

The Genesis of Retro-Futurism

by Jose Calamari

Chapter 1

¹ In the beginning, Doc Emmett Brown created a flying DeLorean and the brain-wave analyzer. ² The future was malleable and empty, and possibility covered the parking lot at Twin Pines Mall. And the spirit of technology was hovering over October 26, 1985.

³ Then Doc said, "Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads." and there was 1.2 gigawatts. ⁴ Marty McFly saw that the flux capacitor was good, and he connected the present to the past. ⁵ Doc called the fuel "plutonium," and the Libyans called him "thief." And there was 88 miles per hour, and there was travel – time travel.

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Chapter 2

¹ Doc Brown then said to Marty, "Go into the DeLorean, you and Jennifer, because I have found trouble in your future. ² Take with you an open mind of every kind, ³ and do not meddle with your destiny. ⁴ Minutes from now, you will see innovations from thirty years ahead, and these will alter the face of present life."

⁵ And Marty, did all that Doc commanded of him.

⁶ Marty entered 2015 and the possibilities linking the past and his future flooded in. ⁷ Skateboards were replaced by Hoverboards, and keys gave way to finger print access. ⁸ Pairs of pictures appeared on single flat screen TV, ⁹ video calls and webcams had replaced telephones. ¹⁰ images jumped from billboards, and biodiesel fuel was on the tips of lips.

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¹¹ In what would be the forty-seventh year of Marty's life, on the twenty-sixth day of the tenth month – on that day, not all the future burst forth. ¹² Laserdiscs have not survived, and so goes the way of the fading business. And, neither phone booths or food hydrators are all that popular.

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¹³ On that very day, the future and our vision of it, seemed full of promise. ¹⁴ We had seen what life might be like and everything was imaginable. ¹⁵ We will see all that has been made, and it may be good. ¹⁶ And the future will become a thing of the past.