

"Bad Timing"

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"Bad Timing"

by [minipies \(applepiecrust\)](#)

Summary

One Chance. He only had one try to save his whole family. No room for mistakes. No room for distractions. No room for *love*.

Chapter 1

Prologue

Karl ran his hands through his hair. Sweat made its way down his forehead. His heavy breathing indicated he was hyperventilating. How else would he react to knowing he could travel through time?

A Fire In The Past

An accident. That was how he lost his family. He blamed himself for it, enveloped by the guilt. The gas was left on. And in the dead of the night, a fire slowly made its way to his sleeping family members. Karl was the only survivor. But the burn marks on his arms forever haunted him.

Proof

“You’re kidding,” Dream said with a chuckle. The look on Karl’s face could be described as frustrated. He shook his head; regretting his decision to tell his friend about his... situation. “Look, I don’t expect you to believe me. No sane person would. I’m just... warning you. That I’ll be gone for a few days. That I might come back with my family, with them alive,” Karl explained. Dream scoffed. Clay, known as Dream by his closer friends, was Karl’s best friend. He had just learned about Karl’s time-travelling abilities and to be honest, he was a bit skeptical. “Fine, I’ll show you,” Karl said, his facial expression contorting into one of concentration. His hands started glowing purple, flashes of green accompanying it. His feet were hovering centimetres above the ground, and just when Dream was convinced he wasn’t high on drugs, it stopped. Karl collapsed to the ground, exhausted. “What did you see?” asked Dream, rushing to his friend’s side. “I- I saw that.. George is going to burst through the door right now,” Karl clarified, pointing towards the door. That said door burst open just as Karl forced out those words, revealing the boy named George as he barged into the janitor’s closet. George Davidson, top student, head of prefects and head of the Chess Club, was Karl’s friend and Dream’s boyfriend. “I knew you guys would be here. Now come on, we’re going to be late to Math class,” George ushered as he helped Karl up. Right before Dream was dragged away by his boyfriend, he shot Karl a glance. Karl understood that look. He sighed, finally at rest. His best friend believed him.

A Second Chance

Once Karl had learned about his ability, his head was constantly filled with “What if’s”. Yet one possibility intrigued him more than the rest. It was the sole reason he was preparing himself with time-traveling exercises. The sole reason he was mentally preparing himself. Karl was going back in time to save a family. His family. He was going back in time to erase the existence of a fire. An accident which took 4 lives. 4 lives which he was going to get back. Traveling 7 years back in time was not going to be an easy task; the trip would use all of his power, leaving only enough -before it regenerated- to get him back to the present. He couldn’t make a second trip if he wanted to, he would drain all his power and be stuck in the past. He had only one chance not to screw everything up. Yet his head filled with possibilities of living another life in the past as sleep overtook him.

“Are you sure you’ll be safe? How long will it take? You know I can’t come up with excuses for every class, everyday right?” inquired Dream. Karl rested his hand on Dream’s shoulder. “Don’t worry about me, I’m sure I’ll be safe. As for school... just tell the teachers I caught a fever or something,” Karl reassured. “Right,” Dream answered. He wasn’t convinced that Karl would stay safe, but he had to trust his best friend. After-all, he wasn’t the one with time-traveling powers. “I just-“ The bell rang, interrupting Dream’s goodbye. “-just wish you the best of luck. Now I really have to go, don’t want to get detention,” Dream finished. As he started closing the closet’s door, Karl shouted his goodbye. “Thank you for trusting me Dream, and goodbye.” His best friend gave him one last smile before leaving him in the darkness of the janitor’s closet.

Karl sighed, he had never tried to travel such a distance back in time. But it was now or never. He prepared himself; it was too late to back out now. His hands started glowing magenta, flashes of teal flickering about like earlier. Feet hovering above the ground, the air around him started moving irregularly around him, like an aura. Objects started clattering; the whole room vibrating. And with a zap, Karl was transported into the year of 2015.

A Sunny Day

He arrived in an alleyway, head dizzy, and vision clearing up. He had no major injuries, besides his nose bleeding due to the impact. He stifled it with his hand, and quickly rushed out to the street to find a friendly stranger who would lend him a tissue. Upon walking out into the bright sunlight, he bumped into a stranger clad in black. “Hey, watch out- Do you need a tissue for that?” the stranger asked, not waiting for a response and taking out tissues. “Oh uh, thank you! Sorry for being such a nuisance,” Karl replied, taking the tissues and removing his hand. “No no, it’s fine, the name’s Sapnap” gesturing for Karl to shake his hand. “Karl. Is Sapnap a nickname or-“ “Yea.”

Once he had acquainted himself with Sapnap -or as he learned, Nick- he found it hard to part with him. It started out to be temporary, Karl staying at Sapnap’s house with the excuse of being a stranger to the city. Sapnap had a housemate nicknamed Punz, which Karl also came to be friends with. They seemed to be best friends, and Karl only wished he could stay.

“I’ve got to go”

A week passed. Then another. It was only till Karl had 5 days left that he realized he had to leave. He had to break the news to Sapnap.

“But why? I- I don’t understand- Don’t you like staying with us?” Sapnap asked, his face full of hurt. “Yes! Yes, of course I do! It’s just.. family. I’m going to live with my family,” Karl lied, sighing in relief as Sapnap nodded his head slowly. “So are you ever going to come back? To visit us, I mean.” Karl had braced himself for this exact question, yet still couldn’t hold back the tears welling in his eyes as he answered. “Screw it,” he thought. “I know you won’t believe me, but since I have the chance to, I’m going to tell the truth. I’m a *time traveler*. And I traveled back here, 2015, to save my whole family from being burned in a fire.” “I- I believe you,” Sapnap said, unfazed. “You- you do? You don’t think this is a joke or prank? How can you possibly-“ “I just.. know. Now go save your family.”

This wasn’t how Karl had wanted to part with Sapnap; both of them silently crying in the kitchen, illuminated only by the moonlight. As he slowly walked through the door, he looked back and said his last goodbye. “Goodbye, Sapnap. I’m just... sorry. That I couldn’t- Couldn’t have loved you.” “Couldn’t have loved.... You loved me?”

“I still do.”

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