

From Current Economic Conditions, by Don Zolidis, ©2011

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LILY, 26, has lost her job and moved back in with her parents.
CHARLES, 28, has lost his job and moved back in with his parents.

LILY and CHARLES are dating and are in a parked car in a park. LILY has just bombed a job interview.

CHARLES

I pissed on myself once.

LILY

Really?

CHARLES

I had an interview for Teach for America. They put a lot of pressure on you.

LILY

No way.

CHARLES

She asked me how I would deal with disengaged students and I just peed myself.

LILY

God.

CHARLES

She heard it too. Like, tinkle, tinkle, tinkle. And I'm sitting there, and I can't move, and we stare at each other – and it's like, do we pretend nothing happened? Does she think that would be my actual response in a classroom? Like 'Hey Bobby sit down!' 'You can't make me!' 'Oh yeah? Psssssh. Sit down Son or I'll do it again.' Needless to say, I didn't get hired there. Fuck `em.

LILY

Yeah inner city schools need more incontinent teachers.
(CHARLES' phone beeps. He checks it.)

CHARLES

Screw you Dad.

LILY

Your parents?

CHARLES

They keep texting me.
(he texts back.)

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LILY

What are you saying?

CHARLES

I'm just telling them when I'm coming home. They were pretty upset the other day.

LILY

Yeah.

CHARLES

I'm sorry you didn't get the job.

LILY

I didn't want to work there anyway. I mean I guess I would if they'd make me a spy or something. But to work at a desk doing research.

CHARLES

Yeah but the hot researchers always become agents after the rest of the agents get killed. If Hollywood teaches us anything.

LILY

I think the problem is my personality. My personality is stupid.

CHARLES

No it's not.

LILY

I think I should just try to pretend to be a completely different person and see what happens. Just go in there and act like someone else.

CHARLES

Why stop there? Why not just fake an entire life? You could come up with a fake resume –

LILY

Yeah, but those people always get caught.

CHARLES

We only hear about the people who got caught. And besides, they've usually worked there twenty years by that point.

LILY

I mean the companies lie, right? They say they're interested in you, but they're not. They string you along with these little teasers and you get your hopes up and you try to look all pretty and then they rip out your heart and eat it in front of you. And then you go home without a job and the next thing you know you're in the drive-through for Krispy Kreme and you hear yourself ordering a half dozen doughnuts. Fuck `em.

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CHARLES

Fuck `em.

LILY

I'm thinking about applying to be a slutty waitress. It's about the only thing I'm qualified for.

CHARLES

Be a slutty bartender. They make more money.

LILY

I don't have that skill set. The only thing I'm good for is bringing out food and pretending to flirt with people I hate.

CHARLES

It could be worse. I can't even get hired as a slutty waitress. And believe me I've tried.

LILY

I'm sure peeing on yourself during the interview doesn't help there either.

CHARLES

Depends on which bar.

(CHARLES' cell phone buzzes again.)

Goddamn it.

LILY

Your parents again?

CHARLES

They want me to get milk on the way home.

(he texts back.)

LILY

I can't believe they're still up.

CHARLES

My Mom says she can't sleep while I'm out.

LILY

Maybe you should turn off your phone.

CHARLES

You think?

LILY

I think it would be okay.

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CHARLES

I'm doing it.
(he turns off his phone.)
Carpe diem.

LILY

We should go somewhere. It's probably not legal to be in the park this late.

CHARLES

The police don't check back here.

LILY

How do you know that?

CHARLES

I have my sources.

LILY

Now why exactly did you bring me back here?

CHARLES

To talk.

LILY

To talk?

CHARLES

Yeah and um... we can't go to your place and we can't go to my place... so...

LILY

So we came to the park?

CHARLES

Pretty much. And maybe we could um...

LILY

Could um what?

CHARLES

You know... Do stuff.

LILY

Stuff?

CHARLES

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Fun stuff.

LILY

Are you saying that you brought me to a park so we could have sex in a car?

CHARLES

Well it sounds dumb when you say it that way.

LILY

That's because it is dumb!

CHARLES

I don't have any money for a hotel room –

LILY

I'm not getting a hotel room with you!

CHARLES

See? And you're too classy for that anyway –

LILY

But I'm not too classy for the backseat –

CHARLES

That's retro! And ironic!

LILY

This is the most retarded idea you've ever had.

CHARLES

Come on, haven't you ever done anything a little crazy?

LILY

Plenty of times –

CHARLES

So do something crazy with me.

LILY

Charles. Come on. I'm not really in the mood.

CHARLES

It'll cheer you up.

LILY

It'll cheer *you* up.

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CHARLES

That too.

LILY

No. God. After my debacle at the CIA I'm not exactly feeling desirable.

CHARLES

That's not something you hear every day.

LILY

I don't think I'm ever gonna get a job. Who would hire me? I'm a useless drain on society. I spent a year and a half in publishing and I could barely figure out how to run a database...

CHARLES

Hey. I would hire you.

LILY

No you wouldn't.

CHARLES

If I had some kind of company I would hire you.

LILY

You're just saying that.

CHARLES

I would hire you so much.

LILY

How much?

CHARLES

Like... if you rejected my job offer I would give you more money and health insurance and a retirement plan – and if you failed a drug test I would still give you a job – and even if an FBI background check came up with an unresolved felony charge I would still hire you.

LILY

What if the felony was embezzlement?

CHARLES

I would look the other way.

LILY

That's sweet.

(she kisses him.)

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Take your seat belt off. CHARLES

Okay. LILY

Do you want to - ? CHARLES

What? LILY

Should we go in the back? CHARLES