

IT'S ABOUT TIME

A wealthy man-child purchases time to help the woman he loves,  
but realizes the best way to help her is to grow up  
and become a man.

Written by  
23-DE03-W17

"To everything there is a season,  
a time for every purpose under heaven."  
-Ecclesiastes 3:1

INT. CHARLIE'S BASEMENT - DAY

CHARLIE EGAN, (30's) a handsome, baby-faced man-child wears a hoodie and backward-facing baseball cap. He plays a video game with BRUH, (30s) a surfer-dude attired in beach wear.

They sit on overstuffed barcaloungers in a pimped out, toy-infested basement that is every man-child's dream. Bruh's dirty bare feet share space with old wrappers and drink cans on top of the coffee table. Bruh is having a blast.

Charlie looks bored. He skillfully opens the nearby fridge with his foot. It's well-stocked except for one section which is noticeably bare. He uses his foot to shut the fridge, then uses his toe to engage an intercom. Gameplay is unaffected.

CHARLIE

Hey Ma, we're out of energy drinks.

PHYLLIS (V.O.)

There's some in the pantry.

CHARLIE

Bring 'em down, will ya?

Phyllis grumbles over the intercom, then silence. Bruh frantically pumps his controller buttons with his thumbs.

BRUH

Dude! Protect Coal-Baby!

The boys groan and squinch simultaneously after failing to protect her. Charlie examines Coal Baby's stats.

CHARLIE

She's okay. Still transforming.

Phyllis enters the basement with a box and heads straight to the fridge. She stocks it with new energy drinks.

PHYLLIS

Goodness, Charlie. I shouldn't be filling your fridge and cleaning up after you. You need a job, baby.

CHARLIE

I don't need a job, Ma. I'm already filthy rich.

PHYLLIS

Well, you need purpose then.

She picks up trash and wipes the coffee table around Bruh's feet. The boys suddenly cheer excitedly at the monitor.

BRUH  
 Suh-weet! Crystalanna, Diamond  
 Warrior is born! Dude, she's hot!

Phyllis glances at the screen and shakes her head.

PHYLLIS  
 You need a wife, that's what you  
 need, Charlie. Why you dumped Anna,  
 I will never understand.

CHARLIE  
 Stop, Ma. She dumped ME when I got  
 back from Asia.

PHYLLIS  
 You will never find a better woman.  
 Mark my words. And you threw it all  
 away. Now she got proposed to by  
 some other man.

Charlie pauses the video game. Bruh sits up frustrated.

BRUH  
 Dude! I was in the middle-

The screen is frozen on Crystalanna. She's a gorgeous warrior  
 with a fierce, confident smirk, wielding a powerful sword.

CHARLIE  
 What are you talking about, Ma?

Phyllis pulls out her phone and searches for the video.

PHYLLIS  
 A fella proposed to Anna yesterday.  
 Becca sent me the video. It's  
 getting seen all over the place.  
 Where is it? Oh, here.

CHARLIE  
 Let me see that.

Charlie grabs Phyllis' phone.

INSERT:

INT. BASKETBALL GAME & JUMBOTRON - NIGHT

ANNA, (30s) a beautiful woman with a mustard-smothered  
 pretzel protruding from her mouth, looks up at the Jumbotron.  
 She and boyfriend, GARY (40s) a plain-looking, vanilla type  
 of man, are on the Kiss Cam.

Red hearts litter the Jumbotron screen and the words "Will You Marry Me?" dance in bright red letters over her head.

The Instagram video snapshots Anna in mid-mortified expression with her cheeks filled with pretzel and stained with mustard. This image is juxtaposed with an image of Anna in her wedding gown making a similar expression. The caption over her face reads: "#UglyCryingBrideRound2 #ProposalFail."

BACK TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BASEMENT - DAY

Charlie groans loudly. He slaps the barcalounger.

CHARLIE

Aw, Babe, no! Dang.

PHYLLIS

Why in the world is she called Ugly Crying Bride? That's not nice.

BRUH

Oh Mrs. E, didn't ya know? Anna went viral after Charlie text-message dumped her!

CHARLIE

Bruh, I told you already! I didn't dump her! She dumped ME!

Bruh holds his phone out for Phyllis and Charlie to watch.

BRUH

33.5 million views! She's famous!

INSERT:

INT. BRIDAL ROOM - DAY

Anna, in a poodle-fluffy-meringue wedding gown is hysterical. Snot and mascara run down her face. Phyllis is trying to comfort her. Anna shows others the texts from Charlie. Lots of "you poor thing" and "oh no" comments in the background.

ANNA

He's not coming! He's on a plane to Asia for some cryptocurrency deal!

PHYLLIS

I'm gonna kill that boy!

ANNA  
 He cancelled our wedding BY TEXT  
 MESSAGE, Mama! My life is over!  
 Waaa! Waaa! Waaa!

BACK TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BASEMENT - DAY

Phyllis puts her hand to her mouth.

PHYLLIS  
 People on the internet are just the  
 worst! And you! Destroying that  
 sweet girl's life.

CHARLIE  
 I love Anna, Ma. I didn't destroy  
 her life...did I?

PHYLLIS  
 How does anyone live through that  
 kind of shaming, Charlie? Huh? And  
 now this other video doing the same  
 thing to her! That poor girl. I  
 loved Anna like she was my own  
 daughter. You dumping her just  
 killed me, Charlie. You know that?  
 It killed me!

CHARLIE  
 I know, Ma...

Charlie whispers under his breath:

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 (quietly)  
 ...but she dumped ME.

PHYLLIS  
 I love you to death, baby, but  
 you're a big idiot.

Phyllis leaves in a huff.

BRUH  
 Man, your mom's kinda cranky, dude.

Charlie stays unmoving, lost in thought.

BRUH (CONT'D)  
 C'mon, turn the game back on. I was  
 in the middle of a gnarly attack.

Charlie stands up and puts his wallet in his pocket.

CHARLIE

C'mon.

BRUH

Du-ude. Game!

CHARLIE

Bruh, Grab the car keys. We're outta here.

BRUH

Ya, dude. Let me get my uniform on.  
ooo ooo, keys...

Bruh puts his limo driver hat over his matted beach hair, slips on his flip flops, and briefly looks for the Porsche keys which he finds in between the couch cushions.

BRUH (CONT'D)

Found 'em. Where're we going?

CHARLIE

I'm gonna buy some time.

They head for the garage.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF "IT'S ABOUT TIME" OFFICE - DAY

Charlie's Porsche screeches to a halt in front of a storefront with the sign "It's About Time" above the door. Bruh, in his limo driver hat and flip flops, walks regally to Charlie's side and opens his door.

INT. ABOUT TIME FRONT OFFICE - DAY

Charlie walks into the office and is greeted by ELAINE, the impeccably dressed owner of It's About Time.

ELAINE

Mr. Egan, it's a pleasure to see you. Do you have an appointment?

CHARLIE

No. Emergency Time-Buy. And I know it's more expensive. I need a specialist. Money's not an issue.

ELAINE

Of course, Mr. Egan. Unfortunately, Beatrice is on vacation.

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

We have a new specialist I think you'll love. She excels at time-design. A true artist.

CHARLIE

Does she have time right now?

Elaine winks and smiles at Charlie.

ELAINE

She'll MAKE time. Follow me.

INT. PROCEDURE ROOM - DAY

Elaine leads Charlie to a very posh room furnished with a dome-encapsulated table, computer system, chair, and desk.

ELAINE

Your IAT Specialist will be with you shortly, Mr. Egan. It's our pleasure to design your time.

Elaine shuts the door behind her. Charlie zooms into the Jumbotron image on his electronic tablet in order to find clues about Anna's specific location.

The door opens. Charlie looks up and gasps.

It's Anna. She looks sleek, fitter, mature and confident. She is mortified by the viral image of her face on Charlie's tablet. Charlie turns the device over.

CHARLIE

Anna! What-what are you doing here?

ANNA

I work here.

She motions to his tablet and feigns indifference.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Nice to know I'm still a fan favorite. Heard I'm already on track to hit 700,000 views.

CHARLIE

Actually 1.2 million.

She flinches for a brief moment but recovers.

Charlie touches his hair and fiddles with his hoodie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I didn't know you worked here. You look fantastic by the way, you know, for an older woman. I mean, you're not old. You're old...er-ish than you used to be back when-

ANNA

We're the same age.

CHARLIE

Yeah. I know. I only meant since I last saw you five years ago-

ANNA

Have a seat, Charlie.

Charlie sits. Anna finds his file in the computer system. Charlie's discomfort with her reading his file affects his ability to stay settled in his chair.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Wow, you've purchased 19 Time-Buys in the last 12 months. A Diamond Club Member. You should really consider purchasing our Time Management package...unless, you just don't know what to do with all your money.

Anna reads more of his online file and reacts with eyebrow raises, subtle head shakes, and slight smirks.

ANNA (CONT'D)

So, you're still living in your mom's basement?

CHARLIE

Uh no. I mean, kind of. I actually bought that house from mom and completely remodeled it. So, yeah, mom still lives there, but I pay her to do the stuff moms do. So, technically, I don't live with my mom. She lives with ME.

ANNA

Mm-hmm.

CHARLIE

(mumbles quietly)  
...plus, no one makes Spicy Beef & Peppers like my mom.

ANNA

She does make a mean Spicy Beef.  
How is Phyllis?

CHARLIE

(a little impatient)  
Fine. She's fine! Can we please-

ANNA

Did you know she brought me dinner  
every day for a month after you so  
cavalierly abandoned me at the  
altar? Phyllis is such a kind,  
compassionate woman. I love her.

Charlie stands and sighs.

CHARLIE

It was a multi-million dollar deal,  
Anna. I just couldn't pass that up.

ANNA

On our wedding day.

CHARLIE

I texted you that I was really  
sorry! Weddings can always be  
rescheduled. That deal could not.  
And really, I did it all, you know,  
for you. For us.

Anna rolls her eyes and chuckles.

ANNA

Keep on telling yourself that. It  
will forever excuse your inability  
to graduate from boy to man.

Charlie looks genuinely hurt. Anna softens.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Tell me how I can help you today,  
Charlie.

CHARLIE

I want to go back to yesterday.

ANNA

Okay. Where to and what time?

CHARLIE

I don't know where, but it looks  
like the time is 7:00pm.

ANNA

I need to know location, Charlie.  
Otherwise, this Time-Buy does you  
no good.

CHARLIE

Hang on.

Charlie walks away with his back to Anna and zooms in again  
on the viral image to hunt for location clues.

ANNA

I am not designing your Time-Buy  
until you're straight with me. Why  
don't you tell me what's going on.

Charlie reluctantly gives up hunting. He turns back to her.

CHARLIE

This viral clip of you is gaining  
traction and I don't want you to go  
through that torture again. I want  
you to Time-Buy me back to this  
game. I want to warn you not to put  
the pretzel in your mouth. I want  
to tell you to smile cute for the  
camera. I want to tell that guy  
you're with not to propose to you  
on the Jumbotron. If he knew you at  
all, he'd know you hate attention.

Anna studies Charlie without expression.

ANNA

Let me get this straight. You want  
to spend all this money just so I  
don't become a viral meme again?

Charlie shrugs his shoulders and looks down sheepishly.

CHARLIE

I don't want you to be sad.

Anna stares at Charlie for a while. Suddenly, she types. Her  
hands move with graceful but furious dexterity. Her face is  
calm. Charlie tilts his head to view the monitor. She pulls  
the monitor closer to hide it from his view.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You seem really good at that.

ANNA

Charlie, I'm a different person  
from that girl you knew.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

When we broke up, I had to learn how to live life without you. I had to learn how to cope when my ugliest, most vulnerable moment was exposed to the world.

CHARLIE

I know, Anna. That's why I want to make it all go away. Please let me do that for you. I've lived with all this money. I've done a lot of cool things. There have been fun moments, but it's all kind of meaningless. I'd give up every cent of it to go back to our wedding and choose you.

Anna stops time-designing to look at Charlie.

ANNA

What I lived through was excruciating. I hated going through it. But, you know what? I learned that I am really strong. I don't want to go back to our wedding day. I love the woman I've become. I wouldn't change that for anything.

Charlie is disappointed, but then has a sudden realization.

CHARLIE

Woah. You're Crystalanna. You're the Diamond Warrior!

ANNA

Crystalanna? From the video game?

CHARLIE

Yeah. She starts out as this wimpy Coal Baby. She gets the tar beat out of her, but if she doesn't die, she transforms into the best fighter on the team.

ANNA

I know there's a compliment in there somewhere.

CHARLIE

Crystalanna is perfect. She's my favorite character. I'll protect Coal Baby over anyone else just so I can have Crystalanna.

There is a peaceful silence between them.

ANNA

I do like the idea of you buying time to go back to warn me not to put the pretzel in my mouth.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

Anna smiles and nods.

ANNA

Yeah. I'm in Section C, Seat 102.

CHARLIE

(hopeful)

Want me to tell that guy not to propose?

ANNA

Nah. That's okay. Just tell me to smile pretzel-free.

CHARLIE

(disappointed)

Oh. Okay.

Like a Time-Buy veteran, Charlie walks to the table and straps himself in. Anna smiles at him and pushes the button. He smiles back. Fog fills the window of the machine.

INT. BASKETBALL GAME & JUMBOTRON - NIGHT

Charlie, with napkins in hand, makes his way down to Seat 102. Anna turns and is surprised to see Charlie.

ANNA

Charlie? What are you doing here?

He takes the pretzel from her hands. He uses the napkins to wipe the mustard off her hands and cheeks.

CHARLIE

I'm gonna hold this pretzel for you. You're going to get proposed to on the Jumbotron. Trust me, you're going to want to smile your cute smile and not have this pretzel in your mouth, okay?

ANNA

Oh, um, okay.

Charlie looks towards the stairs. He pops the entire pretzel in his mouth.

Suddenly, Anna pokes Charlie and points to the Jumbotron.

On the Jumbotron is Bruh throwing a shaka sign and going wild. Charlie grunts a confused "huh?" as the Jumbotron pans to Phyllis jumping up and down waving and throwing kisses.

CHARLIE  
(pretzel-muffled)  
Ma??

The Jumbotron then cuts to cute-smiling Anna and confused, mustard-stained-pretzel-mouthed Charlie on the Kiss Cam. Animated hearts dance across the screen.

Charlie is still completely confused. He looks over at Anna. Behind her is a huge sign getting unrolled that says, "Marry Me, Charlie...cuz it's about time!" The crowd cheers.

Charlie's confused expression morphs into a thrilled realization as he pretzel-muffle-howls.

He joyously picks Anna up and spins her, jumping up and down.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(pretzel-muffled)  
YES!!

Bruh and Phyllis run to them creating a big group hug.

With face still splotted with mustard, Charlie has finally swallowed the pretzel. He tenderly kisses Anna. She gazes lovingly into his eyes and whispers romantically:

ANNA  
Just so you know, I'll be charging  
your account for four artfully  
designed Emergency Time-Buys. It's  
gonna cost you a mint!

Charlie's shocked expression and cute-smiling Anna is captured as a still image on the Jumbotron. "#HeSaidYes"

The image morphs into an Instagram meme on a phone showing 100 million views with the caption:  
"#UglyCryingBrideSnagsHerMan #ProposalGoals.

FADE OUT