

THE END'S BEGINNING

by

Lynn Robertson Hay

For The Impact

(Mid Act One and late in Act Three)

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INT. DON'S LIVING ROOM. ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA - NIGHT

Shabby old-timer DON watches TV grimly. Shy, geeky JIM is mid interview, captioned "James Anderson, amateur astronomer".

JIM (on TV)  
Spotting a new heavenly object is every astronomer's dream. But I knew it didn't look good. There's a protocol. You have to inform NASA.

Don turns it off in disgust. Looks out onto THE STREET: Jim, surrounded by film crew and lights, giving the interview.

EXT. BACK STREET - NIGHT (MUCH LATER)

Background noise of panic. Jim stands on a corner, numb, as drunken brawlers pass. Checks his watch; not long now. He notices Don staring at him from the back of a rundown bar. Jim nods. No response. Puzzled, he crosses over to the

INT. BAR

No one behind the counter; the stock seriously depleted. Don sits alone nursing a bottle of whisky. Jim approaches. Hesitates. No invitation to join Don, but he does so anyway.

JIM  
Not seen you for a while. How have you... Are you OK?

DON  
How have I taken the news? Your asteroid. KT 1887.

JIM  
I know. Catchy.

DON  
Your bombshell.

JIM  
Yeah, well. Don't shoot the messenger.

DON  
This devastation's all down to you.

JIM  
Come on, I only spotted it.

DON

You didn't have to tell.

JIM

How could I not tell?

DON

Five people saw it. Just five Billy-No-Mates. If you'd kept your gobs shut, people would have been none the wiser till the bloody thing was nearly on 'em.

JIM

They had a right to know.

DON

Let me put you straight, Jim. It was my spot. I was the first to see that asteroid, over a week ago.

Jim takes a deep breath, everything falling into place.

JIM

And then you disappeared.

DON

Because I wouldn't inflict all this terror for a quick burst of glory.

Don swigs from his bottle and goes to the door. Jim follows.

JIM

That's not why I reported it.

Don leaves, ignoring him. Jim sees a YOUNG BOY run from a house UP THE STREET, and embrace his MOTHER, rushing to get home. The GRANDPARENTS also come from the house to meet her.

BOY

Mummy, you made it!

MOTHER

Nothing would have stopped me.

Jim watches the family embrace and say they love each other.

JIM

That's why I did it.