

ONE HOUR AFTER

by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: In the south

CHARACTERS:

ROBERT – A college student

TIFFANY - A college student

SCENE ONE

ROBERT is walking towards a staircase. TIFFANY is walking the opposite way towards ROBERT.

TIFFANY

Did you hear what just happen Robert!? It was about an hour ago.

ROBERT

I heard. I don't believe it Tiffany. It can't be true.

TIFFANY

It's true! I just saw the footage on the news! What is happening to this world?

ROBERT

I... I don't know. (Beat) I don't believe it. I don't want to believe any of it.

TIFFANY

All of those people, gone! And for what? Why did they have to die? All of them dead for no reason. Dead, Robert, all of them!

ROBERT

There is always a reason. (Beat) You may not see it, but there is always a reason for everything.

TIFFANY

Robert, how can you say that? Thousands gone in an instant, you say there is a reason for it!

ROBERT

Yes. (Beat) Only time will show what that reason is. But there is a reason for everything.

TIFFANY

I feel like this is the *end* of time. (Beat) You sound so heartless. Don't say such things on a day like this.

ROBERT

(Beat) You believe in God, don't you Tiffany?

TIFFANY

Of course, but what does that have to do with it. Robert don't you say anything against God!

ROBERT

Do you believe that all things, all events are predetermined? Planned out by God. All written down in some book somewhere.

TIFFANY

Yes, but what does that have to do with anything?

ROBERT

What if all of those people had to die? That it was predetermined, by God or fate or whatever you want to call it.

TIFFANY

Huh?

ROBERT

What if I go back in time, and prevented it. Bam! I'm there right now and I prevented this tragedy. I'm back in time one hour ago and I made sure that no one died today. And all of those people are alive right now. (Beat) Would the world be a better place?

TIFFANY

Yes. It would be a wonderful day.

ROBERT

Think about it Tiff, really. If all of those innocent people were alive instead of being dead, would that mean the world would be better off?

TIFFANY

Yes, of course it would be better. How could you even ask that question?

ROBERT

I want you to forget all of what you know and what you think you know. I want you to think outside of the box for the next few minutes.

TIFFANY

I'll try.

ROBERT

No! There is no try Tiff! (Beat) Clear your mind. And just do it. Think about how the world would be different if they were all alive right now.

TIFFANY

Well, they would be alive.

ROBERT

Beyond the blatantly obvious.

TIFFANY

I guess all of their actions beyond their deaths, would've influence other people and events.

ROBERT

Go on.

TIFFANY

Some would've raised their children. Others would've had children. And they would've had children and so on and so on.

ROBERT

Continue.

TIFFANY

They would've influenced others with their actions. And those would've influenced others and so on.

ROBERT

And.

TIFFANY

Some would've influenced others by their inactions. Some would've committed crimes, had affairs and sinned a thousand other ways.

ROBERT

(Beat) It's ok to say it.

TIFFANY

The ones that survived are stronger. And the ones that came close to losing someone close to them will never take their love ones for granted again. And the ones that have lost a love one will cherish the ones still alive. And never forget that life is worth living.

ROBERT

Do you see the light now? (Beat) Time is powerful. Fate is powerful. The time line has to continue, and time or fate will do what it has to do for it to continue and thrive. No matter what or who has to suffer, time will continue.

TIFFANY

But why so many people? Did all of them have to die? All of them?

ROBERT

You know answer, don't you Tiff?

TIFFANY

Yes Robert, I do. (Beat) They all had to die.

ROBERT

Yeah, (Beat) they did. It's nothing that we could've changed. Time is time. Fate is fate. We are all trying to survive. Some of us are lucky, others....

TIFFANY

But it doesn't seem fair.

ROBERT

Tiffany, when has live ever been fair? (Beat) I can't even get a date and Dr. Stephen Hawkings is married? Life sucks some time! (Beat) Living is marvelous, but it is not for the fearful. If you can't handle the bumps in the road, then you better stop driving on it.

TIFFANY

So (Beat) you think it'll be all right?

ROBERT

It always turns out, one way or another. For good or bad, life continues. (Beat) The question is will you continue to live it or give up every time you get slapped in your face?

TIFFANY

I want to live.

ROBERT

Then go live every moment, as if it is your last. Seize the moment, for it could all be over in an instant.

TIFFANY

Seize the day? Is that your advice Robert?

ROBERT

No. Seize your life and live it. Don't go hide under your bed every time a thunderstorm happens. And don't be afraid of what might happen. Live your life kiddo.

TIFFANY

I will. (Beat) But still, all of those people, gone....

ROBERT

So that you can exist. Make sure they didn't die for nothing. Live. Their memories live on as all as the human race survives. And thrives and continues for millenniums to come.

TIFFANY

I feel a little bit better. (Beat) Thank you.

ROBERT

Life goes on. Never forget what happen, but don't allow it to destroy your life. (Beat) So you what to go out with me?

TIFFANY

No. I don't just want to live. I want to live a happy life. (Laughs.)

ROBERT

Well, it was worth a shot. (Beat) Maybe my life would be happier without you anyways. (Laughing turning to frown.)

TIFFANY

Robert, you always know what to say. I'll try to make everyday worth something. I'll see you Robert

ROBERT

In your dreams kiddo. Bye Tiffany, and remember everything will work out.

TIFFANY

I'll remember. Bye.

(TIFFANY exits.)

ROBERT

Everything will be all right. One day, we'll all learn how to work together. Let others live and let live. Peace for all mankind. One day, it'll happen. One day. I know it. One day.

(ROBERT exits.)

FADE OUT

THE END