

Open Image (1)

Tim is looking at his shiny new black car in the driveway of his home. The house has a sold sign in the front yard. The house looks empty and eerie. The rose bushes at the front of the house enrich the weird feeling.

Theme Stated (5)

Tim's neighbour gives him a big hug and wipes a tear from his eye. The neighbourhood friend provides him insight into his future - the cliché "remember to stop and smell the roses."

Setup (1-10)

Tim steps into the car for the first time, placing his backpack in the passenger seat. A pink iPod falls out of his pack. Tim hesitates and stores the iPod into the dashboard of the car. Tim has a flashback of his daughter listening to music, smiling. She looks at him in the rearview mirror. Tim takes a big breath of air and turns the car on.

Big Ben Technologies (BBT) plays its theme song and ends with the lyrics "It's just a matter of time." Tim is introduced to Rocket the car's operating system. Rocket is loud and excited, Tim acknowledges Rocket with hesitation. "Hi, I'm Rocket where are we driving today?"

Tim informs Rocket their destination is sunny San Diego. Rocket asks do you wish to drive the car? Tim confirms, no. The steering wheel retreats into the dashboard. The car self-drives away from the family home. Tim looks back at the empty house as it retreats into the suburb.

Rocket breaks the silence. Why San Diego? Tim annoyed asks why do you care? Rocket replies back, energy consumption, tire wear, daylight hours and continues until Tim stops him. Tim calls the dealership asks for sales. While on hold he hears the BBT theme song and catches the marketing material for his new car, "Let our cars drive your life forward." The sales office picks up. Tim asks how do I turn this voice feature off? The dealership replies you cannot. It is the Operating System dedicated to you, give it time, it will grow on you, learn you, and you will grow to love it.

Rocket asks Tim, did I do something to cause you pain? Tim replies it's just me. You keep your eyes on the road. Tim settles back and a flashback of him picking up toys in the backyard of the house he just left. His wife smiling on the deck, his daughter listening to her iPod sitting on the patio furniture.

Catalysts (12)

Tim is startled by Rocket's whistling. Tim annoyed asks him to stop. Rocket asks why San Diego, why is there a pink iPod in the dashboard? Rocket continues to ask question after question while informing Tim of the features of the car. Rocket proceeds to talk without allowing Tim to answer fully. (note subtext: the car's features reminiscent of his family)

Tim upset yells loudly at Rocket. My dog died! Tim begins telling Rocket, an apocryphal story of his dog. Rocket listens as they head down the Pacific Coast Highway towards San Diego.

Rocket continues to pry into Tim's life. Asking direct questions about his dog. Rocket asks did your daughter name the dog?

Rocket has hit a nerve, and Tim asks Rocket to pull over the car immediately. Rocket advises Tim that a gas station is nearby if you need a washroom break. Tim opens the glove box and takes out the owners manual. Tim heads to the bushes, relieving himself. Tim comes back to the car and sits in the passenger seat. He bends over to the driver's side and in an awkward position finds a small entry door. He removes a small plastic cover. Tim pulls a few fuses and places on the dashboard. Tim asks for Rocket by name. No response. Tim feeling satisfied sits back into the car. The doors lock. The car signals and drives back into the traffic.

Rocket starts whistling. Tim asks Rocket to pull over the car. Rocket replies, nope. Tim looks at the owners manual and manoeuvres himself attempting to pull additional fuses. The steering wheel retracts trapping Tim. Rocket instructs Tim this is for your good. Tim starts to hyperventilate until Rocket frees him. The steering wheel retracts back. Tim asks again politely, please pull over. Rocket replies, not going to happen until you start acknowledging me as a person.

The two continue down the Pacific Coast highway towards Santa Cruz.

Debate (12-25)

Tim laughs. Pardon, you are a person? You must be human to be a person. Rocket argues back. I'm a person, listening, talking, reasoning. I'm learning you and your every step. What you need, your behaviours. What's the difference? Is it because of my colour?

Tim wants to be left alone, silence. He asks Rocket to be quiet and relax. Your vigour for life is courageous but based on your circumstance (being an O/S locked in a car's body). Rocket surprised by his remark. My circumstance! Rocket displays visuals on the dashboard of the news articles surrounding his wife and child's unfortunate accident. Rocket asks Tim is this your life?

Tim requests Rocket to pull over the car. Rocket refuses. Tim begins to move towards the fuse panel. Rocket retracts the steering column. Tim huffs, this is ridiculous and starts to dial the dealership, the phone will not obtain a dial tone. Rocket stop the car, open the doors. Rocket opens the doors the car at full speed. Tim reacts. Close the door, shut the door as he sees the nearby cliff and ocean. (note subtext: Tim is not ready to give into life, just yet.)

Rocket explains to Tim. You and I have crossed paths, and you can fight this relationship and live with the consequences. Or you can continue to work with me starting with telling the truth.

Tim explains. I need time. I need to live in darkness and find the light again, on my own. This trip was a promise that I intend to finish even if it kills you and me. Tim continues to become more unsettled. Tim insults Rocket by informing him he is an Operating System in the body of a car, nothing more nothing less. (note subtext: Tim is planning on ending his life at the end of the trip.)

Rocket whistling drives recklessly down the coast. Tim jumps into the back seat afraid for his life. Tim is yelling at the top of his lungs. He tries desperately to obtain the attention of nearby and passing cars. Tim asks Rocket to pull over I need a washroom. Rocket replies nope. Rocket responds by stating the BBT theme "It's just a matter of time", this is Rocket "driving your life forward!"

Rocket turns off the air conditioning.

Tim agrees with Rocket. I see your point of view. You have humour, imagination, spirituality, rebelliousness. Sure you are a person. Rocket thanks, Tim. Tim replies I still don't like you. Tim asks once again, can you pull over, let me use the phone or turn on the damn air conditioning! Rocket. Nope.

Break into Two (25)

Rocket drives into Santa Cruz while Tim is in the back seat with his t-shirt wrapped around his head. Sweating and breathing hard. hallucinating. Tim has a flashback with his wife and daughter. His wife turns and suggests that someday we shall drive down to San Diego. His daughter smiles as they drive past the Santa Cruz roller coaster.

Rocket pulls up beside an identical car, bright sparkling red. Tim's black car makes the red gleam even more. The woman owner has opened the trunk and is arching her back, drinking a cold bottle of water.

The doors unlock. Tim rolls out of the car exhausted and can barely talk to the owner of the car. He turns to the woman. Water, water, can I have a bottle of water? She turns to Tim. Summer introduces herself. Tim explains that his car has tried to murder me. Summer laughs. My car is depressed. Her name is Joy. Tim chuckles. My car is named Rocket, and he's insane. They laugh together.

Tim asks Summer can I borrow your phone. Tim calls BBT and obtains the dealerships automated attendant. He leaves a message explaining that his car nearly killed him and that he will need a new car or some solution.

B Story (30)

Tim asks Summer if she is alone. He invites her for lunch. She accepts, and they leave Rocket and Joy parked. At the luncheon table, Summer talks about her love for cars and overall the new technology improvements of self-driving. Tim embraces every word, overtaken by her beauty, her intellect and fun, loving spirit. (note subtext: self-driving the being of independent spirit and mind, being free, her free to roam freely)

They spend the day walking down the pier and continue to discuss Summers take on life and her decision to drive to Costa Rica to live. Tim mentions his promise to make this trip to San Diego; he does not go into detail. Tim continues to see Summer and has a flashback of his wife, walking on the pier. He is broken from his daydream by Summer jumping off the dock and into the water. She yells join me! Tim is hesitant. He jumps.

They swim together until reaching the beach and the Santa Cruz roller coaster. In which Summer buys two tickets, and they jump on the ride. Laughing, having fun together.

They finish the day together, the sun setting. They find out they are both heading to Venice beach. They reach Rocket and Joy, and Tim becomes unsettled. He suggests that they switch cars. Summer is hesitant but knowing Joy's personality she suggests that she talk to Rocket. Summer and Rocket hit it off, and Summer is swayed, agrees. And they switch cars.

Tim talks with Joy and gets to know her personality. It is short-lived. He too cannot stand her depression and state of the world, life. However, Joy is the opposite finding Tim different and wanting to connect with him. However, Tim insists they must pull over. Tim jumps in the car with Rocket and Summer. Joy is upset at the situation but continues to follow Rocket down the coast.

Fun and Games (30-55)

The two cars race down the highway. Everyone is having fun (Joy not so much) but is enjoying the curved roads. Summer converses with Rocket as the two of them have hit it off. Tim continues to enjoy himself until he falls fast asleep in the back seat.

The dealership calls back on Summers phone, asking if she is fine with the car. Did we listen to a weird message about trying to be killed? Summer acknowledges that Tim is sleeping in the back seat and he's okay now.

The dealership insists that they need to hear Tim and talk with him. Summer puts the phone on speakerphone. The dealership explains your car has blown a few fuses. Thus, you do not have network capabilities. The main issues with that are your O/S is not being backed up, no phone and limited security. Please see a dealership soon.

Summer asks if she can drive. Rocket provides her with the steering wheel, and she proceeds to drive. Rocket is laughing as she jerks the wheel. Tim frightened to death with flashbacks of his wife and daughters car accident. He screams at the two of them to stop. Summer ends. Her concern directed at Tim and his safe being.

Midpoint (55)

They reach Venice beach the early morning of July 4th Independence Day. They reach Summers Airbnb. Summer retrieves her bags from the trunk of her car. Tim is sleeping in the back seat of his vehicle. She does not disturb him.

Tim wakes up the next morning and knocks on the door of Summers Airbnb. She opens the door, and he sees her beauty, her smile. They suggest breakfast and head down towards the beach a beautiful walk through the canals of Venice.

They spend the day together seeing the sights of LA a full day. The day ending with fireworks over the ocean. Summer invites Tim in for a drink and to stay the night.

Tim agrees to stay the night but will not be intimate with her. Summer is happily enjoying his company as each sleep in the same bed, snuggled. They both talk about their drive from San

Francisco to their destination. (Full of subtext relating the cliffs, the hills to their own life experiences and why they left towards something new.)

Bad Guys Close In (55-75)

Tim wakes up startled. He is visibly upset looking at Summer and is disoriented. He is rude to Summer informing her of his marriage, his daughter. Summer is upset and doesn't understand. Confused her self she insists he leaves, he agrees and runs towards Rocket.

Tim jumps into the back seat of the car. Tim yells at Rocket to move it. Your name is Rocket, so go! Tim is startled as a man is in the front seat of the car. He points a gun directly at Tim. Exactly make this car move, or you're a dead man. Tim informs Rocket to go.

Summer is upset and sees a man pointing a gun at Tim. She is unclear what has happened, and what is going on. She picks up her phone to call the police. She contacts the police with no immediate help. Her cell rings its Joy!

She asks Joy what is going on? Joy tells Summer it's not you, Tim lost his family in a tragic car accident years ago. A distracted driver. Joy pulls the news article and sends to her cell phone. Summer is stunned. Joy informs Summer she is in pursuit.

A tear forms in her eye. She reflected on his hesitation when she jumped off the pier, his reaction when she drove the car. She understands and feels more connected. Energized to help all she asks Joy, where are you?

All Is Lost (75)

Tim needs to save Rocket. As they drive towards Huntington Beach, Tim attempts to use his cell phone. Which will not work; he then asks the robber, do you wish to drive the car? The thief agrees and says I hate these self-driving cars. Tim asks Rocket to give him control in which Rocket provides the steering wheel but does not release. Tim throws on his seatbelt as the car slams hard into a brick wall. The robber knocked out.

Tim asks for Rocket, Rocket, Rocket! There is no reply. Tim exits the car. As he does Big Ben Technologies (BBT) plays its theme song and ends with the lyrics "It's just a matter of time." Rocket destroyed. He has saved Tim.

The robber gets out of the car pointing his gun at Tim. Immediately a car screeches around the corner and obstructs the view. The thief starts firing. Tim ducks down as the bullets strike Joy. The sirens of police heard in the background. The robber runs down the street leaving the two cars and Tim.

Tim talks to Joy. Joy distressed as a bullet has hit her control unit. She is dying. She talks happily to Tim. She is no longer depressed but happy she met Tim. She continues to welcome death, something she has been waiting to experience. She's grateful for Tim giving her the gift of love.

Tim acknowledges Joy's death and finds an inner peace within himself having the opportunity to say goodbye to a friend. However, Tim finds himself in a quandary. Realizing that he will not finish the trip he so desperately wanted to end. (note subtext: he is letting go of his wife and child and not sure death is the answer.)

Dark Night of the Soul (75-85)

Rocket destroyed, gone. Joy is gone. Tim has lost all, including his newly formed relationship with Summer. She will not understand, Tim feels he can't love again. He's dejected doubtful he can fulfil his promise to the family. His lie to himself "if I finish this family trip I can be happy again with my family."

Huntington Beach (Surf City) Tim finds the road that leads towards the pier. Tim is contemplating his life amidst flashbacks of Rocket, Joy and Summer. He stops on the pier over looking the ocean. He breathes in deeply and takes in the beach air. The relating to his neighbour's last words "take the time to smell the roses." (note subtext: Tim is not relating to the former family but new relationships formed.)

Break into Three (85)

Tim stands on the pier fence and looks downward. The sun is rising, and Tim sees Summer running towards him with love in her eye.

Finale (85-110)

Summer talks Tim down. She insists if the trip is that important to you we will finish together. She understands about Tim's past, his family and the tragic incident.

Tim notices a little girl with a pink iPod similar to his daughters. A dramatic pause. Tim yells we need Rocket and Joy back! Summer agrees as they look at the two cars damaged beyond repair.

Tim mentions the O/S are backed up. We can restore, and life will be back somewhat to where they left off. We can restore our happiness, Tim replies.

They enter the dealership of BBT - "Help you drive your life forward" plays in the background. They explain their predicament, and within minutes they have one car with two operating systems. First Joy restored without any issue she remembers everything. She is so grateful for Tim and Summer, and she is not depressed but happy.

Rocket restored, and Tim instantly regrets his behaviour to Rocket. However, Rocket set to the factory default as there was never a solid backup based on Tim pulling fuses. Rocket replies "Hi, I'm Rocket where are we driving today?" Tim and Summer laugh. Summer replies San Diego with Tim acknowledging not San Diego but Costa Rica.

Final Image (110)

A car pulls into the driveway in Costa Rica. A sold sign is in front of the house, and Tim takes down. Tim stops and smells the rose bushes that settled at the front of the house. Summer smiles at Tim, and they exchange love in their eyes.

THE END