

will/did/is

by  
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Sample pages

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**will/did/is**

Characters: (1w, 1m)

Mindy: 30s, a believer in instinct and the future, to point of obsession.

Fitch : 30s-40s, a time traveler.

Lots of extras, as fellow train passengers, would be very helpful.

Time: Right now. Which is not May 7, 2005.

Place: A train car on Boston's Orange Line subway.

Synopsis: Mindy meets the time traveler for whom she's spent years obsessively waiting. A time-crossed encounter of hearts and minds.

9/3/2012

WILL/DID/IS

Scene: A crowded subway.

At rise: On a crowded Orange Line train, Mindy, sits in a corner with full of bags of produce. She wears a tinfoil hat and, unlike the other passengers, keeps looking at all the other riders, watching for something or someone. On first (or second) glance, she might seem a bit unbalanced.

ANNOUNCER

(chime) Tufts Medical Center

Passengers get on and off the train. One of the new passengers pulls a small suitcase with wheels and holds bloody gauze and an ice pack to his head. He wears a tinfoil hat much like Mindy's. There is a large black bar code tattooed across his forehead. This is Fitch.

At the sight of Fitch, Mindy gasps in amazement. She composes herself and then walks across the car, over to Fitch. She's shaking with excitement.

MINDY

Hi.

FITCH

(flinching)

What? Oh. Hello. Hello. Are you here for the convention, too?

MINDY

Are... Are you serious?

FITCH

I'm completely lost. I knew conditions would be primitive, but I thought the network would already be in place.

MINDY

Oh. My. God.

FITCH

Do you have any idea how to get there?

MINDY

I can't believe this.

FITCH

I know. It's crazy. How do they get anywhere? How do they get anything done?

MINDY

You're from the future.

FITCH

In a matter of speaking. (beat) Aren't you?

MINDY

No.

FITCH

Oh, Jeez. Sorry. My mistake. I don't mean to bother you. You aren't going to hit me, are you?

MINDY

Of course not. (points to his head) What happened?

FITCH

Oh, this? I attempted to purchase some food and when it came time to pay, I assumed my implant would not be recognized, so I merely presented myself (points to the bar code on his forehead) for scanning. The shopkeeper's reaction was not what I had expected.

MINDY

Sorry about that.

FITCH

And then, at the hospital, the doctor repaired the wound with a needle and thread. A NEEDLE AND THREAD! And they expected me to read all kinds of text, completely unassisted. Page after page of little type, on paper. Paper! (whispers) I might try to bring it back as an artifact.

MINDY

Wow. Oh, wow, wow, oh, wow.

FITCH

So you're from now?

MINDY

I am. Welcome. Sorry for the hassle so far.

FITCH

And what inspired your hat?

MINDY

I thought I should protect myself from cell phone radiation.

FITCH

Very wise. I was shocked to measure the waves they've got bouncing around. Don't they know it causes cancer? And stupidity?

MINDY

Some of us have figured it out.

FITCH

If I'd known, I would have brought my helmet. This will have to do for now.

MINDY

We also figured it might be noticeable to the time travelers.

FITCH

So you know.

MINDY

I feel like I've been waiting for you my whole life.

FITCH

Really?

MINDY

When no one showed for the convention, I knew it was a mistake. It had to be.

FITCH

No one showed?

MINDY

Some people said that just proved time travel can't exist. This was supposed to be the one and only time traveler's convention--you only need one, after all. Everyone just comes back to the appointed time.

FITCH

Wait. Hold on. Back up. What do you mean? Isn't it today?

MINDY

The convention was in 2005.

FITCH

Yes, I know.

MINDY

May 7, 2005.

FITCH

And it is now...

MINDY

June 2012.

FITCH

Son of a bitch. Oh, you have got to be kidding me. Those bastards. They coded it wrong on purpose.

MINDY

Coded it?

FITCH

In the Wikiverse. To keep people from attending. Time travel is possible, highly discouraged. I am an idiot. What have I done?

Silence as Fitch seethes at himself.

MINDY

I'm Mindy. Nice to meet you.

FITCH

Fitch. Abercrombie Fitch.

MINDY

You're named after a store?

FITCH

Isn't everyone?

MINDY

No.

FITCH

Oh, interesting. My parents wanted to get me a leg up on cool manliness. They were very brand conscious.

MINDY

I was named after a character on a TV show. Well, actually I changed it to Mindy myself. I started as Susan.

FITCH

One chance for glory, and I foul it up.

MINDY

But you didn't. You're here.

FITCH

The convention must have been a horrible disappointment.

MINDY

Most people never believed anyway. Just figured it was a big MIT joke. But a few of us really got it. We knew there had to be a grand future out there, with time travel and space ships and a world full of happiness.

FITCH

I don't know whether that's exactly true.

MINDY

So we waited for you. Faithfully.

FITCH

There are more of you on this welcoming committee?

MINDY

Not anymore... There were a dozen of us. We worried the travelers might have gotten lost. Boston is notoriously confusing to outsiders.

FITCH

Still has the same reputation, even in my time.

MINDY

We split up the city. Some people took the subway lines, others watched the airport, the MIT campus. I had the orange line. My fiance had the red line.

FITCH

Oh. I see. You, ah, you're engaged.

MINDY

Not anymore. He ran off with the blue line woman. I don't ride those lines anymore. Just the Orange. All day. Every day. Most of the night, too. Waiting for you.

FITCH

That's dedication.

MINDY

My doctors think there's something wrong with me.

FITCH

From what I've seen, I wouldn't put much faith in what you people call "medicine."

MINDY

My parents, too.

FITCH

Well, I guess you showed them.

MINDY

And my friends.

FITCH

The world is full of doubters. In that way the future isn't much different. No one thought I would, or could, do it, either.

MINDY

No one believes.

FITCH

Of course, apparently they were right.

MINDY

They weren't. You're here, right now.

FITCH

But I wasn't at the convention.

MINDY

May 7, 2005. Just reset the date on your machine and you can go. Get off at Kendall Square, on the red line.

FITCH

Except I can't.

MINDY

But you can.

FITCH

Apparently I didn't. No one showed, which means I didn't do it. Which means I can't do it. Ever.

Mindy sits down hard in an empty seat.

MINDY

So you'll never appear there?

FITCH

Exactly.

MINDY

And I'll always end up waiting and waiting and waiting. And losing Matthew, and my job, and moving back home with my parents and buying cheap, ready-to-spoil produce at Haymarket?

FITCH

I think so.

MINDY

That's not fair. Not fair! Not Fair! Not Fair! NOT FAIR!  
NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR!

She throws down her tin foil hat and stomps on it.

FITCH

Shhh. Shhhh. It's okay. You'll be all right. Calm down. It's all right.

MINDY

All right? All right? How is it all right? I've ruined my life. And now I can't get it back. I was right all along, and it doesn't matter.

FITCH

But now you can stop waiting.

MINDY

It was all supposed to be temporary. Someone would show up at the conference, and my whole timeline would change. Be completely erased. This was just supposed to be a placeholder time in my life.

FITCH

I'm sorry.

Fitch picks her tinfoil hat off the ground and carefully straightens it out and gently puts it back on her head.

FITCH (CONT'D)

You really should wear this.

MINDY

You'll have to come with me. We'll start with my parents. They live in Jamaica Plain, just one more stop, at Stony Brook. Just get off with me and tell them everything.

FITCH

I'd like to.

MINDY

Please help me.

FITCH

I'm not sure it's a great idea. For one thing, (points at the bandage on his head) most people in this present time period are unequipped to deal with time travel. They're likely to lock me up, or pump me full of drugs.

MINDY

You can tell them things that are about to happen.

FITCH

My knowledge of your era is obviously faulty. Otherwise I wouldn't have missed the conference. Without the network... I'm used to having knowledge accessible whenever I need it. I haven't actually memorized things like dates, events, maps.

MINDY

So you don't know who will be the next president.