

2041

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2041: the world is slowly recovering from the terrible 2029 energy crisis. The old car frames falling apart along the highways are the rusty souvenirs of an unreasonable era. Trains are now the only surviving means of transport, carrying out the heavy task of providing help to the isolated parts of the territory. Their name... The HUMANITRAINS.

EXT. Dark sky, light rain. Day.

Disused highway on a steppe scenery. Many car frames, an old gas station. Noiseless. On the background we can see a city.

We can hear the soft whistle of a train. The sound is getting slowly louder. Suddenly a black convoy appears on the highway, hitting and throwing the car frames aside. We begin moving towards the passing train. We get in.

INT. Train. Day.

The passengers are seated in front of the windows. Most of the furniture seems to be recycled car parts. The handles are made of gear knobs; the wagon lights are round, white and yellow car lights. The atmosphere seems warm, contrasting with the moisture of the opening sequence.

We focus on a young man. We're closing in on his coat until we can clearly see a white and green badge. We can read « JULIUS RENARD - HUMANITRAIN N°313 ». He's holding a black cube which he puts on the right armrest. On the screendow he's facing, we can read « M. RENARD, your data is loaded ».

JULIUS starts waving his right hand from the right to the left; the screendow scrolls, following the pace of his movements. JULIUS stops once he gets to the third page. We can see a map untitled « HUMANITRAIN MISSION 2312 - DEKKHART PROJECTS »

We hear a door sliding. We see a female cyborg getting into the car. She's wearing a crimson dress. As she passes by, Julius flips on his Volvo movable seat.

JULIUS: Excuse-me ma'am

CYBHOSTESS: The InterTrain Crew is here to provide you with the best services. What can I do you for ?

JULIUS: Could you please tell me when I can initiate my transfer to Dekkhardt ?

CYBHOSTESS: As soon as we leave the Goose City Territory. You'll just have to enter the travel page on your screendow and define the parameters of your next destination. The Intercontinental Railroad Company will take care of the whole switching process between the InterTrain and the Module.

JULIUS snaps his fingers. The data on the screendow disappears. We see a city, but the train moves too fast to let us correctly view the buildings.

JULIUS (without getting his eyes off the screendow): Are there any news about independentist riots from Ural Mountains ? I've heard they broke the Shenzhen Agreement two weeks ago.

CYBHOSTESS: Do not worry, M. RENARD. Your Module is as fast as the InterTrain. There is no Corvette on Earth that could catch up with it. In case you fall in a trap, your Personal Autobot will instantly find the safest exit using the road network. Everything has been planned by our Company.

JULIUS looks through the window. He seems lost. He grabs the black cube on the armrest. We turn around him as he moves his hand towards his thin neck on which we see a little square hole. He digs the cube into the hole.

JULIUS snaps his fingers again so the data comes back on the screendow. A message scrolls above the map: "Switching planned in: 13 minutes. Destination: Dekkhardt Hospital". All is quiet. We slowly move towards the screendow. Suddenly a red dot pops out on the map. Then two dots. Then five. We hear a thud. JULIUS sighs.

JULIUS (to himself): The pirates show up early for the tea party. (sigh again) Let's see if it's as fast as she said.

JULIUS touches his neck. We look again at the screendow. The message has changed. We can read: "Anticipated switching planned in: 1 minute. Destination unknown - Goose City"

JULIUS : Let's roll baby !