

THE GADABOUT

Written by

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Inspired by the
Gadabout TM-1050 Owner's Manual

SECOND DRAFT
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SONY PICTURES

SAFEHOUSE PICTURES
323.413.2656

EXT. HARTSVILLE CEMETERY - PRESENT

A soft rain falls.

HENRY (10) a wide-eyed kid in an ill-fitting suit, stands a few feet away from the rest of the family.

Henry's Mom, ELAINE, is disheveled in a cheap black dress. She clings to his Dad, ANTHONY, and Henry's two younger sisters, PAIGE and OLIVE.

They're all a mess.

Behind the family, it looks like the whole town of Hartsville came out for the funeral.

Henry blankly stares at a photograph of his GRANDMA GENNY and the casket beneath it.

IN MEMORY OF GENEVIEVE HOOPER

Tears start to well but Henry swallows them back. He's going to be strong today.

Then his mother reaches out, but Henry pulls away.

This is all suddenly too much for little Henry. He runs as fast as he can from the service.

Elaine starts to go after him, but GRANDPA WILBUR (70s), whose vibrant green eyes always seem to be lost somewhere else, stops her.

GRANDPA WILBUR
I'll get him.

EXT. MEMORIAL SERVICE - MOMENTS LATER

Henry hides behind an ENORMOUS GRAVESTONE. He scrolls through his Iphone.

ON SCREEN: - Photos of Henry and Grandma Genny:

Henry dressed as a Brontosaurus, his arms wrapped around Genny.

In a birthday hat, Henry with a gap-toothed grin.

In his baseball uniform, Henry and Grandma Genny sporting their best "tough guy" scowls.

GRANDPA WILBUR (O.C.)
Henry, I don't want to be at that
service anymore than you do, but...

Henry grips tighter to his phone. He doesn't bother looking up.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Come on. Your mother needs you
right now. Your family needs you.

HENRY
I don't care. It's not fair. You
got, like, a hundred years with
her.

GRANDPA WILBUR
You're right. Sometimes life isn't
fair. But you gotta appreciate what
you did get. And what you *still*
got.

Grandpa Wilbur kneels beside his grandson.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Your grandmother may be gone, but
the rest of us are still right
here.

HENRY
You don't get it. Just... leave me
alone. *Please.*

Henry turns away. Knowing he's not getting through, Grandpa Wilbur rises to his feet.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - LATER THAT DAY

Establishing. A quaint suburban home on a tree-lined street.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

A simple wake. Friends and relatives gather around Midwestern delicacies. Jell-o molds and the like.

Grandpa Wilbur and Henry's Mom, Elaine, look out the window.
OUTSIDE: Henry sits alone below a SYCAMORE TREE.

ELAINE
He's been like this since she died.
He'll barely talk. Won't eat.
(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)
 I've tried everything, but I can't
 get through to him.

GRANDPA WILBUR
 Why don't you try leaving him with
 me? Just for the weekend. See what
 I can do. Besides, I could use the
 company.

Elaine smiles up at her Dad. Just then, ANTHONY brings her a plate of food. She turns to watch Paige and Olive play in the living room. Then at Henry... sitting alone in the rain.

ELAINE
 I guess it couldn't hurt.

INT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S OFFICE - A FEW DAYS LATER

Henry tosses his bags on a pullout couch. He looks around the room. This place is STUFFED with old SCIENCE FICTION books.

THE MAN WITH NO TIME by Wilbur Hooper. PLANET OF BOBOGS by Wilbur Hooper. ROCKETSHIPS AND OTHER WAYS TO TRAVEL IN STYLE by Wilbur Hooper.

GRANDPA WILBUR (O.C.)
 That bed gonna be all right?

Henry nods.

GRANDPA WILBUR
 Dinner is at 4:30. I usually do my writing after that. So, you got free rein of the house. Except... well, there is one pretty important rule. Under no circumstances are you to go in the shed.

Grandpa Wilbur points outside at the SHED. It's bolted with 3 PAD LOCKS.

GRANDPA WILBUR
It's strictly off limits.

HENRY
 Why?

GRANDPA WILBUR
 It's private. That's where I do all my writing. No one has ever stepped foot in there but me. Not your mother. Not your grandmother. Nobody. You understand?

Henry nods.

GRANDPA WILBUR

No, this is important. I'm gonna
need a verbal confirmation.

HENRY

Yeah. I understand.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Good. I'll see you in a bit.

INT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Grandpa Wilbur and Henry sit in silence. They each pick at a burnt POT ROAST.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Sorry. Your grandmother did most of
the cooking. Guess there's a lot
I'm going to have to get used to.

Henry doesn't respond. He keeps his head down. Grandpa Wilbur clears the plates.

GRANDPA WILBUR

I'll order pizza tomorrow. Now, I'm
gonna go write. You gonna be, OK?

Henry nods. He watches his Grandfather walk out the shed. And triple lock the door behind him.

EXT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S SHED - LATER THAT NIGHT

A full moon hangs in the sky. Grandpa Wilbur finishes up working, but as he exits: *He leaves the shed door askew.*

INT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S HOUSE - OFFICE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Henry snores.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! Henry bolts awake. He looks at his clock 3:30 AM flashes.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! He searches for the noise, it's coming from outside. *From the shed.* And the door to the shed? *It's open.*

Henry's curious. For all he knows, the sound could be his grandfather.

INT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Henry sneaks by his Grandfather's room. He puts his ear to the door. *Snoring*. The noise outside isn't his grandfather. *Henry's curiosity is growing*.

EXT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Henry stares at the open shed door.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! Whatever is in there, it's calling to him. Henry looks around. *Does he risk it? Of course he does*.

As he enters, moonlight flickers against the glass window. *An auspicious moment of Spielbergian awe*.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - MOMENTS LATER

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! Henry turns on the flashlight in his Iphone and looks for the noise.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! Henry turns to an OLD OAK TABLE. Where a pair of ROCKET POWERED ROLLER SKATES are slamming against something METAL. Henry picks up the skates and turns them off.

He sees the skates were slamming into a METAL ROCKER with a robotic arm holding a BABY BOTTLE.

Henry furrows his brow - *what is this stuff?* This isn't a writer's workshop... it's an inventor's lab!

As Henry continues his search, he picks up a strange looking UMBRELLA. But when he opens it - the umbrella douses him with WATER.

Henry screams as he tries to fight the umbrella, but the water continues to spray. In the tussle, Henry drops his phone. It smacks on the ground with a sickening shatter.

HENRY

Shit.

Henry looks around to make sure an adult didn't hear him curse.

The umbrella finally trickles out. Henry is soaking wet. He picks up his phone. The light won't come on. He begins to panic. But that's when he sees it.

Sitting on a desk is a thin, leather bound book. Old and weathered, but it's not like anything else in the workshop. It's... *professional*.

And a stream of moonlight perfectly illuminates the book like a spotlight:

THE GADABOUT TM 1050

Curious, Henry opens to the first page and reads:

HENRY

Congratulations on purchasing your Cudworth-Hooper Gadabout TM 1050. A "lite-vacuum" time machine.

Henry stops. His eyes go wide.

HENRY

What?

Mesmerized, Henry turns to another page.

HENRY

Before using your Gadabout time machine, please familiarize yourself with all operating instructions and safety features found in this owner's manual...

Henry flips through the manual. A BRIGHT RED PAGE with a skull and cross bones grabs his attention.

HENRY

Never attempt to operate your time machine in the event of Dimensional Collapse. Doing so may result in fire, explosion, implosion, flood, earthquakes, gravitational reverse, accidental death, universal destruction and/or the end of time and space.

Henry shuts the manual --

HENRY

What is this thing?

-- And notices the back cover: *A picture of his grandfather at 20 years old under the text-The Gadabout Time Machine was invented by Wilbur Hooper.*

Suddenly, the door to the shed flies open.

GRANDPA WILBUR (O.C.)
Henry, are you in here?!?

Henry tries to hide, but it's too late.

GRANDPA WILBUR
What was the ONE RULE??! I told you
to stay out of the shed!

Henry holds up the Gadabout manual.

HENRY
What is this thing?

GRANDPA WILBUR
It's nothing. Come on, out of here.
NOW!

HENRY
Did you invent a time machine?

GRANDPA WILBUR
That's ridiculous, Henry. There's
no such thing as a time machine.

Henry can tell Grandpa Wilbur's hiding something.

HENRY
Tell me! Or I'm going to tell
everybody what you're *really* doing
in here!

GRANDPA WILBUR
You'll do no such thing!

HENRY
I'm calling my Mom. Right now!

Henry puts the phone to his ear.

GRANDPA WILBUR
OK. OK. If I tell you about the
Gadabout. You promise to keep this
place to yourself?

HENRY
I promise.

GRANDPA WILBUR
All right. But not here.

Grandpa Wilbur takes the manual from Henry and exits.

The tiniest of smiles forms on Grandpa Wilbur's lips.

EXT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S HOUSE - MORNING

The sunrises over the horizon. Grandpa Wilbur and Henry sit on TWO ROCKING CHAIRS looking out into the street. And on the table between them are TWO COFFEE CUPS and the GADABOUT MANUAL.

Grandpa Wilbur hands Henry a coffee cup. Henry frowns at it.

GRANDPA WILBUR
It's cocoa, Henry.

Henry smiles and takes a sip.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Now, if I tell you this. You have
to promise to not tell a soul.
Swear to me. No one can know.

Henry nods.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Verbal, Henry. Swear to me.

HENRY
I swear!

Grandpa Wilbur takes a long sip of his coffee. Let's Henry squirm a bit.

GRANDPA WILBUR
All right. I wasn't always a
writer. Once upon a time, I was
somewhat of an inventor.

HENRY
What do you mean inventor?

The suburban home ticks back in time. The paint freshens. The trees begin to shrink. The cars parked outside grow bigger and brighter.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
Well, it all started right here in
Hartsville. July 3rd, 1958.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - 1958

And suddenly, there stands a 22-year-old WILBUR HOOPER on the front porch. Surprisingly handsome with a nerdy charm. The same vibrant green eyes always dreaming of something bigger.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
I was a young man with my whole
life in front of me. And just
certain that I was going to be a
huge success.

WILBUR
I'm going to be a huge failure.

Young Wilbur looks down at a LARGE CONTRAPTION covered in a white sheet. He hangs his head, but then a pair of arms wrap around his waist. There's GENNY (22) - she practically glows.

GENNY
You are not.

WILBUR
My Dad always told me I was "never going to amount to nothing." I was born in Hartsville a fool. I was going to die in Hartsville a fool. That's what he said. And I'm starting worry, Genny, what...

Wilbur turns to Genny, fear overcoming him.

WILBUR
What if he was right?

GENNY
He's not, Wilbur. Besides, you're already everything.
(she kisses Wilbur)
My only worry is that you get too successful. I'm not sure I'd even know how to love you in an ironed shirt.

WILBUR
(grabbing his wrinkled collar)
Do I need to change?

GENNY
Of course not. You're going to do great.

They share a moment of warmth. This is a couple worth rooting for.

Wilbur's confidence buoyed, he turns to leave - But as he drags the large contraption down the driveway a look of worry crinkles on Genny's brow.

And we see why:

INT. HARTSVILLE BANK - JULY 3RD, 1958

CLOSE ON: Sweat pours down Wilbur's face.

He stands in front of a conference table lined with middle aged men in MATCHING SUITS. Wilbur nervously checks a thick stack of NOTE CARDS. *He's not doing great.*

WILBUR

(stuttering and
stammering)

Time is an... um an illusion. But
manipulating that illusion requires
an enormous amount of -

JAMES HART

Jesus H. Christ, Wilbur. What do
you want my money for this time?
Spoon Forks again?

At the far end of the table, JAMES HART (45) owner of the HARTSVILLE BANK, puffs on his CIGAR and kicks his feet on the table.

MATCHING SUIT 1

Remember the glasses that fit in
your eyeballs?

MATCHING SUIT 2

Or the phones that connected to the
air?

The room fills with laughter.

JAMES HART

Agh, if you weren't so entertaining
we wouldn't keep letting you in
here.

WILBUR

No, this time you're going to love
it!

Wilbur nods to the LARGE CONTRAPTION under in a white sheet.

WILBUR

This is going to be a HUGE SUCCESS.
You see..

(back to his cards)

Time requires energy. Well,
manipulation of...

(MORE)

WILBUR (CONT'D)
Time itself just moves. It's the
fourth quadrant of.. What I'm
trying to say is. To manipulate
that -

JAMES HART
Just show it to us, Wilbur!

Wilbur nods. And then peels off the sheet and we get our
first look at his invention -

A crude five by five box of unfinished metal. The crass
device perches uneasily on a set of wobbly wheels. Everything
about it says: DEATH! DO NOT ENTER!

The men go silent. The cigar falls from Mr. Hart's mouth.

WILBUR
I call it the, umm, Go-Backer.

Wilbur holds for applause... it obviously doesn't come.

WILBUR
And it's, umm, this is the exciting
part. It's -

JAMES HART
Not even funny this time. It's just
sad.

MATCHING SUIT 1
So sad.

MATCHING SUIT 2
A tragedy really.

WILBUR
But I haven't told you what it
does.

JAMES HART
What it does is give me the heebie
jeebies.

MATCHING SUIT 1
So scary.

MATCHING SUIT 2
Frightening really.

WILBUR
But *really* I think you're going to
want to hear what it -

JAMES HART
ENOUGH!

Mr. Hart nods to a pair of SECURITY GUARDS.

JAMES HART

Wilbur, I say this as a friend.
Some men just don't have it. And
life gets a whole lot easier for
'em when they accept that.

(after letting that sink
in)

It's time to accept it.

WILBUR

But I -

JAMES HART

You're a fool, Wilbur. And you're
not welcome in here again.

The guards pick Wilbur up by the elbows.

WILBUR

WAIT! WAIT!

INT. HARSTVILLE BANK HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wilbur is lifted by the guards, his feet dancing in the air.

WILBUR

Just listen to me.

INT. HARTSVILLE BANK LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

WILBUR

I've invented a -

The guards toss Wilbur out the door.

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE BANK - CONTINUOUS

He lands on the concrete with a THUD. A defeated whisper is
all he has left.

WILBUR

But I've invented a time machine.

And then just for good measure. WHACK! His machine rolls in
behind, smacking Wilbur in the back of the head.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - MOMENTS LATER

Wilbur drags his rickety machine through the town square.

Everything well kept and clean. This is 1950s small town America at its finest. And all decked out for the 4th of July celebration tomorrow.

LEROY the SHOP KEEPER tips his hat as Wilbur treads by his APPLIANCE STORE selling the latest in 1950s conveniences.

LEROY

Hey Wilbur. You got scraps for me?

Wilbur looks back at the machine.

WILBUR

Not yet.

As Wilbur walks, his machine awkwardly SCREECHES behind him.

LEROY

Poor fool.

As Wilbur trudges along he passes:

- VICKY the TEENAGE TICKET TAKER at the MOVIE THEATER playing "Another Time, Another Place" starring Lana Turner.
- BARBARA a HOUSEWIFE pushing a stroller in one hand and grasping the hand of a small boy in the other.
- VITO of VITO's ITALIAN RESTAURANT, standing in front of his quaint brick building with an American Flag out front.

All of them avoid Wilbur's gaze. And their faces fall to an expression of sad pity after he passes.

EXT. ACORN STREET - HARTSVILLE

The nicest street in Hartsville.

As Wilbur continues to drag his contraption, he passes BEAUTIFUL HOME after BEAUTIFUL HOME. His eyes fill with envy.

And as he walks, the houses get smaller and smaller until Wilbur turns to the corner of his own street -

EXT. OAK STREET - HARTSVILLE

The trees may be shorter and the fences are certainly whiter. But it's the same street where Grandpa Wilbur started our story.

DON

Ah, a fellow man of the trade.

Wilbur had been so focused on comparing his life to his neighbors that he hadn't noticed DON CUDWORTH (Mid 20s) appear beside him.

Don Cudworth could sell pool tables to Harold Hill, but most folks reach for their wallets as soon as he smiles.

At present, Don pulls a bulky VACUUM CLEANER behind him.

DON
(studying Wilbur's
invention)
Never seen one of these before.
What's it do?

Don knocks on the device.

WILBUR
Stop that!

DON
Never touch another man's
merchandise. Believe you me, I get
it, friend. So, who saddled you
with this monstrosity? Kirby?

WILBUR
I'm not a salesman.

DON
Ah, don't get down on yourself. You
just got stuck with a real dud
there. And listen I've been in some
terrible small towns, but this one
might be the very worst of the
worst. So, it's not all your fault.

Don studies Wilbur for a moment.

DON
But I believe in you. You'll sell
one yet.

Wilbur didn't know it, but he needed that.

DON
Ah, this is me. And look at that.
No car in the driveway. And if I'm
not mistaken that's Perry Como
wafting on the speakers. We got a
housewife all by her lonesome. And
that means I got a sale. Best of
luck to you fellow traveller. Men
like us gotta stick together.

WILBUR
But I'm not a -

But Don's already wielded the vacuum cleaner up to the front door. And he's hardly knocked before a BEAUTIFUL HOUSEWIFE with RED CAT EYE GLASSES lets him inside.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Wilbur lugs up the driveway. And we see Genny and Wilbur's home in its heyday. It's different than every other home on the block; well loved instead of well kept. Which is an optimistic spin on saying it's in rough shape.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - MOMENTS LATER

Wilbur rolls the machine inside. Even in 1958, his workshop is stuffed with failures.

WILBUR
(to himself)
Dad was right.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME

The failures still weigh on his mind as he opens his front door. But then there's Genny. She smiles, and everything about Wilbur's day suddenly doesn't seem so dire.

HENRY (O.S.)
Wait a minute.

EXT. WILBUR'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - PRESENT DAY

Wilbur and Henry rock on the porch. Henry sports a cocoa mustache.

HENRY
If you had a time machine, why
didn't you just get back and do the
meeting again?

WILBUR
Tried that. After about the 10th
time. I resigned myself that it was
never going to go right.

HENRY
Why not just use the time machine
for yourself?

WILBUR

That's awful selfish. Great
inventions are meant to be shared
with the world.

HENRY

You really expect me to believe in
any of this?

WILBUR

That's up to you. Now, can I get
back to the story?

Henry nods, wipes away his mustache.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S KITCHEN = 1958

A model 1950's kitchen with all the model 1950's trimmings.
Wilbur sulks at the kitchen table.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)

Now, see your grandmother loved me
something fierce, but she never
cared much for my time machine.

Genny spins the makings of a pie crust in a BATTERY POWERED
KITCHEN-AID MIXER.

GENNY

Maybe it's for the best. Give you,
us some time for each other and
maybe finally -

WILBUR

I'm not going to let you marry a
failure.

(gesturing to their beat-
up home)

This is not going to be our life.

GENNY

You're not a failure, and I happen
to love our life.

Suddenly, Genny's mixer dies.

GENNY

Oh not again.

WILBUR

Battery's probably dead.

Wilbur pours himself a glass of water.

WILBUR

And you just *think* you love our life. Can you pass the salt?

Genny hands him the SALT. Wilbur pours LOTS of salt into the glass.

WILBUR

But you'll see. When I finally sell the Go-Backer. I'll get you the ring and the proper house and the family and the whole thing.

GENNY

I just need you, Wilbur.

Genny kisses Wilbur.

GENNY

But I wouldn't mind hurrying up on that family.

WILBUR

Yes, you've made yourself crystal clear on that point.

They share a smile. And then Wilbur removes COPPER WIRING and ALUMINUM FOIL from a drawer.

WILBUR

But I don't think you really understand, Genny.

Wilbur pulls TWO CLIPS from Genny's hair.

WILBUR

The Go-Backer's not just going to change our lives. It's going to change the *whole world*.

Wilbur attaches the hair clips to opposite ends of the copper wiring.

GENNY

TV dinners were supposed to "change the whole world" Instead, everyone forgot how to cook. And what do people do with that extra time not cooking? They watch more Jackie Gleason. Your machine might give people more time, but that doesn't mean they're going to appreciate it any differently.

Wilbur folds a piece of aluminum foil and wraps it around the side of the cup.

Suddenly, the weight of what Genny said hits him.

WILBUR

What are you trying to say, Genny?
Do you not believe in the Go-
Backer? Do you not believe in me?

Genny collects herself. She knows what she is about to say is hard, but she needs to say it.

GENNY

Of course I believe in you. And I love you. BUT I'm worried that you're so set on proving your father *wrong*, that you haven't thought about if what you're doing is *right*.

Wilbur isn't quite sure how to respond, but he's hurt. He turns away and focuses on his work, attaching one hair clip to the foil and the other hair clip to the blender. The copper wire runs between them.

Suddenly, a spark shoots and *the blender springs to life*.

WILBUR

That salt water battery's not a permanent fix, but it should hold 'til I can buy you a new one.

Wilbur coldly walks to his work shed.

GENNY

Wilbur wait. Why don't we go to Vito's tonight? Have a nice dinner. Forget all about this.

WILBUR

I need to get back to work.

But then Wilbur stops. He mulls something over, and decides it's his turn to speak his mind.

WILBUR

Genny, my Dad's wrong. And so is Mr. Hart. And so... so are you. I'm going to make this thing a success. I'm not a failure, and I'm not gonna let you tell me otherwise.

This breaks Genny's heart, but Wilbur stays firm.

WILBUR
Tell me when the pie is ready.

GENNY
The pie is for tomorrow. We're
going to the July 4th parade. Did
you forget?

He did. He forgot the 4th of July. Literally the easiest
holiday in the world to remember.

GENNY
Wilbur...

WILBUR
I'll be done late tonight.

With that, Wilbur leaves. A sadness wells inside Genny.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Curlers in her hair. Genny readies for bed... but Wilbur
isn't there.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
You see, this might be hard to
understand now. But back then, it
took a lot of courage for your
grandmother to move in with me
before we were married.

She looks out the window. The lights to Wilbur's workshop
shine. Genny turns off her lamp. And crawls into bed...
alone.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Genny awakens. She turns to the other side of the bed. It's
still neat.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
But that day she made a decision.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED

Wilbur, exhausted and dirty, studies his machine. In a
attempt to spruce it up, he's painted it BRIGHT RED. And
somehow made it uglier.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S KITCHEN - DUSK

Apple pies line the counter. Genny stares at them, tears filling her eyes.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
One that, in it's own way, took a
whole lot more courage.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED

Wilbur hammers the machine. And yes, it's gotten even worse.

GENNY
I'm leaving.

WILBUR
(not looking up from his
work)
Is it time already? Would you be
upset if I didn't go?

GENNY
I'm leaving.

WILBUR
I heard you. I'm asking --

Genny stands there in her PAISLEY SUMMER DRESS. BLUE SUITCASE in hand. Her eyes watering but resolute.

WILBUR
What is this about?

BOOM! Outside, a GREEN firework shoots into the night sky.
The color illuminates the shed.

GENNY
I have to leave.

WILBUR
I don't understand. I thought you
loved me.

GENNY
I do. But this house. This little
shed. It's enough for me, but it's
never going to be enough for you.
You want big, wonderful things from
your life. And I can't keep holding
you back from them.

WILBUR

That's not fair.

GENNY

It's not. For either of us. I know that. And I know that even if you sweep me off my feet right now, part of you is always going to regret it. That's why I'm making this decision for both of us.

WILBUR

But I need you, Genny.

GENNY

I need you too, Wilbur. But maybe that's not enough.

Genny's said all she can... and now it's time for her to leave.

WILBUR

Wait! GENNY, WAIT!

But Genny's gone.

Wilbur's doesn't know what to do. He turns to his machine. *Is this what he really wants?* Wilbur suddenly isn't so sure.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME

Tears streaking down her face, Genny runs down the driveway.

BOOM! Genny looks up as the second RED firework explodes in the night sky. A couple passes Genny on the sidewalk, mid-fight:

YOUNG WOMAN

Hurry, we're missing it!

YOUNG MAN

And who's fault is that?

Genny buries her head and rushes past them.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED

Wilbur picks up a CROW BAR. His knuckles go white gripping into the steel. He's about to make a decision when -

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Wilbur runs to the door.

WILBUR
Genny!

But it's not Genny. It's Don Cudworth. His vacuum cleaner and million dollar smile in tow.

DON
Hey friend! Good to see you again.
Nobody was at the front door,
friend, so I thought I'd try back
here -

WILBUR
Not interested.
(as he tries to shut the
door.)
And it's the Fourth of July.

DON
(pressing himself against
the door.)
Men who want things other men can't
have need to do things other men
won't do. That means this man
doesn't do holidays.

Don smiles. Wilbur again tries to shut the door, but Don sneaks in his polished shoe.

DON
Just hear me out friend. I sell one
more of these fine machines, and
I'm out of your town forever. But
I'm in a bit of a pickle 'cause all
your friends and neighbors are at
the fireworks. And you see, I'm
afraid if I spend another night at
the Hartsville Inn, well I might go
a little batty. So, maybe we can
help each other out?

Using some form of door-to-door salesman wizardry, Don snuck into the shed during the previous speech.

WILBUR
How did you?

DON
(taking in the mess)
Now you look like a man who could
use a vacuum.

Don's already plugged in the vacuum.

DON
See how it sucks away -

WILBUR
JUST STOP IT!

Wilbur unplugs the vacuum. Undeterred, Don shifts gears.

DON
Hey, there it is!

Don walks right up to Wilbur's machine.

DON
Now, come on. You have to tell me
what this thing does, friend.

And because Wilbur's had about all he can take. *He tells him.*

WILBUR
It's a time machine. Now, leave me
alone.

DON
Wait just one minute. You can't
tell me you have a time machine and
then kick me out on the street. And
just so I'm understanding you
right, you mean a **time machine**? As
in a *machine* that travels
through... *time*?

Wilbur doesn't answer. But something about the way he's
looking at Don tells him he might be telling the truth.

DON
Show me.

WILBUR
I'm not showing you anything. Now,
get out!

DON
Well... fair enough. I've been at
this long enough to know when I'm
not getting anywhere.

Don makes his way to the door...

DON

BUT, if I'm not mistaken, you were walking that thing home from the town square yesterday. Which means you took it to show to *somebody*. And because it's still here that means it either doesn't work or you got laughed out of the room before you reached the punch line.

Wilbur looks away. Don senses it was the latter.

DON

And yet, you invented a time machine. You might be responsible for the greatest innovation known to man... and you deserve to show that to someone. Even if just to prove to yourself that you're more than this squalor you currently reside in.

Don lets that linger. Wilbur looks around at his humble shed.

DON

Now, I'm not claiming to be someone special. But I am offering to take a peek.

Wilbur thinks on that for a moment. Then, he walks over to the device and... opens the door.

A moment of awe and grandeur as we build up to our first proper look inside the time machine. The anticipation slowly crescendos until Don peeks inside and sees:

Two folding chairs crammed together. Three dirty car batteries welded on top of each other. And a time dial duct-taped to the wall.

DON

You don't plan on killing me, right?

INT. WILBUR'S "GO-BACKER" DEVICE

Cramped. Cold. Everything about the experience is pretty horrific. But Don's smile never leaves.

DON

So, where we headed? To see ancient kingdoms? The wild west? The dinosaurs?

WILBUR

No. Travelling that far back would require an unfathomable amount of energy. Of Battery power.

DON

What happens if you use too much energy?

WILBUR

(as he readies the machine)

First off, when the engine runs out of battery it collapses in on itself.

DON

OK... What happens then?

WILBUR

Disaster. Of what capacity I have no interest in finding out.

Wilbur tests the batteries on the floor.

WILBUR

This battery can handle travelling back an hour. Hour and half at most. It's time travel for *simple trips*.

Off Don's look.

WILBUR

Time requires energy. Well, manipulation of... Time itself just moves. It's the fourth quadrant of -

DON

Friend, how's your car engine work?

WILBUR

Fuel, air, pressure, and electricity combine to create the small explosion that moves the car's pistons up and down until -

DON

Well, *most* people don't know that. Let me let you in on a universal truth, friend, Americans don't care how machines works. They care what machines can give 'em. Give 'em more time. Give 'em more freedom.

(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)
Give 'em more envy from their
neighbors. And when you give 'em
that, they don't want to know how
you did it. They want know how you
can give 'em more of it.

WILBUR
But I'm just explaining how -

DON
What do you say we just try it?

Wilbur nods and reaches over to the TIME DIAL. Which looks an
awful lot like a regular old EGG TIMER. He turns it back
three minutes.

The whole machine starts to violently shake. And hum. Don
covers his ears. Waits for the big event. More shaking. MORE
HUMMING!

AND THEN -

Nothing. Everything just stops.

WILBUR
All right, when we go outside
remember to lay low.

DON
Wait, that was it?

WILBUR
What were you expecting?

DON
I don't know.
(with great awe and
wonder)
"Time travel"?

WILBUR
Let me let you in on a universal
truth. Science is boring.

Wilbur peeks out the door. Smoke fills the cabin.

WILBUR
All right, hurry. We gotta go now!

This guy is clearly a nut job.

EXT. WILBUR'S SHED - THE PAST?

Everything looks exactly the same.

DON
All right. You got me, friend. Very funny.

WILBUR
Shh!

Wilbur pulls Don behind an ENORMOUS WORK TABLE. From behind the table, the rest of shed is obstructed from view.

DON
What are you -

But then he hears it -

PAST DON (O.S.)
Now see.

Don peeks around the table and **SEES HIMSELF IN THE PAST**

PAST DON
You look like a man who could use a vacuum.

Present Don turns to Wilbur, his mouth stupidly agape.

DON
(whispered)
I don't believe it. I DON'T BELIEVE IT! You actually invented a time machine?

Wilbur smiles in a way we haven't seen before. Pure joy.

WILBUR
I did.

DON
So, what do we do now? Wait, I read about this in a Ray Bradbury novel, I can't let my past self see me, right?

WILBUR
No. Well, not yet.
(off Don's confused look)
See that you doesn't know time travel exists. So, you'd scare the bejesus out of him.

Behind them, in the "past" we hear:

PAST WILBUR
It's a time machine. Now, leave me alone.

Back to the present:

WILBUR
But if a future you came to see you now, you'd be fine with it, right?

DON
Sure...?

WILBUR
When talking to your past self you just have to remember that you'll be just as scared of you as you are of you. So, as long as you visit a you that knows there could be another you. You'll be fine.

DON
I didn't follow a word of that, friend.

Wilbur laughs in his kooky way.

Oddly charmed, Don turns to his past self -

PAST DON
I'm not claiming to be someone special. But I am offering to take a peek.

Don reaches out for a PENCIL on Wilbur's work table, but Wilbur smacks his hand away.

WILBUR
Be careful. If you change the past, you'll remember it. But to everyone else, it just becomes reality.

DON
So, what do we do now? Go back to the future?

WILBUR
No, we can't go back to the future. You can only go back to the present.

Mystified, Don shakes his head. Wilbur's a tough guy to follow. Never-the-less, he follows him back into the machine.

INT. WILBUR'S GO-BACKER

Wilbur points to a cracked button labeled PRESENT.

WILBUR

I push this, and we travel to the exact moment we left. Our past selves will be climbing in just as we're climbing out.

DON

How's that work?

WILBUR

Past Don and Wilbur use their Gadabout in the past timeline. And we use OUR Gadabout to return to their present timeline once, and independent of when, past Don and Wilbur depart.

DON

Do you even follow that?

WILBUR

It's all easier in practice.

DON

If say so. But why can't we go to the future?

WILBUR

Because the future is always changing, and locating that kind of moving target would require an enormous amount of energy.

Wilbur presses the PRESENT button. Waits a moment, and then -

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - THE PAST

PAST DON

You don't plan on killing me, right?

Past Don and Past Wilbur climb into the machine. The Gadabout glimmers and DISAPPEARS.

Moments later, another Gadabout reappears. Don and Wilbur climb out.

DON
So, what now?

WILBUR
Now, you go back to your vacuums.

DON
BACK TO MY VACUUMS?! No! I need to be a part of this.

WILBUR
There's nothing to be a part of.

DON
That is the single greatest invention in the history of human civilization!

WILBUR
(almost to himself)
The bank doesn't think so.

DON
You told the bank that you invented a *time machine* and they said what? "Time travel? Who'd be interested in that?"

WILBUR
Well, no. Not exactly. You see... I mentioned the Go-Backer and -

DON
THE GO-BACKER?!? That's what you're calling this thing? Sounds to me like you just need a salesman.

Wilbur hadn't thought about that. Don smells a whiff of his favorite thing - opportunity. He reaches into his coat pocket and lays out a out A STACK OF BILLS.

DON
This is everything I've earned since I've been in Hartsville. I want to be your partner.

WILBUR
I'm not sure I'm looking for -

DON

Friend, I don't want to be selling vacuum cleaners the rest of my life. And I don't think you want to spend the rest of yours in this shed. But I think together we can create a life beyond our wildest dreams.

Wilbur catches his reflection in beat-up machine. His wild hair. His hallow eyes. His WRINKLED SHIRT.

DON

You're not a fool, Wilbur. You're a genius. And with my help, the world can finally see that.

Don extends his hand.

DON

So, what do you say partner?

Wilbur looks back to the shed door... where Genny left. He makes a decision -

And shakes Don's hand.

DON

You're not going to regret this! Not going to regret it!!! Don Cudworth and...

WILBUR

Wilbur Hooper.

DON

Cudworth and Hooper. That sounds like two men ready to change the world to me.

EXT. WILBUR'S HOUSE - PORCH - PRESENT

Henry runs a FINGER along the manual.

INSERT: The Cudworth-Hooper Gadabout TM 1050.

HENRY

You know how I know this isn't real?

GRANDPA WILBUR

How is that?

HENRY

If it was real, you'd be a bag-gillionaire.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Maybe there's a reason I'm not.

HENRY

Yeah, 'cause this story is baloney.

GRANDPA WILBUR

What do you say we stretch our legs? Unless, of course, you want me stop.

HENRY

No. Keep going.

Henry stands. Grandpa Wilbur follows him and they start their walk through Hartsville.

GRANDPA WILBUR

All right. So, Don started changing the time machine. Started changing me.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - 1958

Don digs through his briefcase.

WILBUR

So, what exactly are you thinking?

DON

Oh, I got ideas.

From his briefcase, Don spreads out ADVERTISEMENTS exemplifying the height of 1950's atomic age design: THE CADILLAC CYCLONE and THE EGG CHAIR along with photos of MEN WITH MARTINIS and CIGARS and WOMEN SMOKING CIGARETTES AROUND A RADIO.

DON

We're gonna give that thing style.

Don pulls out a fresh suit.

DON

We're gonna give you style.

Don pulls out a KODAK BROWNIE video camera.

DON

Then, we're gonna give the people a show. But first, we gotta do a heck of a lot better than the Go-Backer.

CLOSE ON: A FLYER

The smiling faces of Don and Wilbur under the title: *THE GADABOUT TM 1050!*

SUZY (V.O.)

Gadabout? What does that even mean?

INT. SUZY'S DUPLEX APARTMENT - EDGE OF HARTSVILLE - AFTERNOON

SUZY (Early 20s), who believes in one holy book - Amy Vanderbilt's *"Complete Book of Etiquette"*, sits on a small couch next to Genny. Who holds the FLYER.

SUZY

Is it French? It sounds French -
(in a terrible french
accent)
Gadoooboot.

GENNY

It means to travel often. For
pleasure

SUZY

For pleasure? Oooooooh. That is
French.

GENNY

I just can't believe he's actually
going to do it.

Suzy reads more text: *GET ONE BEFORE YOUR FRIENDS DO! TONIGHT AT THE HARTSVILLE AUDITORIUM!*

SUZY

Is it a kind of car?

GENNY

I'm sure you'll find out tonight.

SUZY

You know, you really should come.

GENNY

No, I... that's all right.

Suzy condescendingly squeezes Genny's knee.

SUZY

Isn't it just like a man? To leave
you and *then* become a big success?

Genny tries to ignore that. Suzy returns to the flyer.

SUZY

So, pleasure? Is it something for -

In her best PG friendly way, Suzy tries to pantomime sex.

INT. HARTSVILLE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

A buzz of activity. A large projection screen looms at the front of a PACKED HOUSE.

INT. HARTSVILLE AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE

A thin curtain separates Don and Wilbur from the crowd. We can almost make out the finished Gadabout behind them, but it never quite comes into view.

Wilbur, who now wears a SUIT and HAIRCUT as crisp and clean as Don's, nervously paces.

DON

Calm down, Wilbur.

WILBUR

But what if they hate it?

DON

No one's going to hate time travel.

WILBUR

Genny did.

DON

Who's Genny?

Wilbur stops pacing.

WILBUR

(brushing it off)

It's not important.

Don clocks Wilbur's lie. Stores it away.

DON

Listen to me. We're going to play
the ad. Show off the Gadabout.

(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)

Then, the whole world's going to beg us to take their money.

WILBUR

Not the whole world. Just Hartsville. Don, you agreed to a trial run. The implications of widespread -

DON

I heard you, friend. But I still don't know what you're so worried about. We're about to give people the whole world at their finger tips... how could they possibly misuse that?

Wilbur thinks on that.

WILBUR

You're right. I just...

DON

Friend, look at all those people.

Don parts a small opening in the curtain, revealing the whole town of Hartsville.

DON

After tonight, you're going to be a new man. So, stop worrying about who you are. And start preparing for who you're gonna be.

The auditorium lights suddenly dim. The crowd goes silent. Don turns on a PROJECTOR. A picture flickers.

CUDWORTH-HOOPER PRESENTS: THE GADABOUT TM 1050

ON SCREEN: THE GADABOUT COMMERCIAL

The black and white crackles. A 1950's Kitchen (which we recognize as Wilbur's) fills the screen.

A HOUSEWIFE (whose CAT EYE GLASSES we might remember from Don's first vacuum sale) cleans a dirty kitchen. In the next room, her baby starts to cry. She runs for the child. As she does, the OVEN starts to smoke. The woman returns with a BABY crying in her arms. She sees the smoke -

HOUSEWIFE

Oh no!

She pulls out the CHARRED TURKEY. But with the mess in the kitchen, she has no where to put it. Then, she hears the dreaded words -

HUSBAND (O.S.)
Honey, I'm home.

The housewife collapses, completely overwhelmed. Don walks into the picture.

DON
Just need a little more time?

The housewife turns to Don and sadly nods her head.

DON
Well, now you can have it... with the Gadabout TM 1050!

As if by magic, The Gadabout appears inside the kitchen.

We'll see it in color in just a moment, but even in black and white - it's MAJESTIC.

A SHINING CIRCULAR DOME. As if Cinderella's pumpkin merged with a luxury automobile. Every edge and seam finished with CHROME. It rests on four STURDY TIRES and OVAL WINDOWS dot the exterior.

INT. THE GADABOUT

Inside the Gadabout, Don and the Housewife sit in two LEATHER EGG CHAIRS facing a sleek console covered with dozens of CONTROLS, LEVERS, and BLINKING LIGHTS.

DON
The Gadabout TM 1050 is a time machine. Designed for home use.

HOUSEWIFE
A time machine? That sounds complicated.

DON
Time travel couldn't be easier. All you have to do is set the patented time wheel to how far back in time you'd like to travel.

Don points to the TIME WHEELS - rotating dials nestled below two FLIP CLOCKS. One marked Hours. The other minutes.

DON

*The Gadabout can safely travel back
in time up to two hours.*

The Housewife dials the time wheel back 30 minutes.

HOUSEWIFE

It is easy!

DON

*And with the Gadabout there's no
reason not to travel in style.*

Don flicks a lever and A METAL CLAMP comes out of the console. It offers the Housewife a cigarette. Simultaneously, Don lights a CIGAR on a SIMULATED WOOD FIRE FLAME. And then in a flash, Don whips them both up a pair of MARTINIS in the Gadabout's custom bar.

DON

Now, we're ready.

The housewife nervously grabs the sides of her chair.

DON

Not to worry, time travel is as safe as that cigarette. All you have to do is press that little button.

Don pushes a RED BUTTON (light grey for now) just below the time wheels.

DON

And we're time travelling!

INT. WILBUR'S KITCHEN

Don and the housewife step out of the Gadabout. The Housewife looks at the time on her oven.

HOUSEWIFE

Why it's 30 minutes ago!

The Housewife removes the turkey from the oven. A perfect golden brown.

HOUSEWIFE

It really worked!

DON

The Gadabout always works!

HUSBAND (O.S.)
Honey, I'm home.

Now, the housewife greets her husband with a martini, a perfectly cooked turkey and a sleeping baby in her arms.

(Wilbur plays the HUSBAND, even in his cameo role he's a truly horrendous actor.)

JUMP CUT:

The Housewife, her HUSBAND and YOUNG SON sit around the table enjoying the turkey with Don.

DON
And the Gadabout is so stylish and compact, it could be right at home on your driveway or as the focal point of your living room. And the Gadabout's not just for you, Nancy. Oh No.

*(turning to the child)
 Junior, imagine getting a little more time to finish that homework.*

*(to the husband)
 And Mr. Smith why not spend an extra hour with the fellas? I won't tell.*

The whole family laughs.

DON
The Gadabout TM 1050. Get it right here in Hartsville. Before anyone else.

A picture of the Gadabout fills the screen.

JINGLE SINGERS (O.S.)
 (SUNG)
There's nothing left to be sad about. With your very own Gadabout.

The picture slowly crackles out.

INT. HARTSVILLE AUDITRIUM

The audience sits in stunned silence. A time machine can't actually be real. But then the curtains begin to part, and out drives THE GADABOUT... in all its glory. And yes it DRIVES... Don's even given it locomotion.

And I can't stress enough how absolutely SPECTACULAR it is.

The Gadabout situates in front of the crowd. The door opens.

DON
That's right, folks. The Gadabout
TM 1050. A time machine... for
everyone!

And of course that induces PANDEMONIUM. The crowd mobs Don and Wilbur. Wilbur stands silent, unsure what to say.

SUZY
Is a time machine safe?

Everyone turns to Wilbur... He freezes. Don steps into to save him.

DON
Of course it's safe. As long as you follow all the simple precautions in the manual.

Don pulls out the manual. A much thinner version of the one now in Henry's hands.

VITO OF VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
When can I have one?

DON
As soon as we get into production.
Which once we have the funds should be -

VOICE
OUT OF THE WAY!

The crowd parts to reveal James Hart, an unlit cigar dangling from his mouth. Mr. Hart looks in the WINDOW of the Gadabout and sees - *An exact replica of what we just saw in the ad... but this time in vivid color.*

He flings open the door and then presses a button on the interior console. The SIMULATED WOOD FIRE FLAME emerges and Mr. Hart lights his cigar.

JAMES HART
(skeptical as ever)
Let me see if it works.

DON
That's why it's here, friend.

James kicks the tires on the Gadabout and then gingerly ducks into the machine. Don climbs in after.

Moments later, the Gadabout FLASHES and disappears. The crowd gasps! The Gadabout reappears almost instantaneously. The crowd gasps... again!

The Gadabout door flies opens. James Hart stumbles out... a *changed man*. His hair and suit are disheveled. He walks toward Wilbur with the crazed look of someone who, well, has just time travelled.

JAMES HART

I'm not often wrong about a man.
Never wrong really, but Mr. Hooper,
you have the full support of the
bank. However much you need, this
should be in the hands of every
American by yesterday.

DON

Not every American quite yet. We're
trial running right here in
Hartsville!

Don winks at Wilbur.

JAMES HART

Of course you are! Hartsville is
going to be the time travel capital
of the world!

The crowd erupts. Leroy the SHOPKEEPER, his WIFE, and TWO KIDS approach Wilbur.

LEROY

Wilbur, anything you need, don't
hesitate to ask. Whatever I can do
to be apart of this.

Leroy excitedly shakes Wilbur's hand. Wilbur's still stunned by all this to speak.

DON

(whispered)

You did it Wilbur...

All around the auditorium, everyone pulls money from their BILLFOLDS and PURSES.

DON

But I think we're going to have to
move production out of your shed.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)

So, that's what we did. We bought a
factory.

EXT. OLD FARM BUILDING - OUTSIDE HARTSVILLE

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
Well, a farm really.

Don and Wilbur stand in front of a decrepit, abandoned farm building just outside of Hartsville, the downtown nestled below a hill.

HARTSVILLE RIVER separates the locales while a charming BOWSTRING BRIDGE connects them.

WILBUR

Don, I was born in this town. And I know everything about it.

(Wilbur points out sections of Hartsville.)

The civil war battle on the river.
The forgotten train stop. The old dirt roads.

DON

What's your point, Wilbur?

WILBUR

In the history of Hartsville, Old Peterson's farm is without a doubt the ugliest thing ever constructed.

DON

That's why it's so cheap. Come on, you of all people should have some imagination. Just dream a little.

And sure enough as Wilbur looks back up to the building. It transforms into -

EXT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES

A dazzling factory. Like an old Coca-Cola plant, the Cudworth-Hooper logo is plastered on SCAFFOLDING.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MOMENTS LATER

When Wilbur and Don first enter the space it's an old, dusty BARN. But as Don talks us through his plans, they manifest themselves before us.

DON

First, we mold the Gadabout's foundation.

An enormous machine spewing FIRE and METAL presses molds of the Gadabout.

DON
We assemble the time console.

A long ASSEMBLY LINE snakes through the space. The machinery and FACTORY WORKERS each appear piece by wonderful piece. The Factory Workers are the same Hartsville citizens from the town hall. LEROY, who abandoned his appliance store, waves.

LEROY
Glad to be here, Wilbur!

DON
The engine and battery construction will of course stay private.

A THICK BLACK CURTAIN drops over that section.

DON
And then it all comes together.

The mold. The console. The engine. The battery. They merge to create the marvelous Gadabout.

DON
Right here!

A PAINT SPRAY GUN MACHINE drops from the ceiling. Coating the various completed Gadabouts in *LIME GREEN. ROYAL BLUE. BRIGHT PINK.*

DON
And one final step - Personal inspection by the President of the company.

Don shows Wilbur his office door - *Wilbur Hooper. President of Cudworth-Hooper Industries.* Wilbur runs his fingers along his name.

Then, he turns to the factory. Blustering with activity. A perfectly designed engine of innovation and industry. A living manifestation of Wilbur's dreams. It's all finally real.

WILBUR
It's beautiful.

A tear forms in Wilbur's eye. And the first Gadabouts are loaded onto a TRUCK.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
And then time started to move...
fast.

A LARGE CLOCK hanging over the factory begins to *TICK. TICK.*
TICK.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
And slow. There was a lot of time
travel.

MONTAGE MUSIC!!! To the tune of the *GADABOUT JINGLE*.

CLOSE ON: The CLOCK ticking closer and closer to twelve.
Quickly, the clock morphs into the SPINNING WHEELS OF A
BICYCLE.

EXT. HARTSVILLE BRIDGE

A YOUNG BOY (10) rides a GREEN BIKE across the bridge. When a
HUGE BULLY appears in front of him. The bully shoves the boy
to the ground. And rides away with his bike as the young boy
wipes blood from his skinned knees.

INT. SUZY'S BEDROOM

CLOSE ON: A TWO BELLED ALARM CLOCK. WHACK! A hand slaps away
the ringing.

And reveals Suzy, groggy eyed and not quite ready to get out
of bed. But she slowly and painfully rises to her feet.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE

A matching suit from the bank, let's call him FRANK has just
been fired. He carries a box with all of his things... and he
has a terrible haircut.

IN RAPID SUCCESSION:

Tears streaming down his face, the young boy walks through
his front door: And sees the Gadabout.

Exhausted, Suzy passes her Gadabout on her driveway.

A deflated Frank passes his Gadabout on the street.

THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME GREAT IDEA.

The Young Boy turns the TIME WHEEL in the Gadabout back 30
minutes. Suzy an hour. Frank two.

Then, they ALL HIT THE RED BUTTON.

EXT. THE YOUNG BOY'S SUBURBAN HOME - HARTSVILLE

The young boy walks out his front door, PUSHING *HIS GREEN BIKE*, but the moment he steps outside - *another version of himself is waiting*.

His future self hangs a STOP WATCH around his past self's neck. The clock ticks down from TWENTY EIGHT MINUTES. Then, the future boy shoves a small PARCEL attached to a matching STOP WATCH into the bike's basket.

The young boy is thoroughly confused, but his future self just gives him a knowing wink.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - HARTSVILLE - LATER

The young boy peddles his bike down MAIN street. The stop watch around his neck ticking down from TWENTY MINUTES. As he rides, he passes -

GADABOUT's gleaming Everywhere. A Bright RED GADABOUT rests outside a BARBER SHOP.

INT. HARTSVILLE BARBER

FRANK sits down for a haircut. But before the Barber can raise his scissors, a pair of hands whisk the Barber apron off Frank. And there stands another Frank with a terrible haircut, he moves his past self over to a new barber.

EXT. OAK STREET - HARTSVILLE

The young boy continues to ride. His stop watch ticking down to 10 minutes. He rides by JAMES HART's house

INT. ACORN STREET - JAMES HART HOUSE

James Hart rushes inside and turns on his television... the end credits of Jackie Gleason play. James Hart curses to himself, but then -

He sees another version of himself in the living room, finishing a TV dinner and laughing heartily at the episode's last joke. James Hart's future self points his past self to the Gadabout in the living room.

EXT. HARTSVILLE BRIDGE

The boy and his bike. The clock ticking down to 5 minutes.

INT. SUZY'S BEDROOM

CLOSE ON: The two belled alarm clock.

WHACK! Suzy slaps the alarm. She flips over to find - BACON and EGGS. Then, she looks at herself in the mirror - *her hair and make-up already done*. And today's dress is pressed and waiting. With a note -

"Have a good day, Suzy! Love, Suzy!"

INT. HARTSVILLE BANK - CONFERENCE ROOM

Frank, the matching suit, stands to give a presentation. But before he gets up, he looks down to his hand - IN REAL TIME. Sharpie writing appears on his palm.

"YOUR FLY IS DOWN."

On a note pad on the table is scribbled, *"AND YOU'RE NOT WEARING BRIEFS."* Frank quickly zips his fly.

EXT. HARTSVILLE BRIDGE

The young boy sits on the ground as the bully rides away with his bike. He looks down at the stop watch. It clicks ZERO! The stop watch RINGS!

POOF! Grey smoke rises from the bike's basket. The bully begins to gag. He tosses the bike to the ground and runs far away from it. The young boy nervously walks toward the bike. Holding his nose as he approaches, he finds a STINK BOMB in the basket. The timer attached to it blinking ZERO.

The boy looks up and from the other side of the bridge, his future self gives him a knowing wink.

HENRY (V.O.)
WAIT! How is TIME TRAVEL EVEN
POSSIBLE?!?

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 2016

Henry and Grandpa Wilbur have reached the town square. A few chain stores have moved in, but its charm is still in tact... except the building on the hill is a TARGET.

GRANDPA WILBUR

The engine and battery construction
are labelled right there in the
manual.

Henry frantically flips to that page. Sure enough, there is
an illustration. Every part of the engine and battery labeled
with corresponding numbers.

But when Henry reads the numbers - they're all labeled *OTHER*.

HENRY

Is this a joke?

GRANDPA WILBUR

Well, I can't give away all my
secrets.

Henry gives his grandfather the stink eye.

GRANDPA WILBUR

(laughing that off)

Let's go grab a bite.

Grandpa Wilbur opens the door to VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT.
It's still there.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Unless you want my roast again?

HENRY

No thanks.

Henry and Grandpa Wilbur share a smile.

HENRY

But if this story is true, wouldn't
there be, like, Gadabouts
everywhere? It doesn't add up.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Of course it doesn't. Story's not
done yet. Now, the Gadabout was a
hit.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES

The assembly line machinery roars as the Factory workers
frantically try to keep up.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
 And the people of Hartsville didn't
 know how they ever lived without a
 time machine. But Don thought we
 needed to start thinking bigger.

DON (V.O.)
 It's been three weeks. No major
 hiccups. It's time to go National.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

A clean and professional version of Wilbur's work shed. A GIANT, FRAMED PHOTO of HARTSVILLE hangs over Wilbur's desk.

DON
 But the thing is, Wilbur. These
 small town folks? They're fine
 travelling back an hour or two. But
 real people. New Yorkers and the
 like. They're going want to go
 BACK. FAAAAR BACK. And to go
 FORWARD!

WILBUR
 It's not possible. If the battery
 were to die and the engine were to
 collapse -

DON
 Disaster. You've said.

Don pulls out the Gadabout manual.

DON
 But that's why we have the manual.
 Anything you think might go wrong.
 We just put a disclaimer in here.
 And we're no longer liable.

Don sets the manual on Wilbur's desk where he notices the framed picture of GENNY. Embarrassed, Wilbur shoves the photo into a drawer.

DON
 But Wilbur if we aren't working
 toward the future. Then, this
 company is meaningless. It'd knock
 your socks off how quickly this can
 all go way.
 (beat)
 You don't want to go back to that
 shed now do you, friend?

Don smiles, but he also lets that wash over Wilbur.

DON
You'll figure out that pesky
battery.

Wilbur slumps in his chair... *what's he going to do?*

INT. SUZY'S DUPLEX APARTMENT - GENNY'S ROOM

Genny finishes applying an EYE LINER PENCIL. She's dolled-up, clearly getting ready for some big event, when she hears GIGGLING from just outside her door.

She opens it to find -

INT. SUZY'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

- THREE SUZY'S in IDENTICAL DRESSES talking to each other in the bathroom. One Suzy sits on the TOILET. While another Suzy leans on the SINK. And a third Suzy finishes her HAIR.

SUZY (SINK)
And then he'll make a comment about
the weather. It won't sound like a
joke, but it is.

SUZY (TOILET)
Oh yes, he loves when you laugh at
that.

GENNY
What are you doing?

ALL THREE SUZYS
(turning to Genny)
Oh, you look beautiful.

All three Suzys giggle at their unison response.

GENNY
Thank you. But Suzy, why are
there... three of you?

SUZY (HAIR)
I'm telling me how my date is going
to go. Giving myself some tips.

SUZY (SINK)
I went first. It went pretty well.

SUZY (TOILET)
Then my date went even better.

SUZY (HAIR)
And this time it's is going to be perfect.

GENNY
Is this safe?

SUZY (SINK)
Gadabouting your dates? Oh, it's
the hippest.

SUZY (HAIR)
The hippest.

SUZY (TOILET)
The absolute hippest.

GENNY
I don't know. It sounds -

SUZY (HAIR)
WAIT A MINUTE! Don't tell me you're
only going on your date tonight in
the *present*?

SUZY (TOILET)
Genny, are you square?

SUZY (SINK)
Go for an hour. Then, Gadabout and start again.

GENNY
No, I think I'll just do it the once.

ALL THREE SUZYS
WHY?!

GENNY
I don't need to time travel to know
if I like a man.

SUZY (SINK)
How did that work out with Wilbur?

TOILET SUZY HAIR SUZY

SUZY (SINK)

Sorry, but it's true. And you both
were thinking it.

SUZY (HAIR)

What she's... what I'm trying to
say is that this is your first date
in a long time. Don't you want it
to be perfect?

GENNY

I'd rather it be real. Great dates
aren't perfect. They're messy.
They're awkward. They're
complicated... cause that's what
love is. And you're never going to
experience that if you're so busy
trying to change it.

Genny pauses. That hits her in a way she wasn't expecting.

SUZY (HAIR)

Well, suit yourself.

SUZY (SINK)

If you want to waste your time.

SUZY (TOILET)

Go right ahead.

The Suzys turn their attention back to themselves.

SUZY (SINK)

Now, during the salad course, he's
going to get something green stuck
in his tooth.

SINK SUZY

Don't mention it!

TOILET SUZY

Don't mention it!

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur sits comatose behind his desk. He looks at his DESK PHONE. And then he pulls out the photo of Genny from his drawer. He looks from the photo to the phone. He's about to make a decision when his door opens.

LEROY

You have a minute, Mr. Hooper?

Wilbur hurriedly shoves the photo in his desk.

WILBUR

Not right now.

LEROY

Well, I won't bother you. I just wanted to say thank you before heading home.

WILBUR

Thank you for what?

LEROY

All this. I mean, you're doing for Hartsville what Henry Ford did for Detroit. And for me, well, I've been a working man my whole life. Spent every hour of my day puttin' food on my family's table. But now, after I'm done putting in a day's work, I can use that machine of yours to go back and sit at that table and enjoy that food with 'em. It's one thing to provide for your family, but actually getting to see 'em everyday. It's -

(he gets choked up)

Life changin'. And when every man in the country has their very own Gadabout... can't even imagine the good that'll do. And being a part of that. It means a lot to me. So, I just, well, wanted to say thank you.

Leroy smiles, soft and sweet.

LEROY

Sorry, I won't take any more of your time, Mr. Hooper.

WILBUR

Thank you, Leroy.

LEROY

(as he exits)

Oh, and I do love that jingle.
"There's nothing left to be sad about. With your very own Gadabout."

Wilbur smiles. His purpose reinvigorated, he bolts to his feet and yanks the battery plans from his wall. Leroy's right. Everyman in the country deserves their own Gadabout.

CLOSE ON: Wilbur's CLOCK as the hours tick away.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun sets as piles of TRASH litter Wilbur's desk.

WILBUR

If I put the gel inside the... NO,
then I need to. THINK, WILBUR!
THINK!

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Moon light shines through the window. The factory is empty. Wilbur is buried in a pile of trash.

WILBUR

What if I move the current and wire
it through. Wait, NO! Then I have
to - AHHH!

Wilbur chuck's another failed idea across the room. Almost hitting Don as he peeks his head in the door.

DON

How's it coming, friend?

WILBUR

I can't get the electrons to remain
stable and move fast enough through
any kind of reliable electrolyte.

Don looks at Wilbur, not understanding a word of what he just said.

WILBUR

My Dad was right.

Wilbur collapses in a heap. That sensation of failure creeps up on him. No amount of success ever seems to wipe that feeling completely clean. Don sees this... and has an idea.

DON

Well, Wilbur, it's been my
experience that not one single,
solitary good idea has ever come
without the aid of a martini.

WILBUR

No, I can't. I have to -

DON

One drink. Then I promise I'll take
you right back here to keep beating
yourself up.

Wilbur laughs. Looks around at his mountain of bad ideas.

WILBUR

I guess it couldn't hurt.

INT. VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A busy FRIDAY NIGHT. Dozens of plates of SPAGHETTI and CHICKEN PARMESAN.

A WAITER carries a tray of RED WINE. He tries to avoid a passing patron, but he TRIPS. And spills the wine all over a WOMAN in a WHITE PARTY DRESS.

VITO appears beside her.

VITO OF VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Not to worry. One minute and this
will have never happened.

(grabbing the waiter,
whispered)

My Gadabout's out back. 5 minutes
oughta do it.

The waiter hurries out back and passes Genny on her date with Frank - *the bad haircut, fly down matching suit.*

FRANK
You look beautiful.

GENNY
Thank you.

FRANK
You're, ugh, very welcome.

Frank wipes away a bead of nervous sweat. Genny smiles. She's clearly got a type.

FRANK
You're also smart. And funny. And
the beautiful is just... a plus.

GENNY
That's very sweet, Frank. And
you're quite handsome, too. As far
as "funny"...

FRANK

Oh, I know some jokes. Good ones.

GENNY

I'm sure you do.

Genny and Frank share a moment.

INT. VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - BAR

Wilbur and Don order from the BARTENDER.

DON

Martini for me. And a -

BARTENDER

And a margarita with a salted rim
for you, Mr. Hooper?

(off Wilbur's look)

You ordered it earlier. I guess you
ordered it now, just earlier... for
me? Before when you ordered it, I
didn't know what a margarita was.
And Mr. Cudworth got real upset.
So, I Gadabout-ed back in time,
went to the library, and looked up
the recipe. Now here we are again.
And here are your drinks.

The bartender slides across the already completed cocktails.

DON

Isn't that fantastic?

BARTENDER

It's a lotta work to be honest.

Don sips his MARTINI. Wilbur his MARGARITA.

DON

Margarita?

WILBUR

They're fun.

DON

You're a weird guy, Wilbur. That's
why I like you.

Don pounds his fist on the bar, then looks out at the dinner
crowd - it's pulsing with energy.

DON (CONT'D)

Look at that excitement. We did this. The whole country's going to be like this soon.

WILBUR

If I solve the battery.

DON

You will. Because that is what great men do. Look at the rest of these "men".

Don turns Wilbur around to face the dining room.

DON (CONT'D)

All of them content with mediocrity. Men who look at their wives. Their homes. Their cars. And smile with satisfaction? Those are not men destined for greatness. No, great men like you and me say... Are you OK, Wilbur?

He isn't. Wilbur's gone white. He's spotted Genny and Frank.

WILBUR

I'm. I'm fine. I just... I'll... I'll be right back.

Don watches Wilbur go. Not liking the look he just saw.

INT. VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - GENNY'S TABLE

Genny laughs with Frank, clearly the date is going spectacularly well.

GENNY

That is a good joke.

The WAITER approaches.

FRANK

(without skipping a beat)
I'll have an old fashioned. The lady will have a martini. Very dry. With cocktail onions instead of olives.

GENNY

How did you know that?

FRANK
 Is it olives instead of onions? Did
 I screw it up again?

Frank pulls out a thick notebook labeled "*DATE WITH GENNY.*"

GENNY
 How many times have we done this?

FRANK
 This is the sixth for me. Well
 seventh, but I don't count the
 fourth time.

Frank pulls out a NAPKIN from his notebook.

FRANK
 I took this from the third date.
 (digging through his
 notebook)
 I think I got a toothpick from the
 first one in here...

GENNY
 And you don't think that makes this
 whole endeavour a little
 disingenuous?

WILBUR (O.C.)
 Genny?

Wilbur stands awkwardly by the table. A long moment passes, but Genny refuses to look up.

FRANK
 Wilbur Hooper! Remember me? I'm
 Frank. From the bank.
 (hearing the rhyme)
 Oh, that's good. I should always
 introduce myself like that.

Frank writes this down in his notebook.

WILBUR
 Is this - a ugh -

GENNY
 It's a date.

Genny finally meets Wilbur's eye. (If there were any music or ambient noise, it comes to an abrupt halt.)

GENNY
 But it's good to see you.

WILBUR

You too.

GENNY

I'm happy for you.

WILBUR

You are?

GENNY

Of course. You're getting
everything you wanted.

WILBUR

I am...

DON

(appearing over Wilbur's
shoulder)

Hey Wilbur. Who's this?

FRANK

Frank. From the bank.

DON

And you are?

GENNY

Genny.

DON

You're Genny? The Genny who doesn't
like time travel?

GENNY

(not sure what he means)

Yes, I'm Genny, but -

DON

Wilbur and Genny.

(beat)

So, how exactly do you two know one
another?

Neither Wilbur or Genny respond. Instead, they search each other, hoping to find something.

FRANK

They were almost married, but it
didn't work out. Good thing, right?

DON

When was this?

WILBUR

Genny left me right before you
knocked on the shed.

This is obviously HUGE news for Don. Genny comes into context, she shaped the whole trajectory of his life.

DON

... Lucky for me.

FRANK

Me too!

WAITER

(dropping the drinks)
Old fashioned. Martini with
cocktail onions.

Hating every moment of this, Genny hurriedly grabs her drink.

GENNY

(to the Waiter)

Thank you.

(raising her glass)

It's nice to see you, Wilbur.

Frank grabs his old fashioned, but SHOCKS himself when he touches the drink. He yelps in surprise. Wilbur's eyes light up.

WILBUR

Can you do that again?

FRANK

It hurt.

DON

He didn't ask if it hurt, friend.
He asked you to do it again.

Genny's seen that look in Wilbur's eye.

GENNY

Wilbur, not here. Please.

WILBUR

If you don't mind, Frank. Rub your
feet on the carpet and then grab
your drink again.

GENNY

Frank, you don't have to -

FRANK
It's all right. It's strange, but
I'll do it. For Wilbur.

Frank rubs his feet on the carpet. And then grabs his drink.
He shocks himself again.

IN CLOSE UP, SLOW MOTION: Wilbur watches as the ELECTRIC
SHOCK travels between his finger and the LIQUID of his drink.

WILBUR
That's it! A completely LIQUID
electrolyte. I have to... go.
Frank, you're a genius.

FRANK
I am?

GENNY
You don't have to rush -

WILBUR
I'm sorry. Good bye. I have to...

On his way out, Wilbur grabs the Woman in the white dress.
(Not a wine stain to be found.)

WILBUR
A LIQUID ELECTROLYTE!

Genny watches him go, her heart breaking a little bit more.

GENNY
Good-bye, Wilbur.

**INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE - HOURS
LATER**

Sparks fly from the inside of the Gadabout as Wilbur installs
the *NEW BATTERY*.

INT. THE GADABOUT

Wilbur rips off his welder's mask. He looks down at the Time
Wheel. There are two new rotating dials and flip clocks. One
marked DAYS. The other YEARS.

Next to it is a gauge labeled - BATTERY POWER. A keen eye
might notice it's full charge is 1.21 gigawatts, but no need
to make a thing of it. What we do make a thing of is the HUGE
NEW LIGHT BULB labeled LOW BATTERY WARNING.

Wilbur taps the light bulb, but the light stays off.

WILBUR
Now, where should I go?

Wilbur looks around his office and spots a BLACK UMBRELLA resting in the corner. He smiles, but then tries to shake off the thought... but it's too late. Wilbur knows exactly where he's going.

WILBUR
(to himself)
You are a damn fool.

Wilbur flips the YEAR and DAY dials. And then he crosses his fingers, points to the sky and presses the RED BUTTON. The Gadabout SHAKES and HUMS like never before. Wilbur buckles in.

A glowing light shines from the battery. The battery gauge rapidly declines. Wilbur holds his breath. *Did he make a mistake?*

MORE SHAKING. MORE HUMMING.

WILBUR
Come on. Come on.

VIOLENT SHAKING. DEAFENING HUMMING. The tension builds.

Wilbur grips into the seat as the Gadabout continues to buck. He squeezes his eyes and grits his teeth. And then -

It stops.

Wilbur lets out a deep, long sigh. He checks the battery... depleted but stable. Content, he slowly opens the Gadabout door.

INT. FARM BUILDING - 1953

The factory is back to being a decrepit farm.

WILBUR
It worked.

Wilbur does a little Wilbur dance.

WILBUR (CONT'D)
(looking down at the
calendar)
Now, let's make sure she's
accurate.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 1953

A warm summer day. Wilbur hides himself as he slinks through the town square. He dives behind a PINK CADILLAC just in time to see a 17-year-old WILBUR and GENNY pass by.

Like the rest of Hartsville, 17-year-old Genny and Wilbur are sweating under the heat. And then, Young Wilbur pulls out a strange looking UMBRELLA. 17-year-old Genny doesn't understand... until the umbrella starts to spray a fine mist.

Genny smiles and joins Wilbur under the canopy. Smitten, Genny rests her head on Wilbur's shoulder. And then, as if on cue, the cooling umbrella JOLTS and dumps a GALLON OF WATER on top of the young couple. Soaking wet, Wilbur is mortified.

But not Genny. She smiles and laughs with a warmth that'll last 'til she's seventy. And then under the "rain" of the umbrella, she grabs Wilbur by the sides of his face and kisses him.

The two smile at each other. A nervous, young Wilbur gathers his courage. He has something important to say.

YOUNG WILBUR

Genny, I love you. No, no it's more than that. I... I need you.

YOUNG GENNY

I need you too, Wilbur.

The young couple kisses again. Behind the Cadillac, present Wilbur smiles, maybe a tear falls down his cheek.

WILBUR

It works.

HENRY (O.S.)

I found that umbrella!

INT. VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Plates of spaghetti sit in front of Henry and Grandpa Wilbur.

HENRY

It was in your shed. Wait, does that mean this story is really... real?

GRANDPA WILBUR

Of course it's real.

HENRY

You *really* had a time machine?

GRANDPA WILBUR

I did.

Henry puts down his fork.

He studies his Grandfather. *Is he telling the truth?*

HENRY

You have an excellent poker face.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Too bad I can't play. Inventing's all I've ever had a knack for.

HENRY

And writing.

GRANDPA WILBUR

That's just inventing stories.

Grandpa Wilbur winks at Henry.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Now, after I tried it out, I took the Gadabout back to the present.

INT. GADABOUT - 1958

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)

Well, 1958.

Returned from his trip, Wilbur checks the battery gauge and then taps the LOW BATTERY LIGHT... it stays dormant.

WILBUR

Stable.

He opens the door to the Gadabout. But as he exits -

CLOSE ON: The Low battery light FLASHES an OMINOUS RED.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur rushes to his office phone.

INT. DON'S HOME

RING! Don answers. In the b.g. the woman in the WHITE DRESS from Vito's is in a negligee.

DON
Hello.

WILBUR
IT WORKS!

We cut back and forth as necessary.

DON
What works?

WILBUR
I went back five years!

DON
FIVE YEARS!?!?

WILBUR
But I think that's just the beginning.

In the b.g. of Wilbur's office, the GADABOUT'S LOW BATTERY LIGHT flashes rapidly.

WILBUR
If my calculations are correct, we can go further.

DON
How far back are we talking?

WILBUR
Far Back. Really Far Back. Maybe hundreds of years.

DON
What about the future?

WILBUR
I told you. The future's not possible. See the lithium liquid electrolyte allows the electrodes to -

DON
Science is boring, Wilbur. But I'd kiss you if I were there. I'd kiss you!

The WOMAN in the b.g. frowns.

DON

I'll have a press event set for the morning! Goodbye Hartsville. Hello America! FINALLY!!!

Don hangs up the phone.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur collapses at his desk. Exhausted and triumphant.

But behind him, inside the Gadabout, the low battery light flashes *faster and faster*.

Until - KABOOM! An energy field explodes from the time machine! Wilbur's flung from his chair.

From behind his desk, he turns to the Gadabout - the inside of the machine glows a VIOLENT BRIGHT WHITE. And then the light SHINES THROUGH THE GADABOUT. And begins to circle around the machine... and form a *BLACK HOLE OF WHITE LIGHT*.

Then, like an enormous magnet, everything in the room points toward the Gadabout created BLACK HOLE.

BOOM! The glass on Wilbur's FRAMED POSTER OF HARTSVILLE is shattered, and then the whole thing is yanked toward the energy field, but when it meets the center of the light... the map of Hartsville DISAPPEARS INTO OBLIVION. *That can't be a good sign.*

Suddenly, everything in the room is being sucked toward the Gadabout created hole. All Wilbur's plans. His coffee cups. His desk.

WILBUR

WHAT IS GOING ON?!?!

Then Wilbur finally sees it. *THE FLASHING LOW BATTERY LIGHT pierces through the white light.*

WILBUR

I pushed it too far...

Wilbur looks around, and he spots the OLD, ORIGINAL Gadabout battery lying on the floor. Wilbur runs to it as everything in his office swirls toward the black hole. Wilbur leaps on the old battery just before it's pulled into oblivion. And then, HE FIGHTS HIS WAY TOWARD THE GADABOUT.

He has to replace the battery.

Wilbur fights through the energy field and CLIMBS INSIDE THE GADABOUT. Inside, the engine is glowing a brilliant WHITE LIGHT... The engine is the source of the black hole.

At this proximity, gravity's practically disappeared. Wilbur floats in the air as he holds tight to the console. Trying to avoid being sucked inside the black hole.

Holding on for his life, Wilbur rips the battery from the Gadabout. The whole room shakes LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE. Wilbur thrusts the old battery into the Gadabout console. He hooks it up to the engine. And the moment the wires meet -

EVERYTHING STOPS. The Gadabout returns to normal.

Breathing heavy and covered in sweat, Wilbur climbs out of the machine.

HIS OFFICE IS A MESS. Wilbur takes in the damage - Half his things are missing, the other half destroyed.

WILBUR

Now... What just happened?

Wilbur dusts himself off, grabs his CHALK and heads for the blackboard.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE - MORNING

The rising sun glints through the windows. Wilbur's office is covered in mathematical equations. Every surface has some number or figure scrawled on it.

He's even turned an OLD MODEL TRAIN of Hartsville's first Locomotive into a writing surface. And at the top of the black board in HUGE BOLD PRINT and circled for emphasis is -

DIMENSIONAL COLLAPSE

INSERT: A flash of the BRIGHT RED Dimensional collapse page from the manual.

WILBUR

This is bad.

Suddenly, Wilbur hears a commotion from outside.

DON (O.C.)

Thank you all for coming.

WILBUR

Oh no. No! NO! NOO!!!!

Wilbur sprints through the factory, but when he opens the main door -

EXT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES

Don stands in front of a PRESS CORP.

DON

Cudworth-Hooper Industries is proud to announce the NATIONAL RELEASE of the Gadabout TM 1050!

The crowd goes NUTS. Don turns and sees a disheveled Wilbur.

DON

And here he is. The man himself, Wilbur Hooper. The inventor of the time machine!

The cameras turn to Wilbur.

DON

(whispered)

You couldn't have at least showered?

WILBUR

(whispered)

We need to talk.

FLASH! A bulb explodes.

CAMERA POV: A black and white photo of Wilbur (the same one from the back of the manual.)

DON

One week from today, the Gadabout will be available nationwide. And we're going to have a gala right here in Hartsville to celebrate!

More applause.

DON

Now, Wilbur, would you like to make the next announcement?

WILBUR

I'm afraid it's not quite ready for-

DON

The Gadabout can now safely travel back CENTURIES!

The cameras stop flashing. *Did they hear that right?*

DON
That's right. Time travel is now in
YEARS!

The cameras go nuts. Wilbur's blinded by the light.

WILBUR
Don, we need to talk. NOW.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - DON'S OFFICE

The Gadabout's luxuries are put to shame by Don's posh office. Over Don's desk is a LARGE FRAMED POSTER OF A SPRAWLING METROPOLIS.

FOUR SECURITY GUARDS stand by the door.

DON
Is there some sort of problem?

WILBUR
The battery is not as stable as I thought. We have to go back to two hours.

DON
WE CAN'T DO THAT! Are you trying to make a fool of me Wilbur?

WILBUR
It's not safe.

Wilbur turns and smacks into one of the SECURITY GUARDS.

WILBUR
(re: security)
What's this about?

DON
You grow. You need muscle. Who knows when the folks out there might try to unionize?

Wilbur studies Don, not quite sure what he means. But Don ignores him and picks up the manual. It's noticeably thicker.

DON
Now listen Wilbur, if the battery is a little unsafe then all we have to do is put a warning in the manual.

WILBUR

It's not a little unsafe. We're talking about DIMENSIONAL COLLAPSE.

DON

What is that?

WILBUR

The end of time and space. Every time line collapsing in on itself until there's nothing left. Anywhere. Any when.

DON

So, we write a disclaimer. Beware of dimensional collapse.

(beat)

Listen Wilbur, we gotta keep moving forward or we're finished. I've seen it a thousand times, you start worrying about the tracks and the train'll run you over.

(throwing an arm around Wilbur)

You can do this. Sometimes I think I believe in you more than you believe in yourself.

Don's charm once again pollutes Wilbur's mind.

WILBUR

I guess I can... Maybe try to. I just need more time.

DON

You have a time machine. You have all the time in the world. And never forget. *You're not alone anymore. We're in this together.*

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)

So, Don focused on the national release. While I worked on the battery.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

Don weaves through the thundering machinery.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur circles a date in his CHECKERBOARD CALENDAR - THE NATIONAL RELEASE. He counts back a week and crosses out the first day.

HENRY (V.O.)

But if you knew it was dangerous?
Why did you agree to work on it?

INT. VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - 2016

Empty plates sit in front of Henry and Grandpa Wilbur.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Because I was scared. Because, you see Henry, you never met your great-grandfather. He died when I wasn't much older than you, but he was a cruel man. He didn't get what he wanted out of life, so he was determined to make sure I didn't either. But I thought if I proved him wrong I'd, I don't know, get his love beyond the grave I guess. Which sounds silly now as an old man saying it.

Henry looks up at his grandfather, still not getting it.

GRANDPA WILBUR

The only way I can put it is that sometimes we chase the love we're after so hard that we ignore the love we have.

VITO, who's gotta be ninety, approaches the table.

VITO OF VITO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

I just wanted to let you two know how sorry I am. Genny was the finest person I ever knew. And, well, she might be in a better place, but Hartsville is certainly a worse place without her.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Thank you, Vito.

Vito nods and clears the plates. Henry smiles at his Grandpa.

HENRY

So, how did you... how did you get back with Grandma?

GRANDPA WILBUR

Well, those time travel kinks we were trying to work out?

INT. SUZY'S APARTMENT

Genny walks into the apartment with a bag of GROCERIES.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)

They started to reveal themselves.

GENNY

Suzy!?!?

The groceries crash to the floor. Genny panics and runs to the phone.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur works on the battery. 2 days have been crossed off his CHECKERBOARD CALENDAR.

RING!

WILBUR

(answering the phone)

I'm getting closer, Don.

GENNY

Wilbur?!

WILBUR

Genny?! What's wrong?

GENNY

I didn't know who else to call.
It's Suzy. She's... everywhere.

INT. SUZY'S APARTMENT

Wilbur and Genny stand together. The front door opens behind them, Suzy enters in a PINK DRESS -

SUZY (PINK DRESS)

Back to the flower dress. He HATES pink!

And we see why Genny called: The apartment is FULL OF SUZYS. There have to be at least twenty five Suzys. Some Suzys wear different dresses, others have different hairstyles, and a few have applied different color lipsticks. But all of the Suzys are arguing about how to salvage their date. It seems no matter what they try, the date just doesn't like them.

SUZY (OVERLY HEAVY MAKE-UP)
Your laugh is all wrong. It's too
desperate.

SUZY (NO MAKE-UP)
Like this?

Suzy (NO MAKE-UP) tries a subtler laugh.

GENNY
What do we do, Wilbur? More of them
just keep coming.

SUZY (CONSERVATIVE DRESS)
Maybe you just need to loosen up.

A VERY DRUNK Suzy enters the apartment.

SUZY (DRUNK/ FLOWER DRESS)
One Martini. We stick to one
Martini!

WILBUR
We have to find the original Suzy.

GENNY
Why?

WILBUR
All of the Suzy's are coming back
to this moment in time. So, we have
to convince the original Suzy to
never go back in time after her
date before she even goes on it.

GENNY
Why?

WILBUR
Well, if the original Suzy
continues moving forward in her own
timeline, that should stop the loop
before it even begins. All the
subsequent Suzy's would then
disappear because they would never
travel back in time in the first
place.

While Don is always befuddled by this "Wilbur speak", Genny is enchanted it.

GENNY
(teasing him)
Well, that makes sense I guess.

They share a smile.

GENNY
But how do we stop her from going back? She won't listen to me.

WILBUR
We have to try.

SUZY (BEEHIVE HAIRDO)
What if we get to know him better?

Another very disheveled Suzy enters.

SUZY (VERY DISHEVELED)
Don't ask about his mother. Just
DON'T DO IT!

GENNY
Come on.

Genny grabs Wilbur's hand and plunges into the gaggle of Suzys. They weave through the chaos. Wilbur smiles as he looks down at he and Genny's entwined hands

GENNY
Suzy, I need you to listen to me.

SUZY (RED LIPSTICK)
I don't need your advice, Genny.

WILBUR
Which one of you is the original?

The Suzys continue to talk amongst themselves.

SUZY (BLACK LIPSTICK)
He asked what made me happy. I said
long walks.

SUZY (NO LIPSTICK)
I said bubble baths.

SUZY (EYE GLASSES)
I said a well cooked meal.

ALL THREE SUZYS
But he didn't like any of those.

GENNY
Are any of you the original Suzy?

ALL THREE SUZYS
We're busy Genny.

SUZY (RED LIPSTICK)
(to the Suzys)
So, how do we answer?

GENNY
(to Wilbur)
This isn't working.

Another Suzy enters the apartment. She gags and covers her mouth.

SUZY (TURNING GREEN)
Don't let him order the fish!

WILBUR
We have to keep trying!

GENNY
(grabbing a Suzy)
How many times have you been on the date?

SUZY (HOOP EARRINGS)
(pulling away)
I don't have time for this Genny.

Suzy (HOOP EARRINGS) turns back to a small group of Suzys.

SUZY (ORIGINAL)
I don't understand. What's funny about barometers?

SUZY (VERY HIGH HEELS)
You don't have to understand -

ALL SUZYS
You just have to laugh.

All the Suzys turn to SUZY (ORIGINAL), who's in the center of the Suzy nucleus, and practice their laugh. She tries to replicate all twenty-five laughs, simultaneously.

GENNY
I think that's her!

WILBUR
Where?

GENNY
In the center! Come on!

Another Suzy enters.

SUZY (STRAIGHT HAIR)
Have we tried curling our hair?

SUZY (VERY CURLY HAIR)
We have!

Genny and Wilbur fight through the crowd, the contradicting advice is deafening. Suddenly, a Suzy reaches out to Wilbur.

SUZY (MASCARA STAINED TEARS)
Wilbur, you're a man. Maybe you
have some insight.

Suzy (MASCARA STAINED TEARS) pulls Wilbur into a tiny Suzy circle. He's a goner.

WILBUR
Keep going, Genny!

Genny finally reaches the inner Suzy circle.

GENNY
Suzy!

SUZY (WINE STAINED DRESS)
Tell him about yourself.

SUZY (HUGE EARRINGS)
But don't give any opinions.

SUZY (FORMAL NIGHT GOWN)
Be confident.

SUZY (PAJAMAS)
But let him lead.

SUZY (LOW CUT DRESS)
Kiss him good night.

SUZY (HIGH NECK LINE DRESS)
But only if he initiates.

GENNY
Suzy! You have to stop going back.

SUZY (ORIGINAL)
Stop being such a square.

Suzy turns back to the other Suzys.

SUZY (ORIGINAL)
So, he doesn't like the -

GENNY
Suzy, THIS IS MADNESS!

SUZY (ORIGINAL)
This is dating.

GENNY
Look around, it shouldn't take this many tries to have *one* date go right.

Suzy turns back to Genny.

GENNY
You need to find someone who appreciates you for you. And that starts with you.

SUZY
It does?

GENNY
Suzy, you can't find love til you love yourself.

SUZY
I do?

GENNY
Who you are is *enough*. And if a date doesn't see the first time, then there's no reason to do it again.

SUZY
... You're right.

GENNY
So, STOP GOING BACK!

One Suzy disappears.

GENNY
SUZY! Promise me, you'll go on the date *one time*.

SUZY
All right. All right. I promise.

POOF! POOF! POOF! One by one all of the Suzy's slowly disintegrate. The chaos ends. Just one Suzy, Wilbur and Genny remain in the apartment.

Suzy throws her arms around Genny.

SUZY
Thank you. I guess I needed that.

Suzy steps away from the embrace.

SUZY

Now, excuse me. I need to be alone.

Suzy walks back into her bedroom. Genny smiles.

EXT. OUTSIDE SUZY'S APARTMENT

Next to Suzy's apartment, a young couple paints their house BLUE. He stands on a ladder, while she looks at paint swatches... Unsure of their choice. As the young woman frets, Genny walks Wilbur out.

GENNY

Well, thank you for -

WILBUR

You're welcome.

Genny and Wilbur share an awkward moment. But the nice kind.

WILBUR

It's always nice to... see you.

GENNY

Yes, if Suzy does it again. I'll call you.

Wilbur and Genny let something pass between them. Something that never quite left. (Behind them, the house is now being painted RED.)

GENNY

Wait. How do we know Suzy's not going to do it again?

WILBUR

All these kinds of warnings are spelled out in the manual.

GENNY

That doesn't mean it's *safe*. Imagine if we couldn't have stopped her? There might be hundreds of Suzys.

WILBUR

Well, then all hundred Suzys should read the manual.

GENNY

Wilbur, you can't honestly tell me
the Gadabout isn't dangerous.

Genny points to the new world around them. (The house is now GREEN.)

GENNY

Just look what it's doing to
people.

WILBUR

I've seen what it's doing. It's
giving everybody a better life.

GENNY

At the cost of ruining the lives
they had. That's not better,
Wilbur. And if you don't see that,
you're a fool.

WILBUR

I'm not a fool.

Genny stops. Fool is a trigger word for Wilbur.

GENNY

I didn't mean... a fool. I meant -

WILBUR

No. I heard what you said. I've
always heard you. You've never
believed in me, Genny. Not really
at least. Not in anyway that
counts.

Genny isn't quite sure what to say. (And the house is now Yellow)

WILBUR

The Gadabout is moving forward. And
if you keep worrying about the
tracks, you're going to get run
over. So, get on board. Or get out
of the way.

Tears well in Genny's eyes.

GENNY

All right. If that's really what
you think.

She turns back to the house. But then:

GENNY

I know I made this choice for us, Wilbur. I just wasn't expecting it to hurt so much. And for you to be so OK with it. Cause looking at you Wilbur... it's still hard for me.

Genny storms into the house. Wilbur runs his hands through his hair... *what's he doing?*

(And the house behind them is back to the original BLUE.)

INT. SUZY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

When Genny enters, she hears THREE SUZYS have already collected in the bedroom.

SUZY (ONE)
I don't get the joke.

SUZY (TWO) (CONT'D)
You don't have to.

SUZY (THREE) (CONT'D)
Just laugh.

Suzy laughs.

Frustrated, Genny grabs her purse and heads for the door.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - HOURS LATER

Genny, confused and sad, walks through the town square. All around her, Gadabouts are landing. People are walking in groups... with versions of themselves. Genny tries her best to ignore it.

She passes by Leroy's appliance store, which is boarded up and abandoned.

A HOUSEWIFE hurries by Genny with her baby and small son. The young boy looks inside a TOY SHOP window and points to a RED PLANE. He starts to cry for it, but before he even gets a chance ANOTHER HOUSEWIFE appears and hands her son the plane.

But with the toy so easily in his hands, the boy no longer cares for it. He casually tosses it into the street, and a car SMASHES it to bits. Then, the boy points at the store window and cries for ANOTHER TOY.

GENNY
This isn't right.

Genny stares up at the Cudworth-Hooper industries factory on the hill. It blows THICK BLACK SMOKE into the sky.

GENNY
It's not right.

Determined to do something, or at least try, Genny walks over the Hartsville bridge and marches toward the factory.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

Since we last saw it, the factory has tripled its output and workforce. Everything is working in perfect precision until - Two SECURITY GUARDS appear behind Leroy.

SECURITY GUARD 1
Mr. Cudworth would like to have a word.

LEROY
With me?

SECURITY GUARD 2
Now.

The security guards lift Leroy up by his elbows.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - DON'S OFFICE

The security guards plop Leroy down in a chair in front of Don's ostentatious desk. Leroy turns to see TWELVE guards at the door... but if you look closely. It's the same four men repeated three times.

DON
Leroy, do you enjoy working here at Cudworth-Hooper Industries?

LEROY
Of course, I do.

DON
Glad to hear it, friend. Then you understand we here at Cudworth demand a little extra from our employees.

LEROY

Yes. The overtime with the national release? I've been puttin' in my 12 hours everyday.

DON

I know you have. But we expect you to put in a *Gadabout workday*.

LEROY

What's a *Gadabout workday*?

DON

Well, when you finish that 12 hour shift. What's to stop you from going back and working it again? And again?

LEROY

But that doesn't leave anytime for -

DON

You own a time machine. You got all the time in the world.

Suddenly, Don looks through his window. *And sees Genny enter the factory.* She's frantic and calling out for Wilbur. Worry fills Don's face.

LEROY

But that means I won't be able to -

DON

I'm afraid it's not up for debate, friend. You either put in a *Gadabout workday*... or no work day at all. Now excuse me.

Don stands up from his desk as the security guards escort Leroy back to the assembly line.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

GENNY

Wilbur?!? Wilbur, where are you?

DON

I'm afraid he's a little busy at the moment. How can I help you?

Genny sees Don's smiling face, but she doesn't budge.

GENNY

Where is he?

DON

Let me take you to his office.

Don walks Genny through the factory. As he does, he passes Leroy working on the line. *There are now three of him.*

DON (CONT'D)

That's a good man, Leroy.

All three Leroys sadly smile back at their boss.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - JUST OUTSIDE WILBUR'S OFFICE

Don and Genny peer into Wilbur's office.

DON

As I said, he's a busy man.

GENNY

I'll wait.

DON

Do you mind my asking what this is all about?

GENNY

It's between Wilbur and I.

DON

Understood. If I believe in anything, it's the power of a private conversation.

Don watches the way Genny looks at the Gadabout assembly.

DON

I take it you don't care much for the Gadabout.

GENNY

I don't. No.

DON

I hope I'm not prodding, but why is that?

GENNY

Well... I don't think you and
Wilbur understand exactly what
you've created.

DON

I certainly agree with you there.

GENNY

You do?

DON

Of course. No man creates something
of this magnitude and fully
understands what it's capable of.

GENNY

And that doesn't scare you?

DON

Terrifies me. I think if a man
isn't a little scared of the
choices he makes, he hasn't really
thought through what he's chosen.

GENNY

But you don't think time travel is
dangerous?

DON

Of course it is.

(beat)

But did you know that before the
train was introduced people thought
that if the human body went over
thirty miles an hour that it would
explode... on the spot. Boom!

Genny laughs, despite herself.

DON

Sounds silly now doesn't it?

GENNY

This is hardly a train. We're
talking about time travel.

DON

And we're taking precautions. See
this -

Don removes a SMALL METAL DEVICE from his pocket. It sort of
looks like a chrome ever-lasting gobstopper.

DON

Something I came up with. An emergency beacon. Tracks every Gadabout. I'll know when and where every single one of these machines is at all times.

GENNY

Isn't that a little invasive?

DON

People are always happy to trade privacy for safety. Besides, I gotta keep a close eye on 1958. Can't have anybody going and taking credit for inventing Wilbur's time machine. Now, let's be honest with each other. What is it about the Gadabout that really scares you?

GENNY

I guess having all that time. Doesn't it make time... meaningless? And when we don't value time. What do we value?

DON

Each other I hope.

Don walks over to Wilbur's office. He peers inside, which encourages Genny to do the same. Inside, Wilbur slaves away on the battery. Oblivious to everything else in the world.

DON

You want to know what I truly love about the Gadabout?

Genny turns to Don.

DON

It means a world without past mistakes. Anything in our lives that we regret, that has ruined us in some way. We can make it like it never happened.

Don lets that linger.

DON

For me, that means, well... when I was a young man, I fell in love. High school sweethearts, I guess you could call us.

(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)

And Betsy was the type of girl who had our whole lives mapped out for us. But I wasn't a success as fast she'd planned, and she got restless. Not even married yet, and I could already feel her pulling away from me. So, to prove myself, I took to the road, started selling vacuums. Made a little money. And when I got back, Betsy got everything she wanted... with somebody else. While I was gone, she'd married the mayor's son. Broke my heart. Shattered me, really.

(beat)

You know, I can still close my eyes and remember the way Betsy smelled... I hate it. Which is why I love the Gadabout. That machine is the possibility of a world with no ugly pasts. Hell, maybe in a Gadabout world there is no such thing as sorrow. Or sadness. Or heartbreak.

Don lets that sit for a while as Genny looks in at Wilbur. Genny needs a world without heartbreak. (*Something Don knew when he started his speech.*) Tears stream down Genny's face. Don offers her his HANDKERCHIEF.

DON

Have you had dinner, Genny? I'm committed to getting out in front of these time travel issues and, well, I'd love to hear more about what you have to say.

Genny looks back at Wilbur. And then to Don... and his genuine smile.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur's hair is on end. He works away at the battery... but he doesn't seem to be getting any closer. Leroy stands in the corner of his office with a clipboard.

WILBUR

What haven't we tried?

Leroy looks at his notes.

LEROY

I'll be honest, Wilbur. I don't understand a word of what I've been writing.

Frustrated, Wilbur crosses another DAY off the CHECKERBOARD CALENDAR.

EXT. HARTSVILLE BRIDGE

Don and Genny share an ice cream cone as they walk over the bridge. Genny talks and, for the first time in a long time, feels heard. It shines all over her face.

EXT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

The assembly line continues to pump out Gadabout after Gadabout... Don's added even more bells and whistles to the console.

We see workers put in the EMERGENCY BEACON, but suddenly ONE BEACON clangs to the floor. The assembly lines stops. Everyone turns to the fallen beacon. Don slowly picks it up from the floor.

DON

You scuffed my beacon, Ms. Kulhman.

Four Ms. Khulman's cower into themselves.

MS. KUHLMAN

I'm... I'm sorry, Mr. Cudworth.

DON

You know the rules. Two more of you in here tomorrow at half the pay

MS. KUHLMANS

(in unison)

Yes, Mr. Cudworth.

DON

Good. NOW BACK TO WORK!

The assembly line springs back to life.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

TWO MORE DAYS HAVE BEEN CROSSED OFF THE CHECKERBOARD CALENDAR.

Wilbur, his face covered with days of scruff, studies jars of possible LIQUID ELECTROLYTES. He looks at his reflection in the window - *Even shed Wilbur was never this bad.*

Leroy stands in the corner, a little nervous about the man Wilbur's becoming. Then, Leroy notices the reflections of the jars. The refracted light has created a LARGER DUPLICATE of each jar.

LEROY

Geez, wouldn't it be nice if we could just make it bigger?

WILBUR

Of course, but that would... wait, why can't we do that?

Wilbur studies the calculations on his blackboard.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - DON'S OFFICE

Genny writes out an impossibly long list of potential time travel disasters. Don can't help but smile at Genny's enthusiasm.

EXT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - WILBUR'S OFFICE

Wilbur looks down at the CHECKERBOARD CALENDAR...

TODAY'S THE DAY: THE NATIONAL RELEASE GALA.

And then over at a completed battery on his desk... it's DOUBLE the size.

LEROY

We did it, Wilbur.

WILBUR

Thank you for your help, Leroy.

DON (O.C.)

Oh god, Wilbur!

Don stands in the doorway, wearing a TUX.

DON

You LOOK AWFUL.

WILBUR

I fixed it.

DON
Of course you did! What's the
Wilbur science this time?

WILBUR
No science.
(gesturing to the new
battery)
Just double the size.

Don laughs.

WILBUR
Sometimes you're so busy looking
for the smart solution that you
miss the simple one.

DON
We'll get the batteries into
production tonight. Speaking of,
Leroy I think you're needed back on
the line.

LEROY
Yes, Mr. Cudworth.

Leroy hangs his head and heads out of the office.

WILBUR
What about the gala?

DON
That's for us. Not the workers.

WILBUR
But Don, it's still not... Not
completely safe. If the dimensional
collapse were to occur.

DON
And how likely is that?

WILBUR
With the new battery, you'd have to
push the Gadabout to the... limit.

DON
To the future?

WILBUR
NO! I mean, we probably have the
power now, but the future is
hypothetical. What you'd see is...

DON

All right. All right. I understand, Wilbur. We've taken precautions. The emergency beacon and everything else. It's all going to work out. You did good, friend. Now come on, I got something to show you.

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

Don opens the door to one of the Gadabouts. He presses a button on the console and out pops: a CONTAINER filled with SALT. Wilbur is a bit confused.

DON

For your margaritas. Thought we could make 'em a thing.

Wilbur smiles. The gesture isn't lost on him.

But then he steps back and looks at the rows of time machines, worry suddenly fills Wilbur's face.

WILBUR

We're doing the right thing... right, Don?

DON

We're shaping the future. Can't see how that can be anything but right. Now, come on. Let's get you dressed.

INT. THE GADABOUT GALA

A party the likes Hartsville has never seen. Don's theme is a celebration through time. So, it's as if Jay Gatsby, the former Roman slave Trimalchio, and the Duchess of Richmond came together to throw their most elaborate affair... all filtered through a 50's lens. *It's a trip.*

Wilbur strolls through the party. A little drunk and therefore trying to enjoy himself but... something just doesn't seem right. He wipes away falling confetti from his eyes when the crowd seems to part... and there stands Genny.

She seems right. More beautiful than Wilbur's ever seen her. He weaves through the crowd until in an instant - Wilbur's beside her.

WILBUR

Genny, what are you doing here?

GENNY

Wilbur. It's good to see you.
Really this time.

Genny throws her arms around Wilbur. He forgot how nice that felt. But then, he steps back. It might just be that she's had a little to drink, but something about Genny has changed.

WILBUR

Really, I don't understand. Why are you here?

GENNY

Everyone in Hartsville is here.

WILBUR

But you hate the Gadabout.

GENNY

I don't hate the Gadabout. I didn't trust the Gadabout. But I'm... growing.

WILBUR

Did you try it? Is that what changed your mind?

GENNY

Not exactly.

Suddenly, Don appears beside Genny.

DON

What are you two talking about?

WILBUR

We're just -

Then, *as if in slow motion*, Wilbur watches as Don wraps his arm around Genny's waist. Genny tries to shoo away his hand, but it's too late. Wilbur stands there shocked... not quite sure what he's just seen.

WILBUR

Are... you two...

GENNY

No, well...

DON

Maybe.

Genny and Don share a smile.

GENNY

We haven't. We wanted to talk to
you first. Before we -

DON

But you've just been so busy with
the battery.

Wilbur isn't sure if he's more angry or sad. In all probability, he's too broken to know.

WILBUR

No, it's... it's all right. I
just... excuse me.

And then, everything for Wilbur goes into a bit of a haze.

INT. THE GADABOUT NATIONAL RELEASE GALA - LATER

Wilbur sways in front of a line of finished margaritas. He takes a long swig from one, and then stares down into the empty salt-rimmed glass. Beside him, a DRUNK HOUSEWIFE talks with a group of other housewives.

DRUNK HOUSEWIFE

That's right. Charlie's getting
straight A's and I'm saving a
fortune on a tutor.

ANOTHER HOUSEWIFE

But isn't Charlie a little... slow?

DRUNK HOUSEWIFE

Oh, he's as slow as they come. But
with the Gadabout, he just takes
the tests as many times as it
takes.

And suddenly, everything for Wilbur comes into focus.

WILBUR

But that's not what it's for.

DRUNK HOUSEWIFE

What what's for?

WILBUR

The Gadabout. It's for *making*
time... not cheating it.

The women roll their eyes and turn back to each other.

WILBUR
Is everyone using it for -

Wilbur looks out into the rest of the party.

James Hart stands with his wife. Suddenly, James catches eyes with a PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN. They share a familiar smile. James Hart slips away from his wife.

He and the young woman leave out the back of the party. But instantaneously, *they walk back in*. James Hart adjusting his tie. The woman adjusting her dress. Without her noticing, James Hart rejoins his wife.

WILBUR
This isn't right.

Wilbur, now very drunk, thunders toward James Hart.

WILBUR
You're abusing it!

JAMES HART
Abusing what, Wilbur?

WILBUR
The Gadabout isn't for... that!

JAMES HART
I don't know what you're talking
about.

WILBUR
EVERYONE IS ABUSING IT!

Wilbur looks around, in every corner of the party people are misusing time travel. Redoing first impressions. Having two conversations at once. Stealing drinks for their past selves. Tiny fractures that are adding up to something big for Wilbur.

Wilbur's about to completely snap, when - The music cuts off. And the lights flicker as Don takes the podium.

DON
Welcome friends! To the Gadabout
NATIONAL RELEASE!

Don pulls a lever, and a RED CURTAIN drops from behind him revealing -

A NEW AD FOR THE GADABOUT: Don rests an elbow on the time machine as he smiles for the camera. A slogan pasted across him: *Time Travel... now for Everyone! Everywhere! Every when!*

The crowd erupts into applause.

DON

Tomorrow morning, the Gadabout will
be in every home in America!

Another lever. Another curtain. Revealing: *A huge map of the United States. Every major city is plastered with a photo of the Gadabout.*

DON

And Hartsville will be the time
travel capital of the world!

In the middle of the country is a GIANT GADABOUT with HARTSVILLE written across it. Balloons fall from the ceiling.

DON

Now, let's CELEBRATE!

A group of chorus girls dressed as all sorts of famous cities and time periods tap onto the stage. They sing the newest jingle (new words, but the same tune.)

JINGLE SINGERS

Time travel now from beginning to end. Make a mistake? Just go back and mend!

James Hart hoots and hollers. The crowd is uncontrollable. The chorus girls just keep repeating the jingle.

WILBUR

What have I done?

Wilbur rushes to the stage.

WILBUR

Don, this is all wrong!

DON

Wilbur, are you --- are you all
right friend?

WILBUR

It's all wrong! WRONG!!

Don climbs down from the podium.

WILBUR

It's a mistake!

DON

What's a mistake?

Wilbur's practically manic. Genny appears behind him.

GENNY

Wilbur?

WILBUR

Genny, you were right. You were
always right.

DON

Wilbur! Hold on a minute. We're in
this together, remember?

WILBUR

I'm not sure we are!

Wilbur storms out of the party.

GENNY

Wilbur, wait!

But he's already gone. Genny wants to run after him, but Don
wraps his arms around her.

DON

He's all right.

GENNY

I just hope he doesn't do anything
stupid.

DON

Me too...

But the look on Don's face let's us know one thing: *he's not
going let Wilbur do anything stupid.*

INT. CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES - MAIN FACTORY

Hundreds and Hundreds of Gadabouts. All ready to be unleashed
on America. Wilbur cringes. And then hops inside one of the
time machines.

INT. GADABOUT

Wilbur rips open the console and looks down at the inner
workings of the Gadabout engine.

WILBUR

(to himself)

I have to see what I've done.

A TINY METAL CLOCK in the engine ticks backward. Wilbur grabs the metal hand, but then stops -

WILBUR

This is crazy. It's impossible.

But then Wilbur looks at the trucks waiting to load the Gadabouts. The boxes labeled for: *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia...*

WILBUR

No. I have to know.

Wilbur twists the clock as hard as he can - The Gadabout jolts with a violent RUMBLE, and then... the clock ticks FORWARD.

If it wasn't obvious before, it is now. *Wilbur's going to the future.*

Wilbur closes the console. And spins the Time Dial... the other direction. He closes his eyes and SLAMS on the Red Button.

BRIGHT LIGHT blinds Wilbur followed by a deafening sound, that can only be described as the world being ripped apart. Suddenly, Wilbur's thrown weightlessly around the interior of the Gadabout.

It's violent and terrifying. Wilbur's nose starts to bleed. He fights his way to the console.

WILBUR

STOP! STOP! I made a mistake.

BOOM! Light and sound reverberate like an atomic bomb and then -

Nothing. The Gadabout simply comes to rest. Wilbur looks around - *is he safe?*

Wilbur watches the battery gauge needle: it's stable. The low battery light is off. Crisis subdued, Wilbur flings open the door to the Gadabout and enters -

INT. OLD CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES FACTORY - 2017

It worked. Wilbur's in the *future*. He stands in the old factory, but it's crumbling and abandoned. (Like the run-down car plants in Detroit.)

Wilbur's old office is all broken glass and graffiti. Wilbur smiles... maybe the Gadabout never took off? But then Wilbur opens the doors to the factory and sees -

EXT. HARTSVILLE - 2017 (GADABOUT EDITION)

The quaint small town long gone, and in its place is a sprawling metropolis. One sky scraper rises above them all - CUDWORTH-HOOPER INDUSTRIES.

WILBUR

Oh no.

Wilbur walks toward the town and passes a large sign: *Welcome to Hartserville: Time Travel Capital of the World.*

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 2017 (GADABOUT EDITION)

Gadabout posters, billboards and video ads cover every inch of the grimy urban center. A graffiti covered HIGH TECH METRO TRAIN blows its high pitched whistle as it whizzes through the buildings.

Actual Gadabouts are huddled on every street corner. Vito's is a MONSTROUS OLIVE GARDEN... staffed by what appear to be actual 1st Century ROMANS. Most of the buildings themselves are all covered in THICK BARS. Signs warn: *STOP TIME CRIME. JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN. DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD.*

An old man reads a newspaper with PRESIDENT TRUMP. (*I guess there is no future where that's avoidable.*)

A YOUNG COUPLE exits from a shimmering Gadabout. The WOMAN holds a CHICKEN and an EGG.

WOMAN

(looking between chicken
and egg)

I can't believe we actually solved
it!

FLASH! A Gadabout lands right next to Wilbur. Forcing him to dive out of the way, as a group of PUNK KIDS run from the Gadabout carrying an ancient NATIVE AMERICAN HEADDRESS, a 16th CENTURY MUSKET, and WOOLLY MAMMOTH HORN.

PUNK KID 1

Hey Tommy, remember when I killed
your grandfather back there?

TOMMY

You what?

Tommy looks down... his hands start to disappear.

TOMMY

Oh no.

And like that, Tommy vanishes into oblivion. The other boys laugh as they play with their time travelling treasures, but no one pays them any mind. *This is a normal day in Hartsville.*

And then a DEAFENING CLANG vibrates the sidewalk. Up the street, Seventy-five 75-year-old Suzy's bicker amongst themselves as they push identical WALKERS.

WILBUR

Genny was right.

Wilbur looks up at the sparkling tower of Cudworth-Hooper Industries. MARBLE STATUES of Don and Wilbur are positioned out front.

WILBUR

...I ruined everything.

Suddenly, a huge commotion breaks out in front of the Cudworth-Hooper building. The main door flies open and out walks a 78-YEAR-OLD WILBUR HOOPER. Overweight and yet somehow hallow. A deep sadness shines from within him.

Wilbur stares right at his 78-year-old self. Old Wilbur lifelessly signs papers and offers a half hearted smile to the cameras who surround him. And then - Old Wilbur locks eyes with his younger self.

Upon seeing young Wilbur, a tear forms in Old Wilbur's eye. The two stare at each other, young Wilbur haunted by his future self. Old Wilbur wants to say something, but before he can, he's whisked away by his security guards.

WILBUR

What have I done?

HENRY (V.O.)

That doesn't make any sense.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 2017

On their walk back, Grandpa Wilbur and Henry have reached the edge of the small town.

HENRY

That's not how Hartsville looks.

GRANDPA WILBUR
 Of course it doesn't... story's not
 finished yet.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 2017 (GADABOUT EDITION)

Wilbur stands there frozen... this can't really be his future. And then a video screen grabs Wilbur's eye. It's the end of a Gadabout ad:

A 78-year-old Don fills the screen, he somehow looks spectacular.

DON
 (on-screen)
*And that's a Gadabout promise. From
 Don -*

Genny appears beside him.

GENNY
And Genny Cudworth.

WILBUR
Genny Cudworth?

DON
The Gadabout. It's our past.

GENNY
And our future.

Genny and Don embrace as the Gadabout forms behind them.

WILBUR
This can't be right. It can't be -

Tears fill Wilbur's eyes.

WILBUR
 (Wilbur screams at video
 Don.)
*This is all your fault! Why'd I
 ever listen to you?!*

Wilbur picks up a rock and throws it at Don on the screen! The screen CRACKS and gets stuck on the Gadabout slogan:

*MAKE A MISTAKE? JUST GO BACK AND MEND! MAKE A MISTAKE? JUST
 GO BACK AND MEND!*

As Wilbur watches the slogan repeat, he forms an idea.

WILBUR

I didn't make this future. Don did.
Maybe I can stop him... before I
even meet him. I just... have to go
back to the beginning.

Wilbur runs back to his Gadabout.

INT. FARM BUILDING - 2017 (GADABOUT EDITION)

Wilbur hops into his Gadabout.

INT. THE GADABOUT

Wilbur flips the time wheel back 59 years. He presses the Red button.

FLASH!

INT. FARM BUILDING - JULY 4TH, 1958

Wilbur starts to drive his Gadabout toward the door, but then he remembers where he is.

WILBUR

(to himself)

I can't drive this out there.

Wilbur climbs out of the Gadabout and looks around... where he spots a WHITE SHEET.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - JULY 4TH, 1958

Wilbur drags his LARGE SOMETHING UNDER A SHEET through the town square. All of Harstville is gathering for the fireworks. The old, familiar looks of pity greet Wilbur as he passes. Wilbur almost forgot how little this town used to think of him.

EXT. OAK STREET - HARTSVILLE - JULY 4TH, 1958

Wilbur hides his Gadabout behind an OAK TREE as he spots Don just next door, knocking with his vacuum cleaner.

The first GREEN FIREWORK shoots into the night sky. Wilbur's gotta hurry.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - JULY 4TH 1958

Wilbur approaches his old home. He heads toward his shed when he hears -

GENNY (O.C.)
*But this house. This little shed.
It's enough for me, but it's never
going to be enough for you.*

Wilbur ducks behind the shed, he's still got a few moments. He practices his speech.

WILBUR
Wilbur, I'm from the future. Your time machine is going to be a big success, but it's vitally important than you never meet a man named -

DON (O.S.)
Don't do it, Wilbur.

Wilbur turns to see Don, still in his TUX from the Gala.

WILBUR
Don? How did you -

DON
I thought you'd try something stupid, but I didn't think this stupid.

WILBUR
You don't understand.

DON
I'm not going to let you destroy everything we created together!

WILBUR
No. I can't let us meet, Don.

Wilbur turns back to the shed, when he hears -

CLICK! Don points a GUN toward Wilbur.

DON
I'm sorry, Wilbur. I didn't want it to be this way.

Don pushes Wilbur up against the shed, Wilbur look inside:

INSIDE THE SHED: Genny, in her PAISLEY DRESS and gripping her BLUE SUITCASE, stares at July 4th, 1958 Wilbur.

WILBUR

Wait. I need you, Genny.

GENNY

I need you too, Wilbur. But maybe that's not enough.

OUTSIDE: This hits Wilbur in a whole new way. And Wilbur realizes, he doesn't need to just stop Don. *He needs to stop himself.*

Suddenly, Genny slams open the door to the shed and flees up the driveway, wiping tears from her eyes as she goes.

Not wanting to be seen, Don pulls Wilbur into the grass. As Genny flees up the drive way. The second RED FIREWORK explodes. She passes the young couple, mid-fight:

YOUNG WOMAN

Hurry, we're missing it!

YOUNG MAN

And who's fault is that?

BACK BY THE SHED: Don holds the gun to Wilbur's head and brings him to his feet.

DON

COME ON! Tie him up!

Don's SECURITY GUARDS emerge from the shadows. They grab Wilbur's arms and slam into the door of the shed. Wilbur has an idea - he knocks on the shed door with his head. Then, he positions the guard in front of the door as they pin his arms behind his back.

Suddenly, the shed door flies open -

WILBUR ('58)

Genny?

The swinging door slams into the security guard, which allows our Wilbur to break free. Wilbur runs to his 1958 self.

Visually they'll be easy to distinguish as Wilbur still wears his tux. For script purposes, Present Gala Tux Wilbur is WILBUR and younger Wilbur working in the shed in 1958 is WILBUR ('58)

WILBUR

COME ON! We gotta go!

WILBUR ('58)

What?!?

Wilbur grabs his younger self. The Wilburs make a run for it.

DON
Get him!

GUARD 1
Which one?

DON
Both of 'em!

The security guards chase after the Wilburs... Who rush by
Don (July 4th, 1958) standing stunned with his vacuum
cleaner.

BOOM! The third BLUE FIREWORK explodes.

With the security guards gaining on them, the Wilburs arrive
at the Gadabout hiding under the sheet behind a tree.

WILBUR ('58)
What is going on?!?

Wilbur rips off the sheet, and Wilbur ('58) takes in the
strange machine.

WILBUR ('58)
Is that... the Go-Backer?

WILBUR
Sort of. JUST GET IN!

Wilbur throws Wilbur ('58) into the Gadabout. As he follows
himself inside, Wilbur spots a half dozen other Gadabouts
hiding on Oak Street. As Wilbur shuts the door to the
Gadabout, we see the security guards hop into their
Gadabouts.

INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

Wilbur ('58) takes in the wonders of the Gadabout. As we
watch the two Wilbur's work together, their difference in
confidence levels is *striking*.

WILBUR ('58)
This is amazing. This is *my time
machine!*

Wilbur spins the time dial back 30 years.

WILBUR ('58)
(fiddling with the dial)
YEARS!?! It can go back years?

WILBUR
(slapping him away)
Stop that!

Wilbur ('58) examines the battery.

WILBUR ('58)
Wow.

WILBUR
I know...

WILBUR ('58) WILBUR
Science is so cool. Science is so cool.

BAM! A security guard FIRES A GUN at the time machine's window.

WILBUR ('58)
What do these people want?

WILBUR
They're trying to stop me from
stopping you.

WILBUR ('58)
Stop me from what?

Wilbur peels the Gadabout out from behind the tree.

WILBUR
Meeting Don.

WILBUR ('58)
Who's Don?

WILBUR
The guy trying to destroy the world!

Wilbur slams the RED BUTTON. And thus kicks off an awesome "CAR CHASE" sequence, but we don't use roads. We use all of TIME!

EXT. HARTSVILLE 1920 / INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

The Wilbur's Gadabout lands on an OLD DIRT ROAD - the original OAK STREET.

WILBUR ('58)
How's Don going to destroy the world?

Wilbur pulls the Gadabout to a stop. A STUDEBAKER drives by.

WILBUR
Listen to me, Wilbur -

POP! POP! POP! Six other Gadabouts land behind the Wilburs.

WILBUR
WHAT IN THE HELL?!?!

The Gadabouts charge, forcing Wilbur to screech his time machine forward.

WILBUR ('58)
Keep going!

Wilbur turns the time wheel 100 years. Slams the Red Button.

EXT. HARTSVILLE 1850/ INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

The Wilburs' Gadabout rumbles down OLD RAILROAD TRACKS. Almost instantaneously, the security guards' Gadabouts appear.

WILBUR
I don't understand. How are they tracking us?

A TRAIN WHISTLE BLARES. A coal powered LOCOMOTIVE (a replica from the one on Wilbur's desk) barrels down the tracks behind them... but the security guards' Gadabouts easily out run it.

WILBUR ('58)
(looking back at the Gadabouts...)
What do we do?

Wilbur looks back at the slow train. His eyes twinkle with an idea.

WILBUR
Improvise.

Wilbur opens the console and slams the clock forward. And then spins the time wheels into the future.

WILBUR ('58)
The future? That's not safe!

WILBUR
Safer than here!

Wilbur presses the red button. And the Wilburs are engulfed by the violent noise and rumble. POP! They disappear.

EXT. HARTSVILLE 2030 / INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

As the Wilburs' Gadabout lands, the old railroad tracks beneath them transform into the futuristic METRO TRACKS. Wilbur turns back to see - the security guards' Gadabouts land on the same tracks behind them.

A HIGH PITCHED WHISTLE RINGS OUT! Wilbur smiles and then violently turns his Gadabout off the tracks. Just as -

WHAM! The high speed metro train overruns the enemy Gadabouts. Cutting through them like tin foil.

WILBUR ('58)
It worked!

But before Wilbur has time to celebrate, a half dozen other Gadabouts gain ground behind him.

WILBUR ('58)
Kind of. It kinda worked.

Wilbur looks up at the CUDWORTH-HOOPER SKYSCRAPER.

WILBUR
We're going to have to get smarter.

Wilbur spins the time wheel back. SLAMS THE RED BUTTON.

EXT. HARSTVILLE 1880/ INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

Where the skyscraper once stood is an empty plot of grass. Wilbur heads right for it. He weaves through the dirt roads of early Hartsville, made up of little more than a SALOON, CHURCH and GENERAL STORE. Chased by the security Gadabouts, Wilbur passes through the empty plot of grass.

WILBUR
HOLD ON!

- he spins the time wheel forward. Hits the Red Button.

EXT. HARTSVILLE 2016/ INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

Wilbur's Gadabout appears right in front of the Cudworth-Hooper Skyscraper. He turns back and hears a SERIES OF HORRIFIC CRASHES. The security guard's Gadabouts appeared inside the building!

One of the Gadabouts crashes through the glass and skids into WILBUR'S MARBLE statue. Decapitating the marbled Wilbur and sending the head flying crashing into the glass of the Wilburs' Gadabout.

WILBUR ('58)
IS THAT ME?!? WHY IS THERE A STATUE
OF ME!?!?

Wilbur uses the security guard's destruction to study the console.

WILBUR
How are they tracking us?

His eyes meet the EMERGENCY BEACON.

WILBUR
The beacon! They must be using it
to locate our Gadabout!

Wilbur rips open the console.

WILBUR
I have to get rid of the beacon.
You drive.

Wilbur ('58) takes the wheel as Wilbur studies the GADABOUT MANUAL and searches inside the console for the beacon.

WILBUR ('58)
What do I do?

WILBUR
We know time AND this town better
than they do. Use it!

Wilbur ('58) spots the Hartsville Bridge up ahead.

WILBUR ('58)
When was the bridge built?

Wilbur ('58) speeds over the bridge as the security guards' Gadabouts gain ground.

WILBUR
(as he works)
If I know. You know.

Wilbur ('58) nods and then spins the dial back. He waits for his Gadabout to clear the bridge. The moment it does. He presses the button.

EXT. HARTSVILLE 1900 / INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

The Wilburs' Gadabout skids to a stop.

OUTSIDE: The security guards' Gadabouts appear over the river. The bridge isn't built yet. And thus, the Gadabouts savagely crash into the moving water.

Wilbur pumps his fist... but then POP! POP! POP!

WILBUR ('58)
They just keep coming!

WILBUR
Then Keep GOING!

Wilbur digs into the console. While above him, the LOW BATTERY LIGHT begins to FLASH!

WILBUR
(re: beacon)
I've almost got it.

WILBUR ('58)
When was the battle of Hartsville?

WILBUR (thinking) 1863?	WILBUR ('58) (thinking) 1863?
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Wilbur rips out the emergency beacon and then... spots the *flashing red light*.

WILBUR
Wait! We have to stop!

Wilbur ('58) looks at the approaching Gadabouts.

WILBUR ('58)
WE CAN'T STOP!

Wilbur ('58) spins the time wheel backward and SLAMS ON THE RED BUTTON.

WILBUR
NOOOO!!!!

EXT. HARTSVILLE 1863 / INT. WILBUR'S GADABOUT

The Wilburs' Gadabout lands in the middle of a CIVIL WAR BATTLE. MUSKETS fire everywhere! A security guard's Gadabout appears and is immediately BLOWN AWAY BY A CANNON BALL.

More Gadabouts continue to appear. Avoiding musket fire, Wilbur tosses out the beacon. He turns to the flashing LOW BATTERY LIGHT.

WILBUR

Come on. Just hold a little -

BAM! A security guard Gadabout slams into the Wilburs, toppling their machine toward the river's edge. The Gadabout flips end over end as the flashing light blinks faster and faster. WHAM! The Gadabout smashes into an OAK TREE, pinning it just above the water.

The force flings the Gadabout's door open, and Wilbur('58) soars toward it. He's about to be thrown from the machine when Wilbur grabs onto him. He clutches his past self's hand, holding him above the rushing river below.

WILBUR

Hold on!

But it's too late. Wilbur ('58) is slipping. He's just about to lose his grasp when -

KABOOM!!! The energy field and vibrant white light explode from the engine. The black hole forms just as Wilbur('58) loses his future self's grip.

But rather than falling to the river, the black hole sucks Wilbur ('58) BACK INTO THE GADABOUT. The door slams behind him, which finally tips the Gadabout into the river.

It lands with an enormous splash. The Gadabout fills with water. The Wilburs brace themselves behind the egg chairs as everything inside the Gadabout starts flying toward the engine and the black hole of light.

WILBUR ('58)

What is this?

WILBUR

The engine's out of battery. So, all of time is collapsing in on itself.

WILBUR ('58)

Dimensional Collapse!?!?

And then all around them:

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH! The other GADABOUTS CRASH LAND!

WILBUR ('58)

What about those Gadabouts?

KABOOM! KABOOM! KABOOM!

WILBUR
Dimensional collapse...

Each of the security guards' Gadabouts explode with energy. Igniting widespread DIMENSIONAL COLLAPSE.

The civil war battle comes to a stop. The soldiers turn to the insanity at the river.

INSIDE THE WILBUR'S GADABOUT: WHOOSH! The egg chair is ripped from the floor and into the black hole oblivion.

WILBUR ('58)
How do we stop this?

WILBUR
Without another battery, we can't!

BOOM! The windows from the Gadabout explode! The glass soars toward the black hole of light.

WILBUR ('58)
We have to do something!

The manual flutters toward the collapsing engine. Wilbur ('58) spots the RED PAGE and reads: *In case of Dimensional Collapse.*

Wilbur ('58) grabs the manual out of the air. He keeps reading -

WILBUR ('58)
In case of Dimensional collapse
send final messages to loved ones.
Well, that's not helpful.

WILBUR
I'm so sorry, Genny.

The console begins to collapse in on itself.

OUTSIDE: All around the Wilburs the other security guards' Gadabouts glow with brilliant WHITE LIGHT. Union and Confederate soldiers are pulled toward the collapses.

INSIDE: The cocktail bar door flies open. The SALT COMPARTMENT for the margaritas flies toward the black hole. Wilbur snags it out of the air. His eyes goes wide as he stares at the SODIUM CHLORIDE.

WILBUR
Thank you, Genny!

Wilbur digs through the bar and pulls out an ICE BUCKET and hands it to Wilbur ('58)

WILBUR
Fill that with water.

WILBUR ('58)
Why?

WILBUR
We're making a salt water battery!

Wilbur ('58) tucks the MANUAL in his coat pocket and fills the ice bucket from the river. Wilbur rips out the COPPER WIRING from the console.

WILBUR ('58)
Is a salt water battery going to be enough to stop the collapse?

WILBUR
Of course not.

Suddenly, gravity gives out and the Wilburs lift into the air. Undeterred, Wilbur steadies himself and removes the CIGARETTE HOLDERS and attaches them to the copper wiring.

WILBUR
BUT IT MAY BE ENOUGH TO GET US BACK TO 1958!

Wilbur wraps the salt water bucket with METAL from the RADIO. Wilbur attaches one copper wire clamp to the metal bucket, he holds the other clamp next to the ENGINE. And with that, he attaches the clamp to the ENGINE and SLAMS THE RED BUTTON.

FLASH!

EXT. OAK STREET - HARTSVILLE - JULY 4TH, 1958

The Wilburs Gadabout lands back in 1958. They check the battery light, it's FLASHING. But still holding on... for now.

They slowly climb out of the machine. Wilbur looks to his right and sees:

- Himself from earlier hiding the Gadabout under the white sheet behind a tree.

- And farther down the street - Don (July 4th 1958) selling his vacuum cleaner.

Everyone looks up to see - BOOM! THE FIRST GREEN FIREWORK lights up the night sky.

WILBUR ('58)
Why are we here?

WILBUR
We have to destroy the time machine.

WILBUR ('58)
Destroy it?!?! Are we sure there's not another way?

WILBUR
There's not. Now GET DOWN!

The Wilburs hide behind the OAK trees as they turn to -

ON THE SHED

Wilbur (from earlier) walks up the driveway and peeks into the shed. Don (Gala) sneaks up on him from behind.

FROM THE TREES

Wilbur ('58) points toward the Hartsville river, where dozens of dots of BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT ARE BEGINNING TO GROW.

WILBUR
The dimensional collapse. It's spreading to every time. We have to hurry.

ON THE SHED

Don points the GUN at Wilbur. WHAM! The door to the shed flies open and out walks Genny, in her Paisley dress with her blue suitcase.

FROM THE TREES

Wilbur looks at Genny as she wipes away tears. The way the moonlight hits her hair. BOOM! The second RED FIREWORK explodes. A YOUNG COUPLE passes by -

YOUNG WOMAN
Hurry, we're missing it!

YOUNG MAN
And who's fault is that?

WILBUR ('58)
Who are they?

WILBUR

I don't -

GENNY (O.C.)

Wilbur... is that you?

Wilbur turns to see Genny staring through the trees - right at him.

GENNY

(looking between Wilbur
and the shed)

Wilbur, how are you - how did you -

Then, she sees Wilbur ('58)

GENNY

Wilbur? Wilbur, how are there...
two of you?

Wilbur looks to the shed.

ON THE SHED: *Don holds the gun to Wilbur's past self.*

FROM THE TREES:

GENNY

There are THREE of you?!?

WILBUR

Genny, you have to hide!

Wilbur grabs Genny and hides her in the trees.

GENNY

WHAT IS GOING ON?!?

WILBUR

I promise I'll explain everything.
For now we have to -

GENNY

Wait a minute! Is this about your
time machine? I told you that it
was going to -

WILBUR

You were right, Genny. You were
always right. And we're going to
destroy that thing.

WILBUR ('58)

Are you sure we have to -

WILBUR

(to Wilbur '58)

YES! Listen, our past selves are about to be chased into our time machine by a bunch of guards. When that happens, we have to sneak into the shed and you have to destroy the time machine. Forever.

WILBUR (JULY 4TH 1958)

Why do I have to do it?

WILBUR

This is your original time line. You're the only one who can set it back... And be certain that you never make the time machine again.

Wilbur turns to the house in time to see:

ON THE SHED

Wilbur (July 4th 1958) emerges from the shed. *Wilbur fights off the guards and grabs Wilbur (Earlier '58) and the two head for the Gadabout.*

DON

Grab them!

SECURITY GUARD 1

Which one?

DON

Both of them!

BEHIND THE TREES

The hiding Wilburs watch as their past selves run away from the security guards and hop into their Gadabouts. *In that time line, the TIME CHASE IS ON.*

BOOM! The third BLUE FIREWORK explodes. Which means it's time for our Wilburs to sneak to the shed. But as they start their journey -

KABOOM!! Their Gadabout bursts with energy. The dimensional collapse is back on.

WILBUR

We have to hurry!

Suddenly, Genny feels a pull on her dress and her feet are lifted off the ground. Wilbur holds her tight.

WILBUR
STAY AWAY FROM THAT!

Wilbur drags Genny toward the shed. Wilbur ('58) follows. In the distance, the bright white lights shine over the river.

EXT. HARTSVILLE RIVER

The Dimensional Collapse lights continue to grow.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE

The whole town gathers as they look up to the fireworks exploding in the night sky. Suddenly, Suzy sees the white lights.

SUZY
What are those?

FRANK
(who appears beside her)
They must be new this year. Pretty
aren't they?

And then - RUMBLE! Bleachers begin to shake. People scurry from them just as WHOOSH! The bleachers fly toward to the lights. Then all of Downtown Hartsville begins to shake and then soar toward the dimensional collapses. Complete chaos as the citizens duck for cover.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - MOMENTS LATER

The trio enters. Wilbur freezes for just a moment. He'd forgotten how depressing this place was. But then a section of the roof FLIES OFF THE SHED and soars toward the dimensional collapse.

Wilbur picks up the CROW BAR and hands it to Wilbur ('58)

WILBUR
You have to destroy it.

WILBUR ('58)
The time machine is a success. THEY
BUILD STATUES OF ME! There has to
be another way!

WILBUR
There isn't!

DON
Yes, there is.

Don, in his TUX, stands in the doorway, his GUN pointed at Wilbur. Wilbur ('58) recognizes Don from the statue. From the vacuums.

Suddenly, Don pushes a very confused Don from July 4th, 1958, still holding his vacuum, into the shed.

DON ('58) WILBUR ('58)
What is going on? What is going on?

DON
You see, Wilbur, there *is* another way.
(pointing to his past self)
You two can escape in the original time machine.

Don gestures to the Go-Backer. Behind the Dons, BOARDS FROM THE SHED CRACK IN HALF and fly to the dimensional collapse.

DON (CONT'D)
Wilbur, you can still have the life
you wanted. You don't have to
listen to him. You don't have to be
a failure.

Wilbur ('58) looks between Don and Wilbur... *unsure what to do.*

BOOM! The whole shed tears off its foundation and RIPS TOWARD THE GADABOUT BLACK HOLE.

Wilbur's worktable collapses, the machinery and batteries EXPLODE... igniting a roaring fire around the scene. Wilbur uses the distraction to tackle Don, knocking the gun out of his hand.

WILBUR
(to Wilbur '58)
DESTROY IT!

WILBUR ('58)
I... I can't.

GENNY
You have to Wilbur.

WILBUR ('58)
I can't! My dad can't be right. I'm
not going to be a failure.
(MORE)

WILBUR ('58) (CONT'D)
(softly to Genny)
And you heard him, we can start a
new time line.

Wilbur ('58) looks between Don ('58) and Genny.

WILBUR
The three of us.

GENNY
I'm not going with you, Wilbur.

WILBUR ('58)
YOU HAVE TO!

EXT. DOWNTOWN HARTSVILLE - 1958

Suzy and Frank cower together as all Hartsville is ripped apart. Suddenly, Suzy is pulled toward the dimensional collapse. Frank holds on to her with all he's got.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - 1958

Don and Wilbur continue to fight over the gun. They each grab the handle.

BANG! The gun accidentally fires. EVERYTHING STOPS.

GENNY
Wilbur?

Genny looks down as... her paisley dress fills with BLOOD.

WILBUR
Genny!

Genny grabs her stomach and collapses to the ground. Wilbur and Wilbur ('58) run to her.

DON
YOU HAVE TO GO NOW, WILBUR!

Wilbur ('58) cradles Genny as she coughs up blood. Like a strong wind, the dimensional collapse swirls up everything in the shed.

DON ('58)
Come on! Leave her! She's not going to make it.

Genny eyes' flutter.

WILBUR ('58)
Genny! Genny!

GENNY
(whispered)
Wilbur, you were never a failure.
You're my everything. And I'm sorry
if maybe I didn't love you hard
enough for you to know that.

WILBUR ('58)
You loved me plenty, Genny. I was
just too stupid to notice.

Genny weakly smiles up at Wilbur.

WILBUR ('58)
I need you.

Genny's eyes begin to flutter away from consciousness.

WILBUR ('58)
No!

Wilbur grabs Wilbur ('58)

WILBUR
You have to destroy it. Before it
destroys everything.

In a fit of rage, Wilbur ('58) springs to his feet. He grabs a chunk of FIERY WOOD from the work table and holds it over the Gadabout's engine. *He's going to destroy it.*

DON
Wilbur, if you destroy the time
machine. Then, you die a sad old
man. In this sad little town. With
a sad little life. A FAILURE.

Wilbur ('58) holds the fiery wood over the Gadabout.
Uncertainty in his eyes.

Suddenly, gravity starts to loosen. Genny's pulled into the air, but Wilbur grabs her. Wilbur holds Genny as close as he can. But they're losing the fight against the collapse. They're being violently sucked away from the scene.

Wilbur ('58) turns back to Don, and then Don ('58) waiting on him. Don ('58)'s feet are lifted into the air. He grabs onto the table.

DON ('58)
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FRIEND!

DON
Your new life is waiting, Wilbur.

Everything swirls around them as Wilbur ('58) lowers the flaming wood.

WILBUR ('58)
I don't need another life. I need
to save this one.

Wilbur ('58) shoves the flame into the time machine. KABOOM! Wilbur ('58) is blown back as the original Gadabout EXPLODES! The world shakes. And then...

EVERYTHING GOES BLACK.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED - JULY 4TH, 1958

Wilbur slowly opens his eyes and finds himself lying on the shed floor. Everything has returned to normal... except for the charred, demolished Gadab... Go-Backer smoking in the middle of the room.

Wilbur stands, but as he does... The GADABOUT MANUAL falls from his coat pocket. Wilbur stares down at it... and then hides it in the table. *Where it'll stay for the next fifty years.*

WILBUR
(as he remembers)
Genny.

Wilbur frantically opens the door to his shed.

EXT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME

WILBUR
GENNY! WHERE ARE YOU?

Wilbur runs to the driveway after her, but she's not there.

WILBUR (CONT'D)
GENNY?!?!

He sprints onto -

EXT. OAK STREET - HARTSVILLE

WILBUR
GENNY!

But Genny's gone. Wilbur doesn't see her anywhere.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME

WILBUR
GENNY! GENNY!

But she still doesn't answer. Wilbur collapses to the ground. Everything he just did... for naught.

GENNY (CONT'D)
Good-bye, Wilbur.

Genny stands at the top of the stairs. Her paisley dress pristine. The blue suitcase in her hand. *In Genny's mind, they just finished their big fight.* She rushes past him -

WILBUR
Genny. Wait! I can't let you walk out that door. I just can't. And I'm sorry I ever let you believe there was anything in this world more important than you. I will never let that happen again. This is enough. And I'm going to fight like hell for it for the rest of my life. Because I need you. Just you.

Wilbur holds his breath as he waits for Genny's response. Then, a tear falls down her cheek.

KNOCK! KNOCK! The door slowly opens.

DON
Hi Friends! I'm Don Cudworth.

WHAM! Wilbur SLAMS THE DOOR IN THIS FACE!

WILBUR
NOT INTERESTED!

Wilbur turns back to Genny.

GENNY
I need you too, Wilbur.

Wilbur kisses Genny as long and deep as she'll let him.

GRANDPA WILBUR (V.O.)
And that's it. That's the story.

INT. WILBUR AND GENNY'S HOME - THE SHED - 2017

Henry and Grandpa Wilbur stand back in the SHED.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Now, Henry I could have chosen a different life, but instead I chose to appreciate the one I had, and appreciate every moment of it.

(beat)

Sometimes that all that really matters.

Henry stops. He thinks about that.

HENRY

... Grandpa?

GRANDPA WILBUR

Yes, Henry.

HENRY

You made that whole thing up, didn't you?

Henry looks at the book shelf in the corner. His eyes dance over Grandpa Wilbur's sci-fi books.

HENRY

This is just another one of your stories. Isn't it?

Henry stares up at his grandfather. For just a moment, a bit of magic dances in Grandpa Wilbur's eyes.

GRANDPA WILBUR

Maybe... maybe not.

(beat)

But all that matters is what you believe. And what you feel. And Henry, I know you wish things were different.

Henry looks away, but Grandpa Wilbur grabs his hand.

GRANDPA WILBUR

And I know you got a broken heart. 'cause I got one, too. But a broken heart just means we loved her. And I can't tell you how thankful I am that I got somebody else who loved your Grandma like I did.

Henry looks back at Grandpa Wilbur.

GRANDPA WILBUR
And is hurting just like I am, too.

HENRY
Me too.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Good. 'Cause we got a whole lot
more lousy days ahead of us. And
I'm glad I got ya, 'cause I'm going
need you, Henry. I'm going to need
you something bad. We all are.

Now, it's Grandpa Wilbur's turn to cry. Henry throws his arms
around his grandfather. They hold for as long as Wilbur
needs.

HENRY
Now, you have to tell me. Did you
start those skates? And leave the
shed door open?

Grandpa Wilbur laughs in that same kooky way.

GRANDPA WILBUR
Who's to say? Now, come on. Your
family's gonna be here soon.

EXT. GRANDPA WILBUR'S BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Henry sits alone with his phone, scrolling through those same
photos of himself and Grandma Genny. At the edge of the yard:
His Mom, Dad and sisters eat at a PICNIC TABLE. He looks from
his family. To his phone. And makes a decision.

HENRY
Goodbye, Grandma.

Henry places his hand on the photo and then puts the phone in
his pocket.

He walks to the table and sits between his two sisters.
Without saying a word, they lean on his shoulder. His Mom
pours him a LEMONADE. His Dad ruffles his hair.

Henry softly smiles. Back in the family.

INT. WILBUR'S SHED

Grandpa Wilbur watches the scene and grins. He packs away the
rest of his inventions. He grabs the umbrella and holds it
for a moment.

Then, he puts the Gadabout manual away in between the rest of his books. His eyes travel over all the titles, the Gadabout manual now just one story amongst many.

Maybe it was all make believe.

But then Grandpa Wilbur turns to a LARGE SOMETHING UNDER THE WHITE SHEET. He looks at it for a moment and then rips off the covering.

It's 50 years old and burnt to a crisp. But there stands Wilbur's original time machine. Wilbur smiles up at it. He thinks for a moment... and then climbs inside.

INT. WILBUR'S TIME MACHINE

Wilbur sits in one of the dingy folding chairs. He grabs an old picture resting on the battery.

Wilbur and Genny sit on a blanket. Apple pie in front of them. Fireworks in the sky. They made it to that July 4th parade.

And then Wilbur looks over to the time dial. A look of wonderment. A curious smile. He reaches out for it. His hand hovering over the dial:

SLAM TO BLACK.

THE GADABOUT.