

Underneath the guise of tyranny is a small force willing to fight to the death to liberate themselves and their home country from this poisonous influence. Two best friends will battle with each other in this fight to survive in hopes of ousting their dictator.

Final Frontier

(BGM: No Remorse - Junkie XL)

"That damn Seether! I'll get him; he will pay for what he's done! His reign of terror is going to end now!"

The anime scene opens up with a view overlooking the Sunset Tunnel of Seacrest County in a still, motionless view. The air was calm, with traffic passing in both lanes. This silence is immediately shattered by the noise of a loud 2.0L I4 mixed in with the sound of police sirens. Seconds later, a white Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX GSR flies by at high speed, followed by at least 5 Traffic Police SCPD units. These Police cars are: Subaru Impreza WRX STI (GR), Mazda RX-8 (R3), Nissan 370Z (Z34), and a pair of Ford Crown Victoria vehicles.

Racing out of Sunset Tunnel, Jay keeps a close eye on his side view mirror to see the cops on the tail still following him. The wolf / snake hybrid is not only angry but also seeking revenge. He has recently escaped police custody following his involvement in destroying a war settlement with the help of a few close friends. However, the person he is really going after is Seether, the main target. Seether is not only a cruel dictator but he is in control of every major force in the city, including the police. It is through these connections that Seether obtained his rise to power and planned to eradicate anyone that gets in his way or opposes him.

:All units, supervisor has escalated pursuit to Condition 5. That is Condition 5.:

The Grand Ocean Coast is a breathtaking drive through coastal Seacrest County. This section of the city offers a stunning, beautiful view of the coastline and the scenery. Jay would have had ample time to himself to enjoy it if it wasn't for him being chased by the cops.

:Okay, get out of my way! I'm gonna spin him!:

"Waaaahhhhhh!!!" Jay finds himself being put into a clockwise spin and he instantly engages his reflexes while fighting to regain control of his car. However, he also steps on the brakes to slow down and allow the cops to pass him.

:Ack! He's hard on the wheel; I can't get through!:

"Nice try pigs!" Jay smirked at the cops' futile attempt in trying to spin him out. In a revenge act, the wolf hybrid activates a Shockwave attack to shove the pursuing cops away from him.

\*BLAM!\*

:Suspect's trying to take me out!:

Most of the police cars lose control from being pushed aside from the Shockwave. The S-curves throughout half of the road make straightening up no better. There is still traffic to watch out for since this is a potential hazard for high speed drivers, both cops and suspects alike.

While making his way along Grand Ocean Road, Jay activates an ESF, daring one of the cops to punch him from behind. He growls, "Come and take me if you dare!" One taunt given freely to the police during this pursuit is one that shouldn't be underestimated, especially since Jay is escaping the city.

During the chase, he narrowly avoids a Buick Century traffic car while witnessing the 370Z eat the traffic vehicle in a head-on collision.

\*STATIC!\*

:More cover! Repeat, more cover! We lost a unit!:

"Hmph! One down, four more to go!" Jay grins in triumph upon losing a cop car. He notices the GR unit beginning to overtake him from the right and he boldly moves in to slam into it from the left with the ESF still active.

\*BAM!\*

:MVA, MVA! I've been hit!:

The attack pushes the GR Impreza away and into a guardrail, forcing the cop to slam on the brakes to keep from hitting the wall. However, the other three are still on him and baring down, staying with him. That is until they notice a new surprise...

\*CLICK!\*

Jay had swerved from oncoming to incoming lanes, dropping a Stun Mine directly into the path of his pursuers. This is a potentially dangerous weapon that increases in size depending on the upgrade level but it's a relatively tricky tool to use. Incidentally, this trap is large and directly in the path of the police.

\*STATIC!\*

:No good. Oh, my vehicle is shutting down on me here! Yeah, dropping back! Dropping back!:

"Hmph, scratch another bogey off the road!" In the background, the RX-8 has blue and green ripples coursing through, leading to the police car breaking down completely. The lights also flickered and died along with the police siren dying out too.

Two down, three left to go. Jay had a long way to go to escape the city shutdown; the police were cracking down on those disloyal to the treacherous dictator, and Jay is one of them. He is the only one remaining so far. Or so it seemed...

\*BOOM!\*

:PC's taken heavy damage; maintaining pursuit.:

A sudden EMP blast lights up one of the remaining police vehicles, catching Jay completely by surprise. The noise is loud enough to actually make him jump in his seat and fishtail a bit.

"What in the world was that?!" Jay wondered to himself in fear. The noise did startle him. He takes another glance into his rearview mirror while hearing a distorted police siren from the aftermath. At the same time, a blue left arrow appears on his GPS screen, alerting him to a left bend up ahead. Along with this is a new profile coming up, displaying the name and car info.

Ryan Rhineland  
SS 454

"Is that a-- you're kidding me! A classic muscle car?! Are those things even durable?" Two pairs of double headlights are what Jay makes out in his side view mirror. Recognizing the vehicle as a Chevrolet Chevelle SS 454, the classic muscle car is decked out in red with black racing stripes. And the car is charging into the fray fast!

"Commander Rhineland!!! What are you doing here?" Jay questions, astonished. He didn't expect anyone else to be remaining in the city ever since Seether's takeover. Ever since that dastardly fiend rose to power, Seether has been driving out military personnel from the city. There are a few stragglers remaining in opposition to him and these have taken up the fight to the dictator's minions.

"Zero's rallying a large force to take back control and he wants all of us to meet in Redview County! Only a few of us are left and he's our only means of rallying support now! Jay, your friend means a lot to us and we have his support from the get-go!" The German Shepherd explains to the wolf hybrid.

All Jay could do is grin. Hearing this from the Commander makes Jay's heart swell with beaming pride for his best friend. Zero has been a motivating and influential figure in the army, even before Seether's takeover. Even now, Zero is still held in high regard, looking to him for leadership.

:This is 28-9; we've blocked off the road up ahead. Watch your speed.:

The anime scene pauses, switching to a top-down view and replacing the Lancer with a white flame icon. Crackling noises sound in the background with the flames zooming away from the chase and ending one mile down the road, showing a police roadblock. From left to right: Subaru Impreza WRX STI (GR), Ford Crown Victoria, Maserati GranTurismo S. The scene returns back to the pursuit with the chase resuming in normal real-time.

:Dispatch, cancel cover; cancel all routine cover and give me everything you got over here! We need to bag this guy!:

:Roger that, Unit 27. I am clearing units on nonessential calls. They should be headed your way shortly.:

Up ahead is a black-and-white Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione police car, traveling in the opposite direction. The police car switches on the lights and siren once the officer catches sight of the pursuit.

:This is 157 - joining pursuit. He just blew by! I'm on him!:

Once Jay and Ryan blow by the 8C, the Highway Patrol unit spins a 180 to join the other unit in pursuit. The cops now have two targets to bag, and trying to corral them is not going to be easy.

:Dispatch, get everyone you can over here! I'm gonna lose him!:

During the chase, Ryan begins to charge ahead of Jay in his Chevelle, pushing his classic muscle car to full throttle, careening along the road. Jay observes in horror, watching the Chevelle charge ahead of him when the German Shepherd drops a Stun Mine from the rear of his car...

\*CLICK!\*

...and punches the Crown Vic police car in the side, completely and effectively flipping the car. Not only does this provide a space for Jay to slip through, but the Stun Mine also adds to the danger level for the cops chasing them.

\*STATIC!\*

:10-25! 10-25! Send more cover!:

:Roadblock didn't work! Suspect is still on the run!:

"Hahaha! These pigs aren't even trying to catch us!" Ryan declares confidently while punching the gas. While gazing in his rearview mirror, he adds, "It's like they're not even trying to catch us! Their tactics are weak!"

In response, Jay warns, "I wouldn't say that if I were you. Sometimes they will work better than you think, even when you least expect it."

:All units, we are at Condition 6! That is Condition 6!:

"Sounds like they're ramping up their tactics, but who's to say they'll work?" Ryan smirked while charging down the road. Jay is behind him in his Lancer Evo IX GSR, only just a tad damaged. The police cars that were in the roadblock dispersed to pursue the duo, but a mysterious blue vehicle also shoots down the road in the background, catching up as well.

\*CRASH!\*

:SUSPECT JUST PLOWED INTO MY SIDE!!!:

\*STATIC!\*

:We got a unit out; injuries likely!:

A Porsche Panamera Turbo police interceptor was in the process of spinning around to join the chase when the Rapid Deployment vehicle suffered massive damage by a sucker punch from the Chevelle. The Lancer Evo IX finished it off with a punch to the rear, effectively wrecking the police car.

"Oops, guess we should have waited; guy didn't even see us coming!" Ryan comments in a mocking tone.

"While you could have shown a bit more mercy, we have some bigger things to worry about!" Jay reminds the cocky German Shepherd of their dilemma so as not to get too sidetracked. Otherwise, they'll be in a much bigger hole than before.

Suddenly...

\*FFFFFSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH!!!\*

:I'm hit! I've been hit!:

One of the pursuing police cars is suddenly overloaded by an EMP charge out of nowhere. Sparks fly from the blasted police car followed by the lights flickering severely. The siren is also distorted as a result.

A blue Maserati GranTurismo MC Stradale flies by in the background, followed by the Highway Patrol Jaguar XKR upon recovering from the EMP blast.

Both Ryan and Jay hear the fizzling EMP blast and the distortion that results from it, with the German Shepherd alerting the wolf hybrid, "Heads up! We got company!"

"Who? All I see are flashing red and blue lights!" Jay objected upon stealing a quick glance into his rearview mirror. He couldn't see anything but flashing lights. That is, until Ryan directed him to do a little bit more searching...

Before Jay could do anything else, he is alerted to an EMP lock-on attempt by one of the pursuing police vehicles, prompting him to quickly move to action.

:Heads-up, I'm gonna disable his car!:

At first, Jay begins to panic upon noticing the red reticle closing in on him when it suddenly disappears. At the same time, a clashing noise behind him directs Jay's attention to his rearview to find out the cause behind it...

\*BAM!\*

:MVA! MVA! He just hit me!:

A large plume of smoke erupts from a damaging attack carried out by a strange-looking vehicle behind the Lancer Evo IX. The target being tagged is the Jaguar XKR police car; the damage and attack even causes the trunk to pop ajar, followed by the lights to the vehicle flickering. A closer look at the gradually gaining car reveals it to be a blue Maserati GranTurismo MC Stradale joining the Lancer Evo IX and the Chevelle SS. But while drawing closer, the new car unleashes a Shockwave to force the police cars away.

\*BLAM!\*

:Hold on, hold on! He's trying to force me over!:

"Aaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!" Unfortunately, Jay is caught in the Shockwave attack and is propelled forward, not only in his seat, but also further ahead of the incoming Maserati as a result of the attack.

"Sorry! Should have been more careful; these cops don't play when it comes to numbers and endurance!" The voice and profile of a male Bengal Tiger comes on the screen now, displaying the information on Jay's HUD:

Matthew Frazier  
GranTurismo MC Stradale

"Zero never told me anything about you except that you were a spy. Working for Seether's side and filling him on us. Why are you here?" While Jay is initially suspicious, he gives the tiger one chance to speak his mind.

"That's because Seether is a complete idiot. I was sent to be his second-in-command when I'm actually on your side. So you have Zero and my dad to thank for that!" The tiger simply explained. While driving, he attempts to keep his attention on the road and monitor Jay's reaction... that is, until Ryan speaks up.

While a yellow right arrow appears on their HUD, Ryan informs Jay, "Matthew is one of us, so you have nothing to worry about. And you'll meet his father soon enough when we reach Zero's hideout."

"We can worry about that later once we evade the police. Right now, they seem to be stepping up their aggression level and their tactics!" Jay advises while keeping pace with Ryan... or at least try to. Ryan's Chevelle outclassed Jay's Evo IX in acceleration, but definitely not in handling.

While sliding around another bend, Ryan nearly collides with a Porsche Panamera Turbo police interceptor, just barely scraping by. The Rapid Deployment police vehicle immediately follows in pursuit...

:387 - he just sped by me; in pursuit!:

\*WHAM!\*

:10-36! Suspect smashed into the rear of my unit!:

While the Panamera Turbo is joining the pursuit, the vehicle suffers a hard impact to the rear by the Maserati, the impact being hard enough to dislodge the rear bumper from the right side and causing it to scrape along the pavement.

Jay comes in third, passing by the damaged Panamera while still being pursued by the remaining Traffic Police variants. But one of them starts to charge ahead while approaching the end of Grand Ocean Road.

:Suspect is leaving himself wide open in front. Overtaking for a block...:

Seeing the RX-8 beginning to advance ahead, Jay proceeds to attack first, slamming the R3 hard from the left when he notices a large Stun Mine in the road ahead.

:Suspect just rammed me! Standby!:

"!!!" Immediately, Jay rushes to avoid the trap by swerving around it. However, the police weren't so fortunate... again...

\*STATIC!\*

:No good, no good! PC down! Requesting wrecker and EMS!

Chancing a peek into his rearview mirror, Jay observes multiple police cars affected by the large Stun Mine; at least 5 police cars were affected just from that one trap alone. And to add further collateral to pile on, Jay drops a Stun Mine of his own to contribute to the damage.

\*CLICK!\*

"Whoops, dropped my Stun Mine!" Jay giggled in return. Once he turns his attention back to the road, he notices yet another police roadblock, completely shutting off the road. But with Ryan charging ahead, a muscle car is all that's more than required to break on through. From left to right, this roadblock consists of: Jaguar XKR, Porsche Panamera Turbo, Aston Martin DBS, Aston Martin V12 Vantage.

While a crashing noise is heard up ahead, the results of Jay's Stun Mine come on his police scanner.

:Suspect pushed his way through the roadblock!:

\*STATIC!\*

:PC's filling with smoke! I can't see anything!:

While both Ryan and Matthew break the roadblock, they are allowing Jay to slip by, unharmed. But this doesn't come without a few surprises of their own, ones that Jay can hopefully see before it's too late.

Cutting to the very right edge of the roadblock, all Jay notices upon approach is 4 blinking red spike strips and a pair of Stun Mines, each of different intensity. They were deployed when Ryan and Matthew smashed through the roadblock. Jay dropped his own Stun Mine already, so that leaves only a spike strip setup to do.

Once Jay slips by his chosen spot, he drops a pair of spike strips in his wake, leaving them in the path of anyone following. A few of the cops notice the red lights and immediately attempt to hit the brakes in their efforts to stop. Others keep right on going until it is too late, leading to a massive pileup of cop cars at the very end of Grand Ocean Road just before the intersection that leads away from the coastline.

\*STATIC!\*



:There's smoke and oil spraying from my hood...! I'm dropping out!:

:I need E.M.S to my location! I got a multiple unit pile-up; that's multiple cars down!:

"That isn't good. Those cops are gonna need a lot of medical attention from that massive crash..." Jay observed from looking in his rearview mirror. He turns his attention back to the road ahead, trying to track both Ryan and Matthew via minimap.

"They should be around here somewhere." He comes to a complete stop, trying to locate Ryan and Matthew visually via their own cars; Ryan's red Chevelle SS and Matthew's blue Maserati GranTurismo MC Stradale. Upon noticing a blue blur down the beginning of Westbeach Freeway, Matthew's hard voice comes on Jay's line, startling the wolf in his seat.

"Hey kid, are you coming or what?! We're not gonna sit back and wait for you to take your time while the risk of getting arrested is still high!" Jay jumps in his seat from the sudden transmission, and he directs his gaze downward to see the angry tiger boring into him with his turquoise eyes.

"Waahhh!!! Sorry!!!" The wolf kicks himself into action from the tiger's tirade, putting his car into high gear once again. Jay swings his Lancer Evo IX GSR onto Westbeach Freeway right as pelting noises catch his attention. These are gunshots!

"Oh crap!!" Flooring the accelerator, Jay quickly speeds off right as Matthew's voice rings in his car again, "Kid, get out of there! They'll turn you into Swiss cheese!"

"Okay! I'm getting out of there now!!!" Jay exclaims in panic mode. He activates a Turbo Boost out of desperation and a powering up noise is heard as a result. And then a sonic blast tears the sound barrier with the Turbo Boost knocking Jay back into his seat upon propulsion.

"Eeeeeaaaaaggggghhhhhhhhh!!!" The scenery blurs by in a flash with Jay rocketing down the freeway, almost creaming Ryan and Matthew in the process. The Stage 3 Turbo Boost continues for a short while before disengaging, giving Jay more control and releasing him from the intense streaking from how powerful it was.

"Damn, Jay! You could have warned us beforehand!" Ryan grumbles out loud. He is a bit annoyed at Jay for almost eating him and Matthew, but otherwise relieved to finally escape out of Seacrest County. With the successful evasion from the cops complete, the trio can now focus on migrating to Redview County in hopes of finding an available safehouse to contact Zero and his men.

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Meanwhile inside of a Redview County safehouse, Zero stands in the center of a large room, staring up at a large electronic screen. The viewscreen is mounted diagonally on one of the corners of the room, allowing the viewer more room to gaze outside of the window in case of enemies approaching.

While overlooking the city maps, the dachshund mix turns away from the screen to see a yellow furred Bengal Tiger marching to meet him. Curious for the report, he addresses the tiger before him, "Captain, what do you have for me? Any news on the soldiers?"

The tiger cracks a brief, small smile whilst reporting, "My son is with your friend; they should be arriving shortly out of Seacrest County if they escape the heavy police presence in the entire area. That place has been swarming with cops ever since this dictatorship happened."

Pleased with this news, Zero taps his fingers together, delighted. He grins while commenting, "Those cops stand no chance of catching them, given their reliance on numbers and brute strength instead of strategy." The dog soldier whirls to face the viewscreen again, musing, "Seether's time is coming where he will finally fall. And once he is dethroned, there will be no turning back."

The tiger blinks at Zero, regarding him with an inquisitive glare in his chartreuse eyes. He then pipes up, "Um Zero, anything else you need news of? You look like you're out of your rocker, if you understand what I'm getting at."

"Are you calling me 'crazy'?" Zero smirked at hearing the tiger's concerned tone behind him. And then he turns to face the striped feline, a relaxed smile donning his features. "You may consider me as being such, seeing as how mad we're all being driven by our dictator problem; Peter, I assure you, I am not crazy, just anticipating the arrival of our friends. And once we are all together, then we will work from there on what to do."

Peter continues to stare at the dachshund mix, a soft smile tugging at the corners of his mouth. He reassures Zero, "Your men are in good hands, Zero. And I trust that my son is with them, helping out. They should be arriving soon if nothing else happens."

"Your son is an excellent soldier, Peter. An excellent soldier and an excellent hunter," Zero praises the yellow furred tiger on his son's positive qualities during the fight against the police and the dictator's minions. He's considerably grown an attachment to Peter but the dachshund is also impressed with his son as well, holding him too in high regard as a top-ranking soldier in the fighting force.

Peter smiles warmly while a pink blush appears across his face. He lightly scratches his forehead while humbly remarking, "Thank you Zero. I trained my son well; I try to be a good role model, at least. And I'm glad he looks up to me; a father is a son's role model and idol after all."

"Who wouldn't enjoy that? Even I hold you and your son in high regard." Zero brushes his forward bangs while giving the yellow furred tiger a thumbs-up out of admiration and respect. He places his hands on his hips while adding, "and with influential role models like you two, you guys are already at the top of your game! We just need a morale boost since there aren't that many of us."

Peter slowly raises a hand up to question Zero's motive, gazing at him incredulously. The tiger even arches his eyebrows in wonder while asking, "Morale boost? I can see if we had a lot of casualties on our side but there are like what, only a little more than 400 of us and ten times the number of Seether's minions? Our small army is holding up quite fine, so I see no need for a morale boost. We're doing just fine."

Zero reminds the tiger by pointing out, "Ever since Seether assumed power, he's been trying to capture every last one of us, branding us as rebels when he is the one at fault here. And this war has been going on for quite a while. As for me suggesting a morale boost, I want you to think about it, Peter. Why else would I suggest something like that?"

Peter scratches his forehead with his index finger while in thought. What Zero has said to him did make a lot of sense. After some silent consideration, Peter finally comments, "I can see your point, Zero. After all, it does make complete sense."

Zero brushes his hair aside, smirking at the yellow furred tiger. He acknowledges Peter, "Now that you finally understand, you must know why we have these occasional requests, hmm? As long as our guys are in high spirits, we won't have anything to fear when taking on even the toughest of challenges."

The yellow tiger nods while crossing his arms, satisfied with himself and Zero. He takes a moment of concentration to watch the monitor above while Zero begins to head out, addressing the tiger, "Captain, I will be in my office filling out some orders and then I will leave command of this safehouse to you. Do not let a single one of Seether's goons inside. Blast 'em if you need to. You're good at recognition, so put your memory to good use!"

Peter snaps his chartreuse eyes to Zero, observing the departing dog while listening to his command. He smirks and assures him confidently, "No need to tell me twice! I got this in the bag!"

While the dachshund mix gives a reassuring nod and departs the area, Peter turns his attention back to the monitor and folds his arms across his chest, his tail swishing behind him in a confident, relaxed manner. He whispers, "Simple and easy as pie!"

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A few minutes later, Zero had gone into his office to fill out some paperwork he had to do regarding a few cases regarding confidential and private information. Some of it was a bit tiring

but the dachshund mix eventually got himself finished. He sighs in relief once everything is finished.

Satisfied with his work, Zero stands up from his desk, taking the papers in his arm while muttering to himself, "Got these done, now I just need to drop them off somewhere safe. Maybe I can drop them off at another safehouse for processing, the local police station is out of the question. Leaving the office, Zero closes his door behind him and returns to the main conference room for an update from Peter.

"Captain, what is the status update?" Right as Zero enters the room, he assumes that Peter is ready to answer when he notices the inquiring stare coming from the yellow tiger at the stack that Zero is carrying. Seeing Peter's inquisitive gaze, Zero just smirks while lightly drumming his fingers against the files and mentioning, "Just confidential information. This is all private stuff; no peeking!"

"Oh, I see; confidential information, right?" Peter had no reason to suspect Zero of being a spy for the enemy side. If it wasn't for the dachshund mix being the revolutionary leader, then everyone would be dead one way or another already. The tiger just gives a thumbs-up to Zero with a gleaming smile, confident. "I trust you, Zero. No reason for suspicion."

"Good, good." Zero begins to leave while remarking, "I'm heading out now, Peter. Control of this safehouse being transferred over to you! I expect this and everyone inside to be taken care of?"

A firm nod later and Peter flips his white hair out of confidence, "You can count on me!"

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After their brief little conversation and transfer of ownership regarding the safehouse, Zero is sitting in the driver's seat of a black Lamborghini Murcielago Coupe, the 6.2L V12 rumbling idly. The dachshund mix rubs his green hair, exhaling softly while having just finished a conversation over his custom center console. And now he is ready to depart with his destination in mind. Zero mutters out through his breath, "Alright, time to head out... and see if I can make it in one piece."

Putting his car in gear, Zero makes his departure from the safehouse, rolling away along the dirt trail and ascending up a metal tube to access Kingfisher Road. But the moment he reaches the large street, he hears instant police chatter coming from his built-in police scanner, followed by a police siren and a rumbling V8 engine.

PURSUIT STARTED

(BGM: Top-Flight Mechanics - Wangan Midnight Maximum Tune 3 OST)

:Dispatch, this is Unit 87 - log me onto a traffic stop with a suspicious vehicle.:

"What the?! But how?!" Zero nudges on the accelerator while looking around for the police car; it is when he gazes into his rearview mirror that he notices a Mercedes C63 AMG Coupe Black Series closing in on him from behind that he suspects something is up.

"How in the world did they find me so fast? After everything I've done to make sure of that? Something is way off here..." The dachshund guns the accelerator, sending the 6.2L V12 into a workout from hard acceleration. Initially, the Mercedes Patrol car had trouble staying with the black Murcielago with the distance between them widening quickly.

:Dispatch, I'm gonna need some help to corral this guy. He's in the process of evading me.:

:Roger that, 87. Units are detailed and should be arriving shortly.:

Not wanting to be pursued any longer, Zero floors the accelerator, pushing his ride to the max. The distance increases more while approaching a construction zone at high speed, quickly leaving the Mercedes in the dust.

:This guy just tore into a construction zone! I need some backup over here!:

To make matters even more challenging, Zero is finding himself now traveling down the wrong side of the road! The dachshund is eerily calm about this while determined to get away from the cops. Most drivers are scared out of their wits when it comes to being in oncoming traffic at high speed. Not the case with Zero.

Ever since Seether's rise to power, Zero had resorted to staying off the grid, constantly running from the cops under control of the mindless dictator. At first, running into oncoming traffic seemed to be suicide to him and he was scared breathless. But over the course of time, the dachshund has gotten better at his vehicular skills, and now he is cool as a cucumber.

After pretty much shooting under a viaduct and leaving the construction zone behind, Zero happens to notice something that caught his eye, so he cuts his speed drastically through hard deceleration. However, he is still in a pursuit, so there are bound to be more cops lurking in the area.

While Zero is checking his minimap for what he's just passed by, he looks up to see a Porsche 911 Turbo (991) patrol car advancing on him from the oncoming lane.

:This is Unit 335, pulling up on scene with the pursuit now.:

\*BUMP!\*

:This guy just hit me head-on! Maintaining pursuit!:

Seeing the second police car coming in, Zero guns the accelerator to charge the 991 head-on, eating it in a direct crash and forcing it out of the way. He then slows down hard with the Porsche beginning to take off when he pulls a 180 to double back in the other direction.

:Suspect turned around; we're heading northbound again.:

Zero does another double take at what had caught his sight when he notices an entryway leading to Riverside Drive. At the same time, he takes note of the 911 Turbo on his bumper and it appears that the Mercedes has finally managed to catch up... for now.

:Dispatch, start up VHS, I'm gonna disable his car.:

Zero just smirked while charging up the entryway to Riverside Drive, leaving behind the C209 once again while it attempted to acquire a lock-on with an E.M.P. In response, the dachshund driver throws down a pair of spike strips in his wake, going at a diagonal way to cover the side of the road he is on.

Upon seeing a successful spike strip hit, Zero fistpumps the air in celebration. "Yes! That ought to slow them down! If I can just make it out of their sight, they should be off the grid in no time." Both police cars end up spinning out from hitting the spikes, rendering the attempted E.M.P lock-on a complete failure. This wasn't the end as more police cars began to converge on Zero's location.

:Unit 351 - joining the pursuit, over. He just went by me, I'm on him.:

"Hmm, seems like these boys won't quit until they nab me." Zero grins while pushing ahead, noticing a Bentley Continental GT V8 patrol car behind him after it spun around to chase him. That's when he noticed a few more police vehicles joining from oncoming lanes. There are at least 4 more units also joining in: Ferrari FF, Lexus LFA, Ferrari 458 Italia, and McLaren 12C.

"Whoop!" Zero tosses his Murcielago Coupe to the right shoulder, completely avoiding being eaten in a head-on attack by the FF. He comes off the shoulder, narrowly avoiding the LFA, but the dachshund speeds up and eats the right side of the 458 Italia in a hard T-bone attack.

:10-36! I've just been T-boned!:

Although the T-bone is at an angle through a moderate bend in the road, Zero follows this up with a powerful Shockwave, also catching the 12C patrol car in it while meant as a follow-up for the 458 Italia.

\*BLAM!\*

:MVA! MVA! He just hit me!:

"Let's see how well you punks do when up against a dangerous menace to your society!" Zero was in full battle mode now, and he was still determined to reach the destination he had in mind. "Come and get me!"

Custom silver flames shoot from the center dual exhaust tips, showing aggression on Zero's end. While racing away, he takes note of the multiple blinking chevrons on his tail, showing all of the cop cars chasing him. He grins wickedly, ready to dish out some much needed payback, but he also didn't want to be too late in carrying out his original assignment.

:All units, head's up, This is 276-9! Spikes laid out to the right of the roadblock!:

"Hmph! Roadblocks and spike strips are the only things these guys know how to set up; they're good at it." Zero mutters to himself, "Only problem is that these fail way too much."

Suddenly, the 12C and the FF proceed to charge ahead of the fleeing first-generation Murcielago, with a second-generation Lamborghini Murcielago LP670-4 SV also joining them. This only makes the dachshund grin even more, knowing all too well the big mistake they're making.

"You boys are so desperate to catch me that you're not even paying attention to what's coming!" Zero puts on his brake, putting some distance between him and the three police units in front of him; he even lets the 458 Italia pass him in the process. He just laughs to himself, taking note of a Ford Shelby GT500 patrol car up ahead that is likely part of the roadblock. Time to test if his theory is true...

Speeding up, Zero decreases the distance and once within a considerable range before the roadblock, the dachshund driver unleashes a powerful Shockwave attack to throw his pursuers into a frenzy!

\*BLAM!\*

The only vehicle that isn't badly damaged is the FF, though the other three aren't so fortunate; the 12C slams into the rear of the Mustang before eating a guardrail; the 458 Italia eats the side of an unmarked Bentley Continental GT V8, sending the latter into a rollover and the former into a midair crash landing; the Murcielago LP670-4 SV careens into the rear of a Marussia B2 patrol car while inadvertently running over the spikes from the momentum.

\*STATIC!\*

:Code 3 ambulance, I got injuries!:

While Zero emerges from the roadblock, passing by from where the unmarked Bentley originally was, the remaining units follow while a call for help is being established.

:I need E.M.S to my location! I got multiple cars in a pile-up! That's multiple units down!:

"Hahahahaha!!! That's a nice stunt pulled off! At least it saved me some time and breathing room!" Zero whooped in celebratory excitement.

Zero continues along Riverside Drive with the remaining police cars still on his tail, but he still wasn't done yet. He still has his own destination to go to. But since the cops are so focused on catching him, they try again to corral him.

:Let's try and slow this thing down. Form up with a tight 10-75 and do not let him get by you.:

While the FF and the LFA proceed to charge ahead of Zero to block him and box him in, the Continental V8 stays behind on his bumper, but it isn't gonna be long before the dachshund goes on the attack again.

Zero goes on the attack again, this time activating an ESF and charging into the back of the LFA, abruptly shoving it forward in a cloud of light smoke. This also results in moderate damage to the police car with the lights flickering repeatedly.

:10-36! Suspect just smashed into the rear of my unit!:

Zero smirked while following this up with a Shockwave for further damage, shoving away the three remaining police cars that were surrounding him.

\*BLAM!\*

:MVA! MVA! He just hit me!:

The dachshund mix just sneers at the cops while proceeding to continue onwards along Riverside Drive. His main goal is to reach the freeway, but at the same time, he needed to escape the cops. Unfortunately with the massive heat intensity of the police, evading is gonna be a pretty hard struggle for survival.

Along the way, Zero zooms by two more police units parked on the incoming shoulder, one an Enforcer, the other Undercover. The first one is a Koenigsegg Agera R and the second is a Hennessey Venom GT, both highly dangerous.

:This is Unit 887 - on-scene with the pursuit.:

Once again, Zero trails his eyes towards his rearview mirror, taking note of the damaged police units still on his tail. The last two he knew were highly dangerous and highly aggressive, but while turning his attention back to the road ahead, Zero suddenly slams on his brakes upon noticing another roadblock ahead of him. On the outside are two police vehicles; to the outer left



is a Lamborghini Gallardo LP560-4 Enforcer and on the outer right is an undercover Lamborghini Murcielago LP670-4. The inner parts contain spike strips.

:Watch it! This guy just hammered his brakes!:

Coincidentally, Zero maneuvers his first-generation Murcielago to the far right while a roaring V8 charges in from behind, smacking Zero hard in the rear. This actually causes Zero not only to clear the roadblock but also to briefly lose control of his vehicle.

:No good! No good! Spikes didn't work!:

'Gaahhh! I never realized how much harder this would be! If they get on Interstate 4 with me, I'm pretty much screwed! It's that damn Venom!' Zero inwardly rages while fighting for control of his car.

:Standby to get another one going; units are in place directly ahead of you.:

Although he manages to regain control of his ride, the angry Venom punches Zero in the rear again. This makes the dachshund mix jolt in his seat from the impact.

:I had enough; I'm forcing him off the road!:

At that moment, a powerful burst of energy shoots from the front of the Venom in a powerful Shock Ram attack, catching Zero completely by surprise!

\*BLAM!\*

"Haaaagggghhhhhh!!!" Wide-eyed terror and a scream is heard from Zero from his car spinning 270°, coming to a full stop. Thinking the black Murcielago is dead, the police move in to surround him.

:Go! Shut em down now!:

Pounding his steering column, Zero goes from relaxed to angry. Stomping on the gas, he unleashes a Shockwave attack in revenge, even catching the Hennessey Venom GT in the blast.

(BGM changes to Bending Light by Trevor Morris)

\*BLAM!\*

:Suspect's trying to take me out!:

Racing off onto the remainder of Riverside Drive, Zero is nearly blindsided by an incoming Ferrari F50 patrol car, to which Zero targets with an E.M.P, while at the same time he activates an ESF to goad anyone stupid enough into ramming him.

:This is Unit 695, pulling up on scene now!:

While the F50 attempts to speed away, Zero isn't having it. Gritting his teeth, the dachshund mix goes after the F50 in hopes of securing a successful hit. At the same time, the police attempt the same thing on Zero himself!

:Heads-up, I'm gonna disable his car!:

In return, Zero activates a Jammer to counter the lock-on and disable the cop weaponry. Then at the same moment, a loud zapping noise confirms a successful EMP attack on the F50.

\*FFFSSSSHHHHHTTTTTT!\*

:I've just been hit! Maintaining pursuit!:

"Not today, pigs! I am going to destroy each and every last one of you if it's the last thing I do!" Zero snarls aggressively. If he were to be captured now, he would not be going down without a fight. Being busted is the absolute last thing he wanted to happen right now.

After riding out the remainder of Riverside Drive, the pursuit moves onto Interstate 4 going eastbound. With his first-generation Murcielago Coupe having sustained only light damage, the dachshund mix pushes on, determined to escape the police and destroy as many of his pursuers as he can.

:Minimal damage! He's still goin'!:

Right as the dachshund driver enters the incoming on-ramp leading to Interstate 4, bright green flames emerge from the twin exhaust tips of the Murcielago Coupe; Zero activates a Turbo Boost for a sharp launch away from the pursuing cops!

:He's pulling away from me!:

The forceful activation and propulsion from the Turbo Boost kicks Zero backwards into the leather seat, causing him to sink in while the scenery blurs by him in a heated rush. Traffic appeared to be at a standstill in this case, despite the light density on the streets and freeway. Even the local police cars, well the remaining pursuit units in fact, we're struggling to keep up.

:Lost sight of him; working to catch up!:

During the ensuing catch-up process, there happened to be a stray Stun Mine placed directly in the middle of the road, and the two hypercar units are leading the charge to regain control of the pursuit and catch up to the Murcielago. Unfortunately, the unmarked Venom streaks over the Mine at nearly 220 mph, breaking down almost instantaneously with blue and green lines coursing throughout the vehicle.

\*STATIC!\*

:Oh, looks like I'm out. Yeah, we lost a PC! Lost a vehicle, lost a vehicle!:

The sudden drastic drop in speed for the disabled Venom sparks a bit of brief chaos for the rest of the pursuing units. A few are out of the way of the dead police unit while others aren't so fortunate.

A sharp punch to the rear from one of the remaining police cars turns a simple fender-bender into a pile-up, but only two police cars out of the ones remaining are left, while the lone Agera R charges ahead at top speed.

:Our suspect may have gotten away; working to regain a visual.:

Coincidentally, there are a pair of spike strips left directly in the middle of the road and the Agera R attempts to swing by the traps. Unfortunately, trying to evade a trap at over 250 mph is near impossible unless the driver has eagle eyes and lightning reflexes.

The cop, incidentally, ends up shooting over the spikes, taking out both left wheels in the process. This results in a massive loss of control where the police car spins out, having reduced the left side to just bare metal rims. A call is then put out to terminate the pursuit, pending immediately.

Zero is already a long way off, having successfully evaded capture once again, and now with the bogies off his six, the dachshund mix can now freely travel to his designated spot to finally take care of business.

Breathing a sigh of relief, Zero finally relaxes while taking his pawfoot off his accelerator, letting himself coast down the freeway while swerving through light traffic. The exit for Gullwing Drive comes up on one of the overhead signs after passing the roadway sign for the same thing.

Now fully relaxed, Zero mutters, "Finally, now I can concentrate. I should be arriving soon if I'm not too late."

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On Gullwing Drive, meanwhile, there is a safehouse located just off the shoulder of the road, along with a black Marussia B2 parked nearby. The Marussia B2 is actually a decommissioned

police car that was stolen and vandalized as means of spreading the message of rebellion around. But a tougher vehicle is needed to survive against a maximum heat pursuit against the cops.

Inside of a nearby garage adjacent to the safehouse is a red / white Chevrolet Bel Air, a vintage American car. The classic car is suspended by a support jack, with a male beagle underneath the car. Must be some maintenance going on.

After a bit of tinkering with the vintage classic, the beagle eventually emerges from underneath the car, taking a breather to relax from his work. He draws and releases a visible sigh, panting slightly from his work while sitting up.

"Man, what a workout. I'm beat..." The beagle huffs out while gazing out onto the horizon ahead of him. His mauve eyes soon fall on the tricked-out Marussia B2 in front of him, which he stands up to analyze.

His eyes scanning the B2, the beagle comments, "I never thought in my entire life or service as a simple mechanic that I would be given a task as crazy as this. Playing around with a decommissioned police car is no joke; thing still could be active, or even have weapons inside, arms that I probably couldn't handle."

Dale Werner is a trusted mechanic among the community. He has made his living ever since he recovered a barn-find Bel Air one day, turning it from a heavily rusted, unloved heap of scrap metal to a shiny, newly polished hot rod. Ever since then, he's been in the mechanic business, and his workout on this has paid off quite a bit.

Not only has Dale been gaining a profit from this, but he has also garnered attention from the police and military, even coming into contact with Zero for his services. Still, even with this tyranny and rebellion, the beagle himself has been surprised with what he can do to a simple vehicle; case in point - that undercover Marussia B2 that he worked on.

This Marussia B2 had originally started out as an unmarked undercover police car variant of the regular patrol version of the B2. Due to the rising increase in high speed chases and getaways, this particular car was dropped in favor of better police units. Eventually, this is one of the many decommissioned police cars stored away, which somehow wound up being sought out after a recent incident involving a stolen patrol car, a Bugatti Veyron Super Sport, in fact. Stunts like these were pulled to showcase the rebel faction's show of force and to carry their message across in hopes of receiving additional support and attention. The first incident involving the decommissioned Super Sport worked, which led to similar incidents being planned out; in this case the vandalized B2 is going to be used for another round of play time with the local police.

Slowly, Dale shakes his head in wonder upon contemplating his work and the progress he's made. Not only that but he can hardly believe how much his services are being put to good use, or rather, to intense use for the rebel faction. While still gazing at the black B2, he smirks at the

car while musing, "Heh, not as durable or strong as the last car used for the past incident, but it's something; it'll have to do at least."

While still staring at the decommissioned B2, the beagle turns his head away to the road, his ears picking up the buzz of a 6.2L V12 approaching. Eventually, his mauve eyes fall on a black first-generation Lamborghini Murcielago Coupe turning onto the dirt and pulling up towards the safehouse. Recognizing the car and driver, Dale stands up in anticipation of meeting the driver himself, hoping to acquire what they had talked about earlier.

Both lights and engine shut off once the car is parked, followed by a familiar dachshund mix exiting out of the vehicle. When Zero exits the car, he slams the door behind him and opens up the hood to retrieve the folders, some of which had scattered and shifted during the pursuit.

Watching the dachshund, Dale just smiled out of admiration, waiting to retrieve the files he brought over. During this time, the beagle announces, "Welcome to the Gullwing section! Hope you brought the files like we discussed."

"Yep, got 'em all in the trunk. Give me a moment." While Zero retrieves the files, Dale trails his mauve eyes over to the road upon hearing a second engine approaching; this one sounded slightly different, yet still powerful and aggressive. Seconds later, the form of a silver Lamborghini Gallardo Coupe appears, turning onto the trail and pulling up next to the Murcielago.

Zero's train of thought is broken by Dale's muttering about the Gallardo, which also captures the dachshund's attention - "Who is that guy?" A simple inquiry uttered quietly by the beagle, yet one full of suspicion. The beagle isn't armed, but if he was, then he would certainly retrieve whatever gun he had stored in his inventory.

Zero has just retrieved the files when he himself notices the silver Gallardo at that moment, and he too grows suspicious. One look at the driver evaporates this, turning his suspicion into recognition and relief. The dachshund hands the files over to Dale while calmly ordering him, "Stand down, partner. He's one of us."

"How do I know he's not one of the enemy?" Dale challenges, scowling at the dachshund. This is about to be revealed plainly in a matter of seconds.

"Because he is my best friend and subordinate. You'll meet him very soon." Zero mentions to the beagle while trailing his green eyes over to the silver bull. His relaxed expression soon turns into a hard stare upon watching the silver Gallardo roll away and disappear around the corner. This actually turns a light bulb on inside of Zero's head.

The beagle also focuses his own mauve eyes on the disappearing Gallardo, turning his attention back to Zero while pointing over his shoulder towards the silver car. He implies, "Are y'all trying to hide something from me? This isn't funny, Zero!"

Zero dismisses Dale's aroused suspicion with a simple wave of his hand, flinging off the claim. He remarks with a smirk, "Sometimes my friend is smarter than he thinks, even leaving me behind in some areas. He's hiding from the police, so I am going to hide my car too."

After handing the files over to Dale, Zero retreats back inside his car and fires up the 6.2L V12 for a bit, proceeding to roll away to disappear around the corner and join the silver Gallardo. At the same time with Dale observing the black Murcielago rolling away, his mauve eyes fall on a green wolf / snake hybrid emerging from around the corner, making the beagle rear back in shock. "Wh-wh-whoa, what is that?! Who are you?!"

The wolf hybrid notices the beagle and stays where he is for a bit out of hesitation upon seeing the initial shock on the dog's face. But after noticing the mechanic is unarmed, the green furred hybrid reveals, "My name is Jay and I'm part of Zero's army. I actually managed to escape police custody back in Seacrest County."

Hearing this short, but brief explanation from the wolf hybrid is all that Dale needed as convincing proof to see if Jay is one of them. This actually makes Dale curious; wanting to learn more about this green wolf, Dale invited him and Zero inside of the safehouse, waving him over while slowly retreating inside. "Come inside, both of you! We can discuss more inside without the possibility of a local police presence."

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Jay's tail is wagging pretty fast in excitement over seeing Zero again after being separated for so long; in fact, one could probably call it desperation or a reunion, however they see fit to address it. The wolf hybrid hadn't anticipated crossing paths with Zero, but after receiving a tip on Zero's whereabouts from Matthew and his father, Peter, this information was all that Jay needed just to see his best friend again.

Even Zero himself wasn't expecting to cross paths with Jay, at least, not so soon. It was supposed to come at a later time for an assignment they were supposed to work on together, so for Jay to pop up like this, unannounced and out of the blue, is a complete shocker for Zero. Nevertheless, the two friends are happy to see each other again.

While the trio is getting settled in, Jay is happily clinging to the dachshund mix, his green tail swinging from side to side in a joyous manner. Zero just lets him hug him, also reaching a hand over to pet the wolf hybrid on the head between the ears.

"So, missed me, huh?" Zero wryly deduces with a smirk while petting and scratching Jay's head.

"Yeah, I did. Now we can finally see each other again! No need to travel long distances now!" Jay exclaims happily while letting himself relax under Zero's petting. He starts to playfully nip at

the dachshund's wrist, leading Zero to repeatedly boop him gently on the nose and alternate between scratching his head and booping his nose.

After a few minutes of brief playtime between the two, Dale comes into the room, carrying a tray with three steaming mugs of coffee while announcing, "Alright, let's get down to business!"

After settling down, Zero and Jay are treated to a series of folders being passed off to both of them separately by Dale, earning a confused look especially from Jay himself. While staring at the folder, he glances up at Dale and questions, "What is this all about?"

Before Dale can open his mouth to explain, Zero answers for the beagle, explaining to Jay, "Though this is only confidential information, I'm willing to spill the beans a little bit. If you open the folder, I'll start explaining to you what this is all about."

Upon directing his attention to the folder in front of him, Jay retrieves the folder and opens it up, revealing the picture of a white Ford GT90 Concept being chased by police cars in the background. While Jay studies the scenario, Zero explains, "This is basically a series of projects that I have developed in mind to further our progress in our rebellion. Seether's lieutenants have acquired different high-end vehicles and products, so to combat this, we're going for an equal approach; we fight fire with fire."

"Uh Zero, we barely have anything to fight on equal terms. Are you suggesting something else entirely?" Jay countered while looking up at the dachshund in question.

Zero rubs his neck while claiming, "What I'm trying to explain is this: we sneak into one of the impound lots and snag a ride of theirs to vandalize. If it's rigged, then it's a no-go, so we blow it up from a safe distance."

"So we blow up their rides to increase debt then? That sounds like quite a challenge." Jay surmised while rubbing his cheek in thought. Then his ears swivel while he asks a question of his own.

"Why is there a Marussia B2 police car outside by the safehouse? Won't the cops come looking for it?" The wolf implied, much to Zero's and Dale's knowledge. Both beagle and dachshund exchange knowing glances in silence before turning their attention back to the wolf.

Finally after a bit of silence, Dale goes on to elaborate, "Zero first came up with the plan after he requested me to work on a high-end police car to terrorize the cops; wanted me to spread his message, y'know? Anyways, that B2 is my second completed project, but you will not believe what my first project was."

A cold shiver spikes Jay's spine upon detecting the hidden tone in his voice. Seeing Dale's smirk, the wolf grows nervous while asking him, "What was your first project you worked on?"

Plainly seeing that it is no big deal, Dale reveals to the wolf hybrid, "My first project was a Bugatti Veyron Super Sport, an Enforcer variant. It was a thing of beauty when brought to me, but now it's a hot mess. Ha ha ha ha!!!"

The way Dale explained the situation and even laughed about it is enough to relax Jay to the point where he now feels comfortable around Dale, having just met the beagle.

Zero, meanwhile, goes on to explain the situation further. "We are already starting off on revenge pursuits against the police to spread our message across. We've already taken two of their police cars and gave them a custom tuning job; we're already planning on more."

"So what is the next project you're shooting for?" Dale asks in a plain manner.

"I cannot decide between these two." Zero holds up two separate photos of two different police cars: on the left photo from Dale's point of view is an Enforcer version of the Koenigsegg Agera R and on the right is an undercover version of the Bugatti Veyron Super Sport.

Dale gives his viewpoint and answer on the matter, snatching the undercover Veyron out of Zero's hand. This catches Zero completely by surprise, leaving him reaching for the photo. "HEY!!!"

Dale turns away from the angry dachshund while studying the car closely. But right as he turns to Zero to offer his view, he receives an unexpected punch to the face from the dachshund swinging at him. This even makes both Jay and Zero jump from the connecting impact.

As quickly as Zero's anger is evident, his anger quickly evaporates, followed by his expression turning into one of sorrow, "Sorry about that. I'm real clingy when it comes to photos."

Dale brushes the blow and returns the favor with a verbal joke, "Clingy, huh? You keep every single photo you've taken and not throw it away?"

"Throw it away? Of course I throw them away once I'm done!" Zero remarks with a slightly heated face. This earns a passing chuckle from Jay, who joins the conversation, "Looks like you and Dale are getting along quite fine to me."

Dale just smiled and laughed along, agreeing heartily with Jay's comment, "Yep, we sure are! So, you two ready to go? Got everything you guys need?"

"Yep, we sure do. These are the only files I'm dropping off to you, along with the photos for the next projects. I've got a few more stops along the way to make, now with my new partner by my side." Zero gives a passing smile to Jay, patting his head again.

"Yeah, so we can get going now! The sooner we get going, the sooner we can make our rounds!" Jay exclaims excitedly.



Leaving these few files with Dale, Zero and Jay then depart, bidding the beagle mechanic a farewell before leaving for the garage.

After leaving Dale behind and wandering to the garage, Jay asks Zero, "So Zero, are there any other stops to be made?"

"A few more, actually. Then we'll head back to base." Zero mentions while getting ready to climb into his black Lamborghini Murcielago.

"Well, the sooner we take care of these, the sooner we can plan our next line of attack!" Jay remarks with finality while climbing inside of his Lamborghini Gallardo.

Both V12 and V10 engines start with a roar, followed by Zero rolling out of the garage and Jay following suit behind him. While Dale watches and waves from a window, he watches the two cars turn onto Gullwing Drive and race away. After watching them depart, the beagle steps away while chuckling to himself, having high hopes and a high spirit for them both.