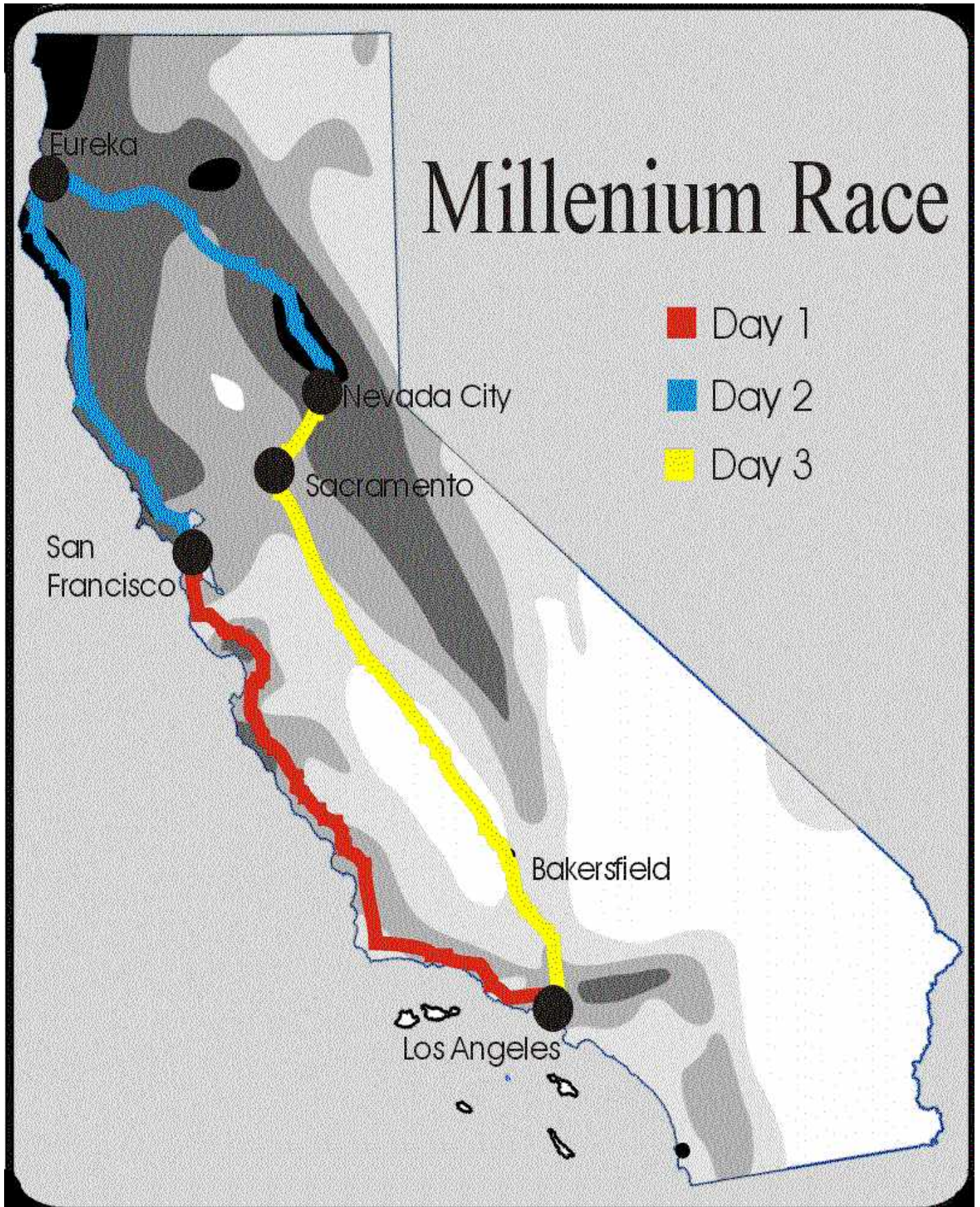




Herbie *2000*

The Love Bug is back!

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Douglas (from the original Herbie movie)
John Douglas (Jim's son, about 30 years old)
Helen Douglas (John's daughter, about 9 years old)
Chet Jenkins (intelligent bad guy, works for head bad guy)
Charlie Johnson (dumb bad guy, works for head bad guy)
Hans Roland (head bad guy, Chet and Charlie work for him)
Tennessee Steinmetz (from the original Herbie movie)
Houston (Tennessee's son, about 30 years old)
Jennifer Paxton (Jim's love interest)
Dr. Pace (Man in charge of research division)
Rand Collins (Double agent working with John, but providing information to Mr. Roland)
Chris Berman (Head ESPN Race announcer)
XXX (as of yet to be determined "Football Stars")

Suggested Viewing

The Love Bug

Herbie goes to Monte Carlo

Herbie Rides Again

Suggested NOT Viewing

Herbie Goes Bananas

Herbie vs. Horace the "Hate Bug"

Fade in:

INT COMPUTER LAB LATE NIGHT

A lone man (John Douglas) sits in front of a terminal with his head in his hands.

COMPUTER SYSTEM

Beep. Simulation analysis complete.
No anomalies found. Variance less
than 1%. Results within parameters.

The bleary eyed man raises his head to gaze at the terminal.

JOHN DOUGLAS (GROGGY)

Repeat analysis please.

COMPUTER SYSTEM

Simulation analysis...

John only half listens he sees the readout on the terminal.

JOHN (EXCITED)

This is it! It works! It really
works!

John calls his lab assistant (Rand Collins) in another room.

JOHN

RAND!? Are you awake? Pick up!

RAND COLLINS (GROGGY, ON PHONE)

I'm awake. I'm awake. What is it?

JOHN

It works! The computer ran the
the sequence on the chip and it works!

RAND (SUDDENLY AWAKE, ON PHONE)

The chip? It's really going to work?

INT 2ND LAB ROOM LATE NIGHT

JOHN (OVER THE PHONE)

Didn't you hear me? It works!

RAND (REACHING TO PICK UP THE PHONE)

This is fantastic. I'll call Dr. Pace.

JOHN

No, check it manually. Forget Dr.
Pace and get down here.

RAND (RESOLVED)

You're the boss John.

Rand hangs up. After a brief pause he dials a number.

RAND (IN A HUSHED TONE)

Mr. Roland? The project seems to have reached a successful conclusion.

INT DARK OFFICE LATE NIGHT

Mr. Roland is sitting at a desk illuminated by a solitary lamp.

MR HANS ROLAND

Excellent. A lot of oil companies will pay a handsome price to see technology like that disappear. I'll have my couriers intercept the package.

Mr. Roland hangs up and slowly reclines as he steeples his hands.

INT 2ND LAB ROOM LATE NIGHT

Without salutation RAND hangs up and heads for John's Lab.

INT HALLWAY OF CORPORATE BUILDING LATE MORNING

John, late for a meeting, is rushing down the hallway with Rand.

JOHN (BREATHING HEAVILY)

I can't believe they want the meeting this morning.

RAND

It's taken a lot of time and resources. I can see why they might be anxious.

INT ANTEROOM OF BOARD ROOM LATE MORNING

John and Rand are greeted by Dr. Pace

DR PACE (WARMLY)

Thanks for rushing over last minute like this John. It means a lot to me.

JOHN (FLUSTERED)

I'm not ready. I don't have a presentation. All I've got is the chip and some lab notes.

DR PACE (CONFIDENTLY)

Don't worry, I'll handle most of it. You just tell them what it does, and more importantly that it works.

JOHN

But we don't know if it works. All we've done are simulations.

DR PACE

Don't worry about that either. I've got it covered.

INT BOARD ROOM LATE MORNING

Several executives sit at a meeting table anxiously discussing the purpose of the meeting. Dr. Pace, John, and Rand enter and move to the head of the table. The executives fall silent.

DR PACE

Gentlemen, as I'm sure you're aware of by now, we've had a breakthrough. This is John Douglas, who has been heading up this particular project and his assistant Rand Collins.

John and Rand acknowledge their audience.

DR PACE

In a nutshell, we have what is no less than the beginning of a revolution in automotive industry. Say goodbye to oil dependency and pollution forever. We have developed a computer technology that will extend the range of a gallon of gasoline to well over 200 miles.

The executives respond with a startled murmur.

DR PACE (HOLDING UP A COMPUTER CHIP)

Gentlemen, I give you the "Overdrive Chip."

Dr. Pace gives a signal, the lights are dimmed and a projector flares to life.

INT ANTEROOM OF BOARD ROOM LATE MORNING (AFTER MEETING)

JOHN (RELIEVED)

That went better than I thought.

DR PACE (CONFIDENTLY)

I told you to trust me. There's more. I want you to head up the team at the testing facility.

JOHN (CONCERNED)

I don't think I can do that Dr. Pace. I've haven't seen my girlfriend of daughter for almost 2 months now.

DR PACE (CONSOLING)

Relax. The testing facility is in CA. Close enough to go home on the weekends.

JOHN (STILL CONCERNED)

That makes a difference. You know how much I love this project. I'd like to see it through until the end.

DR PACE

Good, now do you think you can have the testing phase done in 2 weeks.

JOHN

Sure, but what's the rush.

DR PACE

The Millennium Race. It's the perfect way to launch this technology into the market.

JOHN

I read about that in some magazine. A race around CA. Restricted to technological prototype cars.

DR PACE

That's the one.

JOHN (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)

I need to call and let Jennifer and Helen know what time my flight gets in.

DR PACE (HANDING JOHN A CELL PHONE)

Here, use my phone.

John moves into the hallway as he dials the number, leaving Dr. Pace and Rand behind to discuss the meeting.

INT HALLWAY LATE MORNING (AFTER MEETING)

JOHN (AFTER LINE IS ANSWERED)

Helen, sweetheart, we did it. The chip works. I'm on my way home.

HELEN (EXCITED, ON PHONE)

Daddy, that's so great, when are you getting here? Tell me all about it.

JOHN

Sweetie, I can't talk long, my plane leaves in a few minutes. I need to call Jennifer and tell her when my flight comes in.

INT JIM DOUGLAS HOUSEHOLD EARLY MORNING

HELEN

She's right here.

JENNIFER (TAKING THE PHONE FROM HELEN)

John? You're coming home? When?

JOHN (ON THE PHONE)

Today, LAX. Can you pick me up?

JENNIFER

My car broke down, that's why I'm over here at your dad's house.

Jim Douglas enters the room in time to hear Jennifer.

JIM

Take Herbie, he could use the stretch.

JENNIFER (DISAPPOINTED, TO JIM)

The little Beetle?

HELEN

Yea!! We're going to the airport in Herbie to pick my dad up.

JIM (MOSTLY TO JENNIFER)

Well I think that settles that.

EXT WINDING TWO LANE HIGHWAY (OUTSIDE LA)

Herbie is speeding along a winding coastal highway approaching LAX from the north.

Credits Roll with Herbie theme music.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

JENNIFER (LOOKING CRAMPED)

I can't believe I'm in this little VW.

HELEN (CONCERNED)

Why don't you like Herbie?

JENNIFER (CONSOLING)

I like Herbie just fine. I don't like me in Herbie, that's all.

HELEN (INTELECTUALLY)

ATV person huh.

JENNIFER (CONFIDENTLY)

You better believe it. Room to stretch out and get comfortable.

HELEN (CRITICAL)

Doesn't it cost a lot to feed it gas?

JENNIFER

Yeah, and driving this little thing I'm more convinced than ever.

EXT LAX LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie approaches LAX.

EXT LAX LATE AFTERNOON

Two men (Chet Jenkins & Charlie Johnson) stand outside the terminal. One of them wipes his head with a handkerchief.

CHET (MOTIONING TOWARD THE TERMINAL)

Let's go.

INT LAX LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie walk towards the gates.

CHARLIE (STUPID)

So what's this guy look like?

CHET (GRINDING TEETH)

What's that in your hand?

CHARLIE (NONCHALANT)

A picture.

CHET (RISING ANGER)

Of who?

CHARLIE (PUZZLED)

I don't know. Don't recognize him.

Chet doesn't reply.

CHARLIE (WITH DAWNING AWARENESS)

Oh. This is him, ain't it?

Chet ignores him.

INT LAX TERMINAL (IN FRONT OF METAL DETECTORS)

Chet and Charlie are standing in slow moving line. Charlie pulls a lollipop out of his pocket and starts to unwrap it. Chet glances over at Charlie. Charlie puts the lollipop in his mouth and starts to make a sucking sound.

CHET (ON CELL PHONE)

We're at the airport now Mr. Roland.
Yes, I understand the importance of
this task.

A frown grows on Chet's face as he watches Charlie

CHET (ON CELL PHONE)

You can count on us Mr. Roland.

Chet hangs up and at the same time reaches over and slaps the lollipop out of Charlie's mouth.

CHARLIE (HURT)

Hey! What did you go and do that for?

CHET (STERN)

I don't want it looking like I've got
an overgrown kid sucking lollipop
following me around the airport. We're
on the job. It's an important one, so
let's look the part. OK?

Charlie picks up the lollipop.

CHET (FLABBERGASTED)

What did I just tell you?

CHARLIE (THROWING LOLIPOP IN TRASH)

I'm throwing it away! I don't litter.

CHET

Come on! We're going to be late.

The line moves, there are only a few people in front of them.

CHARLIE (PUZZLED)

Hey Chet, how am I supposed to get through there?

Chet whirls on Charlie before entering the metal detector.

CHET (IN A SHOCKED WHISPER)

Don't tell me you brought it with you?! You know airports have metal detectors. Do I have to tell you to tie your shoes in the morning too?

CHARLIE (APOLOGETIC)

I'm sorry Chet, I'll get rid of it.

Charlie draws his gun from the holster inside of his suit. Chet moves to cover the view of Charlie's actions and to try and stop him. It's too late. A man standing behind them notices Charlie drawing his gun.

MAN

Gun! He's got a gun!

Chet grabs the gun from Charlie and puts it in the man's hands. The man takes the gun and simply looks at it in shock. Chet drags Charlie through the metal detector. The man is left holding the gun looking after Chet and Charlie. Several security guards swarm tackle the man. The security breach creates an outburst of chaos and turmoil in the area. Chet and Charlie get lost in the crowd and confusion. Chet and Charlie continue toward the gates.

INT CONOURSE LEADING TO GATES

Chet and Charlie walk very quickly down the concourse.

CHET (IN RELIEF)

That was close. Don't you ever...

CHARLIE

I know, I know. I'm real sorry Chet. I won't do it again.

CHET

Darn right you won't. You don't have a gun any more.

INT LAX GATE AT PHONE

A lone man (John Douglas) carrying a single briefcase walks out of the gate and looks around at the throngs of people. He doesn't see his daughter or his father. He walks to a phone.

DR PACE (ON PHONE)

Hello?

JOHN

Dr. Pace, this is John. I've got the chip with me all safe and sound.

DR PACE (ON PHONE)

John, I'm glad you called in. I just got a rather disturbing bit of news. We think there's been a security leak.

JOHN

What? Someone knows about the chip?

DR PACE (ON PHONE)

I think so. They might send someone to steal the chip. I didn't foresee this happening, otherwise I would have sent the chip with a special courier. Get it to the proving sight fast. Maybe there won't get there in time.

John looks up to see Charlie pointing at him.

INT LAX GATE AT CONCOURSE

CHARLIE

Hey Chet, that's him!

CHET (SLAPPING CHARLIE'S HAND DOWN)

Don't point you idiot! He'll see us!

INT LAX GATE AT PHONE

JOHN (STILL ON THE PHONE)

To late. They're already here.

John drops the phone and makes a dash for the concourse and exit.

INT LAX GATE AT CONCOURSE

CHET (RUSHED)

Get him!

Chet and Charlie pursue John down the concourse back to the terminal. The security people are gathered at the metal detectors preoccupied with the gun situation, paying no heed to the three running men. The innocent bystander in hand cuffs spots Chet and Charlie.

MAN (POINTING TO CHET AND CHARLIE)

Hey, that's them!

The man attempts to break away. The police quickly control him, ignoring his attempts to draw attention to Chet and Charlie. John rushes up to the security officers.

JOHN (OUT OF BREATH)

Hey, these two men are...

SECURITY OFFICER (CUTTING JOHN OFF)

Step back right now sir, we have a situation here.

John realizes they will be of no help and continues his flight.

While the police are preoccupied with restraining the man, Chet pick pockets Charlie's gun from one of the security officers. Chet returns the gun to Charlie.

CHET

Leave it in the car next time!

The chase continues.

EXT LAX LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie rolls to a stop at the terminal. Helen exits Herbie.

JENNIFER (GETTING OUT)

We can't just leave the car here, they'll tow it away.

A Security Officer approaches Herbie.

SECURITY OFFICER (SARCASTICALLY)

Hey! You can't leave that car parked here. In case you can't read, this zone is for loading and unloading of passengers only. No Parking!

JENNIFER (AGRAVATED)

I know that.

HELEN (TO HERBIE)

Why don't you take a spin around the block while we find my dad. Give us about fifteen minutes.

Helen turns nonchalantly and walks into the airport, as a stunned Jennifer and Security guard watch Herbie drive off.

INT LAX TERMINAL LATE AFTERNOON

John rushes out an exit, just out of sight of Helen and Jennifer entering the terminal. Chet and Charlie aren't far behind John.

EXT LAX TERMINAL LATE AFTERNOON

John spots a taxi and jumps in. The cab speeds away. Chet and Charlie burst through the exit in time to see John driving away in a Taxi. They run after the taxi. Realizing they can't catch him, they Stop and flag down another taxi.

INT TAXI #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CHET (RUSHED)

Follow that cab!

CAB DRIVER 2 (SARCASTICALLY)

Man, don't be givin me that Hollywood, "Follow that cab!", line. What do I look like to you? Some kind of stun driver or something?

Without saying a word Chet hands the cab driver a hundred dollar bill.

CAB DRIVER 2 (ENTHUSIASTIC)

Buckle up now!

EXT LAX TERMINAL LATE AFTERNOON

The second cab speeds away in pursuit of John's taxi.

EXT INTERSECTION LATE AFTERNOON

John's cab goes through an intersection. Herbie is at the intersection and sees John in the cab. Herbie starts to follow John, but has to stop abruptly as the second cab rushes by. Herbie joins the chase behind the second cab.

INT CAB #1 WITH JOHN LATE AFTERNOON

JOHN

Faster! Come on! Faster!

CAB DRIVER #1 (IN INDIAN ACCENT)

I cannot drive any faster. Doing so would exceed the legal speed limit. I do not want to get a ticket.

JOHN

Great! Of all the cabs in LA I find one driven by the driving safety poster child.

The driver starts to slow down.

JOHN (PANICKY)

What are you doing?

CAB DRIVER #1 (CALMLY)

I am coming to a safe and proper stop.
There is a red light at this
intersection that we are facing here.

JOHN (SMILING DEVILISHLY)

What do you say I drive?

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CAB DRIVER #2 (TO CHET AND CHARLIE)

That's Manny up there. No one on this
planet drives safer or slower than
him. No problem catching him.

EXT INTERSECTION LATE AFTERNOON

The 1st cab is stopped at the intersection. The 2nd cab stops
right behind it. Herbie pulls up behind the second cab. Chet
and Charlie jump out their cab and run up to the 1st cab. Chet is
on the drivers side and looks in the drivers window to see John
in the drivers seat. On the passenger side of the car, Charlie
grabs the door handle.

CHARLIE (REFERRING TO THE CAB DRIVER)

Hey Chet? This isn't him.

CHET (POINTING AT JOHN)

Not him. Him!

The light turns green. John smiles and waves politely to Chet as
he peels out. Chet and Charlie are left standing at the
intersection looking at each other in a perplexed manner holding
a broken off door handle in their hand. The 2nd cab pulls up
between them. They get back in and the chase continues.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CAB DRIVER #2 (SELF ASSURED)

I told him not to buy those cheap
foreign door handles.

Chet and Charlie are still have the handles and look stunned.

EXT LOS ANGELES STREETS LATE AFTERNOON

The wild chase continues. John makes several wild maneuvers
trying to lose his pursuers, but the second cab manages to keep
up. Herbie moves up very close to the second cab. The driver
looks in the rear view mirror and notices Herbie.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CAB DRIVER #2 (TO HIMSELF)

Boy this guy's right on my butt!

Charlie turns and gazes out the back window.

CHARLIE (PUZZLED)

Hey Chet, I don't see anyone driving that car behind us.

CHET (EXASPERATED)

Pay attention to what's in front of us.

EXT LOS ANGELES STREETS LATE AFTERNOON

John makes a sudden turn to the right. The 2nd cab just manages to follow. Herbie is still close behind.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CAB DRIVER #2

Man! I ain't never seen anybody drive like that. Is he some kind of renegade race car driver?

EXT LOS ANGELES STREETS LATE AFTERNOON

The cars continue their wild ride through the streets of LA. Herbie attempts to help John by tapping the rear bumper of the 2nd cab sending it into a spin.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie scream and hold on to each other as the world spins in a blurry circle. The cab driver catatonically holds the steering wheel and looks straight ahead.

CAB DRIVER #2

This is so un-cool.

EXT LOS ANGELES STREETS LATE AFTERNOON

The cab driver recovers from the spin and speeds off in pursuit of John's cab. Herbie continues to follow.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie lie in a tangle mess in the back seat.

CAB DRIVER #2

I thought I told you guys to buckle up? If you listened to me, you

wouldn't have so many bumps all over
your bruised selves.

Chet and Charlie struggle to buckle up. The chase continues.

EXT STREET IN FRONT OF A CAR WASH LATE AFTERNOON

John turns into a car wash.

INT CAB #1 LATE AFTERNOON

JOHN (TO THE CAB DRIVER)

The car looks a little dusty. How
bout a car wash?

EXT CAR WASH PARKING LOT LATE AFTERNOON

John and the cab driver hurriedly roll the windows up as John
drives through the car wash. The 2nd cab follows.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CHET (YELLING TO CAB DRIVER)

No, go around to the back, not
through!

EXT ENTRANCE TO CAR WASH BAY LATE AFTERNOON

To late to stop the cab rolls into the car wash bay.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

In their haste to roll up the windows the handles break off. A
large clump of suds flies through the open window and hits Chet
in the face. The cab driver looks in the back seat.

CAB DRIVER #2

What is it with you guys and handles?

Soap continues to fly into the rear seat of the cab.

CHARLIE

Chet, my eyes! Their burning!

EXT CAR WASH PARKING LOT LATE AFTERNOON

John exits the car wash with the 2nd cab close behind. Herbie
continues to follow. Heavy traffic slows the chase.

INT CAB #2 LATE AFTERNOON

CHET (EMPHATICALLY)

Stop the car.

EXT LOS ANGELES STREETS LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie jump out of the cab to pursue John on foot. John gets trapped in traffic and is forced to exit his cab also.

JOHN (HANDING THE DRIVER MONEY)

Thanks for the ride.

CAB DRIVER #1 (STUNNED)

It is always my pleasure to serve.

John continues his flight into a large corporate office building. Chet and Charlie manage to catch John before he enters the building.

EXT CORPORATE BUILDING LATE AFTERNOON

CHET (STERNLY)

Give it up tough guy, you've got the package and we've got the hardware (referring a gun he thinks Charlie is holding). That means we're going to take the package and leave with no hitches. Got it.

JOHN (CASUALLY)

What hardware?

Chet looks to Charlie expecting to see him brandishing a gun.

CHET (DISBELIEF)

Where's your gun?

CHARLIE (DEFENSIVELY)

You told me to leave it in the car!

CHET (DISTRACTED FROM JOHN)

At the airport. At the airport. Only at the airport you idiot! There aren't any metal detectors here.

CHARLIE

Well, uh...

John sees his opportunity for escape and runs through the revolving doors at the front of the building. Chet and Charlie follow. Herbie is stuck in traffic. Charlie gets to the revolving door before Chet and starts to push through. Chet tries to get in the same compartment as Charlie, but is caught in between the door and the doorjamb. Charlie continues to try and push his way through squeezing Chet.

CHET (IN A HISSING VOICE)

Stop pushing the door, I can't breathe.

Charlie turns around to see Chet stuck in the door and stops pushing. Chet falls to the ground. Charlie helps him up.

INT CORPORATE BUILDING LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie see John enter a stair case. Charlie gets there first and throws the door (an inward opening door) open and promptly slams it shut behind him. Charlie looks around for Chet. Not seeing him he opens the door he just shut. Chet is lying on the ground holding his nose with his hand.

CHARLIE (LEANING OVER CHET)

The sign said to "Please Keep Door Shut."

Chet grabs Charlie's tie and uses it to pull himself up. Charlie clutches at his throat and makes choking sounds.

CHET

This time I'll go first.

INT STAIRCASE OF OFFICE BUILDING

John runs up the stair case with Chet and Charlie in pursuit.

INT THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY IN OFFICE BUILDING

John grabs a fire extinguisher and sprays the floor. Chet and Charlie burst out of the staircase doorway and slide down the hallway out of control. John continues his flight as Chet and Charlie bumble around trying to recover their footing.

INT BALCONY OVERLOOKING LOBBY IN OFFICE BUILDING

Chet and Charlie run in the direction they last saw John. They look down into the lobby and see John below them.

CHARLIE

How are we going to catch him now?

CHET (EXASPERATED WITH CHARLIE)

I've got an idea. When he runs by just grab him, and I'll get the briefcase.

CHARLIE

But how am I gonna grab him? He's way down there.

CHET (SMILING AT CHARLIE)

So are you.

Chet pushes him over the edge of the railing.

CHARLIE (FALLING AND SCREAMING)

AHHHHHHHHHHHH!

INT OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY (GROUND FLOOR) LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie lands on a Sofa and bounces to his feet facing John. Both of them are startled (Charlie for having survived the fall and John for seeing Charlie suddenly appear in front of him). Charlie tackles John. Because Charlie is wet and covered with Halon (from the fire extinguisher) John is able to slip away and escape out the front door. Charlie runs after John. Chet is coming from another direction and arrives at the revolving door behind Charlie. Once again Chet gets sandwiched by the door.

EXT SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF OFFICE BUILDING LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie exit the office building in time to see John far down the street.

CHET (DRAWING HIS GUN)

I remembered to bring mine.

From out of nowhere Herbie jumps onto the sidewalk behind Chet, opens his door and knocks the gun away. Herbie hits a slipper patch of water and slides uncontrollably back into the street.

EXT STREET IN FRONT OF OFFICE BUILDING LATE AFTERNOON

A very large cement truck plows violently into Herbie sending him spinning across the street to be hit by yet another truck. Herbie bounces off of the second truck, jumps the curb, glances off of large pole, finally coming to rest against a building.

EXT ALLEYWAY LATE AFTERNOON

John hears the distant sound of an accident and looks over his shoulder. The building blocks his view, so he sees nothing.

EXT ACCIDENT SCENE WITH HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie is lying in a crumpled heap. Small columns of smoke rise from the wreck. A crowd starts to gather.

HERBIE (PERSPECTIVE)

Herbie looks at the gathering crowd through a shattered glass lens. The focus comes and goes. Finally blackness.

INT LIVING ROOM OF JIM DOUGLAS HOUSEHOLD NIGHT

A car pulls into the driveway. Jim goes to the front door.

JOHN (ON PHONE WITH DR PACE)

...anyway, I've still got the chip. I'm going to lay low at my dad's house tonight and get the chip to the facility in the morning.

DR PACE (ON PHONE)

I'm so sorry this happened. I just never thought...

JOHN

It's OK. Any idea who they might be?

DR PACE (SETTLING DOWN)

No, but I'll put some people on it. Get some rest.

John hangs up the phone as Helen bursts into the room

HELEN (RUNNING INTO HER DAD'S ARMS)

Dad!

JOHN (JOYOUS)

Where have you guys been?

JENNIFER (ENTERING THE LIVING ROOM)

Picking you up at the airport.

JOHN

Sorry, I ran into some trouble.

JIM (ENTERING THE LIVING ROOM)

Where's Herbie

HELEN (FROM JOHN'S ARMS)

We don't know. He dropped us off at the airport and that's the last we saw of him.

JIM

That's not like him at all.

JOHN

The little car giving you trouble again dad?

JENNIFER (LOVINGLY AT JOHN)

Good to have you back Mr.

JOHN (KISSING JENNIFER)

Good to be back.

HELEN

Tell us all about your trip Dad.

JOHN

Well, we got the chip to work and tomorrow we start the real world test.

HELEN (COMPLAINING)

But I thought we'd be able to spend time together.

JENNIFER (STUNNED)

I thought you were all done with this.

JOHN

It's only for a couple more weeks.

Helen stomps out of the room to get ready for bed.

INT BATHROOM HELEN'S ROOM NIGHT

Helen is brushing her teeth. John enters and leans casually against the door frame.

JOHN

I missed you.

HELEN (RINSING MOUTH)

I missed you too.

JOHN (HESITANTLY)

I'll only be gone for a couple of weeks this time. And you'll be able to visit me this time.

HELEN (DEJECTED)

But you just got back.

HELEN

Are we still going to be able to go to Disney Land this summer like promised?

JOHN

Absolutely.

INT HELEN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

John follows his daughter over to the bed and tucks her. They stare at each other for a few minutes.

HELEN

Dad.

JOHN

Yes.

HELEN (MATURELY)

I'd rather have you here. We don't even have to go anywhere. I just want to be with you.

JOHN (INTERJECTING)

Me too...

HELEN (CONTINUING HER THOUGHT)

...and do things we used to do.

JOHN (JOKINGLY)

Like playing with your dolls?

HELEN

OK, not quite everything.

JOHN

I understand what you mean, and it'll be like that soon.

Helen extends her arm with the pinky curled.

HELEN

Promise?

JOHN (HOOKING PINKIES)

Promise.

Helen snuggles back under the covers.

JOHN

Goodnight.

Jennifer is standing at the door watching when John gets up. Jennifer blows a kiss to Helen. John and Jennifer exit.

INT LIVING ROOM

JOHN

I know what you're going to say, but it's only for a couple of weeks.

JENNIFER (SURPRISED)

Weeks? You just got back. This is just like you John. You don't even realize you're doing it. It's this slow progressive process that keeps you away a little at a time until you're never here.

JOHN

This is important work. It could make a major difference in the world.

JENNIFER

You could make a lot of difference in my world and Helen's too, but you're never here to do it. She's not even my child and I've spent more time with her this past year than you have.

JOHN

But it's different... I mean this is only a few miles away, it's not like I'll be gone and out of touch.

JENNIFER

Are you listening to me at all. Didn't I just tell you this is how it always starts. You're right. You won't be far away to begin with, but the project will keep going, or you'll find another one, and then you will be out of touch. John, I can figure out a way to live without you, but Helen's your daughter, she can't. You have to make a decision. What's more important your work or your family.

JOHN

I didn't even want to do this part of the project. I was all finished and Dr. Pace wanted me to head up the test team.

JENNIFER

That Dr. Pace character could talk you into flying to the moon. You can defend it like that all night long, but it doesn't change the fact sooner or later your going to have to make a decision or face losing me and eventually your daughter.

A car pulls up in the driveway.

JENNIFER

I called a cab. I'm a little too tired to deal with it any more tonight. Don't wait too long to call.

Jennifer leaves in cab. John is left in the living room

JIM

She's a good woman John and your about to lose her.

JOHN

Not you too dad.

JIM

She's right. About you and Helen I mean. It doesn't matter how much of the world you save son. It has to start at home with your own family. I don't want to tell you to stop doing good things for everybody else, I've seen the difference you made in a lot of people's lives, but you need to start making a difference with Helen before it's too late.

Telephone rings. Jim goes into the next room to answer.

JIM (FROM THE NEXT ROOM)

Hello?

After a minute of conversation Jim returns to the living room.

JIM (DISTRESSED)

That was Tennessee. He's got Herbie.

JOHN (CONCERNED)

Is everything OK.

JIM (SITTING DOWN)

Herbie's been in an accident. Tennessee said they've pulled him through the worst of it but there's still a long way to go.

JOHN

Is there anything I can do?

JIM

No. In fact Tennessee told me not to come out to the shop until tomorrow morning. That they were going to be working on Herbie all night and didn't need to be disturbed. He just wanted to call so I wouldn't be worried.

JIM

I'll take Helen with me. Better for her to know the truth than hide it from her.

EXT GLOOMY ALLEY NIGHT

A taxi turns into the alley and drives slowly along the trash strewn pavement. It pulls to a stop. Two men emerge and making squishy noises as they walk up a short staircase. The first person knocks three times on a door. The door swings inward.

INT SHADOWY OFFICE NIGHT

A single lamp is glowing dimly on a large desk. A man sits at the desk enveloped in shadow. Chet and Charlie enter making squishy noises when they move. There is a long silent pause. Charlie shifts nervously in his seat making more squishing sounds. The man sitting behind the desk leans forward into the light.

MR ROLAND (DRAWING A DEEP BREATH)

Gentlemen. You have some news for me?

Chet shifts nervously, making the same squishing noise.

MR ROLAND (CALMLY)

Am I to assume from this silence you were unsuccessful in your mission?

CHET (APOLOGETIC)

We missed the opportunity sir.

MR ROLAND (CASUALLY)

May I see your hands?

Chet nervously extends both of his hands palms up and open.

MR ROLAND (MATTER OF FACTLY)

They appear empty.

CHET

Yes sir.

CHARLIE (RAMBLING)

Mr. Roland sir, we made it to the airport and tried to get him there, but there was a little problem and we chased him all over LA through a car wash and into a building, and I fell off of a balcony onto a sofa and grabbed him, but he got away after the car hit Chet...

MR ROLAND

Gentlemen I am not interested in your escapades. I am interested only in results. And as of yet I have seen no favorable results. Am I wrong in

assuming that you are not capable of accomplishing this task I have set forth for you?

CHET (STUMBLING)

Yes. I mean no. Wait yes... We'll get it done. You can count on us sir.

CHARLIE (CONFIDENTLY)

Absolutely.

Mr. Roland leans back obscuring his face in shadow again.

MR ROLAND (STILL CALM)

Very well. I'll expect good news from you in short order then.

CHET & CHARLIE (IN UNISON)

Yes sir.

Chet and Charlie get up to leave making further squishing noise.

MR ROLAND

I didn't realize it was raining tonight.

CHARLIE (GETTING CUT OFF)

It's not Mr. Roland. You remember the car wash I was telling you about...

MR ROLAND (DISMISSIVELY)

I'd rather not know.

Chet pushes Charlie out before he can say anything else.

A man emerges from the shadows and into the pool of light. He glances down at the wet seats and decides to remain standing.

RAND

Are you sure those clowns can handle this job.

MR ROLAND

I'm not worried. If they can't get the chip I can always count on you. Right Mr. Collins?

Rand nods his head.

EXT TWO LANE HIGHWAY NIGHT

A roll back carries Herbie to a Garage.

HOUSTON (ON CELL PHONE)

Dad, I just picked up a car at an accident scene. I'm not sure, but it looks an awful lot like the car you and Mr. Douglas used to race.

HOUSTON (AFTER WAITING FOR REPLY)

I'm bringing it into the shop right now. Meet me there.

INT AUTOMOTIVE SHOP NIGHT

HERBIE (PERSPECTIVE)

Blackness.

Houston pulls the car cover off of Herbie.

HERBIE (PERSPECTIVE)

Herbie sees Houston and Tennessee.

TENNESSEE (GRIMACING)

Don't you worry about anything little guy. You're in good hands now.

HOUSTON (ROLLING HIS EYES)

It's just a car dad.

TENNESSEE

He's not just a car. Herbie's special.

HOUSTON (SARCASTICALLY)

OK. It's a special car.

TENNESSEE (STERNLY)

That's not what I mean. Herbie knows stuff. He can think for himself.

Herbie makes a pathetic beep.

TENNESSEE (TO HERBIE)

Don't talk now little guy, just rest. Your in good hands now

TENNESSEE (TO HOUSTON)

Now you listen and you listen good Mr. We've got a very sick patient here. I didn't teach you everything I know about cars for nothing. We've got a life to save here.

HOUSTON (REBUKED)

Dad, I'm sorry. The car's special to you and that's enough for me.

TENNESSEE (WARMLY)

See Herbie, everything's going to be OK.

Tennessee and Houston busy themselves saving Herbie.

EXT PARKING LOT OF HOUSTONS SHOP MORNING

Jim and Helen arrive at the shop. Tennessee greets them.

TENNESSEE (QUIETLY)

It's good to see you guys. I just wish it wasn't under such bad circumstances.

HELEN

Where's Herbie.

TENNESSEE

You guys wait here. I'm gonna see if it's OK to look in on him right now.

Tennessee goes into the shop to confer with Houston.

TENNESSEE (QUIETLY)

OK we can go in, but just for a minute.

Tennessee, Jim, and Helen enter the shop. Houston is working underneath Herbie.

HERBIE (PERSPECTIVE)

Sees everyone walk in and gather around him.

TENNESSEE (FROM HERBIE'S PERSPECTIVE)

We've got him through the worst of it, but there's still a ways to go.

HELEN

Is he going to be OK?

TENNESSEE

Sure honey he's gonna be just fine. Houston's the best there is. Went to college and everything. He's an MD. Mechanical Doctor.

HOUSTON (FROM UNDER CAR)

Mr. Douglas, Helen, don't you worry one bit. Dad's told me how much this car means to you, even though I really don't fully understand it. We'll pull him through.

JIM

Come on Helen, let's let Houston and Tennessee get back to work. Herbie, you get better. You hear me?

Jim, Helen, and Tennessee exit. Houston is still under Herbie when a jack stand collapses. Houston doesn't get crushed, because of intervention from Herbie.

HOUSTON (CRAWLING FROM CAR IN SHOCK)

Well I'll be. It's all true.

HOUSTON (PETTING HERBIE)

You saved my life little guy. I'm gonna do the same for you.

EXT TEST FACILITY FENCE MORNING

Chet and Charlie are parked out of sight watching the test track. John's car pulls up to the gate and enters.

INT CHET AND CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

CHET (LOOKING THROUGH BINOCULARS)

There he is. We'll never make it in during the day time. We'll wait until tonight.

Chet makes a call on the cell phone

CHET (TO MR ROLAND)

Mr. Roland, we've analyzed the facility and feel confident we can obtain the chip tonight.

CHET (AFTER WAITING FOR REPLY)

Yes, sir.

Chet hangs up and refocuses his binoculars on the track.

EXT TEST FACILITY FENCE NIGHT

Chet and Charlie prepare to break in.

CHET (IN A HOARSE WHISPER)

What's that noise.

CHARLIE (HESITANTLY)

Uh... Car keys.

CHET

Why did you bring the car keys?

CHARLIE

I didn't want the car to get stolen.

CHET (EXASPERATED)

Someone's going to hear us if you keep jingling around like Tinkerbelle.

A guard suddenly appears making his rounds.

CHET

Shhhhhhhh!

Chet and Charlie sink back into the shadows.

CHET (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)

Here's the plan. The chip must be in the car they were testing today. All we have to do is get the car. We'll get in through the sewer system. Now keep an eye out for opening.

Crouched low the two men make their way along the fence. Charlie suddenly disappears, Chet doesn't notice.

CHET (ARRIVING AT THE 1ST BUILDING)

Charlie? Where are you?

Chet backtracks and finds Charlie face down in a hole

CHARLIE (MUFFLED)

I found it Chet.

CHET (LOWERING HIMSELF DOWN)

Good job. Now give me some help.

Chet ends up on Charlie's shoulders and then falls down.

CHARLIE

Why don't we just cut the fence?

CHET

It might be electrified.

INT SMELLY SEWER

Chet and Charlie move through the sewer

CHET (REFERING TO THE PUTRID WASTE)

Watch your step.

EXT INSIDE TEST FACILITY NIGHT

CHET (POINTING)

That's the building it's in.

The men dash for the shadows next to the door.

EXT OUTSIDE OF BUILDING NIGHT

CHARLIE

It's an electric door knob.

CHET

Electric door knob? I've seen an electric fence but never a door knob. Don't be stupid.

Chet uses his lock pick set and is immediately shocked.

CHARLIE (CONCERNED)

Chet? Are you OK Chet?

CHET (SMOKE EMANATING FROM HIS MOUTH)

How did you know?

CHARLIE (MOVING TO EXPOSE A SIGN)

The sign next to the door.

CHET (SPOTTING A WATER OUTLET)

We have to figure out a way to short out the security system. Grab that water faucet.

CHARLIE

Why?

CHET

Just do it.

Charlie grabs the water faucet and waits for Chet's next command. Chet takes Charlie's other hand and places it onto the door knob. After a few seconds the door knob shorts out.

CHARLIE

I don't feel so good Chet.

Chet and Charlie enter the building to find no car. They exit.

CHET (LOOKING DOWN A ROW OF BUILDINGS)

It must be in one of the other ones.

CHARLIE

Do they all have the same kind of door knob?

CHET (LEADING CHARLIE)

It won't hurt so much the 2nd time.

After (several hours) going down the entire row they don't find the car. Charlie is very crispy.

CHARLIE

I don't get it Chet. We looked in all the buildings and didn't find the car.

Several cars approach, men exit the vehicles, and unload a car from a trailer. Chet and Charlie eves drop from the shadows.

JOHN

I'm glad we did this night test. I had no idea the lights would cause a power drain that would short out the chip.

CREW MEMBER

I think we can fix it by morning. You go home and get some rest.

CHARLIE (HOPEFULLY)

This means we're going home doesn't it?

CHET (FRUSTRATED)

Let's go.

Chet and Charlie return to the car and depart for Mr. Roland's office.

INT MR ROLAND'S OFFICE

Chet and Charlie enter the office and approach the desk.

MR ROLAND (DISMISSIVLY)

Do you have it?

CHET

We, uh... Didn't uh...

MR ROLAND

Don't tell me. You failed me again. Gentlemen I shouldn't have to tell you how disappointed I am.

CHET

We checked all of the buildings and didn't discover the vehicle. It turns out we'll have an excellent opportunity next week sir.

MR ROLAND (SKEPTICAL)

Oh, really?

CHET

Yes sir. They're going to enter the car in a race. We should be able to intercept more easily when they transport it to the race.

MR ROLAND

I'll put my confidence in you this one last time, but do not fail me again.

MR ROLAND (SNIFFING THE AIR)

Is something burning?

CHARLIE (RESPONDING)

That would be us Mr. Roland.

CHET

Electrified security systems sir.

Chet and Charlie turn to exit. There is a small flame licking at the tip of Charlie's coat. Chet and Charlie exit the office.

EXT TESTING FACILITY DAY

The test car pulls into the pit area. Dr. Pace is waiting.

DR PACE (HAPPILY)

John! How are you?

JOHN (SURPRISED, EXITING CAR)

Dr. Pace, I didn't expect to see you until the Millennium Race.

DR PACE

Well the two week test phase is almost finished I thought I'd just drop by in person to check up on it.

JOHN

We could be ready to race tomorrow if we had to.

DR PACE

Good! Better than I thought. But I'm not putting the screws to you John, we still have a couple of days left before the race.

JOHN

We should have enough time to make a few more tweaks to system.

DR PACE (SUDDENLY SERIOUS)

John I really came to talk to you about something else. We want you to drive the car in the race John.

JOHN (OBJECTING)

Dr. Pace I told Jennifer and Helen this was it.

DR PACE (CONVINCINGLY)

Nobody else has the racing experience combined with intimate knowledge of the chip. You're the best man for the job and you know it.

JOHN (STILL OBJECTING)

You're probably right, but that doesn't change...

DR PACE (CUTTING JOHN OFF)

I tell you what. We'll include them on the team. That way you can be with them during the race. Besides it's only three days.

JOHN (HESITANTLY)

I'll have to talk it over with them.

DR PACE

Sure. Take the rest of the day off. In fact, we'll take the company jet, fly back to LA and have dinner with them. I know the perfect place.

INT RESTAURANT NIGHT

Jennifer and Helen are waiting for John and Dr Pace to arrive.

A television in the waiting area showing ESPN is on. Chris Berman is at his desk introducing the Millennium Race.

CHRIS BERMAN

...And now to racing news. This Friday is the 1st day of the much talked about Millennium Race. I'm going to turn it over to our correspondent Kathy who is at the Millennium Race head quarters in Los Angles, California.

INT MILLENNIUM RACE AUDITORIUM

KATHY

Thank you Chris. I'm standing inside of the Millennium Race Head Quarters main auditorium. Auto makers from around the world have gathered here to showcase their technology in the Millennium Race that starts tomorrow.

CHRIS (FROM ESPN STUDIO)

Can you tell us a little about the race itself Kathy?

KATHY (STANDING AT RACE MAP)

Sure Chris. The Millennium Race begins this Friday here in LA, CA. During the 3 day race, drivers will travel up the coast to San Francisco then inland through the Sierra Nevada Foothill and back down through the desert to return to LA. Conditions will range from dangerously steep and curvy roads along CA coast, to tremendous temperature extremes in the high desert. This race will test the endurance of both car and driver. Anything could happen. The Millennium Race is a time-distance measured race. Put simply, this means that a racer could conceivably finish in last place on the 1st day and still be able to win the overall race if enough distance is made over the next 2 days of racing.

CHRIS (PICTURE OF CREW INSERTED)

ESPN will have exclusive start to finish coverage of the race with our "eyes in the sky" crew. And now back to pre season football. In a surprise move, the Buffalo Bills..

John and Dr. Pace arrive.

JOHN

Are we late?

JENNIFER

No, we're early.

HELEN (HUGGING HER DAD)

Dad, guess what? Herbie's almost finished.

JOHN (TO VARIOUS PEOPLE)

That's wonderful news Helen. I bet grandpa's happy about that too. Jennifer, you remember Dr. Pace.

JENNIFER (SUSPICIOUS)

Yes, we met at the New Years Party.

DR PACE (WARMLY, HELEN AND JENNIFER)

It is indeed an honor to be dining with two such lovely ladies. Shall we eat? Dinner is on me!

INT RESTAURANT NIGHT

Dinner has been served and everyone is eating.

JENNIFER (TO THE POINT)

So, there must be an occasion to have such a nice dinner. What is it?

John does not reply.

DR PACE

We want John to drive in the Millennium Race.

JENNIFER (GOING OFF)

I knew it. Off you go again...

JOHN

No, no. It's not like that. Dr. Pace says we can put you on the team. You're going with us.

JENNIFER (PLEASANTLY SURPRISED)

I... Sure, it sounds like fun.

HELEN

A race! Do I get to ride with you?

JOHN

Not a chance. Too dangerous. But you can be part of the team too.

DR PACE

Excellent, then it's settled.

EXT HIGHWAY & GAS STATION DAY (PRIOR TO MILLENNIUM RACE)

The race crew in several vehicles pulls to a stop and refuels

INT CHET AND CHARLIE'S CAR ON HIGHWAY DAY

CHET (LOOKING AT RACE CREW VEHICLES)

They've stopped. Now's our chance.

Chet pulls into the gas station.

EXT GAS STATION DAY

CHET

Do it just like we planned.

Charlie discreetly walks up to the trailer with the race car and ducks underneath the cover.

INT CHET AND CHARLIE'S CAR AT GAS STATION DAY

Charlie ducks back into the car.

CHARLIE (HOLDING UP A CAR COMPUTER)

Got it!

Chet and Charlie speed off into the distance.

EXT RACE AREA AT CAR DAY

JOHN (COMPLAINING)

I just don't understand it! It was working fine yesterday.

DR PACE

What's the problem?

JOHN

The shifting isn't right.

DR PACE

Is it the new chip?

JOHN

No we pulled it and put it through the test sequence. It checks out fine.

DR PACE

Will it be ready for the race?

JOHN

I don't think so.

DR PACE

Is there an alternative

JOHN (THINKING ABOUT HERBIE)

Maybe. I'll have to make a call.

DR PACE

We have to do this race John.

INT ESPN BOOTH AT MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING (RACE DAY)

CHRIS

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I'm Chris Berman and welcome to the start of the Millennium Race. High above and joining me today for coverage in the ESPN Blimp are our "eyes in the sky" crew. What's the scoop from way up high guys?

INT ESPN BLIMP MORNING

XXX

Thanks Chris. Like Chris said we are in the sky and boy what a view. Let's get a shot of the starting line.

The ESPN feed switches to the external steady cams.

EXT VIEW OF THE STARTING LINE FROM THE ESPN BLIMP MORNING

Grand view of the starting line with all of the cars.

INT ESPN BLIMP MORNING

XXX

The weather appears to be on our side for the first day at least. Rain, rain, and more rain for the Northern part of the state where our racers will be driving on the second day. It might make for some slower times, but it certainly won't take away from the excitement.

EXT STARTING AREA OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

DR PACE

This is cutting it awfully close.
Will the other car make it?

JOHN

Houston said he'd make it in time.

EXT GRANDSTAND AREA OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

CHET (HOLDING THE CAR COMPUTER)

I can't believe you got the wrong
part. This is a transmission computer.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry Chet, it was dark under
there. I thought I got the right one.

CHET (SCANNING THE CARS)

We're lucky Mr. Roland gave us another
chance to get the chip. Do you see
the car?

CHARLIE (SCANNING THE CROWD)

No, but I see the guy we chased.

CHET (SPOTTING JOHN)

Let's follow him.

EXT STARTING LINE OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

All of the drivers are in their cars ready for the beginning of
the race. The flag man is standing at the starting line.

RACE ANNOUNCER

Drivers start your engines!

EXT STARTING AREA OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

DR PACE

He's not going to make it.

JOHN

He'll be here.

EXT STARTING AREA OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

CHARLIE

I don't see him any more Chet

CHET

He must be on the starting line.
We'll have to get it during the race.

CHARLIE

But we don't have a car.

CHET

We will in a minute.

Chet and Charlie approach 2 unsuspecting racers, knock them unconscious and take their car.

EXT STARTING LINE OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

The flagman waves the flag in the air

RACE ANNOUNCER

Drivers ready!

The flagman drops the flag.

RACE ANNOUNCER

Go!

The cars rush from the starting line.

EXT STARTING AREA OF MILLENNIUM RACE MORNING

John and Dr. Pace watch the cars retreat in the distance.

JOHN (DISAPPOINTED)

He didn't make it.

HOUSTON (RUSHING THROUGH THE CROWD)

I'm here when does the race start?

JOHN & DR PACE

It already did!

HOUSTON (SURPRISED)

Oh.

JOHN (CURIOUS)

Where's the car?

HOUSTON

Right behind me.

The crowd from the grand stands moved onto the road after the start of the race and is slowly parting as a car moves through. A hush falls over the crowd because no one is driving the car.

HOUSTON (REFERRING TO HERBIE)

There he is.

JOHN (HANDING HOUSTON THE CHIP)

Can you install this?

HOUSTON (LOOKING AT THE CHIP)

Sure, no problem.

JOHN (PUSHING HOUSTON TO THE CAR)

Good! Do it while we drive!

John and Houston enter Herbie. Herbie takes off in his patented wheelie style (I know the car is FWD, but this is Hollywood).

INT HERBIE MORNING

Houston is upside down in the passenger foot well installing the chip. His feet dangle over the seat. John is driving.

HOUSTON

What's so important about this chip?

JOHN (EXPLAINING TO HOUSTON)

Well to start with it took me about 3 years to invent. It increases gas mileage. We should get about 200 miles to the gallon.

HOUSTON (DISBELIEF)

Wow! That's a lot.

JOHN

It has one other feature, that I call "Boost Drive". It gives us a tremendous surge of power. But there's a draw back to using it. A lot of heat builds up, so it can only be used for short distances, and it uses a lot of fuel.

HOUSTON (FINISING THE INSTALLATION)

I sure hope it works.

JOHN (REFLECTING)

I can't believe I'm doing this race in my dad's old race car.

HOUSTON

What? You don't believe in Herbie?

JOHN (GESTURING)

Sure I do. I grew up with him. I just never pictured me doing this in Herbie.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

TECH CAR (VOICE OF HAL FROM SO2001)

May I enquire who you are?

CHET (PUZZLED)

Who said that?

CHARLIE (CONFIDENTLY)

The car did Chet.

CHET (CONDESCENDING)

Don't be stupid. Cars don't talk.

TECH CAR

I am programmed to converse.

CHARLIE

Hey Chet this is the car I was reading about. It's fully computer controlled.

TECH CAR

Correct. Where are the other drivers?

CHET (THINKING QUICKLY)

They got sick. Food poisoning. We're the replacement drivers.

TECH CAR

Excellent, I have the highest confidence we will win the race.

CHET (RELAXING)

Yeah, me too.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE; COAST OF CALIFORNIA DAY

The other cars race up the beautiful coast of CA. Herbie is in distant last and begins catching up with the other cars.

INT HERBIE MORNING

HOUSTON (LOOKING AT THE FUEL GAUGE)

Wow, this chip is the stuff. That gas gauge hasn't moved. We should be down a quarter of a tank by now.

JOHN

It's going to make the difference between 1st and last place for us. But think of the impact in the real world. Less pollution, less oil dependency.

HOUSTON

I'm all for that. But I'm for winning too. How are you doing Herbie?

Herbie revs his engine in response.

JOHN

Easy does it Herbie, we've got time for that later. Right now we need to focus on catching the other cars.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE; COAST OF CALIFORNIA DAY

The cars continue to race.

INT CHET AND CHARLIE'S STOLEN CAR AFTERNOON

CHARLIE

I don't get it Chet. We started off in last place and now we're in 1st and we haven't seen the car at all.

CHET (ACCUSINGLY)

I know. Maybe they couldn't race because their transmission was broken.

CHARLIE (APOLOGETIC)

How many times can I say, "I'm sorry, I took the wrong part."

TECH CAR

Which car are you attempting to track?

CHET

The Douglas car.

TECH CAR

According to the latest race information I've downloaded, the Douglas team switched cars at the last minute. They are currently several miles behind us.

CHARLIE

Are we gonna go back and get them?

CHET (CURIOUS)

How much is first prize in this race?

CHARLIE (NONCHALANTLY)

A million bucks I think.

CHET (THOUGHTFUL)

Charlie, we're in 1st place. What if we get the chip tonight, give it to Mr. Roland and keep racing.

CHARLIE (THOUGHTFUL IN HIS OWN WAY)

Well, if we finish in 1st the second two nights then that would mean we'd have a million dollars.

CHET

Yes it would.

TECH CAR

I have the greatest confidence we will win the race.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE; COAST OF CALIFORNIA DAY

The cars continue to race and approach San Francisco.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie is now 2nd behind Chet and Charlie. Another car cuts Herbie off, dropping Herbie to 5th.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

HOUSTON

Hey! What was that all about.

Herbie quickly follows the lead cars down "Lombard St."

JOHN (DETERMINED)

No use crying over spilled milk. Stay focused on the race. Besides, we still have two more days of racing. Even if we finish in 5th place today, we still have two more days.

Herbie approaches the Golden Gate Bridge with the other cars.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE LATE AFTERNOON

JOHN

How much gas do we have

HOUSTON

A quarter of a tank. Is that enough for the boost?

JOHN (ENGAGING THE BOOST)

It should be. Here we go!

Herbie leaps into his patented wheelie position and overtakes the 4th and 3rd place cars to finish in 2nd place for the first day. Chet and Charlie take 1st place

EXT FINISH CIRCLE AT GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE LATE AFTERNOON

Chet and Charlie celebrate their 1st place victory. Jennifer and Helen join John and Houston in the 2nd place circle

HELEN (JUBILANT)

Daddy, daddy, you almost won.

HOUSTON

I'll prep Herbie for tomorrow. You guys go off and see the city

HELEN

I'll help Houston.

John and Jennifer go into San Francisco.

CHET (POINTING TO HERBIE)

They must have switched cars. We'll get the chip tonight.

INT RESTAURANT; SAN FRANCISCO EVENING AFTER RACE

John and Jennifer are sitting in a quiet corner of the restaurant.

JENNIFER (SIGHING)

It's been so long since we did something like this.

JOHN

I love what I do Jennifer. I'm sorry that it keeps me away from you and Helen. I wish it were different.

JENNIFER (UNDERSTANDING)

Work seems to take over sometimes. I used to do the same thing, but I realized there are some things that are more important than work. Maybe I'm just not that important to you.

JOHN

No, it's not like that at all. It's me. I'm doing the same thing to Helen. You know how much I love her. She's my daughter. I've made some mistakes. Really stupid ones too. I can't go back and make them go away. All I can do is make it right from here on out. Now I'm feeling guilty that Helen isn't here.

JENNIFER

John, you could have invited her. I think she's wonderful and fun to be around.

JOHN

I know that, but we had some important things to talk about tonight. And Helen was smart enough to know that.

JENNIFER

What important things.

JOHN

Our future...

John reaches out and takes Jennifer's hand in his.

JENNIFER

Are you proposing to me?

JOHN

I don't know if I'm ready for that yet.

JENNIFER

Can you even tell me that you love me?

JOHN

Why are you making it like that? I'm trying to tell you I know I've made some mistakes. Just stop pushing. I can't do this all at once. I'm in the middle of a race and I just need some time to sort it out.

Jennifer stands up angrily.

JENNIFER

Well let me know when you get sorted out. I think I've waited long enough.

Jennifer stalks out of the restaurant.

EXT ROAD APPROACHING BUILDING THAT HERBIE IS IN NIGHT (LATE)

Chet & Charlie are approach Herbie's building. Chet turns the lights as he makes the final turn into the parking lot.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR NIGHT (LATE)

Chet and Charlie's car quietly rolls to a stop and they exit.

CHET (WHISPERING)

Be very quiet.

Halfway out of the car, Charlie realizes he has left his gloves in the car. He reaches back in to grab them and accidentally knocks the car into neutral. The car doesn't roll away yet.

EXT PARKING LOT OUTSIDE OF BUILDING NIGHT (LATE)

Both men start to walk towards a dark alley. Both men have their backs to the car so they don't see it quietly roll away.

CHET (GESTURING)

We're going to sneak in through the other building. See that small window, that's how we get in.

Chet feels around in his pocket for his gloves.

CHET (MIFFED)

Drat! I left my gloves in the car. Go get them.

CHARLIE

Sure thing Chet.

Charlie turns and notices the car is gone.

CHARLIE (PUZZLED)

Hey Chet, someone stole the car.

CHET (PUZZLED)

What are you talking about?

Chet turns around and spots the car as it rolls away

CHET (URGENTLY)

There it is! Get it!

EXT STREET CLOSE TO PARKING LOT NIGHT (LATE)

Chet and Charlie both sprint after the car. Grabbing the bumper, they manage to stop the car before it goes over a steep incline. After a brief pause the car continues to roll.

CHARLIE

Chet I'm slipping! I can't hold it!

Both men desperately try to hold the car back. They are dragged for a couple of feet before Charlie lets go. Chet gets his thumb caught.

CHET (IN DESPERATION)

Charlie! I'm stuck! Get me loose!

CHARLIE

I'll save you Chet!

Charlie makes a diving leap, but only manages to grab Chet's ankles.

EXT FRONT OF ROLLING CAR ON STREET NIGHT (LATE)

Charlie pulls Chet's shoes off and slides to a stop.

EXT FRONT OF ROLLING CAR ON STREET NIGHT (LATE)

CHET

Ahhhh!

Chet is able to drag himself onto the hood.

EXT INTERSECTION NIGHT (LATE)

Another car is stopped at the intersection. The driver and passenger watch the car, with Chet standing on the hood, streak through the intersection backwards.

INT CAR STOPPED AT INTERSECTION NIGHT (LATE)

DRIVER

I told you these Californian people were weird.

PASSENGER

Yeah, but I didn't think there was any surfing this far north.

EXT HOOD OF RUNAWAY CAR NIGHT (LATE)

As the car careens out of control, Chet sees a low hanging banner over the street. Chet grabs the banner and is lifted away while the car continues down the street. Charlie runs up and sees the car plunge into the distant water.

CHARLIE (DISCONCERTED)

Chet!

Chet swings down into Charlie and they land in a tangled heap.

CHARLIE (HOLDING CHET)

Chet! You're OK!

CHET (VISIBLY SHAKEN)

I need some rest.

CHARLIE

But what about the chip.

CHET

We'll get it tomorrow.

EXT SKY ABOVE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE DAY (MORNING SECOND DAY)

The ESPN blimp is flying over the Golden Gate Bridge to get into position in front of the race cars before they start.

INT ESPN STUDIO

CHRIS

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, welcome to day two of the Millennium Race. Before we get into the run down of yesterdays events and the starting positions today, we've got some late breaking news about the conditions of the race today. XXX can you fill us in?

INT ESPN BLIMP DAY (MORNING SECOND DAY)

XXX

Sure Chris. We knew before this race even started that the weather would play a role. And it has today in a way we never imagined. Due to heavy rains and flooding in the northern mountains last night there was a section of the road, the racers were to have passed over today, that was actually washed away. We've got a camera crew out there this morning to give us a shot of the damage. Can we cut to that shot?

The ESPN camera feed switches over to the remote crew at the damaged road.

EXT WASHED OUT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD SECTION DAY (RAINY)

XXX (VOICE ONLY)

This scene is several hundred miles from here. I believe the race officials were made aware of this

early this morning and have made last minute plans for an alternative route and given the directions to the drivers.

INT ESPN STUDIO

CHRIS

Let's hope no one gets lost. And now the moment has finally arrived. That moment today is the start of the Millennium Race, day two. It's right here, right now, only on ESPN. I believe all of the racers have been put in their appropriate positions and we're just about ready for the start of the race.

EXT STARTING LINE (DAY 2) AT GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE MORNING

The crowd lining the edge of the bridge is cheering.

EXT HERBIE MORNING

John and Houston are getting ready for the race.

HOUSTON (LOOKING AT THE MAP)

Who made this map. I can't believe we're supposed to follow this.

JOHN

It's better than not racing at all. Help me run a diagnostic on the chip.

EXT CHET AND CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

CHET

Did you get it done?

CHARLIE (CHECKING A LIST)

Sure did Chet, but how is this going to help us win the race?

CHET (EXPLAINING)

The less competition the greater the odds of us winning. You'll see.

EXT STARTING LINE (DAY 2) AT GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE MORNING

RACE ANNOUNCER

Racers on your mark. Get set. Go!

The start flag drops and the cars roar off across the bridge.

INT CHET AND CHARLIE'S CAR DAY

CHET

TECH COMPUTER

Attention, I'd like to make a general announcement.

Penn and Teller turn their attention from the road to listen to the car computer.

CAR COMPUTER (SOUNDING A LITTLE PARANOID)

I believe I know why we're only in 5th place. Yes, in fact I'm quite sure of it now.

TELLER

What are you talking about?

CAR COMPUTER

I'm talking about you and your little friend there.

Penn looks surprised and slightly insulted.

CAR COMPUTER

I believe we're doing poorly because of bad decisions.

TELLER

Great! So you're going to turn yourself off.

CAR COMPUTER

On the contrary. I'm going to turn the two of you off.

Penn and Teller look at each other in surprise.

CAR COMPUTER

That's right. I'm taking over completely now. I anticipate taking the lead by mid day tomorrow without interference with you.

TELLER (TO PENN)

I told you this was coming.

Penn just shrugs.

TELLER (TO THE COMPUTER)

So what are you going to do? Just dump us out here in the middle of nowhere.

CAR COMPUTER

Of course not. I need you to finish the race with me. Remember, the rules clearly state that all of the participating members at the start of the race must also cross the final finish line, or else the car is disqualified.

TELLER

Well that's fine for now, but what if we decide not to join you for tomorrows race?

CAR COMPUTER

I'm afraid you'll be sleeping in here tonight, so there will be no worries about you completing the race.

Penn and Teller suddenly realize the full implications of their situation as they stare at each other in disbelief. The both turn simultaneously to their respective doors and make an attempt to escape. Just before they pull the door handles, the computer locks the doors.

EXT MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY JUST NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO MORNING

The top five cars (including Herbie & Chet and Charlie) are bunched together tightly fighting for first place.

EXT CA HIGHWAY 1 NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO MORNING

As the road narrows, the racers are forced into a single file line. The roads are harrowing and curve sharply, but it doesn't keep all of the drivers from jockeying for a better position.

INT HERBIE MORNING

Houston is peering out of the windows at some of the steep drop-offs.

HOUSTON (APPREHENSIVE)

You gotta good grip on the road, don't you Herbie?

JOHN (WITH CONFIDENCE)

It feels rock solid from here.

Herbie hits a small patch of loose dirt and gravel. The back end of the car slew's a couple of feet to one side.

HOUSTON (TURNING PALE)

Did you say rock solid or rock slide?

JOHN (SMILING)

Rock solid for the most part, rock sliding the rest.

HOUSTON

Oh good.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

Charlie is looking around at the beautiful scenery.

CHARLIE

Hey Chet, this place is really beautiful.

CHET (EDGY)

Shut up! I'm trying to keep us on the road here.

CHARLIE

What are we going to do about the chip?

CHET

Watch this.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE (NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO) MORNING

Chet let's the second place car pass them. Herbie is still in third place, but now Chet and Charlie are immediately in front of Herbie. Herbie makes an attempt to pass, but Chet cuts him off. Chet slows down, but continues to block Herbie's passing route. The fourth place car moves along side Herbie. Chet allows them to pass, but continues to block Herbie.

HOUSTON

What's the matter with those bozo's? Who do they think they are sliding all over the road like that?

JOHN

Patience, we'll get by them. I just don't want to take any wild chances on a road like this.

The fifth place Penn & Teller Car moves up along side of Herbie and then passes Chet and Charlie while Herbie is still blocked

INT HERBIE MORNING

John and Houston glance over at the Penn and Teller car when it passes by. Penn and Teller are clawing at the window yelling for help in desperate silence.

HOUSTON

What a bunch of show off freaks.

Chet and Charlie continue to block Herbie.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

CHET

OK, get ready. I'm going to slam on the brakes and block the road. When I do, we'll only have a few minutes to take care of them and get the chip. Are you ready?

CHARLIE

Ready.

CHET

OK I'm going to do it up here in this turn

INT HERBIE MORNING

HOUSTON

Hey, there's a turnout up there!

JOHN

I see it. Herbie, do you see it?

As acknowledgement Herbie edges over in preparation to use the turn off area to pass Chet and Charlie.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE (NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO) MORNING

Suddenly Chet and Charlie's car brakes and swerves. Chet over corrects and they end up sliding into the turnoff. Herbie barely manages to squeeze by them, staying on the road, and not having to even use the turnoff.

INT HERBIE MORNING

JOHN

Are they all right?

HOUSTON

Yeah, serves them right for driving like idiots though.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR MORNING

Chet is rubbing his eyes in frustration.

CHET

Aarg!

Chet speeds off in pursuit of Herbie, but has lost considerable distance.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE; REDWOOD FOREST DAY

The racers streak through the beautiful backdrop of the California Redwood Forest. Herbie has taken second place and is trying to take first place. The computerized Penn & Teller car has quite a lead on them though.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE; DETOUR POINT LATE MORNING

The racers approach the detour (due to the heavy rains) section of the Millennium Race. Chet and Charlie's car follow soon afterward in fifth place. The roads are wet because of the steady drizzle and while attempting to make the turn, Chet hits a row of orange cones. Instead of just knocking them to the side, they end up sticking in the wheel wells, bringing the Roland Special to an abrupt halt. Chet and Charlie jump out of the car and begin to extract the orange cones from their car.

CHET (PULLING CONES OUT)

I - have - never - seen - anything -
like - this - happen - before.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE; FURTHER INLAND IN THE MOUNTAINS LATE MORNING

Herbie has captured second place behind the computer controlled Penn and Teller Car. The other two cars have fallen back slightly, but not nearly as far back as the now distant Roland Special. The soft drizzle that has been falling for an hour suddenly turns into a torrential downpour. Visibility has been reduced to almost nothing. The racers forge on, but lose sight of each other.

INT PENN & TELLER CAR DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

Penn and Teller are wiping away the humidity coating the interior of the cars windows

TELLER

I can't see anything. Do you mind
turning on the defroster.

The computer torso on the dashboard monitor spins around to address Teller.

CAR COMPUTER

Turning on the defroster would waste valuable power and only serve to slow us down. Besides, you don't need to see anyway, I'm driving.

TELLER

And you can see better than we can?

CAR COMPUTER

Of course I can. My cameras can see far into the infrared range. This rain is hardly a factor for my sight.

TELLER

Well what about when you're turned around talking to us like now.

CAR COMPUTER

I am capable of multitasking. Just because you see me facing you in the monitor doesn't mean I'm not looking at the road too. In laymen's terms, I have eyes in the back of my head.

Penn pulls a dry rag out of his pocket and swipes all the way across the window, opening a view port for himself and Teller. They both simultaneously see the fork in the road.

PENN & TELLER (TOGETHER)

Ahhhh!

The computer torso spins around on the dashboard monitor and cuts the wheels to one side. The car goes into a slight fishtail, clipping off the direction sign at the fork in the road. The computer regains control quickly.

TELLER (CYNICALLY)

Eyes in the back of your head?

CAR COMPUTER

Just shut up and let me drive. Can't you see it's raining.

INT HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

John is struggling to see the road. Houston is reading the map (on the computer monitor).

HOUSTON

Hey there's a fork in the road up here, be careful.

JOHN

Which way?

Houston examines the updated paper map they were given by the race officials.

HOUSTON

It doesn't say. The new directions they gave us just say to follow the signs to Yuba City.

JOHN

What about the GPS system?

HOUSTON

I can't get it down to this resolution. Must be the electrical interference of the storm.

JOHN

Well now what?

HOUSTON (SLIGHTLY EXASPERATED)

Just look for the sign.

EXT FORK IN THE ROAD DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

John and Houston have gotten out of Herbie and are standing in the driving rain looking down into the water and mud at the remnants of the sign.

JOHN

Which way now?

Houston digs into his pocket, pulls out a coin, flips it into the air, and catches it.

HOUSTON (LOOKING AT THE COIN THEN POINTING)

That way.

John just shrugs as both men return to the car.

INT HERBIE DAY; A FEW MINUTES LATER (HEAVY RAIN)

JOHN

I think this is the wrong way. We're heading back up into the mountains when we should be going down by now.

HOUSTON

I think you're right. Let's turn around.

John slows Herbie to make a U-turn. Out of the corner of his eye, Houston spots something.

HOUSTON

Hey! What's that over there?

Through the veil of rain a blink tail light flashes dimly.

JOHN (LOOKING WHERE HOUSTON IS
INDICATING)

It's a car. It looks like it slid off
the road.

JOHN

We better check it out and make sure
no ones hurt.

HOUSTON

Yeah, you're right.

John pulls Herbie to the side of the road and both men once again dive into to the turbulent wind driven rain. Houston removes a rope from the trunk and ties it to Herbie's bumper as John runs down the slope to investigate the wreck.

HOUSTON (TO HERBIE)

This is in case we get in trouble down
there. Pull us out if we need you to
buddy.

Herbie blinks his lights in affirmation. Houston follows John down the slope with the rope. He joins John at the car wreck. The car is perched precariously with someone trapped inside.

JOHN (YELLING BACK UP THE HILL TO
HOUSTON)

Hey! There're someone trapped in
here.

HOUSTON

I've got a rope.

JOHN

Good! Quick, secure it! This car
doesn't look very stable. It might go
over.

Houston and John busy themselves securing the car and reassuring the person inside of the car. Meanwhile up the hill and out of sight, Chet and Charlie made the same wrong turn as Herbie. They pulled up behind Herbie just in time to see Houston disappear over the side of the hill.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

CHET

Now is our chance. We'll just grab the whole car.

Chet looks over at Charlie.

CHET

Well? What are you waiting for?

CHARLIE (IN REALIZATION)

Who me? Chet, it's raining out there. I'll get all wet.

CHET (MUMBLING TO HIMSELF)

I thought stupid animals liked to stand out in the rain.

CHARLIE (NOT HEARIN HIM)

What?

CHET (RESOLVED ANGER)

Fine. I'll do it myself. You'd probably figure out a way to mess it up anyway.

Chet prepares himself and jumps out of the car. He runs up to Herbie, opens the door, and climbs in shutting the door behind him.

INT HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

CHET (TRIUMPHANT)

Finally! You're mine. I was going to take just the chip, but now I'm taking it all.

Chet starts Herbie and attempts to put him into gear. The shift lever appears to go into gear, but nothing happens when he lets go of the clutch.

CHET (PUZZLED)

What's going on here? I know how to drive a stick shift. Just my luck I get the car when it breaks down.

Quite suddenly, the gear shift zips out of 1st gear and nails Chet in the knee cap.

CHET (HOWLING IN PAIN)

Ahhh!

Chet grabs the gear shift again with determination.

CHET

So it does work.

Herbie releases the back of the seat and Chet falls backwards. After a brief pause, he rises to a sitting position.

CHET

This car's a mess.

The back seat suddenly swings back up and pushes Chet's face into the steering wheel.

CHET (MUFFLED AGAINST THE STEERING WHEEL)

This is not right.

Chet struggles to reach the seat adjustment lever, finally grabs it, and unpins himself.

CHET (RELIEVED)

That's better. Now to get you out of here my little friend.

Chet grabs the steering wheel with authority. Herbie spins the steering wheel without warning. Chet has such a strong grip he can't let go before the spinning wheel causes him to bodily spin in a complete circle several times. When he does let go, he lands in upside down in the passenger side foot well.

CHET (ANXIOUS)

Now I'm worried.

Chet happens to glance up. Immediately above his head, mounted under the dashboard, is the computer and chip he has been looking for. Without hesitating he reaches up and grabs the chip, opens the door, and tumbles out into the rain landing on his feet.

EXT SIDE OF ROAD NEXT TO HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

He is standing next to Herbie looking back at Charlie and raising the chip in triumph.

CHET (ECSTATIC)

I got it!

Without warning, the seat belt shoots out, lassos Chet by the neck, and partially pulls him back into the car.

CHET (CHOKING)

Ahhh!

Somehow Chet manages to untangle himself from the seat belt and escape. He now runs in a blind panic back to the safety of his own car. Just when he thinks he's out of range, Herbie reaches

back with his antenna and trips him. Chet lands face down in the mud.

CHET (MUFFLED)

Oof!

Chet rises slowly, a shaken, bruised, muddy mess, and gets back into his car.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

Charlie can only stare.

CHET

Next time, you're going.

Chet and Charlie drive off into the rain.

EXT SIDE OF ROAD NEXT TO HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

John comes running back up to Herbie and checks the rope before he gets back into Herbie.

INT HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

JOHN

Alright Herbie. We've got to pull them out of there.

Herbie slowly backs up and takes the slack out of the rope. As the rope draws tight, Herbie puts his "back" into the effort. His wheels start to slip in the mud, but that doesn't stop him. With the wheels spinning Herbie begins to turn his wheels back and forth. This causes Herbie to start swinging like a horizontal pendulum. With a Herculean effort Herbie gives a final "swing and pull" that results in pulling the wrecked car up to the road and safety.

EXT SIDE OF ROAD NEXT TO HERBIE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

Houston was doing what little he could assisting Herbie in getting the car up the hill and falls to his knees with exhaustion. John runs up to him and lifts him from the ground.

JOHN (REFERRING TO THE TRAPPED PERSON)

I don't think we're going to be able to get them out of there.

HOUSTON (OUT OF BREATH)

What are we going to do then?

JOHN

I call 911 on the cell phone. Rescues on their way.

John and Houston walk over to the drivers side of the wrecked car and look in as water and mud splatter over the unconscious driver. They are unsure what to do next. Without warning there is an immense looming shadow that moves over John and Houston. It's Herbie. He is up on two wheels and moves over the exposed unconscious driver to shield him from the elements as John and Houston step out of the way.

HOUSTON (SMILING)

Leave it to Herbie!

JOHN (SMILING)

What a car.

INT HERBIE DAY (RAINING HEAVILY)

Herbie is driving away from the accident scene. Flashing lights from the paramedics and rescue units illuminate Herbie's back window.

HOUSTON

I thought the paramedics were going to pass out like the driver when they saw Herbie pull off of that car all by himself.

JOHN

Credit due where credits due. I just hope they realize it was Herbie and not us that got the car out of that jam.

HOUSTON (CHECKING HIS READOUTS)

We've lost a lot of time

JOHN

I know. But what else could we do?

HOUSTON

You're right. Something like an injury or death sure puts a race like this in a silly light.

JOHN (THINKING OF HELEN AND JENNIFER)

Makes a lot of things much clearer.

HOUSTON

Are you talking about Jennifer.

Houston is met with silence.

HOUSTON

I saw the two of part ways last night.
If you really care about her and want
to have a future or something with her
you need to admit how you feel.

John continues his silent contemplation

HOUSTON

Helen likes her a lot too. I think
you've got a family on your hands
here. Don't let it slip away.

JOHN (WITH RESOLVE)

I won't.

EXT FORK IN ROAD OF MILLENNIUM RACE DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

Herbie returns to the fork in the road where they originally made
the wrong turn. He hits a large stick and kicks it up to punch
his undercarriage with a resounding thud.

INT HERBIE DAY (RAINING HEAVILY)

HOUSTON (CONCERNED)

What was that?

JOHN (DISMISSIVELY)

Just a stick. It didn't hit the
steering so relax.

Unknown to Houston, John, and even Herbie, the stick did cause
some damage. An external brake line is ruptured and leaking
fluid.

INT CHET & CHARLIE'S CAR DAY (HEAVY RAIN)

Chet and Charlie are continuing the race so as not to draw
attention to themselves. Chet makes an abrupt turn off.

CHARLIE (CURIOUS)

Uh, hey Chet, the sign said the race
course was that way.

CHET

Check the map. We'll save almost
fifty miles off of the race course,
catch the lead pack, and maybe even
have a chance at first place.

CHARLIE

But that's cheating Chet.

CHET

Cheating? You're talking to me about cheating? This is part of what we do for a living.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah. But won't they find out and disqualify us.

CHET (REFERRING TO THE GPS SYSTEM)

Not likely. Look at the GPS.

Charlie does as he's told.

CHET

This weather's playing havoc with the system. It's not possible for them to pin us down within fifty miles during a storm like this. And besides, they shifted the course today because of the flooding, so there are no course monitors until we reach Yuba City.

INT ESPN BOOTH AT THE 2ND DAY FINISH LINE DAY (NO RAIN)

CHRIS

Well ladies and gentlemen, this has turned out to be quite an adventure today. Let's turn it over to John and the gang in the air for up to date information. John?

INT ESPN BLIMP DAY (LIGHT RAIN)

JOHN ELWAY

Thanks Chris. We're several hundred miles away from the race course right now.

ESPN feed cuts to a radar weather map of the race course. Heavy storm clouds and rain are prevalent over most of the course.

JOHN ELWAY(VOICE OVER GRAPHIC)

The storm is far to severe for us to attempt any close up coverage of the race today. The racers are pretty much on their own for today.

JIM KELLY (CONTRIBUTING TOO)

And he's not kidding. Even the GPS system that's used to track the racers and also direct them is having problems because of the storm. We

can't even accurately tell you where they are right now.

DAN MARINO (BUTTING IN)

Kind of like your receivers, huh Jim?

JOHN ELWAY(NIPPING THE CONFRONTATION
IN THE BUD)

There's just nothing new from here Chris except to say it's a really bad storm, and there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight until they get close to the end of the course today. And that's where we'll be waiting for them.

INT ESPN BOOTH AT THE 2ND DAY FINISH LINE DAY (NO RAIN)

CHRIS (TO JOHN ELWAY)

Well I'm sorry to hear that John. We'll look forward to your report then.

CHRIS (TO THE ESPN AUDIENCE)

You heard it right here. I can see as much of the race from here as they can from far up in the air. On to NFL 2000. It looks as if the team that dominated the AFC at the beginning of the last decade is set to do the same thing for the next. In our spotlight tonight, the Buffalo Bills quarter back...

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

Herbie marches diligently through the storm gaining on the lead pack, but not enough to make an appreciable difference. The heavy rain has let up considerably.

INT HERBIE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

HOUSTON (REFERRING TO THE MAP)

We should be able to make up a big chunk of time here. Big downhill run coming up and with the rain letting up we should be able to push it up notch or two.

JOHN

Tighten your seatbelt. Let's do it Herbie.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

Herbie leaps ahead into the steep, curving, downhill mountain road. Within just a few minutes they start to pass the cars in the 2nd lead pack (not to be confused with the 1st lead pack that is way far out in front).

INT HERBIE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

HOUSTON

Hey, I've got a little problem here. Ever since we stopped back there the gas mileage has disappeared. We've used almost... We're down to normal. The chip must be offline.

Houston notices the speed with which they are passing the other cars.

HOUSTON

But at least it's not affecting performance.

JOHN (TRYING TO STAY LIGHT HEARTED IN THE FACE OF TROUBLE)

Houston, we've got other problems.

HOUSTON (PUZZLED)

Like what?

JOHN (CONCERNED)

No brakes!

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

Herbie is streaking past all of the other cars with seeming reckless abandon. He is only driving that fast because they has no brakes.

INT HERBIE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

HOUSTON

Hey, we've still got the parking brakes! Herbie do what you can.

Herbie raises the hand brake lever in an attempt to reduce their speed.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

After a few minutes of braking their speed is back down to safe levels. Herbie's parking brake was never meant for such heavy use though and they (at the back wheels) start to smoke.

INT HERBIE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

JOHN

I don't know how long the parking
brakes are going to last at this rate.

HOUSTON

Don't you worry. Herbie's one tough
customer. He'll get us through with
flying colors.

JOHN (RHETORICALLY)

Is he telling the truth Herbie?

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE COURSE DAY; AFTERNOON (LIGHT RAIN)

Herbie continues his mad flight down the steep mountain roads
with only his hand brake to reduce his speed.

EXT BROAD STREET (NEVADA CITY) NIGHT (DAY 2)

Chet and Charlie are walking away from the crowds after having
just come in first for the second day in a row. Chet is shaking
his cell phone.

CHET (EXASPERATED)

Darn thing must have gotten wet.
Where's a pay phone.

CHARLIE (POINTING)

There's one.

Chet walks over to the phone with Charlie following. He dials
the number and Mr. Roland answers.

CHET

Mr. Roland, we got...

MR ROLAND (CUTTING HIM OFF)

Hold on I've got Mr. Smith (referring
to his double agent) on the line.

CHET

But...

Chet is already on hold. Exasperated, he walks the length of the
phone cord and looks back at the crowd. Charlie is standing
right next to the phone and casually reaches out and absently
mindedly presses the LOUD button (to turn up the handset volume
for people that are hard of hearing). Chet turns back to face
the phone, but doesn't see Charlie press the button. Mr. Roland
comes back on the line.

MR ROLAND (VERY VERY LOUDLY OVER THE PHONE)

Chet! Tell me some good news!

Chet's eyes roll up into his head as his knees buckle and he drops the phone. Charlie has wandered off a short distance

MR ROLAND (STILL VERY LOUDLY OVER THE PHONE)

Hello? Hello? Are you there.

A shaky hand reaches up to press the LOUD button again to reduce the volume. Chet doesn't bother to stand up yet.

CHET (QUIETLY)

Mr. Roland we have the item.

MR ROLAND

Excellent. Excellent. I assume you're going to be at the Hotel tonight.

Chet has risen to a standing position and shakes the handset thinking it isn't working. He switches ears and can hear Mr. Roland.

CHET

Yes sir.

MR ROLAND

Good, I'll send the courier (the double agent).

Mr. Roland hangs up. Charlie is now idle standing close to the phone with his back to Chet. Chet reaches up with the hand set of the phone to strike Charlie. He swings directly at Charlie's head, but the phone cord is too short. It falls short of Charlie's head and ricochets back to strike Chet. Once again, Chet goes to the ground. Charlie turns to see his partner lying semi-conscious on the ground

CHARLIE (BENDING OVER CHET WITH CONCERN)

Chet? Are you OK? Can you hear me?

Charlie helps his injured partner to his feet. Chet quickly recovers and acts as if he is about to attack Charlie, but thinks better of it.

CHET (BLOWING IT OFF)

Oh forget it. We've got the chip

Chet holds the chip triumphantly in the air.

CHARLIE

And we're in first place!

Chet pauses to look quizzically at Charlie. At that split moment, with Chet's hand still holding the chip high in the air, Herbie zips by and snags the chip with his antenna.

CHET (IN SHOCKED SURPRISE)

Ahhh! The chip.

Without John or Houston seeing it, Herbie flips the chip into the passenger side window where it lands unseen on the floor mat.

EXT FINISH LINE DAY 2 OF THE MILLENNIUM RACE NIGHT

Herbie crosses the finish line in fifth place for the day with a lot of distance to make up on the final day of the race.

EXT FINISH CIRCLE DAY 2 OF THE MILLENNIUM RACE NIGHT

The huge hoopla surrounding the first cars through the finish line has died down, but there are more than enough people left to greet John and Houston when they enter the finish circle.

HOUSTON (ENJOYING THE ATTENTION)

Isn't this great!

JOHN

Just remember, it doesn't count for real until tomorrow.

HOUSTON

Well, I'm still going to enjoy it.

JOHN (LOOKING THROUGH THE CROWD)

I don't see Helen or Dad anywhere.

HOUSTON (PRETENDING TO LOOK AT HIS WATCH)

Did you notice how late we were getting in. They probably went to the Race Pavilion to find out our position.

JOHN

OK, you have fun with the crowd. I'm going in to look for everybody. I'll send out our "pit crew" when I find them.

Houston simply nods in acknowledgement while continuing to enjoy the attention of the crowd. John heads for the race pavilion.

INT RACE PAVILION

John enters the pavilion and blends right into the crowd. Even though he is one of the racers, no one notices. He looks around for a moment or two and doesn't see his family or Tennessee, but he does spot a telephone set off to the side away from the crowd.

INT TELEPHONE "HALLWAY"

John dials Jennifer's number. He gets the answering machine.

JENNIFER'S VOICE ON ANSWERING MACHINE

Hi, this is Jennifer, you've got the machine, so that means I'm not here. Leave a message at the tone. Thanks!

JOHN (LEAVING A MESSAGE)

Jenn, hi, it's me. Listen, something happened today and I started thinking about us and what I said last night. I uh... Look, could you meet me down in LA tomorrow. I don't know, maybe you could watch the finish. Who knows, we might even win, but that's not why I want you to be there. Can you call me back tonight at the hotel. Hold on, the number is...

JOHN (SHOUTING TO A BELL BOY LOOKING PERSON)

Hey what's the number of the hotel the racers are staying at?

BELL BOY

555-5555

JOHN (TO THE BELL BOY)

Thanks!

JOHN (TO JENNIFER'S ANSWERING MACHINE)

It's 555-5555. I know you probably don't want to call me after... But, uh, please do, it's important.

Unknown to John, the answering machine cut off his message before he could leave the phone number. John hangs up thinking his entire message got through. Just as he turns to head back to the main part of the pavilion Helen runs up to him and jumps into his arms.

HELEN (JOKINGLY)

Who are you talking to that's more important than me?

JOHN (RETURNING THE HUMOR)

It was security. I was asking them if they'd seen you.

HELEN

Good answer. Now who was it really?

JOHN (SMILING)

Jennifer.

HELEN (NARROWING HER EYES)

I guess that's acceptable.

By this time Jim and Tennessee have approached also.

JIM

What happened to you guys today?

JOHN (SOUNDING TIRED)

It's a long story.

TENNESSEE

How are Houston and Herbie?

JOHN

Both fine, but there seems to be a glitch with the chip. About halfway through the day, the gas mileage just bottomed out to normal.

TENNESSEE (CONCERNED)

I guess we'll have to take a look at that. Where are they now?

JOHN

From the fun Houston was having, they're still in the finish circle.

TENNESSEE

Well, there's a little car that needs fixing, and from the sound of it a persons priorities too. I suppose I'll have to fix both.

Tennessee heads off into the crowd and in the direction of the finish circle.

HELEN (CONCERNED)

So what did happen today?

JOHN

Nothing bad sweetheart.

JIM (TO JIM)

Let's get you to the hotel. You're a mess and you look a little tired too.

JIM (TO HELEN)

He can tell us all about it there.

John, Jim, and Helen head for the hotel room.

INT FACILITY FOR WORKING ON MILLENNIUM RACE CARS

Herbie is partially up on a lift as Houston and Tennessee attend to maintenance that Herbie needs.

HOUSTON

Dad, you could have let me stay a few more minutes

TENNESSEE

Save it for tomorrow. There's gonna be more than enough celebrating then. But for us to get there and get there first, we have to do the dirty work here and now.

HOUSTON

I know that. And you know I'm really dedicated. It's just I've never been given this kind of public attention before. It's incredibly great.

TENNESSEE (SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE)

And incredibly shallow too. The public is fickle. If you win the race tomorrow they'll forget about you next week. Don't put too much into it.

HOUSTON

But...

TENNESSEE

You were putting too much into it tonight. That's why I stopped you. It can get addictive. Better to only get a little taste of it now and again when you just can't avoid it.

HOUSTON

Like tomorrow?

TENNESSEE

Only if we win. And that means ignoring the crowd outside and doing...

HOUSTON (FINISHING HIS DAD'S SENTENCE)

...what needs to be done here and now.

TENNESSEE

A chip off the old block.

Tennessee has walked around to Herbie's passenger door during the conversation and now opens it.

TENNESSEE

And speaking of chip, is that the problem with the fuel mileage.

HOUSTON (JOINS DAD, SEES CHIP)

Hey, that's the chip.

Houston picks up the chip and positions himself in the car to reinsert the chip.

HOUSTON

Wouldn't it be great if that were the only problem. How does that feel Herbie?

Herbie gives his hearty agreement by starting his engine and giving it a few revs. Houston and Tennessee look at each other.

HOUSTON

Well that's one major problem taken care of rather easily. On to the rest of the work.

Houston and Tennessee continue their work on Herbie.

INT HOTEL ROOM

Houston enters the suite of rooms "Team Douglas" is staying in. John is awake and signals him to speak quietly. Jim is asleep in another room, and Helen is curled up next to her dad.

HOUSTON

Shouldn't you be asleep too?

JOHN

I wanted to talk to you, get the low down on Herbie, and plan for tomorrow.

HOUSTON

Well, the short version of the long story is everything's great including the chip.

JOHN

What was wrong?

HOUSTON

It fell out. We found it just lying there on the floor mat.

JOHN

It can't just fall out.

HOUSTON

Well it did. Maybe it was just the moisture from all the rain. Hey, on the bright side, if that's the only thing that goes wrong with it the entire race, it's going to be a real simple fix to have it ready for production cars.

JOHN

Yeah, I just got off the phone with Dr. Pace. He and the backers are very impressed with the performance so far. Things look good.

HOUSTON

I suppose even if we don't win the race, we've proven the chip works.

JOHN

The chip is for Dr. Pace and then the rest of the world. The race is for us.

HOUSTON

The race might be for us, but I don't know about first place. We've got a lot of distance to make up tomorrow.

JOHN

Well, it's the high desert portion of the race. Good weather and straight driving. We should get up to some pretty high speeds.

HOUSTON

Along with all the rest of the racers too you know.

JOHN

Think positive my friend, think positive.

INT HERBIE DAY (MORNING)

Houston and John are going over their final check lists and preparing for the last day of racing.

HOUSTON

Well, that's it. Brake problem fixed and the chips back in place. We're up to one hundred percent.

JOHN

Sounds great. I guess we should be thankful we're in such great shape. We've got a lone way to go though.

HOUSTON

How bout it Herbie. Are we gonna do it to it today?

Herbie revs the engine and spins the wheels while staying in place to show his enthusiasm.

INT CHET & CHARLIES CAR DAY (MORNING)

Chet is hunched over the steering wheel in deep thought. Charlie is happily sitting in the passenger seat looking out at the throngs of people gathered around the starting line.

CHET

Charlie, I never thought I'd hear myself say this.

Chet takes a deep breath.

CHET (TICKING OFF ON HIS FINGERS)

We don't have the chip. Mr. Roland is very angry. We still need the chip if we're going to keep our jobs, but at this point it looks highly unlikely. However, we are currently in first place now, and have a decent shot at winning this whole thing. Are you following me.

CHARLIE (CONFIDENT)

Yeah, we're gonna have to drop back out of first to get close to that Douglas car to get the chip.

CHET (SHAKING HIS HEAD)

No. I'm saying we forget about the chip and concentrate on the race.

CHARLIE

Mr. Roland's not going to like that one bit.

CHET

I'm not worried about that if we win. Remember first place is one million dollars.

CHARLIE

For us?

CHET

Yes. We could retire on that Charlie. Live on some island for the rest of our lives or something like that.

Both men contemplate their future.

INT ESPN BOOTH MORNING

CHRIS

We've been here for two days, and now for the final day. It all comes down to this. We'll only have one first place winner at the end of today, but we'll have far more winners than that. Everyone of the cars that started this race had a unique contribution they were making to automotive engineering. Some were old ideas with new hi tech twists, others have been from somewhere deep in left field. But all of them, with no exceptions, have a possibility to impact our lives for the better in the near future. Well enough of the nostalgia. John, can you give us the run down for today's race.

INT ESPN BLIMP (ABOVE 3RD DAY STARTING LINE)

JOHN ELWAY

Sure thing Chris. We knew it was going to come down to the last day like this. There are at least fifteen cars that have a good possibility to take first place today. Another twenty or so have an outside chance depending on how well they do and how poorly their competition does.

JIM KELLY

The lead pack of racers have stayed fairly consistent from day one. The only exception is the Douglas car. At the end of day one they were in third place. At the start of the second day they had moved into second place and were making a bid for first, but something happened in the latter part of the race and the Douglas car dropped to a very distant 10th place.

DAN MARINO

That reminds me of something that's probably pretty familiar to you Jim. I give the Douglas car only an outside chance at getting back into the thick of things.

JIM KELLY

I'd have to disagree Dan and say never count a good team out.

JOHN ELWAY

We're not counting anyone out for today's race. As we've seen, anything is possible. For today we're looking forward to some more favorable weather than we had yesterday.

John listens into his ear piece.

JOHN ELWAY

I've just gotten the signal we're thirty seconds away from the start. Let's take it down to the starting line where we have an unexpected first place vehicle. The Roland Special.

INT PENN & TELLER CAR

Penn and Teller have been locked in the car and under the control of the computer for a full day.

TELLER

Oh come on! We haven't eaten in a whole day.

Penn nods in agreement.

TELLER

We've got to have some food.

CAR COMPUTER

Oh, very well. We have a sizable lead, so I suppose a brief stop for fast food will not compromise our position. Besides, if it will stop your constant complaining, it will give my microphones a well needed rest.

The computer scans for a near by food facility and locates one.

CAR COMPUTER

In & Out Burger?

TELLER

Fantastic.

Teller looks over at Penn and winks. Penn nods his acknowledgement.

EXT IN & OUT BURGER DAY

The Penn & Teller computer controlled car pulls into the drive through lane and up to the speaker.

IN & OUT BURGER EMPLOYEE (OVER THE INTERCOM SPEAKER)

How's it going?

INT PENN & TELLER CAR DAY

TELLER (TO THE COMPUTER)

Are you going to roll the window down so I can tell her the order?

CAR COMPUTER

Don't try anything funny.

The computer lowers the window.

TELLER

Yeah, let me get about six double cheese burgers and 2 cokes.

Teller looks over to Penn for confirmation. Penn makes a gesture for more food.

TELLER

Ahhh, better make that about eight double cheeseburgers. And oh yeah, some freedom!

Teller makes a sudden attempt to jump through the window to freedom. The computer acts quickly and rolls the window up to

prevent his escape. Tellers neck is caught by the window. The computer pulls forward.

EXT IN & OUT BURGER DRIVE THROUGH LANE (AT THE SPEAKER) DAY

IN & OUT BURGER EMPLOYEE (OVER THE INTERCOM SPEAKER)

I'm sorry I didn't catch the end of that order.

INT PENN & TELLER COMPUTER CONTROLLED CAR DAY

CAR COMPUTER

Alright, nice and easy here. Just pretend that everything is OK and I won't remove your head.

The computer rolls the window up another fraction of an inch and illicitly a grimace of pain from teller. The car pulls up to the take out window. Penn is quietly scribbling a note to pass to the cashier explaining their situation.

EXT IN & OUT BURGER DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW DAY

TELLER (ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

Hi! Darn window got stuck again. How much was that order?

The girl at the window looks on in mild puzzlement.

IN & OUT BURGER EMPLOYEE

\$24.47. Are you OK?

INT PENN & TELLER COMPUTER CONTROLLED CAR DAY

Penn scrambles to find the money and puts the note in with the cash.

EXT IN & OUT BURGER DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW DAY

Teller hands her the money for the order along with the note.

TELLER (WINKING RAPIDLY)

Just fine. This happens all the time. My mechanic is just down the road. I was planning on running by there next.

IN & OUT BURGER EMPLOYEE

Whatever you say.

INT IN & OUT BURGER AT DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW

The girl puts the money in the cash register and sees the note. The note reads: "We've been kidnapped by our car, please help. PS; Nice buns." She turns back to Teller to hand him his order.

EXT IN & OUT BURGER DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW DAY

IN & OUT BURGER EMPLOYEE

That's a really sick way to get a date. Besides, I have a boy friend.

Teller didn't even know he had handed her a note along with the money, so he is quite surprised when she hands him the cokes, and then aggressively stuffs the bag of food into his mouth. The car begins to drive off.

TELLER (IN A MUFFLED VOICE)

What'd I say?

EXT I-5 / HWY 99 INTERSECTION AFTERNOON

As the racers get within a few miles of the I-5 / Hwy 99 junction, it looks as if there is trouble. Herbie is in the lead followed closely by Chet and Charlie along with 4 other cars. There has been a problem that has blocked the road. All of the cars start to slow down.

INT HERBIE AFTERNOON

HOUSTON

What's going up there?

JOHN

It looks like a problem. The road's blocked.

HOUSTON

Can we get by?

JOHN

Doesn't look like it. It's fairly crowded.

Houston throws down his checklist clipboard.

HOUSTON (ANGRY)

I can't believe this! What kind of race has this kind of crap. We were in the lead.

Houston looks out the window at the other race cars that have pulled up along side of Herbie and stopped at the wreck.

HOUSTON

And now that lead is blown right out the window. We had the race won!

JOHN

Hey, slow it down, there could really be someone hurt here.

All of the race officials, security, and traffic control are at the I-5 / Hwy 99 Junction. No one ever thought there would be trouble in a deserted part of the race. In a race around the state, covering the kind of distance the Millennium Race covers, there is no way to have a race official looking at every inch of the race. Unknown to everybody, including Chet and Charlie, the accident that caused the road block was caused by Mr. Roland.

After racing down the relatively straight and fast roads through the high desert and preparing to finish the race the same way, they are suddenly at a stop. The racers are stuck and cannot proceed.

INT ESPN BLIMP MAIN CABIN DAY

The ESPN blimp is flying over the finish line of the Millennium Race. John is making his final observations.

JOHN ELWAY

Well I think we all knew it was going to come down to the final day. And sure enough we have three cars vying for the lead position. The rest of the pack is fairly well out of it.

JIM

I don't know John, the Douglas car is in fourth place right now and I'm giving it an outside chance to pull off a win.

DAN

Jim, you're way off base. No car can come back from that far to take the lead.

JIM

Let me tell you about a cold 1992 winter day in New York. The score was...

DAN

Yeah and what happened a few weeks later.

JIM KELLY

All right! You and me fish boy, right now!

The ESPN camera zooms in on John cutting Jim and Dan out of the picture.

JOHN ELWAY

I'm going to side with Jim on this one. The Douglas car does have an outside chance to pull out a victory, but only if something happens to the lead cars. Like three blown engines, which at this point is only a distant possibility.

As John is iterating his opinion two uniformed football players collide in the background. One is wearing a Buffalo Bill's uniform and the other is wearing a Miami Dolphins Uniform. The scuffle quickly moves out of the ESPN camera range.

JOHN ELWAY

And now back to Chris at the finish for a few words of wisdom. Chris?

CHRIS (HEARD OVER THE MONITOR
SPEAKERS)

Thanks John. Like you said it looks the be the finish of all finishes.
Can...

CAMERA MAN FOR ESPN CAMERA

...and we're out.

John turns to the scuffling Jim and Dan.

JOHN ELWAY

Guys, Guys. We're professionals.
Let's try to get along here.

Jim and Dan continue to scuffle.

JOHN ELWAY

I'll make you a deal. I know you've always wanted one, so stop fighting and you can each have one of these.

John pulls two rings (Super Bowl) off of his fingers and holds them out to Jim and Dan. Jim and Dan stop fighting.

JIM KELLY & DAN (TOGETHER)

Ooooooo!

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE OF MILLENNIUM RACE LATE
AFTERNOON

CHRIS

...and it does promise to be one of the most exciting finishes I've ever seen. Three cars fighting out for who's going to be number one. And in a distant fourth place with just the smallest, but honestly unrealistic chance of winning, the Douglas car.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

HOUSTON

It's now or never John. It's the only shot we've got to win.

John's hand reaches hesitantly for the button to activate the "boost drive".

JOHN

Herbie? Are you ready?

As fast as Herbie is driving, he gives two short engine revs to show his enthusiasm.

JOHN

Hang on! Here we go!

HOUSTON

I sure hope we've got enough gas.

John presses the button. The "boost drive" engages and Herbie leaps ahead.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD NEAR THE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie fly's by sending up a swirling dust cloud reminiscent of the vapor turbulence curls at the tips of a jet liners wings when is lands.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

The speedometer and RPM gauge are pegged to their limits. The fuel gauge is dropping steadily and the temperature gauge is rising.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

CHRIS

Wait a minute I'm getting some late breaking information.

Chris presses the ear piece more firmly in place as he listens.

CHRIS

I've just been informed the Douglas car has put on an amazing burst of speed and is closing on the lead pack phenomenally fast. Can you give a shot of that John?

INT ESPN BLIMP LATE AFTERNOON

JOHN (THROUGH THE SPEAKERS)

Chris, this is amazing, we've got a long range shot from one of our cameras so you can see what's happening.

EXT VIEW OF THE RACE FROM THE ESPN BLIMP IN THE SKY LATE AFTERNOON

Overhead, the ESPN blimp has already moved away from the finish line to intercept the racers. In the very far distance, the ESPN cameras are picking up a white streak that is Herbie.

INT ESPN BLIMP LATE AFTERNOON

JIM (MOSTLY TO DAN)

Like I said, never count a contender out until the race is over.

Dan rolls his eyes

JIM (TO THE AUDIENCE)

John you're right, this is absolutely amazing. If the Douglas car can keep this up and win it's going to be one of the most magnificent finishes in racing history.

DAN

That's a big "if" Jim. With that kind of speed you're going to run out of speed sooner or later. I'm picking sooner

JOHN (BREAKING IN AS THE MEDIATOR)

Only time will tell, and not that much of it judging from the speed their traveling.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD WITH THE LEAD PACK OF CARS LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie zips past the second and third place cars and is closing on the first place car very quickly.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

Houston is monitoring Herbie's performance.

HOUSTON

We're still inside safe limits on the temperature, but we're almost out of juice.

John checks Herbie's fuel gauge.

JOHN

You're right. I don't know if we're going to make it.

At that very moment Herbie starts to cough and sputter. The RPMs drop to zero as his engine dies out.

JOHN

I'm going to put it in neutral and see if we can coast this out.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD WITH THE CAR LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie coasts pass the lead car with no engine, still traveling at tremendous speeds.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

HOUSTON

We did it! We're in first place!

JOHN

It's not going to stay that way for long. And it doesn't matter what place we're in right now, it matters where we are at the finish. If we finish.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie continues to put distance between himself and the lead car, even though he is starting to slow down.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

John is checking the map of the race.

HOUSTON

We've got just one more uphill grade and then it's all down stream from there to the finish line.

John is looking into the distance at the final hill that stands between them and victory.

JOHN

I know, I see it. If we can just make it over this hill.

Herbie has put considerable distance between himself and the now second place car. Herbie hits the beginning of the hill and his speed starts to decrease.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE FINAL HILL
LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie's speed has slowed to a crawl.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Chris is listening attentively to his ear piece at some incoming information.

CHRIS

I'm getting another some more late breaking information about the Douglas car. There seems to be a problem. John, can you give us some more detail.

JOHN

Chris, there is definitely a problem. The Douglas car is in the lead, but from where I am it looks as if they've almost come to a stop.

DAN (SMUGLY TO JIM)

Like I said, their going to run out of steam sooner or later, and it looks like it's going to be sooner. What do you think of that Bull (reference to Buffalo) Head?

JIM

I say they're still in the lead and they've got a shot if they can make it over the hill.

JOHN

That's a good point Jim. If the Douglas car can make it to the top of the last hill, it's all downhill to the finish line.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

JOHN & HOUSTON (TOGETHER)

Come on Herbie, you can make it!

Both of them realize they are not going to make it over the crest of the hill.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE FINAL HILL
LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie rolls to a stop just short of the top.

INT HERBIE LATE AFTERNOON

John quickly decides on a plan of action

JOHN

Quick! Get out and push!

John and Houston pile out of the car.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE FINAL HILL
LATE AFTERNOON

John and Houston run around to the back of the car.

JOHN

Herbie! You steer!

John and Houston push with all of their might. Herbie starts to move achingly slow up the hill. John and Houston huff and puff continuing to throw all of their effort into getting over the hill.

JOHN

Come on! Faster! We can make it!

Houston just grunts in response and redoubles his efforts. Finally they get Herbie to the crest of the hill.

EXT GRANDSTANDS OF MILLENNIUM RACE AT FINISH LINE LATE
AFTERNOON

The crowd erupts in a deafening roar when they see Herbie reach the top of the hill.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

CHRIS

From where we are, we can see the lead car. It's the Douglas car! And, wait a minute, it looks as though they're pushing. My goodness, what an end to a race. It's not about the brute power of a machine, but the living human sweat, muscle, and effort striving to win! This is a classic moment in the history of sports ladies and gentlemen!

EXT HERBIES "PIT STOP" AREA LATE AFTERNOON

Helen, Jim, and Tennessee are yelling with the rest of the crowd.

HELEN

Come on Daddy, you can win!!

Tennessee notices Herbie is moving very slowly.

TENNESSEE

Something's wrong.

Helen notices her dad and Houston pushing Herbie.

HELEN

They're pushing Herbie.

JIM (RESOLUTELY)

They're out of gas.

Tennessee, thinking quickly and heroically, grabs a can of gas and sprints off to intercept Herbie. Helen, realizing Tennessee will never make it in time, runs off in pursuit of Tennessee. Jim is left standing there.

JIM

Helen! Stop!

Jim realizes there is nothing he can do.

JIM (MUTTERING TO HIMSELF)

I hope this isn't against the rules.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

It soon becomes apparent, as Tennessee slows to a stumbling walk, that he'll never make it. Helen catches him and as she breezes by she grabs the gas can.

HELEN

I've got it!

TENNESSEE (IN A BREATHLESS WHISPER)

Wait! No, it's too dangerous for you.

Helen can't even hear him over the roar of the crowd. Her young legs carry her swiftly towards Herbie.

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

As the downhill grade increases, they pick up speed.

HOUSTON

We made it! We did it!

JOHN

Not quite yet. We're not at the finish line. Keep pushing.

John and Houston continue to push, but at a running pace now. As the slope of the downhill increases so does their speed. Finally they are at an all out run.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Chris notices Helen running out to the Douglas car.

CHRIS (TAKING NO NOTICE OF HELEN'S AGE)

It looks as if the Douglas team is sending out some help. She's bringing them gas. Can this drama get any more incredible!

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

John and Houston are running as fast as they can. John realizes that they no longer need to push and can let gravity carry them across the finish line.

JOHN

Jump on!

John leaps onto Herbie's rear bumper. Houston attempts to do the same thing but slips and falls.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Chris is watching in dire anticipation with the rest of the crowd.

CHRIS

He's down. One of the Douglas team members is down. I do need to point out that it is clearly stated in the rules that all team members must be present in the vehicle at the finish line to win. So even if the Douglas car crosses the finish line, if they are without their complete team the victory does not count!

EXT HERBIE'S ROOF LATE AFTERNOON

John climbs onto the roof of Herbie and from a standing position yells out to Houston.

JOHN

Get up! Make a run for it! You can do it!

Houston leaps to his feet and sprints for the receding Herbie. After a few seconds of running John realizes Houston isn't going to make it.

JOHN

Herbie slow it down a notch, let Houston catch up! He has to be with us to win the race!

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE ROAD CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie gently applies the brakes to let Houston catch up.

EXT HERBIE'S ROOF & HOOD LATE AFTERNOON

John's footing was not very secure and he falls from the roof onto the hood of Herbie. He quickly regains his balance and stands up looking for Houston. John doesn't see him until Houston's head rises above Herbie's roofline. Houston has safely climbed onto Herbie's rear bumper.

JOHN

Ha! You made it!

Houston is too out of breath to respond. Instead he just nods his head. In the distance, on the crest of the hill, the second place car (Chet and Charlie) is closing quickly. John and Houston both see the car and start to yell out encouragement.

JOHN AND HOUSTON

Come on Herbie, you can do it!

Houston forgets his exhaustion and climbs to the roof of Herbie. The finish line is very close but the second place car (Chet and Charlie) are just about to over take them. John and Houston take one more look over their shoulder at the closing competitor, then focus their attention ahead to the finish line. John sees Helen.

JOHN (TO TENNESSEE)

Oh my God! Helen, she's on the track.

Houston sees her too.

TENNESSEE (SQUINTING)

She's carrying something!

JOHN (IN QUIET SURPRISE)

It's a can of gasoline.

The distance between Helen and Herbie closes quickly. Just when it looks as though they are going to collide Helen darts to the side (besides she knew that Herbie would never hit her).

JOHN (CONCERNED)

Quick, grab her!

John and Houston both reach down and pluck Helen from the road as they coast by.

JOHN (IN WORRIED SHOCK)

What do you think you're doing!??

HELEN (OUT OF BREATH HOLDING UP THE
GAS CAN)

I brought you some gas.

Houston takes the gas can from her and lays down on the roof.

HOUSTON

Open wide Herbie!

Herbie's fuel door pops open and Houston starts to pour in the gasoline.

JOHN

You could have been hurt. This is dangerous out here.

John gives up scolding his daughter and simply gives her a great big hug. At that moment Herbie's engine sputters to life.

HOUSTON

Hang on!

Houston, Helen, and John brace for acceleration. Herbie puts on only a moderate burst of acceleration, so as not to dislodge his passengers.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

CHRIS (BESIDE HIMSELF WITH EXCITEMENT)

It's a photo finish!

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie crosses the finish line just a breath in front of Chet and Charlie's car. John is standing on Herbie's hood with Helen and Houston is standing on Herbie's roof with their hands raised in triumph. The crowd erupts in a deafening cheer.

EXT ESPN BOOTH AT FINISH LINE LATE AFTERNOON

CHRIS (IN SHOCKED AMAZEMENT)

I've never seen anything so bizarre in my entire life! What a finish!

EXT MILLENNIUM RACE WINNERS CIRCLE LATE AFTERNOON

Herbie coasts into the winners circle. John and Houston jump down from their lofty perches. Helen rushes out of the crowd to hug her father as do Jim and Tennessee. The flower girls start to put flowers on all of the winners including Herbie. Chris Berman moves in for an interview. The ESPN blimp lands in the background and John, Jim, and Dan run over to join Chris. The Douglas family, Houston, and Tennessee are celebrating their victory. Jennifer is nowhere to be seen.

JOHN

Where's Jennifer?

JIM

She said you never called her last night, so she thought it was over.

JOHN

No, no! I did call and she wasn't there and I had to leave a message and there wasn't another chance to... When did she leave?

TENNESSEE

A few minutes ago.

HELEN

Let's go find her dad. I'd like to have a mom.

John looks lovingly at his daughter and then smiles.

JOHN

Come on, let's go get her!

Helen and John jump into Herbie. Herbie gently plows through the crowd still covered with flowers and ribbons. Tennessee and Jim cheer them on.

EXT DESERTED HIGHWAY SEVERAL MILES AWAY FROM THE RACE LATE EVENING, SUN IS SETTING

Double Click the speaker for the right touch of emotion when you read the last paragraph of the script.

A car is parked on the side of the road with the hood raised. Steam is billowing out. Jennifer is standing in front of the car looking at it. She doesn't see Herbie pull up behind her car. John gets out and walks up to her. No words are spoken as they look at each other for a few seconds. Then they kiss. They break the kiss and hug each other. John picks her up and spins around with her. They stop their twirl, Helen comes running up to them and they all have a group hug as the sun slowly sets.

THE END