

DAITO

Buff (mm/dd/yyyy)

28.

MORROW
How do you keep beating me?

PARZIVAL (O.S.)
STOP!

The scene freezes and now PARZIVAL steps into it. He studies Halliday, looking at his hands. The Historian looks over his shoulder.

HISTORIAN
What is it?

PARZIVAL
The L button. It's on the wrong side.

CLOSE ON THE CONTROLLER in Halliday's hand. Sure enough, the "left" bumper button is on the right side.

HISTORIAN
Is it a faulty model?

PARZIVAL
No, it's an old gamer trick. For a hardcore button-masher, to get a better angle on the punch and kick buttons?
(here it comes)
You hold the controller backwards.

PARZIVAL seems to suddenly FREEZE.

HISTORIAN
You okay?

INT. WADE'S HIDEOUT - REAL WORLD

Wade suddenly sits up in his Haptic Rig, he yanks off his headset, breathing heavily. We can see it in his eyes... he just found the crack in the sidewalk.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE -- OASIS

A new crowd of RACERS wait at the starting line with their cars. Aside from the usual, indistinguishable Sixers, Shoto and Daito stand next to matching Speed Racer cars.

PARZIVAL
So? Who won the Beta Capsule?

Shoto scowls. Daito BOWS.

READY PLAYER ONE

START

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PARZIVAL (CONT'D)

You could pull down an assload of coin for that puppy.

DAITO

One does not sell the sun or the moon.

SHOTO

(rolls his eyes)
Get over yourself.

PARZIVAL

You gonna make that turn today, Shoto?

Shoto blanches, clearly he hears this all the time.

DAITO

He will never make the left. He goes right in his mind.

SHOTO

Thanks, Yoda.

Parzival laughs, gives them the salute.

PARZIVAL

First to the key.

SHOTO

First to the egg.

DAITO

First to the egg.

END

AT THE STARTING LINE --

The race begins with a gunshot and instantly Shoto, Daito and the Sixers speed off.

Parzival's DeLorean doesn't move for a moment, and then, as the rest of the racers disappear around a curve...

Parzival puts his car in REVERSE and drives backwards.

EXT. SEWER SYSTEM - OASIS

The ground gives way and the DeLorean lands with a thump in the sewer system. Parzival stomps on the accelerator and the car AUTOMATICALLY GOES BACKWARDS.

Parzival laughs as he shoots through a winding tunnel. Then the sewer ramps UP and the DeLorean shoots back out into the race.

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