

From Driver's Test by Don Zolidis

From Driver's Test

MARGIE, 40s, more than a little insane

GAIL, 16. Agitated. With good cause.

(MARGIE is the Driving Instructor. They are in the middle of the road test. GAIL is driving and MARGIE sits in the passenger seat with a clipboard.)

(NOTE: Everything about the car is mimed.)

MARGIE

Sometimes, in order to be a good driver, you have to take things to the edge. Really put yourself out there. Take risks.

GAIL

Take risks. Okay.

MARGIE

Can I just tell you something? I feel like we have a real connection.

GAIL

Really?

MARGIE

This might be my favorite driver's test ever.

GAIL

Seriously?

MARGIE

You wanna hug?

GAIL

I'm driving right now.

MARGIE

Can I just hug the side of you then?

GAIL

Um... okay –

MARGIE

Oh and turn right.

(GAIL turns right while MARGIE hugs the side of her.)

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Oh that's nice. That's the stuff. You're very huggable.

GAIL

Oh.

MARGIE

Is it getting weird? Did I screw this up?

GAIL

No! I enjoy being hugged by strangers.

MARGIE

Awesome. You're like the daughter I never wanted.

(MARGIE's phone rings.)

Oh dang it. You keep driving. Take this road to the highway.

(MARGIE answers the phone, suddenly angry.)

What! Yeah I'm in a road test right now, what do you think I'm doing?

(pause for response.)

Oh that's nice. No she happens to be a very good driver.

(pause)

Frank! Would you shut up about that! I asked you to do one thing! Oh come on! You know the reason you think that? Because I don't respect you, Frank! I don't respect you! It's hard to respect a man who doesn't get out of his pajamas until The Price is Right is Over! You know what? My dreams are dying too okay! My dreams are dying too! Stop it. Stop crying.

(she hangs up.)

My gardener.

GAIL

Oh um...

MARGIE

All right! Time to Hit the Highway! This is my favorite part. This is awesome! Ready?

GAIL

I think so!

MARGIE

Okay! Living on the edge! We are women, right!!

GAIL

I'm pretty sure!

MARGIE

We don't need men, do we?!

GAIL

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No!

MARGIE

Thelma and Louise! Woo! You ever see that movie?

GAIL

Is that the one where they drive off a cliff?

MARGIE

Yeah. Okay – well forget about Thelma and Louise then. Please take the on-ramp.

(GAIL takes the on-ramp.)

Accelerate. Accelerate. Accelerate to 65 miles per hour.

GAIL

Okay. Here we go.

(GAIL accelerates.)

MARGIE *(patting the car)*

Yeah, all right George – all right George. I want you to pull into the left lane and pass this semi-truck.

GAIL

Okay.

(GAIL shifts lanes.)

MARGIE

Give it some gas.

GAIL

I'm already going to the speed limit.

MARGIE

I know. Give it some gas.

GAIL

Should I – should I go over the speed limit?

MARGIE *(imitating her in a whiny voice)*

'Should I go over the speed limit?' Let me talk to you about life, all right? People are gonna put up signs – only go this fast, no right turn on red, school zone, wrong way – and you know what those signs are designed to do? They're designed to hold you back. And Life – is about blowing past those signs, you got it? Life is about saying – you tell me what the Speed Limit is, I don't care, I set my own Speed Limit – you say this is a deer crossing? No, this is a Life Crossing. So you take that wheel – you take that gas pedal – and you just go, girl. No limits.

GAIL

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Okay. No limits.

MARGIE

That's right. YOLO. Let's take it to 70.

GAIL

Oh boy.

(GAIL accelerates a little more.)

MARGIE

That's right. That's right. You know what's even better than 70? 75.

GAIL

Ooh! Okay.

(GAIL accelerates a little more.)

MARGIE

You know what's better than 75?

GAIL

80?

MARGIE

You go girl!

GAIL

Wooo!

(GAIL accelerates to 80.)

Yeah see ya later Semi!

MARGIE

Boom! You know what I'm thinking?

GAIL

What?

MARGIE

Look at that speedometer. There's a whole bunch of numbers past 80, aren't there? Why would they put those numbers there if they didn't want the car to go that fast?

GAIL

I'm a little scared.

MARGIE

No no no – highway driving is not about fear. Highway driving is the absence of fear. I wanna see 85.

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GAIL
...okay.
(She goes to 85.)

MARGIE
I wanna see 90.

GAIL
Ohmygosh.
(GAIL accelerates to 90.)

MARGIE
You know what I want to see next?

GAIL
No no no I can't go any faster.

MARGIE
There are more numbers on the speedometer, Gail! There's more to life than the Speed Limit!
Yeah! Hit it! I want triple digits!

GAIL
Ohmygosh Ohmygosh Ohmygosh!
(GAIL accelerates to 100.)

MARGIE
Woo! Wooo!

GAIL
Woo!

MARGIE
Let's see what George can do!

GAIL
Oh!

MARGIE
Come on Georgie! Let's see how fast we can go! Let's see it!

GAIL *(joy)*
Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!

MARGIE *(joy)*
Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!

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(Sirens. Red and Blue flashing lights.)

GAIL *(terror)*

Aaaaaaaaaah!

MARGIE *(terror)*

Aaaaaaaaaah! TAKE THIS EXIT NOW!

GAIL

YOU DON'T WANT ME TO PULL OVER!??

MARGIE

TAKE THE EXIT!

(GAIL spins the wheel. Sirens begin to fade out. GAIL screams during this entire sequence.)

TURN! HIT THE BRAKES!

(GAIL hits the brakes)

GO LEFT!

(GAIL goes left.)

GO RIGHT! WATCH OUT FOR THE CURB!

(They jump the curb.)

WATCH OUT FOR THAT SQUIRREL!

(GAIL swerves. They bump over something small.)

HIT THE BRAKES!

(GAIL hits the brakes. The car comes to a stop.)

DUCK!

(They both duck. The sirens fade out.)

(GAIL starts to look up, but MARGIE puts a hand on her back and forces her back into a hiding position.)

(After a moment, MARGIE pops up. Looks around. Explodes in happiness.)

MARGIE

THAT WAS SO AWESOME!!! OH MY GOSH THAT WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE! WOOO! High five! High five!

To read the rest of this play, visit <http://www.playscripts.com/play.php3?playid=2566>