

Hey everyone. This is a mini extra episode of Imaginary Worlds, which has to come out today, October 21, 2015. You know why.

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I can't believe it's been thirty years. Remember all those false alarms, where someone would doctor the screen and put it on Tumblr – today's the day that Marty McFly arrived in the future! No, no. Today is the day that Marty arrived in the future. And as just about EVERYONE has noticed – it doesn't like Back to the Future Part II.

There are actual flying cars but they're like prototypes at best. There's been this crazy technological race to actually create hoverboards but it's a Segway world, we just live in it. 3D movies have gotten better, but not to the point where a giant shark can leap over the marquee of a movie theater. Nike actually made and sold those sneakers Marty puts on, Air Mags, but they don't automatically self-tighten. So yeah. The Internet is unhappy. Besides a million tweets along the lines we were promised flying cars and we got Twitter, there was this cartoon on the site College Humor:

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And this commercial for Toyota with Christopher Lloyd and Michael J. Fox.

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There's the other argument – he did kind of come true, if you squint. Adam The urban renewal of downtown Hill Valley in their 2015 wouldn't look out of place right now. A lot of people have pointed how much more media saturated their future was, with screen everywhere and a flying drone with this digital readout of USA Today, which updated instantly after Marty got

his son out of trouble. If anything, the movie was best at predicting '80s nostalgia in all its aqua and pink glory. Although the most forward-thinking joke in Part II was the poster in the background that advertising a surfing vacation in Vietnam. This is the 1980s, Cold War, era of Rambo when the idea of treating Vietnam as a normal place you'd go on vacation actually drew laughs when I saw it in the theater. So that's kind of cool.

But I think we're all forgetting one important thing. Back to the Future Part II completely sucked. I remember seeing it in high school, and all my friends walked out of the theater bitter and angry.

The first film is a classic – it's a perfect film, which is crazy because the plot is right out of Oedipus, but the heart of the movie is a very improbable but deeply felt friendship between a teenage kid and an old scientist. But the "future" in Part II – which was in all the trailers and commercials at the time – was only the first act. And that sequence was mostly focused on gags and gee-whiz technology. When Marty and Doc went back home in Act II, they found themselves in this super dark dystopian alternate 1985, which they had to fix by going to the original movie and the rest of the movie was a caper with no heart and soul.

If Back to the Future II took place in the 2015 as we knew it, I don't think it would've been disappointing. I think it would've been a better movie. The first film was really about the changing of social mores from the squeaky clean '50s to the rougher, edgier '80s. The big joke isn't just that Marty knows the future, but that he's got this post-1960's ironic sense of humor, rock n' roll coolness – which really did include suspenders and acid washed jeans back then -- and he has an awesome girlfriend. Remember, the movie starts with him wanting to go camping with Jennifer that weekend – but they have to sneak behind his mother's back because it's

implied they're already having sex. Most high school movies start out with the hero dying to have a kiss or sex or even a smile from their love interest.

But what if teenage Marty found himself in a high school now? He would be immune to bullying as usual – he's laugh at cyber-bullying. But he'd also be shocked at the sexting and Snapchatting that went on. Marty would be a prude. And in that way, he could be a stand-in for parents today who lecture their kids that they behaved better in their day -- just like his mom did in the original film, but we saw what she was like as a teenager. That would've been so much more in line with the spirit of the original film. There's only one problem with my pitch. If Part II echoes Part I, then the storyline with his daughter would have to echo the storyline his mother – and um, yeah, that's not going to --- oh my God, a flying car! The Cubs won the World Series! No way?!