

A STITCH IN TIME

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FADE IN:

EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS (1804) - DAY

ALEXANDER HAMILTON (47), former Secretary of the Treasury, and AARON BURR (48), Vice President of the United States, stand twenty paces apart. Bitter political and personal enemies, they prepare for a historic duel.

SUPER: Weehawken, New Jersey - July 11, 1804

Hamilton is blonde, blue-eyed, movie star handsome - just look at the ten dollar bill.

HAMILTON'S SECOND hands him a pistol.

HAMILTON

History shall note: I act solely
to protect my legacy - with honor
and dignity.

(beat)

Kindly ask the "Vice" President to
remain on his hind legs so we may
proceed.

Burr has dark hair and eyes - not bad looking, but a 7 to Hamilton's 10.

BURR'S SECOND hands him a pistol.

BURR

I confess, I am torn.

BURR'S SECOND

Please... reconsider.

BURR

You are right.

(beat)

Venison stew for supper, it is!

Hamilton and Burr examine their pistols as their Seconds depart.

AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE. Glowing blue bullets spray Hamilton and Burr. Weirdly, the two men remain unaffected and unaware.

Back to see three modern female TIME TRAVELERS also outlined in blue light.

They wear white lab coats over contemporary clothes and glowing blue pendants (NULLIFIERS) around their necks.

Lead Time Traveler KATE SELDON (30s) - an idealistic history scholar - glares at her Uzi-toting best friend,

Time Traveler MIYOKO IRWIN (30s) - a snarky MIT engineer and former Marine.

Time Traveler SUMMER RYAN (18), an adorkable physics prodigy, watches with child-like delight.

Kate indignantly grabs Miyoko's gun.

KATE

You use the incredible privilege
of time travel to machine gun
Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr?

MIYOKO

Who wouldn't? Just testing the
limits of our Nullifiers.

Summer holds up the blue Nullifier pendant around her neck.

SUMMER

Which are totally awesome.

HAMILTON AND BURR'S P.O.V. - THEY ARE ALONE

BACK TO SCENE

Kate stares at Hamilton and Burr.

KATE

If only the tenure committee could
see us now.

MIYOKO

But first, they'd need glass
stomachs...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL (THE PRESENT) - DAY

About a dozen skeptical university COLLEAGUES look at Kate on stage - their expressions range from blank to outraged.

MIYOKO (V.O.)

... because their heads are so far
up their asses.

At the back, ASHTON "TONY" DUNSTER LOWELL, IV (30s). He looks just like a modern preppy Alexander Hamilton, except brunette, brown-eyed, and with a small dark mole on his left cheek.

Nearby, giving him the once over, PENELOPE CROCKER (30s), a Harvard JD-MBA.

Kate calmly stands at a podium facing her Colleagues - behind her, a screen of incredibly complex mathematical formulas.

Miyoko and Summer sit in the front row facing Kate. Miyoko gives a dirty look to SMIRKING COLLEAGUES #1 and #2. Summer plays a game on her smart watch.

KATE

Therefore, my team will soon
revolutionize historical
research...

Behind Kate, a slide show of Founding Fathers (Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin) replaces the math.

KATE

... by observing history as it
happens - through time travel.

Miyoko, Summer and the Colleagues all stand.

Only Miyoko and Summer APPLAUD - Colleagues walk out, shaking their heads.

Colleagues #1 and #2 are CHUCKLING and Miyoko trips them as they pass.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. WEEHAUKEN NEW JERSEY (1804) - DAY

Kate surveys the scene.

KATE

This would convince them.

MIYOKO

Yeah, that our "navigation" was
epic fail.

Summer looks around.

SUMMER

This isn't the Constitutional
Convention?

(off Kate's look)

Well, probably a hardware issue.

Miyoko looks insulted.

MIYOKO

I smell algorithmic
miscalculation.

Summer looks insulted. Summer and Miyoko turn towards
Kate.

SUMMER

Or, somebody gave us sketchy
historical data.

Kate ignores them and pulls out what looks like a sparkly
iPhone - a BUTTERFLY EFFECT CALCULATOR.

KATE

Let's focus on entering accurate,
important historical facts into
the Butterfly Effect Calculator.

Miyoko leans towards the Calculator.

MIYOKO

Hamilton is a total hottie.

Kate pulls the Calculator away and speaks into it while
examining Hamilton.

KATE

Revolutionary War hero - first
Secretary of the Treasury --

Hamilton raises his pistol and SHOOTs.

A branch next to Burr SHATTERS. Burr reflexively
flinches and jerks, but is not hit.

MIYOKO

-- and world's worst shot.

The time travelers watch Burr and do not see Hamilton
FLICKER and dissolve for a moment - then, become solid
again.

Burr SHOOTs.

Hamilton collapses. Blood oozes from his side.

SUMMER
OMG. The cute one dies?

INT. RESEARCH LAB (THE PRESENT) - DAY

Functional modern office furniture - computers - a TIME MACHINE that looks like an upscale Star Trek transporter.

Penelope Crocker, seen earlier at Kate's lecture, snoops around.

PENELOPE
Hello. Anyone here?

Penelope picks through a bowl of candy - finds an expensive chocolate - happily eats it and pockets a couple more.

A small dog BARKS O.S., startling Penelope.

She looks down and sees BINGO, a TOY POODLE, wearing a rhinestone collar with heart-shaped ID tag.

PENELOPE
Okay, guard dog, where is everyone? I'm late for my hair appointment.

She sees a BUTTON that says, "Emergency."

EXT. WEEHAUKEN NEW JERSEY (1804) - DAY

Summer and Kate go to Hamilton's side.

SUMMER
I shadowed a vascular surgeon for my 8th grade science project - I could so save him.

Kate looks disapprovingly at Summer and resumes speaking into the Butterfly Effect Calculator - feigning lack of sympathy for Hamilton.

KATE
We can never change history. Our duty is to remain detached and objective.

Miyoko grabs the Calculator.

MIYOKO
Asshole Burr freakin' murdered
Hamilton in cold blood!

Kate tries to get away from Miyoko, but Miyoko follows her.

KATE
Hamilton, on an idealistic mission
--

MIYOKO
-- or, idiotic macho quest --

KATE
-- to save his honor and democracy
--

MIYOKO
-- or off a political rival --

KATE
-- was a quintessential American
patriot --

MIYOKO
-- or alienated, suicidal
immigrant.

Kate looks exasperated.

KATE
On this, we can all agree:
Hamilton was an incredibly
important Founding Father.

MIYOKO
Whose only claim to fame is that
he's on the ten dollar bill.

SUMMER
Wow. History is so much more
confusing than theoretical
physics.

The blue outline around the Time Travelers starts to glow brighter and they disappear.

INT. RESEARCH LAB (THE PRESENT) - DAY

KLAXONS. FLASHING LIGHTS.

Penelope stares at a computer.