

How to Build a Time Machine

By Benet Simon

1)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

LARGE FRAME. Six year-old Johnnie Severn sits on the floor of his 2002 bedroom, toy planes hanging from the ceiling, a toy robot in the corner, and various complex equations on notepaper plastered to the walls. Johnnie listens to a Discman and fiddles with a screwdriver on some project.

CAPTION:

WHEN I WAS SIX, I DECIDED TO INVENT A
TIME MACHINE. I WOULD BUILD ONE ONCE
I HAD THE RESOURCES, THEN SEND IT BACK
TO MYSELF NOW AND SAVE
MYSELF THE TROUBLE.

2)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Johnnie turns around to look behind him.

CAPTION:

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TURN AROUND
AND . . .

3)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Looking over Johnnie's shoulder to an empty space beside his bed.

F/X:

NO TIME MACHINE!

4)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Eight year-old Johnnie sits at a desk in his bedroom, pensive as he looks up from assembling a model of a complex molecule helix.

CAPTION:

WHEN I WAS EIGHT, I REALISED THAT THE REASON THIS HADN'T WORKED BEFORE WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO BUILD A TIME MACHINE BACK THEN. ONCE I DID, PERHAPS RIGHT NOW, MY PLAN WOULD WORK RIGHT AWAY.

5)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Johnnie turns around to look behind him.

CAPTION:

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TURN AROUND AND . . .

PAGE TWO

1)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Looking over Johnnie's shoulder, an empty space beside his bed.

F/X:

STILL NO TIME MACHINE!

2)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A very serious-looking Johnnie, eleven years old and wearing mirrored lab goggles and thick plastic gloves, holds a terrified cat, CHARIMAN MEOW, towards a

WORD I SAID. BUT I'D DONE MY
RESEARCH, AND JUST BEFORE THE
JURY ADJOURNED . . .

JURER (THOUGHT BUBBLE): KID'S LYING.

JURER #2 (THOUGHT BUBBLE): TOTALLY LYING.

JURER #3 (THOUGHT BUBBLE): DID I LEAVE THE OVEN ON?

PAGE THREE

1)

INT. COURTOOM - DAY

The outline of an alarmed Chairman Meow begins to materialise, hovering in the air in the middle of the courtroom. Everyone in the courtroom looks astonished apart from Johnnie, who grins.

2)

INT. COURTOOM - DAY

LARGE FRAME

Chairman Meow explodes, showering blood and guts all over the horrified jury, the JUDGE, the LEGAL TEAMS and the front two rows of everyone attending the trial. They all look shocked and horrified, except for Johnnie, who scratches his chin, wide eyed with excitement.

JOHNNIE: FASCINATING!

F/X: S'PLOSION!!!!

5)

INT. GOVERNMENT LAB/ AIRCRAFT HANGAR - DAY

LARGE FRAME

The hangar is filled with Johnnie's inventions: a giant death ray, a futuristic-looking tank, cyborg soldiers doing impossible physical feats like crushing cars with their hands and leaping over the tank, and what looks like a one-man spaceship with really big guns on the side.

CAPTION:

I BUILT DEATH RAYS, TANKS, SUPER SOLDIERS AND SPACE SHIPS, BUT BY MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY I COULD STILL ONLY SEND THINGS FORWARD IN TIME (ALBEIT SAFELY NOW). THE ARMY WAS NOT UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS.

PAGE FOUR

1)

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Terrorists in turbans and middle Eastern garb sit around a fire, their rifles leant against the cave walls.

CAPTION:

IF YOU KNEW WHERE YOUR ENEMY WAS *GOING* TO BE, IT WAS PRETTY HANDY.

2)

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Heavily armed American soldiers begin to materialise at the back of the cave, unseen by the oblivious terrorists.

3)

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Twenty-three year-old Johnnie charges about delighted and half naked in his Darth Vader head underpants, waving his hands in the air as he runs through the windowless facility hallway with a sheet of paper squiggled with equations, and a sketch of something like a high-tech Easter egg. Shocked SCIENTISTS and SOLDIERS gawp at him.

CAPTION:

FINALLY, AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF TWENTY-THREE, I CRACKED IT.

4)

INT. LAB - DAY

The DEVICE from the sketch, fully realised and about the size of a very large Easter egg, sits on a workbench, looking sciencey. Beside it, its proud inventor, Johnnie. Johnnie wears a lab coat and looks very professional and grown-up, fists on his waist as he strikes a heroic pose, screwdriver in one hand. This is only slightly undermined by the fact that he wears monster feet slippers.

Much older scientists and military top brass, including the General, stand around the invention clapping and saluting.

F/X:

TIME MACHINE!

5)

INT. LAB - NIGHT

In a nightcap and banana motif pyjamas, Johnnie pokes his head and torso around the door of the dark laboratory - it's empty. The time machine sits where he left it.

4)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Six year-old Johnnie looks right at us and shrugs.

5)

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Johnnie goes back to fiddling with a screwdriver on some project.