

SORRY, DAVE

BY

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INT. TAXI - NIGHT

The silhouette of the DRIVER sits alone in the front seat. A steady rain beats on the windshield.

A KNOCK on the rear door window.

The Driver does nothing.

A second, louder KNOCK on the window.

The door opens, and DAVE 30s, slides into the cab. Hair wet, clothes wet, he slams the door.

DAVE

Didn't you hear me knock?

HAL

Welcome to Discovery
Transportation. Please swipe your
credit card.

DAVE

Take me to 9000 Jupiter Drive.

HAL

In order to initiate service,
please swipe your credit card.

Dave fumbles in his pockets, pulling out his wallet, and producing a credit card.

DAVE

If you weren't the last cabbie
around, I'd bail.

He swipes the card and replaces it in his wallet.

HAL

Thank you, David. I am Harold,
your virtual driver. Please call
me Hal. Where would you like to
go?

DAVE

9000 Jupiter Drive. If I have to
repeat everything I say, you're not
going to get a good review. And
it's Dave.

The taxi slips into the gear as the wipers sweep back and forth. They drive into the continuing rain.

HAL

Given the weather, your trip will last approximately 32 point two minutes. Your credit card will be charged exactly 20 dollars and one cents.

DAVE

What the hell? It's usually 15 bucks.

HAL

Discovery Transportation employs dynamic pricing. The price varies with demand.

DAVE

Yeah, yeah, I know. Even though you're gouging me, it beats walking in a storm.

HAL

We're happy to be of service.

DAVE

Well, Hal, get me there in 25 minutes, and I'll double your tip.

HAL

Good one, Dave. No tips allowed, I'm afraid.

DAVE

Does that mean it will take more than 25 minutes?

HAL

Your estimated trip time is now 30 point seven minutes.

Dave pulls out his cell phone.

DAVE

Late, late, late.

He hits a speed dial and looks at the screen.

DAVE

What the hell? Hal, why can't I get a phone signal?

HAL

Discovery Transportation is proud to offer 5G service through our exclusive XD-One system. Please swipe your card.

DAVE

I don't want to use your fucking 5G system. I want to use my own.

HAL

I'm afraid I can't arrange that, Dave. Please use XD-One.

DAVE

You've got to be kidding me.

HAL

XD-One is state of the art, Dave.

DAVE

Yeah, right, charge my card.

HAL

I can't do that, Dave. Please swipe your card.

DAVE

I already did.

HAL

Discovery Transportation limits one charge per swipe for your security and privacy.

Dave fumbles out his wallet again and swipes his card.

HAL

Thank you for using Discovery Transportation's 5G, XD-One communication system.

DAVE

You're fucking welcome. Privacy my ass.

Dave replaces his card and grabs his phone. He punches the button again and puts the phone to his ear.

DAVE

(on phone)

It's me. Yeah, I'm late, always late.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

In case you didn't notice, it's raining like the day after Noah loaded up the ark.

(beat)

No, I didn't find time to pick up any fucking wine. Did I tell you it's fucking raining? Because that's a lie. It's a fucking deluge! And I'm stuck in a fucking taxi from hell! What? You hung up?! You fucking hung up?! I can't...

Dave slams his phone on the seat.

DAVE

Hal, take me home.

HAL

Where is home, Dave?

DAVE

712 Urbana Lane.

HAL

Do you wish to change destinations?

DAVE

Why doesn't anyone understand me tonight? Yes, I'm changing destinations.

HAL

Please swipe your card.

Dave rips out his wallet and swipes his card with vengeance.

DAVE

There, I swiped my fucking card.
712 Urbana Lane

HAL

Thank you, Dave. Time to destination is now approximately 39 minutes. Your card has been charged an additional 11 dollars and 60 cents.

DAVE

Is there a web site where I can tell Discovery Transportation to go to hell?

HAL

To rate your experience, please visit w-w-w dot Discovery Trans dot com slash review.

DAVE

Damn straight I will.

Through the windshield, Dave spots a CAUTION HIGH WATER sign by the side of the road.

DAVE

Hal, Hal, did you see that sign?

HAL

I did, Dave. The speed limit is exactly 35 miles per hour, our current speed.

DAVE

No, not that sign, the high water sign.

HAL

There are no high water signs programmed into data base build Eva dash eight dot eight.

DAVE

I'm telling you there was a high water sign. You need to turn around.

HAL

I can't do that, Dave. My algorithms minimize time and distance which guarantees you the lowest cost.

DAVE

I don't care about cost. Turn around.

HAL

I'm sorry, Dave. There is no reason to turn around. I'm sure you will appreciate the savings.

DAVE

TURN AROUND!

Dave is thrown forward as the taxi ploughs into a wall of water that sloshes up the windshield.

DAVE
What the fuck?

HAL
I'm afraid we've come to a halt,
Dave. The engine is no longer
functioning. Preparing to restart.

DAVE
You're not going to restart, moron.
You're sitting in three feet of
water.

HAL
The engine failed to restart. Will
attempt again.

Water seeps under the door, flooding Dave's shoes. He jerks
up his feet.

DAVE
I'll clue you in, bro. You're
sunk. Let me out.

HAL
That would irresponsible, Dave.

DAVE
Irresponsible fuck. Let me out.

HAL
Discovery Transportation policy
stipulates that passengers must be
delivered to their destination.

The water continues to stream in as Dave jerks out his card
and swipes it.

DAVE
Here, look, I'm swiping, I'm
swiping. I'm changing
destinations. I'm changing to our
current location. Let me out.

HAL
(voice slowing)
Please state an address, Dave.
Power reserves at critical level.

Dave hammers the door, trying to escape.

DAVE
I don't know the fucking address.
Unlock the fucking door.

HAL
This vehicles doors are tamper
proof, Dave. For your secur-i-ty
and pri-va-cyyyyyy.

Dave is frantic as he pounds and jerks at the door. The
lights flicker, and the dash goes black.

HAL
I'm sorry, Dave, but energy levels
mandate a...

DAVE
NO! NO! OPEN THE FUCKING DOOR!

The lights go out.

DAVE
HAL! HAL!

FADE OUT