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# DRIVER'S ED.

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written by

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## Cast of Characters

All parts can be played as any gender, with minor line changes. Serious driving instructors can be as the same person or as separate characters. Playing multiple parts is encouraged with students playing instructors in other scenes and vice-versa.

INSTRUCTORS:

MR. LAWRENCE
MRS. TERRY
MR. THOMPSON
MRS. HARRIS
MR. JENKINS
MR. GRANT
MR. STANLEY
COACH
MS. JONES
MR. "CHILL"

STUDENTS:

SMITH
JENNIFER
TODD
KYLE
CHRIS
MRS. ELLISON
TONY
SOPHIA
LILY
EMMA
LANCE
KATIE

## **Director Notes**

The “car” is made up simply of two chairs center stage with two more behind them as a backseat. Unless otherwise noted, the teacher sits in the passenger seat and the student sits in the driver’s seat.

## Scene 1

Setting: Interior of a car.

At Rise: Lights up on the car. SMITH is in the driver's seat. Their teacher, MR. LAWRENCE is in the passenger seat, looking bored.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Alright, we're going to do a right turn up here. Engage the blinker… good. Now, look both ways… and make the turn… awesome…

**SMITH**

Hey, Mr. Lawrence, you…uh… seem kind of bored today.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Do I?

**SMITH**

Yeah, you do.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Yellow light coming up… good job. Well Smith, I get up early, teach all day, then do this after school. Every… Day. And let's be honest, most of you are good enough to get your license after a few sessions. So, basically, I'm riding around while you log hours. I could take a nap and no one would notice.

**SMITH**

Oh, there's no way I'm ready for my license…

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Yeah? Well, you just navigated a four-way stop perfectly. Better than most adults, really.

**SMITH**

Oh… If it's so boring, why do you even volunteer to teach Driver's Ed?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Well, Smith. The biggest reason is…

**SMITH**

Love for your students?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

… money.

**SMITH**

Oh…well that's… depressing.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

You know what's really depressing? Bills. Mortgage, braces, cell phones, tuition, car payments, it never stops!

**SMITH**

That sounds awful, Mr. Lawrence.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

It really is. About the time you get one paid off, another one pops up. Gotta replace the washer, then the dryer, then the fridge.

**SMITH**

I'm… sorry?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

And don't get me started on the credit card!!

**SMITH**

Um…

**MR. LAWRENCE**

I tell my wife… I don't care how much you saved, we could have saved more by NOT BUYING IT!

**SMITH**

Mr. Lawrence, where are we…

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Turn left up here….the truth is, a lot of teachers have second and even third jobs. You know Miss Cohen?

**SMITH**

She teaches math, yeah.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Works weekends at Walmart.

**SMITH**

Wow.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Mr. Clark works at a warehouse most afternoons and evenings.

**SMITH**

No wonder he falls asleep in class…

**MR. LAWRENCE**

… even Mrs. Newton…

**SMITH**

… the vice principal?!?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

She tends bar over at McGrath's. She makes a mean mojito…

**SMITH**

Is that the pub on 2nd? My dad goes there…

**MR. LAWRENCE**

*(a long awkward pause)*

I shouldn't have told you that… um I'd appreciate it if you kept that one quiet.

**SMITH**

Yeah, uh, no worries…

*(awkward silence)*

… So, this is your second job?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Yeah, putting it back into savings.

**SMITH**

Ooooh, for retirement?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Ha! Like that could ever happen! No, this is for vacation. Hoping to go to the Bahamas this summer.

**SMITH**

That sounds awesome! I know your wife will love that!

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Who said she's going… Turn right up here.

**SMITH**

Um, where are we going, Mr. Lawrence?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Well, I got smart a few years ago and found a way to do my second and third job at the same time. Pull up to this house.

**SMITH**

Third job?

**MR. LAWRENCE**

*(puts on a pizza delivery hat and grabs a pizza box from the back seat)*

Park right here, keep the car running. I'll be right back.

*(He exits, lights out on a bewildered SMITH.)*

## Scene 2

Setting: Interior of a car.

At Rise: Lights up on MRS. TERRY and JENNIFER

**MRS. TERRY**

*(looking at her checklist)*

Ok, Jennifer, this is our second session. Today, we are going to be doing a little bit of driving in reverse, making a three-point turn, and then hit the streets for some… and you're on your phone.

**JENNIFER**

Sorry, Mrs. Terry. I just got a new phone and I've been working all day updating my contacts and photos and getting all my apps installed…

**MRS. TERRY**

But you were in school all day. You were in my class. I gave a test. A big one.

**JENNIFER**

Yeah, totally bombed it. But my instagram picture of it was AMAZING.

**MRS. TERRY**

Ok, well, we can't do any driving with you on the phone.

**JENNIFER**

You're right, sorry.

*(She puts it away.)*

Downloading all my podcasts anyway.

**MRS. TERRY**

Alright, let's start with a quick review from last week. Show me the gas… good… and the brake… right… and the emergency brake… great. Now let's crank up and do a driving review.

*(JENNIFER cranks the car.)*

**MRS. TERRY**

Alright, you're putting the car in drive… now…

*(a ding from JENNIFER's phone, which she snatches up)*

**MRS. TERRY** (CONT)

You can't do… that.

**JENNIFER**

Sorry, I normally wouldn't, but I forgot to check in with my mom.

*(texting)*

And… done. Sorry, she worries.

**MRS. TERRY**

Ok, so, we're going to slowly pull out of the driveway, avoiding the…

*(They both react to a noticeable bump they've hit.)*

… curb.

**JENNIFER**

Sorry.

**MRS. TERRY**

No big deal, just something to work on next time.

**JENNIFER**

Ok.

*(Phone dings. She checks it.)*

Sorry, someone just uploaded the newest dance challenge.

**MRS. TERRY**

What do you think you're going to do when you're actually driving and that thing keeps dinging?

**JENNIFER**

Mount it on the dash so I can check it, of course.

**MRS. TERRY**

You do realize that in most states, even touching your phone while driving will get you pulled over.

**JENNIFER**

Only if I get caught.

**MRS. TERRY**

Ok, you know what? Let's do this.

**JENNIFER**

Do what?

**MRS. TERRY**

Get your phone, do whatever you have to do and try to drive through that traffic cone course up ahead.

**JENNIFER**

Um, ok…

**MRS. TERRY**

Shift the car to drive…good, now text or update your profile or whatever and if you can hit less than 2 cones, I won't bother you anymore about it.

**JENNIFER**

… Deal.

*(She starts to text with one hand and steer with the other. Almost immediately, there's a bump and we see both bounce and react.)*

Oops. Sorry.

**MRS. TERRY**

That's one down. 42 more cones to avoid.

*(We see JENNIFER desperately trying to text and drive carefully.)*

**MRS. TERRY**

Ok, that's better, but you can't drive…

*(checks gauges)*

… five miles an hour all the time. Speed up.

*(JENNIFER looks nervous, but pushes her foot down further and they each react to a long series of bumps, bouncing around.)*

**MRS. TERRY**

And thats two… through twenty.

**JENNIFER**

Can I please have another chance? I really think I can do this.

**MRS. TERRY**

Well…

*(looks behind her)*

There's still the reverse driving course… but if you can't text and drive forward, there's no way you can…

**JENNIFER**

Selfie time!

*(JENNIFER shifts into reverse and bangs her foot down. She expertly swerves and turns while taking a series of selfies as MRS. TERRY swerves and holds on for dear life. Finally, they stop.)*

**JENNIFER**

Well? I didn't hit any cones.

**MRS. TERRY**

*(shifting her terrified gaze to JENNIFER)*

Give… me… the… phone.

*(JENNIFER does so sheepishly and MRS. TERRY proceeds to throw it out the window.)*

**MRS. TERRY**

Let's… try… this… again. Shift into drive… good…

*(Lights out.)*

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## Scene 10

Setting: Interior of a car.

At Rise: MR. GRANT is going over his checklist, the student, KYLE is ducked like he is tying his shoes and we cannot see his face.

**MR. GRANT**

Good morning, my name is Mr. Grant and I will be giving you your assessment today. I'm reading here that you did not pass your first one with Mrs. Harris… So let's get started, Kyle. If you would please turn on the car…

**KYLE**

*(sits up, revealing a Spiderman mask this time)*

I'm not Kyle, I'm Spiderman!

*(shoots invisible webs and makes sound effects)*

Psssst! Pssssst!

**MR. GRANT**

*(stares at KYLE for a long moment)*

Yeah, you fail. Get out.

*(Lights out.)*

## Scene 11

Setting: Interior of a car.

At Rise: KATIE is looking at MR. CHILLERINSKI, the driving instructor, who is slouched in the passenger seat, wearing sunglasses and sipping on a smoothie. The atmosphere is absurdly calm—too calm.

**KATIE**

So… uh, Mr. Chillerinski… where should I start?

**MR. CHILL**

*(taking a long sip of his smoothie)*

Mmm, wherever feels right, y'know? We're just… goin' with the flow here. And please, Mr. Chillerinski is so formal, let's go with just Mr. Chill…

**KATIE** *(confused)*

The flow? Like… on the road? Mr. Chill?

**MR. CHILL**

Yeah, yeah. The road, life, the universe. It's all about the flow, Katie. You're ready when you're ready.

**KATIE**

*(glancing around nervously)*

Um, okay, I guess I'll… start the car?

**MR. CHILL**

Yeah, totally. Whenever you're feelin' it.

*(KATIE, trying not to freak out, turns the key. The car hums to life. She clutches the wheel even tighter.)*

**KATIE**

*(whispering to herself)*

Okay… mirror check… seatbelt… hands at ten and two…

**MR. CHILL**

*(stretching and yawning)*

You can loosen that grip, Katie. The wheel's not goin' anywhere. Just… feel the car, y'know? It's like… *you* are the car.

**KATIE**

*(staring at him)*

I'm… the car?

**MR. CHILL**

Exactly. Give yourself a name, a story, a journey to go on.

**KATIE**

My name is Katie. I'm learning to drive, I'm trying to pass a test.

**MR. CHILL**

Never met a car named Katie before… that's awesome. Now, go ahead and pull out. Just ease into it. No rush. The road's always there. It's always been there.

*(KATIE hesitantly puts the car in drive and starts to slowly pull out of the parking spot. She's overly cautious, checking her mirrors repeatedly.)*

**KATIE**

Okay… okay, I'm doing it.

**MR. CHILL**

Nice. You're totally vibin' with the road. Keep it steady, but don't stress. Speed limit's just a suggestion anyway, right?

**KATIE**

Uh, I'm pretty sure the speed limit is *the law*!

**MR. CHILL**

A law is nothing more than a suggestion to do what's right. Just don't overthink it, okay? We're cruising here. Maybe let's turn left up ahead… or right, whichever feels right to you. Life's full of choices.

**KATIE**

*(freaking out)*

But there IS no right turn! Mr. Chill, I need *instructions*! Shouldn't you be telling me exactly where to go?

**MR. CHILL**

Oh, Katie… it's not about where you're goin'. It's about where you've been, where you're going to be. It's about the journey, y'know? Just… turn when you feel the vibe.

*(KATIE stares at him, flabbergasted, but reluctantly turns left at the intersection. The car lurches a little, but it's a safe turn. MR. CHILL doesn't even react.)*

**KATIE**

*(breathing hard)*

Oh my gosh, I think I did it wrong—was that too fast? Too slow? I don't even—

**MR. CHILL**

Nah, that was solid. You're like… the wind in a field of daisies, blowing the butterflies wherever they need to go. Just keep floatin'.

**KATIE**

*(on the verge of panic)*

Daisies? Butterflies?! What does that even mean?!

**MR. CHILL**

Exactly. What does any of it even mean?!

**KATIE**

Should I… stop here? At this sign?

**MR. CHILL**

I mean, the sign's got some good advice. Stop signs are like… the universe's way of telling you to pause, take a breath. Up to you if you wanna listen.

**KATIE**

*(freaked out)*

I don't think I can ignore a stop sign!

**MR. CHILL** *(shrugging)*

Yeah, probably a good call. Let's not fight the flow too much.

*(KATIE stops at the sign, her heart racing. She takes a deep breath, clearly overthinking every move.)*

**KATIE**

Okay… now I go?

**MR. CHILL**

*(sipping his smoothie)*

Totally. When you're ready.

**KATIE**

I think all the people honking behind me want me to be ready.

**MR. CHILL**

It is the grand orchestra of the universe giving you small, subtle signs of its intentions.

*(KATIE starts to drive again, her hands still trembling a bit. The car moves forward, but she's gripping the wheel like it's a lifeline.)*

**KATIE** *(stressed)*

I don't feel like I'm doing this right… I'm so nervous…

**MR. CHILL**

Hey, hey… deep breaths. In… and out. Driving's just like… breathing, y'know? You do it naturally. You don't have to think too hard. Just let the car *be*.

**KATIE** *(panicked)*

But I *do* have to think! What if I mess up? What if I crash?!

**MR. CHILL**

Then we get back up and drive again. Life's full of bumps, but that's how we learn, right?

**KATIE** *(stunned)*

You're the most relaxed person I've ever met.

**MR. CHILL**

Thanks. Just here to help you relax too. Now, how 'bout we park? Pick any spot that speaks to you.

*(KATIE nervously pulls into a parking spot and puts the car into park.)*

**MR. CHILL**

Look at that. You did it. *Parked*.

**KATIE**

I'm pretty sure this is a really crooked parking job.

**MR. CHILL**

Totally. But it's *your* crooked, and that's what matters.

**KATIE**

Yeah, but I'm taking up three spots.

**MR. CHILL**

Maybe. Parking's an art, y'know? It's all about interpretation.

**KATIE**

So… did I pass?

**MR. CHILL**

*(pausing, sipping his smoothie thoughtfully)*

You passed the *vibe check*, for sure.

**KATIE** *(exasperated)*

But did I pass the *driving* test?!

**MR. CHILL**

Oh, yeah, we'll figure that out later. Let's just appreciate the moment, Katie. You drove. You conquered. And I think that's pretty rad. Also, I don't think they let me give out grades yet. I'm still a driving student after all!

*(KATIE slams her head into the steering wheel. MR. CHILL just keeps smiling.)*

*(Lights out.)*

## Scene 12

Setting: Interior of a car.

At Rise: LANCE is sitting in the driver's seat, visibly excited. After a moment, MR. JENKINS, opens the door and sits down next to him, still in his pirate garb.

**LANCE**

Prithee! Glad tidings father! I hath passed mine assessment and can now legally operate mine steed!

**MR. JENKINS**

Arrrgh! I knew ye'd pass m'boy! Yer mum will be right proud!

**LANCE**

Verily! Shalst we mount up and journey to the castle with haste?

**MR. JENKINS**

Aye! Raise anchor, unfurl the mainsail, set destination to our home port! Double cheeseburgers await! AHOY!!

**LANCE**

Onward!!

*(They ride off into the sunset as the lights fade to black.)*

*(END)*




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