

Time Zones Apart
By Lauren Lynch & Eric Eidson

Jess: A hardworking student in one time zone
Brian: An eager boyfriend in another time zone

Brian
Hey, can you hear me okay?

Jess
Yeah, that's better.

Brian
The struggles of long-distance relationships.

Jess
I can't wait until we don't have to deal with this anymore.

Brian
So, I counted today... and it's been 86 days since we've seen each other in person... and 412 days since we've lived in the same city.

Jess
That's depressing. I would even settle for the same time zone... hell, the same country!

Brian
I know, what time do you have to go to sleep tonight?

Jess
Probably soonish. I have my 8 am Brit Lit class tomorrow, and I need to finish reading *Pride and Prejudice*.

Brian
You've already read that book.

Jess
Actually, I've read it eight times.

Brian
Oh my God. You nerd. Why are you reading it again?

Jess
I love that book, it's written by a woman and it's about women. Do you know how rare that is?

Brian
I'm guessing rare.

Jess

Especially considering it came out over 200 years ago.

Brian

Why do I feel like I'm in your British Literature class right now?

Jess

Very funny. Maybe I'll let you borrow my book next time we see each other.

Brian

Sure thing, Professor. Will I need to write a report on it as well?

Jess

5 pages. Single spaced.

Brian

Single spaced!? You're a monster. (Sexy) Is there maybe an... alternative assignment. I really need an A in this class... I'm willing to do anything.

Jess

In that case, You could write a 10 page paper on the differences between British writers and American writers in the early 19th century.

Brian

Babe... you're no fun. I was trying to be sexy with you.

Jess

If you want to be sexy, recite some poetry.

Brian

I do not like green eggs and ham, I do not like them Sam I am...

Jess

I was thinking more in the realm of 17th century British poetry. Specifically, John Donne. He has a lovely poem called, *A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning*.

Brian

That sounds really... boring.

Jess

Oh really? Is this boring? "Our two souls therefore, which are one, though I must go, endure not yet a breach, but an expansion, Like gold to aery thinness beat."

Brian snores loudly and pretends to be asleep.

Jess

I guess you're just not smart enough to appreciate it.

Brian

Sorry we can't all afford to go to an ivy league school.

Jess

Sorry I worked hard to get scholarships while you sat in your parents' basement with your friends playing Assassin's Creed 3.

Brian

Sorry I value friends and spending time with people over reading poetry that was written 200 years ago.

Jess

You think I don't like spending time with people?

Brian

Well rather than hanging out with me you're trying to go to bed earlier so you can wake up and read a book you've already read.

Jess

It's been a while since I read it and we have an in-class essay. I thought you liked how ambitious I am.

Brian

Is that ambition or an excuse?

Jess

An excuse for what?

Brian

An excuse to hang up.

Jess

You're the one giving me an excuse to hang up.

Brian

How long have we been talking? Three minutes? I think this is the longest we've talked in two weeks.

Jess

You know I've been busy. You think I don't want to talk to you, too?

Brian

Actions speak louder than words... that's all I'm saying.

Jess

Brian, are we really going to have this conversation again?

Brian

What conversation? We can't even seem to get through it once.

Jess

Well, we're not going to get through it tonight. I already told you I have to be up early.

Brian

This is exactly what I'm talking about. It's like you're not listening...

Jess

No, it's like you're not listening. You're making me out to be the bad guy because I'm trying to be a good student.

Brian

I don't care if you're a good student. I want a good girlfriend.

A moment.

Brian

Sorry. I shouldn't have...

Jess

It's fine.

Brian

(Overlapping)

I was thinking we could/

Jess

(Overlapping)

/Maybe we should...

Brian

Oh, go ahead.

Jess

Maybe we should go.

Brian

In the middle of a fight?

Jess

I'm exhausted. It's so much later here. You always forget about the time difference.

Brian

I don't forget, I'm just willing to stay up however long we need to.

Jess

I think that need has been met.

Brian
What if I don't think so?

Jess
I'm going to bed.

Brian
Great. When are we going to finish this conversation?

Jess
We'll find a time. Good night.

Brian
Alright... good night I guess.

Jess
I love you.

Brian
I love you too.

Jess ends the call.

End of scene.