

THE LAST RIDE

FADE IN:

INT. CAB - DAY

The door swings open. ELMAR (mid 30's) jumps in. Expensive suit. Business briefcase.

ELMAR
(to the driver)
88 sixth avenue.

Elmar fails to notice the DRIVER (early 20's) is unconscious in his seat.

ELMAR
(into his phone)
Wait a second. I'm confused. Did your
screen ID'ed me as your Orthopedist
when I called?

A WOMAN holding a BABY knocks on his window.

DISPARATE WOMAN
Let's share please.

ELMAR (CONT'D)
(into his phone)
Then why the hell are you telling me
about your Lumbar verteb-fuck
problems?

Elmar gives the woman the finger, then waves a "Hello" with his fingers to the baby while smiling, without interrupting his call. The Woman smacks the window, which makes the Driver snaps awake.

ELMAR (CONT'D)
I don't care, Tony, if your break
your whole spine and spend the rest
of your life in a wheelchair, --

DRIVER
Sir,

ELMAR (CONT'D)
-- I want them tomorrow on my desk.
Goodbye.

He hangs up. The Driver looks groggy.

DRIVER
Sir.

ELMAR
I said 88 sixth avenue an hour ago.
Are you deaf?

DRIVER
Sir, you need to leave.

ELMAR

Fuck no.

DRIVER

I'm off duty. You need to leave now.

ELMAR

Sure as hell the lights said "Free"
when I got in, so I'm not going
anywhere buddy.

DRIVER

You don't understand. Just fucking--

TATATAP!

Bullets, coming out of nowhere, fly through the windshield and rip through the Driver's face. Blood splatters on Elmar's face. The shock freezes him for a couple of seconds.

An artificial female voice, ADELE, comes out of the speakers.

ADELE (V.O.)

Emergency mode engaged.

The whole cab vibrates. Lights all over the interior, that shouldn't be in a cab, blinks red three times.

The windshield *heals itself*. The holes and the cracks are gone. This sequence of events overwhelms Elmar, but he sorts up his priorities when he sees --

-- A HOODED MAN in all black, holding a compact machine gun in broad daylight, walks toward the cab with confidence and purpose.

ELMAR

Oh shit.

He tries the door. It's locked. He tries the other door. Same story. He panics. He tries all the buttons and everything that looks like a button. Nothing.

The Hooded Man closes in.

Elmar is near tears. He leans back and kicks the window. Every kick stronger than the one before.

The kicks are no joke, nor is the window though.

Elmar turns back to find the Hooded Man standing next to the window. Machine gun pointed at him.

ELMAR

Please no! Please--

Elmar covers his face. The Hooded Man pulls the trigger.

TTEKTEKTEKTEK!

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Like hard rain drops on glass. Elmar only sees the fire coming out of the muzzle. The bullets bounces off an invisible shield.

The Hooded Man, unruffled by his failure, leans forward to take a better look inside, revealing a half tattooed face.

ELMAR

It's bullet-proof you ugly motherfucker! Suck on it!

The Hooded Man just smiles at Elmar, crosses himself, then walks away.

ELMAR

(to himself)

Bulletproof. I'm stuck in a bulletproof car with a windshield that can fix itself. Getting shoot at by a crazy hooded motherfucker. Okay, relax, you survived worst mornings.

The cops arrive at the scene.

ELMAR

Thank God.

He waves and knocks on the window.

ELMAR

Officer, please, I'm stuck in here.

The OFFICER just talks into his radio and acts as if the cab doesn't even exist.

ELMAR

HEY! Officer. I'm here goddammit. I'm talking to you.

The Officer walks away.

ADELE (V.O.)

He can't hear, nor see you. The invisibility cloak has been activated. Please remain calm.

ELMAR

What the? Invisibility cloak my ass. What the hell is going on?

ADELE

Sorry for the inconvenience. In the absence of a qualified D.T.T. agent with c clearance to man the vehicle, the vehicle has to be protect or self-destructed.

ELMAR

Self-what? This is bullshit. Let me out of here.

ADELE

Sorry, the emergency protocol doesn't allow me to unlock the door for you.

ELMAR

Fuck you and your protocol. I'm getting out of here by myself.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Elmar lies on the back seat, his forearm over his face.

The briefcase open and its content spread all over the floor along with his coat and tie. His shirt buttons open.

With a hoarse voice and a tone of surrender --

ELMAR

So can you walk me again through that protocol?

ADELE

The vehicle will be kept hidden and protected until a D.T.T. agent with clearance or higher finds it. I will keep broadcasting an emergency signals that can be detected by D.T.T. agents passing by this time point. Once my energy levels is too low to maintain the invisibility and the protection functions, I will launch the self-destruction protocol.

ELMAR

Wow. I'm stuck in a time traveling car and I won't live to tell about it. I won't live to--

Elmar tries to hide his tears.

ADELE

The odds of your survival is not zero. It's three point six times ten to the power of---

ELMAR

minus ninety two. Thanks. I got that.

JUMP CUT TO:

Sitting up, Elmar fiddles with his phone.

ELMAR

I wonder what people will say at my funeral... If they even show up.

ADELE (V.O.)

There won't be a funeral. They won't

find your body. The self-destruction mechanism is an implosion.

ELMAR

That's an over share, Adele. Don't you think?

ADELE

Sorry. The only "comforting" plugin I could find was a beta version.

ELMAR

Adele.

ADELE (V.O.)

Yes, Elmar.

ELMAR

I want to tell you about my biggest regret in life. The one that keeps me awake every night.

ADELE

Please tell me. Get it off your chest.

Elmar smiles.

ELMAR

That beta plugin isn't that bad.

He picks up his wallet from the floor. Pulls a folded paper out of it. It's a newspaper clipping.

ELMAR

Diane Vuko.

ADELE

Did you break her heart?

ELMAR

No. I did more. She used to work for me. I've always worked my employees like horses. I paid them handsomely, but believe me when I tell you they earned every penny of their salary at least twice. Diane was no exception. Except that one night, she had a lot of work to do. It was due tomorrow morning. She called me. She told me that she hadn't slept in the past three nights because of her sick son. And would much --

(his voice breaks)

-- appreciate a permission to deliver her work the day after tomorrow, because she needs to take her son to his doctor tomorrow morning. I told her if she doesn't want to miss her son appointment, she has to have the

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work done and on my desk before she leaves the building that night. She very much wanted to tell me to go fuck myself. But the pay was good and her sick son needed it. So she did as she was told, like they always do.

Tears stream down Elmar's face without asking for permission.

ELMAR

She was driving her son to the doctor next morning. She was going to make it in time. Except there was an intersection where the traffic light was red. But Diane didn't know it was red. Nor that a truck doing forty miles per hour was coming down the other street. Because, you see, Diane couldn't help but to catch up to the sleep she lost the past four nights. And that was it. And the date of the appointment was the same date they engraved on two tombstones a week later. A big one and a small one next to it. Nobody knew about her call that night. Maybe except her aunt. She must have known somehow. Because the way she looked at me. Like how you would look at a killer attending his victim funeral. And ever since, I swore never to give anybody a break. Because if Diane couldn't get it, nobody should. My own twisted way of showing remorse. All my ways are twisted. They have been so my whole life, Adele. And I did nothing about it.

ADELE

A bad person wouldn't show remorse at all, Elmar.

ELMAR

Thanks, but that must be the shitty part of your beta plugin speaking up again. How much time we got left?

ADELE

Approximately, seven hours and seventeen minutes of a standby emergency mode.

ELMAR

Is there anything we can do to make it even shorter?

ADELE

Any extra energy-consuming activities will make it shorter, but the

protocol dictates to preserve the energy for as long as possible.

ELMAR

Of course, the protocol.

HOODED MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Mr. Schultz.

ELMAR

What was that?

HOODED MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Mr. Elmar Schultz I'm speaking to you through your phone. I couldn't gain access to the vehicle audio system.

Elmar picks up his phone, and sure enough, the voice is coming out of it.

ELMAR

Hello. Who's that.

HOODED MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Mr. Elmar Schultz, I'm Zama Dabada. I can walk you through the process that will allow you to gain control of the vehicle and unlock it before the self-destruction protocol is launched.

ELMAR

Really? Thank God.

ADELE

Elmar, he's the one who attacked us this morning. Don't listen to him.

ELMAR

Wait, what?

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)

The AI pilot, called Adele, cares only about protecting the D.T.T. property. It doesn't care about you or your life. I can help you get out.

ADELE (V.O.)

He's a triple T activist. He doesn't care about you, he just want to gain access to the vehicle, a thing that will have catastrophic consequences.

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)

Hold down the buttons of both seat belts buckles for thirty seconds. A red dot on the roof will start blinking. Then --

JUMP CUT TO:

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Elmar examines a keypad in the back of the passenger seat headrest that wasn't there before.

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)
Now all you need to do is enter the following access code.

ADELE (V.O.)
Don't do it, Elmar. Triple T is a dangerous organization that aims for global anarchy.

ELMAR
My kinda organization.

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)
Three, Seven, Fox, Eight, Tango, Zero, Zero, Kilo, Papa, Zero, Zulu.

Elmar enters them. The cab vibrates. The interior lights blink yellow twice.

ADELE (V.O.)
Pilot privileges granted.

ELMAR
Holy shit. It worked.

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)
This will allow you to give one command and one command only. Just tell it to unlock the doors and you will be home free.

Elmar closes his eyes.

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)
Just say the command.

ELMAR
Adele, are you still there?

ZAMA'S VOICE (V.O.)
What are you--

Elmar pulls the battery out of his phone.

ADELE (V.O.)
Yes, Elmar.

ELMAR
How far back can you travel with what's left of your energy?

ADELE (V.O.)
While preserving the energy needed for self-destruction, approximately five years.

ELMAR

I need you to jump back to February
the twelfth two thousands and twelve,
Six thirty A.M.

ADELE (V.O.)

That jump will consume ninety five
percent of what's left of the energy.
After the jump, you will have only 5
minutes before self-destruction is
auto-launched.

ELMAR

Just do it.

ADELE (V.O.)

Elmar.

ELMAR

Adele, please.

A moment of silence passes.

ADELE (V.O.)

Please state the destination
location.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. CAB - DAY

It's early morning now.

ADELE (V.O.)

You've arrived at your destination.

ELMAR

I know that I lost my privileges now,
but can you please, disengage the
invisibility cloak for a couple of
seconds.

Silence.

ELMAR

Please.

FADE TO BLACK.

ADELE (V.O.)

Invisibility cloak deactivated.

The sound of the truck loud horn blowing. A car screeching to
a halt.

THE END

