

Eddie, The 25 Year Reunion

Chapter Twelve One Last Ditch Effort

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Todd McCutchen has always been jealous of Eddie. Not only Eddie, but Mark and Braden as well. For some reason, Mitchell, Johnson, and Bobby B. were left out of McCutchen's life-long tirades and attacks. It is, perhaps, that they were never any direct competition with McCutchen on the track. Mark would argue that McCutchen is no competition for anyone, except for, perhaps, Chuckie and O'Brien for the idiot of the year award.

It's no secret to anyone that McCutchen wants Eddie's stock picks. McCutchen and Evans figure that, if they can somehow obtain Eddie's stock market advice that he gives to his friends, they can be financially well off. McCutchen's newest plan, however, is not to just steal Eddie's stock market advice just once, but rather to figure out a way to steal it every month.

At three o'clock in the morning, early Friday on the first week of the month, Todd McCutchen is found with Brad Evans, parked across the street from Eddie's Service Station at, of all places, Vinnie's Body Shop. It's a good thing for McCutchen that Vinnie is not anywhere around, for Vinnie is likely to weld McCutchen's car door shut, tow his car to a pier, and dump it in the ocean with McCutchen and Evans inside.

Walking across the street, each with a step ladder, McCutchen asks Evans, "are you sure you got this?" Evans replies, "I've been over and over this several times. It will work. Trust me." Not quite as confident as Evans, McCutchen asks, "are you sure we can disable the sensor wire?" Evans replies, "I looked into these things. I told you. All we have to do is approach the building really slowly, one step at a time. Once the sensor recalibrates itself, we take another step. Then, when we get to the building, we short out the sensor wire. Once we short it out, we can move around freely. Then, we climb up to the roof, and disconnect the

antenna cables. I pick the lock, and we walk right in. When we're all done, we lock the place up, reconnect the antenna cables, unshort the sensor wire and we're out of here. No one would ever know we were here." Hearing Evans' explanation, McCutchen gains some confidence that the operation will be a success.

Approaching the building at opposite ends, Evans instructs McCutchen, "okay. One step at a time. Slowly." McCutchen and Evans each take a step toward the building, wait twenty or thirty seconds, and take another step, carrying their step ladder and each dragging one end of the wire they plan to use to short out the proximity sensor wire. Halfway there, McCutchen, pointing out the obvious, tells Evans, "I don't hear any alarms going off." Evans reiterates, stating, "I did my homework. I know how these systems work." Except for one little problem, however. Eddie's proximity sensor alarm is not a commercially purchased system. It was built by Eddie and Braden, and trips immediately upon any movement in the area. Once tripped, a video recorder engages and, after two minutes of motion, an alarm goes off at Eddie's home.

Across town, Eddie is promptly notified that there is a potential problem at the service station. Walking outside into his home office, which is his detached garage, Eddie watches the video feed from the service station, immediately seeing the problem. Receiving a call from Braden, Eddie answers the phone, immediately telling Braden, "I'm rolling." Braden replies, "me too. Call Bobby B. and Mark on your way. I'll call Johnson and Mitchell and pick them up on my way." Eddie replies, "got it."

Considering what is at stake, the alarm system and video feed at Eddie's Service Station is also fed by way of radio signals to Braden's home. Also, in addition to Eddie's monthly stock picks, the hidden vault at the service station contains a massive amount of gold, bills, and other valuables owned by various members of the tribe. No one outside of the tribe knows of the presence of the vault, but one can never be too careful.

In contact with Eddie, Mark, and Bobby B. by radio, Braden rehearses the strategy that was planned far in advance should a security breach occur at the service station. Closing in to the target, Braden informs Eddie, "we're at the corner of Maple and Union. I'm gonna drive by and see what we're up against." Eddie replies, "I'm almost there, bro." Braden replies, "10-4. After I drive by, I'm gonna approach from the West. You, Mark, and Bobby B., approach from the East." Eddie, Bobby B, and Mark, each in their own vehicles, reply, "10-4."

Back at Eddie's Service Station, McCutchen and Evans have both finally made it to the building, albeit very slowly. Holding the wire intended to short out the sensor wire, McCutchen and Evans climb their ladders one slow step at a time. At the top of their respective ladders, Evans yells out to McCutchen, "on three. One. Two. Three." Simultaneously attaching their alligator clips to the proximity sensor wire, Evans is confident step one is complete. With the sensor wire shorted out, Evans believes they now can freely move around the service station. But, a proximity sensor wire fed with a radio signal has an impedance associated with it. Shorting it out will not disable it, and does absolutely no good.

Looking at the deadbolt on the front entrance, Evans informs McCutchen, "this is an Abloy cylinder. It might take me a little longer than I expected. I'm going to start working on it now. Getting a bit worried, McCutchen replies, "I thought you said it would be easy." Reassuring McCutchen, Evans explains, "it's just going to take a little longer than I expected. I can get it." The deadbolt cylinder that Evans is trying to pick is a virtually pick-proof Abloy Protec, technology with which Evans is unfamiliar. Picking an Abloy lock, if even possible, is far above Evans' pay grade. Picking an Abloy Protec is also far above the pay grade of Leggett, the locksmith.

While Evans begins working on the lock, McCutchen asks, "should I go up to the roof and disconnect the antenna cables?" Evans replies, "yeah. But, if you see anything out of the ordinary, don't touch anything. There could be an alarm on the antenna wiring, too." Now confident, McCutchen replies, "sure thing."

Driving by the service station, Braden radios to Eddie, "I got a visual. There's two of them. Eddie replies, "got it. We're moving in." Braden replies, "10-4. Wait for my signal." Eddie, along with Bobby B. and Mark, approach the service station from the East on foot. Headlights off, Braden parks in the parking lot of Lynn's Photography Studio, out of view of Eddie's Service Station. Braden, Johnson, and Mitchell then approach Eddie's Service Station from the West.

Out of view of McCutchen and Evans, Eddie, Bobby B., and Mark get the visual signal from Braden to move in. Rushing the service station from three sides, the six former track athletes take control of the scene, quickly apprehending Evans.

Caught in the act, McCutchen, halfway up the ladder to the roof, freezes. Bobby B. takes hold of the ladder, shaking it violently. Struck with fear, McCutchen yells out, "stop! I'm coming down! Stop!" Coming down the ladder, McCutchen plans to make a run for it, hoping that he

can make it to his car before he is apprehended. Bobby B., however, pushes the ladder over when McCutchen is on the fourth rung up, slamming McCutchen and the ladder to the ground.

Braden exclaims, “look at what we got!” Taking note of the perpetrators, Eddie asks Mark, “did you bring the psycho Chubin?” Mark grins, replying, “yeah. I got the new, better stuff. We could try it out.” Hearing the word *psycho Chubin*, McCutchen yells at Evans, “I thought you said you had this!” Knowing he must have missed something, Evans yells back, “they must have known ahead of time!” Braden laughs, jokingly telling McCutchen, “yeah, junior. I tapped your phones!” Knowing that wiretapping is illegal, McCutchen yells to Braden, “I’m going to have you arrested!” Laughing even harder, Braden replies, “who’s having whose ass arrested? It looks to me like you’re the one trying to break in here! I’d hate to be in your shoes right now!”

Eddie tells Bobby B, “get the psycho Chubin from Mark,” then announces to Braden and Bobby B, “take them behind the station.” Holding him in a firm arm lock, Braden escorts McCutchen and Bobby B. escorts Evans to the portal behind Eddie’s Service Station. Mark, Mitchell, and Johnson, meanwhile, clean up the scene. Mark’s three free newly-acquired ladders are loaded onto his truck that will end up at the storage yard on Second Street.

Braden asks Eddie, “what are we doing with their flimsy asses?” Eddie replies, “I got my gyrophone,” and asks Bobby B., “did you get the psycho Chubin from Mark?” Bobby B. replies, “yeah. Got it right here. Mark brought the new, improved stuff.” Eddie commands Bobby B., “inject them.” McCutchen yells out, “not this shit again! No!” Bobby B. takes his pocket knife, and pricks the back of McCutchen’s arm as McCutchen puts up an enormous fight. Moving on, Bobby B. pricks the back of Evans’ arm as Evans kicks and screams.

Eddie tells McCutchen and Evans, “say goodbye to the land, junior.” Forcefully directing McCutchen and Evans to the portal, Braden and Bobby B. laugh as Eddie commands the portal, “a cruise ship in the Carribean, top deck.” Arriving on a cruise ship in the middle of the Carribean, Eddie tells Bobby B., “it looks like you got the fast-acting psycho Chubin.” Bobby B. replies, “yeah. And, it’s a lot longer lasting too.” Eddie replies, “good. Who did Mark get it from?” Bobby B. replies, “Chief Hayes. They use it for criminal interrogation.” Catching on to the script, Braden comments, “and, I heard it works real good, too.” Eddie laughs, and can only imagine what he will hear from Chief Hayes in the future.

Following Eddie's lead, Bobby B. and Braden escort McCutchen and Evans to one of the lower decks of the ship. McCutchen asks, "where are we?" Eddie replies, "we're at Vinnie's Body Shop, junior. Where does it look like we are?" McCutchen exclaims, "we are not!" Braden replies, asking McCutchen and Evans, "if your two asses know so much, why don't you tell us where we are?" Evans boldly informs McCutchen, "they drugged us and put us on a ship, you idiot! Can't you even figure that out?" Perceiving the developing rift between McCutchen and Evans, Braden tells McCutchen, "don't listen to his ass. You're at Vinnie's Body Shop." Eddie adds, "and, Vinnie is towing your car to the ocean, where he's going to dump it, with you in it."

McCutchen starts kicking and screaming, prompting Eddie to whisper to Braden and Bobby B., "let's dump them off somewhere, and head to the top deck." Ducking into a restroom, Mark and Bobby B. tie McCutchen and Evans' sneaker laces together with a knots so tight it will take them a while to get themselves untied. In the meantime, Eddie positions some furniture near the front of the restroom, which will make it difficult for McCutchen and Evans to escape.

Braden and Bobby B. emerge from the restroom, easily seeing Eddie's plan. As he is moving a sofa in front of the restroom door, Eddie instructs Braden and Bobby B., "get some more furniture." The three guys barricade McCutchen and Evans in the restroom, and promptly head back to the top deck.

Entering the portal, and returning to their time and place, Eddie mentions, "let's clean up, and get out of here." As they return to the front of the service station, Eddie sees Mark and the rest of the gang heading out with a few ladders. Mark yells out to Eddie, "I'll be back in a few minutes! I'm driving these ladders over to our storage yard! Finders, keepers; losers, weepers." Eddie yells back, "great!"

Surveying the property, Eddie comments, "well, it looks like no one was here." Braden replies, "the only problem I see is that McCutchen's car is still across the street." Eddie tells Braden, "that's right. We need to get rid of it. Let me get my tow truck." Braden asks, "where are we gonna tow it to?" Eddie replies, "how about the beach?" Braden laughs, and informs Eddie, "that sounds like a good idea to me, but I didn't hear any of that." Braden, still in law enforcement, can't get caught in the middle of any potentially illegal activity, such as stealing or illegally impounding a car.

Once everyone else heads home, Eddie and Bobby B. hook McCutchen's automobile up to Eddie's tow truck. On the way to the beach, Bobby B. asks, "what's the plan, bro?" Eddie replies, "I'm not

exactly sure yet. We'll figure it out when we get there." Bobby B. asks, "why don't we just let Vinnie tow it?" Eddie replies, "Vinnie is away on vacation for two weeks. He'll be back in a week."

Arriving at the beach, Eddie drives to the parking lot that facilitates beach access. At 4:30 in the morning, the beach is deserted, especially the unlit parking lot Eddie just entered. Eddie mentions to Bobby B., "we're in luck, bro. It looks like low tide." Bobby B. asks, "why does that matter?" Driving onto the sand, Eddie replies, "by mid morning, McCutchen's car will be underwater." Bobby B. laughs hysterically, figuring out Eddie's plan.

Eddie backs his tow truck up to the ocean, as close as he can reasonably get, where he and Bobby B. unhook the vehicle. As the waves slowly sink the wheels of McCutchen's car into the sand, Eddie announces, "let's get out of here." Eddie drives away, laughing as he looks in his rear-view mirror.

Arriving back at the service station, Eddie tells Bobby B., "take the day off, bro." Bobby B. replies, "I'm coming in a little after noon. Mitchell needs the oil changed in his Opel. Amber's bringing it by tomorrow." Eddie comments, asking, "that thing is what? Twenty-five years old now?" Bobby B. replies, "twenty seven, to be exact, but who's counting?" Eddie comments, "well, he has two good mechanics who keep it running for him." As the sun begins to rise, Eddie and Bobby B. call it a night and head home.

Ten days later, early on Monday morning, Police Chief Richard Hayes drives into Eddie's Service Station. Eddie and Bobby B. were expecting Richard's visit sooner or later. Again, Eddie knows exactly why Richard is pulling in today.

Richard walks into the office, asking Eddie, "what's up?" Eddie replies, "what's up?" Richard asks, "is Bobby B. here today?" Eddie replies, "yeah. He's in the gym behind the station, working out." Richard asks, "how come you're not back there, working out with him?" Eddie replies, "I'm waiting for Vinnie to drop off somebody's Austin Healy 3000 Mark III. Once it arrives, I'm hitting the gym." Richard raises his eyebrows, asking, "really? When is it going to get here?" Eddie replies, "sometime in the next half hour. They're loading it onto the trailer now." Wanting to see the paint job on his Austin Healy, Richard informs Eddie, "I think I'll hang around and wait. I really got to see this."

Richard takes a seat, telling Eddie, "you'll never guess who's sitting in jail over at the precinct." Suspecting that McCutchen and Evans finally made it back to the mainland, Eddie asks, "the Chuckie? No, wait!

The Chuckie is in prison. So, I'll go with Jimmy O'Brien." Richard replies, "no. Not exactly. Get this. This Todd McCutchen and this Brad Evans characters came into the precinct this morning." Referring to his notes to get his story straight, Richard continues, "they filed a complaint against you, Bobby B., Mark, Eric Johnson, Gary Mitchell, and Officer Braden, and, of all people, Vinnie. And, get this. This time, these characters even filed a complaint against me!" Eddie exclaims, "really, Richard? What did you do this time?" Richard helps himself to a bagel and cup of coffee, and replies, "let me see if I can explain this. Let me think. Where do I even begin?"

Referring to his notes, Richard begins, telling Eddie, "this lunatic, Todd McCutchen, alleges that you and the five others caught him and this Evans character breaking into your service station ten days ago, Thursday night, which would technically be Friday morning, at about three o'clock a.m." Eddie interrupts, stating, "hey! Wait a second! Those two clowns were breaking into my service station, and I'm the one now in trouble? Geesh! Whatever happened to the law? And, besides, no one broke into my service station ten days ago. I was here on Friday morning, and nothing was disturbed." Looking around at the office, Richard replies, "even I can see that." Eddie adds, "and, even if someone did break in, I'd probably be the one filing a police report, like most normal people would. And, Braden would be out here too, trying to figure out how they got passed his high-tech security system." Richard replies, "that makes a lot of sense. No one would let a burglary slide."

Eddie asks Richard, "so, how do you fit in?" Continuing with his explanation, Richard tells Eddie, "you're not going to believe this. This McCutchen." Richard pauses, laughs, and comments, "you even got me calling this character McCutchen now." Eddie laughs, and replies, "I thought that was his name. If I called him anything else, I was mistaken."

Richard continues, explaining, "this McCutchen character claims that I supply you guys with this psycho Chubin substance, which, by the way, he claims that you guys injected him with again." Eddie sits back and replies, "really? Wow! So, you're the local psycho Chubin supplier!" Richard shakes his head, replying, "so they claim. Can you believe this nonsense?"

Eddie then asks Richard, "by the way, I'm all out of psycho Chubin. Can you drop some by later? I'll pay top dollar." Richard comically replies, "I'll have one of my guys drop it off this afternoon." Eddie asks, "wow! You have your own distribution network now?" Richard laughs, and replies, "yeah. My distributors are all driving around in squad cars, handing out traffic tickets in between deliveries of psycho Chubin."

Eddie asks, “so, who manufactures psycho Chubin?” Recalling the past and how Mr. Crum received his drug supplies, Richard replies, “I don’t really know. They’re really secretive about the source. I just pick it up at three in the morning at a storage yard over on Second Street.” Eddie laughs, and comments, “it’s probably Dr. Zunde.” Richard jokingly replies, “I’ll go with that. It sounds totally plausible to me. I’ll bring him in for questioning later, and tell him I want a bigger cut.” Eddie laughs, and replies, “I’d love to hear that interrogation.”

Eddie asks, “so, why are McCutchen and Evans in jail?” Richard explains, “I’m sure you remember Officer Kenneth Wilson. When he heard that McCutchen and Evans wanted to file a complaint against you guys, he jumped right in and took the case. For some reason, he wanted to be the investigating officer. If you ask me, Wilson just wanted a day or two off from real police work while he pretends to investigate this nonsense. But, that’s okay. Someone had to take the case. It might as well have been him. Any of the newer officers would take this nonsense far too seriously. So, when Wilson saw the written allegation against me, he threatened to charge them with filing a false police report. This McCutchen character got all bent out of shape, and physically attacked Officer Wilson. Evans joined in, so they’re being held on assaulting an officer and suspicion of filing a false police report.”

Quite puzzled, Eddie asks, “wait a second! Suspicion of filing a false police report? Suspicion? Really?” Richard laughs, and replies, “yes. It has to be investigated. So, as of right now, I’m technically under investigation.” Eddie asks, “can you take paid administrative leave while you’re being investigated?” Richard again laughs, and replies, “believe me, I’d like to. That’s the usual procedure. But, considering the ridiculous charges we’re dealing with here, I really don’t think I can get away with that.”

Eddie suggests, “you should just ship those two clowns off to the sanitarium over there on Central Avenue. Maybe they can give them some anti psycho Chubin. By the way, is it sanitarium or sanatorium? It’s been a while. I think Kathy calls it a sanitarium.” Richard replies, “we just call it the psycho ward.” Eddie comments, “psycho ward. Sounds like a place they put people who take psycho Chubin.” Richard replies, “that makes more sense than anything else I’ve heard about this case. If I had my way, I’d ship them all off to the psycho ward and make it their problem,” which Richard has done many times in the past with various criminals.

Eddie asks, “so, how does Vinnie fit in to all this?” Richard explains, “this Todd McCutchen character claims that, a few months back, Vinnie stole his car, impounded it, or something. The night they claimed they

tried to break into your service station, McCutchen claimed he parked across the street at Vinnie's Body Shop. This McCutchen character also claims that Vinnie has threatened him a few times in the past." Eddie comments, "yeah. I know. I was there. I heard all about it." Richard asks, "really? What exactly happened?" Eddie explains, "so, McCutchen got caught parking across the street a few times, spying on my service station. I suspect Evans parked there a few times too, spying on me. But, we never caught Evans. That's how they got the photos of the group coming into my office on that Monday to get Kathy's stock list. So, when I caught McCutchen parked across the street in Vinnie's parking lot, I called Vinnie. Vinnie came out, his guys hooked up McCutchen's car, and towed it away. So, Vinnie had his car impounded once already. You were there for that one. Another time, before that, Vinnie and his guys started taking McCutchen's car apart. And, a while ago, before that, McCutchen came in to the service station to get a tank of gas. I told him we weren't open to the general public. He left, and parked across the street. That was on a Saturday, but Vinnie doesn't work on weekends. So, I can see how McCutchen would be a little ticked off at Vinnie." Richard replies, "yeah. I can see that too."

Richard continues, explaining, "the department eventually recovered this Todd McCutchen's vehicle. It wasn't found in the impound lot. It was found down at the beach, partially submerged in the ocean. In his complaint, McCutchen claims Vinnie towed his car to the ocean and dumped it off. McCutchen also claims that Vinnie has threatened to dump his car in the ocean once before." Eddie informs Richard, "I can assure you, Vinnie did not tow McCutchen's car and dump it in the ocean. Ten days ago, Vinnie was away on vacation. But, his guys were still there. They had more important things to do than tow McCutchen's car to the ocean and dump it there. They were all working on your Austin Healy. Speaking of which, here it comes now." Richard raises his eyebrows, and replies, "I'll make a note of that for the report, and give it to Officer Wilson." Richard turns around and looks outside, seeing his prized Austin Healy 3000 arrive back at Eddie's Service Station where Eddie will begin reassembling the automobile.

Knowing that Richard would rather see his car at the moment, Eddie tells him, "I think I have this one all figured out." Richard replies, "I'm all ears because, believe me, I can't make any sense out of it." Eddie explains, "well, let's take a look at this. Everyone on McCutchen's hit list this time has caused him a problem in the past. Vinnie towed his car. You busted up the gambling ring his father was involved with. You put his whole family behind bars. His parents lost their house. We kicked his ass on the track for years. Braden busted his ass a few times, and got him kicked out of the University for planting steroids in my locker. The list goes on and on. So, now that McCutchen got fired from

the IRS, he figures it's payback time. What does he have to lose?" Richard replies, "that makes more sense than anything I can think of. But, then again, you can't make too much sense out of something that makes no sense at all." Eddie replies, "exactly. McCrutchen never made any sense anyway. You'll be doing him a big favor if you ship him off to the psycho ward."

Eddie and Richard walk outside, watching carefully as Vinnie and his three body shop guys carefully prepare to unload Richard's car. Eddie instructs them as to which bay to place it. Richard, glad to see this phase of his car project completed, does not bother Vinnie with McCutchen's complaint at the moment.

Once Vinnie and his guys are gone, Richard takes a look at the paint job, stating, "this paint job is, well, perfect! There's not a flaw in it." Eddie replies, "they used Ferrari paint, just like you wanted. For a few hundred dollars a gallon, the paint job better be good." Looking at his reflection in the paint, Richard finds not a single flaw in his automobile.

While Richard is examining his automobile, Eddie requests, "hey, can you delay my jail sentence until after I get your car done?" Richard laughs, and replies, "you won't have to worry about that. Can you even imagine this nonsense being put in front of a jury?" Eddie quickly demands, "I want my day in court!" Richard advises Eddie, "trust me. The DA won't even take a look at a case like this. She would tell McCutchen's attorney that, technically, there is no evidence that any law has been broken." Eddie pauses for a moment, and replies, "oh, yeah. That's right! I forgot. It's McCrutchen we're talking about here."

Eddie informs Richard, "I'll get started working on the Austin Healy in the morning. It's just a matter of reassembling the whole car." Richard asks, "how long do you think it will take?" Eddie replies, "Bobby B. will be working on this project with me. If everything goes according to plan, two weeks. Three weeks, at the most. It will be perfect when I'm done. The only possible delay is not finding any appropriate stainless steel hardware." Richard replies, "I'm definitely looking forward to it. This is going to be a slow three weeks for me." Richard then asks, "do you mind if I stop by and check on the progress every once in a while?" Eddie replies, "no. Stop by as much as you want." Richard then heads out, and Eddie heads back to the gym to work out with Bobby B.

As if Eddie's problems with McCutchen were not enough, two and a half weeks later, Jimmy O'Brien pops back into the scene early one morning at Eddie's Service Station. But, Jimmy does not show up at the service station alone. He is accompanied, for some strange reason, by his father, Mr. O'Brien, the former communist social studies teacher

turned shoe stockroom clerk. As Eddie and Bobby B. are working, Mr. O'Brien and his son, Jimmy, sit in Jimmy's van, likely discussing how something in the world isn't fair.

While the O'Brien's are discussing fairness disparity, in the first repair bay, Eddie and Bobby B. are just wrapping up some extensive work on Mr. Frazier's vehicle. Having a lift kit, side rails, heavy-duty bumpers, and larger wheels with more aggressive tires installed on his new Jeep Wrangler, Mr. Frazier is ready to go places others dare not venture when the next blizzard hits. Mr. Frazier also had Eddie install an elaborate lighting package on his already heavily modified off-road masterpiece.

As Eddie lowers the lift, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "it's looking good! It's looking good!" Eddie energetically replies, "and, it performs even better than it looks. I took it out for a short test drive yesterday. It runs like a charm." Mr. Frazier confesses, "I can't wait for the next blizzard. I hate to be stuck inside a house. I like to be out in the weather, where the action is and enjoying it, not watching the weather on TV." Eddie replies, "I totally get that. And, by the way, your new tire chains are in the back." Mr. Frazier replies, "good. That's the best insurance you can have against getting stuck somewhere."

Bobby B. asks Mr. Frazier, "have you seen Paula's Jeep recently?" Mr. Frazier replies, "I see her driving around town every so often. I've seen it at some of the track meets over at the University, but I can't say that I got a really good look at it." Bobby B. explains, "Paula got a snow plow attachment for her Jeep. It now doubles as a snow plow. Out where we live, the county never plows any of the roads." Mr. Frazier replies, "really? I might look into getting one of those." Eddie interjects, "we can install it for you, no problem." Mr. Frazier thinks for a moment, then tells Eddie, "let's go ahead and do that. Put it on the list. Out where I live, the county takes forever to clear the side roads during a bad snow storm. Maybe I can help them out by clearing my road."

Bobby B. informs Mr. Frazier, "you should see Paula when it snows. She's out there clearing the roads out where we live." Eddie mentions, "well, Paula did learn to drive a bulldozer when she and Mark built their house. And, it looked like she was having a little fun when we knocked the houses down on Second Street." Realizing that he could have some fun during the next snowstorm, Mr. Frazier again mentions, "let's go ahead with the snow plow." Eddie replies, "you got it."

Mr. Frazier asks, "by the way, whose Austin Healy is that over there?" Eddie replies, "it belongs to Chief Hayes. We rebuilt that car from the bottom up for him. We got it done late yesterday. He'll be here later

this morning to pick it up.” Bobby B. comments, “he’s probably on his way now.” Mr. Frazier asks, “what was done to it?” Eddie explains, “we totally stripped the mechanicals, and put in an Audi Quattro drive. It’s pretty much an Audi with an Austin Healy body. And, we put in a modern-day interior, which is a little more comfortable, complete with heated seats.”

Mr. Frazier asks Eddie, “and, you did all those modifications yourself?” Eddie replies, “not exactly. I had a lot of help from a guy named Kurt Richter. He’s the guy who modified Kathy’s Porsche 914.” Mr. Frazier laughs, exclaiming, “I remember that! Crum thought Kathy’s car was a racing car!” Eddie replies, “well, technically it is a racing car, but it’s street legal. It clocks at 4.3 seconds from zero to sixty. For back then, that was really good.” Quite surprised, Mr. Frazier replies, “I’d say! For today, that’s pretty good too!”

Out of the blue, Bobby B. announces, “look what just walked into the office.” Glancing over to the office, Eddie sarcastically replies, “oh, wonderful. Who wants to get rid of him?” Bobby B. suggests, “maybe we should let Mr. Frazier do the honors.” Not quite understanding, Mr. Frazier asks, “what are you guys talking about?” Eddie succinctly replies, “that clown, Mr. O’Brien, and that screwball son of his, Jimmy, just walked into the office.” Taking a closer look at Mr. O’Brien and his son, Mr. Frazier responds, “they don’t look too good. I wonder what happened to them.” Eddie explains, “from what I hear, Mr. O’Brien is a clerk in the shoe department in a department store at the mall, and Jimmy lives in that van that they just drove up in.” Mr. Frazier shakes his head, and comments, “you could see that coming a mile away back when you guys were in high school.”

Now curious, Mr. Frazier asks, “Jimmy O’Brien lives in that van?” Eddie replies, “yeah. O’Brien can’t keep a job, he can’t keep that vehicle running because it’s so broken down that no one will work on it, he can’t stay sober for more than a few days, and he’s the biggest loser in the town. Well, that’s when he is in town. The rumor is that he moves from place to place.” Mr. Frazier points out, “what a difference. Athena and her mother lived in a van for years. And, look at where they are now.” Agreeing with Mr. Frazier, Eddie replies, “yeah, seriously. Big difference. Like night and day.” Mentioning what Eddie already knows and recalling his own past, Mr. Frazier tells him, “they say what doesn’t break you makes you stronger. What broke Jimmy O’Brien is that communist father of his. Always looking for fairness, but unwilling to lift a finger to get it.” Eddie replies, “that’s the truth.”

Not wanting to be bothered with O’Brien, Eddie tells Bobby B. and Mr. Frazier, “well, let me go and boot them out of here.” As Eddie walks

toward the office, Bobby B. whispers to Mr. Frazier, “this should be interesting. I’m going to watch.” Not having seen Mr. O’Brien in two decades, Mr. Frazier replies, “I think I’ll come too.” Bobby B. and Mr. Frazier head to the office, joining Eddie on his way in.

Walking into his office, Eddie announces to the two unwanted visitors, “we’re not open to the public. So, both of you can leave now.” Mr. O’Brien, now 70 years old, replies, “now, that wasn’t very nice, was it?” Eddie replies, “I wasn’t trying to be nice. If I was trying to be nice, junior, I’d offer you a cup of coffee. Good observation on your part. Now, get out of here.” Mr. Frazier snickers, realizing that Eddie is still as witty as ever. However, neither Mr. O’Brien nor Jimmy show any intent of leaving.

Clarifying the issue, Bobby B. announces, “if you didn’t catch the drift, Eddie just asked you to leave.” Mr. O’Brien replies, “I’m not leaving! I have something very important to say to both of you!” Mr. Frazier whispers under his breath, albeit loud enough for Mr. O’Brien to hear, “I can’t wait to hear this.” Mr. O’Brien asks, “and, just who are you?” Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, “I’m George Frazier. Perhaps you remember me from Northside High School. I taught PE and coached track.” Mr. O’Brien is flabbergasted, not expecting to see one of his least favorite people on the planet today.

Eddie sarcastically tells Mr. O’Brien, “if I remember correctly, you always had something to say. And, funny thing, no one ever want to hear anything you ever had to say. So, you can leave now.” Mr. O’Brien insists, “I’m not leaving until I say what I have to say!” Bobby B. tells Eddie, “whatever he has to say, it’s nothing but a bunch of communist propaganda anyway, about how something in the world isn’t fair.” Mr. Frazier again snickers, commenting, “some things never change.”

Not wanting to take part in the comical exchange, Mr. O’Brien begins stating his case, orating, “for years, all three of you have made fun of Jimmy! I just want you to know that Jimmy has been diagnosed with a genetic disorder, which is why he had so many problems back in high school.” Bobby B. replies, “so, what?” In response, Mr. O’Brien exclaims, “so, what? You have ridiculed Jimmy since you were in sixth grade! He did the best he could but, nevertheless, you guys shot him down every chance you got!”

Eddie laughs, commenting, “shot him down? That sounds like the use of deadly force to me.” Bobby B. tells Eddie, “deadly force is usually deadly. But, why use deadly force if it isn’t deadly?” Already finished listening to Mr. O’Brien for the day, Eddie tells Bobby B., “maybe Jimmy O’Brien is brain dead from all the deadly force we used.” Mr. O’Brien

exclaims, “that’s exactly the kind of mean-spirited attitude that I’m talking about!” Eddie tells Bobby B., “wow! He’s smarter than he looks. He figured it out.” Bobby B. informs Eddie, “don’t count on it. There is a slim probability that a monkey can design a fighter aircraft.” Eddie replies, “yeah, but, not an amoeba.” Mr. Frazier tries to conceal his laughter, but is hardly successful.

Acting a bit like a mediator, Mr. Frazier interrupts, curiously asking, “what exactly is this genetic disorder that Jimmy has been diagnosed with?” Feeling that he is finally getting the attention he deserves, Mr. O’Brien replies, “they haven’t exactly figured it out yet, but they think Jimmy has some form of muscular problem which causes a build up of lactic acid in his body, affecting his brain.” Mr. Frazier confidently announces, “well, it looks like the first law of genetics at work to me.” Mr. O’Brien slyly asks, “and, just what is the first law of genetics?” Mr. Frazier replies, “the first law of genetics is ‘choose your parents carefully’. From the looks of things, I’d say Jimmy made a really, really bad choice.” Eddie and Bobby B. laugh hysterically, fueling the fire even more.

Trying to hide his frustration, Mr. O’Brien tells Mr. Frazier, “now, that was uncalled for!” Mr. Frazier boldly, yet calmly, replies, “so, what, O’Brien? It’s the truth. If Jimmy has some sort of genetic disorder, as you claim, guess where it came from. Let me help you out. It came from you, your wife, or both of you. Those are your three choices.” Bobby B. interjects, “not quite. There’s a fourth. It could have been the milkman.” Not able to finish his thoughts, Mr. O’Brien exclaims, “there you go again, acting like!” Mr. O’Brien then announces, “I can’t believe this! I’m not going to take anymore of this abuse!” Eddie tells Mr. O’Brien, “so, don’t, junior. Leave now, and everyone will be happy, especially me.”

Clearly wanting to state his case, Mr. O’Brien exclaims, “I’m not finished yet!” Taking control of the conversation, Mr. Frazier exclaims, “O’Brien, you’re never finished! You won’t be finished until the whole world meets your definition of ‘fair’. But, ‘fair’ according to your definition is unfair to me. If you had your way, you’d have everyone working so you can sit on your ass all day long because you, somehow, think you deserve it. Just face it, O’Brien. The world is not fair in any regard. In this world, you work for what you get. And, if you think you have it hard here, go ahead and move to a third-world country. And, when you have to walk a mile to bring two gallons of water back to your tent, and someone takes one of your gallons of water from you, you’re not going to think that is fair either. But, if someone had two gallons of water, and you have none, you, somehow, think you are entitled to one of his gallons of water! How is that any different? You think about that,

O'Brien!" Eddie adds, "yeah. Think about that, O'Brien. Think about it at home. Now, get out of here. We have work to do. And, when you get home, look up the word 'work' in the dictionary." But, the now angry Mr. O'Brien still does not display any intention of leaving.

Strategically pointing to the parking lot, Bobby B. nudges Eddie, whispering to him, "saved by the bell." Mr. O'Brien, however, begins to lambast Mr. Frazier, loudly telling him, "your type will never understand!" Mr. Frazier sharply interrupts, boldly asking Mr. O'Brien, "my type? What exactly is 'my type?'" Mr. O'Brien replies, "I think you know what I'm talking about." Now angry, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "no, I don't, O'Brien! For the record, go ahead and set me straight! I want to hear this! Start talking!" Mr. O'Brien does not answer, for he has never won an argument with Mr. Frazier and never will.

Police Chief Richard Hayes, dropped off by his wife, Sandy and, out of uniform today, walks into the office, clearly seeing that he stepped into a heated discussion. As he is professionally trained, Richard, announcing his entrance, asks, "what's going on here?" Eddie replies, "nothing much. Mr. O'Brien, here, is complaining about his usual shit, that the world isn't fair. We're all just listening to his psychobabble. We've asked him to leave, but he just keeps babbling on about shit. Someone must have spiked his coffee with some psycho Chubin." Eddie's comment about psycho Chubin goes clear over Mr. O'Brien's head, but Chief Hayes snickers under his breath. Jimmy, of course, knows first hand about psycho Chubin, and is now getting very nervous.

Coming to his defense, Mr. O'Brien exclaims, "these men are incorrigible!" Clearly perceiving that Mr. O'Brien is an unwanted visitor, Richard replies, "I'm sure they are. So, why don't you just leave, before I have you arrested for trespassing?" Back talking Richard, Mr. O'Brien arrogantly replies, "this is a public business. I'm not leaving anytime soon!" Richard explains to Mr. O'Brien, "Eddie's Service Station is not open to the general public. It is my understanding that you were asked to leave. Failure to leave when requested to do so constitutes trespassing. If you don't leave immediately, I'll get the uniform guys out here and cart you off to jail."

Mr. O'Brien relents, yet exclaims, "you people haven't heard the last of this!" Purely to irritate Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Frazier again asks, "what do you mean, 'you people?'" Would you care to define 'you people?'" But, Mr. O'Brien does not answer Mr. Frazier. Instead, he leaves with Jimmy, slamming the door on his way out. Mr. O'Brien, who does not own a vehicle, but was driven to Eddie's Service Station by Jimmy to air his complaint, gets into Jimmy's van. As they drive away, Eddie sincerely hopes they never return.

Once Mr. O'Brien and his son are gone, Richard asks, "what was that all about?" Eddie replies, "they came in to complain that Jimmy has some sort of genetic disorder, and that we shouldn't have used deadly force on him when he was in high school." Richard laughs, and replies, "if someone uses deadly force, the other person is usually dead. Otherwise, it wouldn't be considered deadly force." Bobby B. grins, and comments, "that's the truth. Deadly force is usually deadly, except when it's not deadly. Then, it wouldn't be considered deadly force. Except, maybe, for Jimmy O'Brien. He's always been kind of brain dead." Adding his opinion, Eddie advises Richard and Bobby B., "it's a good thing O'Brien left. Your logic is way over his head." Richard, who has seen a few things in his lifetime, replies, "that's the truth."

Finished with their discussion about O'Brien, Eddie energetically tells Richard, "well, let's go back and take a look at your Austin!" Eddie, Richard, and Bobby B. walk back to the shop where Richard will get his first look at the finished product. Also wanting to see the finished Austin Healy 3000 Mark III, Mr. Frazier joins the group.

Seeing his Austin Healy 3000 with the hood open, trunk open, and driver's side door open, Richard exclaims, "wow! This looks, I mean, like awesome!" Eddie calmly replies, "and, it drives even better." Looking under the hood, Richard comments, "nice! And, wow! The turbocharger looks awesome!" Richard then asks, "where's the battery?" Eddie laughs, and replies, "this has an Audi drive train. With an Audi, the battery can be found anywhere in the vehicle, except for the engine compartment. Yours is in the trunk, along with the computer." Richard takes a look, seeing the battery box isolating the battery from anything that is stored in the trunk.

Eddie tells Richard, "the keys are in it. Go ahead and take it for a test drive." Richard gets into the drivers seat, commenting, "geesh. I'd hate to get a scratch on it." Eddie reminds Richard, "Vinnie put a polyurethane shield on the hood, and other vulnerable areas of the body. Don't worry about it. Even if you did get a scratch, Vinnie can fix it for you." As he starts the engine, Richard replies, "good point." Richard cautiously drives off, knowing that under the hood is greater than 100 horsepower more than the original stock 148 horsepower.

While Richard is out on his test drive, Eddie and Bobby B. again focus their attention to Mr. Frazier's and his Jeep Wrangler. Eddie tells Mr. Frazier, "your turn. Are you ready to take it out on a test drive?" Mr. Frazier cautiously asks, "have you had it out on the open road yet?" Eddie replies, "no. I just took it out on short rides. Being a test pilot is really dangerous. It's way above my pay grade." A look of concern comes over Mr. Frazier's face, broken by Eddie reassuring him, "yeah. I

took it on a few test drives. It's as solid as a rock, all the way up to 80 miles per hour." Now reassured, Mr. Frazier is looking forward to his test drive.

Mr. Frazier backs his Jeep out of the service bay, suddenly interrupted by Bobby B. yelling out, "whoa! Stop! Stop!" Abruptly hitting the brakes, Mr. Frazier wonders what the problem is. The problem becomes clearly apparent, evidenced by Bobby B. yelling out to an annoyance driving up in a low-end used car, "hey! Get that piece of crap out of here!" Instead of leaving, Todd McCutchen, who just drove up, parks his newly acquired vehicle obtained from a *Buy-Here, Pay-Here* lot where he probably paid three times what the car is worth.

Getting out of his vehicle, McCutchen is greeted by Bobby B., who asks him, "what do you want?" McCutchen yells out, "I want to see Eddie! I have some questions for him!" Bobby B. replies, "he's not working today." McCutchen yells out, "sure he is! He's standing right over there!" Bobby B. jokingly replies, "really? Which one is Eddie?" McCutchen gets himself into a tizzy, briskly walking uninvited into the service area.

Mr. Frazier asks Eddie, "who is that guy, anyway?" Eddie replies, "that's Todd McCutchen. I'm sure you remember him." Laughing hysterically, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "how did I get so lucky? Mr. O'Brien, Jimmy O'Brien, and Todd McCutchen all in one day! This must be my lucky day! I can't wait until Friday the thirteenth!" Already having some free entertainment today, Mr. Frazier decides to wait around to see if there is more on the horizon.

McCutchen yells out at Eddie, "I want to see your gyrophone! It messed up my head! I need to know what it is!" Eddie replies, "it's locked up, junior. And, your head's been messed up forever, McCutchen. And, I'm not showing it to you. It's classified equipment. So, you can leave now." McCutchen exclaims, "I'm not leaving! I want to see it, or I'm calling the police!" Knowing from Bobby B. that Erika is on duty today, Eddie calmly replies, "go ahead, junior. Call the police. See if I care." Knowing any dealings with Eddie will be a dead end, McCutchen steps aside, making the call. Eddie also steps aside, walking into his office with Bobby B. and Mr. Frazier, where they will wait for the comedy show to begin.

Five minutes later, Erika, who is on duty today, drives into Eddie's Service Station. Patiently waiting in her patrol car, Erika was made aware by Bobby B. that Chief Richard Hayes is out test driving his Austin Healy and will arrive momentarily. During the wait, Eddie mentions to Mr. Frazier, "McCutchen has really gone off the deep end. This should get

pretty interesting.” Mr. Frazier replies, “I think I’ll wait around and watch. It’s just too bad Gerhard isn’t here. He always enjoyed these kind of confrontations.” Eddie mentions to Mr. Frazier, “and, it’s just too bad Mr. Crum isn’t here. He’d really liven things up a bit too.” Mr. Frazier confesses, “that’s one idiot I never want to see again.”

Driving up in his Austin Healy, Chief Hayes is promptly greeted by Erika, who both walk toward Eddie’s office, where he, Bobby B., and Mr. Frazier are waiting. McCutchen, not wanting Eddie to gain the upper hand, rushes to the office to state his case.

Erika asks Eddie, “exactly what is the problem today?” Eddie replies, “McCrutchen. Here he comes. He wants to see my gyrophone. I told him that I won’t show it to him.” Chief Hayes, who wants McCutchen behind bars, states, “this character is out on bail. The only charges we have against him now is assaulting an officer. With any luck, we might be able to add something.” Erika, who is aware of the charges, replies, “it’s just too bad I wasn’t on the other end of that assault charge.” Angry at McCutchen for wasting so much of the department’s time in the past, Chief Hayes instructs Erika, “if that character so much as crosses any line, imaginary or not, book him.” Erika replies, “got it.”

McCutchen barges into the office, exclaiming, “I want Eddie arrested! He has a gyrophone! His gyrophone messed up my head!” In disgust, Eddie shakes his head, calmly commenting, “not this shit again.” Erika tells McCutchen, “okay, sir. Please calm down. Now, exactly what is your complaint?” McCutchen reiterates, stating, “Eddie has a gyrophone! It’s locked up in that filing cabinet! He used it on me, and I can’t make sense out of anything anymore!” Chief Hayes comments, “really? A gyrophone. I’ve really got to see this.” Eddie asks McCutchen, “are you sure it wasn’t my hydrophone, and not my gyrophone? Or, it could have been my aerophone.” McCutchen yells out, “see? He has a gyrophone! He even admits it!” Eddie whispers under his breath, “maybe it was my moronophone.” Richard, who heard Eddie’s comment, laughs, not giving McCutchen a good feeling.

Knowing there is no such thing, Richard tells Eddie, “well, let’s have a look at this so-called gyrophone.” Eddie asks Bobby B., “where do we keep the gyrophone, bro?” Intentionally fueling the fire, Bobby B. replies with a serious tone of voice, “gyrophones are really dangerous. It’s probably locked up in the filing cabinet.” McCutchen exclaims, “that’s where he said he keeps it!” Richard calmly announces, “well, let’s all take a look.” Wanting to settle the issue once and for all, Eddie walks toward the filing cabinet, commenting, “it sounds like someone has been taking way too much of that psycho Chubin.”

With the filing cabinet now open, Eddie tells Chief Hayes, “be my guest. Search for my gyrophone. And, with any luck, you might find some psycho Chubin in there too. And, if you’re really lucky, you might find a moronophone.” Mr. Frazier laughs, and exclaims, “psycho Chubin! I remember when Mark put that as an answer on some health test question! Gerhard, Pete, and I were laughing over that all day!” Hearing the side commentary, McCutchen quickly realizes he is, once again, the odd man out.

Richard searches through the filing cabinet, not really expecting to find a gyrophone. Finished searching the top drawer, Richard announces, “there’s nothing here other than documentation regarding performance enhancements to certain county vehicles.” McCutchen waits patiently, as Chief Hayes searches the second and third drawers. Completing the search of the second and third drawers, Richard comments, “more of the same. Paperwork.” The paperwork Chief Hayes found includes Eddie’s stock picks, but Chief Hayes already knew that information was locked up in Eddie’s filing cabinet.

Opening the bottom drawer, Richard asks Eddie, “what’s all this?” Eddie replies, “keys to a few of the vehicles on the lot. And, keys to some of the vehicles over at the storage yard.” Finding something of interest, Chief Hayes asks Eddie, “and, what’s this we have here? Whatever this thing is, it looks dangerous.” Eddie informs Chief Hayes, “that’s not a gyrophone. That’s my hydrophone.” Contradicting Eddie purely to fuel the confrontation, Bobby B. comments, “that looks like the gyrophone to me. Yeah. That’s definitely a gyrophone.” McCutchen exclaims, “see! There’s a gyrophone in there! I told you he had one!” Eddie firmly tells McCutchen, “shut up, junior. That’s a Motorola two-way radio. It’s not a gyrophone or a hydrophone, you idiot.” Muddying the waters, Bobby B. confidently announces, “say what you want. It sure looks like the gyrophone to me.” It’s no secret that Bobby B. is intentionally pushing McCutchen to the edge.

Chief Hayes hands one radio to Erika. Pressing the push-to-talk button, Chief Hayes announces, “I think we found the gyrophone,” which is heard by all over the radio held by Erika. Over the radio Erika replies, “do you want me to book these gyrophones as evidence, chief?” Chief Hayes jokingly replies, “10-4. And, get the crime scene unit out here to see what else they can find. Who knows? There might be a wrench back in the shop somewhere. A wrench could be construed as a deadly weapon.” Mr. Frazier, glad that he stuck around, laughs, not believing the comical nature with which the police are handling this matter.

Knowing he is being messed with, McCutchen rushes toward the filing cabinet, wanting to search for the gyrophone himself. A bit to

rambunctious, McCutchen abruptly displaces Chief Hayes, who was kneeling on one knee, causing him to fall to the ground. Erika restrains McCutchen, telling him, “you are under arrest, yet again, Todd McCutchen for assaulting an officer.” McCutchen exclaims, “I’m sorry! It was an accident! There’s a gyrophone in there! I just know there is!” Erika replies, “sure there is. And, what’s that at the window? The tooth fairy?”

Mr. Frazier whispers to Bobby B., “what ever happened to McCutchen? This guy is seriously crazy!” Bobby B. replies, “after he left college, he never did anything legitimate in his life. He disappeared for a long time. Somehow, he landed a job with the IRS, but he got that illegitimately too. He started showing up here a while ago, gathering evidence to audit Eddie’s tax returns. Eddie, John Davies, and Ralph Myles buried him. Richard got McCutchen fired. Then, McCutchen started hanging around with Jimmy O’Brien. O’Brien is a drug addict and an alcoholic. He must have got McCutchen started on that shit again.” Mr. Frazier tells Bobby B., “I knew there was something wrong with that guy from the first time I met him. His high school coach, what was his name? Ruff. Yeah, that was it. There was something seriously wrong with that guy, too. I sure am glad those days are behind me.” Bobby B. whispers to Mr. Frazier, “if you ask me, McCutchen has been taking way too many drugs. No one can be that stupid. Or, maybe he’s just crazy. Right now, I’m leaning so far towards crazy that I’m about to fall over.” Mr. Frazier laughs, and whispers back, “I’m vying for both.”

Erika cuffs McCutchen who, kicking and screaming, still insists there is a gyrophone hidden somewhere in Eddie’s office. Eddie tells Chief Hayes, “now’s your chance. Don’t take him to jail. Ship him off to the sanatorium over there on Central Avenue.” Raising his eyebrows, Chief Hayes replies, “that’s not such a bad idea. We’ve certainly seen enough evidence today for me to ship this character off to the loony bin.” Eddie again suggests, “go for it. Now’s your chance, Richard. I’ll even help.” Chief Hayes asks, “how are you going to help?” Eddie smile, and replies, “watch this.”

Eddie whispers to Bobby B., albeit loud enough for McCutchen to hear, “we lucked out this time, bro. They didn’t find the gyrophone.” Hearing Eddie’s comment, McCutchen yells out to Erika and Chief Hayes, “didn’t you hear them! They have a gyrophone! He just admitted it!” Eddie stares McCutchen in the face, and tells him, “yeah, McCutchen. I have a gyrophone. I have a hydrophone. I have a time machine. So does Mark, by the way. And, in the building behind my service station is where we manufacture psycho Chubin.” Eddie then supposes, stating, “you’ve been hanging around Jimmy O’Brien way too long, McCutchen. That guy’s more crazy than you are. And, ever since you’ve been

hanging out with O'Brien, you've been going crazy!" McCutchen yells out, "I'm not crazy! There's something wrong with you people!" Hinting at McCutchen's destination, Eddie replies, "hey! I'm not the one headed to the loony bin, junior. You are! That should tell you something, junior!"

Mr. Frazier smiles, and comments, "here we go again with the 'you people' generalities. I wonder who he's talking about." Still struggling to get away from Erika, McCutchen yells out, "who are you?" Mr. Frazier laughs, and replies, "don't tell me you don't remember me. I'm George Frazier. I coach track over at the University." McCutchen exclaims, "how did you get here? You were at a track meet the other week at your high school! I saw you! You guys were running against my team!" Mr. Frazier laughs, and reminds McCutchen, "I haven't coached high school track in twenty-three or so years!" McCutchen exclaims, "you were there! I saw you!" Eddie tells Mr. Frazier, "we used the gyrophone to implant those memories in McCutchen's brain. Psychosis is a common side effect of the gyrophone. Or, wait! Could it be a side effect of the psycho Chubin? Yeah! That's it! It was the psycho Chubin!" Mr. Frazier laughs, and replies, "it sounds like a case of plain and simple crazy to me!"

Taking Eddie's advice, Richard announces, "this has gone far enough. I don't have the time to deal with this shit. I'm radioing for a bus." Eddie replies, "good thinking. When they get him to the sanatorium, have them check him for psycho Chubin." Richard informs Eddie, "trust me. They'll do a full toxicology screening on this character when he arrives. I'd love to see what they find." Eddie suggests, "maybe they should stick him in an MRI machine, and see if there's a brain up there." Richard replies, "that's not such a bad idea. Who knows? Maybe this character has a brain tumor or something. He's certainly acting like he has one." Richard heads out to Erika's patrol car and radios for the proverbial bus, which is an ambulance that will take McCutchen to the sanatorium on Central Avenue.

Meanwhile, McCutchen is still struggling to get away from Erika, screaming, "I haven't been taking psycho Chubin! Let me go!" Eddie informs McCutchen, "for once, McCutchen, you're right. We injected you with psycho Chubin again just a few minutes ago. Then, I used my Gyrophone to erase your memory, so you don't remember getting injected. And, by the way, McCutchen, the psycho Chubin settles in your brain and hangs around for years. You never know when it will reactivate." McCutchen yells out to Chief Hayes, "I demand that Eddie be arrested!" Chief Hayes bluntly responds, "psycho Chubin is not an illegal substance. So, there's nothing I can do." Chief Hayes' comment further convinces McCutchen that, in fact, there is such a drug called psycho Chubin.

Seeing that McCutchen is still struggling to escape, Bobby B. goes into the shop, procuring a few wire ties. Returning from the shop and putting the wire ties on the desk, Bobby B. tells Erika, "I'll hold him. You tie his legs together." As Erika is further restraining McCutchen, Bobby B. mentions, "now, he won't be able to run away." Eddie comments, "McCutchen never could run anyway. You could have just tied his shoelaces together." Bobby B. replies, "that's not a bad idea," and ties McCutchen's shoelaces together in addition to restraining his legs with wire ties. Placing McCutchen under arrest for assaulting an officer, Erika reads McCutchen his rights.

The ambulance arrives. Walking into the office, it is clear to the paramedics who is going to be transported. Chief Hayes explains to the paramedics, "this character is a chronic 10-73. He's already filed a few false police reports, all of which were so ridiculous that they had to be dismissed. A few weeks ago, we arrested this character for assaulting an officer. He's out on bail. Today, this character called us out here because he's convinced there's something in this office called a gyrophone that is making him go crazy." McCutchen exclaims, "I'm not crazy! Eddie has a gyrophone!" Chief Hayes continues, asking, "see what I mean?" One paramedic replies, "sure do." Another paramedic laughs, commenting to another, stating, "a gyrophone? Really? That's one I hadn't heard before."

Chief Hayes then instructs the paramedics, "transport this character to Central Avenue. Have them do a full tox screen on him. And, tell them to keep this character locked up over there. I don't want him back on the streets. And, inform them that he's under arrest again for assaulting an officer. I'll have the desk sergeant issue orders as to what to do with him once I get the medical report." The paramedics take a few notes regarding Chief Hayes' orders, then take McCutchen away.

With McCutchen gone, Mr. Frazier mentions to Chief Hayes, "it's really amazing to me that that guy is still alive." Chief Hayes replies, "he might be alive but, just like all the other criminals out there, this character is pretty much brain dead. Nothing ever gets through to them." Mr. Frazier reminds Chief Hayes, "Todd McCutchen was a big problem when he ran for the University. Back then, it was obvious to me and Athena where he was headed. It just took a lot longer than I anticipated." Chief Hayes smiles, and replies, "well, today he finally got there."

Mr. Frazier then announces, "well, I think I'll take my Jeep for a test drive." Forgetting that Mr. Frazier already attempted to drive away earlier, Eddie tells Mr. Frazier, "the keys are in it. Enjoy!" Mr. Frazier

heads out on his test drive, not expecting to run into Mr. O'Brien, Jimmy O'Brien, or Todd McCutchen again today.

Eddie asks Richard, "so, how does the Austin Healy drive?" Richard exclaims, "if I ever have to run from the police, I am quite confident I can evade them in that car! The handling is flawless! And, the acceleration is awesome!" Eddie replies, "with the quattro drive, the Austin Healy could probably out maneuver Kathy's 914." Richard replies, "I'd believe it. I've driven her 914." Eddie informs Richard, "the counterbalance weight was positioned so that there's exactly a fifty-fifty weight distribution with you in the driver's seat and three-quarters of a tank of gas. Kurt designed the counterbalance weight so it can be adjusted if you lose or gain weight." Richard replies, "wow! It sounds like a lot of high-tech engineering!" Which it was. Richard's Austin Healy 3000 Mark III is yet another street-legal racing car re-engineered by Kurt Richter.

Eddie reveals to Richard, "Eddie, Junior's electric 914 conversion will do zero to sixty right at 3.2 seconds. Your Austin Healy is right up there with it." Richard asks, "really? Did you time it?" Eddie replies, "we did. It will do zero to sixty in 3.1 seconds. It's because the Austin Healy weighs a lot less than the Audi S4 that the drive train came from. And, a lot of it is Kurt's engineering." Richard asks, "I'd hate to ask, but do you know the top speed?" Eddie replies, "yes. It's 155 miles per hour. It's electronically governed." Richard replies, "wow! I don't think I'd really want to take it to the limit." Eddie replies, "I wouldn't, unless it's a straightaway, and no one else is on the road. But, the car was primarily designed for handling and acceleration."

Richard tells Eddie, "well, let me settle up the bill with you. I want to take it out on a drive down at the beach." Eddie and Richard head to the office, hopefully not running into anymore "characters" today.