

THE END OF THE WORLD

by Herbert M. Midgley
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A Taco Stand in the South

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20’s. She was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. She has on a nice pink dress, that isn’t too flashy for her old town ethics.
BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30’s. He was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. He is dressed in a pair of black jeans, a white tee shirt and black jean jacket.

Playwright’s note. Live every moment like a big rock in about to land on your head.

BERT and WENDY are sitting by a table at a taco stand waiting for their food. A radio is on their table playing music.

WENDY

Bert, why did you want to come *here* tonight? I really don’t like Mexican food that much.

BERT

Well Wendy, I like Mexican food and it was *my* turn to pick the joint we were going to dine at. Plus I want some real tacos. Not the Tex-Mex food you get at the national chains, rather a real greasy taco. (Beat) This is the only place in town that you can get that type of greasy taco.

WENDY

Fine! I don’t want to hear you complain when we go to a salad bar next time we go out to eat.

BERT

I never complain about where we go.

WENDY

Only the prices.

BERT

Well that’s true. I’m cheap! Man it’s a good thing you aren’t my girl, or the price tag would be double. (Beat) Hey I save money not having a girlfriend! Woo hoo!

WENDY

You’re not saying that I’m not worth spending money on? Are you?

BERT

No. I'll let all of your boyfriends pay for you. Your buddy here is quite happy paying for his own food. And having a large saving account.

WENDY

Fine. (Beat) Boy it's sure taking them a long time to get our food out. I'm hungry. I haven't eaten all day! (Beat) Bert I'm glad that you wanted to go out and eat dinner with me. Eating alone is sad.

BERT

Then I'm one sad little man, 'cause I eat out all the time alone. Catfish buffets, fried chicken joints, hamburger restaurants, Chinese food and taco stands, I go to them all. Alone most of the time.

WENDY

Why don't you get someone to go with you?

BERT

(Sarcastically) 'cause I'm not a tall leggy drink my dear. (Smiles) No, guys don't really care if they dine alone. (Beat) I don't even think about it now. If I'm hungry and want to eat out, I'm going!

WENDY

What you need is a girlfriend Bert.

BERT

Funny I was thinking the same thing. (Sarcastically) The same thing for the last few decades that is. (Beat) Maybe you could be my wingman.

WENDY

What's that?

BERT

A wingman is a girl that goes with you to the club and helps you pick up chicks at said club.

WENDY

(Shocked) Oh, well I guess I could do that. (Happy) I could be your wingman. I can't wait to help you pick out chicks. (Beat) So how do you like your girls Bert? Tall and thin? Short and perky? No, you like them smart, right?

BERT

Real smart. (Beat) If they're a tall leggy drink, that's nice too. And they have to have a perfect smile and long hair. You know, a perfect ten.

WENDY

(Slowly) Ok, that narrows it down a bit doesn't it?

BERT

Well I've been without a girlfriend for ages, I can wait and be picky. I'm not going to date the first girl with a heartbeat that winks at me.

WENDY

It's good to have standards.

BERT

(Seriously) Wendy, before we go out with you as my wingman, you have to assure me that you have no romantic feelings towards me.

WENDY

(Surprised) What!?

BERT

You can't have any feelings for me at all if you're going to be my wingman. If you do, you will shoot down every hot chick that may look my way because you would be jealous of them gaining my time and attention.

WENDY

(Stunned) Bert, you like...me!?! (Beat) When did this happen? Why didn't you tell me sooner?

BERT

Wendy can you be my wingman?

WENDY

(Pause) No. You're right, there's no girl good enough to date you. I would be jealous of any girl that gets your attention Bert.

BERT

When did you fall in love with me?

WENDY

I don't know. It took along time for me to truly realize it. When you asked me to help you pick up girls a few moments ago, I knew for sure. (Beat) How about you Bert?

BERT

The first time met you.

WENDY

I was a horrible person then. So into myself, never helping anyone always focusing on me, I mean it had to always be about me and....

(BERT lends in and kisses WENDY innocently.)

BERT

I do believe that I hear stars exploding out there in space Wendy.

WENDY

I know, I hear them too Bert.

(WENDY lends in and kisses BERT innocently.)

BERT

My heart is pounding like I ran a million miles.

WENDY

So is mine.

(The music on the radio stops and some news type intro music begins to play. WENDY and BERT stare at the radio.)

RADIO

Ladies and gentlemen, this worldwide emergency announcement is just in from NORAD, an asteroid the size of Texas is rocketing towards Earth at supersonic speeds. Since this incredibly large asteroid is racing on a collision course at over 60,000 miles an hour, the human race has about.... three minutes left on the Earth. I don't know what to say other than it has been a pleasure to play Rock and Roll music for you for the last twenty years. Good luck, God bless you all and Rock and Roll! (A loud siren is heard as the radio station goes off the air.)

(WENDY and BERT look toward each other, then at the sky then back at each other. And shrugs their shoulders together.)

BERT

(Angry) Man ain't that just sad!

WENDY

What Bert!

BERT

I finally got my dream girl to admit she loves me and it's the end of the world! Now ain't that just terrific! (Beat) Blah!

WENDY

Bert I don't know what to say.

BERT

Well baby you had better say it fast, you got about two minutes and change to get it out of your system!

WENDY

I...I...I....My mind has just drawn a blank. Bert honey, hold me. Hold me tight as the world blows up!

(BERT and WENDY hold each other.)

BERT

What a way to check out of this world. And the crime of it all is that we paid for our meal and didn't get it! Blah!

WENDY

Bert honey, it's ok, I'm not really that hungry now. You know, the whole world ending and stuff. It kind of drives the appetite from a girl's mind, you know.

BERT

I know, but still it's the principle. (Yells at the workers) Hey could you hurry up with the food! We're kind of running out of time you know!

WENDY

Do you think they know the world is about to end? I mean we did have to use our pigeon Spanish to order.

BERT

Probably not. But since we got bad service and (looks at his watch) there's about a minute left for humanity, eh why brother them with it. Let them live the last minute on Earth in bliss.

WENDY

We're down to a minute left?

BERT

Ah huh.

WENDY

I'm not even scared now.

BERT

Me neither. (Beat) I've accepted that we're all going to die. Not much else we could do about it now. (Beat) (Holds her hand) I do you love you Wendy.

WENDY

(Thinks for a moment) Love! (Breaks their hug.) Bert honey, love is the answer!

BERT

I didn't know there was a question Wendy.

WENDY

Bert, love conquers all. Why can't love conquer that asteroid that's about to kill us?

BERT

(Shakes head) Wendy darling, I don't know. Why can't it?

WENDY

It can.

BERT

Huh?

WENDY

You love me, right?

BERT

Yes, with all of my heart and soul. I love you more than any man has loved a woman.

WENDY

And I love you more than any woman has loved a man.

BERT

Ok. (Beat) Hey that makes me feel great darling!

(BERT kisses WENDY softly and innocently again.)

WENDY

(Frustrated) Ok, great. (Normal voice) So if two people on the Earth loved each other with all of their hearts and souls, no little asteroid can kill that! Can it!?

BERT

Not in my heart my love.

WENDY

Not in my heart my love.

WENDY and BERT

(Both hold hands) Not in our hearts my love.

(BERT and WENDY kiss innocently again. A loud whistle sound breaks their kiss. They both look up in the sky. The lights change from white, to red to purple with a loud whinny falling sound. WENDY hugs BERT. The lights suddenly go to black and a loud thud is heard.)

THE END