

WHAT THE FUTURE WANTS TO HOLD

Written by

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INT. BEST BUY - HOME THEATER DEPARTMENT - DAY

DAVE, 28, awkward, chubby and dressed in his uniform, khaki pants and a blue polo shirt, watches CINDY, 25, self-absorbed, blonde and skinny and dressed similarly, chat with TWO CO-WORKERS.

RICK, 26, skeezy, thin and greasy and dressed in the same uniform, walks up behind Dave and punches him in the shoulder. Dave grimaces and rubs his shoulder.

RICK

Too bad Cindy's leaving today, huh, Dave?. She's the hottest piece in the store.

DAVE

Uh, yeah, Rick. That's too bad.

RICK

Think I'm going to get her to come back to my place after. Give her a little present, yeah?

Dave grimaces, and Rick walks off towards a FEMALE CUSTOMER, 20s, dressed in skimpy clothing, near the home theater equipment. Dave leans against the wall and watches Cindy.

DAVE

I can do this. This is my last chance to talk to her.

Dave turns around. Behind him, Cindy and the other two girls scatter.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Just one sentence. One sentence and my life will get better.

Dave turns back around and sees that Cindy is gone.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Stupid, stupid, stupid! I'll never get Cindy to talk to me, and I'll never get out of this stupid store!

FUTURE DAVE (O.S.)

I wouldn't be too sure about that.

Dave turns to see FUTURE DAVE, 48, impish, balding and dressed in a silver suit. Dave scowls at him, and then forces a smile.

DAVE

Hello, welcome to Best Buy, how can I help you?

FUTURE DAVE

You can't help me, but I can help you.

Dave takes a step back but hits the wall.

DAVE

Listen, I'm not really religious and I have no interest in buying another self-help seminar. It's all nonsense, anyway. If you don't want to buy a home theater system, please get out of here.

FUTURE DAVE

I know all of that. I know everything about you, Dave Collins.

DAVE

So you can read my name tag. Good for you.

Dave looks around. Rick leads the customer to the cash registers with his hand on her butt. No one else is nearby. The SECURITY GUARD, 20s, bald and bulky and wearing a badge that says "SHRINK PREVENTION", chats up a CASHIER, 20s, attractive and female, and ignores the cameras.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I don't know what you want, but I don't have it, so please leave.

FUTURE DAVE

Of course you don't have what I want. That's why I'm here, to get you what I want.

DAVE

What?

Future Dave sighs.

FUTURE DAVE

Let me start from the beginning. I'm you, from twenty years in the future.

Dave looks around with a forced smile on his face.

DAVE

This is some sort of improv prank,
isn't it? Someone is filming all of
this for the Internet, aren't they?

Future Dave scowls in concentration.

FUTURE DAVE

No pranks. I'll prove it. After you
woke up this morning, you spent
twenty-three minutes wondering if
you should reactivate your OK Cupid
account and opted not to in case
Cindy said yes to you when you
asked her out, which you promised
yourself you would do.

DAVE

You just guessed that.

FUTURE DAVE

Your password is Spinal Eleven Tap
Ex Four.

Dave steps back into the wall.

DAVE

Ow. Okay, so you're either really
dedicated to this or actually me
from the future. Why?

FUTURE DAVE

There's time travel in the future.
I saved up years of income just for
this one chance to help myself get
on the right track.

DAVE

So you're going to help me get
Cindy?

FUTURE DAVE

No, I'm going to help you make your
life better. If Cindy is involved,
so be it.

Dave opens his mouth. Future Dave places his hand on it,
sighing heavily.

FUTURE DAVE (CONT'D)

Fine, yeah, I'm going to help you
get Cindy. Okay?

Dave grins and clenches his fists. He stops.

DAVE

Wait, aren't there paradoxes and whatnot to worry about?

FUTURE DAVE

Each traveler causes a new time-line to be created. So no, everything is paradox free. I have until nine tonight to help you.

DAVE

Okay. Even if you're not telling the truth, I guess I could use the help. What should I do?

FUTURE DAVE

Try to talk to Cindy, since that seems to be what you really want to do.

DAVE

Okay. Somehow, it's easier when someone else is telling me to.

Dave walks away from Future Dave.

INT. BEST BUY - CELL PHONE SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Another female employee, ISABELLE, 27, shy, brunette, bespectacled and cute, watches Dave. He finds Cindy by the cell phones and is about to talk to her when a SECOND CUSTOMER, 40s, and matronly, blocks his way.

SECOND CUSTOMER

Excuse me, do you work here?

Dave stares at the customer, looks down at his uniform shirt, and nods.

DAVE

Yeah?

SECOND CUSTOMER

Do you know where they keep the Zunes?

DAVE

The what?

SECOND CUSTOMER

My nephew wants some sort of MP3 thing and I was going to get him one for his birthday. Where are they?

DAVE

I don't think those have been around for years. We have a lot of other MP3 players, though.

The customer shakes their head.

SECOND CUSTOMER

No, no. It had to be a Zune.

The customer walks away. Cindy is still by the phones, looking bored. Dave nods and takes another step forward, only to feel someone's hand on his shoulder. He swivels around to see Rick.

DAVE

Yes?

RICK

You need to go back to home theater, you lazy nerd. There's customers there.

Dave looks back at home theater. It is still completely empty, save for Future Dave. He is fumbling with a remote, which he then drops. Future Dave picks it up and turns around to see Dave watching. Future Dave gives him a thumbs-up. Dave grimaces, and then grins.

DAVE

You mean those teenage girls in short shorts and tank tops?

Rick looks over.

RICK

What? I would have noticed that.

DAVE

They must be behind the DVD display.

Rick slicks back his hair.

RICK

I guess since you don't want to help them, I will.

Rick walks away and Dave walks forward until he and Cindy are only separated by a phone display. She smiles at him awkwardly.

CINDY
Oh, hey. Can I help you with something --

Cindy looks at Dave's name badge.

CINDY (CONT'D)
-- Dave?

Dave opens his mouth to speak, but nothing comes out. He continues trying, but there is just a mishmash of sounds that could be words. Cindy is visually repulsed.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Listen, I have to get back to work.

Cindy walks away, leaving the phone department completely empty. Dave deflates.

DAVE
Hi, Cindy.

INT. BEST BUY - HOME THEATER DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dave walks back to Future Dave.

DAVE
I was wrong. It wasn't any easier.

FUTURE DAVE
You got farther than usual, though. Every journey starts with a single step, and every oyster has a pearl. Or something.

Future Dave starts digging around in his pockets.

FUTURE DAVE (CONT'D)
If you'll give me a minute, I have a lot of positivity things written down.

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE
I'm still nowhere.

Future Dave stops digging and puts his arm on Dave's shoulders.

FUTURE DAVE

You just have to get her to notice you, I think. Just try to be more proactive.

Dave's eyes go wide.

DAVE

You mean like, stopping a crime?

FUTURE DAVE

I was going to say spend the rest of the day figuring out what you were going to say, but sure. I don't remember there being a lot of crime here.

DAVE

Ah, but you can be the criminal, and I can stop you from stealing something!

Dave looks around and grabs a Blu-Ray player off the shelf. He hands it to Future Dave, who refuses it.

FUTURE DAVE

I'm not so sure this is a good idea.

DAVE

You need a disguise. Take off your glasses.

Future Dave takes off his glasses.

FUTURE DAVE

I can't really see.

DAVE

You don't have to. Here, take this.

Future Dave takes the Blu-Ray player. Dave turns him so he's facing the door.

DAVE (CONT'D)

On the count of three, run. One...

FUTURE DAVE

I really don't think --

DAVE

Two...

FUTURE DAVE
Are we really --

DAVE
Three!

Future Dave sighs and starts running. Dave points at him.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Oh no, look, it's a thief. I'll
stop him!

Dave gives chase. Isabelle watches intently. Dave takes about a dozen steps and becomes winded. Future Dave turns around. The Security Guard looks over, and returns to chatting with the Cashier. Rick comes out of nowhere and tackles Future Dave to the ground. He leans over and whispers something in Future Dave's ear, takes the Blu-Ray player, and walks to the back of the store. Future Dave stands up, brushes himself off, and walks over to Dave.

FUTURE DAVE
Well, that was a bust.

DAVE
What did he whisper to you?

FUTURE DAVE
He said that if I want stolen
merchandise, then I should talk to
him after hours.

DAVE
Wait, that means he's been stealing
from the store!

FUTURE DAVE
Yeah. I remember realizing how much
stuff he stole after he finally
quit.

DAVE
I'm going to go tell the
management! They'll have no choice
but to ban him from the store, and
it'll get him out of the way and
I'll be able to talk to Cindy!

Future Dave looks at Dave and shrugs.

FUTURE DAVE

Go for it. I'm just going to go sit outside.

INT. BEST BUY - FRONT OF STORE - CONTINUOUS

Dave and Future Dave walk to the front of the store, and part ways at the exit. Future Dave is ignored as he leaves the store, but Dave is stopped by Isabelle.

ISABELLE

Excuse me.

Dave is flustered.

DAVE

Oh, no, I'm sorry. You go first.

Isabelle smiles and shakes her head.

ISABELLE

No, excuse me as in "I want your attention for a minute", not "you're in my way".

Dave chuckles.

DAVE

Oh. Sorry.

ISABELLE

It's okay, Dave. You're trying to get Rick fired, right?

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE

No?

ISABELLE

No, no. I want him out of here. He messes with all the female employees, and hits on a lot of the customers. He's not nice like you. Use the information. Fight the power!

Dave laughs, and then stops.

DAVE

Wait, you were listening to me? And you think I'm nice?

Isabelle blushes.

ISABELLE

Good luck.

Isabelle leaves, and Dave walks into the manager's office.

INT. BEST BUY - MANAGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The MANAGER, 30s and slovenly, is sitting at a desk and watching a movie. He looks over at Dave, raises his index finger, watches the movie for a few more seconds, pauses it, and swivels in his chair.

MANAGER

What can I do for you?

Dave takes a deep breath.

DAVE

Rick Gibbons has been stealing from the store and sexually harassing female employees and customers!

The Manager stares at Dave.

MANAGER

Seriously?

DAVE

Yes.

MANAGER

We'll keep an eye on him, but he's the manager of the home theater department. Not a lot we can do.

DAVE

He's making this place a crime hole!

MANAGER

A crime hole? No, never mind. Listen...

The Manager looks at Dave's name tag.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Dave. We can't be going after all the managers. It's just not feasible. Why don't you take the rest of the day off, though?

Dave is aghast.

DAVE
Are you trying to bribe me?

The Manager holds up both hands.

MANAGER
Wouldn't dream of it. Unless you'd like a new Blu-Ray player. Rick just brought one back that we're reporting as damaged. It's yours, if you want it.

Dave scowls at the Manager.

DAVE
You make me sick.

The Manager waves him away.

MANAGER
Have a nice day off.

EXT. BEST BUY - CONTINUOUS

Future Dave is sitting on a bench and eating a bag of snacks. Isabelle walks out of the store and sits next to him.

ISABELLE
Hello. Are you Dave's uncle or something?

FUTURE DAVE
Or something.

Future Dave holds out the bag.

FUTURE DAVE (CONT'D)
Kale chip? They're actually pretty good.

ISABELLE
No thank you. Do you and Dave talk much?

FUTURE DAVE
I haven't talked to Dave in almost twenty years.

Cindy walks out, on her phone. Isabelle and Future Dave watch her pass.

ISABELLE

I don't like her.

FUTURE DAVE

She's necessary, unfortunately. I don't remember... Dave talking about you.

ISABELLE

He doesn't really know me. I'm Isabelle, by the way.

FUTURE DAVE

Dave. He's, uh, named after me.

Cindy pulls out a cigarette despite a sign that says "No Smoking" right behind her.

ISABELLE

Ugh. I have an idea. Let's say nice things about Dave so that Cindy hears.

FUTURE DAVE

I thought you didn't like her.

ISABELLE

I want him to be happy.

Isabelle starts talking louder.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Since Dave is such a nice guy, I think.

Future Dave shrugs, and matches her volume.

FUTURE DAVE

Indeed! He has many talents. Did you know he's a sound engineer?

ISABELLE

You mean, like for music?

FUTURE DAVE

Yes. He wants to work with a rock and roll band.

ISABELLE

I just happen to play guitar.

Cindy finishes her cigarette, tosses it on the ground, and walks to Future Dave and Isabelle. She holds her phone away from her face.

CINDY

God, you two. Can't you see I'm on my phone?

Cindy walks into the store. Future Dave and Isabelle talk normally.

ISABELLE

Oh. I think we screwed that one up.

FUTURE DAVE

I don't think so.

Isabelle stands up.

ISABELLE

Nice to meet you. I have to get back to work.

FUTURE DAVE

You as well.

Isabelle walks back into the store just as Dave is walking out. She glances at him, but he is too fixated on the ground. He sits next to Future Dave.

DAVE

Management knew. They didn't care.

FUTURE DAVE

We could always try one last thing. You could wow her with your knowledge!

DAVE

I don't know anything about home theaters. Rick always snipes my sales so I gave up on learning anything about them. Whenever I do manage to sell something, he calls me a loser and steals the commission.

FUTURE DAVE

You have one last chance, then.

DAVE

I do. Do I really deserve it? I'm cowardly, out of shape, and a really poor judge of people.

FUTURE DAVE

Everyone deserves a chance.

INT. BEST BUY - BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Cindy, Rick, the Manager, Security Guard, Isabelle, and various other employees are in the break room. There is a cake reading, "Good luck, Cindy!" The door opens forcefully and Dave walks in with Future Dave right behind him. Dave is dressed in a nice gray suit now.

RICK

What's that loser doing here?

Dave strides over to Rick and prods him in the chest with his finger.

DAVE

I'll have nothing from you, you sleazy womanizing thief! Now back off or I'll do something, I will!

Rick glares at him and backs away. Dave continues to glare at him, and walks over to Cindy.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Cindy, I've admired you since the very first day I saw you. You're beautiful, and probably intelligent and creative and all those things. Would you like to go out on a date with me?

Everyone is staring at them. Rick is smirking, Isabelle is frowning slightly.

CINDY

What was your name, again?

Dave deflates and Rick steps in.

RICK

Just forget him, babe, and remember what we did in my car earlier.

DAVE

All he wants to do is sleep with you! I'll treat you like the goddess you are!

Cindy looks from Dave, to Rick, and puts her hand on Rick's shoulder.

CINDY

Actually, I'm kind of okay with just banging him a few more times. Sorry?

Dave slumps into a chair. Rick leans over so that they're face-to-face.

RICK

By the way, all those things you just said and trying to rat me out to the boss? I don't want someone on my team who's not fully on my team, yeah? You're fired.

DAVE

What? You can't fire me!

Rick looks over to the Manager.

RICK

Yo! Can I fire this chump?

The Manager is eating a piece of cake, cut from the middle.

MANAGER

Huh? Yeah, sure.

Rick grins and motions for the security guard to see Dave out.

RICK

I've been waiting to do that for a long long time.

EXT. BEST BUY - NIGHT

The doors open and the Security Guard shoves Dave onto the concrete. Future Dave pushes by the Security Guard, and helps Dave up.

DAVE

I thought you were here to help me.

FUTURE DAVE

I am. You needed this catalyst, otherwise you'd stagnate. I worked here until I was thirty-eight.

DAVE

Jesus. You could have just told me to quit.

FUTURE DAVE

Would you have listened?

Dave pauses.

DAVE

No.

Dave starts to walk away but Isabelle comes running out. She grabs him by the arm.

ISABELLE

Dave, are you okay?

DAVE

No. Not really.

ISABELLE

What you did in there was really brave, and all the stuff you tried to do to get her to notice you was above and beyond what anyone's ever done for me.

DAVE

Oh? Thank you, I guess.

Isabelle puts her finger on his lips.

ISABELLE

It made me realize I needed to be brave, too. Would you like to go get drinks with me or something?

Dave nods.

DAVE

Yes. Yes, I would like that. Did you have a place in mind, because there's this place that does an open mic. I go there to try to find people who'll let me mix things for them.

Isabelle smiles.

ISABELLE

It just so happens I have a guitar in my trunk and I'm feeling particularly brave today.

Dave smiles and takes her hand. They walk off towards their car. Future Dave leans against the building and smiles. He starts to twinkle out of existence.

FUTURE DAVE

I'm glad I didn't waste all that money, after all.

