

Rare Events Part 1

by

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INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

JAMES (11), DAN (11) and BEN (11) have paper crowns on their heads and party poppers in their hands. They are alone in a well-lit living room, staring at the TV. A digital clock saying '23:59:20' is on the device. On the TV, hundreds of people are partying and jumping up and down, with cans of beer in their hands. They are in a field as a rock band performs on a far away stage lit up by floodlights. The TV PRESENTER with a microphone in her hand talks to the camera. She's at the back of venue, facing away from the MUSICIANS.

PRESENTER

Well as you can tell everyone is really buzzing and rightly so as this is a super rare event mankind won't be seeing again for a VERY long time! That's right the year 2,000 will be coming up in just a few seconds!

JAMES rubs his hands together with enthusiasm.

JAMES

Dan, Do you have any idea how many seconds are in a thousand years?

DAN

No...

JAMES

31 billion, five hundred and thirty six million!

DAN

So?

JAMES

So??? We're about to witness a one in 31 billion, five hundred and thirty six million event!

DAN

So?

JAMES

You're still not impressed? You're mad!

BEN

I'm with Dan on this one. Who cares?

JAMES

I care! This is going to be AMAZING!

BEN
I disagree.

DAN
I disagree, too. Why not just
celebrate like a normal person?

JAMES
What do you mean?

DAN
Do what the people are doing on TV.
Jump up and down a bit.

JAMES
Ok...

JAMES starts jumping. Then so does DAN and BEN.

JAMES
This is ok, I suppose...

The digital clock says 23:59:50. The PRESENTER does a
countdown as JAMES stares, now standing still. DAN stands
behind JAMES but the former gets ignored.

PRESENTER
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5...

JAMES
This is SO exciting.

PRESENTER
2, 1...

DAN drops the poppers and puts his hands over JAMES'S eyes,
just before the very start of the new millennium.

PRESENTER
Party time!!! Woooo!

Everyone on TV jumps up and down super crazily. Beer goes
everywhere. DAN lets JAMES see again. JAMES pauses for a few
seconds, dumbfounded. He then starts to cry.

BEN
Are you ok James??

JAMES
No I'm not ok! What the hell have you
done??

DAN
I'm sorry?

JAMES

You will be sorry! That's all I've been looking forward to all this time! That one damn second!

(23 years later)

INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bottles of wine and glasses are on a table, along with a small piece of paper. The sofas are ignored, as is the off TV. DAN (35), BEN (35) and JAMES (35) stand facing each other. The former wears a digital watch.

DAN

Hello Ben, and to a lesser extent James! It's time to tell you why I've invited you here... I'm having a huge party and it starts right now. As you're here James, the party starts small.

JAMES

What are you celebrating?

DAN

See that piece of paper on the table?

JAMES

Yes?

DAN

It's a winning lottery ticket...

JAMES and BEN put their hands on the sides of their faces in shock.

BEN

No way...

DAN

I'm being completely serious...

JAMES'S face darkens.

JAMES

You won the lottery? What are the odds?

DAN

Right...

JAMES

That kind of thing is a less than one in a million event...

DAN

Right.

JAMES

It's not as rare as the first second of a millennium, though. Is it? Dan?

DAN

I'm sorry?

JAMES walks to the table and picks the paper up.

BEN

What are you doing, James?

JAMES

Dan, I'm going to eat your lottery ticket. But you know what? Winning the lottery is far more common than the first second of a thousand years, so I'm going to crash your new car too.

DAN

James, I'm warning you.

JAMES eats the ticket.

BEN

NO!!!

DAN sighs.

DAN

Do you REALLY think I'd trust you with a small piece of paper, James? You fool, you've just eaten a photocopied version. That I sneezed on.

JAMES

Eh?

DAN

You've lost.

JAMES

I can still crash your car again, though...

DAN

Can you? It's just that the police are starting to get embarrassed that you've crashed my car what is it five times now? I've lost count.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
They won't let you get away with it
again.

JAMES
You have to let me crash something...

BEN
As you're not wanted here, you've
crashed the party...

DAN
Great joke, Ben.

BEN
Thank you. But crashing the party
alone won't be enough for him. He
needs to crash something big.

JAMES
I can't crash your HOUSE, obviously.
Help me brainstorm, Ben.

BEN
I'm not going to help you brainstorm.
You've really held a grudge against
Dan since you were 11 years old?

JAMES
Yes.

BEN
Let it go.

JAMES
No.

DAN looks at his digital watch.

DAN
Well the time is coming up to twelve
thirty four... and fifty six seconds.

JAMES
Let me see.

DAN
No.

JAMES
I'm warning you. Let me see.

DAN
For the last time no!

JAMES

You can't let me have ANY fun can you? What kind of a party is this?

BEN

Is it worse than the year 2,000 party?

JAMES

No, nothing's that bad, but still!

DAN fakes a smile.

DAN

James, James, James. Jamesey. I have something to tell you.

JAMES

What?

DAN

Do you know how many hours it's been since that day in the year 2,000?

JAMES

How many?

DAN

Exactly 123 million, 456 thousand and 789 hours. I wanted to surprise you. Bury the hatchet.

JAMES

That's quite a good number I suppose.
..

DAN

Yes. I bet your walking on air.

JAMES

Sure am.

DAN

Good. Now walk home.

JAMES nods his head and leaves the room. DAN sighs with relief.

DAN

I've been recording this conversation on my mobile phone and now I'm calling a mental home. He's going away for a long time.