

WORLD ENOUGH AND TIME

by

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PAGE ONE (4 PANELS)

1 - A SCIENCE LAB. THE ONLY PERSON IN IT IS DR. ADAM NORTON, A PHYSICIST IN HIS LATE 70's WITH A HEAD FULL OF GRAY HAIR AND A FACE FULL OF WRINKLES. DR. NORTON IS WEARING THE WHITE LAB COAT OF A SCIENTIST AND IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A MASSIVE MACHINE. HE HAS AN EXCITED LOOK ON HIS FACE.

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)

At last! After a lifetime of research, my time machine is almost complete!

2 - DR. NORTON IS HOLDING THE FINAL MISSING PIECE, A CHRONOTRANSISTOR (A SQUARE MECHANICAL DEVICE THAT WILL GIVE LIFE TO THE MASSIVE MACHINE).

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)

With this chronotransistor in place, I will be able to travel back in time and fix all of my mistakes before they happen.

3 - DR. NORTON LOOKS OVER AT A PHOTO ON A NEARBY DESK. IT IS A PHOTO OF A YOUNGER DR. NORTON, EARLY 20's, WITH HIS ARM AROUND A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN (AMY).

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)

Starting with you, Amy. I should have proposed to you when I had the chance. I should have done a lot of things.

4 - DR. NORTON PUTS THE CHRONOTRANSISTOR INTO THE MACHINE.

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)

Now, finally, I can.

VOICE (O.P.)

It won't work!

PAGE TWO (4 PANELS)

1 - ANOTHER DR. NORTON, SIMILAR IN AGE AND APPEARANCE BUT WITHOUT THE WHITE LAB COAT, APPEARS IN THE LAB.

FUTURE DR. NORTON 1
Don't do it! She rejects you and humiliates you in front of your colleagues.

DR. NORTON
But you're... you're...

2 - THE NEW DR. NORTON EXPLAINS THE SITUATION TO THE ORIGINAL.

FUTURE DR. NORTON 1
I am a future version of you that convinced our younger self to propose. It didn't work. I've come back here to convince you to try another tactic. Perhaps waiting till after we graduate.

VOICE (O.P.)
No.

3 - ANOTHER DR. NORTON, AGAIN WITHOUT THE LAB COAT, APPEARS IN THE LAB.

DR. NORTON
(Surprised)
Another me!

FUTURE DR. NORTON 2
Not gonna work. She marries us, but years later, she has an affair with a rival physicist. I say we try sooner.

4 - THE ORIGINAL DR. NORTON IS FURTHER SURPRISED TO SEE THREE MORE DR. NORTONS (ALWAYS WITHOUT THE LAB COAT) APPEAR IN THE LAB.

FUTURE DR. NORTON 3
Still doesn't work. We should try proposing after we get tenure.

FUTURE DR. NORTON 4
Just tried it. She divorces us after a year. Perhaps a more romantic proposal.

FUTURE DR. NORTON 5
Ineffective. She still rejects us.

PAGE THREE (4 PANELS)

1 - THE ORIGINAL DR. NORTON'S SURPRISE SLOWLY TURNS TO WORRY AS MORE AND MORE ALTERNATIVE VERSIONS OF HIM APPEAR IN THE LAB, BICKERING WITH EACH OTHER OVER THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION.

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)
This is madness. I keep going back,
trying to make things right, and
yet I keep failing.

2 - THE ORIGINAL DR. NORTON BECOMES INCREASINGLY SCARED.

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)
The possibilities are too endless.
The variables too vast. I can never
achieve perfection.

3 - A HUGE CROWD DR. NORTONS SURROUND THE ORIGINAL, WHO HAS A HORRIFIED LOOK ON HIS FACE.

DR. NORTON (THOUGHT BUBBLE)
That means I'll stay trapped in
this loop forever. Endlessly
repeating the same actions, the
same failures. It's... it's too
much!

4 - THE ORIGINAL DR. NORTON GRABS THE CHRONOTRANSISTOR AND SMASHES IT AGAINST THE WALL!

DR. NORTON
NOOOOO!!!!

PAGE FOUR (4 PANELS)

1 - THE ALTERNATIVE DR. NORTONS HAVE DISAPPEARED, AND THE ORIGINAL IS LEFT ALONE WITH THE SMASHED CHRONOTRANSISTOR. IN THE CAPTION IS THE POEM FROM WHICH THIS STORY GETS ITS NAME ("TO HIS COY MISTRESS" BY ANDREW MARVELL).

CAPTION (POEM)
Had we but world enough and time /
This coyness, Lady, were no crime

2 - DR. NORTON LOOKS AT THE PHOTO FROM BEFORE.

CAPTION (POEM)

We would sit down and think which
way / To walk and pass our long
love's day.

3 - DR. NORTON BENDS DOWN, PICKING UP THE BROKEN
CHRONOTRANSISTOR.

CAPTION (POEM)

But at my back I always hear /
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying
near;

4 - DR. NORTON DROPS TO HIS KNEES, HIS LIFE WASTED IN
REGRET, TYRANNIZED BY THE PAST. HE BREAKS DOWN AND STARTS
SOBBING.

CAPTION (POEM)

And yonder all before us lie /
Deserts of vast eternity.

THE END.