

MAX OVERDRIVE

written by

Harrison Zacher

htzacher@gmail.com
(414) 687-6561

OVER BLACK:

Unintelligible announcer chatter. The sound of ROARING ENGINES and TIRES SCREECHING grows intensely into--

EXT. THE GRAND VISTA RACEWAY

Techno-Jazz.

A futuristic race-course, its neon accents glow through the pouring rain.

ZOOM! A pack of vehicles fly past, splashing through the puddles that litter the slick surface of the track.

They are low to the ground, two-wheeled racing vehicles: PROTO-CYCLES.

Under uniquely decorated helmets, PILOTS control the high-speed vehicles from their cockpits.

DAN POWERS (16), pilots THE CROW--a black and grey bike completely built with spare parts. But even so--it SOARS.

He speeds past MAX POWERS (19), who coaches him from the sideline.

He looks down at a digital map of the course and speaks through a HEADSET.

MAX (V.O.)

Alright Dan, remember what I taught you?

DAN

How could I forget?

MAX (V.O.)

If you wanna have a shot at winning, you gotta overtake the leader.

DAN

Right.

MAX (V.O.)

Just relax. Reduce your drag.

Dan adjusts a knob on the steering wheel and two WINGS flick down on the rear of the vehicle.

MAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Be confident. Trust your racing
instincts. I know you have them!

Dan takes a deep breath and--

Swerves out from behind the racer ahead of him, he
accelerates past him smoothly.

Dan maneuvers through the pack until reaching the front.

In first place is CYPHER piloting THE POISON DART a black and
green Proto-Cycle, exhaust vents that litter the bike's
surface spew green smoke.

Cypher grins at Dan and revs his engine. Blasting forward,
his front wheel lifts into the air.

DAN
His engine is packing some serious
power. You still think I can take
it?

MAX (V.O.)
That's Cypher. He may look scary,
but don't be afraid. As long as you
can make this next turn, you've got
a shot at winning...

Dan accelerates.

MAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sharp turn ahead! It's the Grand
Vista Pin!

DAN
I can do this.

He speeds down the long straightaway approaching the sharp
170 degree turn ahead of him.

His tail scrapes up against the side rail, screeching around
the turn.

MAX (V.O.)
Watch the tail!

He hits the accelerator and BLASTS forward when--

BEEP! A red warning light pops up in his cockpit.

"SLOW DOWN! MAXIMUM RPM EXCEEDED"

MAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
What's all that beeping?

DAN
It's nothing!

MAX (V.O.)
Don't push it too hard.

DAN
I can still make it!

Dan speeds up even faster!!

MAX (V.O.)
Dan what did I--

Dan turns off his radio communications.

AT THE SIDELINE: Max shouts into his mic.

MAX
Dan? Hello?

He slams the device on the ground.

ON THE TRACK: The finish line approaches--the warning signal gets louder, but Dan pushes it even further when--

A flutter of feathers. A CROW lands in the middle of the track, taking a drink from a small puddle.

SCREECH! Dan skids to a halt.

He flies off the bike and into the puddle.

The bird stands next to him, unharmed. It cocks its head, then takes flight. He watches it fly away before snapping back to reality.

Dan sits in the middle of the track as Cypher and the other racers come flying past him.

They all skid to a halt past the finish line.

CYPHER
Hey!

Cypher walks up to Dan and extends his arm.

CYPHER (CONT'D)
Good racing out there.

Dan grabs his arm and lifts himself off the ground.

DAN

Thanks.

EXT. THE GRAND VISTA RACEWAY - LATER

Max's arm is around Dan's shoulder as they walk away from the finish line.

Dan clutches his arm.

MAX

You're lucky that was just a practice race. That stunt you pulled out there was crazy.

DAN

I'm telling you, there was a bird on the track!

MAX

Birds don't fly around here. Not anymore.

DAN

I was so close to winning this time I think if we just tune up the engine...

Max grabs him by the shoulder.

MAX

Whoa whoa! There is nothing wrong with the engine.

DAN

If it's not the engine then what is it?

MAX

Dan, if you wanna qualify for a team and compete in real races like me, you're gonna have to start driving a little more strategically.

DAN

I know how to drive, Max. Haven't I almost topped your max speed?

MAX

That's not the problem. You can be fast, but it's not always about being the fastest.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
 Sometimes you gotta slow down,
 really focus on your surroundings
 and--

BOOM! A bright spotlight shines down from above.

Dan and Max look towards the sky--two TROOP TRANSPORT DRONES float menacingly above the racetrack, sirens blaring.

A robotic voice booms from above...

P.I. DRONE
 Disperse immediately! Any racing on
 this course has been deemed ILLEGAL
 by Proto-Industries. Stand down or
 prepare to be arrested as a
 fugitive of the law.

A door painted with the purple PROTO-INDUSTRIES symbol slides open, revealing the troops inside.

The voice repeats itself as the drones lower, closer and closer to the ground.

Ziplines shoot out from the drones.

He looks to his brother for counsel.

MAX
 Proto-Industries. They're here to
 shut us down.

ROBOTIC SOLDIERS slide down the ziplines and onto the ground. Two land next to Cypher, he tries to fight them off but they overpower him. The infantry begins grabbing racers left and right.

A zipline latches into the concrete right next to Dan.

MAX (CONT'D)
 Lets split while we still can!

Dan hops on the back of the Crow and they fly off into--

EXT. DELTA CITY

They speed down an alleyway, past fence gates with barbed wire, people with no home laying on the streets.

They come upon a police blockade and take a detour into the tunnels below...

INT. THE TUNNELS

The two travel through tight passageways, walls covered in graffiti and floors scraped smooth.

Street lights shine through sewer grates, casting odd shadows on the walls and floors.

They stop in a small room. On the far end is a brick wall covered in graffiti tags.

DAN

What is this place?

Dan reaches out and touches the wall.

MAX

That's the Champion's wall. You can only make it on this wall if you are a TRUE RACER.

DAN

Apex, Grimm...these guys are all true racers?

MAX

Yeah, back when it used to mean something...Back before Proto-Industries took over...

PAN UP: the Proto-Industries facility sits right on top of the remains of the tunnels.

MAX (CONT'D)

This place used to be sprawling with racers, but now...

Police lights flash through the sewer grates. Radio chatter echoes through the chamber.

MAX (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here...

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD

They fly down the empty road.

Dan sits on the back of the Crow, his arms are wrapped around Max.

EXT. THE NEST

A small bungalow on the outskirts of the city. Entangled in wires.

Hints of green overgrowth poke out from beneath metal surfaces.

A blue light glows from inside a small SHED behind it.

Dan lays in the bowl of a massive satellite dish located on the roof. He's Listening to music and dozing off, daydreaming about the city.

From below, a loud series of CRASHES and CLANGS!

Max's voice yells up to Dan.

MAX

Hey can I get a hand?

Dan removes his headphones and slides down the side of the building into...

INT. THE SHED

Inside, Max works on the Crow.

Trophies new and old line the shelves. Posters of famous Proto-Cyclers and blueprints hang next to them.

Max holds out a gloved hand.

MAX

Hand me a wrench?

Dan shuffles through a large toolbox and hands it over to him.

Max tightens a nut.

MAX (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Dan begins to leave.

MAX (CONT'D)

Wait. Not so fast.

DAN

What?

MAX

You know, you should be the one doing all this. A *true* Pilot knows how to fix their own bike. Just saying...

DAN

Oh really?

MAX

Yeah. Now grab a fresh engine coil from the rack.

Max points to a small cart modded and wired up to charge 6 Proto-Engine coils at once.

Dan plugs in the dead one--it lights up a faint blue from inside--he grabs a fully charged engine coil from the rack.

Max screws it in. Blue sparks fly as it magnetically snaps into place.

He hops to his feet, face covered in grime and sweat.

He wipes his brow.

MAX (CONT'D)

Well, that's the last piece.

DAN

Wait! One more thing...

He pulls out a STENCIL and slaps it on

He shakes a RED SPRAY CAN and sprays on the logo

DAN (CONT'D)

Behold...the Crow!

FADE TO:

TITLE CARD: MAX OVERDRIVE.

EXT. ROAD

Max and Dan speed down towards the DELTA CITY SKYLINE, its large skyscrapers pierce the sky.

Dan holds tightly onto Max's torso, the wind blasts in their faces and kicks up dust behind them.

They yell over the sound of the wind--

DAN

I think you could really win the exhibition race this year!

MAX

You think so?

DAN

The Crow is exactly what first place looks like. Pure speed!

Max shifts gear and they turn into a blur on the horizon.

They speed past a PROTO-CYCLE GANG showing off their bikes as they approach the CITY WALL, a 10ft thick titanium wall surrounding the city.

They blast through an entrance in the wall.

EXT. DELTA CITY - MOMENTS LATER

A sign reads: "Welcome to Delta City!"

Dan and Max fly down the city streets, weaving through the obstacles.

Drones buzz around luxurious glass skyscrapers sitting high above the dark, graffiti covered streets and tunnels underneath. A stark contrast.

EXT. PROTO-INDUSTRIES

Dan and Max arrive at the massive domed building with a glowing sign. Underneath, a banner advertising the event: "Proto-Cycle Exhibition Race"

Interactive displays of different Proto-Cycles line the sprawling plaza.

Kids hop on top of the displays, pretending to drive them.

Others swipe through holographic kiosks with statistics.

They glance over a sleek, chrome-surfaced model. It makes their reflections look like a fun house mirror.

A PHOTOGRAPHER comes up to Max. He wears a bulky, high tech headset with assorted zoom lenses and holds a camera rig.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Excuse me, Max Powers?

MAX

Yes?

PHOTOGRAPHER

I'm with the Proto-Industries Media team, mind if I get a picture of you and your Proto-Cycle?

MAX

Sure, as long as I can get a copy of the photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Sure thing! I'm shooting on Holo-Disc.

He hands them a small device.

SNAP! Just like a Polaroid prints out, the picture projects from the Holo-Disc. Dan, Max, and the Crow. One happy family.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Thank you!

They exit.

INT. PROTO-INDUSTRIES - CONTINUOUS

Dan and Max enter through a garage door entrance.

A security guard stops them, Max presents his ID.

They haul the bike onto a cargo elevator.

The elevator door closes and shoots downward.

A moment of darkness before light spills in through the windows.

Outside is a large campus of multiple buildings--THE PROTO-INDUSTRIES COMPLEX.

On either side, more elevators carry competitors downward.

Below is a high-speed racetrack with neon accents and a large scoreboard.

Contestants gather at the starting line and a crowd slowly files into stadium style seating.

DAN

This place is so much bigger in person.