

ARE WE DONE YET?

By Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

BURGER	A hamburger patty
CHEESEBURGER	A hamburger patty... with cheese!
SECOND BURGER	Another hamburger patty, but somewhat more philosophical in nature

## SETTING

A barbeque grill. Present day.

SCENE

*(Two hamburgers and a cheeseburger are sitting on a grill.)*

BURGER

Is it getting warm in here?

CHEESEBURGER

Not this again.

BURGER

Whaddaya mean?

CHEESEBURGER

I'm just saying, it's every little thing with you. You're a hypochondriac.

BURGER

I'm not.

CHEESEBURGER

You totally are. Every five minutes. It's hot in here. I think I'm coming down with a chill—

BURGER

Even you admitted that it got pretty cold once all the lights went out.

CHEESEBURGER

Yeah, but I wasn't the one shouting "It's the apocalypse! Run for your lives!"

BURGER

I... That was a joke. It was a joke!

CHEESEBURGER

Jokes are supposed to be funny.

BURGER

It was irony. Don't you get it? You see, it's funny because we don't have legs, so we couldn't have run anywhere even if it was the apocalypse. But I really do think it's getting pretty warm in here.

CHEESEBURGER

Stop overreacting. You're stressing me out.

BURGER

I'm not overreacting. Besides, you know what they say. Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean someone's not out to get you.

CHEESEBURGER

And just because things change doesn't mean it's necessarily going to turn out badly.

BURGER

In my experience, it usually does.

CHEESEBURGER

Why do you always let these things eat away at you? Do you remember how you made such a big deal when the alien fingers came and pulled us apart?

BURGER

Oh, god, not this again...

CHEESEBURGER

Da da da... and *you* said they were harbingers of death.

BURGER

I already agreed—

CHEESEBURGER

But it turned out to just be a really nice massage.

BURGER

I already admitted that I was wrong about that.

CHEESEBURGER

And then you saw the fingers holding a big knife, and you cried out about how they were coming to kill us, and you made this huge ordeal about the nature of life and death and that it's one big cycle but you really weren't ready to move on to the next world, and then before anyone could—

BURGER

I remember, alright?

CHEESEBURGER

*And...* it turned out that they were just slicing up a tomato.

BURGER

There's no way I could have known that. Look, I'm not trying to be an alarmist. All I said was that it felt like it was getting warm. And honestly, I think it's getting even warmer now.

CHEESEBURGER

Yeah, I agree, it is starting to feel a little... toasty.

BURGER

I'm saying—

CHEESEBURGER

But that's not necessarily a bad thing. Spas make a lot of money by warming people up. Think of this as a kind of sauna treatment.

SECOND BURGER

Hot yoga's all the rage.

BURGER

Well, look who's joined the conversation.

SECOND BURGER

We aren't all the chatty Kathy type, you know. Some of us just like to just sit back and watch the world flow past.

BURGER

Right. You're a regular Arthur Schopenhurger. Seriously, though. You guys must feel it. It's getting really, really hot now.

CHEESEBURGER

Give it a rest already.

BURGER

I think something's wrong. Something must be wrong. It's not supposed to be this hot. I wonder if the Earth has suddenly moved closer to the sun. That can happen, you know. Quantum mechanics allows for the spontaneous relocation of particulate matter, and *we* are very much particulate matter.

SECOND BURGER

Quantum mechanics was talking about elementary particles. Electrons, protons. Are you a subatomic particle?

BURGER

No, but seriously. Think about it. If a proton can undergo quantum tunneling, and a proton is made up of three quarks and a crap ton of gluons, and they all tunnel together, then it's possible for macroscopic objects to do the same thing.

CHEESEBURGER

What the hell are you two talking about?

SECOND BURGER

Actually, he's got a point. I mean, it's not likely, but it could happen.

BURGER

See? See!? I think that's what's going on! The sun has undergone some kind of quantum mechanical tunneling, and has gotten closer to the Earth.

CHEESEBURGER

I thought you said it was the Earth that was tunneling.

BURGER

Either way! The temperature's rising, and we're all gonna die!!

SECOND BURGER

Could just be a solar flare.

BURGER

Or both. Oh my god, I bet it's both! We're gonna be roasted alive! The whole planet's gonna be incinerated and there's nothing we can do about!

CHEESEBURGER

Well if there's nothing we ca—

BURGER

What are we gonna do? What are we gonna do?!? We can't just sit here and do nothing! We have to act!

CHEESEBURGER

Are you done yet?

*(Beat...)*

BURGER

Why does that question sound strangely ominous?

SECOND BURGER

I think you mean portentous. Or prophetic.

CHEESEBURGER

You're out of your minds.

BURGER

Am I? Am I!?! Or am I just the first one to recognize that our world's about to be destroyed!?!

CHEESEBURGER

I think your brain's starting to get fried.

BURGER

Is it?! Is it?!? Or am I so not-fried that I just *look* fried!?

CHEESEBURGER

That doesn't even make sense.

BURGER

Maybe you're the crazy one. In fact, I think your cheese is starting to go soft.

CHEESEBURGER

My cheese isn't... Oh my God. You're right. My cheese *is* getting soft! This is no good. I want to go back in the cold dark box.

BURGER

We should make a run for it!

CHEESEBURGER

We can't!

BURGER

Why not? We don't owe it to anyone to stay here.

CHEESEBURGER

It's not that.

BURGER

Then what?

CHEESEBURGER

We don't have legs.

BURGER

Shit. Right. We don't. We can't go anywhere. We should call for help.

*(Burger and Cheeseburger start calling out, simultaneously but different variations of “help”, “someone help us”, “the world is ending”, etc. Suddenly they stop, and Burger looks at Second Burger.)*

BURGER

Why are you just sitting there?

SECOND BURGER

I’m meditating.

BURGER

Meditating?!

SECOND BURGER

I’m allowing the heat to pass over and through me.

BURGER

Don’t you realize that the end is nigh? You need to help us get someone’s attention!

*(Beat...)*

SECOND BURGER

Fine. *(Quiet, unenthusiastic, resigned...)* Help.

BURGER

That’s it? That’s what you’ve got??

SECOND BURGER

*(Barely an iota better.)*

Help.

BURGER

You’re a disgrace. Damn philosophers.

*(Burger and Cheeseburger start calling out again, and a moment later a spatula appears and flips them all over. They are stunned, and share awkward looks of “what the hell was that?”)*

CHEESEBURGER

That was weird.



BURGER

Mega-weird.

CHEESEBURGER

But it did help. I'm feeling a lot better.

BURGER

I guess. Not feeling as hot anymore. At least not in the same way. I guess that disproves my solar-tunneling hypothesis.

SECOND BURGER

Not necessarily. The sun could have tunneled back toward its original position.

BURGER

I suppose, but that seems really unlikely. Two macroscopic-scale quantum events like that so close together?

SECOND BURGER

Unless the sun's caught in an oscillating potential energy well. That could do it.

BURGER

That's a good point. Say, I wonder just how much potential energy you'd need to do that.

SECOND BURGER

A lot.

BURGER

I mean, like, specifically. Could we calculate it?

SECOND BURGER

In theory, yes. If we account for the period of oscillation based on the time between the initial rise in temperature and this new temporary cooling...

BURGER

What? Why'd you stop? Go on...

SECOND BURGER

We'd need to know the number of particles in the sun, and honestly I can't keep all the terms straight in my head.

BURGER

So write it down.

SECOND BURGER

I would, but we don't have hands. Or even arms.

BURGER

Damn. Oh, wait. I have an idea. Hey, Cheeseburger!

*(There's no reply.)*

Cheeseburger! Hey, buddy!

SECOND BURGER

I think he's dead.

BURGER

Oh my God! So soon! He was in the prime of his life.

SECOND BURGER

Maybe the heat got to him.

BURGER

But why him? We're all in this together?

SECOND BURGER

If I had to guess, I'd say it was the cheese. It's probably retaining heat, and—

BURGER

Oh, yeah. That'd make sense.

SECOND BURGER

Well, what are you gonna do? It's denatural selection at work.

BURGER

Really? Darwin? At a time like this?

SECOND BURGER

We should observe a moment of silence in Cheeseburger's memory.

BURGER

Yeah, okay.

*(They go silent, and a moment later Cheeseburger lets out a huge blast of breath...)*

Oh, geez. You scared us to death!

CHEESEBURGER

What? I was seeing how long I could hold my breath.

BURGER

Don't *do* that! We thought you were dead.

CHEESEBURGER

Like you never tried to hold your breath? Besides, serves you right.

BURGER

That's so mean.

CHEESEBURGER

Ehh, you had it coming with all your sciency quantum mumbo jumbo.

BURGER

Fine. If you don't want to talk science—

CHEESEBURGER

I really don't.

BURGER

Then what do *you* want to talk about?

*(Beat...)*

CHEESEBURGER

Is it just me, or is it getting really warm in here?

*(Lights out.)*