

Nina Side

~~fiction stories about time travel, the moral is quite clear. When you go back in time, if you so much as step on an ant, the course of history will change drastically. Don't try to change history. It's dangerous. (Pause) In my experience, trying to change history isn't really dangerous. It's just a waste of time—a futile, frustrating exercise where you exert yourself and use up boundless energies and—and everything stays exactly the same. With small technical differences, perhaps. One more dead ant. If you take a razor away from a man who wants to kill himself, he'll still kill himself—he just won't be clean shaven. The will is all that matters. If the will is there—(Pause) I should dwell on the future. Dwelling on the past is hopeless.~~

SCENE NINETEEN

Wallace's dormitory room. Wallace is standing. There is a knock on the door.

WALLACE. Yeah. (Nina walks in.)
NINA. Hey, there.
WALLACE. Sit down.
NINA. What's wrong?
WALLACE. Sit down.
NINA. Okay. (Nina sits on the bed.) What's the matter?
WALLACE. You deserve better.
NINA. Huh?
WALLACE. I'm not good enough for you.
NINA. What are you talking about? You're the best.
WALLACE. I'm the worst. You should hate me.
NINA. Why?
WALLACE. You don't want to know.
NINA. What don't I want to know?
WALLACE. I've been with somebody else.
NINA. (Pause) What?
WALLACE. I was with somebody else.
NINA. (Pause) Who?
WALLACE. Wendy.
NINA. Wendy. (Pause) I think I'm going to be sick. (Nina runs out.)
WALLACE. Nina. (Pause) Women desert. (Wallace picks up a

~~glass. He holds it in his hand, looking at it. He starts to throw it so it will break against the wall. Nina walks in.)~~

~~NINA. Don't you dare break that glass or I'll turn right around and I won't come back. (Wallace stops. He puts the glass on the bed and looks at Nina.)~~
~~WALLACE. You came back. (Pause) You should hate me.~~
~~NINA. I do. But I also happen to love you, and I'm not going to lose you without a fight.~~
~~WALLACE. You came back.~~
~~NINA. Do you want to work through this? I'll tell you right now, it's not going to be easy.~~
~~WALLACE. I know.~~
~~NINA. You betrayed me.~~
~~WALLACE. I know.~~
~~NINA. I know you may have been scared or whatever, but I swear to God, if you ever do this again, both you and her— whoever she is— will be lying on the street, okay?~~
~~WALLACE. Okay. (Pause) You came back.~~
~~NINA. You want to work through this?~~
~~WALLACE. Yes.~~
~~NINA. Okay. Then we will.~~
~~WALLACE. You came back. (Wallace goes to hug Nina. They hug. After a few moments, she breaks from the hug and slaps him, hard, across the face.)~~
~~NINA. Don't you ever do that to me again, understand?~~
~~WALLACE. You came back.~~

SCENE TWENTY

Grandmother's kitchen. Wallace and Grandmother are sitting at the table.

~~GRANDMOTHER. And you really love her?~~
~~WALLACE. I swear. At least, I think I do. I mean, I know I do. And I was running away from her. You know, I was so terrified that she'd leave me, I wanted to leave first so I wouldn't have to deal with the pain. You know, I wanted to get caught with this other girl, Grandma, I had to tell her about it right away. It all made sense when I told her. Too much sense. She said she was going to be sick and walked out of my room. And something in me clicked. Something in me~~