

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

LOWRY sits impatiently on his service van. The logo of his company "SMART WIRELESS" is seen next to their motto: "BEST CONNECTION, ALWAYS." The Southern California sun beats merciless on the van's rusty steel roof and cracks its paint even more. A paint flake comes out and falls into the asphalt. Huge rust stains plague the whole van like some sort of rustic camouflage. Lowry sighs. A huge bead of sweat form on his forehead and runs down his neck to end up in the huge stain at the end of his back.

His eyes gaze for the millionth time the interminable stretch of stopped cars in front of him. He clutches the wheel.

Lowry checks once more his watch, then brings out his cell phone and quickly types a message.

THE PHONE SCREEN

Lowry types: "STUCK ON 101. WAIT 4 ME."

He presses "SEND" and the corny animation of the letter flying fills the screen.

A second later an error message let's him know "DELIVERY FAILED."

He looks at the reception gauge. No bars at all.

LOWRY

"Best connection always" my butt.

He checks on the rear view mirror. The rest of the drivers seem to be as annoyed as he is.

An old man behind him scouts the horizon, hoping to see the cause of this traffic knot.

Behind him, a man insisently checks on a map, then looks at the traffic, hoping for an opening that'd allow him to escape.

On the next car a couple argues bitterly. Their anger fueled by sheer frustration.

Lowry sighs. He's about to resend the message, but thinks against it.

He looks once more at the traffic in front of him and considers.

He takes a decision.

He pockets his cell phone with resolution.

With an acrobatic spring, he climbs out the window and onto the roof of his van.

The cars behind him honk their horns, annoyed at this driver who leaved his post.

Lowry makes a sign to dismiss them and checks the reception: only one bar. He tries to resend the message.

"DELIVERY FAILED."

With expert eye, he scouts around until he finds a suspiciously looking tree that sports an antenna on its top.

LOWRY (CONT'D)

Hello, competitor's network.

Acrobatically, he jumps down while grabbing his tools from inside the van. Then walks nonchalantly towards the fake tree.

The horns of the cars go crazy.

Most of the outraged drivers shake their head with bitter, quiet rage.

Others yell inaudible complaints. A man of evident Italian ancestry curses him with a gesture.

A couple of teenagers, on the other hand, applaud him and shows him enthusiastic "thumbs up."

Lowry ignores the crowd altogether. He starts whistling as he paces cynically towards the concealed cell phone.

HARMAN, a pig farmer ten cars behind him, yells out from his battered pick-up truck.

HARMAN

Hey, buddy. Buddy. What the hell do you think you're doing?

LOWRY

Technical matters, sir. This will only take a second.

HARMAN

You can't leave your stupid van in the middle of the road, dumbass! What am I suppose to do when the cars start moving? Jump over it? It's jerks like you who cause these troubles. Inconsiderate, careless jerks who think they own the road.

LOWRY
 (smiles)
 Only a second, sir.

HARMAN
 Don't give me that crap.

LOWRY
 Sir, I'm a qualified cell phone technician and I just got word that the reception in this area needs a little boost, so I'm going to--

HARMAN
 Reception? Who cares about reception? What we need is a stupid tow or something to get this thing moving!

LOWRY
 Come down, sir.

HARMAN
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LOWRY
 Sir, I bet the traffic will move in a matter of minutes.

HARMAN
 Not with your van in front of us.

LOWRY
 (smiles)
 That's the reason why you should let me go to finish my business and come back in time to move it.

Harman is going to keep arguing, but doesn't know what else to say.

HARMAN
 Sheee--!

Lowry runs, leaving the farmer spitting bile and cursing.

EXT. THE FAKE TREE -- DAY

As the tree gets closer, it gets more and more obvious that it's a forgery made out of plastic. The ludicrous branches conceal the cables and the rest of the electronic equipment of a cell-phone antenna.

Lowry approaches and examines it until he finds what he's looking for: a metallic rung hidden behind a branch.

He sets foot firmly on it and starts climbing.

One hidden rung at a time, Lowry climbs the tree until he's almost at the top.

He takes a look down, the distance is considerable.

He smiles.

He starts to whistle as he climbs the rest.

EXT. TOP OF THE FAKE TREE -- DAY

Lowry finds a circuit box that sports the logo of another company. He uses his screwdriver to open it and hooks his phone with alligator clips.

LOWRY

Sorry folks, I'm just gonna use your network for one brief, tiny message--

A ring coming from his phone interrupts him.

The screen reads "MESSAGE RECEIVED."

Surprised, Lowry presses "VIEW."

THE PHONE SCREEN

It reads: "XPLOCVS R N KR. MAK SUR 101 DONT MUV 4 2 HRS"

Lowry reads this seemingly incoherent text over and over again.

He can't find the meaning until he reads it out loud:

LOWRY (CONT'D)

"Explosives are in car. Make sure One-0-one don't move for two hours."

His eyes set upon the highway.

LOWRY (CONT'D)

One 0 one.

He shivers as his eyes travel from car to car to car.

He squints, trying to figure out which one is carrying the explosives.

OUTLINE

- We meet our hero at his dead-end job, repairing cell-phone towers.
- He has a fight with his wife. They may get a divorce.
- He gets into a terrible traffic jam. Nobody knows what's causing it.
- He talks to the police. They think the traffic is normal.
- He helps a woman give birth in the middle of the traffic jam.
- The hero conceives an idea to get out of this knot and lies to the cops.
- The hero learns there's a bomb hidden in a car.
- The police remember a man going berserk in a similar situation.
- Meanwhile, the terrorists plan to capture his wife.
- Since the hero's not able to convince the cops about the bomb, he plans to find it himself.
- The hero discovers he's too out of shape to fight.
- A news chopper is shot down by the terrorists.
- The cops think the hero is an undercover terrorist.
- The police shoot at him.
- He remembers his training and responds as he used to.
- He rescues his wife. Seeing him in action again makes her fall back in love with him.
- It all evolves into a big gun fight. Then the traffic starts moving and ends up in a big chase.
- The hero taunts the police and calls them cowards to force them to follow him--and follow the real terrorists.
- The police realize the hero's real nature and believe him.
- The terrorists kidnap the recently born baby and bring him with them.
- The bomb explodes--without taking any lives.
- The hero's wife rescues the baby
- The police offer the hero a job. He's back on the force.

OUTLINE REVISED

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- He gets into a terrible traffic jam. Nobody knows what's causing it.
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