



Coop and the Runaway Tire



It was another awesome day in Hot Wheels City, the city that never breaks! Coop drove his favorite car, the GT-Scorcher, in the race of the century. He hit a ramp, soared through the air, and crossed the finish line as the crowd went wild. "I did it! I'm Camp Champ!" Coop shouted as the crowd chanted his name.



"Coop? You're daydreaming again!" called Coop's Dad, snapping him back to reality. Coop blinked and grinned sheepishly. "Sorry, Dad! I was thinking about how awesome camp will be at the Ultimate Garage!" he said, bouncing with excitement.





Coop's Dad smiled warmly and placed a hand on his son's shoulder. "I hope I have what it takes to be a real-life Hot Wheels racer," Coop said, his voice suddenly uncertain. His dad's smile grew wider. "If anyone does, it's you, Coop. If you ever have doubts, just remember what you tell me. A Hot Wheels racer always says..." They both grinned and shouted together, **"Challenge accepted!"**



A shiny green car, the Twin Mill, skidded to a stop in front of them. Out hopped Dash Wheeler, leader of the Ultimate Garage! She welcomed all six kids to camp: Spark, Mac, Brights, Axle, Sidecar, and Coop.



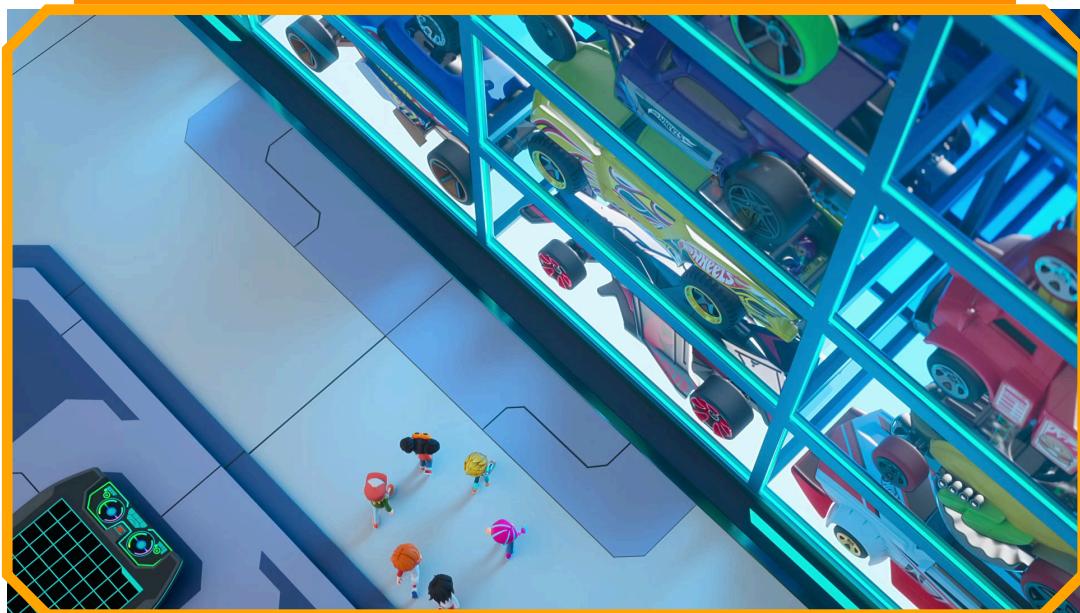


"You six were chosen because you have what it takes to be the next generation of Hot Wheels Racers!" Dash told them. "We're gonna race Hot Wheels cars, build amazing tracks with the Track Builder, and learn what it means to be a Hot Wheels Racer! The one who gets the most points gets to be Camp Champ!"



Dash led the campers into the Ultimate Garage, and Coop's jaw dropped. **"Behold, the wonders of the Ultimate Garage!"** Dash announced as Squeakers, a small red robot, activated the display. Glass cases rose from the floor, showcasing every car in Hot Wheels City.





"I can't believe my eyes!" Coop gasped, staring at the AcceleRacers, Street Beasts, and Experimotors.



"Every car has a special power!" Dash explained, holding up a pair of racing gloves. "You'll use these to choose one and complete the challenge. Now, go check out the cars. We will begin in one hour!" The campers scattered excitedly, examining the incredible collection.





Coop rushed toward the GT-Scorcher, his dream car. But Axle Spoiler stepped in front of him, arms crossed and smirking. "It doesn't matter which car any of you pick, I'm gonna be Camp Champ!" Axle declared. "Yeah, he's gonna be Camp Champ!" echoed Sidecar, Axle's loyal sidekick.



"Don't worry about those two," Mac said, patting Coop's shoulder reassuringly. "Dash picked us because we all have a chance to win!" Spark nodded enthusiastically, her pink hair bouncing. "How about you, Coop? Is there a car you're pumped for?" she asked.





"The GT-Scorcher!" Coop said, his eyes lighting up. "I've been dreaming of this car forever!" But Axle shoved past him. "No way, if anyone's driving the GT-Scorcher first, it's gonna be me!" he snarled. "I don't think so, Axle!" Coop shot back, stepping forward.



The two boys pushed against each other, and suddenly Coop stumbled backward. His elbow knocked into Dash's Twin Mill, and a tire popped off! "Oh, no!" Coop cried as the tire rolled across the Hot Wheels Lab and out the open window.





"I'm sure that happens all the time!" Mac said, trying to make Coop feel better.



"Breaking news!" said a reporter on TV. "A tire has been launched into Hot Wheels City for the very first time!" Coop's face went pale. "Don't worry dude, you probably won't get in trouble!" Mac offered weakly. But the reporter continued, "Whoever caused this crazy chaos can bet they are in big trouble!"





"I can't get kicked out on the first day!" Coop said, his voice shaking. "I need to stop that tire before it wrecks the whole city!" Spark stepped forward, fists clenched with determination. "Well, you're not going to do it alone!" she declared. "Agreed!" Mac added, nodding firmly.



Brights adjusted her orange goggles and tapped her tablet. "I'll stay here and work the Track Builder!" she said. Axle laughed meanly from the corner. "And when you fail, Sidecar and I can laugh in your face!" he sneered. But Coop ignored him and turned to his new friends.





"We've gotta put the pedal to the metal! Hot Wheels Racers, let's get that tire!" Coop shouted. He put on his racing gloves and pointed at the GT-Scorcher. "I want a racer fast enough to catch that runaway wheel! I choose the GT-Scorcher!" he announced as the car glowed and zoomed into his hands.



Spark chose the Rodger Dodger, a car that could bounce the tire back home. Mac grinned and selected the Baja Jump Truck. "I choose the Baja Jump Truck!" he called out, pumping his fist. The three racers climbed into their cars, engines roaring to life.





"You can do this!" Dash called from the garage. Coop, Spark, and Mac exchanged determined looks. "Yeah!" they shouted together. Their cars launched from the turbo pad, rocketing into Hot Wheels City with flames shooting from their exhausts. The chase was on!



Coop gripped his steering wheel tightly as the GT-Scorcher zoomed through the city. "I see the tire," he called over the radio. "Coop, let's catch it before it gets away!" Spark replied. "You don't have to tell me twice," Coop said, pressing the accelerator.





The tire bounced wildly through the streets, smashing into buildings and knocking over signs. "This was way easier in my daydream!" Coop shouted as his car spun through a loop. Mac's Baja Truck hit a ramp and soared high into the air. "Whoo-hoo!" he yelled, landing with a bounce.



"It feels like we're never going to catch that tire!" Spark said, frustration creeping into her voice. But Coop remembered his dad's words. "We have to try! A Hot Wheels Racer always says, '**Challenge accepted!**'" he declared. Then Spark had an idea. "The Track Builder, that's it! Brights, come in, this is Spark."





"Brights and Squeakers here," came the reply. Spark explained the plan. "We need you to change the configuration of the tracks to keep the tire on it!" Brights nodded confidently. "Roger that, Rodger Dodger! Squeakers and I are on the job." She activated the Track Builder, and orange rails began shifting throughout the city.



"There it is, Squeakers!" Brights said, guiding the tire onto a new track. "Let's catch it before it does any more damage!" The tire rolled perfectly along the rails, heading straight toward the waiting racers. "We did it, Squeakers!" Brights cheered. "One runaway tire, heading your way."





"Racers, let's roll!" Coop called. "Keep your eyes open, Brights should be getting that tire to us any second." Sure enough, the tire appeared on the track ahead. "There it is! Okay team, now's our chance!" Coop shouted, his heart pounding with excitement.



Mac's Baja Truck bounced high, redirecting the tire. "On your left, Spark!" he called. Spark's Rodger Dodger nudged it forward. "Coop, one runaway wheel coming your way!" she yelled. Coop grinned. "Got it now!" he said, racing forward to catch it.





But suddenly, the track ahead disappeared! "Brights, part of the track is missing!" Coop cried in alarm. Back at the garage, Brights gasped. "Axl, you're ruining the track! Coop's gonna fall off!" she shouted. Axl smirked at the controls. "Looks like your time at camp has officially stalled out, Coop," he said smugly.



Coop's car screeched to a halt at the edge of the broken track. A huge gap stretched before him, with no way across. "Whoa, whoa... Oh, no!" he gasped. "He's not gonna make it!" Dash said, watching the monitors. "I'm not gonna make it!" Coop echoed, panic rising in his chest.





"There must be something we can do?" Spark pleaded. Mac thought hard. "We tried racing. The Track Builder. The power of friendship?" he listed desperately. Then Coop's eyes widened. "Wait. Power! What did Dash say about power?" he asked urgently.



Brights snapped her fingers. "Every car has a special power!" she exclaimed. Spark's face lit up with hope. "Every car has a special power! That's it!" she repeated. Coop took a deep breath and gripped his steering wheel. "Okay GT-Scorcher, let's see what you've got!" he said.





The GT-Scorcher's tires squealed as it rocketed forward, with flames shooting out the back. Then it hit a ramp and began to soar over the gap in the tracks like in Coop's daydream. "Yeah!" he screamed in delight. **"Super Speed Burst activate! Go, Hot Wheels!"** he shouted as the car blazed across the sky.



The GT-Scorcher landed perfectly on the other side, and Coop snatched the runaway tire with a mechanical arm. "Yeah!" cheered Mac and Spark together. Even Squeakers beeped happily. "What?" Axle sputtered in disbelief, his smirk finally gone.





Coop drove back to the Ultimate Garage, the tire safely secured. He climbed out of the GT-Scorcher, his legs shaking slightly. "I did it!" he whispered, hardly believing it himself. But then he remembered what had started this whole mess.



"Dash, please don't blame Mac and Spark," Coop said, stepping forward bravely. "I knocked the Twin Mill's tire off. If anyone deserves to be kicked out of camp, it's me." He hung his head, waiting for the bad news.





But Dash just smiled and placed a hand on Coop's shoulder. "Wait, who said anything about kicking anyone out?" she asked gently. Coop looked up in surprise. "What?" he gasped. Dash chuckled. "The point is you made a mistake and you fixed it. You should've seen the stuff I got into when I was a camper!"



"Smart move choosing the GT-Scorcher," Dash told Coop. "You picked a car fast enough to catch that wacky wheel!" Coop grinned proudly. "The key was to never give up," he declared. "Plus, he had help from his super awesome, totally cool new friends!" Spark added, throwing her arm around Coop's shoulders.





Dash gathered all the campers together, even Axle and Sidecar. "I'm glad to hear it, because if you thought today was wild, buckle up, we are just getting started! Who's ready to race?" she asked. "Whoo-hoo!" all the campers cheered together, their voices echoing through the Ultimate Garage. Camp had officially begun!