

"The Big Night"

by
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EXT. CLARK'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

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BILLY and CLARK, two adolescent boys, are lying on the grass outside of Clark's house, looking up at the black sky. The crickets are chirping loudly. An occasional car passes by in the distance. They are both holding flashlights, neither one of which is turned on.

BILLY

(excitedly)
I bet there'll be *weird* lights in
the sky!

CLARK

(hopefully)
You think so?

BILLY

Sure. This is a *big* thing.

CLARK

It's listed on *calendars*.

BILLY

(beat)
What does *that* mean?

CLARK

Only *important* stuff gets listed
on calendars - like presidents'
birthdays, Christmas, and things.
This wouldn't be mentioned on
calendars if it wasn't important.

BILLY

I guess you're right.

CLARK

Did your parents see you leave the
house?

BILLY

No - they were sound asleep.
(beat)
Yours?

CLARK

Nah. I'm too smart for that.

Billy points up at a window in Clark's house.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

Your mom and dad won't wake up and catch us, will they, Clark?

CLARK

Not a chance. Dad snores like a buzz saw, and Mom can sleep through *anything*.

Confused, Billy raises up on his elbows and looks around.

BILLY

Why do you think nobody else is outside to see this happen?

CLARK

I don't know. Maybe they couldn't stay awake. It *is* kind of late.

Billy looks at his watch.

BILLY

It's *almost* time!

CLARK

Oh boy! This is gonna be better than the *movies*!

BILLY

Three. . . two. . . one. . . *zero*!

Nothing.

They look at each other for a long beat, disappointed and confused.

CLARK

Are you *sure* your watch is right?

BILLY

Of course it is! I called up the correct time number on the telephone.

(beat)

What. . . What does yours say?

Clark checks his watch.

CLARK

About thirty seconds past two.

BILLY

Then why is there. . . *nothing*?

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Darned if I know.

(beat)

Everyone said this is when it
would happen.

BILLY

Did they mean Eastern Time?

CLARK

Of course they did! We're on
Eastern Time.

Billy looks at his watch again.

BILLY

A minute past.

(longish beat)

Nothing.

CLARK

(sighs)

Can people just *do* this?

BILLY

Change the clocks, you mean?

CLARK

Yeah.

BILLY

No. That's big league stuff -
stuff for *God*. You can't just
change the time and have everyone
agree with you.

CLARK

But nothing's happening.

(beat)

Maybe you *can*.

BILLY

That *would* explain why no one else
is outside. Everything's supposed
to straighten out at 2:00 a.m. I
heard my mom say that.

(beat)

How can *nothing* happen?

CLARK

What a *bummer*! I was expecting all
kinds of cool stuff.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

Me too.

He sits up and sighs.

BILLY

We'd better get home.

CLARK

I guess so.

BILLY

I'm gonna be *pretty* tired in church tomorrow.

Clark sits up too.

CLARK

I hope Monsignor Stevens isn't doing the mass.

BILLY

He goes on *forever*! It's gonna be tough enough staying awake without him going on and on and on.

They both stand.

CLARK

I guess you *can* just change the clocks, Billy. Who knew?

BILLY

It must be a *grown-up* thing.

CLARK

My mom changed all the clocks in our house.

(beat)

Boy, we have a lot of them!

BILLY

You know, I heard my dad say that this time change thing happens *twice* a year.

CLARK

(excitedly)

Really?

BILLY

Yeah. In about six months, it will happen again - in *reverse*.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Maybe *that's* when the cool stuff
comes?

BILLY

(longish beat)
Do you want to try again next
time?

CLARK

You bet I do!

FADE TO BLACK.