



The Hour of the Time

Vincent Hobbes

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'The Hour of the Time' is a FREE short story by Vincent Hobbes. This story was first published in The Endlands, in January 2011.

Charlie is a man who follows the rules. He is a man who is never late. He is a man who always obeys.

This is the most important day of Charlie's life, and he is running late.

The short story is FREE for download on Barnes and Noble NOOK!

The Hour of the Time Details

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From Reader Review The Hour of the Time for online ebook

Katie says

The first thing I want to say is that unlike other reviewers, I did NOT expect the ending.

Charlie is late, and as the short story says, it's the most important day of his life. He is a small and frail man, and an awkward character. The other people in the story don't seem to care about him personally, and everyone else is quite nonchalant when interacting with him. Considering the ending, this puts off a bit, but I still enjoyed this story.

Yianna Yiannacou says

This is another free classic by Vincent. I loved it. It was a little bit predictable but that didn't mean that I put the book down and stopped reading.

The main character's name is Charlie. He is in his mid-thirties and has pretty much missed out on the fun stuff in life. He goes to work, does his job and goes home – only to begin the same routine again the next day. Charlie has been summoned for a very important meeting. It is the most important meeting of his life. He can't be late. It's very important. He is never late. Even though it is repetitive that he has to be on time, it never got annoying. I had fun reading this book. It was like Alice in Wonderland – fun and quirky.

I will finish off this review without ruining anything and definitely recommending this book for a futuristic, fun read.

Timothy McNeil says

This really feels like a story written in a single session with minimal revising. And it is entirely too easy to see where it is going because I've seen this story before (in different iterations). Hobbes manages to find a tone after the first couple of pages, but it is so brief that there isn't much to do with that tone.

I think he would have been better off developing the setting more and trying to see if he could have found a way to convey to the reader that the character of Charlie Hoag is one anyone should give a damn about. Okay for free, but if Hobbes were a friend I would have sent back a heavily edited version with notes on what may (because I'm not an expert) have made it a better written piece.

Thomas says

Charley is an obsessive-compulsive kinda guy. He hates being late and yet for the first time in his life he's late to a very important day. I'd say important in a horrific way. I never saw the end coming. This story reminded me of a modern version of The Lottery. The author's frantic pace set a great tone and his character, Charley, had me convinced and rooting for him. Wonderful story and free download on my kindle made it

even better.

Chris says

This story is really quite good. Sort of a Kafka-esque horror short. I particularly liked the intro and the way that it set the tone for the story. Bleak and spare, but with a good sense for the obsessive compulsive nature of the main character---who was very well drawn. I found the other characters to be quite believable as well and the tone and execution was spot on. Well done. If you liked this author, I would try "To Read or Not to Read" which is also available for free on Kindle.

Loverlypurple says

very odd short story. It left me asking, why?

Steve says

Greatest lead-in for a short story:

"The future is as harsh as nature. Harsher even. Cruel and emotionless. The future is a cryptic place, where a synthetic voice is on the other end when you dial customer service, and it never understands your words. DOES NOT COMPUTE and PLEASE REPEAT YOUR REQUEST are common words in the future. The future is filled with blinking lights and chirping beeps. Complex highways and colossal buildings. One hundred foot billboards line the roads, and everything around you is a commercial for a product you do not need. And somewhere along the line, we lost the human spirit; self-reliance and self-worth disappeared. Because the future is a place where government dictates happiness, and society mandates perception. Welcome. I hope you enjoy yourself."

Colleen says

Let's hope that's not the future.

Abby Miller says

Charlie drives me crazy. This dystopian story is quite unique. I wish Mr. Hobbes had extended it, but I suppose that's why it's a short story. Five stars. Another one of my favorites of his work.

Katy says

This short story is part of "The Endlands, Vol. 1" anthology - and it is a very odd little story. Charlie is the sort that has to always be early - if he's on time, he considers himself to be late. Today is a very important day - he's finally been called, and he wants to be certain that he arrives on time. Arriving three minutes early, he checks in and hurries down to the room where there are many other people - some are talking and laughing - some are singing - some are crying. He doesn't understand those - this is the most important day of his life! However, people who have arrived after him keep being called back before him, and he is worried that maybe he got skipped or overlooked ... but finally he is called.

This story had an ending that is quite a surprise - I had an inkling a bit ahead of time, but it is kept fairly mysterious. I can see how this is likely a love it or hate it sort of story - the main character is so twitchy that it made me twitchy just to read it! But I was one of the ones who loved it! I hope to catch some more stories from Vincent Hobbes' wonderfully imaginative mind.

Donald Armfield says

Being on time is very essential. Charlie can't be late. I hate being late myself, so I feel his pain.

But for this occasion I probably would of taken the day off.

This is my second short by Vincent. He writes like the shorts I remember seeing on Tales From the Darkside. Maybe even Twilight Zone, but I have only seen a few of those. Get a copy because you want to be on time, RIGHT?

Justin says

I found that once I got about halfway through it that I knew something terrible was going to happen in the end. I wasn't sure what it was at that moment. I didn't really like it because I'm a sucker for happy endings.

Bonnie says

Maybe I missed something... lol Am just so confused after finishing this. Will think on this and come back..

Pelikan says

Great short story with a big thought. Reminded me of Kafka a bit (this being said in the most positive way). I am not going to spoil it by going into details on the story itself. What I want to say however, is that the work and the ending surprised me, which I always do appreciate about any piece of art.

T.L. Wood says

Great short story. It is one in his anthology, The Endlands. This book is downloadable for free on most ebook formats!!

I didn't expect the ending.
