

COUCH POTATO

Josh sits on his couch watching television and eating a large bowl of chips. As he flips through the channels, he drops one on the floor, and looks down at it. He looks over his shoulder and swiftly picks it up to eat it. Joshua enters and hurries by, not noticing Josh. He is looking for his coat.

JOSHUA:

Where the hell are you?

JOSH:

Hey, Josh, you need to go to the store.

JOSHUA:

(shocked)

Oh my god! Who the hell are you?

Joshua runs behind his desk and grabs a fly swatter off of it, meekly extending it to defend himself.

JOSH:

What are you doing?

JOSHUA:

Who the hell are you and why are you in my apartment?

JOSH:

Oh, sorry I didn't even introduce myself. Um, I'm you.

JOSHUA:

...What?

JOSH:

By the way, uh, you're out of chips.

JOSHUA:

What the hell are you talking about? Get out of my house before I call the cops.

JOSH:

I mean, go ahead. You know you never get any service in here anyway.

JOSHUA:

Wait how did y-

JOSH:

Hey do you mind changing the channel for me bud? I think I lost the remote.

Josh props his feet up to make himself more comfortable.

JOSHUA:

NO! I'm not doing that! Now who are you? And get your FEET off of my coffee table!

JOSH:

I already told you. I'm you... from the future.

JOSHUA:

You're me?

JOSH:

Of course.

JOSHUA:

You look nothing like me.

JOSH:

Thank god. The good news is, we age like wine. Do you have any more snacks? I'm starving.

Josh wanders around the apartment in search of more snacks.

JOSHUA:

Alright, then prove it.

JOSH:

Prove what?

JOSHUA:

That you really are me.

JOSH:

How the hell do you expect me to do that?

JOSHUA:

Y'know like, uh, what's my favorite color?

JOSH:

Green.

JOSHUA:

Wrong! I'll have you know that my favorite color's chartreuse.

JOSH:

That's the most pretentious color you could've picked which is why I changed it to green.

JOSHUA:

I'm using my neighbor's phone.

JOSH:

Wait, wait! Alright, you remember in fourth grade when we had that crush on Reagan Carmichael? And you tried to tell her you liked her at recess one day and then she kicked you in the nuts and you threw up behind the slide?

Joshua covers his mouth with amazement.

JOSH:

Glad we got over that. She was a *real* keeper.

Josh plops down onto the couch, happy with himself.

JOSHUA:

I've never told anyone that. How did you...

JOSH:

Are we really going to go through this again?

Joshua lowers the fly swatter and places it back on the desk. He approaches Josh slowly, and begins to notice some similarities.

JOSHUA:

You are me...

JOSH:

Ah, I think he's on to something.

*Joshua and Josh begin to do a mirror routine,
seemingly by coincidence.*

JOSH:

How are you doing that?

JOSHUA:

How are YOU doing that? ...geez you really let
yourself go.

JOSH:

Shut up!

JOSHUA:

Wait, wait, wait so are you here to tell me that I
invented time travel?!

JOSH:

(laughing)

Slow down there McFLY. You and I both know that we're
not smart enough for that. There's a time travel app
on the new iPhone.

JOSHUA:

I thought time travelers weren't supposed to change
anything.

*Joshua points to the empty bowl of chips on the
couch.*

JOSH:

Well technically you're not-

JOSHUA:

Okay, then do you mind explaining to me what the
hell's going on?

JOSH:

Sit down.

Joshua hesitantly sits down on the couch. Josh looms over him, sizing him up.

JOSH:

Exactly five years from today everyone you know is going to die. On November 4, 2029 North Korea unleashed 12 genetically enhanced monkeys on D.C. The casualties were in the thousands.

JOSHUA:

Oh my god..

JOSH:

It didn't take long for NATO and the rest of the world to get involved. China and Russia allied with North Korea, and before we knew it the third world war had begun. Only this time nobody wins...

JOSHUA:

What do you mean nobody wins?

JOSH:

It was a bloodbath. No one had ever seen anything like it. It was like something out of a Quentin Tarentino directed M. Night Shyamalan film. So I came back because I knew that you were the only one who could stop it.

JOSHUA:

(standing)

Wait, I don't understand. What does all of that have to do with me? I'm just a guy. I can't prevent a world war. I can't even keep a job, I've never had a girlfriend, my cat can't figure out how to use a litter box, I have some...questionable browser history. I mean, what do you expect from a guy like that?

JOSH:

...

Josh looks at Joshua with a mischievous grin as he tries to contain his laughter.

JOSHUA:

(regrettably)
You're bullshitting me...

JOSH:

(laughing)
You were so serious. "What do you expect from a guy like that," priceless. How do you fall for genetically enhanced monkeys? Come on you're better than that.

JOSHUA:

Why are you such an asshole?

JOSH:

You tell me.

JOSHUA:

Will you please just tell me why you're here? You've already made me late for work.

JOSH:

Technically you're not really late. Time's relative Josh.

JOSHUA:

(exasperatedly)
Whatever! Just tell me what it is.

JOSH:

Are you sure.

JOSHUA:

Yes!

JOSH:

You're not going to like it.

JOSHUA:

I SWEAR IF YOU DON'T TELL ME I'M GOING T-

JOSH:

I need five dollars.

(SILENCE)

JOSHUA:

What?

JOSH:

Time is kinda of the essence Josh. I've got a pizza waiting on me.

JOSHUA:

Let me get this straight. You're a time traveler.

JOSH:

Yup.

JOSHUA:

You claim to be me.

JOSH:

I am you.

JOSHUA:

And you ignore every law of time travel for five dollars?

JOSH:

Well when you say it like that it sounds all bad. I like to think of it as a high risk, high reward gamble.

Joshua looks at Josh in disbelief and begins pacing back and forth.

JOSHUA:

What is wrong with you? This is bad. This is very bad. Why are you so calm right now? Do you not realize how bad this is?

JOSH:

Oh stop over reacting will you? Besides I have something to tell you. Come here.

Josh plops back down on the couch and flips through the channels again. He reaches for some chips before he notices that they're gone. Joshua marches over and snatches the remote away from him.

JOSHUA:

No! This is your problem. All you do is sit around watching t.v. and eating crap all day long. You don't care about anyone but yourself. I could never be someone like you.

JOSH:

Someone like me? How much deeper in denial can you get. This is it baby. I am your future.

JOSHUA:

Shut up.

JOSH:

Nah, let's talk about you Joshua. You're still working on that novel I bet, right? Or are you still "waiting for inspiration"?

JOSHUA:

What do you know about it anyway huh? I am working on it. I just have to wait for it all to fall into place.

JOSH:

You may be able to fool everybody else, but you can't lie to me, Josh. You're all talk.

JOSHUA:

And what are you? You act like you know so much about me. But you're just some bum that can't even afford to buy his own pizza. It's not my fault. You don't know shit about me.

JOSH:

You know what I say to myself every morning when I wake up? I've got time. And no matter what it was: writing that novel, being more social, or god forbid talking to a girl, I would just put it off because "I'm young, I got time." So I went on just doing the nine to five, putting off everything in my life because "I got time, I'll get it together." For eight years I sat on this couch and told myself I had time. And now here I am, a bum that can't even afford to buy his own pizza.

JOSHUA:

Why didn't you just do something?

JOSH:

I tried to I-

JOSHUA:

...

JOSH:

I was scared.

JOSHUA:

But what are you so afraid of? There's no reason that you can't do any of things you said. And you do have time, it's just relative to what you do with it. It sounds to me like the only thing stopping you is...yourself.

JOSH:

I hate to ruin this breakthrough moment we're having right now, but your fly is down.

JOSHUA:

Give me a break.

Joshua turns to fix himself.

JOSH:

You mean all that?

JOSHUA:

Of course.

They sit in silence for a moment before Josh gets off of the couch .

JOSH:

Look, I should probably get back to the future. It was nice getting to know me a little.

JOSHUA:

Yeah, it was...and you're sure this isn't going to throw the timeline out of whack or anything?

JOSH:

I am ninety percent sure. Unless this doesn't operate on multiverse theory. In which case we might be screwed. They mentioned it in the terms & conditions, but who's reading all that?

JOSHUA:

Y'know what, I can't even get mad at that.

JOSH:

Well, I guess I'm off.

Josh goes to take a stage right exit.

JOSHUA:

Hey wait. Here.

Joshua pulls five dollars out of his wallet and offers it to Josh. Josh walks over and takes it.

JOSH:

Thanks.

JOSHUA:

See you next time.

Curtain