

PLUTO

By

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Draft 4 - following producers' notes

INT. GARDEN SHED - DAY

CHARLIE (8) looks dead ahead, serious and stern, as he delivers an impassioned speech to his associate.

CHARLIE

An asteroid is heading to earth.
Luckily it won't hit Middleton.
Unluckily, that doesn't really
matter. NASA have let us down.
The government have let us down.
Even Dr Who has let us down. The
world has one hope. That hope is
you.

PAUSE. Charlie's associate, his trusty pet dog PLUTO, sits staring back at him with a helmet fashioned from cardboard sat atop his wide-eyed and enthusiastic face.

A large structure crafted from cereal boxes and milk cartons sits on the dusty floor: 'The time machine'.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Pluto, we are the only two small
enough to fit. Mum and Sarah need
me here, so it is all up to you.
Are you ready?

Pluto stares back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You would say if you weren't
happy about this wouldn't you?

Nothing, unsurprisingly.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Good boy, let's do it then.

Charlie guides Pluto into the time machine, his somewhat confused face appears through a gap between pieces of card.

Charlie heads over to a dusty old portable radio. He picks it up, along with a piece of paper, and returns to his four legged friend.

He takes one final look at the piece of paper before kissing it gently and sliding it into a gap in the time machine.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Make sure dad gets that, it's
important. I love you Pluto, you
know what to do.

Charlie gives Pluto a military salute before turning his attention down to the old radio in his hand.

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He presses all the buttons to no visible or audible reaction.

Then, a noise! But it is SARAH, Charlie's teenage sister, opening the shed door.

Charlie turns and looks up to meet her eyes.

SARAH
There you are Charlie. What have
you been up to?

Sarah looks down to the mass of cardboard on the floor.

SARAH (CONT'D)
The time machine? I thought it
got thrown out.

CHARLIE
I saved it.

Sarah flashes a sympathetic smile, takes Charlie's hand and walks him to the door. Charlie resists.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Wait! The mission!

Charlie rushes back to the time machine. Pluto has vanished into thin air!

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Yes! It worked! Sarah, it worked!

SARAH
Of course it did, dad built it.
Come on in, mum says you can
choose the film.

Charlie stares back at his dad's invention as Sarah gently pulls him to the door.

CHARLIE
Good luck boy.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

CHARLIE
I get to choose the film?

SARAH
Anything you like.

CHARLIE
You can choose tomorrow's then.

Charlie walks his big sister inside. Unbeknownst to him, Pluto lies prone on the lawn, obliviously chewing on his favourite toy.

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CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Charlie is wedged between Sarah and MUM on the sofa, eyes fixated on the television.

Sarah watches mum as she glances down to her watch. They lock eyes as they both fight tears.

Mum slides her hand along the back of the sofa to meet Sarah's and they clasp each other firmly behind Charlie's head.

Charlie giggles along, lost in his favourite film.