

The Drive

By

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A dialogue writing exercise for the RPG Writing course at
Carnegie Mellon University

INT., JOHN'S TRUCK, DRIVING NORTH TOWARD SF, CA. 3:00PM

JOHN, truck driver, late 30s. Think Kurt Russell from Big Trouble in Little China. ALEX, a teen hitchhiker, sits in the passenger seat. She wears dark ripped jeans and a black hoodie. Think Krysten Ritter from Jessica Jones. Alex's only possession is her cased acoustic-guitar. After traveling in silence for an hour, John finally speaks.

JOHN

So why ya headed to San Francisco?

Alex doesn't respond.

JOHN(CONT'D)

I'm not supposed to pick up hitchhikers, I could get fired for this. I just want to know a little about the person I'm driving.

ALEX

(with a sigh)

I have a spot in this music competition thing.

JOHN

And I'm your go-to travel option?

ALEX

I'm outta cash and I have to be there by 5. No other options.

JOHN

It's just that you look a little young to be hitchhiking. How old are you, anyway?

ALEX

I'm 18 if you really care. Can we stop with the questions already?

JOHN

Fine, no more questions, but I'd like to listen to *something*.

John turns on the radio.

RADIO VOICE

...has dark brown hair, is 5'5, and has been missing since Friday. Again, fifteen-year-old Alexandra Phillips was last seen...

(CONTINUED)

Alex quickly turns off the radio. John looks over at her and turns it back on. The radio message continues.

JOHN
(pointing to the radio)
Is this about you?

ALEX
You said "no more questions".

JOHN
Unless you want to be walking down
the highway, tell me the truth.

ALEX
Alright, yes. That's me.

JOHN
Fifteen? I knew something was wrong
here. I'm calling the cops.

ALEX
And get fired when your bosses find
out you drove over fifty miles with
a teenage girl?

JOHN
I need this job! Fine, no cops, but
you're out at the next rest stop.

ALEX
But I need to get to San Francisco!
You can't stop, I won't make it in
time!

JOHN
That's your problem, not mine.

ALEX
So when I get found and the police
ask how I got there, should I give
them your license plate number?

They sit in silence as John passes the next rest stop.

ALEX
I didn't mean to put you in this
situation, I just..

JOHN
Why don't we go back to not
talking?