

Grandfather Paradox

By

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EXT FIELD

JAMES a neat man in ever so slightly futuristic looking clothes, appears in the middle of a field clutching a handheld device that is slight reminiscent of Quantun Leaps 'ziggy' console.

He makes a call.

JAMES

Pandora, I made it!

PANDORA

(o.s, a slightly computerised, slightly amused sounding female voice)

Congratulations James. It appears your theory was correct. Please report your position.

JAMES

(Looks around at the assorted festival goers, tents, flying drones, signs for lockpicking workshops and various contraptions and experiments)
August 30 2014, Hacker Festival in England, geolocation "51.96731, -0.79354"

PANDORA

(o.s)

That is a field near Milton Keynes 55 miles North of Old London.

JAMES

(happily)

Yup!

PANDORA

Your grandfather made his greatest contribution to science in a field?

JAMES

(grinning and staring up at a sign that says

'ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD')

Something like that.

James spots EMF ATTENDEE going into an interesting looking tent and cheerfully follows them.

(CONTINUED)

James spends the festival happily wandering around the various talks, tents and installations. He helps at least one person with a wiring/networking problem all the while chatting happily to Pandora and sharing with her his recollections of his grandfather - the person who inspired him to contribute to science himself, and his early memories of the old man playing chess with him when he was young. He asks lots of people if they know where 'Bobby Anderson' is, but no-one does. A few people direct him to Chris Anderson though. As the festival continues The effects of timetravel start of catch up with James. He starts moving slowly and Pandora becomes increasingly worried that the temporal effects are going to permanently damage him. She wants him to abort the experiment. James refuses and instead goes to the EMF shop and buys as many batteries as he can find, sucking on them as he wanders around the field.

Eventually he comes upon a tent where Chris Anderson is unveiling his latest experiment - an AI capable of beating a human at chess, Snakes and Ladders, and Pinball, at the same time as holding down a conversation. The AI is called Bobby and as the festival winds down, James, who is revealed to be a 3rd generation robot, finally gets to have a heart to heart with his grandfather.