

Snow Crash

By

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Based on the novel 'Snow Crash' by Neal Stephenson

1 EXT. LOS ANGELES HIGHWAY - EVENING 1

It is the year 2040. A futuristic, high-tech sports car speeds across a crowded Los Angeles highway, recklessly weaving between cars and lanes. It has alternating purple and blue paint, with neon-pink lights, and a number plate that says 'DELIVER8R'.

2 INT. DELIVERATOR CAR 2

The driver is HIRO, a 30 year-old man. He is half African-American and half Korean, with a slim build, strong jaw, dark eyes and deadlocked jet-black hair. He is also wearing a black armored suit.

Next to him is a pizza inside a hatch. It has an electronic timer. There are ten minutes remaining. Hiro's phone begins to ring. It's his boss, UNCLE ENZO, a rotund 50 year-old Italian-American mafia overlord. He is wearing a white zoot suit, and has hair everywhere except for his face and head.

HIRO
What's up?

UNCLE ENZO (V.O)
Cut the shit, Hiro. You know what's up. You better deliver that pizza on time.

HIRO
I'm driving as fast as I can. I could have died about ten times in the past minute.

UNCLE ENZO (V.O)
I don't give a shit. Go faster.

HIRO
Alright, Enzo.

UNCLE ENZO (V.O)
I don't want the customer to get a free pizza. And I sure as hell don't want to pop your neck with my hands. It's all on you, kid. Capisce?

HIRO
Got it.

Hiro hangs up the phone and slams the accelerator. The car moves at lightning-speed. Lights and sounds whisk past in all directions. The timer keeps ticking down.

(CONTINUED)

There is a sudden loud thud from behind. Something has struck the left flank. A large electromagnet attached to a cable. It is being held by Y.T, a 15 year-old skateboard courier who has decided to hitch a ride.

Her skinny body is covered with a neon-coloured uniform. She is also wearing a matching half-mask. She looks like a cyborg with a pretty face, and there are streaks of auburn hair sticking out the side of her mask.

Hiro opens the window and turns his head.

HIRO
Get off my tail!

Y.T
I'm just hitching a ride, dude!
Keep your eyes on the road.
Otherwise you'll get us both
killed.

HIRO
I'm not here to escort you,
bitch!

Y.T holds up her middle finger. Hiro turns around and focuses on the road. He races down the highway and eventually reaches an exit. He makes the turn and heads towards an automated gate, but is still driving incredibly fast.

3 EXT. BORDER POLICE GATE - EVENING

3

Next to the automated gate, two GATEKEEPERS are sitting inside a booth. One is reading a newspaper. The other is eating donuts and drinking a coffee. They notice the car approaching the gate, and recognise it immediately.

GATEKEEPER #1:
Ain't that a Cosa Nostra Pizza
Deliverator?

GATEKEEPER #2:
Looks like it. Better open the
gate. Don't wanna piss off Uncle
Enzo.

GATEKEEPER #1 puts down the newspaper, and presses a button. The gate opens. Hiro speeds across the border, along with Y.T. She smiles and waves at the border police while passing through. They wave back.

GATEKEEPER #1:
Damn kids. Always making trouble.

GATEKEEPER #2:

They got no respect.

4 INT. DELIVERATOR CAR

4

Hiro looks at the countdown timer. There are 5 minutes and 37 seconds remaining. He picks up the pace.

Y.T

Nice driving, dude. But can you go faster?

HIRO

Piss off! I need to make a delivery - or else I'm toast. And you're slowing me down.

Y.T

Oh, come on. Don't blame me. You're making excuses.

Hiro tries to shake Y.T off. He swerves left and right, but she maintains her balance. Hiro looks in the rear-view mirror and sees her poking her tongue out. He steps it up a notch and swerves in and out of on-coming traffic. Y.T dances around cars and obstacles like an elusive ballerina. She pulls herself right beside the passenger window, and slaps a sticker on his windshield, which has 'LOSER' written in block letters.

5 EXT. THE MAW (SUBURBIA) - EVENING

5

Hiro twists and turns the car across a sprawling suburban landscape. He sees a broken tricycle on the road and heads right for it. The impact catches Y.T. off guard. She almost loses her balance, but manages to hold on. She wraps around to Hiro's side, licks her finger, and sticks it in his ear.

HIRO

What the fuck, man?

Hiro turns towards Y.T and finally gets a closer look. He is shocked to realize she is a punky teenage girl. He inspects her uniform. It has a badge that says 'KOURIER'.

Y.T

That's what you get for messing around. Got anymore tricks up your sleeve?

In a last-ditch effort to throw her off, Hiro turns down a narrow lane-way. The car roars at maximum speed. Y.T struggles to hold on. Her skateboard swerves around, but somehow, she maintains her grip.

(CONTINUED)

Hiro is starting to lose control, too. The wheels are losing traction. The lane-way's end approaches sooner than expected. Hiro has nowhere to turn and no time to slow down. The car slams into a sloped driveway. It catapults over the fence and into an empty swimming pool. Y.T manages to let go at the right time, and harpoons herself to safety.

The car is a wreck, but Hiro is still alive thanks to the airbags. He comes to his senses and sees Y.T walking towards him. Sirens wail in the distance.

Y.T
Sorry about the car, dude. But you shouldn't have tried to throw me off.

Hiro looks around, dazed and confused. Somehow, the pizza is still intact. There are 3 minutes and 30 seconds left on the timer.

HIRO
I needed to deliver this pizza. But now I'm good as dead.

Y.T
It's just a pizza.

HIRO
No. It's a Cosa Nostra Pizza. Enzo is gonna kill me.

Y.T
Oh, I see. Well, where's it going?

Hiro groans in pain.

Y.T (CONT'D)
The pizza, dude. Where's it going?

HIRO
White columns. 5 Oglethorpe Circle.

Y.T
I can do that. Open the hatch.

Hiro presses a button and the hatch opens. Y.T grabs the pizza from it's slot.

HIRO
H-Here. Take this, as well.

Hiro hands her a business card. It says:
(HIRO Protagonist. LAST OF
THE FREELANCE HACKERS.

GREATEST SWORDFIGHTER IN THE
WORLD. STINGER, CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE CORPORATION.
SPECIALISING IN SOFTWARE
RELATED INTEL.)

Y.T
Stupid name.

HIRO
But you'll never forget it.

Y.T smiles.

Y.T
If you're a hacker, why are you
delivering pizzas?

HIRO
Because I'm a freelance hacker.
Look, whatever your name is - I
owe you one.

Y.T
The name's Y.T. Now quit talking,
and let me finish this delivery
for you.

HIRO
Th-thanks.

Y.T skates off into the distance. Hiro sighs in relief. He examines himself for injuries.

A light has come on inside the house that owns the pool. Two children look down at him through their bedroom windows. The father emerges from the back door. Hiro retrieves his swords from the trunk and makes a run for it. He vanishes into a nearby garden.

6 INT. HIRO'S APARTMENT

6

Hiro and his room-mate, VITALY CHERNOBYL, are chilling in their home in Inglewood, California. It is a spacious storage unit with a concrete floor, steel walls. The only point of entry is a garage door.

Vitaly is sprawled across on a futon, jamming on his guitar. Hiro is sitting cross-legged beside a makeshift coffee table. He places a high-tech virtual-reality headset onto his head, and plugs it into his laptop.

VITALY
So after all of that, she was
willing to finish the delivery
for you?

(CONTINUED)

HIRO

Yep.

VITALY

You owe her big-time.

HIRO

I do. But if she didn't harpoon my car in the first place, I would have made the delivery.

VITALY

Well, I don't know about that. Seems like you were already short on time.

HIRO

Eat a dick.

VITALY

How do you know she made it?

HIRO

Well, I'm still alive, aren't I? Enzo would have killed me otherwise.

VITALY

True.

Hiro's phone beeps. It's a text-message from Uncle Enzo.

VITALY

Speak of the devil.

Hiro reads the message and scratches his head.

HIRO

Well, the good news is she made the delivery. So he's not gonna kill me.

VITALY

And the bad news?

HIRO

I'm fired. And I owe the mafia for the damages to the car.

VITALY

So he would have killed you if the pizza was late. But he's willing to compromise over a damaged car?

HIRO

Yep. It's because he needs to personally apologise for late pizzas. And he hates doing that.

VITALY

I see.

HIRO

Anyway, fuck this. I need a break from life. I'm gonna jump into the meta-verse.

VITALY

Alright, dude. Just don't spend too long in there. When was the last time you got laid?

HIRO

It's been a while. But I still get laid more often than you.

VITALY

Fuck off.

Vitaly playfully punches Hiro on the arm.

HIRO

You should jump in as well.

VITALY

I will. I just need to take a shit.

HIRO

Sure thing. I'll catch you on the flip side.