

THEO & RABBIT

Written by

Mark Denton

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The sun bakes down on an endless plain of cracked earth.

A BAJA BUG

sun-bleached and raggedy, kicks up a wake of dust as it traverses the barren landscape on balding off-road tires.

INT/EXT. BAJA BUG - MOVING

At the wheel sits THEO MEEKS, a ruggedly handsome man (30s). Riding shotgun and squeezed into this car is RABBIT, a robot.

Rabbit is a pleasure bot, weathered with his fair share of scratches. Imagine the Iron Giant but six feet tall and painted off-white. He's reading a porno magazine.

A strange CLANGING sound is coming from the engine.

THEO

You hear that noise?

Rabbit lowers the magazine and listens for a few seconds.

RABBIT

I dunno... no?

The car comes to a clattering halt.

RABBIT (CONT'D)

Yeah, I did actually.

THEO

Fuck!

RABBIT

I was trying to be positive...

He tries the ignition, it turns over.

THEO

Cum'awn you bastard.

VRURURURURUROWROW-ROW-ROW-ROW... The engine finally dies.

EXT. DESERT - OUTSIDE BAJA BUG - MOMENTS LATER

Theo POPS the hood to be met with a cloud of steam.

As it disperses, we see a small covert DEVICE attached to the engine. It's essentially a timer attached to a metal pincer. It has snipped the fuel pipe. Theo wrenches it off.

He slams the hood down and examines it, confused.

THEO
(calls out)
Someone's tampered with the car or
somethin'!

RABBIT (O.S.)
(calls back)
What?!

THEO
(calls out)
I said someo--

TUNK!

A DIME-SIZED HOLE opens up on the car's hood, right next to Theo. He looks at the hole, confused, then scans the horizon.

On the top of a distant escarpment sit...

TWO TRUCKS

Five silhouettes. One is training a rifle on them, two others are on the top of the second truck, clipping a belt of bullets into a mounted GATLING GUN. Two drivers behind wheels

THEO (CONT'D)
(shielding his eyes)
Huh..?

A tiny muzzle FLASH from the rifle precedes another TUNK! A second bullet PUNCHES A HOLE inches from Theo's other hand.

A beat.

THEO (CONT'D)
GUN!!

Theo SKITTERS behind the car as another rifle bullet glances off the hood narrowly missing him.

Rabbit casually looks up from his magazine, then out of his window at the trucks. The men have SNAPPED the bullet belt in position and are levering the Gatling gun in his direction.

RABBIT
(shielding his eyes)
Is that a...

We see flickers of FIRE from the GUN before we hear anything. Then *WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMP...* It's aimed too low, and 50 calibre bullets KICK up giant spades of dry earth fifty feet in front of the car, heading right towards them!

RABBIT (CONT'D)

GU-!!

The SUDDENLY Rabbit FREEZES for a few seconds, statue-still. The small circular DISK which constitutes his nose, begins turning clockwise slowly, making a quiet TICKING sound.

It's the physical equivalent of the Mac pinwheel or the Microsoft Hourglass, denoting the fact that there's too much information for his central microprocessor to handle.

He suddenly unfreezes

RABBIT (CONT'D)

-N!

Rabbit dives out of the car, landing next to Theo, just in time for the bullets RIP THE SHIT out of the car.

KERRrTUNKkkKERRrTUNKkkKERRrrTUNKkkKERR!! Theo and Rabbit cower as a hail of shredded metal and bullets shower over their heads.

Suddenly the hail of bullets stop.

RABBIT (CONT'D)

That was a gun.

THEO

No shit!

RABBIT

Why?

THEO

Why'dya think?!

Rabbit thinks for a second, his nose turns.

RABBIT

Bandits?

THEO

Yes... bandits! Now calm down, you froze up back there!

RABBIT

Oh really?! MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE BEING SHOT AT!