



THE BLACK DIAMOND RACE

9X45'

*9X45' ACTION - ADVENTURE
BY SERGIO MANFIO, FRANCESCO MANFIO & ANNA MANFIO*

CONCEPT

Mr. K (Elmo Van Der Graaf - the villain of this story), is an ambiguous businessman of South African origin, with a past that is definitely not spotless. A shamaness he has known since childhood, who passed on her tribal and black magic beliefs to him, revealed that merging the energy of four diamonds can create an incredibly powerful magnetic field, which then activates a connection with immortal entities capable of answering any and all questions about the future.

Mr. K is devising a plan to seize four famous and precious diamonds: the Regency (located in France), the Florentine (which has gone missing), the Green Dresden (in Germany) and the Black Diamond (in India). However, simply owning the four diamonds isn't enough to reap the benefits of their power.

The new owner can only claim them by winning a race against their rightful owners.

Thanks to some detective work, Mr. K discovers that the heirs of the diamonds' rightful owners have something in common: a passion for car racing. He also discovers that not all the heirs are aware of their connection to their specific diamonds (In fact, the Florentine heir is uncovered thanks to the shamaness' clairvoyance).

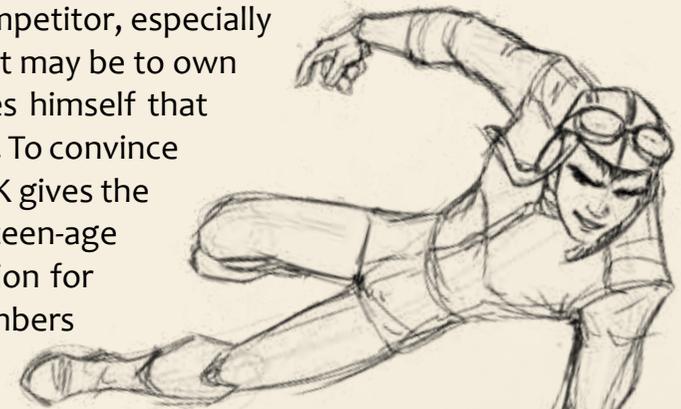
Mr. K begins his quest with the Indian Black Diamond, which is in the hands of Maharaja Singh. The Maharaja also collects cars, so Mr. K challenges him to a car race. If the Maharaja wins, Mr. K will give him the remaining three diamonds.



On the other hand, if Mr. K finishes first, the Black Diamond will be turned over to him.

The Maharaja has mixed feelings at first (he does not know whether to trust his competitor, especially since the other three diamonds belong to museum collections and, as tempting as it may be to own them, that would mean being accomplice to a theft), but the Maharaja convinces himself that Mr. K will never get his hands on the three diamonds, and thus accepts the challenge. To convince him even further, Mr. K offers him a priceless antique dagger to clinch the deal. Mr. K gives the rules: the two teams will race across India with four crews each. The Maharaja's teen-age children will drive one of the four cars (his daughter Rani has a deep-rooted passion for racing, even if her father has always opposed it), but who will be the other members of their team?

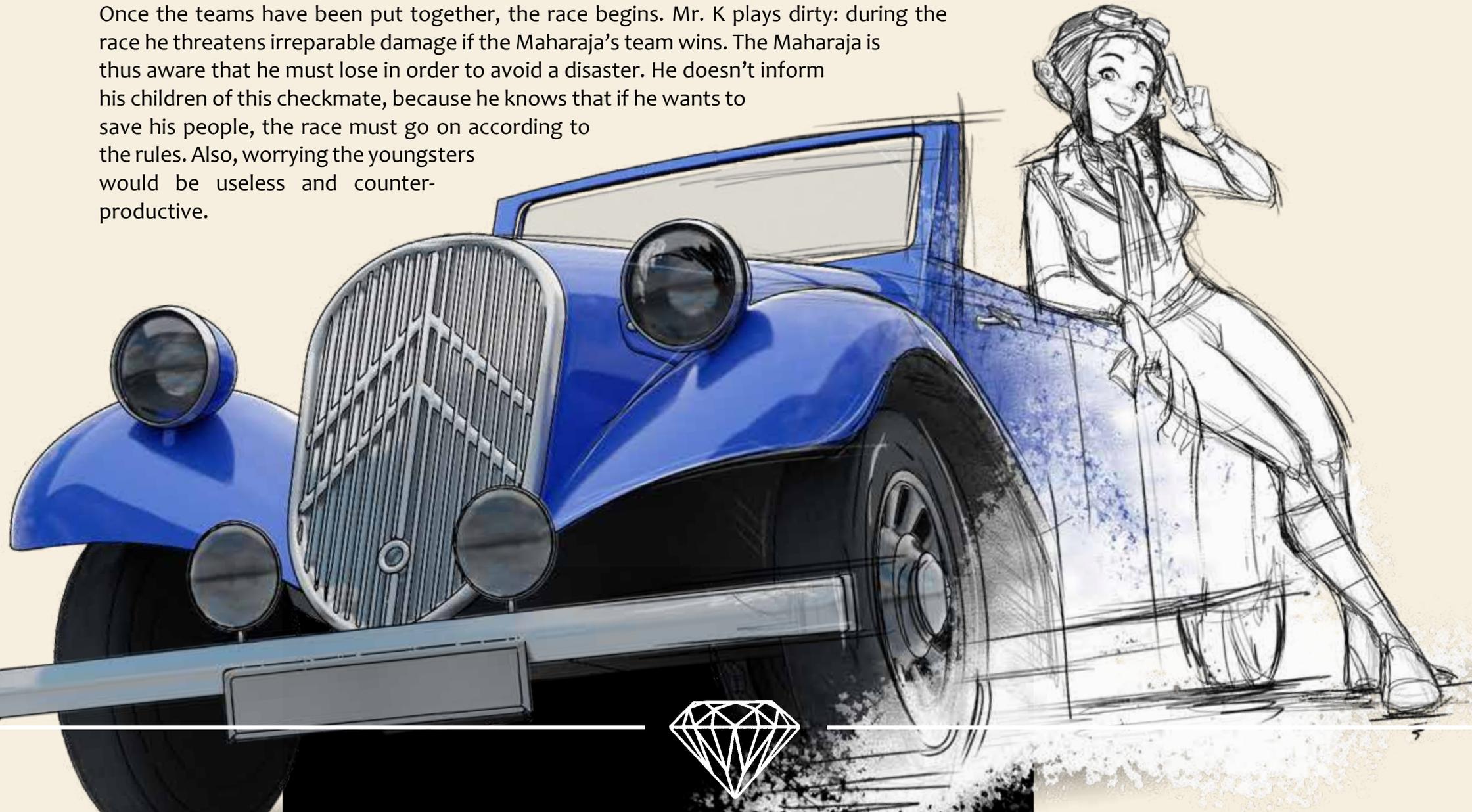
So the Maharaja's children set off for Europe in search of four cars, crews and three drivers to hire for their team. With Mr. K secretly moving his pawns around at a distance, the kids unknowingly find themselves hiring the unsuspecting heirs of the rightful owners of the three remaining diamonds.



Mr. K's henchmen act on three fronts: first, they want to control the youngster's search for car drivers, and also make sure their cars aren't unbeatable. Then, they try to steal the newest patents from the car manufacturers that the Maharaja's children turn to during their search, so that they can further improve Mr. K's four cars.

Mr. K's thugs also steal the three other diamonds, replacing them with fakes. These thefts will occur throughout the storyline and during the race itself (which will have different legs with stopovers between each one).

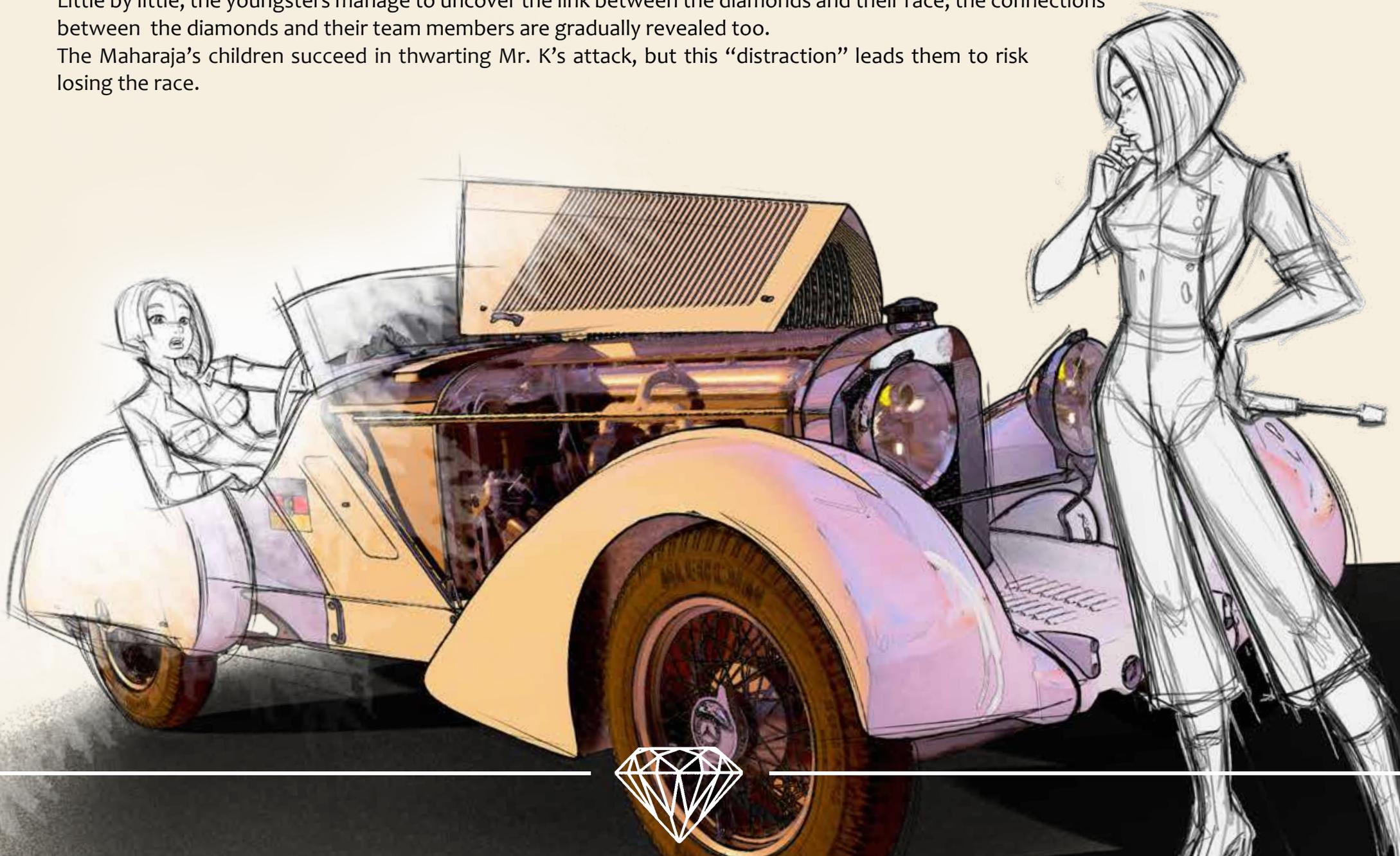
Once the teams have been put together, the race begins. Mr. K plays dirty: during the race he threatens irreparable damage if the Maharaja's team wins. The Maharaja is thus aware that he must lose in order to avoid a disaster. He doesn't inform his children of this checkmate, because he knows that if he wants to save his people, the race must go on according to the rules. Also, worrying the youngsters would be useless and counter-productive.



So the Maharaja secretly tries to boycott his own team too. At first, the team thinks it's the opponents damaging them. Then, they realise that something is off.

The Maharaja's children will uncover some truths and try to figure out just how Mr. K is threatening their father. Little by little, the youngsters manage to uncover the link between the diamonds and their race; the connections between the diamonds and their team members are gradually revealed too.

The Maharaja's children succeed in thwarting Mr. K's attack, but this "distraction" leads them to risk losing the race.



RANI SINGH

18 year old Rani is the Maharaja's daughter and Vikram's younger sister. Raised by a doting mother, who sadly died too soon, she was taught by private tutors from all over the world. Growing up, she preferred toy cars to dolls, and developed a passion for engines and racing.



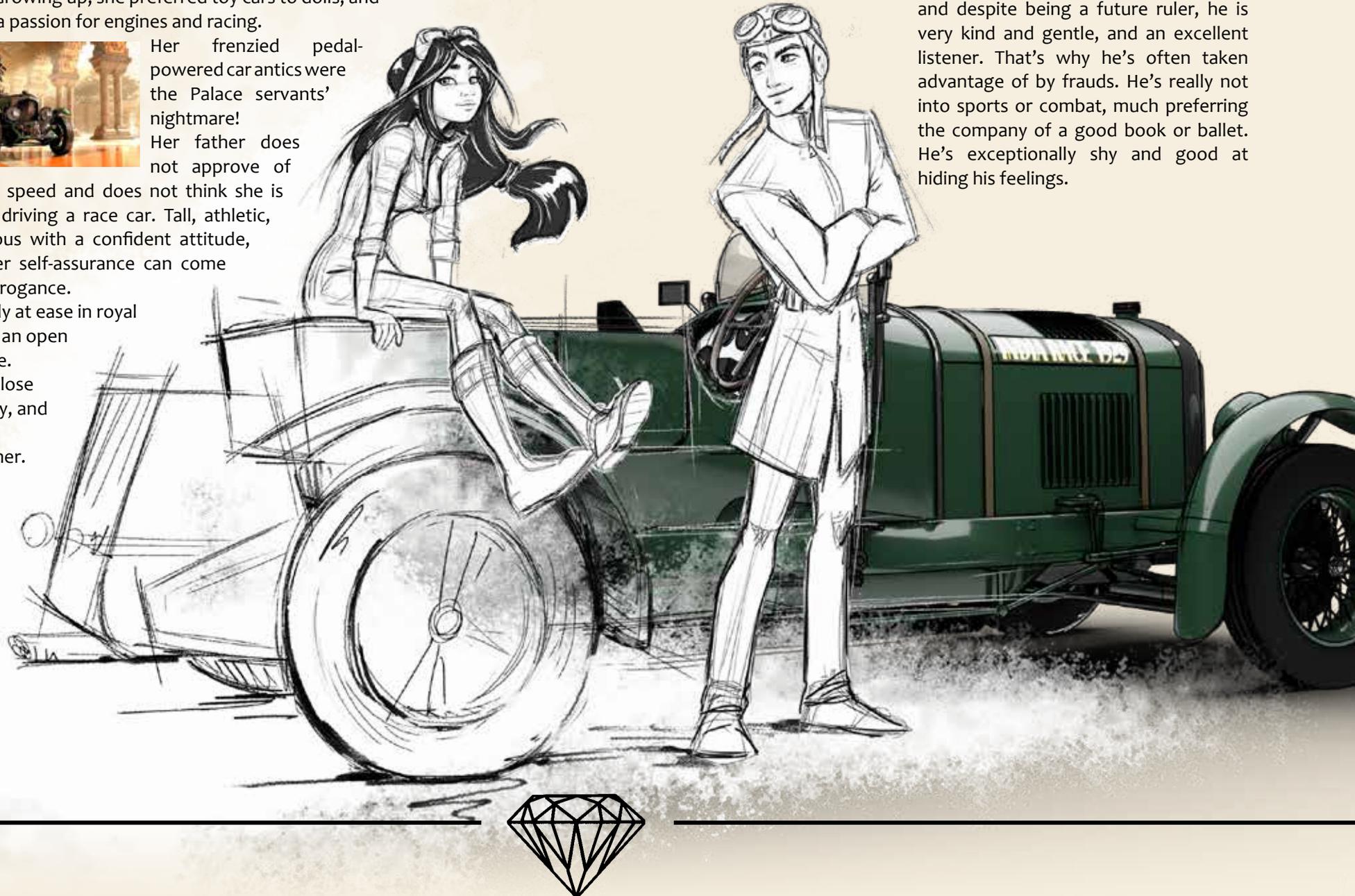
Her frenzied pedal-powered car antics were the Palace servants' nightmare!

Her father does not approve of

her love of speed and does not think she is capable of driving a race car. Tall, athletic, and gorgeous with a confident attitude, at times her self-assurance can come across as arrogance.

She's equally at ease in royal courts as in an open marketplace.

She's very close to her family, and especially to her brother.



VIKRAM SINGH

19 year old Vikram is Rani's older brother. Likewise, he was raised at court, and despite being a future ruler, he is very kind and gentle, and an excellent listener. That's why he's often taken advantage of by frauds. He's really not into sports or combat, much preferring the company of a good book or ballet. He's exceptionally shy and good at hiding his feelings.

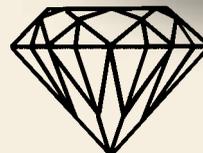
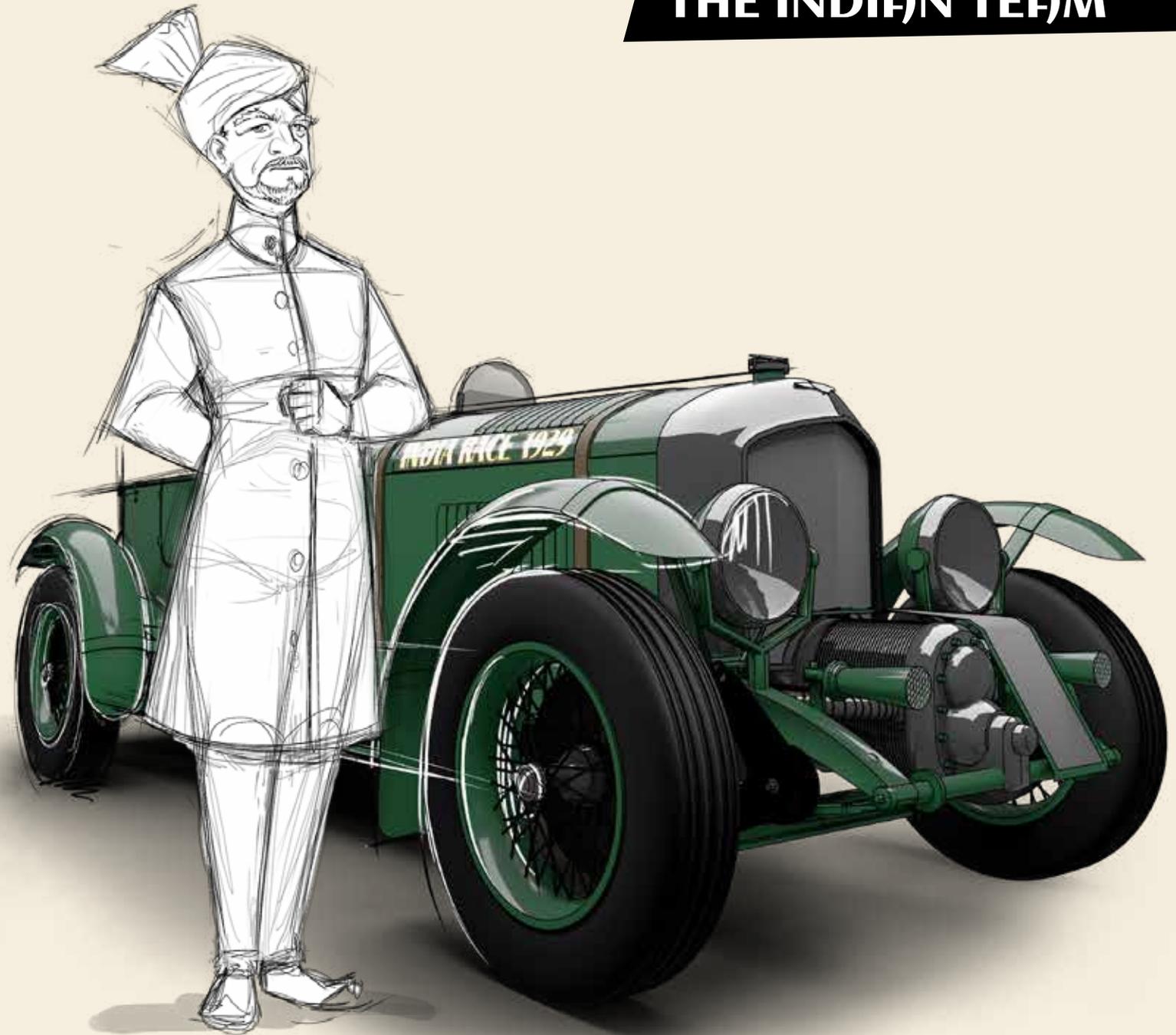
JAY SINGH

His Majesty the Maharaja rules over his territory wisely, and is much loved by his people. One of his flaws is that he always likes a gamble.

Passionate about technological innovations, he is one of the first automobile patrons of his time.

Jay Singh is a loving but old-fashioned father, who gave his children the best education at home and then abroad, in England. The go-getting and progressive attitudes that this has encouraged in his children is sometimes difficult for him to contend with (especially when it comes to Rani).

He is a resourceful gemstone collector.



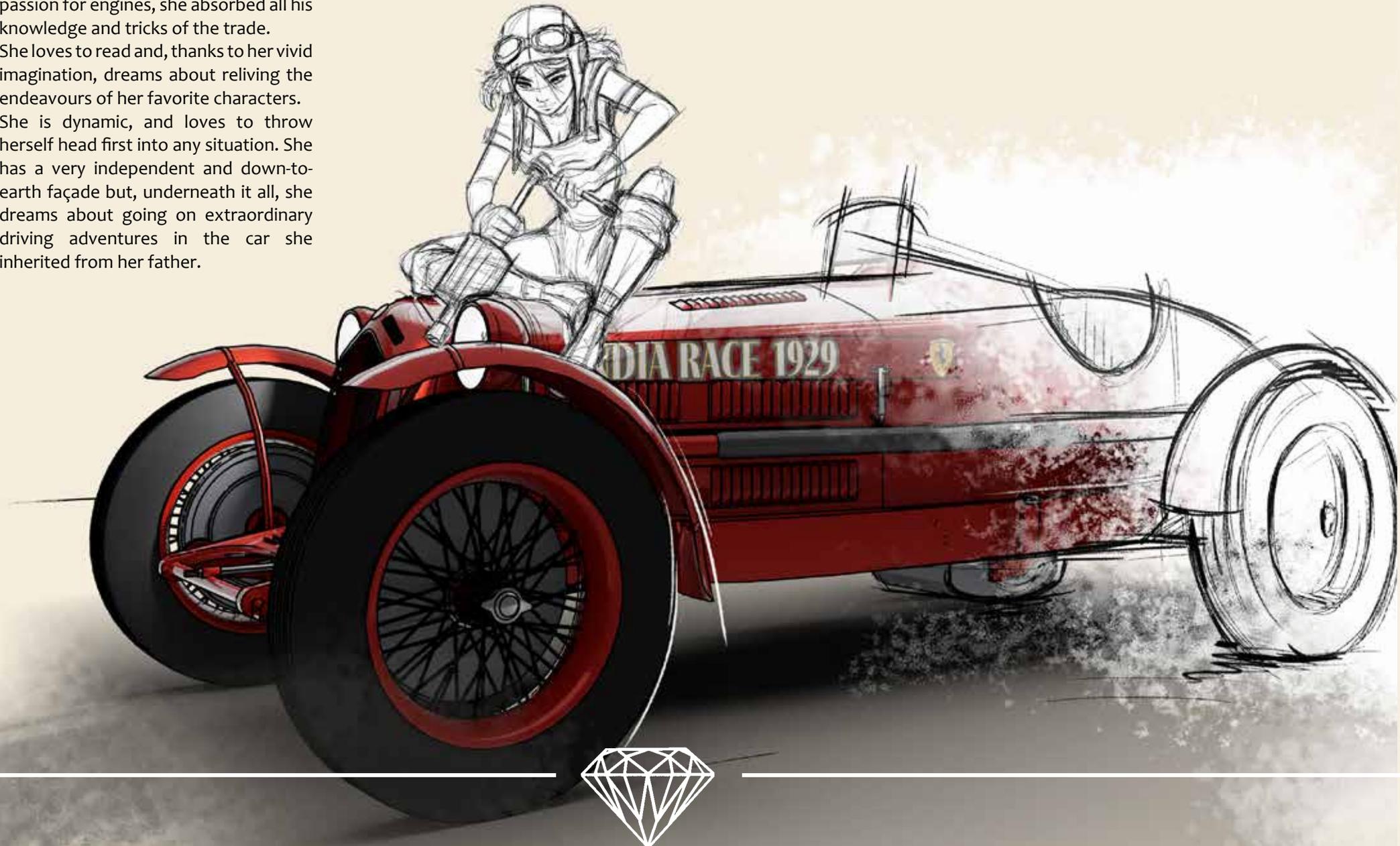
ADA BARBIERI

After the untimely demise of her father, Ada was tossed into the adult world at barely 17.

Having shared her father's great passion for engines, she absorbed all his knowledge and tricks of the trade.

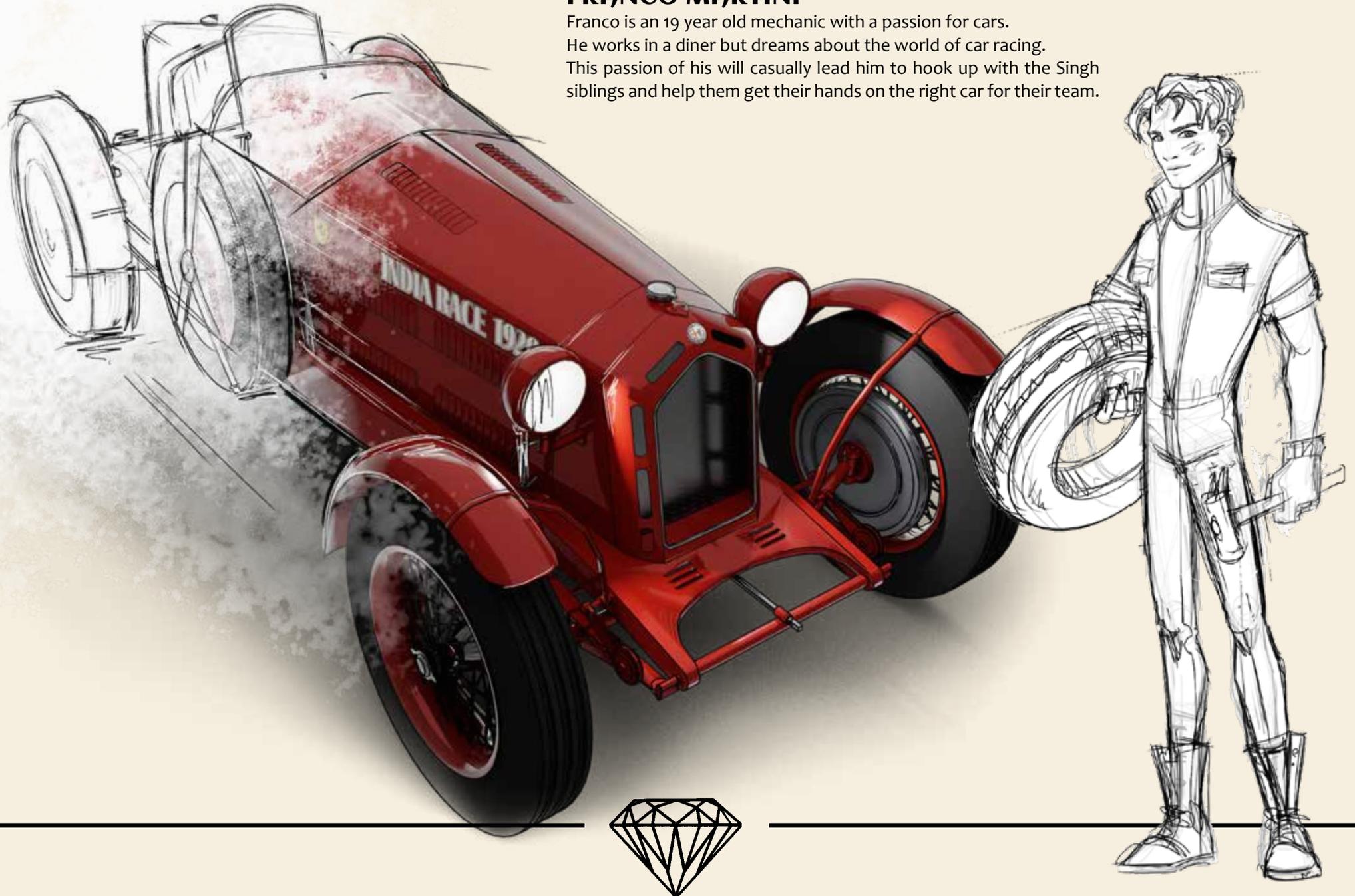
She loves to read and, thanks to her vivid imagination, dreams about reliving the endeavours of her favorite characters.

She is dynamic, and loves to throw herself head first into any situation. She has a very independent and down-to-earth façade but, underneath it all, she dreams about going on extraordinary driving adventures in the car she inherited from her father.



FRANCO MARTINI

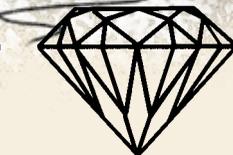
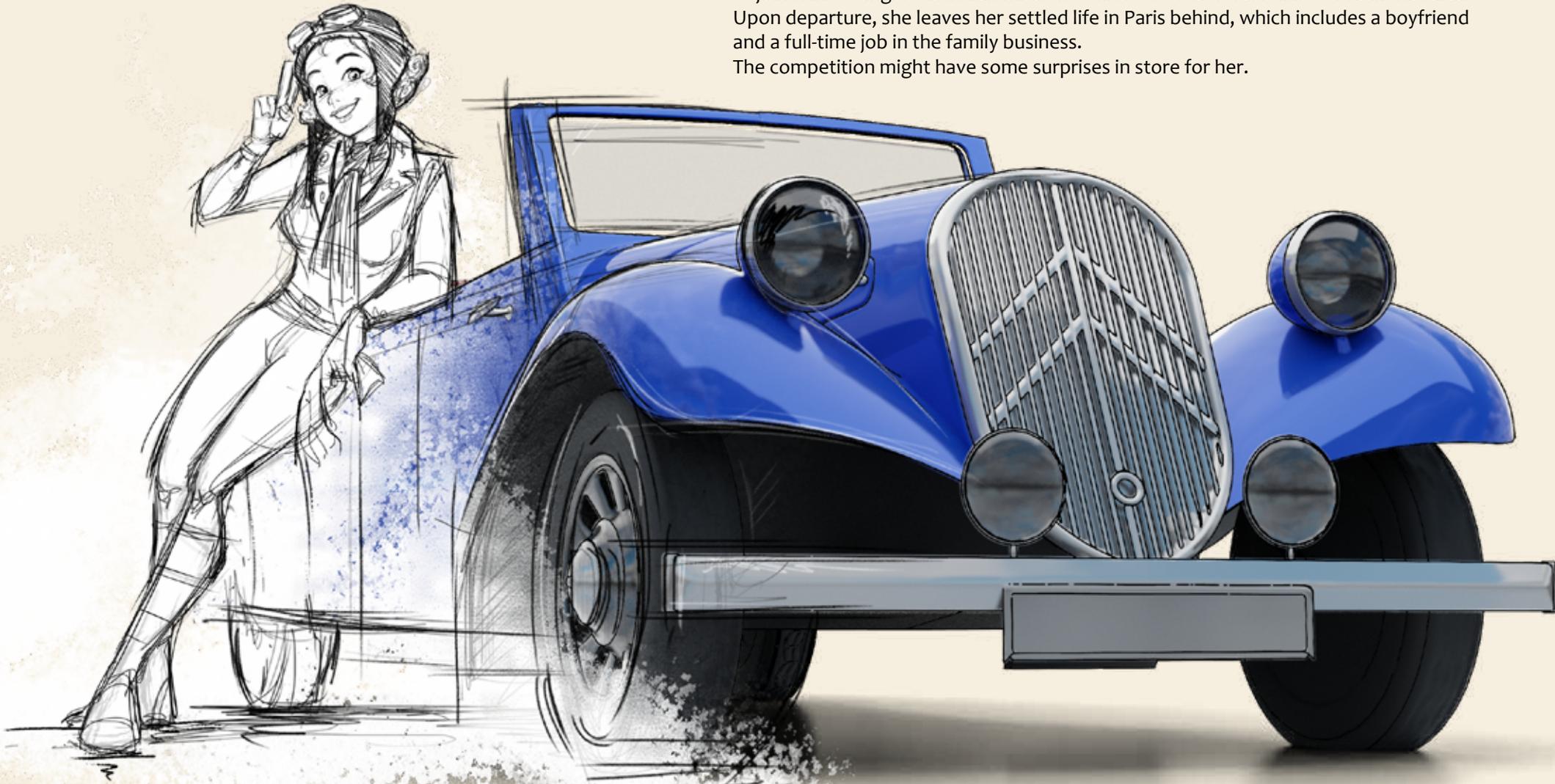
Franco is an 19 year old mechanic with a passion for cars. He works in a diner but dreams about the world of car racing. This passion of his will casually lead him to hook up with the Singh siblings and help them get their hands on the right car for their team.



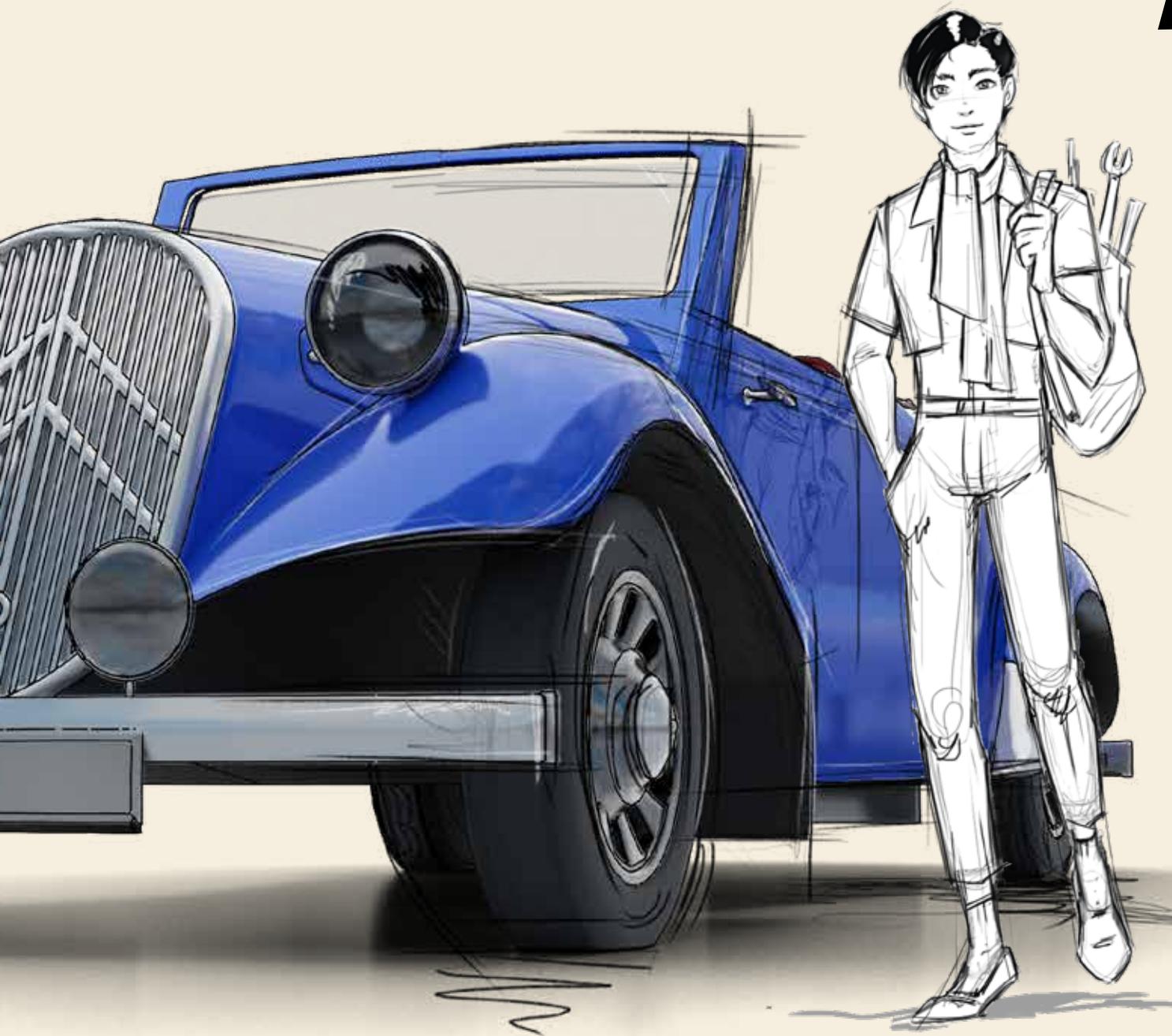
THE FRENCH TEAM

JACQUELINE DUBOIS

Jacqueline is 18 and she's a very practical girl, with highly advanced problem-solving skills. She's neither sporty nor athletic and likes to have everything under control. She is equally at ease in an office and behind the wheel of the family car. She decides to join Rani's dangerous Indian mission to find out what it feels like to break the rules. Upon departure, she leaves her settled life in Paris behind, which includes a boyfriend and a full-time job in the family business. The competition might have some surprises in store for her.



THE FRENCH TEAM



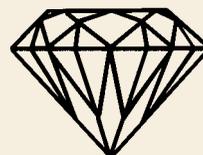
EDOUARD ROCHE

Edouard is 19, dauntless and erratic. Born in Casablanca, he was raised with a strict upbringing, and travelled around the world due to his father's Foreign Legion military career.

He can adapt to the most adverse circumstances.

He is also very competitive, and deals with challenges head-on. Life has taught him that playing dirty can sometimes be necessary.

He views everyone as opponents, and because of this he struggles to make friends. We find out later he's got a skeleton in the closet.



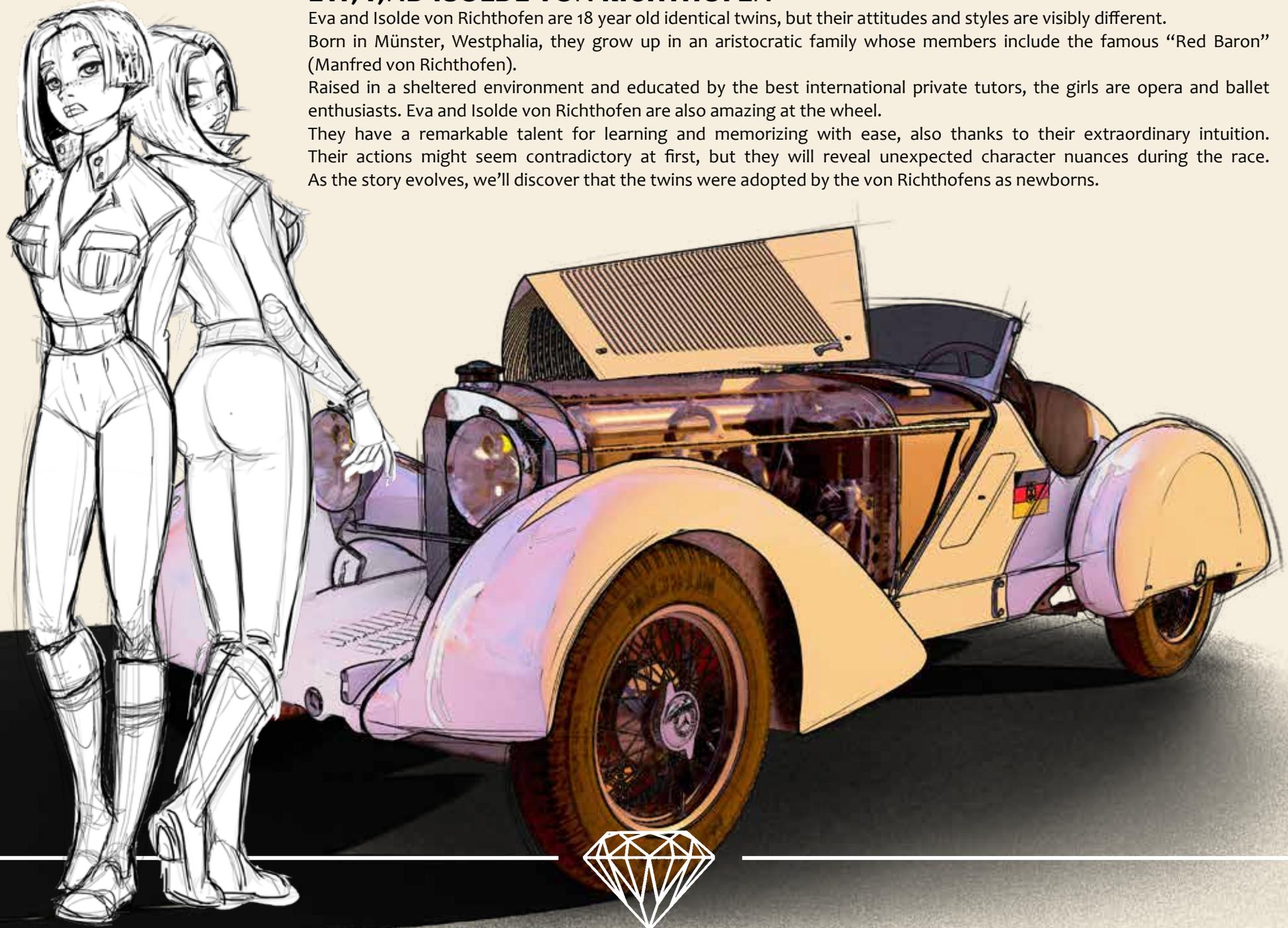
EVA AND ISOLDE VON RICHTHOFEN

Eva and Isolde von Richthofen are 18 year old identical twins, but their attitudes and styles are visibly different.

Born in Münster, Westphalia, they grow up in an aristocratic family whose members include the famous “Red Baron” (Manfred von Richthofen).

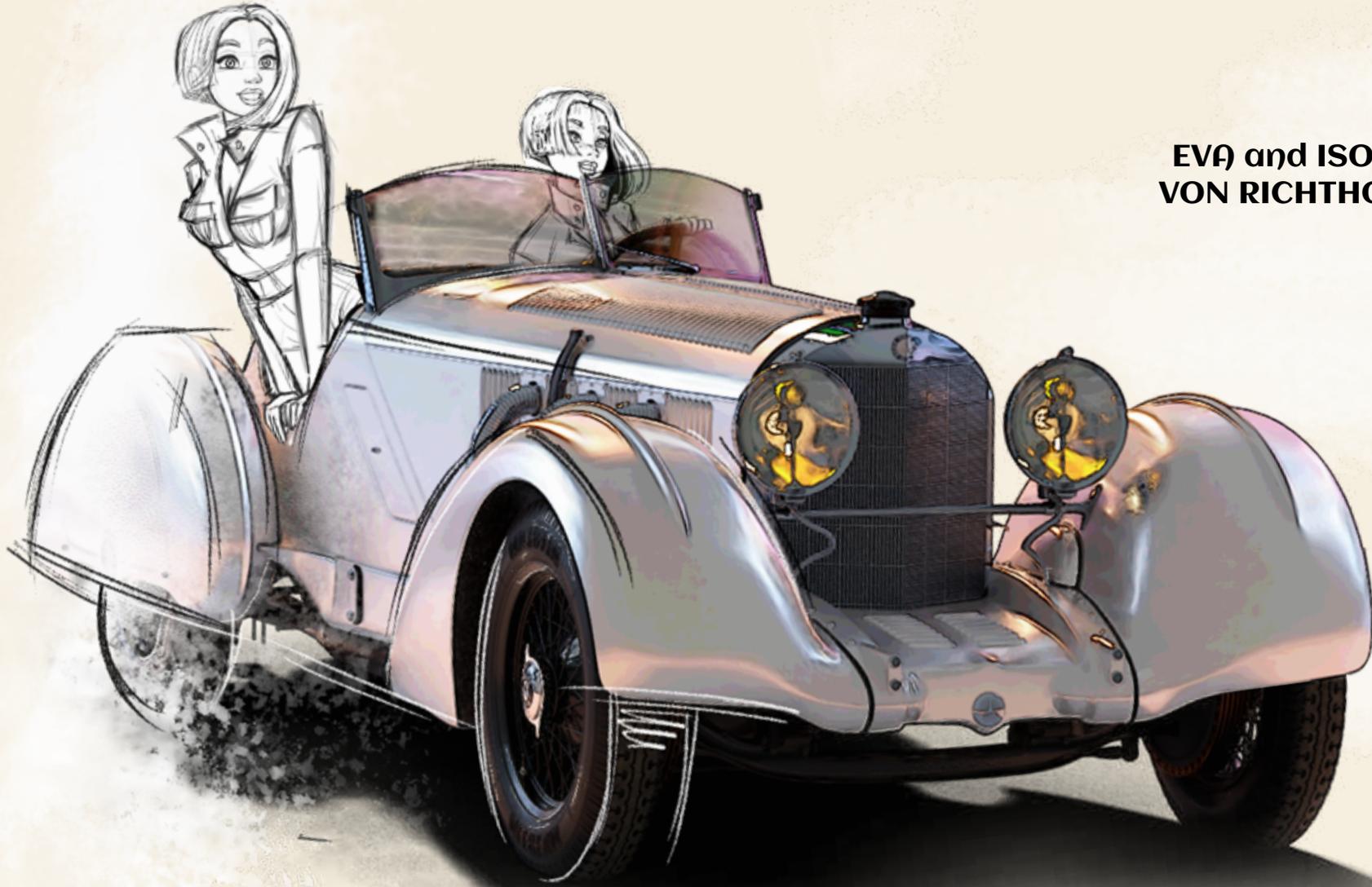
Raised in a sheltered environment and educated by the best international private tutors, the girls are opera and ballet enthusiasts. Eva and Isolde von Richthofen are also amazing at the wheel.

They have a remarkable talent for learning and memorizing with ease, also thanks to their extraordinary intuition. Their actions might seem contradictory at first, but they will reveal unexpected character nuances during the race. As the story evolves, we’ll discover that the twins were adopted by the von Richthofens as newborns.

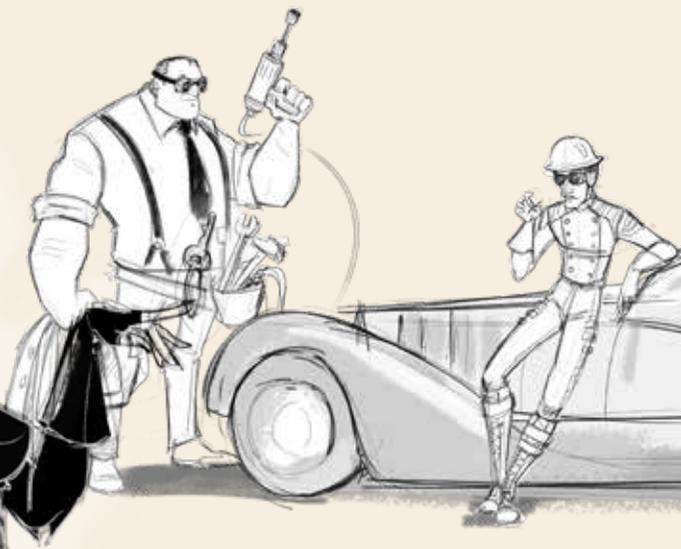


THE GERMAN TEAM

**EVA and ISOLDE
VON RICHTHOFEN**



THE BAD TEAM



MR. K - ELMO VAN DER GRAAF

Born in Capetown, South Africa in 1885, Elmo belongs to the rich Boer middle class of Dutch descent. He is a combination of wealth on his mother's side and bold aggressiveness from his father's humble but very ambitious background.

A shamaness, who was his childhood nanny, passed on her tribal and black magic beliefs to him.

At 16, Elmo is sent to Antwerp to continue his education, and the shamaness follows along. There, he dives into studying geology, physics and engineering.

After a series of intense life experiences that change him forever, Elmo enters the criminal world. From 1925 onwards, Elmo Van Der Graaf has devoted himself exclusively to the search for the 4 precious gemstones and a plan to obtain them. He will stop at nothing to get his hand on them.



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EUROPE/INDIA



Mr. K's Headquarters



Lake Pichola



Paris



The Taj Mahal





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