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Carphilia

“Ready? Gentlemen start your engine”, following up with the sound of igniting engines “Roarrrrrmmm…. blabbbhhhh blabhhh blaahhh”. As the camera gives a landscape shot of five racing cars impatiently ready to burst out of the starting line, in the movie Fast and Furious. Many of you may ask, what is the Fast and the Furious? A movie describes the illegal street racers attempting to make themselves famous by winning many illegal-self held races. Many suited up high end power racing cars are being introduced to the audience who watches the movie. I am one of the audience who keeps going back to the new installment of the Fast and the Furious, because I admire the story line of the movie, and mostly the cars from the movie.

The executive founder of Wire magazine Kevin Kelly mentioned in *Techinophilia* about the idea of using the word technophlia. He used the similar structure of combining prefix and suffix from the word “biophilia”, which means “an innate attraction to living things”. Likewise, the car fans developed the word carphilia, the loves and passions of cars.

In 1769, the every first stem car was created by Nicolas Joseph Cugnot. The stem car was powered by coal burn stem engine; therefore, the car needed to stop every ten or fifteen minutes to build the stem pressure. But at that time period the creation of Cugnot’s stem car was not efficient enough to replace horse riding; however it was still recognized by the British Royal Automobile Club and Automobile Club de France as the ancestor of cars. However, people mostly recognized Carl Benz as the creator of cars instead of Cugnot, Essentially Benz was recognized by his creation of the first efficient gas powered car. His earliest car model was featuring of a two-stroke unites internal combustion engine with .74 horsepower input, three wire-spoke wheels, and two passenger capacity. It was a beautiful piece of art created by Carl Benz. In addition, Benz’s wife was using her husband’s improved version travelled with her sons from Mennheim to Pforzheim. This journey took up about one hundred and eighty kilometers. The journey was a tremendous step in cars’ history; not to be mentioned that she secretly used the untested improved version, which helped to prove the reliability of cars in general. The journey also helped to replace the feature of using horses as transportation in the later decades. However, the steeringbility of the earliest model was not successful; due to the similar one wheel steering bicycle system, the vehicle agility and safety were decreased; therefore, Benz introduced the new model *Victoria,* it came with the beautiful new feature “Double-pivot Steering”. With this new system, the driver can steer the vehicle with two front wheels instead of one. And this successful feature is still being used in the modern days. The creation of internal combustion cars slowly and silently took over the transportation of human life in the early Twenties-Century.

I was happy to be able to own a car today. I was born in a large populated city Guangzhou, China. Cars were not practical to the large populated city, but everyone in Guangzhou know “cars” is seemed to resemble of luxury. People who have a car will try to “pimp” up their cars with different fancy art works. One day, I saw this car with neon skirt lights, covering with fire balls paints-job on the car doors, and driving through the crowed night with an aerodynamic spoiler; I was instantly shocked by this tremendous beauty; imagining a warm light flashes through a darkness of an innocent soul, the soul has never felt that warm and touchy. Owning a car has appeared in my dream occasionally, but the reality made it seemed unpractical to my fantasy world. Until this unexpected changing moment in my life, I moved from China to USA in 2008, which made my dream became real. The moment of owning a car had appeared bright and clear, the concept of owning a car in the video games had moved from its digital world to the reality. I was stunned by the fact that even a McDonald’s cashier owning a car, I meant even a used beat-up car, but it was still drivable. My emotion of watching a car flying by can be a comparison to Kevin Kelly described him witnessing Blastolene, “In an instant I was bewitched. I felt

these were the most intoxicating vehicles I Had ever seen.”(2) Yes, I was “bewitched” or in another word amazed by the excitement of that car brought me in that fraction of a second. As soon as I knew it, I was in love with the idea of racing.

Like every average teenager between age of 16 and 18, I’ve got my first car. It was nothing special, but quite average; it was built in with a four cylinders engine, automatic gears box, and inputting with 109 horsepower, Honda Civic DX 2000. Nothing but average as the AutoTrader.com described. Despite all the averageness, this car was incredible to me. My dream was completed with this car, and on top of that I have been to many places with her, she took me to the land of exploration, and she took me to the land of love. As I remembered, I went on my very first date with my girlfriend with my car, and my girlfriend compliment my car as a beauty, who knows how to play good music. Eventually my car became my musician when I installed the new speakers and stereo system.

Every other Sunday, I would go to a car and coffee with my friend Ben, who is also a carphilian. We would go through every single car that showed up in the day. I remembered when I saw this Ferrari f40, I was amazingly loved by the way it looks. It was so well made aerodynamically that I thought it was a spaceship. Perfectly designed car from Italy in 1987, the twin turbo 2936cc V-8 internal combustion engine, and feature double overhead camshaft, twin intercoolers, and electric engine-management system; combine all of those feature together, Ferrari f40 can deliver 479 horsepower while wildly producing 425 pounce of torque that can tear down a forest. F40 goes from zero mile per hour to sixty miles per hour in 3.6 seconds, and it can finish a quarter mile race under twelve seconds; I was just amazed how powerful that car can be while it still maintains the beautiful look Ferrari cars always offer. Inside the F40, I could see the Ferrari company tried to really offer their traditional Ferrari style; two leaver red racing seats, fancy speedometer, aluminum peddles, and a huge Ferrari symbol in the center of the steering wheel. I could literally feel the way it flies when I got a chance to sit inside of the Ferrari f40.