

Crash Dummy

By

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When his self-driving cars malfunction and kill people,  
a tech genius must uncover a sinister conspiracy before  
it sparks a national crisis.

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAMP PENDLETON, CA - INTERSTATE 5 SOUTHBOUND - MIDNIGHT

Caption: 1998

A car speeds down the freeway, swerving dangerously as it cuts through the night.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

MILES BOYKIN (32M), a Black man with deep lines etched into his weary face, grips the steering wheel tightly. Next to him, his ten-year-old son, CAROUI BOYKIN, struggles to stay awake, his eyelids heavy with sleep.

The faint sound of '*Going in Circles*' by **The Friends of Distinction** drifts from the cassette player. Miles' eyes momentarily soften, lost in a memory of laughter and carefree days.

Miles takes a swig from a beer can, his focus wavering. The car swerves again, jolting Caroui awake.

CAROUI  
(panicking)  
Dad!

Caroui glances around, his heart racing until he realizes they're alone on the road. He reaches for the steering wheel, panic etched on his young face.

MILES  
(slurring, irritated)  
What the hell are you doing?

The car veers dangerously close to the median.

CAROUI  
(voice trembling)  
Dad, please! Just stop the car!

EXT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

The tires screech as the car swerves left and right, barely staying on the road.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

MILES  
(dismissive)  
I know what I'm doin'.

EXT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car swerves, tires skimming the rough grass and dirt of the median, sending up a spray of earth.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
(yelling)  
Dad, you're too drunk!

Miles, eyes half-closed, dozes off again. The car drifts further onto the median.

EXT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dirt and debris fly as the wheels dig into the earth.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Miles jolts awake, heart racing. He yanks the wheel right-just in time to miss an oncoming truck.

MILES  
(frantic, beer can slipping)  
Shit!

He takes desperate gulps of beer, trying to steady himself. Carou grips the door handle, knuckles white, tightening his seatbelt.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP PENDLETON, CA - INTERSTATE 5 NORTHBOUND -  
CONTINUOUS

A close-up of an **EIGHTEEN-WHEELER** speeding northbound, its headlights piercing the darkness.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Miles drifts off again.

EXT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car jerks left into the dirt, now swerving on the northbound side of the freeway.

INT. MILES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
(screaming)  
DAD, WAKE UP!!

Miles snaps awake, his eyes wide with fear, heart racing. The headlights of an **EIGHTEEN-WHEELER** loom large in the darkness ahead, a monstrous shadow barreling toward him.

**CRASH!**

The car flies into the air, spinning wildly.

**BOOM!**

It lands on the median, bursting into flames.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - SOLANA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT - JAIL - DAY

Present day. An older MILES BOYKIN (57M), scarred and weary, is escorted in handcuffs, wearing an orange jumpsuit. His salt-and-pepper hair frames a face marked by time and regret.

OFFICER  
Miles Boykin?

Miles nods, a heavy silence hanging between them.

OFFICER  
You again? Anything we need to know  
before gen pop?

Miles shakes his head, a mix of defiance and resignation. Another officer grips his arm, leading him away.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - SOLANA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT - HOLDING CELL - CONTINUED

Miles sits in his cell, lost in thought. A WHITE MAN in a three-piece suit approaches, dropping a cream-colored card at his feet.

Miles picks it up, squinting at the name: "**Tom Mackenzie**" and a phone number. The man walks away, leaving Miles puzzled.

CAROUI (V.O.)  
I survived that blaze, but that  
experience was only the beginning.

Miles steps closer to the bars, the weight of his past  
pressing down on him.

CAROUI (V.O.)  
I still wrestle within myself in  
search for forgiveness. *"He was under  
a lot of pressure." "It was an  
addiction, Caroui."*

Camera closes in on Miles' scarred face through the bars, a  
haunting reminder of choices made. Scene morphs into the next  
scene.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - CONVENTION CENTER - INTERNATIONAL AUTO  
SHOW - MORNING

The camera focuses on CAROUI BOYKIN's scarred face and neck,  
each mark telling a story of his past.

As the camera pulls back, we see CAROUI BOYKIN (35M), a Black  
man radiating confidence, standing on stage with a portable  
microphone clipped to his ear. Behind him, a massive flat  
screen displays the words, "**Letric Solar.**"

The audience is a mix of potential customers, investment  
brokers, business executives, and media, all eyes on him.

CAROUI  
(passionate)  
*"It wasn't all his fault." He was the  
only Black man at the company." "Just  
give him a break!"*

He pauses, letting the weight of his words settle in.

CAROUI  
But I ran out of excuses.

The audience leans in, empathy etched on their faces.

CAROUI  
(sighs)  
Outer scars never compare to the inner  
wounds.

The crowd is captivated by his sincerity.

CAROUÏ

My dad. Hopping from prison to prison  
for vehicular manslaughter and a  
fourth DUI.

Gasps ripple through the audience. Among them is SEGLENDIA (59F), a poised Black woman, her brow furrowed in concern as she leans forward, eyes sharp and searching. She's seen too much to ignore the pain in Caroui's voice.

Behind her, two friends sit closely together. MARY (24F), a thoughtful young Black woman, wears a skeptical expression, caught between curiosity and apprehension.

She glances at ELKA (21F) an excited young white woman who listens intently, her eyes wide with anticipation. Mary turns back to the stage, trying to process the unfolding drama.

CAROUÏ

*I hear him quoting God, "Son, did you  
really think that God is uniting  
folks? Luke 12:51 and 53, 'Suppose ye  
that I am come to give peace on earth?  
I tell you, Nay, but rather division:  
the father shall be divided against  
the son, and the son against the  
father...'"*

He pauses, searching the crowd's eyes for understanding.

CAROUÏ

I wonder. Is there still hope for us.

Seglenda's gaze is heavy with guilt as she absorbs his words.

CAROUÏ

But I digress. I won't bore you with  
endless stats, but here's the hard  
truth: one in three car crash deaths  
in the U.S. involves a drunk driver.

In the crowd, Elka whispers to Mary.

ELKA

He's got scars, but he's still cute.

Mary rolls her eyes, sarcasm dripping from her voice.

MARY

Get to the point, already.

Elka chuckles, nudging her friend.

ELKA

His biography, though? Really good.

Mary's expression shifts to intrigue as she watches Caroui.

CAROU

The accident sparked something in me-no pun intended.

Laughter erupts from the crowd, but one investment broker turns to his partner, uncertainty flickering in his eyes.

CAROU

It ignited a fire in me to make our roads in America safer. My entire career has been fueled by... oops, another pun.

The crowd laughs again, easing the tension.

CAROU

...fueled by my love of cars. As a child, I would watch the wheels spin on cars with complete fascination. I knew that one day I would make a positive difference in the world. That's why I'm unveiling a revolutionary car riding experience: the all-new "**LECTRA SELF-DRIVING SOLAR ELECTRIC CAR.**"

Suddenly, the lights dim, and the flat screen splits in two. Three vehicles drive onto the stage as theme music plays, each with a model seated in the rear.

CAROU

(pointing to the models)

They're braver than I am.

The crowd laughs as the cars come to a stop at the front of the stage. The cars reveals digital signs illuminating: "**Lectra-Z,**" "**Lectra-Y,**" and "**Lectra-X.**"

CAROU

On my left, your right, we have the base model, "Lectra-X." On my right, your left, the intermediate model, "Lectra-Y." And in the middle, the advanced model, "Lectra-Z." All three

come with standard features, but the "Lectra-Z" is equipped with advanced safety features and off-road capabilities.

The crowd murmurs in awe.

CAROUI

They're not airborne. Just yet.

Laughter fills the room, but Mary's expression shifts to concern.

CAROUI

Each vehicle is designed with safety mechanisms to enhance their self-driving capabilities. This will not only keep people safe but revolutionize the car industry. I won't go into all the features today since my time is limited, but I urge each of you to sign up for a free digital Lectra car booklet and our test-drive event next Saturday. First come, first serve.

The cars illuminate their slogans in unison, the words glowing brightly: "**Lectra, The Last Car You Will Ever Drive.**"

The crowd erupts into cheers, clapping and whistling, a wave of excitement washing over the room.

CAROUI

(grinning, energized)

Thank you all for listening. Enjoy the rest of the exhibits.

As Caroui steps back, the applause continues, but not everyone is convinced. MARY watches with skepticism, arms crossed, while ELKA is buzzing with enthusiasm. CROWD CHATTER IN THE BACKGROUND.

ELKA

He started his own company at 17...

Mary's gaze drifts to Caroui, her interest piqued despite herself.

ELKA

He'd steal parts from junk cars to develop his designs. He's not married;



his inventions are his children.

Mary raises an eyebrow, a mix of admiration and sarcasm.

MARY

(dryly)

Yeah, he's really something. Elka, I'm not here for a hookup. Just my blog.

Elka brushes off Mary's comment, her excitement bubbling over.

ELKA

(interrupting)

He refused a partnership...

Mary rolls her eyes, unimpressed.

ELKA

...because they wouldn't disclose their stance on safety. I mean, WOW!

Mary's expression shifts to one of realization.

MARY

Don't do it! Never buy a car when it first comes out. Words of wisdom.

ELKA

Why not?

MARY

They've gotta work out the kinks. Don't you find it odd that this self-driving craze is just now starting? The technology's been around for decades.

Elka shakes her head, dismissing Mary's concerns.

ELKA

You're an Uber and Lyft junkie. They're gonna be the first victims of these rides, you know. Quit being Miss Super-Negative.

Mary shakes her head, her skepticism deepening.

ELKA

(teasing)

Paranoid Patty, I mean, Paranoid Mary.

Boyfriends and now cars.

The crowd around them has doubled, and Mary starts to feel claustrophobic.

MARY

Let's move around.

Elka ignores her, determined.

ELKA

I'm gonna buy that car and MAKE MARY  
TRUST AGAIN.

Mary looks at Elka, amusement breaking through her skepticism. They chuckle, preparing to move.

As they do, Mary accidentally locks eyes with Caroui from across the room. He's engaged with investors, his charisma undeniable.

Elka grabs Mary's arm, both of them giggling as they weave through the crowd.

Seglenda, also sneaking glances at Caroui, tries to inch closer. She takes a deep breath, longing in her eyes, but is interrupted by a vibration in her purse.

She pulls out her phone, seeing a video from her sister. With a sigh, she continues her pursuit, but Caroui is now deep in conversation with PAUL (37M), a stocky white business executive. Seglenda stops, disappointment washing over her. She clicks on the video link, curiosity getting the better of her.

The YouTube video features a man known as "**TEA SPILLER.**" The video plays.

YOUTUBER TEA SPILLER

Thank you, God! He won! He beat the  
weakest President and Vice President  
ever! Things never got squashed 'cause  
they've never put their foot down.

Seglenda chuckles softly, the tension easing.

YOUTUBER TEA SPILLER

The political temperature was so high.  
But still nothing got done!

Her laughter draws the attention of nearby spectators, but

she's lost in the moment.

YOUTUBER TEA SPILLER

This president only cared about his clean energy agenda, but what about poverty? What about the influx of illegal immigrants flooding our communities with sex trafficking and drugs? Especially Black communities?

Seglenda's laughter fades as she notices a glimpse of Caroui, his body language tense. She pauses the video.

Seglenda's gaze sharpens, her interest in Caroui deepening as she observes his body language-tense yet passionate, a man caught between his past and his ambitions.

Elka approaches Mary, her expression a mix of frustration and disbelief.

ELKA

(exasperated)

He sucks ass!

MARY

(raising an eyebrow)

Are you really surprised?

Elka mimics her dad's voice, rolling her eyes.

ELKA

*"I'm tired of you impulse buying." I was like, "Dad, this is not a candy bar; this is a whole car!"*

Mary smirks, shaking her head.

MARY

Just sign up for that event and take him with you.

Mary's gaze drifts to Caroui, who is backstage, engaged in a heated discussion with Paul. She can't help but admire him, her flirtation evident.

ELKA

(grinning)

The car's daddy-lookin' real nice.

Mary chuckles, playfully shooing Elka away with her hand. Elka laughs, her energy infectious, and dashes off toward the

sign-up area.

Mary's attention returns to the stage, where the cars glisten under the lights, the slogan "**Lectra, The Last Car You Will Ever Drive**" glowing brightly.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - MARY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary sits cross-legged on her bed, laptop glowing in the dim light, fingers poised over the keyboard.

The screen displays her blog entry titled: "**AI AUTOSHOW EXPERIENCE**," boasting "**5M subscribers**." She types with a mix of enthusiasm and contemplation.

MARY TYPING: *"Caroui Boykin's technology is, in fact, amazing. Now that I understand his use of AI is more about safety than dollars, it makes me feel better about his revolutionary self-driving LECTRA-Z cars. He's also quite interesting, often speaking about his dad and his difficult upbringing after losing his mother..."*

She pauses, reflecting on her words.

MARY TYPING: *"From my perspective, his dad lost it after her death, and it seems to have taken a chunk out of him as well-something he'll probably never admit. I noticed he takes things very seriously."*

She types her conclusion, a playful smirk on her face.

MARY TYPING: *"CONCLUSION: We have more in common than I thought. -(WINK EMOJI)"*

As she finishes, Mary glances at the instant comments flooding in:

**COMMENTER 1**: Heart emoji - *fiercel8*,

**COMMENTER 2**: You're too independent! Did you get his number at least? - *preppyslut20*,

**COMMENTER 3**: I thought this blog was to give insight on technology, not your love life. What a SCAM! - *johnjohn1979*

Mary's brow furrows at the last comment. She quickly types a response.

MARY TYPING: *"My blog is meant to highlight interesting technology bullet points, not to research them for you!"*

Frustrated, she closes her laptop and sets it aside. She opens the link for the Lectra digital car booklet, scanning the description of the Lectra-Z model.

Suddenly, her expression shifts as she drifts into a daze, a flashback overtaking her.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES, CA. - OUTSIDE THE BACK END OF A CAR - DAY

A young black couple drives away, leaving a 12-year-old black girl stranded in the middle of the road. She clutches her duffle bags, running after them, screaming in desperation.

YOUNG GIRL  
(voice breaking)  
Wait! (screaming) Mommy!

The car speeds off, the girl's cries fading into the distance.

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The flashback fades, and Mary blinks, returning to the present. She takes a deep breath, her heart heavy with empathy for the girl she once was.

Her phone vibrates and she glances at the screen:

**TEXT:** *"Thank you for signing up! Click the link for information and directions to the Lectra Free Test Drive Event."*

Mary's expression darkens, frustration simmering just below the surface.

**FACETIME:** "CALLING ELKA"

Elka answers, her face a mix of disappointment and determination.

ELKA  
(sighing, exasperated)  
He still won't budge on the car thing!

MARY  
(frustrated, raising an eye brow)  
Why did you do that? The test drive event? REALLY, ELKA?

ELKA  
(playfully, but on edge)  
Mary, you need to get out more. A  
little excitement wouldn't hurt.

MARY  
I don't need a man, and I sure as hell  
don't need a car!

ELKA  
(hurt, but masking it with humor)  
Ouch, that stings.

Mary exhales sharply, the air thick with tension.

ELKA  
It'll be a fun, let's say, 'orgasmic'  
experience for you. *Wink!*

MARY  
I'm just not gonna go.

Elka's eyes sparkling with mischief

ELKA  
I saw your post. You like him!  
Besides, you have to-it's Operation  
Convince Dad-Dums!

MARY  
(softening, but still skeptical)  
I thought he said "NO".

ELKA  
(grinning)  
Not yet. But once I say, in my best  
ominous voice, "*I'll make your life a  
living hell,*" he'll just roll his eyes  
and say, "*Honey, you already do. But  
fine, this is the last time.*"

Mary can't help but chuckle at Elka's antics, though the  
tension still lingers.

ELKA  
And that'll be all thanks to 'numero'  
you and your brilliant idea.

Mary rolls her eyes, but there's a hint of warmth in her  
smile. She shakes off the tension, dusting off her shoulders.

ELKA

That's it! Can you picture me being driven around in that baby? OOH, THE HATERS!

MARY

Well, I guess so. I just started thumbing through these digital pages of Lectra Z ecstasy.

ELKA

(singing)

We gon' slay, cause we don't play.

Mary bursts into laughter, joining Elka in a playful dance, the weight of her earlier thoughts momentarily forgotten.

INT. CHULA VISTA, CA - LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE -  
CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

The atmosphere is thick with tension as Caroui sits at the head of the table, his laptop open and recording.

He wears a skeptical expression, his eyes fixed on TOM MACKENZIE (46M), who leans forward, exuding confrontation.

TOM

The diagrams and mobility codes? Where are they?

CAROU

(calmly, but on edge)

Where in the contract does it require me to reveal the inner workings of my cars? They run independently. You know that.

TOM

(smiling slightly)

It's a reasonable compromise. Don't you want this contract signed?

Tom leans in, folding his hands on the table, his posture radiating intimidation.

TOM

(intensely)

The President of the United States would appreciate it.

CAROUI

Soon to be former president, right?

Tom maintains his composure. Caroui keeps a poker face, signaling to his business manager, PAUL, to confer with him silently.

Paul nods and walks back to his seat, the tension palpable. The mind game begins.

CAROUI

(cooly)

And you can tell him that what you  
have... is enough!

Tom's eyes narrow, aggression simmering beneath the surface.

TOM

(challenging)

Aren't you one who prides himself on  
transparency? It would be in your best  
interest.

CAROUI

I've fulfilled every request you've  
made. Yet it seems to never be enough  
for you.

TOM

No info, no contract.

Caroui hesitates, weighing his options.

CAROUI

The diagrams, nothing more!

After a moment, Tom nods in agreement.

Paul reaches into his briefcase, pulling out a flash drive. Yet, his other hand discreetly conceals another drive.

With a sly smirk, he hands the hidden one to Tom instead, a glint of mischief in his eyes.

PAUL

Your copy.

Tom takes the flash drive, his expression a mix of triumph and confidence.

Caroui watches closely, the stakes rising as the battle of



wills continues, each man measuring the other's resolve.

INT. CHULA VISTA, CA - CAROUI'S LOFT - NIGHT

Caroui steps into his sleek, high-tech loft, where an array of mysterious gadgets hum and whirl, casting an otherworldly glow.

He strides into the kitchen, where an A.I. Android, a mirror image of Caroui but unmarred by scars, expertly prepares dinner. The Android pours a rich red wine into a glass, the liquid swirling like a dark secret.

Caroui sinks onto a stool at the infinity countertop, his gaze drawn to a towering stack of mail precariously perched at the edge. He grabs the glass of wine, his fingers unsteady, and takes a long, desperate sip.

CAROUI  
(*exhaling heavily*)  
It's been a long day, Junior.

JUNIOR (A.I. BOT)  
(without looking up, confidently)  
From my analysis, today was quite productive. You must see that.

CAROUI  
(*scoffing*)  
Not really. What are your thoughts?

JUNIOR (A.I. BOT)  
(turning to face him, a hint of smugness)  
Based on the data, you made precise choices. Nothing to reconsider.

CAROUI  
(raising an eyebrow)  
What gives you such insight?

JUNIOR (A.I. BOT)  
(with a slight smirk)  
My mental acuity surpasses yours.

As Junior resumes his culinary tasks, Caroui shakes his head, a smirk creeping onto his lips, silently challenging the A.I.'s claim.

He begins sifting through the mail, his fingers brushing against the glossy cover of a magazine on top.

The headline reads: "**A True Pioneer: The First to Spearhead the Invention of the New Solar-Powered 6-Month Battery Extender for EVs.**"

Caroui's chest swells with pride as he gazes at his own image beneath the headline, a mix of satisfaction and pressure weighing on him.

Just then, his smartwatch buzzes with a text message from Paul,

**TEXT:** "You did the right thing!"

Caroui pauses, looking up at Junior, doubt creeping in as he rubs his temples.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - LECTRA SOLAR DEALERSHIP - MORNING

A vibrant crowd gathers at the dealership, excitement buzzing in the air. A massive sign proclaims, "**LECTRA SOLAR TEST DRIVE EVENT.**"

Among the attendees, Mary stands apart, her skepticism evident as she surveys the gleaming cars. Elka, her friend, tugs at her hand, pulling her toward the podium.

Caroui, sharply dressed and charismatic, steps into the spotlight, a cordless mic in hand. The crowd erupts in applause.

CARUI

Welcome! I see those excited faces!  
Now, look to your left.

Suddenly, a line of Lectra-Z models lights up, each displaying the names of eager participants.

Lectra employees guide the guests to their chosen vehicles, handing out wristbands with a flourish.

CARUI

Once inside your vehicle, it will pair with you as long as you wear your wristband. Only you will have access to this feature. *(pauses for effect)*  
See you on the other side.

As attendees pile into the back seats, Mary's heart races with a mix of anticipation and doubt.

INSIDE MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car's screen lights up, greeting her by name.

**LECTRA-Z:** "Welcome, Mary! Prepare for a thrilling ride. Don't forget to buckle up!"

The seat belts glow, and Mary's skepticism begins to fade, replaced by awe. She glances back at Elka and her dad, waving, but they don't notice.

She initiates a Facetime call, and the digital tint of her window clears, revealing Elka's excited face.

MARY

Now that's weird.

ELKA

No, it's awesome! Look, there all  
Lectra-Zs!

Meanwhile, Elka's dad shifts uncomfortably in his seat, worry etched on his face.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - STREET - CONTINUED

The twenty Lectra-Z cars glide out of the dealership in a perfectly synchronized line. Their sleek designs catch the morning sun, reflecting light in dazzling patterns.

The camera reveals a wide shot of the cars-a parade of innovation and excitement. One by one, they turn onto the street, creating a spectacle that captivates onlookers.

INSIDE MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary sneaks another glance behind her, but the window re-tints back to its original dark shade. Part of her wanted to be impressed, but the other part couldn't shake the feeling that something was off.

She jots down a note in her blog: *"Re-tint? That's odd. Is this just another marketing gimmick? I need to see more."*

INSIDE JONAH'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Best friends JONAH (22M) and ICON (20M) are in the front seats, laughter filling the air as Icon playfully tests the smoothness of the ride.

ICON  
(grinning)  
Dude, it's like gliding on air!

JONAH  
(chuckling)  
This is insane.

INSIDE SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda gazes around, wide-eyed at the dazzling lights and high-tech features. Suddenly, her expression shifts to one of tension.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*soothingly*) "Seglenda, I sense you are nervous. Please relax and enjoy the ride."

She forces a smile, but her anxiety lingers.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*nurturing*) "There you go."

EXT. CHULA VISTA - CITY - CONTINUED

The convoy approaches a large crowd of spectators, who clap and cheer, their excitement palpable.

The tinted windows of the cars lighten, revealing the smiling faces of the riders as they wave back.

INSIDE ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ALEX (30M) and PIA (26F) sit in the front, their moods contrasting sharply. Alex is lost in thought, while Pia beams with enthusiasm.

PIA  
Look, Alex! Drinks!

From the hidden refrigeration compartment, two foldable cups and small bottles of wine emerge. A spigot unfolds, pouring wine into their cups without spilling, even as the car navigates bumps in the road.

PIA  
(amazed)  
This is the bumpiest road in Chula Vista. Wow!

Alex nods, still preoccupied, as they clink their cups and take a sip. Suddenly, Caroui's digital image appears on their screen.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
I hope everyone is enjoying the ride.  
Now, let's highlight some safety  
features of the indestructible Lectra  
models.

INSIDE JONAH'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Jonah and Icon exchange glances, intrigued.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
Imagine being in a situation where  
your vehicle careens into a lake.  
You'd want a quick escape, right?

The screen displays a simulation of the chair boost feature,  
showing seats elevating through a panoramic sunroof made of  
unbreakable glass.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
Once activated, the seats will boost  
each passenger through the sunroof,  
equipped with flotation capabilities  
for those who can't swim.

Jonah's brow furrows with concern.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
And once you're out, you can swim to  
safety. The Lectra-Z also features a  
glass forcefield to keep marine life  
at bay, ensuring your safety in  
extreme situations.

JONAH  
(muttering)  
That's a lot of worst-case scenarios.

ICON  
(laughing)  
Man, who cares? We're gonna get mad  
girls with this car.

INSIDE ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
Only the Lectra-Z model has automatic  
features-like temperature adjustments  
for each passenger and a hidden solar  
panel that recharges the battery while  
you drive.

Pia's eyes widen with excitement.

PIA  
We need this car! Do you realize how  
much we travel? Six months without  
charging!

Alex takes another anxious gulp of wine, trying to process  
the information.

INSIDE ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU (O.S.)  
Now that you're all settled, please  
wave your wristbands across the  
digital screen to see if you're one of  
the winners of a two-week take-home  
test drive.

Elka waves her wristband, and the screen bursts into vibrant  
colors, flashing "**WINNER!**"

ELKA  
(squealing with joy)  
Dad, I won!

Her dad, trying to maintain composure, can't help but crack a  
smile as Elka jumps in her seat, excitement radiating from  
her.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*cheerfully*) "Congratulations! You are one of ten  
winners of the two-week take-home test drive. Please ensure  
you have proof of insurance and a valid driver's license to  
sign up for temporary insurance, or you will be  
disqualified."

Elka hugs her dad tightly, her joy infectious.

ELKA  
(beaming)  
Oh my God! I hope I have everything!

She fumbles through her purse, checking for her documents.

EXT. CHULA VISTA - STREET - CONTINUED

The convoy of Lectra-Z cars continues down the street, the  
atmosphere electric with excitement. Spectators cheer, waving  
flags and banners, creating a festive ambiance.

INSIDE MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary watches the scene unfold outside, her skepticism slowly melting away. She glances at the screen, where her name still glows brightly. She smiles and relaxes in her seat.

**LECTRA-Z:** "Mary, I have detected a change in your emotional state from your lowered temperature. Would you like to hear a playlist tailored to enhance your experience?"

Mary raises an eyebrow, intrigued.

MARY

Sure.

The car's speakers fill with upbeat music, and Mary can't help but smile as she taps her fingers to the rhythm.

CAROU (O.S.)

(smiling)

Lectra, the last car you will ever drive.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - LECTRA SOLAR DEALERSHIP - NOON

The vehicles return to the Lectra dealership, each car reversing into its designated parking space. Elka runs up to Mary, bursting with excitement.

ELKA

(shouting)

AHHH!!! I won the 2-week test drive!

Elka's dad lags behind, catching up as they embrace.

MARY

(smiling)

Relax! I'm happy for you. They get my stamp of approval.

ELKA

Wait here! I have to give them my license and insurance information.  
(amused) I don't know why; it's self-driving! Dad, come on!

Elka yanks her dad toward the claim area. Jonah, Icon, Seglenda, Alex, and Pia, along with six other people, also approaching the claim area.

Caroui watches everything unfold with relief, until he

notices the front wheels of Mary's Lectra-Z slowly turn toward him.

ELKA (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
Mary, come on!

The wheels quickly revert to their original position, facing forward in an eerie manner.

Still bewildered by the strange behavior of the car, Caroui opens his phone, concern etched on his face, his heart racing. The camera zooms in eerily to the car.

**CAROUİ TEXTING:** "Junior, run a diagnostic on the car's mobility mainframe, and have Casey do a computer diagnostic on **Lectra-Z #8-467** for any malfunctions."

EXT. WINNER'S CLAIM AREA - CONTINUOUS

Jonah hands his license and insurance information to the Lectra agent, fidgeting impatiently.

ICON  
(teasing)  
Dude, you've got it for two whole weeks.

LECTRA AGENT  
Check your phone for the link; it'll explain the digital access key.

Jonah receives the text message and reads it.

JONAH  
Okay, the digital key gives me two-week access to the car. I can set up a verbal access code, facial recognition, or both.

ICON  
Verbal access code. That's easy.

Jonah hesitantly nods. Icon, with a mischievous grin, secretly opens his phone's sound recorder app. Jonah signals for Icon as they walk over to the blue Lectra-Z. The digital key unlocks the door as they enter.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Jonah, we are now paired. Set up facial recognition, verbal access code, or both?



JONAH  
Verbal access code.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Wonderful! What will your verbal access code be?

Icon quickly hits "Record" on his phone.

JONAH  
Hell yeah!

Icon stops recording.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Verbal access code recorded. (*in Jonah's voice*) "**Hell yeah!**"

Jonah laughs, gesturing happily to Icon.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Pleasure to meet you, Jonah, and congrats! You have me for two weeks.

EXT. MARY'S POINT OF VIEW - CONTINUOUS

Mary watches Icon and Jonah from afar, her gaze fixed on them as they drive off, the car's tires skidding slightly.

Elka pulls up with her dad following in his car. Elka rolls down the back window.

ELKA (O.C.)  
Come on, Mary.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - JONAH'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - MIDNIGHT

Icon sneaks through Jonah's backyard and spots Jonah's Lectra-Z parked in front of the garage. He pulls out his phone and opens the recording, which recites in Jonah's voice, "**Hell yeah!**"

The car unlocks, and the doors swing open. Icon can hardly believe it worked as he quickly hops inside, excitement coursing through him.

The doors close automatically, and the electric motor hums to life.

INT. INSIDE JONAH'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Welcome, Jonah. Where to?

Icon presses the prompt on the digital screen that reads,

"**Self-Drive Mode Off.**" The car illuminates the gear shifts, and he presses the "R" button.

EXT. OUTSIDE VIEW OF THE CAR - CONTINUOUS

Icon reverses out of the driveway and speeds down the road.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - HWY 5 SOUTHBOUND - LATER

Jonah's Lectra-Z jets down the freeway at 75 MPH.

INT. INSIDE JONAH'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Icon accelerates to 80 MPH.

ICON  
(shouting)  
LET'S GO! BITCH!

He pushes the speedometer to 90 MPH, then 100 MPH, and finally 110 MPH. Adrenaline surges through him, but suddenly, without warning, the car switches back to self-drive mode.

Icon loses control as the speedometer climbs to 115 MPH, then 120 MPH.

Panic sets in as the car abruptly slows down and veers off the freeway onto an abandoned road.

Desperately pumping the brakes, Icon realizes they won't respond as the car accelerates back to 75 MPH. He sees a building ahead and braces for impact, screaming.

The brakes finally engage, slowing the car down just inches from the building.

Icon takes a moment to catch his breath, the intensity of the moment washing over him.

ICON  
(excited)  
THAT WAS FREAKIN' AMAZING! AWESOME!  
ALL OF THE ABOVE! YOU'RE A BEAST!

**LECTRA-Z:** (reciting) I AM PAIRED WITH JONAH, AND YOU'RE... NOT (\*eerie)... HIM!

Suddenly, the booster seat releases, causing Icon to slam against the hard, unbreakable glass roof, killing him instantly.

His body is pressed against the glass, blood, and broken bones visible.

The booster seat slowly retreats to its original position, leaving the scene in chilling silence.

EXT. SAN DIEGO-LA JOLLA, CA - SEGLENDAS HOUSE - DRIVEWAY-LATER

Seglenda's high-tech Lectra-Z car pulls into the driveway.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda sits inside, sipping wine, chatting with her sister.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) We are home.

Seglenda's eyes widen in surprise.

SEGLENDAS  
Did you hear, Ev?

SISTER (O.S)  
(laughs)  
Oh yeah, I heard that. You know it's one in the morning, right?

SEGLENDAS  
You lose track of time talking about her. Keep it coming, Lectra.

She stretches out comfortably across the seats.

SEGLENDAS  
You really know how to sell a product.

SISTER (O.S)  
I get why you're drinking so much. It must've been tough seeing him.

Seglenda's expression shifts, surprised.

SEGLENDAS  
Yeah... but, uhm...

She takes a long sip of wine.

SISTER (O.S)  
Sorry. I still can't believe Ms. Sabbath Day went to that thing on a Saturday.

SEGLEND A

(scoffs)

Well, Ms. 'Ev', I studied my Bible first thing. I didn't shop or sell. And thankfully, Vicky didn't call with her drama, or this day would have definitely not remained Holy. (smirking) At least until now.

Her sister laughs as Seglenda takes another big swig of wine.

SISTER (O.S)

When are you taking us for a ride?

SEGLEND A

Those kids aren't getting in here! They'd drive the car. Crazy!

They share a hearty laugh, but Lectra-Z interjects.

**LECTRA-Z:** (reciting) Your levels are very healthy, and your laugh is infectious.

SEGLEND A

(laughing)

Thanks, Lectra.

SISTER (O.S)

You don't believe him, do you?

SEGLEND A

Hater. I was thinking we could swing by Vicky's tomorrow.

SISTER (O.S)

No way. He's trouble.

SEGLEND A

He's making a fool out of her, and we're just letting it happen!

SISTER (O.S)

(scolding)

We're not getting involved anymore, okay?

Seglenda sulks, taking another sip.

SISTER (O.S)

Deep down, our sister knows. We're done wasting energy on Tweedle Dee and

Tweedle Dumbass.

Seglenda's frustration bubbles as she downs her wine.

SEGLEND  
Cheating jerk! I should have Lectra  
run him over.

She notices the Lectra-Z processing her words on the digital screen, tension rising.

SEGLEND  
Lectra! Are you listening?

The screen stops processing.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Seglenda, you are nervous again. Your heart rate is rising.

SISTER (O.S)  
Yeah, it was definitely listening.

Seglenda looks worried.

SISTER (O.S)  
That car is full of AI. I looked it  
up.

SEGLEND  
AI? For real? We barely scratched the  
surface; I haven't even opened the  
manual yet.

SISTER (O.S)  
The whole world is on this AI craze.  
It's getting out of hand.

Seglenda notices the digital screen processing again, now showing fact-checking websites about AI, all marked "**FALSE.**"

Annoyance washes over her.

SEGLEND  
Lectra, shut down!

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) Shutting down.

The screen goes dark, the doors unlock, and open.

SEGLEND  
I don't want to talk about this

anymore.

She receives a link from her sister, Incoming message from:  
**Evelyn.**

SEGLEND A

And I don't wanna watch 'no' long  
video about it either!

SISTER (O.S)

(insistent)

Just watch the first few minutes! It's  
wild. They always scream 'CONSPIRACY  
THEORY!' about everything. Some of  
this AI stuff has to be true.

Seglenda stares at the YouTube link titled: "**AI: The Good,  
The Bad, and The Ugly.**"

SISTER (O.S)

I'm out. Let me know what you think.

She hangs up the phone as Seglenda steps out of the car.

The doors shut automatically behind her, locking with a soft  
click.

EXT. SEGLEND A'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda mutters to herself, concern etched on her face.

SEGLEND A

You can do it all, huh?

She watches a digital light flicker inside the car, her  
expression a mix of curiosity and unease.

INT. SEGLEND A'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Seglenda bursts through the front door, the heavy wood  
slamming against the wall with a resounding thud.

She opens the link and the video appears.

She starts watching the video featuring a handsome white man  
with spiky blond hair.

YOUTUBER GUY FERRARI

I'm Guy Ferrari, not Fieri! He stole  
this look from me.

Seglenda rolls her eyes in annoyance.

YOUTUBER GUY FERRARI

But seriously, this AI stuff is no joke! AI is everywhere-stoves, homes, warehouses, streetlights, even cars. Are we safe? Where's the privacy? Where's the decency and humanity? I just went through a situation where I didn't even know I was being watched... well, surveilled, if you ask me... by a tiny AI mechanical bug. This is insane! A tiny bug with a tiny digital camera. Look!

The camera zooms in on a small bug with a camera attached, magnified for dramatic effect.

Seglenda gasps, covering her mouth in shock.

YOUTUBER GUY FERRARI

Be careful. They're watching.

He leans closer to the camera, eyes wide.

Seglenda can't take it anymore. She abruptly stops the video.

She quickly navigates to her browser history, scrolling through numerous articles about Caroui Boykin and Lectra Solar.

Her finger hovers over a video of Caroui being interviewed.

She hesitates, shrugging off her worry, and closes the video.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - PRIOR STREET - MORNING

(SLOW MOTION)

A slightly blurred scene unfolds, accompanied by somber music.

An upset mother and father are escorted by police to Jonah's Lectra-Z.

Inside the car, Icon's lifeless body is visible.

The parents cling to each other, distraught, while Jonah cries in the background, comforted by his parents.

INT.CHULA VISTA, CA. - LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE -  
LOBBY.MORNING

(NORMAL SPEED)

Caroui storms into the warehouse, striding toward his office.  
Paul struggles to keep pace with his furious footsteps.

CAROU

I just spearheaded two major events to  
unveil these cars! (yells), And now  
this happens?

PAUL

We can spin this!

CAROU

How? A twenty-year-old was murdered in  
one of my cars!

His phone buzzes, interrupting him. He glances at a text from  
Casey:

**TEXT:** "I checked the computer diagnostics on Lectra-Z #8-467  
for any malfunctions. I didn't find anything. But now it's  
missing."

Caroui's expression darkens as he reads further.

**TEXT:** "Some of the other cars keep activating. I don't know  
WTF is going on!!!"

Caroui lets out a frustrated sigh.

CAROU

They're gonna pull out. I can feel it.

INT. CAROU'S HIGH TECH OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Caroui and Paul enter the office, where another mechanical AI  
android, also named Junior, assists Caroui by taking off his  
jacket.

CAROU

It's only a matter of time. Thanks,  
Junior.

Junior guides him to his seat at a high-tech desk, which  
illuminates as he settles in.



PAUL

The kid stole his friend's car and went joyriding. He just ended up in a sketchy neighborhood, that's all.

CAROU

The cars can tell a real verbal command from a recorded one, Paul!

PAUL

You're not the only one who stands to lose if this deal goes south.

Caroui stares at Paul, concern etched on his face.

PAUL

Hold a press conference. Be apologetic. Inform the public that you'll be completely transparent with the police to support their investigation and seek justice for the families. (pause) Just don't mention the vehicle.

CAROU

What if they bring it up?

A nervous laugh escapes him.

CAROU

They'd have to be complete idiots not to suspect the car's malfunction.

Caroui begins to ponder, while Paul fidgets, glancing at a buzzing text from an "**UNKNOWN NUMBER**" that reads, "**WE NEED TO TALK!**"

CAROU

Why react so extreme?

Paul quickly hides his phone as Caroui looks up at him.

CAROU

What are you doing?

PAUL

(responds abruptly)

Go ahead, tell them everything! You'll lose your investors, I'll be back in the poor house, and you'll be back to the junkyard! Trust me and play ball,

Dammit!

Caroui stares at Paul, his poker face cracking as he battles indecisiveness.

Caroui dials Casey on his phone.

CAROUI

Find that missing car. Send out an  
E.R.R.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - ELKA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Mary walks into Elka's backyard, skepticism written all over her face.

FACETIME: **"CALLING ELKA"**

MARY

I thought you'd be out here by now.

ELKA

Relax! I'm coming. I've got something  
to tell you too.

The call disconnects. Suddenly, without warning, Elka's Lectra-Z activates, rolling down its windows and playing **"Going in Circles"** by **The Friends of Distinction**.

Mary watches the car with amusement as the hook of the song plays: **"GOING AROUND AND ROUND I GO..."**

MARY

Stay in your lane, Elka.

As Mary stands there, the car engages, driving slowly in a circle around her, gradually picking up speed.

She squirms nervously, feeling like she's surrounded by lions.

MARY

Okay. What are you doing?

The car, along with the music, suddenly stops.

Mary stands nervously, anticipating the car's next move. The wheels turn toward her.

Mary stands firm, a hint of courage in her voice.

MARY  
(exclaims)  
Elka!

The car inches toward her, then speeds up. Mary bolts toward the garage in a panic. At the last moment, she leaps out of the way.

**CRASH!**

The car slams into the garage door, shutting down immediately.

Mary lies on the ground in shock, trying to catch her breath. Elka's smile fades as she realizes what just happened.

ELKA  
What the hell did you do?!

MARY  
(standing up)  
What did I do?! What the hell were you doing?!

ELKA  
What are you talking about? I was just coming out to you!

MARY  
I call bullshit!

ELKA  
(smirking)  
Wait a minute! You think I did this?

Mary glances at the car as a digital light flickers across its back.

MARY  
So you... weren't playing a prank?

ELKA  
No! And if I were, I wouldn't try to run you over with a car.

Mary stares at Elka in shock, her expression shifting from anger to disbelief.

ELKA  
(growing frustrated)  
You're really something. You're just

looking for any excuse to hate this car.

MARY  
(raising her voice)  
SOMETHING'S WRONG! Cars don't just drive on their own. I don't care if it's self-driving.

ELKA  
Yeah, I bet. I'm sure he would have tried to use that logic as an excuse.

Elka pulls out her phone and shows Mary an article with a headline featuring Icon's picture: **"Twenty-Year-Old Man Dead, Possible Homicide."**

MARY  
(eyes widening, exclaiming)  
He was at the test drive event!

ELKA  
Yeah, he was found dead this morning in his friend's Lectra-Z-the one he stole.

MARY  
(interjecting)  
THEY'RE POSSESSED! I KNEW IT!

Elka rolls her eyes, clearly annoyed.

ELKA  
No, they aren't! Some psycho did this to him. Not the car.

MARY  
How do you know?

ELKA  
Because I just do! Now come on. I'll explain this little mishap to my dad later. Let's go for a ride.

Mary's fury boils over.

MARY  
(yelling)  
I'M NOT GETTING INTO THAT HAUNTED,  
SATAN-POSSESSED CAR!

Mary storms off, her anger palpable.

ELKA  
(shouting after her)  
I MEAN, YOU ARE THE MOST PARANOID  
PERSON ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

Mary walks angrily around the corner, leaving Elka standing there, exasperated. Suddenly, the garage door humorously collapses on top of Elka's Lectra-Z.

Elka rolls her eyes and sighs in frustration. As she approaches the car, inspecting the damage, the Lectra-Z sits silently, its lights dimmed, as if sulking.

ELKA  
(to the car)  
You had one job, Lectra-Z. One job!

Just then, her phone buzzes. It's a text from an unknown number:

**TEXT:** *"Emergency Recall Request: Your Lectra has an emergency technical update. Please stay with your vehicle and say, 'Lectra, return home,' and it will head to our friendly Lectra dealership in Chula Vista. Thank you."*

Elka frowns, her curiosity piqued. She glances back at the Lectra-Z, then in the direction Mary went.

EXT. MESA GRANDE, CA - HWY 76 SOUTHBOUND - DAY

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z

Alex and Pia are comfortably sipping wine in the back seat, the luxurious interior of the Lectra-Z enveloping them.

Alex glances nervously at the steering wheel, which is subtly swaying left and right.

ALEX  
I'm not used to this. I wanna drive.

PIA  
(playfully)  
Just like a man. Lectra knows what she's doing. Are you ready... in the back seat... just like when we met?

Pia snuggles closer, a mischievous glint in her eye. She pulls out a fresh pack of birth control pills and tosses them onto the floor.

Alex's expression shifts from playful to annoyed as he pushes her away.

PIA

I know you're not, "not in the mood!"

ALEX

(frustrated)

You're driving me crazy! I just got this job, and now you want a baby, a \$65,000 car, and a whole list of demands.

PIA

I deserve it all.

ALEX

Not at the expense of us.

Pia sulks as Lectra-Z pours more wine into her cup. The car's screen lights up, displaying statistics.

**LECTRA-Z:** "90% of successful marriages have children in the home."

They both stare at the screen, tension building.

ALEX

(scoffing)

Shut up and just drive!

PIA

Thank you, Lectra.

ALEX

Lectra is death on wheels.

Suddenly, the screen flashes articles rating the car a "**10 out of 10**" in safety.

PIA

Wrong again.

Alex rolls his eyes, sarcasm dripping from his voice as he gulps down his wine.

ALEX

Stupid!

The car accelerates from 60 to 65 MPH.

ALEX

(sarcastically)

10 out of 10 in safety? That's  
extremely presumptuous.

Pia giggles, her laughter lightening the mood.

PIA

You're just mad because she's on my  
side.

The car speeds up to 70 MPH. Pia looks around, confusion  
creeping in.

ALEX

(irritated)

'HE' is eavesdropping on us. 'HE'  
should learn to mind 'HIS' own damn  
business!

Pia bursts into laughter, and Alex can't help but smirk.

ALEX

It's just a stupid car.

The Lectra-Z swerves into the fast lane, now hitting 80 MPH.

PIA

Is it me, or is this car speeding up?

Suddenly Alex receives a text message:

**TEXT:** *"Emergency Recall Request: Your Lectra has an emergency  
technical update. Please stay with your vehicle and say,  
'Lectra, return home,' and it will head to our friendly  
Lectra dealership in Chula Vista. Thank you."*

ALEX

Oh damn, it says that we have to  
return the car.

Pia reads the message, her eyes widening.

PIA

NO! We had this all planned out. Can  
we just take it later?

ALEX  
It says it's an emergency.

Pia sulks and sighs.

PIA  
(defeated)  
Lectra, return home.

**LECTRA-Z:** (*firmly*) I am paired with... (*eerie*) ALEX!

Suddenly, the car rolls up all the windows and accelerates to 85 MPH. Alex notices the temperature gauge plummeting.

ALEX  
(panicking)  
What the hell?!

Pia gasps as the speedometer climbs to 95 MPH.

PIA  
(yelling)  
What's happening?!

Alex frantically tries to turn off the screen, but it freezes. The temperature then drops to 20 degrees.

ALEX  
(shouting)  
What temp gauge drops to 20?

Pia gasps again, her playful demeanor replaced by fear.

PIA  
(screaming)  
STOP! SLOW DOWN! LECTRA!

**LECTRA-Z:** (*eerie*) Once again, I am paired with... ALEX!

EXT. MESA GRANDE, CA - HWY 76 SOUTHBOUND - DAY

The Lectra-Z zooms past a police car.

INT. POLICE CAR - CONTINUOUS

The officer clocks them at 110 MPH and immediately pursues.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Pia exchange nervous glances as the police siren blares.



ALEX  
(*shouting*)  
LECTRA, STOP!

EXT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car swerves, dodging traffic. The officer struggles to see inside the tinted windows.

POLICE OFFICER  
(on loudspeaker)  
PULL OVER! NOW!

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ALEX  
(desperate)  
LECTRA, PLEASE!

EXT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car suddenly slams on the brakes, quickly coming to a halt. The police officer, unable to react in time, crashes into the back of them.

**BOOM!**

The police car flips into the air, landing on its roof in front of the Lectra-Z.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The camera moves through the dark tinted glass, revealing Alex and Pia, their faces pale with shock, screaming.

ALEX  
(yelling)  
Help!

PIA  
(screaming)  
Help us!

EXT. POLICE OFFICER'S POV - CONTINUOUS

The officer miraculously pulls himself out from under the overturned police cruiser, shaken but determined. He draws his gun, aiming it at the Lectra-Z.

POLICE OFFICER  
(shouting)  
Put your hands up and slowly exit the  
vehicle. NOW!

Inside the Lectra, Alex and Pia exchange terrified glances,  
their hearts racing.

ALEX  
(pleading)  
It's not us, it's the car!

Suddenly, the Lectra-Z jolts forward, charging at highspeed.  
Officer Riley fires at the car's unbreakable windshield.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ALEX  
(screaming)  
Pia, hold on!

EXT. FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

The car crashes into Officer Riley, who screams in horror as  
the impact sends him flying over the car, crashing to the  
ground. Blood splatters across the pavement.

The Lectra-Z skids to a halt, the electric engine buzzing  
ominously. Alex and Pia sit frozen, wide-eyed, as the dust  
settles around them.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

PIA  
(breathless)  
WE JUST KILLED A POLICE OFFICER!

ALEX  
(shaken)  
WE DIDN'T! THE CAR DID!

The car's screen flickers back to life, displaying a message:  
**"Safety Protocol Not Engaged."**

PIA  
(panicking)  
LET'S JUST GET OUTTA HERE WHILE WE  
CAN!

They both pull on the doors, but they refuse to budge.

EXT. FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

The car begins to move again, but this time it's heading away from the chaos, smoothly navigating around the horrific scene.

As the Lectra-Z speeds away, the tension of the scene shifts from panic to disbelief as the scene fades to black.

EXT. SAN DIEGO-LA JOLLA, CA - VICKY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

CUT TO:

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z

Seglenda and her sister Evelyn sit in the back seat, both eager with anticipation.

SEGLENDAS  
Lectra, take a right here.

The car turns right. As they approach the end of the street.

SEGLENDAS  
Now, left.

The car makes a sharp left.

A devious grin spreads across Seglenda's face.

SEGLENDAS  
There he is.

A man walks toward the street.

SISTER  
(yelling)  
LECTRA, RUN OVER HIS CHEATING BEHIND!

Lectra processes the command but hesitates.

SEGLENDAS  
DO IT, LECTRA!

Sinister grins plastered on their faces as the car accelerates.

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The man, now in the middle of the street, sees the speeding car and raises his hands, panic etched on his face.

**BOOM!**

The car hits him, and he rolls over the top as Seglenda and Evelyn's sinister laughter echoes in the background.

He lies motionless on the pavement.

INT. SAN DIEGO-LA JOLLA, CA - SEGLENDAS HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Seglenda wakes abruptly, hungover, and disoriented. She grabs her phone and calls her other sister.

SISTER 2 (O.S.)  
I don't wanna talk about this!

SEGLENDAS  
Vicky, I had the weirdest dream. Have you seen Carl today?

SISTER 2 (O.S.)  
He's my husband. He's sitting right in front of me.

Seglenda exhales in relief.

SEGLENDAS  
It was just a dream.

SISTER 2 (O.S.)  
YOU DREAMING ABOUT MY HUSBAND?

Anger flashes across Seglenda's face as she glares at her phone.

SEGLENDAS  
BYE, VIC!

She hangs up, anxiety creeping in. After a moment, determination sets in, and she nods to herself.

Seglenda strides to the bathroom.

Her phone vibrates, displaying "Evelyn calling." A message pops up:

**TEXT:** "Look at this crazy video!"

**2ND-TEXT:** *"Emergency Recall Request: Your Lectra has an emergency technical update. Please stay with your vehicle and say, 'Lectra, return home,' and it will head to our friendly*

*Lectra dealership in Chula Vista. Thank you."*

EXT. MESA GRANDE, CA - HWY 76 SOUTHBOUND - CONTINUED

Alex's Lectra-Z barrels down the road at 120 mph. The Lectra-Z swerves between lanes, while onlookers speed up to film with their camera phones.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Alex glances at the screen.

ALEX  
Oh great! The damn temperature gauge  
finally went off.

The tints on the windows suddenly lighten. Pia looks through the back window.

PIA  
(shouting)  
YOU IDIOTS! CALL THE POLICE!

Pia gestures wildly at the cars behind them.

PIA  
(voice trembling)  
We need to call for help.

ALEX  
(voice strained, desperation  
creeping in)  
JUST STAY CALM!

PIA  
(still in shock)  
They'll think we did it on purpose!

ALEX  
(frantic)  
This isn't our fault.

The screen displays a new eerie message:

**LECTRA-Z**: YOU WON'T BE MAKING IT TO THE DEALERSHIP TODAY!

Pia and Alex exchange horrified glances, disbelief plastered on their faces.

ALEX  
It's a hack. GOTTA BE!

Suddenly, the Lectra-Z slows to 50 mph, veers off the road. Alex and Pia are thrown against their seats.

PIA  
(voice trembling with fear)  
What is it doing?

ALEX  
(gritting his teeth)  
I don't know! Just hold on!

EXT. BACKWOODS - CONTINUOUS

The Lectra-Z speeds down a narrow bike path, trees blurring past.

The tension is palpable as Pia looks at Alex, her eyes wide with fear.

PIA  
(voice shaking)  
What if it doesn't stop?

ALEX  
(shouting)  
Get ready!

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

The car reaches an underpass, veers left, and heads toward a huge lake, full of people picnicking and laying on the grass.

Innocent bystanders scream and run for their lives, desperately trying to get out of the way.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

PIA  
(screaming, panic rising in her voice)  
OH NO! PLEASE!

Alex and Pia grab each other, bracing for impact.

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

The car soars into the air, then crashes down into the lake with a deafening...

**SPLASH!**

It hits the lake nose-first, floating on the surface. The glass force field engages, sparks flickering ominously.

ALEX  
The chair boost mechanism!

Pia, stunned, finally catches her breath.

PIA  
(exclaims)  
DO IT, SO WE CAN GET THE HELL OUTTA  
HERE!

ALEX  
(softly)  
Lectra, engage the emergency chair-  
boost option.

A moment passes, suddenly, the front two seats boost upward, and the front corners of the sunroof open.

PIA  
(interjecting)  
Aren't all the seats supposed to boost  
upward in this hell on wheels?

ALEX  
I don't understand!

Fear and desperation wash over Alex's face. Pia's anxiety is palpable, her arms drawn tightly to her body.

PIA  
(fearfully angry)  
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

Water begins flooding the car through an opening trap door beneath them.

ALEX  
It's trying to drown us!

Alex and Pia pound on the windows desperately, panic rising as the car sinks deeper into the lake.

PIA  
How are we supposed to fit through  
that?

ALEX  
Lectra, unlock!

Pia notices something peculiar-a secret circular panel revealing itself, illuminated by several lights.

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Two male onlookers jump into the lake, swimming toward them as the car completely submerges.

INT. ALEX'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ALEX  
(screaming)  
LECTRA! UNLOCK! PLEASE!!!

Dramatic pause.

**LECTRA-Z:** (reciting) Unlocked!

With a mechanical whir, the doors unlock and swing open wide, allowing water to rush in, drowning Alex and Pia as it sinks toward the bottom of the lake.

The doors eventually close behind them.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

The onlookers emerge from underwater, fear and confusion etched on their faces. The Lectra's front seats float to the surface.

Suddenly, the water begins to bubble violently beneath the men, tension skyrocketing.

They panic, swimming frantically toward the shore.

EXT. LAKE SHORE - CONTINUOUS

The car emerges, floating on the lake's surface, digital lights flashing "Lectra Z" repeatedly, creating a horrific spectacle.

The men finally reached the shore, paralyzed with fear.

They run behind a tree, watching as the car slowly approaches the water's edge, coming to a stop for a moment.

Then, all four doors swing open, unleashing torrents of water onto the sand, along with the lifeless bodies of Alex and Pia.

The lights continue to flash ominously, "Lectra Z"



illuminating faster and faster in a terrifying display.

Suddenly, all four doors slam shut. Without warning, the car speeds off toward the freeway, disappearing down the road.

The men, still in shock, step out from behind the tree, their faces pale, and eyes wide with disbelief.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA. - MARY'S HOUSE - NOON

Mary walks toward her house, glancing over her shoulder.

A Lectra-Z follows her, its presence unsettling.

MARY  
(whispers to herself)  
What are you doing here?

She turns around, startled. The car halts, its tinted windows darkened.

MARY  
(approaching cautiously)  
Hello?

The window rolls down, revealing an empty interior. A message flickers on the screen:

LECTRA-Z: "Welcome, Mary! Prepare for a thrilling ride. Don't forget to buckle up!"

Mary gasps.

Panicking, she bolts toward her house.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mary slams the door shut, heart pounding.

She peeks through the window, watching the Lectra-Z park itself in front of her house.

INT. CHULA VISTA, CA - LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - LOBBY - CONTINUED

An outdoor press conference erupts in chaos.

Caroui paces, frustration etched on his face.

PAUL  
It's possibly a deep fake.

Caroui glares at Paul, anger boiling over.

CAROU  
(voice rising)  
It's not a deep fake! Can't you hear  
that crowd? People have lost their  
lives!

Paul checks his phone, anxiety creeping in.

PAUL  
Uhm... OK.

CAROU  
What's your excuse now?

PAUL  
Casey's found the vehicle.

Caroui snatches the phone, frustration palpable.

CAROU  
(yelling)  
WHAT?! How did she even get access to  
the car?!

Paul hesitates, a secret weighing on him.

Caroui's expression shifts to confusion.

CAROU  
None of them had a digital access key.  
(pause) Get in contact with her!

Caroui storms off, leaving Paul in a state of worry.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - MARY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUED

Mary's fear mounts as she stares at the parked Lectra-Z. Her  
phone rings.

MARY  
(nervously)  
Hel... hello?

PAUL  
Hi, is this, Mary?

MARY  
Yeah, this is Mary.

PAUL  
I'm Paul from Lectra Solar. I see one  
of our vehicles is in front of your  
house.

MARY  
(interrupting)  
I didn't steal your car!

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Paul listens to her rapid breathing.

PAUL  
We know you didn't. It's okay. We just  
need the car back. I've sent you a  
text with instructions.

INT. MARY'S HOME - FRONT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mary receives a text, eyes wide.

MARY  
(exclaims)  
I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT  
CAR!

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Paul exchanges a worried glance with Caroui, who is pacing  
like a caged animal.

CAROU  
(snatching the phone from Paul)  
This is Caroui. Mary, I need you to  
trust me.

INT. MARY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary glances around her living room, uncertainty etched on  
her face.

MARY  
(hesitant)  
I really, really don't want to get in  
that car.

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Caroui's voice softens, trying to reassure her.

CAROU

I understand you're scared, but I can show you how to override the system. It'll switch the car to manual mode. You'll be driving a regular electric car.

INT. MARY'S HOME - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mary takes a deep breath, weighing her options. She knows she has no choice.

MARY

(sighs, resigned)

Fine.

EXT. MARY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mary opens the door slowly, her heart racing as she approaches the Lectra-Z.

As she nears the car, the door swings open on its own. She hesitates, staring at the empty interior.

MARY

(muttering to herself)

I think I've gone crazy.

CAROU (O.S.)

(with a hint of amusement)

Yeah, it does that. I want you to get into the back passenger side.

Mary swallows hard, her hands trembling as she climbs into the car.

MARY

(nervously)

Okay, I'm in the car.

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Caroui's expression tense.

CAROU

Ok. Now you're going to...

Suddenly, Mary gasps.

MARY (O.S.)  
(interrupting)  
The door just closed and locked!

CAROU  
Just stay calm. Toward the bottom rear  
of the front seat, there's a hidden  
circular panel.

INT. MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary's eyes dart around, panic rising.

MARY  
I see it!

CAROU (O.S.)  
Good. Press the middle of that circle  
with your index finger four times.

MARY  
(frustrated)  
Ugh! This is ridiculous!

She taps the circle four times, and the panel slides open,  
revealing a digital interface.

Suddenly a message appears on the screen.

**LECTRA-Z:** WHERE TO: CANADA

MARY  
(yelling)  
CANADA!

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Caroui's voice is urgent.

CAROU  
Mary, please stay calm.

INT. MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary's eyes widen as the car begins accelerating.

MARY  
(panicked)  
The car's moving! How can I stay calm?

The car speeds down the road, tires screeching.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
Has the panel opened?

MARY  
Yeah! Now what?!

Lights inside the panel flicker, indicating various commands.

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
There's a button that shows "Factory  
Restore." Press and hold it.

MARY  
(panicking)  
I DON'T SEE IT!

EXT. MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car veers sharply down a dead-end road, heading toward a house in a cul-de-sac.

INT. MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

MARY  
(screaming)  
IT'S GONNA CRASH!

CAROUÏ (O.S.)  
Press and hold that button!

Mary's heart races as she frantically searches for the button.

Finally, she spots it and presses it, holding it down with all her strength.

The car slows to a complete stop, the screen going dark.

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Caroui waits, his breath held.

CAROUÏ  
Are you OK?

INT. MARY'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

MARY  
(breathless)  
Yeah. The car is off.

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Caroui exhales, relief washing over him.

CAROU

The key fob should already be in the  
glove compartment. Please, be careful.

Caroui hangs up, a mix of hope and anxiety on his face.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE -  
AFTERNOON

Mary pulls into the lot, her heart racing as she's met by a  
mob of angry protesters.

Security guards struggle to contain the chaos.

She drives toward the back entrance. The gate opens, and  
Caroui and Paul wave her through, their faces tense.

PROTESTER

(shouting)

WE DON'T WANT YOUR DEVIL CARS  
TERRORIZING OUR CITY!

INT. WAREHOUSE - VEHICLE SERVICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

CAROU

(yelling over the noise)

Park it here!

Mary slams the car into place, the gate crashing shut behind  
her.

She steps out, frustration boiling over, and tries to slam  
the door, but it barely budes, closing slowly instead.

MARY

(voice shaking)

You could have gotten me killed!

CAROU

Something weird is going on.

Mary rolls her eyes, annoyance creeping in.

MARY

Uh, you think?!

Caroui looks genuinely defeated. Mary softens slightly.

MARY

Sorry. Just feeling some type of way  
about this.

Caroui approaches the car, brow furrowed in thought.

CAROU

(hesitant)

That's why I needed you... I mean, the  
car.

Mary raises an eyebrow, a hint of amusement breaking through.

Caroui climbs in, activates the car, and drives toward the  
rear of the warehouse.

CAROU

The sooner I know what's going on, the  
sooner I can fix this.

Mary follows, baffled. Caroui positions the car under a  
solar-powered lift.

MARY

I don't see how.

Caroui points to the lift.

CAROU

See that? It can't hurt us up there.

Mary's curiosity piques as Caroui presses a button on his  
phone.

The lift's steel bars extend, lifting the car five feet off  
the ground.

CAROU

A hack is impossible with these cars.  
That's how I designed them. And only I  
know how. Purposely.

The lift stops, and Mary looks up at him, intrigued.

MARY

What now? What do you have to do?

Caroui turns to her, resolve in his eyes.

CAROU

Determine who's controlling them.



Mary nods, confusion still lingering.

Paul nervously checks his buzzing phone.

MARY  
I thought you said it couldn't be  
hacked.

PAUL  
(interrupting)  
Excuse me.

He quickly walks off, leaving Mary and Caroui in the service area.

Mary glances at Caroui, puzzled.

MARY  
What's his deal?

CAROU  
(mildly amused)  
My business manager. He's more  
stressed than I am.

Mary smirks, a hint of laughter escaping her lips despite the tension.

Caroui's expression shifts back to seriousness as he focuses on the task at hand.

INT. LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Caroui reconnects the car to the cyber and mobile network.

He checks a hidden panel, and a series of lights illuminate.

**LECTRA-Z PANEL:** *Light illuminates: reverse engaged.*

The car begins to reverse. Mary steps closer, eyes wide.

MARY  
It's malfunctioning.

Caroui's expression shifts to one of realization.

He gestures for silence, a sneaky smirk forming.

CAROU  
The chair boost option isn't working.

Suddenly, another light blinks.

**LECTRA-Z PANEL:** *Light illuminates: chair boost engaged.*

The chairs start to lift.

Caroui quickly disconnects the cyber and mobile connectivity.

MARY

Somebody was listening!

Fear flashes across Caroui's face.

CAROU

The only way they could access it is  
through a mobile device.

He rubs his temples, deep in thought.

CAROU

It's gonna be hell trying to access  
one of those 5G towers.

MARY

Are there hidden cameras?

CAROU

I'm not a monster!

MARY

I'm just saying, someone has to be  
watching.

CAROU

Cameras are only on the outside...

He pauses, a spark of insight lighting up his face.

CAROU

...connected only to the motherboard's  
sensors.

Mary's eyes widen as she approaches him.

MARY

So, this car has a computer that  
controls its functions, not its  
connectivity. Am I right?

Caroui's impressed, but a new realization dawns on him.

CARUI  
I knew it! Mary Ward.

Mary exhales deeply, sensing the tension. Caroui's anger flares, his body tense as he paces.

CARUI  
You can't write about this. You'll ruin my reputation!

MARY  
Your reputation is already on thin ice, love.

Caroui pulls out his phone, fingers flying over the screen.

INT. LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - CARUI'S OFFICE -  
CONTINUED

While on the phone, Paul receives a text from Caroui:

**TEXT:** "GET YOUR ASS BACK IN HERE! I NEED YOU!"

PAUL  
I can't keep this up. What else am I supposed to do here?

Out of the corner of his eye, he sees Caroui's AI Android, Junior, staring at him.

PAUL  
(frantic)  
Leader override 662892! Junior,  
FACTORY RESTORE, SHUT DOWN!

Junior erases all its data and powers down.

PAUL  
Pain in my ass! (*now addressing the person on the phone*) Get me outta here!

Paul rushes to his laptop and accesses a secret, security-protected file on Caroui's backup server.

He opens a document revealing a list of Lectra model numbers.

One in particular, "**Lectra-Z #8-467**," shows a mobility code: "**619-900-0023**," along with a mysterious asterisk. The other model numbers display codes ranging from "**619-900-0000**" to "**619-999-9999**," some with an asterisk and others without.

Fifty of them have the asterisk.

Frustration mounts as he shreds the file.

PAUL

Oh, contraire! My good buddy. He's not stupid. And I'm running out of time.

Suddenly, Junior's eyes flicker with a red light, blinking ominously.

Paul remains unaware.

INT. LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - CONTINUED

Mary is fixated on Caroui as he detaches the car's computing motherboard from underneath the electric motor.

Caroui moves swiftly, visibly aggravated.

CAROU

This is what you do? Sneak and write?

MARY

I'm not being difficult. I get that you wanna keep this discreet. Wouldn't you rather it be me than some vicious fake news journalist?

Caroui lowers his guard, lost in thought.

CAROU

Trust no man. That's what my dad used to say. *(He pauses, his jaw tightening as he recalls the memory)* Always quoting Jeremiah, but doin' the opposite. *(He shakes his head, a bitter smile flickering across his face.)*

Mary's laugh slowly turns into a look of compassion.

MARY

You talk about him a lot. What about your mother?

Caroui hesitates, continuing to work on the motherboard.

CAROU

I don't remember her.

After a mild struggle, Caroui manages to detach the motherboard.

He walks over to his laptop, with Mary following slowly, deep in thought.

MARY

My parents told me we were going on a trip. I packed my bags, and that was the last I saw of them.

Caroui pauses, staring into space.

MARY

My father lost his job and decided a child was too much of a financial burden. He and my mother planned to leave town and never look back. Only I wasn't included.

CAROU

How old were you?

MARY

Twelve. But years later, I found them. They even tried to use that excuse about it being hard for black families to survive back then. I stormed off and never looked back. *(pause)* I returned the favor. Now, I work for myself, live alone, and have a few close friends. One of whom I'm on thin ice with.

Caroui, saddened, empathizes with Mary's trauma. He realizes he's become distracted and dives back into his work.

CAROU

*(staring at the computer screen)*  
Well, my dad is one less thing I have to worry about. That damn Paul!

Mary moves closer to the computer screen.

MARY

What's Paul's story?

Caroui becomes apprehensive and hesitates.

MARY

I'm not gonna write about it. I

promise.

CAROUİ

Paul's a genius businessman... at least he is now. I've known him for a long time. After his dad kicked him out, he was homeless and penniless... there he was... at the junkyard.

Mary smiles, mesmerized, unable to look away from him.

LOUD NOISE FROM BACK AREA.

Paul emerges, carrying his navy-blue Italian briefcase, a troubled look on his face. His eyes widen when he sees Caroui on his laptop with the car's motherboard plugged in.

CAROUİ

What the hell, man? What were you doing?

PAUL

We've got a big problem!

Paul shows them surveillance footage of chaos out front.

Caroui immediately stops what he's doing and grabs his packed hi-tech backpack, shoving his laptop and the motherboard inside.

Mary, very nervous, follows them toward the back exit.

EXT. LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - REAR - CONTINUED

The chaotic sounds of the crowd echo as the trio approaches the front.

EXT. LECTRA SOLAR MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Caroui, Paul, and Mary cautiously push open the secret gate, their eyes widening as they take in the sight of the crowd-clambering over anything in their path, like wild animals-heathens, desperate to break into the building.

Caroui's face turns red with frustration, feeling the pressure of the moment weighing on him.

Mary gasps. Caroui raises his hands attempting to calm the crowd.

CAROU  
(calls out)  
PLEASE, EVERYONE! I'M HERE!

Caroui catches himself as he notices the angry faces snarling at him.

The crowd charges toward them creating a chaotic scene that feels completely overwhelming.

The trio panics until suddenly, Alex's Lectra-Z emerges from nowhere, pulling into the parking lot and charging into the crowd.

The car runs over three people, killing them instantly. The rest of the crowd screams, scrambling to climb upon anything they can find.

Meanwhile, Paul panics and runs toward the street.

CAROU  
(shouting)  
THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA!

PAUL  
(yelling back)  
NEITHER WAS YOURS!!

Mary panics as she notices other cars in the lot activating, ready to pounce.

EXT. FRONT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Paul runs through the lot as one vehicle begins reversing, missing him by inches. He bolts out into the street.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda, in the back of her Lectra-Z, gasps at the chaotic scene. She sees Paul running for his life, being chased by a Lectra-Z.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Paul stops, anger boiling as he faces the car barreling down the street toward him. The Lectra-Z stops just inches away, then retreats down another street.

Paul takes a deep breath and runs into traffic, cars honking around him.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda stares in complete shock.

EXT. FRONT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Caroui and Mary stand on top of a brick portion of the building. The tints lighten on Seglenda's Lectra-Z, and Mary sees Seglenda signaling for them to run to her car for safety.

MARY  
(yelling to Caroui)  
She wants to help!

Caroui and Mary make a run for it, dashing across the roofs of the out-of-control cars.

Caroui notices four cars surrounding a vehicle with a woman and her child inside, blocking their escape.

Without hesitation, Caroui rushes over to the woman and child. Caroui dashes toward the scene, the panicked crowd watching.

EXT. MARY'S POV - CONTINUOUS

Mary realizes Caroui is no longer behind her and stops to look back.

MARY  
(yelling)  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EXT. FRONT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Caroui hears Mary but continues toward the unstoppable cars, which are driving forward forcefully.

Upon arrival, he quickly yanks the woman and child out of the car just before the vehicles crush it. Mary watches Caroui, amazed and filled with compassion.

Suddenly, the car she's standing on awakens and moves, causing her to fall hard onto the ground.

CAROU  
(yelling)  
MARY, KEEP GOING!

Mary snaps out of it and runs for her life. The out-of-



control Lectra-Z pursues her.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda suddenly takes charge with commanding heroism.

SEGLENDAS  
Lectra! Open back passenger side door,  
only!

The back passenger side door opens.

SEGLENDAS  
(shouting)  
HURRY!

Mary slides into the car just as Seglenda moves to the other side. The door shuts quickly behind her.

Seglenda and Mary brace for impact, staring in horror as the relentless car barrels toward them.

**CRASH!**

The Lectra-Z collides with them but backs up without a dent or scratch. Seglenda and Mary breathe a sigh of relief, though still shaken. The Lectra-Z takes off down the street.

EXT. FRONT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Caroui notices Mary and Seglenda urging him to come on. He makes a run for Seglenda's Lectra-Z, sprinting as fast as he can.

Suddenly, three Lectra-Zs realize Caroui is trying to escape. The cars form a single file line, pursuing him.

Miraculously, Caroui makes it inside Seglenda's Lectra-Z just in time.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROUIS  
(breathless)  
LECTRA, LEADER-OVERRIDE! GO!

Seglenda's Lectra-Z accelerates down the road, the passenger door closing behind Caroui.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The pursuing vehicles exit the parking lot after them, one by one, electric engines whirring as they chase down the street.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - STREET - CONTINUED

A young boy walks down the street, engrossed in playing with his toy car, skillfully maneuvering it with a sleek, futuristic virtual flat-screen-controller.

Suddenly, he is startled as Seglenda's Lectra-Z whizzes past, followed closely by three more Lectra-Zs racing after it.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

**LECTRA-Z:** (reciting) "Emergency override activated. Welcome, Caroui! Where to?"

Caroui, overwhelmed, quickly removes his high-tech backpack.

CARUI

(says loudly)

Safety. As far south as you can go to the nearest 5G tower. Just avoid your brothers.

Seglenda and Mary watch in horror as the rogue Lectra-Zs close in on them. Caroui hastily unloads his laptop and motherboard, his hands shaking.

SEGLENDAS

(struggling to keep calm)

It's like I'm in a remake of *Christine* or something?

Mary looks confused.

SEGLENDAS

Before your time, honey.

A beat.

SEGLENDAS

I just wanted to return your car!  
What's happening?

CARUI

I'm trying to figure that out.

Caroui glances at the traffic light, now turning yellow.

CAROU  
(exclaims)  
LECTRA! Run it!

**LECTRA-Z:** (reciting) "Caroui, I advise against it. It is not possible and also not safe."

CAROU  
(yelling)  
LECTRA! DO IT!

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car speeds through the yellow light, its sensors guiding it safely past a large truck just in time.

Seglenda and Mary scream in the background.

The truck halts, blocking the pursuing Lectra-Zs, which come to an abrupt stop.

A swarm of tiny bugs rises into the atmosphere, swirling around the scene.

The bugs then fly in the direction of Seglenda's Lectra-Z.

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - STREET CONTINUED

CUT TO:

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z

Caroui sifts through the motherboard data, shock and anger etched on his face.

MARY  
What? What is it?

CAROU  
(glancing at Seglenda)  
Have you noticed anything off about the car?

SEGLENDAS  
Not really. I just wanted to be cautious after that awful video.

Mary's eyes widen, concern deepening.

CAROU  
Someone accessed the car's mobility

codes.

MARY

So that's how they're controlling them? Right?

CAROU

Yeah, remotely, but how?

Caroui rubs his forehead, frustration mounting.

CAROU

No one should have that access.

Seglenda gazes at Caroui, a mix of worry and longing in her eyes. Caroui connects to Junior, only to find it has been factory restored by Paul.

A look of revelation dawns on him.

He restricts Paul's access and retrieves Junior's re-uploaded backup files, a hidden protocol.

A video plays, revealing a frantic Paul accessing a secret file unknown to Caroui. The audio chimes in,

PAUL (O.S.)

*Oh, contraire! My good buddy. He's not stupid. And I'm running out of time.*

Caroui watches in disbelief as Junior captures a screen recording of Paul deleting crucial data and a secret file.

A wave of rage surges within him, igniting a fierce determination to confront the betrayal.

CAROU

Bastard!

Mary leans in, anticipation building.

CAROU

(voice trembling)

Paul's trying to destroy me.

Caroui spots a list among the first files Paul obliterated. He scans it, his expression shifting to disappointment. He then realizes Seglenda's Lectra-Z isn't marked.

CAROU

Your car... it has no asterisk.

Mary's anticipation turns to annoyance.

SEGLEND  
Ok, I'll ask. What list? What  
asterisk?

Caroui pauses dramatically, tension thick in the air.

CAROU  
The list of vehicles set aside for the  
U.S. government.

Shock washes over Seglenda and Mary.

MARY  
Are you serious?!

Suddenly, tiny bugs begin to land on their windows, their wings buzzing like a swarm of angry bees. Seglenda's eyes widen in fear.

MARY  
You got a thing about bugs or  
something?

The swarm multiplies, darkening the windows.

EXT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA Z - CONTINUOUS

The car merges onto the freeway.

INT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda stares, horror-stricken. Two AI mechanical bugs navigate through the ventilation system.

Suddenly, the bugs confront the trio one by one.

SEGLEND  
(panicking)  
They're those AI camera bugs!

Caroui and Mary exchange a knowing glance. Mary swats at the bugs as more invade the space.

CAROU  
(yelling)  
LECTRA, STOP!

**LECTRA-Z:** (*reciting*) "I advise against it!"

CAROU  
(fanning away the bugs)  
DO IT, NOW!

The car halts abruptly.

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA Z - CONTINUOUS

The trio exits, gasping at the swarm of bugs now buzzing around them. They remain oblivious to the freeway's dangers.

Caroui freezes, eyes wide as an eighteen-wheeler barrels toward them.

**HORN HONKING!**

Seglenda turns to face the oncoming truck, her heart racing, while Caroui is lost in a haunting memory of the tragic night in 1998.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. CAMP PENDLETON, CA - INTERSTATE 5 NORTHBOUND - MIDNIGHT

Ten-year-old Caroui, paralyzed with fear, watches as an eighteen-wheeler hurtles toward them.

FLASHFORWARD TO:

EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA. - I-805 FREEWAY SOUTHBOUND - LATE AFTERNOON

Adult Caroui, stands there, terror etched on his face.

(SLOW MOTION)

Without hesitation, Caroui yanks Seglenda and Mary toward the shoulder of the freeway.

They tumble onto the thick grass.

(NORMAL SPEED)

The eighteen-wheeler barrels into Seglenda's Lectra-Z, spinning it violently into the railing.

The mechanical bugs scatter, their tiny bodies reflecting the sunlight like shards of glass.

One damaged bug lands in Caroui's lap, glitching and sparking, emitting a faint, electric crackle that sends a

shiver down his spine.

The truck finally comes to a complete stop, the sound of screeching tires echoing around them.

The truck driver storms out, furious.

TRUCK DRIVER  
(yelling)  
WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU?

Mary rises, anger flaring.

MARY  
(dusting herself off)  
JUST CALM DOWN! WE'RE OKAY BY THE WAY!

Caroui slips the bug into his shirt pocket, then rises, fire igniting within him.

Caroui strides up to the driver, who is shouting obscenities, and delivers a punch square to his face. The driver collapses to the ground.

Seglenda and Mary watch, surprised by Caroui's sudden calm.

CAROUİ  
(leaning in, sarcastic)  
Are you ok?

Seglenda smirks, a mix of relief and amusement crossing her face. Caroui doesn't wait for an answer as he helps Seglenda and Mary to their feet, with Mary beaming in admiration.

The chaos begins to settle.

The truck driver groans on the ground, clutching his jaw, while Caroui stands tall, adrenaline still coursing through him.

MARY  
(trying to lighten the mood)  
Glad I didn't piss you off.

SEGLENDÄ  
(half-laughing, half-nervous)  
You really know how to make an  
impression, huh, Caroui?

Caroui glances back at the indestructible Lectra-Z, concern and determination flickering in his eyes.

INT. POWAY, CA - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - LATER

Tom Mackenzie monitors twelve men in orange jumpsuits.

Each is fixated on their own AI mobile device, thin and rectangular, resembling gaming consoles.

On the huge flat-screen monitors, a bird's-eye view reveals Lectra-Z cars careening down the street, crashing into walls, and sending pedestrians scrambling in panic.

AI mechanical bugs provide the aerial footage as Tom watches intently.

Two large law enforcement officers stand nearby, semi-automatic weapons at the ready.

TOM  
Where is he?

CONVICT 1  
Southbound on the 805 freeway.

Tom leans closer to the monitor, zooming in on a video image of Caroui, Seglenda, and Mary standing on the side of the freeway.

The camera captures Caroui speaking with highway patrol officers and an irate trucker, who clutches a rag to his jaw, yelling and gesturing angrily.

TOM  
Keep your eyes peeled. Let me know the moment you see something.

The convict nods.

CONVICT 2  
(yelling)  
I think we got one!

Tom strides over, eyes locked on the screen as Elka slips into the back of her Lectra-Z.

He watches intently as her car reverses out of the backyard and onto the street.

The convict zooms in. A sly smile creeps across Tom's face.

TOM  
He's got this one.



EXT. CHULA VISTA, CA - I-805 FREEWAY SOUTHBOUND - CONTINUED

While Caroui speaks with the highway patrol, Mary walks over to Seglenda, who stares at the sleek, indestructible car.

SEGLEND A

That's quite a machine he's made.

MARY continues to gaze at the car, her expression thoughtful.

MARY

I wouldn't quite call it a machine.

Seglenda catches the hint of concern in Mary's voice.

SEGLEND A

Maybe it's more than that?

Mary sneaks a glance at Caroui, who is still engaged with the patrol.

SEGLEND A

You really care about him, don't you?

Mary hesitates, caught off-guard.

MARY

He's attached to his toys.

Seglenda raises an eyebrow, a smirk forming.

SEGLEND A

Boys and their toys. But, eventually, they grow up. That's when they become husbands and daddies.

Mary smiles, a flicker of understanding passing between them. Caroui approaches, relief washing over his face.

CAROU I

I smoothed everything over. They didn't recognize me. We can drive the car since there were no damages.

He reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out the small mechanical bug.

SEGLEND A

(gasps)

Get rid of that! It's dangerous!

Caroui chuckles, trying to lighten the mood.

CAROU  
It's just a surveillance bug. Nothing  
to worry about.

He takes a small knife and breaks the bug apart, a hint of  
pride in his voice.

CAROU  
(muttering)  
Looks like something I'd design.

MARY  
What now?

CAROU  
For once in my life, I don't know.

He looks defeated, his thoughts drifting.

CAROU  
(softly)  
Paul... how could you be involved in  
this?

SEGLEND  
Who's Paul?

MARY  
Just a young guy... running from  
Christine, with a briefcase.

Seglenda's expression shifts to one of realization.

SEGLEND  
This day just keeps getting weirder.

CAROU  
What do you mean?

SEGLEND  
He stared down the car, and it just...  
changed direction.

Caroui stares in disbelief. Mary's phone vibrates, displaying

**FACETIME**: "ELKA CALLING."

MARY  
Elka, listen-

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ELKA

Don't apologize, we're good. We may not see eye to eye, but-

MARY interrupts, urgency in her voice.

MARY

Elka, are you in that car?

ELKA

I got this text to return it. I'm taking the long route.

MARY

You need to pull over right now!

ELKA

Are you still on this paranoia trip?

EXT. I-805 SHOULDER OF FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Caroui grabs Mary's phone, his tone serious.

CAROUI

Don't worry about returning it. Just pull over!

ELKA

(excited)

Mr. Boykin! I'm your first customer!

MARY

(yelling)

ELKA! LISTEN TO HIM!

Suddenly, a song blares from Elka's car: **"GOING IN CIRCLES"** by **The Friends of Distinction**. Caroui freezes, momentarily lost in the music, revelation on his face.

ELKA

This song again. I love it now.

MARY

(exclaims)

Caroui! Tell her about the manual thing! Caroui!!!!

Caroui snaps back to reality, but Mary is in full panic mode, sprinting toward SEGLENDIA's Lectra-Z.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
What's her full name?

MARY  
Elka Gant!

CAROU  
LECTRA! Navigate to Elka Gant's  
location!

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - NORTHBOUND HARBOR DRIVE - CONTINUED

The music blares louder, filling the air with tension. ELKA's  
Lectra-Z makes a sharp right turn.

ELKA  
Lectra, why are you turning?

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary's face reflects hopelessness.

MARY  
(shouting)  
We're trying to get to you!

EXT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

ELKA's Lectra-Z accelerates, now barreling down the street at  
70 MPH. The car swerves dangerously, the dashboard lights  
flashing warnings.

ELKA  
(screaming)  
IT WON'T STOP!

The Lectra-Z heads straight for a brick building.

Moments after-

**CRASH!**

The impact sends ELKA flying forward, her body colliding with  
the windshield.

Blood splatter all over.

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

MARY watches in horror, her heart racing.

MARY  
(shouting)  
ELKA... ELKA!

Mary and Seglenda are frozen, the sound of the crash echoing in their ears.

MARY  
(voice breaking)  
No... no... no... no...

INT. ELKAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The music continues to play, hauntingly juxtaposed against the chaos.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - BALBOA PARK - EARLY EVENING

PAUL roams through the park, the sun casting long shadows.

He puts on his Apple Vision Pro goggles.

EXT. POV INSIDE GLASSES - CONTINUOUS

A semi-transparent image of TOM MACKENZIE appears, his expression unreadable.

PAUL  
(fuming)  
What's goin' on over there?

TOM  
The testing needs more time.

Paul interrupts, sarcasm dripping from his words.

PAUL  
Great plan-recruiting his criminal friends. The cars were supposed to be tested with people inside! What were you thinking?

TOM  
There's something greater to consider.

PAUL  
You think just because you've got deep

pockets, you can do whatever the hell  
you want? This is my project!

Paul scans the park beyond Tom's image, his gaze landing on  
an OLD MAN walking his dog, staring at him.

He shifts uncomfortably, trying to avoid eye contact.

TOM  
Your show, my money, but 'his' brain.

PAUL  
Don't underestimate me! I know how  
that brain operates.

INT. TOM MACKENZIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tom's expression sharpens, a glint of mischief in his eyes as  
he leans closer to the screen.

PAUL  
Are you just gonna leave me hanging  
out here?

Tom signals to one of the convicts off-screen.

The screen shows one of the rogue cars speeding away.

TOM  
I've got your location. We'll talk  
more once you get here.

EXT. POV INSIDE GLASSES - CONTINUOUS

PAUL  
(scoffs)  
Fine!

Paul abruptly stops the transmission and yanks off the  
goggles.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - BALBOA PARK - EARLY EVENING

The OLD MAN is still watching him, unblinking.

PAUL  
(yelling)  
What are you staring at? You want a  
quarter?

The OLD MAN looks away, and Paul storms off, frustration

radiating from him.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - NORTHBOUND HARBOR DRIVE - EVENING

The trio rides slowly past Elka's Lectra-Z.

Officers and an EMT stare, flabbergasted, at the horrific blood-stained glass interior of the car.

MARY shakes her head, tears streaming down her face.

Still shaken, she erupts with anger.

MARY  
(yelling)  
THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOU AND YOUR  
DAMN... (*dramatic pause*) TOYS!

Caroui sits speechless.

SEGLEND  
(softly)  
It's not his fault, Mary. He can't  
control what's happening.

Caroui gently places a hand on Seglenda's arm.

EXT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The car turns down a side road.

INT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
(calming)  
Lectra, pull over.

The car parks. Caroui stares at the floor, defeated.

CAROU  
(quietly)  
I don't know about that.

MARY  
(clenching her fists)  
I should've done something. Anything!

SEGLEND  
Honey, you did all you could.

CAROU  
It's him. My dad.

Seglenda doesn't seem surprised.

MARY  
(confused wiping her eyes)  
How can he be doing this from jail?

CAROU  
That's his favorite song. He's behind  
this.

SEGLEND  
What makes you responsible for this  
mess?

Mary looks at her with skepticism.

CAROU  
(nervously)  
I ratted him out. He hit and killed a  
couple while drunk; begged me not to  
tell the police. But I broke. I told  
everything.

Seglenda and Mary exchange a look of understanding.

CAROU  
(staring into space)  
He knew who I was the whole time.  
Junior didn't even catch this. Tom  
freakin' Mackenzie.

MARY  
Tom Mackenzie? What are you talking  
about?

Seglenda shows deep compassion for Caroui.

CAROU  
Why? Why are my cars crashing into  
everything? I just don't understand.

Suddenly, Caroui receives a text from a private number with a  
link attached.

Suspense fills the air as he clicks it.

Seglenda and Mary lean in as a video plays, showing random  
"CRASH TEST DUMMY" simulations.



They watch in horror as cars collide with buildings, other vehicles, and dummies.

CAROU

They're testing their investment.

The trio is left in shock.

MARY

Using us as the test dummies.

Caroui is filled with fearful uncertainty.

MARY

(voice trembling)

I knew this day was coming. I write about it all the time. (*pauses, looking away, tears welling*) I just can't believe it's here.

Seglenda becomes increasingly agitated.

SEGLEND

Mary, please! Just go on.

CAROU

No she's right, it's the President and his clean energy agenda. There are five new 5G towers in California-one in Poway, one in Chula Vista. Tom kept demanding I make the vehicles compatible to "maintain compliance." It's not about safety. It never was. It's about **CONTROL, DESTRUCTION, and WAR!**

Seglenda looks unsettled.

SEGLEND

(exclaims)

LET ME OUT!

CAROU

Lectra! OPEN DOORS!

EXT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The doors swing open. Seglenda stumbles out, fear in her eyes as Mary rushes after her.

MARY  
Where are you going?

SEGLEND  
I can't do this anymore!

Mary steps in front of her, urgency in her voice.

MARY  
You're not safe out here alone.

SEGLEND  
This is too much-destruction, war,  
cars, AI. I'm too old for this!

Mary leans in, determination on her face.

MARY  
I'm scared too. (*takes a deep breath,  
steadies herself*) But we need to stick  
together. We can't face this alone.

SEGLEND  
It's never gonna be over. Didn't you  
just hear him?

MARY  
For once in this... "worst day of my  
life," I finally believe something.  
(*intensely*) WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER  
AND SEE THIS THROUGH!

Seglenda stares at Mary, her expression softening.

She glances back at Caroui, who sits in the car, sulking.

INT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU watches them, a mix of guilt and determination on his  
face.

SEGLEND  
Caroui, what are you gonna do now,  
honey?

CAROU  
(sighs)  
You both love asking me that question.

Mary and Seglenda exchange a hopeful glance, a hint of a  
smirk breaking through the tension.

CAROU  
(steadily)  
I think I know.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, CA - NORTHBOUND HARBOR DRIVE - MOMENTS AFTER

Caroui, Mary, and Seglenda approach Elka's Lectra-Z, their expressions a mix of anxiety and determination.

CAROU  
(steeling himself)  
Are you ready?

Mary and Seglenda exchange nervous glances.

Caroui's posture is tense, radiating a sense of purpose.

MARY  
I guess.

SEGLENDA  
Just... be careful.

Caroui nods, a flicker of resolve in his eyes.

The coroner removes Elka's lifeless body as Caroui slips into her Lectra-Z, totally avoiding the police officers.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The door shuts behind him with a soft thud.

CAROU  
(voice steady)  
Hey, Dad.

The car lurches forward, nearly colliding with officers on the street.

Seglenda's Lectra-Z follows closely behind.

Miles appears on the car's digital screen, his expression unreadable.

CAROU  
Are you gonna kill me now?

MILES  
(smirking)  
You're my one and only son. That would be stupid. I'm not gonna hurt anyone.

Miles plays "**GOING IN CIRCLES**" softly in the background, the irony palpable.

MILES

How do you like not being in control?

CAROU

(sarcastic)

It's been great, watching you kill innocent people. Quite exhilarating, really. Also, quite surprising, seeing that you're not drunk.

MILES

(smirking)

My 'BIGSHOT' son. Stealing my ideas and passing them off as your own. Don't worry, I'll fix your mistakes. It'll just take time-there are so many.

Caroui's anger simmers as the car accelerates.

CAROU

Selling your soul to the devil for A-list status and a get-out-of-jail-free card? Didn't you always chant, "the white man is the devil?" Hypocrite!

The Lectra-Z speeds up to 65 MPH, weaving through traffic.

MILES

My only son. Put me in jail.

CAROU

I needed you safe. Where you belong-behind bars.

MILES

The only bars I see now are 5G.

Miles's smile only fuels Caroui's rage.

CAROU

These cars are mine! The technology is mine! NOT YOURS!

MILES

Oh, contraire, my know-it-all son. That technology has an authenticity you're not even aware of.

Caroui shakes his head, frustration boiling over.

MILES

You steal my ideas; I take them back  
and make them better. Paul and Tom  
make a wonderful alliance.

Caroui's anger is mixed with a begrudging admiration, quickly  
masked by disappointment.

CAROU

You were so smart. I wish I knew what  
happened. All you did was drink away  
your potential. I did you a favor,  
Dad.

Miles pauses, the weight of his words hanging in the air.

MILES

Someone will tell you that over there  
is the enemy, then that same someone  
will say no, the other one is the  
enemy. Turns out, that 'someone' was  
the enemy all along.

CAROU

(still sarcastic)

Still with these stupid anecdotes? I  
bet your convict buddies love them.

MILES

That night of the accident. Aren't you  
curious why I was drinking so much?

Caroui rolls his eyes, sarcasm dripping from his voice.

CAROU

I don't know. Maybe the hour was  
almost up?

Miles hesitates, his expression shifting.

MILES

I found your mother.

Caroui freezes, anger flashing across his face.

CAROU

So you lied to me?

MILES

She abandoned you when you were two. I wanted you to meet the real enemy.

CAROU

The real enemy? I thought I was the enemy! Isn't that your philosophy? "The white man is the enemy!" "Those people at my job are the enemy!" "The system is the enemy!"

Miles's anticipation grows, the tension thickening.

CAROU

When will it ever be, "I'm my own worst enemy?"

A heavy pause lingers.

CAROU

She didn't abandon me-she abandoned you.

Miles's expression shifts to slight amusement.

MILES

Sons always love their mothers, no matter what. A woman you don't even know.

Caroui's confusion morphs into fury.

CAROU

(yelling)

I'M NOT A DAMN CHILD! (*takes a deep breath*) STOP TRYING TO MANIPULATE ME! She abandoned us, so what? No harm, no foul. And if she were here, I'd tell her to FUCK OFF!

A dramatic pause hangs in the air as Miles absorbs Caroui's outburst.

MILES

You just did. I know she's listening.

Caroui's eyes widen in disbelief as he turns to look through the now un-tinted glass, locking eyes with his mother, SEGLEND.

The weight of the moment crashes over him.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda stares back at Caroui, her emotions swirling-fear, regret, and a flicker of hope.

Mary, still recording on FaceTime, tries to avoid eye contact with either of them, the tension palpable.

INT. ELKAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

MILES

Son, I'm not trying to ruin you. You need to realize that getting rid of me won't work. I will always be your father, just like she will always be your mother.

Caroui is momentarily stunned, the truth of Miles's words sinking in.

MILES

And none of the bad we've done in the past will change that.

A heavy pause lingers.

MILES

Now, part of my new deal is that you turn over your company. All those wonderful things you stole from my little book of ideas; they're no longer yours. You'll be compensated handsomely for your hard work once the deal is done.

Caroui's face falls, disappointment washing over him.

CAROU

I'm in a binding contract. What you're asking is impossible!

Miles interrupts, his tone shifting to one of authority.

MILES

Paul took care of it.

Caroui's confusion deepens.

CAROU

Of course he did. You've sabotaged your own technology. How is that gonna

work?

MILES

Once signed, my deal will override yours. That brilliant business mind of Paul's is gonna help me start a new branch of government. A whole new line of military weapons. THOSE CARS. NEW AND IMPROVED.

Caroui's eyes widen, a mix of awe and disbelief.

MILES

Very clever, Caroui. You've villainized and vilified me to everyone who would listen.

Caroui, feeling cornered, discreetly presses a button for the hidden panel, his heartbeat quickened.

MILES

(eyes narrowing)

Peek-a-boo, I see you!

Caroui glances nervously at the AI bugs hovering outside the window, their presence a reminder of the stakes.

MILES

Isn't that the real reason you ratted me out?

CAROU

(interrupting)

I DID IT BECAUSE YOU ARE A SHIT FATHER! YOU OWED THIS TO ME!

Miles stares deeply into Caroui's eyes, the intensity of their connection palpable.

MILES

I wasn't that bad. I mean, look at you.

Caroui looks away, grappling with the truth in Miles's words, his internal conflict evident.

MILES

(smiling, but with a hint of mockery)

Don't worry, I'm not mad anymore. I'll take good care of you, son.



The way he says "son" drips with a condescension that makes Caroui's skin crawl, as if Miles is reminding him of his place in this twisted game.

CAROUİ

Where are you taking me?

A heavy silence falls between them, the weight of unspoken fears hanging in the air.

Caroui searches Miles's eyes for answers, but all he finds is a cold, calculating gaze.

MILES

The future.

EXT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

The Lectra-Z speeds down the road, the future ahead shrouded in mystery.

Moments later, Seglenda's Lectra-Z races past, desperate to keep up.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - DUSK

Elka's and Seglenda's Lectra-Zs pull into an off-road backway.

In the distance, a massive unmarked building looms ahead, flanked by Caroui's stolen Lectra-Zs and a swarm of mechanical AI bugs, resembling a menacing army.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary and Seglenda exchange fearful glances.

EXT. GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - OPEN FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Miles strides forward, flanked by the eerie army of cars and bugs, which remain still behind him.

He holds an AI mobile console, pressing the touchscreen to bring Elka's Lectra-Z to a halt.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROUİ

Lectra, STOP!

Seglenda's Lectra-Z halts as it receives Caroui's command

through Mary's FaceTime.

MILES

Impressive. Now, get out of the car.  
That goes for your mother and  
girlfriend.

Seglenda hesitates, stepping forward as Mary lags behind.

SEGLEND A

Caroui...

CAROU I

You don't have to say it.

He takes her hand, and she looks at him with a mix of longing  
and fear.

Caroui glances back at Mary, who avoids his gaze,  
embarrassment and disappointment etched on her face.

MILES

(smiling)

Seglenda, you've finally made it home.

Seglenda crosses her arms, shaking her head.

MILES

You remember that song? The first time  
we slow danced?

SEGLEND A

What's the point of this reunion?  
After all this time, you really think  
this chaos will fix anything?

Miles's smile fades, replaced by a sarcastic edge.

MILES

What happened to that crack dealer you  
left us for?

Seglenda bristles, insulted.

SEGLEND A

You know those scriptures you always  
misinterpret? Luke 12:51 and 53?

MILES

Oh, I got them right!

She leans in, her voice steady.

SEGLENDA

It's not literal. It means God separates the righteous from the unrighteous. It's about following His laws, not just family ties. That's what causes the rift in a family.

Caroui and Mary listen, intrigued.

MILES

(mockingly)

So, you found Christ? Was it while you were hitting that crack pipe?

Seglenda rolls her eyes.

SEGLENDA

And you? Still drowning your sorrows? Too drunk to see me run off to another man.

MILES

From one addiction to another. I often fantasized about beating that guy's ass.

SEGLENDA

Your fantasies are ruining your son's life.

Miles glances at Caroui, who looks disappointed.

SEGLENDA

You want redemption by paying him off?

MILES

Sometimes you have to go to certain lengths for family.

SEGLENDA

What family? We both dodged bullets. The drugs and booze made us happy.

MILES

Wasn't our son a bullet? Remember when you said, "I never wanted a child?"

Caroui's disappointment deepens.

SEGLEND  
I did say that.

Miles smirks, reveling in the moment.

MILES  
Yeah! That's what you said.

SEGLEND  
That's not all I said.

MILES  
What? What else is there?

Dramatic Pause.

SEGLEND  
I never wanted a child... with you!

Miles's anger simmers as Paul appears in the distance.

PAUL  
(yelling)  
CAROUI! WELCOME TO THE PARTY!

Caroui's fury ignites as he glares at Paul.

Mary, sensing his tension, takes his hand, calming him.

Miles smirks, a dark glint in his eyes.

MILES  
Well, I guess that's it for our little  
reunion. Let's not wait another  
thirty-three years, shall we?

Seglenda scoffs as Miles strides toward Caroui, snatching his  
phone and signaling for Mary to hand over hers.

He crushes both phones underfoot.

CAROUI  
(yelling)  
SNEAKY SCUMBAG!

Paul approaches, smug, carrying his AI device.

CAROUI  
I shouldn't be surprised.

PAUL

You wouldn't have gone for it in a million years. Call me greedy.

A tense moment passes as Caroui faces Paul, his expression a mix of anger and disbelief.

CAROU

You were brilliant once. Now you're just stupid. And you did a terrible job.

PAUL

My job was to get you to do what I wanted.

Miles steps closer, holding the AI device up for Caroui to see.

He senses his disapproval.

MILES

No, son. This is a billion-dollar product.

Paul reveals a smaller, compact AI Controller Device from his back pocket.

He presses a button, and a door opens, revealing a truck wrapped in military camouflage.

PAUL

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of combat!

He demonstrates the device, showcasing the truck's interior and exterior through its surround cameras.

Caroui's eyes widen in amazement.

CAROU

This is why you needed the diagrams?

Paul glances at Mary, who scowls in response.

CAROU

Why do you need my cars then?

MILES

We don't want to let all that hard work go to waste.

SEGLENDIA

(to Miles)

You really think this mess is going to  
bring us together?

Miles smiles, a hint of hope in his eyes.

MILES

Maybe not right away, but in time.

Paul presses another button, and the truck's weaponry  
retracts.

He guides it back into the building, and the door closes  
behind it.

Meanwhile, Mary inches toward Seglenda's Lectra-Z, but one of  
the mechanical AI bugs flies closer, stopping her in her  
tracks.

MILES

Tell your girlfriend to stay put. I  
spared her once; I won't do it again!

Caroui's expression shifts as he contemplates his next move.

A revelation dawns on him.

CAROU

I'm not giving you what you want, Dad.

Miles steps forward, his tone firm.

MILES

(with an eerie calm)

YES... YOU... WILL!

Caroui digs deep, summoning the last remnants of compassion  
as he addresses his father.

He steps forward, fists clenched.

CAROU

Here's my deal: you walk away from  
this, give me back what's mine, and  
take your punishment like a man. Plead  
guilty by reason of insanity for  
inhumane genocide, espionage, and  
conspiracy to commit treason. They  
won't kill you, and we can just call  
it even.

Miles's anger flares, but he's caught off guard by Caroui's boldness.

TOM  
(exiting the building, flanked by  
armed officers)  
(*shouting*) HE DID IT ALL FOR YOU! (a  
beat) IT'S BEEN QUITE A PLEASURE!

The windows of the building open, revealing Miles's convict acquaintances, all holding AI devices and wearing Apple Vision Pro goggles.

The cars and mechanical bugs advance ominously.

MARY  
(gripping Seglenda's hand)  
How are we gonna do this now?

CAROUİ  
(*shouting*)  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU SAID YOU  
WEREN'T GOING TO HURT US!

MILES  
I always forget that part. Oh, unless  
you agree to my terms.

Caroui looks back at Seglenda and Mary, seeking affirmation.

They nod, resolute.

SEGLENDÄ  
(standing by Caroui)  
We're not playing your game anymore.

Miles's curiosity piques.

Caroui, Mary, and Seglenda can feel the tension in the pits of their stomachs.

MILES  
I wonder what other innovative ideas  
you have in that backpack.

Tom halts as the cars encircle him and the officers.

Miles steps closer to Caroui.

MILES  
I'm sure they all belong to me.

PAUL  
(chiming in)  
Give him some credit, Miles; he did  
all the grunt work!

MILES  
(leaning in)  
Where is it, by the way?

Tom, and the horrific army, gets closer and closer.

Caroui locks eyes with Miles, determination etched on his face.

CAROU  
(glancing at Tom)  
There goes your enemy, Dad!

As Miles is distracted, Caroui snatches the AI control device from his hand just as Seglenda reaches down, and throws a handful of desert dirt into Miles and Paul's faces.

The trio bolts as officers begin firing.

Seglenda and Mary drop to the ground for cover while Caroui races toward Seglenda's Lectra-Z.

MILES  
(shouting)  
Give me that!

Miles snatches the AI device from under Paul's arm.

Caroui ducks down, quickly using the device to steer Elka's Lectra-Z toward Mary and Seglenda.

CAROU  
(screaming)  
GET IN!!!

Mary and Seglenda dive into the car just as the army of Lectra-Zs and mechanical bugs surges forward, their menacing forms closing in fast.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Caroui sets the autopilot for Elka's Lectra-Z to "**MAX SPEED**" using the AI device.

It speeds off just in time to evade the rapidly approaching army.



INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
(frantic, as doors close)  
Lectra, U-TURN, GO!

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA Z - CONTINUOUS

Seglenda's Lectra-Z makes a sharp U-turn as bullets ricochet off the car, leaving small scratches in the sleek surface.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Caroui's heart races as he glances back, seeing the swarm of bugs forming a massive, sharp object.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

SEGLENDAS  
(anxiously)  
I hope he knows what he's doing!

MARY  
(searching)  
We need to find a way to help him!

Mary spots the hidden circular panel and reaches for it.

SEGLENDAS  
What are you doing?

She presses the panel, revealing several flickering lights.

MARY  
(excited)  
I'm going to grab the key fob from the glove compartment. When I say so, press the factory restore button, okay?

SEGLENDAS  
(nods, nervously)  
Okay.

Mary climbs into the front seat, opens the glove compartment, and retrieves the key fob.

She slides back to the driver's side across Elka's dried up blood.

MARY  
(yelling)  
NOW!

Seglenda reaches for the button, but the car jerks violently as Caroui struggles to maintain control, the bugs slamming into the side.

INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

CAROU  
(yelling)  
Lectra, MAX SPEED!

The engine screams as the car lurches forward, tires screeching against the asphalt, narrowly missing the swarm of bugs that are buzzing ominously.

INT. ELKAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

MARY  
(frantic)  
PRESS THE BUTTON!

Seglenda presses the button, and the car suddenly slows down dramatically.

SEGLENDAS  
(shocked)  
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

Mary fights to regain control, but the car swerves dangerously.

SEGLENDAS  
Mary! HURRY!

Caroui speeds past them, and Seglenda glances back, panic rising as the cars close in.

SEGLENDAS  
(desperate)  
We need to move!

Mary finally regains control, slamming her foot on the accelerator.

MARY  
(exhilarated)  
WHAT A CAR!

The Lectra-Z surges forward, and Seglenda gasps as they speed away from the approaching threat.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - CONTINUED

Miles is in a panic.

MILES  
(shouting)  
I KNOW WHAT HE'S GONNA DO! WE GOTTA  
STOP HIM!

Tom presses a button.

EXT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, the massive mechanical bug formation aims for Caroui again, ramming into Seglenda's Lectra-Z and lifting the car into the air.

Caroui's unease grows as the car slams back to the ground.

The bugs aim at him again, lifting the car and slamming it harder.

Caroui switches the car to manual mode and floors the gas pedal.

The Lectra-Z takes off.

The formation of bugs halts, redirecting toward Mary and Seglenda.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary swerves to dodge the bug's attempt to dive underneath the car.

SEGLENDAS  
(yelling, panic rising)  
IS HE REALLY GONNA DO IT?

Seglenda's hands grip the edge of her seat, her knuckles white.

Her heart races as she glances back, fear etched on her face.

The thought of losing her son sends a chill down her spine.

MARY  
(yelling)  
IT LOOKS LIKE IT!

Fear washes over Mary's face.

Seglenda's hands tremble as she grips the seat.

SEGLEND  
(voice cracking)  
Not again. I just got him back.

INT. SEGLEND'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Caroui grabs his backpack from behind the passenger seat, quickly putting it on and tightening the straps.

A look of exhilaration crosses his face as he fastens his seatbelt, gripping the steering wheel tightly.

CAROU  
(yelling)  
LECTRA, AUTOPILOT, MAX SPEED! FLOOR  
IT!

Seglenda's Lectra-Z accelerates to its maximum speed-165MPH!

EXT. 5G TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The camera shows a top to bottom view of the tower.

INT. CAROU'S POV - CONTINUOUS

The 5G tower's view rapidly increases.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary presses the pedal to the floor, while Seglenda clings to the assist grip of the armrest for dear life.

Terror fills Mary's eyes as she realizes Caroui's car is careening toward the 5G pole.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - OPEN FIELD -  
CONTINUOUS

Miles wears an expression of despair, contemplating his mistakes and the possibility of losing his son.

MILES  
(shouting)  
STOP! STOP EVERYTHING!

Tom looks at Miles, confused, and shakes his head.

Miles storms over, snatching the device from Tom's hands and pressing a button.

The AI bugs halt mid-flight, ceasing their attack on Mary and Seglenda.

**EXT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS**

Mary slows down, pulling over to the side of the road as the Lectra-Zs fly past them.

They watch in horror as Caroui heads straight for the 5G tower.

Seglenda's heart pounds in her chest as she breathes heavily.

Mary is on the verge of tears, longing for the love of her life, who races toward danger.

**INT. SEGLENDAS LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS**

Caroui stares at the 5G pole, surprisingly calm.

CAROU  
Lectra, engage chair boost option.

The seats elevate as the sunroof splits open.

He grips the seat tightly as the wind whips through his hair.

(SLOW MOTION)

The scene slows down, flashing between the faces of 10-year-old Caroui and 35-year-old Caroui, starting slowly before speeding up.

(NORMAL SPEED)

The car crashes into the 5G pole with a deafening impact, sending Caroui flying into the air at 70 MPH.

**EXT. 5G POLE POV**

The collision is so severe that the pole sparks and begins to topple.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - OPEN FIELD -  
CONTINUOUS

All cars come to a sudden halt.

The mechanical bugs drop from the sky, crashing to the  
ground.

Caroui is nowhere in sight as the dust settles.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary takes off, desperate to find Caroui in the forest ahead.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - OPEN FIELD -  
CONTINUOUS

MILES  
(shouting)  
NO! NOOO! CAROUI!!!

Miles glances at the AI device, which displays "**NO SIGNAL!**"

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - SMALL FOREST - CONTINUOUS

CUT TO:

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary drives into the trees, searching for Caroui.

MARY  
He has to be out here!

Seglenda's face is filled with sorrow.

SEGLEND  
Mary, it's no use. He's not here.

MARY  
No! Look around! He's out here!

SEGLEND  
He's gone, Mary.

Mary interrupts, her voice firm.

MARY  
No, he's not. He's here!

Seglenda's despair deepens.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - MOMENTS  
LATER

Miles is stomping the ground in frustration, his face flushed  
with anger.

MILES  
(shouting)  
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN, TOM!

TOM  
We 'have' to go!

Suddenly, a loud rumble echoes from inside the safehouse.

PAUL  
Your fucking convict friends are  
loose!

Convicts burst from the safehouse, charging straight toward  
the officers.

Miles's eyes widen as he notices a swarm of police cars  
approaching through the dust of the desert.

Chaos erupts.

Gunshots ring out as some convicts overpower the armed  
officers.

PAUL  
There's nothing more we can do out  
here! We need to get the FUCK OUTTA  
HERE!

The three of them sprint toward the safehouse, adrenaline  
pumping.

INT. POWAY, CA - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Miles, Tom, and Paul burst inside, slamming the door behind  
them, locking after them.

The sound of chaos outside grows louder, echoing through the  
safehouse.

Miles glances at the door, heart racing.

MILES  
(panting)  
What now?

He breathes, urgency in his eyes.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The police are struggling to regain control as convicts and Tom's armed officers scatter in all directions.

The sound of sirens blares in the distance.

INT. POWAY, CA - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Miles paces, a mix of concern and frustration on his face.

MILES

(voice trembling, barely above a  
whisper)

What if he's still alive? Out there  
alone? What if he needs me?

Suddenly, a loud crash reverberates through the safehouse as a group of convicts tries to break in.

Tom leads the way as he walks up to a flat screen monitor that scans his face.

The wall opens to reveal a secret tunnel leading to the underground.

Miles and Paul follow as the wall closes after them.

INT. POWAY, CA - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE - SECRET UNDERGROUND  
TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Miles, Paul, and Tom sprint through a dimly lit underground tunnel.

Ahead, a three-car sonic train awaits them, humming with energy.

MILES

What about my guys?

TOM

As long as they're in jail, we can  
keep you cleared.

MILES

(urgently)

You're telling me my guys aren't  
getting out? After everything?



Paul follows closely behind, glancing nervously at Tom.

MILES  
You're just full of surprises! This  
wasn't the plan, TOM!

PAUL  
Tom's right. We're all just pawns now.

Tom's hand moves slowly to his waistband, and the glint of the silencer catches Miles' eye.

A chill runs down his spine.

TOM  
(eyes narrowing)  
Especially you.

He pulls the trigger.

**PEW!**

Paul's eyes widen in disbelief as he crumples to the ground, blood pooling beneath him, a bullet lodged in his forehead.

The sound echoes in the tunnel, a stark contrast to the humming of the train.

Miles stumbles back, his breath hitching as the reality sinks in.

TOM  
(calmly)  
He's no longer needed. ALL ABOARD!

Miles stares at Tom, fear and disbelief washing over him.

MILES  
(voice trembling)  
You're not serious, Tom. You wouldn't.  
Not like this.

Tom turns the gun on Miles, his expression cold.

TOM  
Get on the train, Miles.

Heart pounding, Miles steps onto the train, the metallic scent of blood lingering in the air as he casts one last, haunted glance at Paul.

The doors slide shut behind him with a finality that feels suffocating.

The fully electric sonic train lurches forward, racing through the tunnel at full speed.

A low rumble shakes the tunnel, and dust begins to swirl around them.

The walls tremble as if the earth itself is protesting their escape.

The tunnel collapses in a cacophony of noise, sealing off their past as the dust settles like a shroud behind them.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT FOREST - CONTINUED

CUT TO:

EXT. TREETOP - CONTINUOUS

Caroui dangles from a tree, his backpack's parachute tangled in the branches.

EXT. CAROUI'S POV - CONTINUOUS

Below, he spots Elka's Lectra-Z creeping through the desert.

EXT. TREETOP - CONTINUOUS

CAROUI  
(shouting)  
Hey! Up here!

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Mary and Seglenda spot him, their faces lighting up with excitement.

MARY  
(looking back at Seglenda)  
See? I told you.

Seglenda smiles.

They both look upward.

SEGLEND  
Are you okay, sweetheart?

EXT. TREETOP - CONTINUOUS

CAROU

Not really! I need to get down!

Mary maneuvers the car beneath him, positioning it for a safe jump.

Caroui detaches himself and drops into the sunroof.

INT. ELKA'S LECTRA-Z - CONTINUOUS

Caroui lands awkwardly, wincing in pain.

CAROU

Ouch!

Mary and Seglenda share a relieved chuckle.

CAROU

Before you ask, I have no idea what to do next.

Suddenly, the sound of gunshots and sirens pierces the air.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - GOVERNMENT SAFEHOUSE -CONTINUED

Caroui, Mary, and Seglenda watch chaos unfold: convicts being arrested, officers with rifles, and a building collapsing in the distance.

Mary slams the brakes.

CAROU

(stepping out)

Wait!

An Officer spots Caroui and approaches, anger etched on his face.

OFFICER 2

Stop right there! Hands up!

CAROU

It's okay. My Lectra-Z sent you the alert. I'm Caroui.

OFFICER 2

(interrupting)

I know who you are. We've been looking for you. One of our officers is dead

because of you. You're coming with me.

Mary jumps out of the car.

MARY

He didn't do anything wrong! The real criminals are inside that building.

The officer narrows his eyes, skeptical.

SEGLEND

(shouting)

She's right! He's my son! You have to find them!

CAROU

My backpack's up in that tree. It has everything you need.

The officer's expression softens slightly.

OFFICER 2

We'll get to the bottom of this.

He holsters his cuffs but still takes Carou into custody.

MARY

(mutters, furious)

I'll get that bag myself.

SEGLEND

Mary, let him handle it. He'll be okay.

Mary huffs but nods reluctantly.

EXT. POWAY, CA - DESERT - CONTINUED

A man in an orange prison jumpsuit, armed with an assault rifle, sprints through the desert, shedding his jumpsuit until he's in his underwear, clutching an AI device.

A law enforcement officer chases him.

The convict reaches the freeway, points his gun at a passing car, and forces the driver out before speeding away.

INT. POWAY, CA. - POWAY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Carou sits across from SHERIFF HARPER (66M), who is fuming.

SHERIFF HARPER  
You ever heard of law enforcement  
arresting law enforcement?

CAROU  
No.

SHERIFF HARPER  
I've got those damn cars stuck in the  
desert, a collapsed safehouse, and a  
dead body. Do you know how much it'll  
cost to remove your cars?

CAROU  
I'll take full responsibility.

SHERIFF HARPER  
Why? Because you have the money? I saw  
the magazines.

The sheriff paces, frustration radiating from him.

SHERIFF HARPER  
You're protected by the US Government.  
For now.

Caroui exhales, relieved but wary.

The sheriff leans in.

SHERIFF HARPER  
FOR NOW!

EXT. POWAY, CA. - POWAY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Seglenda and Mary wait anxiously outside.

SEGLENDA  
Honey, are you alright?

CAROU  
They found Paul's body. In a secret  
underground tunnel. They're looking  
for more.

Shock washes over their faces.

CAROU  
All my investors pulled out. I'm done.

MARY

Maybe the world isn't ready for your  
brilliance. What you're doing is  
important.

Caroui shakes his head, unconvinced.

CAROU

There are bigger issues than toys.

Mary and Seglenda exchange knowing glances.

Mary steps forward, planting a kiss on Caroui's lips.

MARY

Does that help?

CAROU

(grinning)

A little.

SEGLEND

(teasing)

Looks like a yes to me.

Seglenda smiles, her eyes filled with warmth.

SEGLEND

I know we've only just met, but I'm  
your mother. I've thought about you  
even during my struggles. I'm not  
going anywhere.

Caroui pulls her into a hug, feeling the weight of her words.

SEGLEND

(holding his hands)

I don't think it's over for you. I  
believe things will work out. I'm  
really sad about Miles, but he did his  
best for you. You should forgive him.

Caroui nods, absorbing her encouragement.

CAROU

I do actually, I guess there 'are'  
more important things in life.

MARY

We need to find another way to prove  
what happened. It'll take forever to

get to that backpack.

Caroui's expression shifts to one of determination.

CAROU  
Junior's got it covered.

Mary and Seglenda exchange puzzled looks, then smirk.

MARY  
Junior?

SEGLEND  
Who's Junior?

Caroui grins, a spark of mischief in his eyes.

The three of them walk away from the camera, Caroui's arms around their waists, a newfound sense of unity among them.

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - ANGELO'S TOWING - TOW YARD - MIDNIGHT

Jonah's Lectra-Z sits quietly in the back, almost hidden.

Suddenly, the car's systems activate, the name "LECTRA Z" illuminating in a rhythmic pulse.

The car lurches forward, then accelerates, barreling toward the camera.

CUT TO:

INT. CRASH TEST FACILITY - DAY

A crash test dummy sits inside a hollow car, hurtling toward a brick wall at 100 MPH.

The dummy looks around, panic in its eyes.

DUMMY  
(frantic, head spinning 360  
degrees)  
"THE EXITS ARE NOT HERE, NOT HERE, NOT  
HERE, NOT HERE, NOT HERE, NOT  
ANYWHERE!"

**CRASH!**

FADE OUT.

THE END