

From Driver's Test by Don Zolidis

From Driver's Test

MARGIE, 40s, the instructor. Probably insane.

GAIL, 16, the driver. Agitated. With good cause.

(NOTE: The car, and everything about it, is mimed.)

(MARGIE enters with an Ipad. (If you don't have an Ipad or tablet computer, you can simply use a clipboard.)

(She walks around to the passenger side.)

MARGIE *(big smile)*

Okey-dokey, here we are.

(GAIL follows nervously.)

GAIL

That's it, huh?

MARGIE

Oh yeah. This is it. This is the guy. I call him George.

(she strokes the car.)

GAIL

Aren't cars normally female?

MARGIE

Not this one. He's all man. I don't have a lot of love in my life, so I'm compensating.

(gives the car a squeeze.)

All righty then. At this point I need to inform you that we will be recording the test to analyze your performance.

GAIL

You're recording this?

MARGIE

That is what I have just said to you. Do you consent to the recording?

GAIL

What if I said no?

MARGIE

Then the test is over and you don't get your driver's license. And also then you probably take the bus for the rest of your life, which will most likely be short because crazy people ride the bus.

GAIL

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Okay then. I consent to the recording.

MARGIE

Fantastic. Please enter the vehicle.

(They open the doors and sit in the seats.)

By the way, I know we're doing this test thing here, but I want us to be friends, okay?

GAIL

Okay.

MARGIE

You can call me Margie.

GAIL

Okay Margie.

MARGIE

And I'll call you puddin'.

(GAIL is unnerved.)

I'M KIDDING!

(MARGIE laughs uproariously.)

I am too much. Okay – no I am friending you on facebook though.

(GAIL reaches for her phone.)

GAIL

Oh, uh –

MARGIE *(suddenly stern)*

If you check your phone you fail.

GAIL

The car hasn't started yet.

MARGIE

I don't joke about texting while driving. Serious issue.

GAIL

Okay, sorry. Is there um...

MARGIE

I'm kidding again! Did you see your face?! Woo!

GAIL

I wonder if there are other instructors available.

(Pause. MARGIE is hurt.)

I didn't mean that. I didn't mean that. It's fine.

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MARGIE (*cold*)

Okay then. Clearly you are interested in having a very serious driver's test without humor. I can do that. That is how you wish us to proceed.

GAIL

I'm sorry I'm just a little nervous, that's all. I'm cool with joking. I'm a very, very funny person.

MARGIE

Please demonstrate what you do upon entering the vehicle.

GAIL

Okay um... first thing is I... check my mirrors.

(she checks her rearview mirror.)

(she checks her side mirrors.)

And I adjust them to fit me. And next I um... seatbelt – my seatbelt goes on.

(she puts on her seatbelt.)

And then... I am done with my pre-driving checklist.

(She looks over to MARGIE, nervously.)

MARGIE

You are?

GAIL

Yes?

MARGIE

That's all you're planning on doing?

GAIL

I believe so, yes.

MARGIE

Nothing else comes to mind?

GAIL

Um...

MARGIE

All right.

(GAIL pauses, freaked out.)

GAIL

Should I do something else?

MARGIE

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Do you think you should do something else?

GAIL

I don't know.

MARGIE

I see.

(MARGIE checks off a little box on her clipboard/Ipad.)

GAIL

Did you just... did you just put something down?

MARGIE

Pay no attention to my clipboard.

GAIL *(losing it)*

I'm so sorry – I mean, you seem like a great person, really. I mean – we can hang out after this if you want, we can talk about your emotional issues – I mean – I'm fun-loving, let's just be buds. Okay?

MARGIE

Are you sure?

GAIL

Yes please!

(MARGIE changes back to bubbly Margie.)

MARGIE

YAY! All right let's party!

GAIL

Do I need to do anything else before I put the car in drive?

MARGIE

Ha ha ha no. I was just messin' with ya. Woo! You shoulda seen your face though, you were like... what do I do what do I do?

(MARGIE laughs uproariously.)

I love my job. Seriously. Let's take George out for a spin. Put it in drive.

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