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FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT

By

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(Written for NASCAR)

EXT. L.A. FREEWAY - DAY

In grid locked traffic, cars impatiently wait as the midday sun beats down on the sweltering occupants.

In one Sedan car a young girl and boy stare out the back window at the never ending lines of unmoving traffic behind them as their exhausted mother and father silently glare at the impenetrable traffic ahead.

The girl suddenly frowns and tries to focus on a small object in the distance as it silently hurtles through the air towards them.

She touches her brother and as the object gets larger they see that it is the spinning wheel of a car, and as it bounces past their car, the two children turn to their parents but their mother and father haven't even noticed.

The children look back down the line of traffic to see a car silently twisting through the air followed by another.

As they watch this silent slow motion ballet of metal destruction we hear the almost inaudible dull thud of helicopter blades and as the cars smash to the ground the sound explodes as six low flying S.W.A.T. helicopters scream across the front of their car.

The children watch as a large dangerously modified massive wheeled Hummer ploughs through the traffic closely pursued by an exquisitely beautiful NASCAR race car.

The NASCAR driver briefly glances at the children but they can't see who he is because of the black visor on his distinctive helmet which has the team logo and the number one proudly painted on front.

The driver floors the clutch, throws the shifter, punches the accelerator, and AS the tacho and speedo needles leap forward, he thunders after the Hummer, and we hold on the open mouthed children, then FADE TO BLACK

EXT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

From high above, like Heaven looking down in appreciation, we glide over the man made monument of the NASCAR Stadium.

INT. PIT - NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

In his dirty overalls our hero, mechanic SAM CANE delicately wipes the engine of the same exquisite NASCAR race car that we saw tearing through the L.A. Freeway.

He looks into the car and, yearning to touch the steering wheel, he checks to see nobody is watching, tentatively reaches forward, but suddenly he is roughly pushed aside by the arrogant and vain lead driver, NICK BARBER.

NICK BARBER

You can look but you can't touch.

SAM

Sorry Mister Barber.

Nick Barber's mobile phone beeps and as he places his driving helmet on the roof we recognize it as the same helmet we saw on the race car driver in the freeway chase.

Nick Barber flicks open his mobile phone and it reads :

INSERT : MESSAGE FROM JENNY - THE WINNER GETS A KISS

Nick indifferently clicks the phone shut and throws it onto the front seat of his car as he glares at Sam.

NICK BARBER

Don't be sorry, just don't do it again.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Ace reporter JENNY CARTER smiles weakly at her charismatic father JOHN CARTER as she stares at her mobile phone.

JOHN CARTER

Why does he never reply?

Her father decides to hold his tongue as the helicopter lands and the CAMERA MAN calls out.

CAMERA MAN

Jenny, you're on in five...

As the Camera Man silently counts down and Jenny reaches for her microphone, her father squeezes her hand, and as the doors fly open the helicopter is engulfed by the excited roar of the crowd.

INT. PIT - NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

There is now a flurry of activity in the pit area with busy workers and drivers dashing everywhere but, among this controlled frenzy, Sam stands motionless as he watches the beautiful but untouchable Jenny Carter reporting on the television screen.

JENNY V.O.

This is Jenny Carter reporting
live from what looks set to be
the most exciting NASCAR ever.

EXT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

A confused SECURITY GUARD approaches the modified Hummer vehicle and, as the blacked out window slides down, he is suddenly knocked out by a blast of spray from a ski mask wearing thug.

INT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

Sam watches while Nick Barber swaggers over towards Jenny and her father as they step onto the podium.

JENNY CARTER

And I'm here with a man who needs
no introduction, president of
NASCAR and my father John Carter.

John Carter raises his triumphant fist and as they watch it on the massive stadium screen, the crowds go wild.

JOHN CARTER

Ladies and gentleman...it's more
than real.

The crowd are thrilled by this introduction, and, as John Carter steps down off the podium, Nick Barber and Jenny embrace but John notes Nick's coldness.

INT. PIT - NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

As Jenny, Nick Barber and the cameraman enter the pit Jenny is unaware that she has just dropped her sunglasses.

The cameraman counts down from five as Sam picks up the glasses and offers them to Jenny but she gestures for him to wait as the camera man finishes and she talks directly into camera.

JENNY CARETR

Here we are with Nick Barber...

INT. JOHN CARTER'S OFFICE - DAY

As John Carter watches his daughter interview Nick on television an assistant approaches with a phone and John takes the call.

JOHN CARTER
John Carter.

THUG'S VOICE ON PHONE
Twenty million.

JOHN CARTER
Excuse me?

THUG'S VOICE ON PHONE
You watching her on television?

JOHN CARTER
Who is this?

THUG'S VOICE ON PHONE
Keep watching.

The phone goes dead as John watches the modified Hummer appear behind his daughter on the television.

INT. PIT - NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

Four heavily armed ski mask wearing thugs storm out of the Hummer, knock a terrified Nick to the ground, grab Jenny and drag her into the vehicle.

The cameraman keeps filming as Sam, in desperation, rushes at the hummer but he is easily thrown aside by the powerful vehicle as it storms out.

Sam rushes to his feet and pulls Nick off the ground.

SAM
Do something.

NICK BARBER
There are too many.

Sam grabs Nick's helmet, jumps into the NASCAR car, throws Nick's mobile phone onto the dashboard and starts the car.

EXT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

The crowd shouts its outrage as the Hummer ploughs through the protective barrier wall out onto the surrounding highway then they roar their approval as the NASCAR skids onto the track, revs its powerful engine and accelerates out of the stadium through the smashed wall.

INT. NEWS HELICOPTER - DAY

Jenny's Camera Man switches on his camera and as the pilot pulls the helicopter into the air, the crowd see on the stadium screen, through the camera's point of view, the devastation already caused by the Hummer.

INT. HUMMER VEHICLE - DAY

The driver watches Sam's pursuit in the rear view mirror and grins at Jenny.

DRIVER

Boyfriend thinks he's a hero.

Jenny looks back and sees who she thinks is Nick Barber behind the helmet driving the NASCAR race car.

Mayhem ensues as the Hummer ploughs through the traffic with the NASCAR in hot pursuit and during this breakneck high speed chase the kidnapers employ a multitude of weapons, including machine guns, grenades and rocket launchers to try to stop Sam, and, though they get dangerously close, his stunning driving saves his life.

INT. JOHN CARTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Surrounded by cops and his top advisors John Carter watches the madness on television.

COP

Sir we advise against that.

JOHN CARTER

I said prepare twenty million.

INT. NASCAR - DAY

As the Hummer, leaving wrecked cars in its wake, takes an exit ramp towards the fly over above, Sam, unable to get through, skids to a halt.

Sam frantically looks around and his eyes rest on a crashed empty car transporter.

He looks up at the hummer heading onto the fly-over, then sees Nick's phone opened on the dashboard with:

INSERT : JENNY'S MESSAGE

He grabs the phone, frantically presses reply and types in the letters F-A-S-T-

INT. HUMMER VEHICLE - DAY

Amid the noise of the thugs giving each other high fives and whooping with ugly delight Jenny's mobile vibrates and she sees Nick's name come up on the phone screen.

INT. NASCAR RACE CAR - DAY

Sam revs the engine, looks hard at the car transporter and the car wheels scream out as he punches the accelerator.

INT. HUMMER VEHICLE - DAY

Jenny discreetly opens her phone and it reads -

INSERT: FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT

One of the thugs grabs the phone, reads the message and looks at her in confusion.

THUG

Fasten your seatbelt?

Just as Jenny's seatbelt clicks in, the Hummer driver screams out as the NASCAR race car comes flying through the air, clips the back of the Hummer and sends it into a violent tail spin, throwing the thugs around the vehicle and causing the hummer to topple onto its side.

INT. NASCAR - DAY

Sam lands with a thud, as the car skids to a halt, then, with his helmet still on, he bails out of the car to see and uninjured Jenny climbing out of the Hummer.

Presuming it to be Nick behind the helmet she runs to him but stops when she sees his mechanic's outfit.

She tentatively steps forward and slides open the helmet visor to reveal a hesitant Sam.

Sam takes off the helmet and a moment that only these two can understand passes between them and Jenny takes her sun glasses out of Sam's breast pocket.

She smiles, and as she slips the glasses onto Sam's face, six S.W.A.T helicopters swoop up from beneath, surrounding the crash site, insuring no escape for the kidnappers as they crawl from the wreckage.

INT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

As the crowd roars their approval Jenny's proud father watches from his office as the television helicopter transmits, onto the stadium screen, the image of Sam and Jenny, hand in hand, walking down the highway.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. NASCAR STADIUM - DAY

Later that night, the cars take their positions as, in the stands, the same young boy and girl who were in the back of their Sedan car at the beginning stand with their smiling mother and father behind them.

Her father standing beside her, Jenny Carter speaks into camera.

JENNY CARTER

And as I said ladies and gentleman, it's the same lineup with one exception...

CUT TO:

Sam, in full racing uniform, revs the engine behind the wheel of his NASCAR as Jenny points to the stadium screen.

The crowd roars its appreciation as Sam looks up to the words FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT flashing on the big screen.

Sam smiles at Jenny, slides down the visor of his number one helmet, gives the two children the thumbs up and, as they stare in astonished delight, he accelerates away, and as his car bolts into leading position, we freeze frame.

FIN.