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# BACK TO THE FUTURE



**HARD TIME, PART 3**

GALE • BARBER • FERREIRA • RIO

IF  
2012



## “HARD TIME, PART 3”

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THE  
AUTOMOBILE—  
IT'S GONE!

OKAY, LET'S  
NOT JUMP TO  
CONCLUSIONS...

...IT'S BEEN A  
REALLY LONG  
DAY. ARE YOU SURE  
I PARKED IT  
HERE?

I'LL CHECK  
THE OTHER  
FLOORS, MAYBE  
WE JUST GOT  
CONFUSED.

YOU FLEW THE  
DELOREAN  
IN.  
WE  
UNQUESTIONABLY  
LANDED THE VEHICLE  
IN THIS LOCATION.

OKAY,  
PROFESSOR  
IRVING... THEN  
THAT'S BAD.

YOU'RE  
TELLING ME  
SOMEBODY IN 1972  
HAS STOLEN A CAR  
FROM THE FUTURE  
THAT NOT ONLY  
FLIES...

...BUT IS  
A TIME  
MACHINE?

NOT  
AT ALL,  
MARTIN.

WHEN I  
SPOKE TO  
DOCTOR  
BROWN...

...I BELIEVE I  
INADVERTENTLY  
CAUSED HIM TO  
NEVER INVENT  
TIME TRAVEL.

WELL,  
THAT'S A  
WHOLE LOT  
WORSE,  
PROF.



PERHAPS... IN 1972 MY ENDEAVORS TO BUILD MY OWN TIME DISPLACEMENT DEVICE WERE UNDERWAY.

ARMED AS I AM NOW WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF DOCTOR BROWN'S MACHINE...

...PERHAPS I CAN BUILD ONE AND RETURN US TO OUR PROPER CHRONOLOGY.



ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

DOC NEEDED TO STEAL PLUTONIUM TO MAKE HIS WORK, AND THAT'S FOURTEEN YEARS FROM NOW!

YOURS NEVER WORKED!



I ONLY WANTED TO HELP...

SORRY, PROF. I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

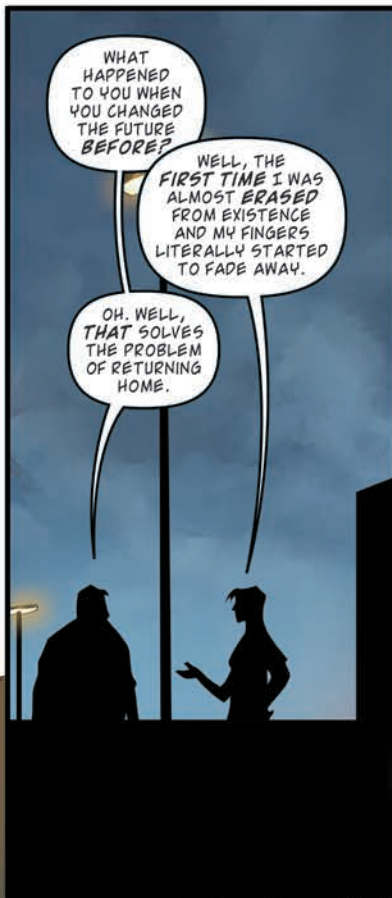
LET'S THINK. I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE.



YOU'VE LOST THE TIME MACHINE BEFORE?

NO, BUT I'VE CHANGED THE FUTURE. WE CAN WORK THIS OUT.

YOU'RE A SCIENTIST—USE THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WHEN YOU CHANGED THE FUTURE BEFORE?

WELL, THE FIRST TIME I WAS ALMOST ERASED FROM EXISTENCE AND MY FINGERS LITERALLY STARTED TO FADE AWAY.

OH, WELL, THAT SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF RETURNING HOME.



WHAT HAVE I WROUGHT?!

KEEP IT TOGETHER, PROF!

WE CA—HANG ON.



ACTUALLY THAT'S A GOOD POINT.

THEY'RE NOT FADING AWAY.



MAYBE SOMEBODY DID JUST STEAL IT.

WE'RE NO BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE A MINUTE AGO, BUT OKAY. WE CAN FIX THIS.



NOBODY'S GOING TO STEAL A CAR AND ASSUME IT'S A TIME MACHINE.

BUT DOCTOR BROWN TOLD ME —

THAT BIFF TOOK IT IN 2015? HE MUST HAVE SEEN IT IN ACTION WHEN WE FLEW IN...



...BUT HERE, AT WORST, ALL ANYBODY SAW WAS US FLYING.

THEY'D THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF EVEL KNEIVEL THING.



IF SOMEBODY DOES WANT TO TAKE IT AIRBORNE...

...WELL, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE DELOREAN FOR WEEKS AND YOU CAN'T FLY IT. AND YOU'RE PRETTY BRIGHT.



INDEED—WHICH IS WHY I BROUGHT THESE RADIO COMMUNICATORS. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE UTILIZED THEM PREVIOUSLY.

WITH THEM, WE CAN LOOK INTO BOTH POSSIBILITIES AT ONCE.



SPLIT UP. THAT'S GOOD. YOU GO TO DOC—

WHAT?! THAT IS NOT THE CONCLUSION I INTENDED TO SUGGEST.

IF BY SOME MIRACLE I LEFT THE FUTURE INTACT... WHY PUSH OUR LUCK!?

BECAUSE WE HAVE TO SEE WHO'S RIGHT. WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS BEFORE WE CAN SOLVE IT.

YOU ARE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE DOCTOR BROWN.

I'LL LOOK AROUND FOR THE CAR. I KNOW THE CITY—I MEAN, I KNOW THE CITY IN THE '80S, BUT HOW MUCH CAN HAVE CHANGED?

WE'LL CHECK IN AT MIDNIGHT, SO WE DON'T ACCIDENTALLY CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS.

DOC WOULD HAVE MENTIONED IT IF I RAN INTO HIM BETWEEN 1955 AND 1985, SO IT'S BEST IF HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT YOU KNOW ME.

IN THE FUTURE, I MEAN.

YEAH, WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER TIME.

WOULD HE HAVE MENTIONED SUCH A THING?

WHEN YOU FIRST ENCOUNTERED HIM AS A BOY, DOCTOR BROWN KNEW YOU WOULD GO BACK TO 1955, DID HE NOT?

PROF—THAT IS A ROAD I DEFINITELY WENT DOWN, WHEN FUTURE-YOU SENT ROBOT-ME'S AFTER US\*.

LET ME TELL YOU—THINKING TOO HARD ON THAT MAKES YOU NUTS.

WHICH IS REASON ENOUGH TO TRY TO KEEP ME AND DOC SEPARATE.

NOW LET'S GO.

\*AS SEEN IN BTTF: WHO IS MARTY MCFLY? -T.W.

BUT THE TIME IS MUCH TOO LATE TO GO TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE.

PROFESSOR—IT'S 8 O'CLOCK ON A FRIDAY NIGHT IN 1972...



"...DOC'S NOT GOING BE AT HIS MOM'S HOUSE."

OF COURSE.

WHERE ELSE WOULD THE MASTER SCIENTIST FIND HIMSELF?

ODD...  
...THIS LABORATORY SEEMS... LACKING IN DEATHTRAPS.



WELL, NO ANSWER AND...

...NO.

I DRAGGED MARTY INTO THIS. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK ANSWERS.

SO SEEK, PROFESSOR IRVING — SEEK!



ONE MORE MOMENT, GALILEO — I BELIEVE I'M ON THE VERGE OF AN IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH!

INCREDIBLE! AN ANTI-GRAVITY FIELD?

NOT EXACTLY. IN FACT, THIS IS SIMPLY —



WAIT JUST A MOMENT!