

THE ASCENSION OF MAGGIE MARTINEZ

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first 15 pages

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

MAGGIE MARTINEZ, late 20s, cute Latina of Mayan ancestry, draws little pictures on ENVELOPES marked "PAST DUE." She sketches her own face as a Mayan priestess in ceremonial dress. She pauses, brushes her hair from her face, and notices the CLOCK. She grabs her KEYS and heads for the door.

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 know it!

EXT. 94 CENT STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Maggie's car pulls into a parking space. She gets out, and not noticing the HOMELESS WOMAN sitting near the door, enters the store.

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?

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 do this to me again, Maggie!

MAGGIE

It doesn't matter.

HILDA

It matters! It matters!

Maggie strides across the parking lot toward her car.

EXT. LATINO HERB STORE - DAY

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

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.

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 piece of crap 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 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....

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.

INT. MAGGIE'S CAR - DAY

Maggie hands David the KEYS.

MAGGIE  
No, I'm not, because I'm not gonna be here. Neither are you, but you think you are, so that's okay.

DAVID  
Okay. Well, Carla will be happy. We're meeting mom and dad in Tahoe for Christmas, 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-- computers and disaster and all that.

MAGGIE  
Those were scientists. This is Mayans.

DAVID  
(skeptical)  
They knew more?

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. There's precision of planets, and fractal self-similarity, and space-time harmonies, and--. 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.

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. David's face wrinkles in a "poor crazy sister" look.

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

Maggie enters the kitchen. More 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.

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 VARIOUS ITEMS 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  
 Plu what?

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

SEAN  
 They just had roses.

MAGGIE

Okay. Spread 'em around the bed.

Sean spreads 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 (cont'd)

...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. With great effort, Sean refrains from laughing.

She presents Sean with Mayan-style shorts. He looks at them skeptically.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

I made them myself.

They look as if a child made them, as opposed to her dress, which was made professionally.

SEAN  
(reluctantly)  
Okay.

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 (cont'd)  
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 than two  
people screw--. 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.

SEAN

Look, 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

We can do that at the same time.  
(gestures to show he's connecting eye-to-eye) "Gazing."

Pointedly staring into her eyes, 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 (cont'd)

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. Are we on Daylight Savings Time?

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 wouldn't still be here.  
Are you sure the Mayans got it right?

MAGGIE  
I trust the Mayans.

SEAN  
Well, I trust 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 it  
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.

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

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

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, still wearing her Mayan gown, and she has put the headdress back on as well.

MAGGIE

What are you doing?! The Cartoon Channel?

SEAN

"Turbo Dogs."  
(chuckles some more)  
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!

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 years.

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.

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 Luther.

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, but trying not to show it) 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 (cont'd)  
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 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

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

MAGGIE  
Why did you bring her up?

SEAN  
Because you had sex with my best  
friend!

MAGGIE  
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 one of us better go take a  
little walk right 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 and unclenching his fists, she dashes  
straight out the door without it.

END OF SAMPLE FIRST 15 PAGES