi tone. George
has returned with exhausted dog sitting next to him calmly.

JUDY
You want a drink?

GEORGE
Yes, please. Your wild animal has ran
me ragged!

JUDY
You're the one who kept throwing the
ball, Dad.

GEORGE

He kept asking me to!

Judy pours her father a glass of blue liquid from a container. Her mother taps some buttons and takes a pot of tea from a magic hole in the wall. There is a fresh plate of biscuits on the counter.

JANE

One thing we don't have on lunar, and that's water that doesn't taste recycled. Ruins the tea.

JUDY

Mom, it is recycled. That's one of the many reasons I left the moment I was old enough!

GEORGE

We don't have enough dogs either!

JUDY

And the dogs. Yes dear.

FADE TO:

INT. JUDY'S KITCHEN - LATER

The passage of time is illustrated by the last cup of tea being poured and a plate of biscuits turning into crumbs.

GEORGE

I suppose your going to go through with this then?

JUDY

Yes, Dad. That was the plan. The license gives me a window of six hours to do it. And, if I don't it will be given to someone else.

GEORGE

And you have thought it through, right? You think its worth it?

JUDY

Dad, you know how dating is in current year. There are twenty times more women than men, if we don't dip into the past for husbands, we will just die alone, unless we're either as charming as mom, or you know, like... really hot.

Awkward pause with loaded glances exchanged.

JANE

Your father and I get it. We really do. As long as you have thought about it. I mean, it's Christmas tomorrow, if you are going to risk the timeline this is the best time possible. Tomorrow, assuming the timeline doesn't implode, we can have dinner and give your new husband presents, to welcome him to the family.

JUDY

Mom, do you know how many people there were in the past? basically none of them did anything important. The ones who did are on the disallow list. I don't really think it matters who I pick.

GEORGE

Yes. But we've all heard the stories. Now, you know how we feel. Just get this done so we can get on with life, please.

Judy nods and exits scene. Jane and George embrace. Judy returns with a suitcase.

GEORGE (cont'd)

Is that it?

Judy puts the obviously heavy suitcase on the counter and opens to to expose floating holograms which represent time and space. There is an ethereal glow all around the kitchen.

Without saying anything she looks at her dad and pulls a card from her pocket (a license.)

JUDY

(Pensively)

Well, here it goes!

Judy vanishes from the kitchen.

FADE OUT

INT. JUDY'S KITCHEN - THIS TIME WITH A VERY MODERN AESTHETIC.

Judy appears again with a man who is dressed like he is from Victorian England. George is not in the scene.

JANE

I had no idea it would be so fast,
you were only gone a moment!

JUDY

(gleefully smiling)

A moment, I was in the time stream
for a year, at least!

JUDY (cont'd)

(remembering her
companion suddenly)

Oh, my gosh! Mom, Sorry. This is so
strange. This is my husband!
Christopher!

Jane gasps with excitement and embraces him.

CHRISTOPHER

It's very nice to meet you Mrs
Hopper.

JANE

Don't Mrs Hopper me! Your one of the
family! Call me Jane! And please,
tell me everything! Where did she
find you?

CHRISTOPHER

Well, Jane here first approached me
in nineteen-twenty two. Many of my
friends had already been chosen so I
jumped at the chance to see the
future, and, marry someone so
beautiful, obviously!

JUDY

Well, once I made a selection and
tried him out for a few weeks, the
educational transfer went through and
they uploaded modern education into
him. Oh, and a slight personality
alternation to make him a little less
surly. They dropped him back to me
all fixed. We spent the rest of the
year visiting places on the timeline.

The dog complains and starts nudging Christopher for
attention. He pets it happily.

JUDY (cont'd)

Anyway, we're all still here, your
worries about time being impacted
were totally unfounded, mom.

JANE

You were right! I should have known, the licensing committee wouldn't give out options like this if it weren't safe. But you know, messing with the timeline worries me.

CHRISTOPHER

From what I have been told, Jane, if Judy hadn't have used that license, someone else would have done so its not like it really mattered, not in the grand scheme of things.

JANE

No, I don't suppose it does.

Jane hugs Christopher again and giggles a little gleefully.

JANE (cont'd)

I have always been worried that Judy would end up alone, like I did. With so few men around, anyone who isn't brave enough to go into the past just ends up with a dog, like I have.

Jane looks at the dog lovingly.

CHRISTOPHER

Well, there's nothing stopping you getting a license for your past-self, or at least, that's what I was told.

JUDY

Oh, Chris is right! You could jump back and get your earlier self a husband! You're pretty well off mom, you could even arrange it so you didn't remember! Get me a dad and move to the moon, like you always wanted.

JANE

(Thoughtful, but happy)

No! Maybe? I don't know. All this time traveling is bound to go wrong sooner or later! Tell you what, I'm sure you and your husband want to be alone, and I only live around the corner. You kids do what newly weds do and me and Ronnie will have a little think about things.

CHRISTOPHER

Yes. And, Happy Christmas, Jane.

JANE

(Laughing deeply)

Oh is that what were calling your
adversity is it? Chris, mas? I
suppose it will take a while for you
to adjust to modern life. We don't
just go around naming days after
ourselves you know.

JUDY

What?

FADE TO BLACK