

The Recruiter

By Brent Holland

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DEDICATION

Leo Leonard, Laney High School Stage Manager (c/o 2024) Has been my right arm and knows my work better than I do. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for you.

SYNOPSIS

Hannah has less than an hour to convince a group of young adults that the world is about to end and their only hope for survival is to travel to the future. Her answers are brief, and they only lead to more questions. The others try to process what she is saying. Ultimately, they must decide what's important and what matters the most to themselves and to the survival of humanity.

TIME: The present.

SETTING: A conference hall.

PROPS: A burnt notebook, a syringe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 gender flexible roles)

HANNAH: An expert on time travel.

ALEX: Hannah's assistant.

JAMES: Hannah's other assistant.

ERIN: An audience member of the symposium.

RHETT: An audience member who is very open to the
concept of time travel.

JAMIE: An audience member of the symposium.

SIDNEY: An audience member very interested in time travel.

ASHLEY: An audience member who has doubts.

DANI: An audience member dubious of Hannah's claims.

ARABELLA: A woman who is not who she says she is.

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(AT RISE: The stage is set up with just a podium. HANNAH is wrapping up her presentation on the possibilities of time travel.)

HANNAH: To my understanding, at least explained by Dr. Michael, the circle is finite and travelling forward is much easier done than in reverse. If that makes sense. Are there any more questions before I close up today? Well, that just about wraps up everything I wanted to say. Once again, I appreciate your time and attention, and I hope you got what you were looking for out of this symposium. I also appreciate your signing up for our mailing list. Speaking of that, the following people have been chosen at random to win the door prize for signing up, so if I call your name please stay after. Erin Burns, Rhett Davidson, Jamie Coolidge, Sidney Marks, Ashley Erinkson, Arabella Tomisman, and Dani Abrams. If the seven of you could meet me up here on the stage, that would be great.

(BLACKOUT. When the LIGHTS come back on, the podium is gone and there are seven chairs on stage. The SEVEN called out are milling around as HANNAH walks back on.)

HANNAH: I'm sorry about the wait. I just wanted to make sure the crowd was gone before I spoke with you.

RHETT: Why? I thought this was just a door prize.

HANNAH: Are any of you in a hurry? I would ask for a few minutes of your time.

ASHLEY: What's this about?

HANNAH: If you give me a moment, I will explain it all. Do you all have a few minutes? I don't want anyone fidgeting because a ride is waiting for them or anything. Anyone?

(THEY all shake their heads no.)

DANI: I have to be at work in an hour. Will this take long?

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HANNAH: Just a few minutes.

DANI: Then I should be fine.

HANNAH: (*Looking at the GROUP.*) OK. I'm going to need you to promise me that you will hear me out, without questions... at least for a few minutes.

RHETT: That sounds like a weird intro for a door prize.

(During this scene ARABELLA has been trying to be invisible but HANNAH has been making eye contact with each person.)

HANNAH: But before we start... (*To ARABELLA.*) What's your name?

ARABELLA: I'm Arabella.

HANNAH: Arabella Tomisman?

ARABELLA: Yes.

HANNAH: No, you're not.

ARABELLA: (*Nervous.*) I am! I'm...

HANNAH: (*Pulling out her phone and talking.*) I need you in here.

ARABELLA: No! I want to stay!

HANNAH: I'm sorry, but you can't stay.

(JAMES and ALEX enter.)

JAMES: You need us?

HANNAH: This one. (*Indicates ARABELLA.*)

JAMES: (*Surprised.*) Whoa...

HANNAH: I know. Take her out.

JAMES: Right.

ARABELLA: Why do I have to leave?

ALEX: This way please.

ARABELLA: No! I want to stay!

ALEX: (*Grabbing HER.*) This way please.

ARABELLA: (*Pulling away.*) Don't touch me!

ALEX: Then stop fighting me!

ARABELLA: I just want to hear what you have to say! I've tried to sign up for every single lecture you have given in the month, but you never let me in! Why? What are you hiding?

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ALEX: Do you want us to remove her by force?

ARABELLA: *(Frantic.)* That's why I had to give a fake name!
I'm sorry! I'll tell you who I am if you let me just hear what
you have to say!

(ALEX escorts ARABELLA out.)

JAMES: Do you want us to hold on to her?

HANNAH: Please. *(To the rest.)* I'm sorry. This will just take
a moment.

ARABELLA: *(From off stage.)* Please! *(SHE has been
removed.)*

RHETT: What was that about?

HANNAH: Arabella Tomisman is not her name.

JAMIE: How do you know that?

SIDNEY: Who is she?

HANNAH: Everyone, just calm down. I can explain.

JAMIE: How did you know that isn't her name?

HANNAH: I can explain it all.

DANI: Let her speak.

HANNAH: Thank you. The distraction was unfortunate, but it
doesn't change my message.

JAMIE: That being?

HANNAH: *(Pause.)* That time travel is real.

(A couple of people laugh.)

ASHLEY: That's it, I'm leaving. *(Starts to leave.)*

HANNAH: Wait! Let me continue!

ERIN: What do you mean it's real? Real in theory?

HANNAH: No. Real in practice.

ASHLEY: *(To ERIN.)* She didn't come off as crazy in the
symposium. Oh well. *(SHE starts to leave again.)*

HANNAH: Please, wait... If you leave, you will most likely be
dead in nine days.

DANI: What?

ASHLEY: Is that a threat?

HANNAH: No. I'm not threatening you at all. It's reality. It's a reality that no one in this room, minus myself... kind of anyways, will live beyond _____. *(The actual date should be nine days from your performance date.)*

(There is a moment of silence.)

HANNAH: I take it that I have your attention.

ERIN: Are you trying to tell us you're from the future?

HANNAH: I know that it sounds crazy, but I am. My name is Hannah Dennison, and I will be born on _____. *(The actual date should be roughly 11 months after your performance.)*

ASHLEY: That's impossible.

RHETT: Well, not really... I mean, if time travel is ever invented, then there could be time travelers at any point in time, right? I've always wondered about that.

SIDNEY: You won't be born until next year. You expect us to believe that?

ASHLEY: Why am I still here?

HANNAH: *(Quickly.)* I'll be born shortly after the invasion. I don't remember life before they came.

DANI: Who are "they"?

HANNAH: "They" are the Spindles. At least that's what we call them. They're from another planet and they will arrive in nine days.

DANI: The Spindles?

HANNAH: That's what we call them. We don't know what they call themselves since they've never tried to communicate with us.

RHETT: You're saying they're from space? But how? Wouldn't we be able to see them by now? You said they're arriving in nine days, right? They'd have to be close enough for us to see them by now, right?

HANNAH: Their technology is way beyond ours and they must have been cloaked or something because they seemed to just appear, almost instantly, in our atmosphere. Once they get here, they don't waste any time.

JAMIE: What do you mean?

End of Freeview

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