

Cynical Nightmare

Removing the key, the engine died in front of the drive way. Sitting inside, she kept wondering how things would be if Freddy was still here. She would come home in the afternoon instead of night, he would be taking care of Jake instead of the babysitter, the garage floor would have the result of a nuclear car war instead of stuffed boxes. The pressure inside the car felt low and hot, she had to get out. Walking towards the house door, the sound of tires screaming on the rocky asphalt is heard in the distance, the nightmare haunts her.

“Good morning Lake Kilp County! Today seems like a very hot day, so don’t forget to put sunscreen. Come today to the Kilp Speedway where we are going to have an annual Race Day. There’s going to be girls, cars,…”

Julie hit the power button on the radio to turn it off, she got off bed and went downstairs to the kitchen to prepare a morning breakfast. “Freddy! Come to the kitchen, the food is almost ready.” Freddy pushed open the garage door and walked towards the kitchen. “So did you finish the work on the car?”

“Almost honey, I was putting back the axels and rotors onto the car, but I fell asleep.”

“Well we have to get to the track in two hours if you want to race, so hurry up with your food.” Freddy dug into the scramble eggs and began tearing into the plate.

Freddy finished putting the rims back into the car and drove it on to the utility trailer that was attached to their truck. Julie got into the driver seat while he tied the car in place. "Done, lets go," Freddy said. The good thing was that the track was only about three miles away, which gave them time to tune the car a little before the race. Once they got there, a line was already formed into the track. "Looks like this years' competition is going to be harder to beat. Did you see that white Honda Integra and that blue R34?"

"Yeah, I saw that. Don't worry, they're probably horrible drivers. Our Honda Civic can smoke those cars in the apexes of the track." She remembered the days in high school when they first met, he had to work since his dad died in an accident with a train. For prom night, he couldn't afford a limo, so he borrowed his mom's Honda Civic to take her. They didn't enjoy the time there, as a result they left the area and started driving in the hills, curving the car with the road, speeding through the straight-aways and power sliding through the hard turns. The tires tearing the ground made a strong rubber smell, at first it made her noxious, but quickly got used to it.

When they got to the track gate, a man in teal green asked for the entr ee's name. "Freddy, Freddy Dent." The man scrolled down a clip board with his index finger.

"Great, you are already registered. Here, take this number. Just go straight and then turn left on the last cone and your spot should be a few parking spots ahead."

"Thank you sir, you have a good day," said Freddy. They drove to the last

cone and turned left finding an empty parking spot next to a VW Jetta and Toyota Supra. Julie backed the truck to the empty spot and Freddy drove the Civic off the trailer, upon touching the concrete the front bumper lip scraped the floor and ripped right off. "Shit! That took me a long time to save up for. Damn!"

"It's ok honey, remember that box we have in the closet? Well in it is a carbon fiber version of the same lip. I was going to give it to you last Christmas, but you bought one the day after I bought that one. When we get home, we'll put it on, ok?" Freddy smiled a bit at her comfort and lost his stress.

"All competitors of Class B, please drive to the starting line first, the race is about to begin," said a man standing under a tent with a microphone. Freddy quickly put on his helmet and jumped into the car. Julie gave a quick kiss to Freddy and a quick hug. "All competitors of Class B, please..."

"-Sorry hun, I got to go. Wish me luck." He shifted the clutch to the gas pedal and sped to the starting line with several other cars that lined up next to him. A man with a white and black stripe shirt moved to the center of the road and held up a checker flag. He waved it high up, twirled it about four times and immediately dropped his arms. The cars burned out some of their tires due to the high revving in the starting line, they sped up forward and lined behind each other to avoid drag. Freddy was in 6th place out of the 16 cars, trying to pass the 5th car but it kept blocking his way. He shifted left, the other car did the same.

"Go Freddy, you can do it!" shouted Julie. As the next corner was being approached, all the cars were beginning to line up on the outside of the road to attack the inside, and when they got to the point where they were suppose to turn,

all of the cars turned except for Freddy's car. He pressed on the brake and it slid straight. He hit a cars bumper making that one spin out of control and then crashed to the wall of tires. The Civic turned off, Freddy would turn on the ignition, but you could only hear the crank turning. About 10 seconds after, the car burst into a giant flame. "Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God! No...!" Julie was crying a river as she tried to go help him in any way possible, but the security guards wouldn't let her pass the wall of tires.

"Lady please, stand back. You can't go any further." She couldn't keep watching Freddy burn his life, she walked into the truck and slammed the door. It was hard for her, she couldn't handle it. A few minutes later, the man that was under the tent knocked at her window.

"I'm sorry *Ms. Dent*. Unfortunately what our fireman think what happen is perhaps the radiator slowly started to leak coolant and got all over the engine, then the ABS (Anti Brake System) enable itself, which perhaps was due to a poor alignment or a rotor was loose which caused him to slide forward and crash into the wall. And maybe upon impact, a spark plug wire got cut and as he turned the key, the electric current created a small flame from the coolant which eventually followed its way into the fuel line. I'm really sorry."

That same night, she couldn't sleep. She twirled and twirled but she felt nervous and scared, she could not take it. Getting up, she walked towards the living room and sat down to watch television.

A few months passed and she found out she was already a few months

pregnant, it was a boy, it was Freddy's boy! This was a big change in her life, it gave her something to cover up her problems, it was a new life. And when the baby was born, life became difficult again, but she wasn't depressed.

The boy had grown so much in six years. His birthday is in two weeks and he's almost seven. Julie was happy, but her two jobs made it difficult to spend time with him. One night after work, she parked her car in the drive way, and she began to walk to house door, a car was being chased by police in the distance, but the sound of the siren was closing in on her. She looked back into corner of the street and she could see the car turning. A cop car caught up to him and hit the bumper of the car. The vehicle lost control and started sliding sideways, he hit a parked car and then began to all over the street. Car parts started flying and hitting everything, a piece of a side mirror hit Julie on the leg, but it wasn't painful since they were sore from work. The loud crashes made many neighbors come out their houses to find out what has happened. Jake and the babysitter's walked out the house and stood next to Julie.

"Mommy, what happened? I'm scared."

"Nothing sweet heart, just a crazy man..." she looked at his hand, "where did you get the toy car? I thought I told you to not take anything from strangers, especially cars. Cars have bad chemicals that can harm you, and their small pieces are dangerous to young people."

"Mommy wait, I didn't get this from a stranger. There's a box full of them in the garage. Mommy, I think I want to drive one of them when I get older!"