

EXT. SERVICE STATION - DAY (1940)

It is a weekend morning and the sun is rising on a beautiful 1930s art deco service station. The price of gas is 10 cents a gallon. A 1940s Plymouth pulls up at the pump as father, WILLIAM and son JIMMIE exit the vehicle and are greeted by three service men in bow ties, slacks and nice shoes. One checks the tire pressure and engine fluids, one cleans the windows, and the third, CLIFF approaches to fill the gas.

WILLIAM

Fill 'er up!

CLIFF

Yes sir!

JIMMIE

Dad, where are we going today?

WILLIAM

Some place very special, son. A place you'll remember for the rest of your life.

EXT. 1939-40 NEW YORK WORLDS FAIR - DAY

WILLIAM

We're going to the World's Fair!

William and Jimmie stroll past rows of flags and many pavilions at the 1939 Worlds Fair. The Trylon, the Helicline, and the Perisphere. They pass gleaming pavilions for Westinghouse, GM, Bell Labs, Ford, and more.

JIMMIE

Look at all these companies dad!

WILLIAM

These are real American companies son - the hard work of the employees at these companies make America the greatest nation in the world!

JIMMIE

Ooh look dad! A ride called Futurama!

WILLIAM

Let's get on and see what it's all about!

INT. GM FUTURAMA RIDE 1940

WILLIAM

Look son: these are called  
expressways - some day these huge  
roads will connect the nation and  
solve all our traffic problems!

JIMMIE

Golly! We could go anywhere!

WILLIAM

And there'll be nothing to slow us  
down! And these communities are  
called suburbs! With expressways to  
get people from city to city, these  
subdivisions are away from all that  
hustle and bustle - a safe place to  
raise a family! You and I could  
play ball in the street!

JIMMIE

Gee-whiz that'd be swell!

WILLIAM

It sure will! Son, this will change  
the world!

EXT. "LEVITTOWN" 1964 - DAY

The vision of the future has become a reality. Identical  
houses sit side by side in rows and stretch for miles  
alongside a new expressway. The suburbs looks pristine and  
clean. It looks a lot like the community from Edward  
Scissorhands. A car backs out of the driveway. Jimmie, now  
an adult, sits at the wheel and his two children TOMMY and  
SALLY in the back seat. Jimmie's wife Elizabeth is waving  
goodbye.

ELIZABETH

Drive safely Jimmie!

JIMMIE

I will dear!

Kids, we're off to the Worlds Fair!  
Let's fill up at the service  
station before we hit the  
expressway!

EXT. SERVICE STATION 1964 - DAY

The car pulls up at a service center. One man comes up to  
the car to pump the gas. The price has increased to 30cents  
per gallon.

SERVICE MAN

Hey Jimmie! Good to see ya! Shall I  
fill 'er up for ya?

JIMMIE

Of course Ed! Oh geez would ya look  
at that? 30 cents a gallon! Wow,  
gas prices sure are getting  
expensive!

EXT. EXPRESSWAY 1964 - DAY

Jimmie and family drive their car on the expressway towards the Worlds Fair grounds. Traffic looks clear and much like the utopian vision of the world presented in the GE Futurama exhibit from 1940.

EXT. 1964 WORLDS FAIR MONTAGE - DAY

Jimmie leads Sally and Tommy exit the Carousel of Progress and walk around the exhibits at the Worlds Fair. They pass flying cars, the tower of the winds, and ride on the Ford Magic Skyway.

JIMMIE

Sally, Tommy, when I was a kid your grandpa William took me to the 1939 Worlds Fair.

SALLY

Really dad?

JIMMIE

Yes! I was about your age and the exhibits and ideas we saw then inspired the world that we live in today!

TOMMY

So someday our cars will be able to just drive us around like this one?

JIMMIE

Anything is possible, son! Kids, I can tell you: this will change the world!

EXT. 1964 WORLDS FAIR PARKING LOT - DAY

Jimmie and family are pulling out of the Worlds Fair parking lot. A few cars are backed up exiting the lot and horns are blasting - it is unclear how many cars are actually backed up.

JIMMIE

Wow this traffic is outrageous I've never seen anything like it!

The camera pulls out to reveal that only five cars are backed up.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY 1964 - DAY

Jimmie and family travel home on the highway passing suburbs

on either side of the road.

FADE TO:

EXT. EXPRESSWAY PRESENT DAY - DAY

The expressway is now packed with traffic moving slowly inch by inch. Timmy was recently fired from work - he's stuck in the traffic driving home from another job interview. He's on a bluetooth call with his wife MOLLY.

TIMMY

I just don't see any way around it dear. I can't seem to find steady work no matter how hard I try. We've got to ask my dad if we can move back in tonight.

MOLLY

Jim isn't going to like hearing that. Well, keep looking Timmy dear, I know you'll find something.

TIMMY

I love you Molly.

MOLLY

I love you too.

Timmy pulls off the highway to get gas. The price has risen to \$3.94 per gallon. He sighs as he pulls out his credit card to pay. The card is rejected, so he shuffles through his credit cards to try another one, and then another. The third card works, and he pumps the gas by himself and sighs again.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME IN "LEVITTOWN" - NIGHT

Timmy and Molly arrive at Jimmy's home in the suburbs. The house is the same we've seen before, but it is falling into disrepair. The suburb has slowly transformed into a slum. Timmy has just told his father that he has to move back into the house.

JIMMY

I just can't believe it.

TIMMY

I'm sorry Dad, I just...I can't find work anywhere. I don't see any way... I'm so sorry.

JIMMY

I know son, I know - I'm not angry at you. It's just...everything is so fucked. This isn't the way things are supposed to work in America. This is supposed to be the

greatest country in the world.

TIMMY

Dad, do you remember when you took me to the Worlds Fair as a kid?

JIMMY

Yes, those were the good 'ol days. Lots of new exciting ideas from good American companies.

TIMMY

You always told me those ideas would change the world. We could sure use a little change like that right now.

JIMMY

We sure could son.

We sure could.