

The Ascension of Maggie Martinez

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version 3.1

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1 INT. SEAN AND MAGGIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MAGGIE MARTINEZ, late 20s, cute Latina, draws little pictures on BILLS marked "PAST DUE." She sketches herself wearing a Mayan headdress. She pauses, notices the CLOCK, grabs her KEYS and heads for the door.

2 INT. MAGGIE'S CAR - DAY

Maggie drives her beat-up 1999 Chevy, rocking her body to Central American music filled with flutes and percussion. She sees a WOMAN WITH A SIGN that reads: "TOMORROW IS TOO LATE! REPENT TODAY!" She gives the woman a thumbs-up.

MAGGIE

Yeah! You tell 'em!

3 EXT. 94 CENT STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Maggie's car pulls into a parking space. She gets out and enters the store.

4 INT. 94 CENT STORE - DAY

Maggie walks up to the manager, HILDA, a 45-year-old Armenian woman.

MAGGIE

Hey Hilda, got my check?

HILDA

You can pick it up when you come to work at noon.

MAGGIE

But I need it *now*.

HILDA

That's two hours from now. It's not like the world's gonna end.

MAGGIE

Hah! You are so in the dark.

HILDA

Okay, world's gonna end. What do you need money for?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Stuff. Just a few important things.

Hilda sighs, then reaches into the REGISTER and gives Maggie a \$20 bill.

HILDA

Checks aren't in yet. Here's a \$20.
See you at noon.

MAGGIE

No. The world *ends* at 11:11 this morning. That's the whole point.

HILDA

You're not coming to work at noon?

MAGGIE

The Mayans predicted it. Every *enlightened* person knows about it. Don't you *read*?

Maggie heads out the door.

HILDA

Hey! Don't leave me short-handed again, Maggie!

MAGGIE

It doesn't matter.

HILDA

It matters! *It matters!*

Maggie strides across the parking lot toward her car.

5 EXT. LATINO HERB STORE - DAY

Maggie exits a Latino Herb Store, smiling, with a BAG OF GOODIES.

6 EXT. STREET - TRAFFIC LIGHT - DAY

Maggie is stopped at a traffic light. She glances at an OLD WOMAN walking with a walker up the steps of the HACIENDA HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, where some RESIDENTS are sitting on the front porch.

MAGGIE

Man, bein' old must suck.

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EXT. DAVID'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - CARPORT - DAY

Maggie drives up to the APARTMENT COMPLEX of her brother, DAVID, 23, who is working on his BROKEN MOTORCYCLE under the CARPORT. He looks up from his work.

DAVID

Hey, Sis! What brings you here?

MAGGIE

Doing good works, my brother.

DAVID

Yeah, well, if you could get this bike to work, that would be good.

MAGGIE

I can help you.

DAVID

Thanks, Sis, but I know you don't know anything about bikes.

MAGGIE

I won't be needing my car, so I'm giving it to you.

DAVID

You're giving me your car? Are you getting a new--? Oh, no, wait a minute. Is this that 2012 thing?

MAGGIE

The Ascension.

DAVID

Sis, I can't take your car.

MAGGIE

I won't need it. I'm going to a higher calling.

DAVID

Are you sure?

MAGGIE

(laughs)

Take the car. It's just a material possession. But I want you to be happy, so....

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Okay. I think you're crazy, but okay.

MAGGIE

You of little faith.

DAVID

Can I at least give you a ride home?

MAGGIE

Sure.

They get in the car, with David at the wheel.

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INT. MAGGIE'S CAR - DAY

Maggie hands David the KEYS.

DAVID

Well, Carla will be delighted about the car. She's going with me to spend Christmas in Tahoe with mom and dad, and she was not happy about getting up there on the bike. So...what happens today at...?

MAGGIE

11:11 A.M.

DAVID

Yeah, what happens, supposedly?

MAGGIE

The world ends.

DAVID

They said that about the year 2000, Y2K: computers would crash, banks would fail. Nothing.

MAGGIE

Those were scientists. This is Mayans.

DAVID

(skeptical)

They knew more?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

They discovered Pluto thousands of years ago, and scientists only discovered it in 1930.

DAVID

Pluto's not a planet anymore.

MAGGIE

They invented zero.

DAVID

(not impressed)

Impressive.

MAGGIE

There's science behind it too: precision of planets, fractal self-similarity, space-time harmonies. It's all there on the Internet, but I can't explain it all to you because--

DAVID

You don't have time.

MAGGIE

No, I don't.

(realizing his joke, smiles)

Clever.

They arrive at her apartment.

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EXT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - DAY

David pulls the car into a parking space.

MAGGIE

Thanks for the ride.

DAVID

Thanks for the car.

Maggie gets out of the car. The look on David's face says "poor crazy sister."

10 INT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Maggie enters the kitchen. SKETCHES of "Maggie the Mayan" are stuck on the FRIDGE with little MAYAN GODDESS HEAD MAGNETS. The CALENDAR on the fridge shows the year 2012, the month of December, with the days X'd off through December 20. She takes a pen and puts an "X" through December 21.

MAGGIE
(to herself)
Where the heck are you, Sean?

She heads for the bedroom with her BAG OF GOODIES.

11 INT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

A modest bedroom, adorned with several MAYAN GOD AND GODDESS STATUES, and MAYAN CALENDARS of various sizes. Maggie digs some SCENTED CANDLES out of her BAG OF GOODIES and carefully places them throughout the room.

We hear the apartment door open and close. A moment later Maggie's boyfriend SEAN enters the bedroom, munching a CANDY BAR. He's 24, six feet tall, big-boned but not fat, with his hair pulled back into a ponytail.

MAGGIE
Where've you been?

SEAN
The corner store. Don't worry, I wouldn't miss the big event.

He takes out a bunch of ROSES from behind his back and proudly presents them to Maggie.

MAGGIE
You should have brought lilies, or plumeria.

SEAN
Plumelia?

MAGGIE
Plumeria. It's a sacred flower for us Mayans.

SEAN
They just had roses.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Okay. Spread 'em around the bed.

Sean throws the flower petals around the bed carelessly.

SEAN

What time do we celebrate?

MAGGIE

It's not a celebration. The
Ascension happens at 11:11.

SEAN

Well, I'm not sure I believe in
this...

Maggie gives him a stern look.

SEAN

...as strongly as you do, but it
ought to be fun.

MAGGIE

It's not supposed to be fun. This
is very serious to us Mayans.

SEAN

Yeah, I know. I meant...that it
would be special.

MAGGIE

It is. Very special.

Maggie grabs a beautiful MAYAN CEREMONIAL DRESS and changes
into it.

SEAN

Wow. You look beautiful.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

Maggie then puts a colorful foot-tall MAYAN HEADDRESS on her
head. It looks like a wicker basket with feathers. With
great effort, Sean refrains from laughing.

She presents Sean with "Mayan shorts" made from palm leaves.
They look as if a child made them.

MAGGIE

I made them myself.

SEAN
(reluctantly)
Ooo-kay.

Sean starts to pull back the covers and get in bed.

MAGGIE
No!

SEAN
What? I thought we were going to do
this in bed.

MAGGIE
We're going to do it on the bed. We
have to make the transition from a
place of order.

Maggie's headdress falls off when she lies down. She tries
to reseat it a couple of times, but it keeps falling off and
she gives up, reverently placing it on the floor.

They await the End of the World.

The DIGITAL CLOCK reads 11:03. Sean starts to caress
Maggie's leg.

MAGGIE
No. Not now.

SEAN
Not now? If not now, when?

MAGGIE
I want this to be a spiritual
moment.

SEAN
What could be more spiritual at the
end of the world than two people
scr--. I mean, showing their love
for each other by sensual means?

MAGGIE
What if we get interrupted by the
Ascension?

SEAN
What if we do?

MAGGIE
I want to savor the moment of
rapture.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

We've got 8 minutes. We can bang off a quickie, then savor the moment of Rapture.

He starts to caress her breast. She stops him.

MAGGIE

No. I want to be gazing deeply into each other's eyes.

SEAN

I can do that at the same time.
(gestures connecting
eye-to-eye)
"Gazing."

He moves to kiss her. She stops him.

MAGGIE

Please! Just hold me, and look into my soul.

SEAN

(reluctantly giving up)
Okay.

They wait.... The clock now reads 11:15.

SEAN

How precise is this Mayan calendar thing?

MAGGIE

Very precise. Be patient.

SEAN

They're late.

MAGGIE

Let's give them until noon.

SEAN

And then, we can...?

MAGGIE

Then we can gaze into each other's souls until the End.
(glancing at the clock)
Are we on Daylight Savings Time?

12 INT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

The clock now reads 12:18.

SEAN

I'm hungry.

MAGGIE

You should've had more than just a candy bar for breakfast.

SEAN

You said we'd be done at 11:11. Are you sure the Mayans got it right?

MAGGIE

I trust the Mayans.

SEAN

Well, I trusted you. But it's after noon, and I'm hungry.

MAGGIE

Maybe they were delayed.

SEAN

Who's delayed? By whom?

MAGGIE

Maybe The End comes because of aliens, and they've been delayed.

SEAN

What? Traffic was bad in the Milky Way? I'm getting up to have a bowl of cereal.

He moves to get up. Maggie grabs him by the shoulder.

MAGGIE

No! You have to be here when the Rapture happens.

Sean reluctantly lets Maggie pull him back onto the bed. She snuggles up next to him.

SEAN

I'm cold.

MAGGIE

Shh!

Sean eyes a sweatshirt hanging on the back of a chair, but knows he couldn't reach for it without disturbing Maggie. He settles back onto the bed, shivering slightly.

13 INT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Maggie awakes, alone. The clock reads 2:12. She gets up, puts on the headdress, and walks into the living room.

14 INT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sean, now wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, watches cartoons on TV. He chuckles. Maggie walks in.

MAGGIE

What are you doing?! The Cartoon Channel?

SEAN

"Turbo Dogs."
(chuckles)
Strut took GT's lucky charm, and now he can't race anymore.

MAGGIE

Turn it off! What about The End of the World?

SEAN

I think we missed it.

MAGGIE

I'm serious. Turn it off.

SEAN

Fine. It's a rerun anyway.

Sean grabs the REMOTE and turns off the TV.

MAGGIE

What about the Rapture?

SEAN

Does it look like we've been "raptured"?

MAGGIE

You're such a pessimist!

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

Me the pessimist? You were the one who thought the world was gonna end.

MAGGIE

(near tears)

But it was a good thing. It was gonna be a good thing.

SEAN

(mildly sarcastic)

Behind every cloud there's a silver lining.

MAGGIE

It sucks! I was counting on it!

SEAN

You were counting on the world ending...and it didn't. Bummer.

MAGGIE

I'm serious!

SEAN

I'm sorry. I know you've been looking forward to this for a long time.

MAGGIE

(through tears)

Since 2009.

Sean goes back to sit on the sofa and picks up the REMOTE.

SEAN

Hey, don't you usually work on Fridays?

MAGGIE

I'm not going to work.

SEAN

Sure you are. World didn't end, remember?

MAGGIE

No, I can't.

SEAN

Why not?

There is a knock at the door.

(CONTINUED)

Maggie opens the door. It's Sean's best friend, LUTHER, 25, average-looking. Luther, not noticing Sean, gives Maggie a kiss.

LUTHER
Hey, beautiful!

Sean sees this from the sofa. Maggie jerks away from Luther, as Sean dashes over to confront him.

SEAN
Luther, what the hell are you doing?!

LUTHER
Sean! What're you doing here?

SEAN
I *live* here.

LUTHER
Yeah, I know you did. But I thought, since Maggie...

SEAN
"Since Maggie" what?!

LUTHER
I thought you two must've broken up.

SEAN
Why would you think that?

LUTHER
(scared)
I really did, Sean. I would never have--

SEAN
Maggie! What is Luther talking about?!

Sean looks back and forth between Maggie and Luther, and it hits him.

SEAN
Maggie. You and Luther?

MAGGIE
The world was ending, so it didn't matter.

SEAN

It does matter, Maggie! How could you sleep with my best friend?!

MAGGIE

He was really depressed.

Luther, very nervous, inches toward the open door.

SEAN

Lots of people are depressed, Maggie. We give 'em Prozac, we don't screw them. Do we?... Or...? Have you been--?

MAGGIE

No, just Luther. He's like a brother to you, so--.

SEAN

So you slept with him?! Your sister's got great legs, but I don't sleep with her because the world might end.

MAGGIE

He was sad because he sensed it was The End. Luther's very sensitive.

Luther nods his head yes.

SEAN

Maggie, wake up! The world didn't freaking end!

(turning angrily to Luther)

And you...

MAGGIE

Did you sleep with my sister?

Sean turns back toward Maggie, momentarily confused. Luther sees his opportunity and bolts out the door. Sean notices, but immediately turns back to Maggie.

SEAN

What?! No!

MAGGIE

You want to sleep with my sister.

SEAN

Samantha has nice legs, that's all. Look, don't try to change the subject!

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Why did you bring her up?

SEAN

Because you had sex with my best friend!

MAGGIE

I *told* you, he was depressed!

SEAN

You have no clue about the real world, Maggie!

MAGGIE

Well, you have no clue about the Big Picture.

Sean, really angry, tries to contain himself.

SEAN

I think you better leave now, Maggie, because I feel like punching something, and if I punch the wall it's gonna hurt.

MAGGIE

(gesturing to a pillow on the sofa)

Why don't you punch something softer?

SEAN

(glaring at her)

Believe me, I'm thinkin' about it.

Maggie glances across the room at her PURSE, but, seeing Sean clenching his fists, she dashes straight out the door without it.

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EXT. MAGGIE AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Maggie walks quickly away down the sidewalk, still close to her apartment, but somehow she feels completely lost.