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BACK TO THE FUTURE



GALE • BARBER • FERREIRA • RID

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“STOWAWAY TO THE FUTURE”

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BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU, PROFESSOR IRVING—

—WOMEN ARE COMPLICATED CREATURES.



WELL, THIS IS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT, BUT GABRIELA IS MY FIRST...

I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HER THIS AFTERNOON, IN FACT.

...LADY FRIEND.

YOU'D BETTER PRECIPITATE WITH HASTE, THEN.

ONE SHOULDN'T KEEP A LADY WAITING.



RELAX, DOCTOR BROWN! I INFORMED SWEET GABRIELA I WAS HELPING MY NEW FRIEND.

SHE SAID IT WAS NOT A "BIG DEAL"—

—IN HER PARLANCE—

—IF I FOUND MYSELF TARDY.



WELL, AS A MAN OF EXPERIENCE I CAN SAY UNEQUIVOCALLY—

—THAT'S NOT TRUE.



BUT SHE SAID—

IN FACT, NAIVE, PROFESSOR...

ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU A STORY...

"AFTER MY BRIEF AMNESIA—A LONG STORY*—I RETURNED HOME.

"MY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS TO GET MY TIME-TRAIN OPERATIONAL. AFTER ALL, THAT WAS WHY I HAD VENTURED INTO THE FUTURE.

"THE DELOREAN HAS... LIMITED SEATING OPTIONS FOR A GROWING FAMILY.



* ONE RECOUNTED IN ISSUES 6-11: THE CONTINUUM CONUNDRUM, NOW IN A TRADE PAPERBACK!

"AND THE PROBLEM OF ACCELERATION MADE TIME TRAVEL DIFFICULT WITH THE TRAIN..."

"...A DIFFICULTY I SOUGHT TO OVERCOME WITH TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY HOVER TECHNOLOGY.

BANG!
BANG!

YOU'RE ROPED AND DEAD!

WAHH!

BONK

"UNFORTUNATELY... OTHER FORCES WERE AT PLAY THAT DAY."



COME ON, DADDY.

SORRY, VERNE—I HAVE WORK TO COMPLETE.

YOU NEED TO BE MORE SELF-RELIANT AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO "UN-BORE" YOURSELF.

PLAY WITH ME! I'M BORED!

CAN'T YOU PLAY WITH YOUR BROTHER?



HE'S THE ONE THAT MAKES STUFF BORING.

ANYWAY, DAD—YOU'VE BEEN SITTING THERE FOR WEEKS NOT GETTING ANYTHING DONE.

OH, AND MOMMY WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

"MY BELOVED CLARA..."



"...WHO SHARED MY LOVE OF JULES VERNE. THE DREAM OF TIME TRAVEL HAD OBSESSED HER EVER SINCE I TOLD HER ABOUT IT.

"YET SHE REFUSED TO TRAVEL WITHOUT THE COMPANY OF OUR ENTIRE FAMILY. THUS, MY TIME TRAIN PROJECT."

WOOF.

HELLO, EINSTEIN.

"WHICH IS WHY IT HAD TO BE ENGINEERED TO FLAWLESS PRECISION—FOR ABSOLUTE SAFETY."

MY DEAR...

OH, EMMETT!

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D COME OUT OF YOUR GARAGE.

TO THINK WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EIGHT YEARS ALREADY...

...YET I FEEL I CAN REMEMBER EVERY MOMENT!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DARLING!

"IRONICALLY, AT THAT MOMENT, THE ONLY THING I COULD REMEMBER..."

"...WAS FORGETTING OUR ANNIVERSARY!"

GREAT SCOTT...!

YOUR GIFT IS... UH...

...IT'S WELL... I...

OH! I... UNDERSTAND.

YOU WERE SO... BUSY YOU... FORGOT.

IT'S FINE. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

"IN ALL THE ERAS I'VE VISITED, THROUGH ALL THE DANGERS I'VE FACED...

"...I'VE CONCLUDED THERE IS ONE UNIVERSAL TRUTH:

"WHEN WOMEN SAY 'IT'S NOT IMPORTANT,' THAT MEANS 'IT IS IMPORTANT.'"

ERM.



"I LOVE CLARA,
AND WOULD NEVER
INTENTIONALLY
LET HER DOWN.

"IF I FORGOT AN
IMPORTANT DATE,
IT WAS DUE NOT TO
NEGLIGENCE—

"...I WOULD COMPLETE THE HOVER TECH
RETROFITTING OF THE TIME-TRAIN...

"...FOR LOVE.

"—BUT TO MY DEDICATION IN
COMPLETING THE TIME-TRAIN.
SO I RESOLVED MYSELF...

"AT LAST MY GRAND
ADVENTURE COULD
BECOME OURS!

"TOGETHER, WE
COULD VENTURE TO
THE FUTURE..."

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"...AND THE PAST
WHENEVER SHE
WISHED."

"I'D BECOME
ACCUSTOMED
TO THE SECOND
DECADE OF THE
21ST CENTURY.

"I HAD A CHANGE OF
WARDROBE IN MY
CAR—SEVERAL IN
FACT, SO I COULD
BLEND IN TO NEARLY
ANY TIME PERIOD.

"I WOULD PURCHASE MY
HOVER EQUIPMENT,
PROCURE AN APPROPRIATE
GIFT FOR CLARA, AND RETURN
TO THE MOMENT I HAD LEFT.

"WHAT COULD
GO WRONG?"