

# **DRIVER'S ED.**

Ten Minute Dramatic Duet

by  
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### CHARACTERS

MICHAEL: 42 years old  
PATRICIA: 16 years old

***At Rise: MICHAEL and PATRICIA enter and move toward car.***

MICHAEL: I like teaching teenagers to drive, especially girls, because girls need it more in general. Don't get mad. I'll say stuff you won't like, but it'll make you a better driver in the long run, better than any boy. The truth is that girls start at a disadvantage: because you don't ride bikes wildly in the streets; because you don't make cars the enemy of your ball games in the streets. That could be good: to think of traffic as the enemy. It could make boys cautious, but boys like to turn everything into a fight. They attack.

PATRICIA: Because boys are idiots.

MICHAEL: Boys attack the exterior. Girls defend the interior. A girl is less likely to know about traffic and how fast it can come on because you haven't paid attention, because you sit sunk in your body in the haze of morning carpools and afternoon carpools resisting entrance by grownup questions. While a girl may pay attention to her appearance, to the exterior of her vehicle, she is also deeply caught in the interior of her vehicle. Unlike boys who simply attack, there is this separation.

PATRICIA: You are so surreal. Everybody's talking about the poetic things you say. It must be depressing for you to have to teach driver's ed. in this school.

MICHAEL: I like teaching teenage girls to drive because you are not by nature attracted to machines and how they work. Because of your stillness on the interior, you are not connected to the speed of your vehicle, but we can use your natural defense of your interior as an asset in driving. Now that I have your attention, the first thing we're going to do is walk around the car.

PATRICIA: I know, three times. I also know other things about you. *(pause; PATRICIA smiles)* I know you're going to teach me to feel safe behind the wheel. Because of you the world will be a safer place. I already feel safe with you.

MICHAEL: All right then.

PATRICIA: I know you're old enough to be my father. When my Dad was alive and couldn't sleep, he'd go down to the basement with milk and Oreos, wrap himself up in his old sleeping bag and listen to the Beatles. I could hear the music way up on the second floor through the air conditioning ducts. This is not surreal. This is real life. It was my job to wake Dad in the morning. He was like a six-year-old kid then, all milky and warm. *(Pause.)*

MICHAEL: You have to listen now.

PATRICIA: I love the Beatles.

MICHAEL: The first lesson is just you listening, no driving at all.

PATRICIA: I know. "Boys live by conquest and occupying an interior other than their own." That's a direct quote from you.

MICHAEL: Who told you that?

PATRICIA: One of the idiot boys. I'm a virgin. I resist conquest. I'd never let that idiot put his idiot hands on me.

MICHAEL: As I said, we can use your natural defense of the interior as an asset in driving. The first thing we're going to do is walk around the car.

PATRICIA: I know, three times.

MICHAEL: We're going circle the exterior of the vehicle three times before we occupy the interior.

PATRICIA: I know. The whole junior class knows this drill.

MICHAEL: I'm glad it made an impression.

PATRICIA: It did. Because of the idiot boys. The girls have health together and the boys have driver's ed. Then the boys have health together and the girls have driver's ed. You know what health really is? Sex education - so we have it separate from the boys, and this idiot boy said you learn more sex in driver's ed. than you ever do in health. I never saw eyes as blue as yours.

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