

DRIVING MISS LILLIE

Screenplay by

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EXT. CAR - DAY

JEFF (36) sips on his beer whilst waiting for his daughter LILLIE (13) to arrive from school. He is visibly impatient and keeps looking back over his shoulder and into the mirrors.

Lillie enters the car and sits on the passenger seat. She rests her backpack on her lap.

Jeff turns the engine on.

JEFF
Put your seat belt on.

LILLIE
I don't like it.

JEFF
And I don't like having to get out of my way to solve your problems missy.

LILLIE
Then you shouldn't have had a daughter.

Jeff tosses Lillie's backpack on the back seat. Lillie gives Jeff a challenging stare. Jeff sighs.

JEFF
You're turning out just like your mother. That worthless piece of shit is filling your head with bullshit.

LILLIE
I am not like my stupid mother.

JEFF
Put your seat belt on, don't make me ask again.

LILLIE
If you put your seat belt on, then I'll put mine.

JEFF
You are in big trouble here princess. I'm your father, I say how it goes.

LILLIE

Because the reason I don't wear a seat belt is because you don't wear a seat belt.

JEFF

Fair enough.

LILLIE

And don't call me princess.

Jeff straps his seat belt. Lillie does the same.

JEFF

Listen, I don't care what you do in your own time, just stay out of trouble. Because you know what's happening right now? Nothing. I am not doing anything- when I should be at work, so I can support you and your useless mother. Don't I give you all the freedom in the world? Can't you do whatever you want?

LILLIE

Yes dad.

Jeff pulls off the car. Jeff sips on his beer whilst driving. Lillie's phone starts to ring. We hear a 'bad ass' ringtone.

JEFF

Are you gonna answer that? It's probably your mother.

LILLIE

I don't care.

JEFF

You know who she's gonna call next, right?

The phone stops ringing. Jeff takes his own phone in hands. A few seconds later Jeff's phone starts to ring. We hear a 'standard ring tone'.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Guess who.

Jeff passes the phone to Lillie. She reluctantly accepts.

LILLIE (ON PHONE)
 Hi Margaret... Leaving school right
 now... I didn't hear it ... Yes ...
 Okay Margaret...

Lillie passes the phone to Jeff.

LILLIE (CONT'D)
 She wants to talk to you.

He reluctantly accepts.

JEFF (ON PHONE)
 Hello ... Listen, I am driving
 okay? ... Everything is under
 control... My fault? ... No, no,
 no, you live with her! This
 wouldn't be happening if she was
 living with me... What? ... I
 can't do that! ... Okay,
 whatever... Yeah, whatever!

Jeff hangs up the phone and drinks beer.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 Change of plans. You're gonna be
 staying with me for a few days.

LILLIE
 Really? What did she say?

JEFF
 She said... she is busy. What did
 she say to you?

LILLIE
 She said I'm grounded.

JEFF
 I guess she is right about that
 one... All right, we are gonna go
 quickly get your stuff, okay? Don't
 take too long. You already wasted
 enough of my time.

LILLIE
 Yes dad. Don't worry, I don't have
 so much stuff. I am not some silly
 girl anymore.

JEFF
 You are not? Then what do you call
 what you did today? You call that
 'smart'?

LILLIE
'Justice'. Natalie deserved a slap
so I slapped her.

JEFF
You can't do that. We already
talked about this.

LILLIE
I know. If I get in trouble then
you get in trouble.

JEFF
That's how it works.

LILLIE
But if you get in trouble by your
self, then it's okay.

JEFF
You're on very thin ice Lillie.
Don't push your luck.

LILLIE
Or what? You're gonna hurt me?

JEFF
Maybe I should. It has been a
while, hasn't it?

LILLIE
Then slap me. I deserve it.

Jeff drinks beer.

JEFF
You're grounded. Keep your mouth
shut.

LILLIE
I want beer.

JEFF
Lillie...

LILLIE
I want to try it dad, what's the
problem? You drink and drive,
that's illegal. You cheated on mom,
that's illegal too. I can denounce
you, you know that?

JEFF
That's it!

Jeff gives Lillie a hurtful pinch on her arm. She screams in pain and massages the spot.

LILLIE

Ouch.

JEFF

Shut up. From now on you are gonna keep your mouth shut.

LILLIE

You know what else I did? I beat up a boy too. I punched him in the face. But he didn't go crying to the teacher. Not like that little bitch Natalie. So it was okay... Anyway, I just slapped her... I treated her like the little stupid girl she is. Sometimes I want to slap mom too. She is so stupid.

JEFF

You can't talk like that about your mother. But okay... Sometimes I want to slap her too.

LILLIE

Sometimes I want to punch you dad.

JEFF

Okay..?

LILLIE

Because you are an asshole... But I don't- because then you are gonna kick my ass. And I don't slap mom either because... I don't want to see her cry.

JEFF

So you beat up a boy huh?

LILLIE

Yeah. I kicked him in the nuts and punched him in the face.

JEFF

Nice combo.

LILLIE

And then he was rolling on the ground and moaning. And the other boys were all too scared to do anything. I'm better than they are.

(MORE)

LILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm stronger, I'm better at sports.
I'm the only girl who plays with
the boys all the time.

JEFF
Huh...

LILLIE
Yeah... I mean, the girls... they
are nice. But all they want to do
is take selfies and dress weird.
They can't play sports. They look
like little chickens when they run.

Lillie giggles.

LILLIE (CONT'D)
They are so cute. My friend Becky
is cute. I like her.

Silence.

LILLIE (CONT'D)
Dad. I'm gay.

Jeff spits beer.

JEFF
What?

LILLIE
I must be.

Jeff tries to keep control of the car. He takes another sip
of beer.

JEFF
I'm gonna need more beer.

LILLIE
I'm a man!

JEFF
No, no, no, no...

LILLIE
I'm like you dad.

JEFF
Shit. Lillie. Lillian...

LILLIE
I like what you like.

JEFF

Obviously this is something... we have to talk about.

LILLIE

I like you more than I like mom.

JEFF

Thank you... That's- Really?

LILLIE

Yeah dad. Mom is always freaking out about shit... But you are cool, I mean... maybe is because I see mom all the time and-

JEFF

Right. You know what? This is just a phase. I think it's great that you are gonna be staying with me-

LILLIE

Well you should.

JEFF

... for a while. And I know that sometimes when I'm talking about your mom, junk comes out of my mouth.

LILLIE

She says the same thing about you.

JEFF

Yes. Even so, your mother she can be-

LILLIE

A bitch.

JEFF

Who are you? God, you've changed. I don't recognize my own daughter anymore.

LILLIE

I told you I'm not some silly girl anymore.

JEFF

I just didn't think you were really paying attention to all these stuff.

LILLIE
I try not to.

JEFF
You shouldn't. And you shouldn't be getting into fights either just because I do.

LILLIE
You drink and drive too.

JEFF
I'm used to it. I drive better when I drink.

LILLIE
Does that mean I can drink and drive?

JEFF
Over my dead body you can.

Jeff passes his beer to Lillie.

LILLIE
What's this?

JEFF
You said you wanted to try beer, there you go.

LILLIE
Really?

JEFF
If you don't mind my drooling all over it.

LILLIE
But I'm thirteen years old.

JEFF
And I drink and drive. And I cheat on your mom.

Lillie drinks beer. She hates it and spits it out.

LILLIE
Pff. Argh.

JEFF (LAUGHS)
I guess you are a little girl after all.

She gives him a mean look.

JEFF (CONT'D)
I'm just kidding.

LILLIE
I want to drive.

JEFF
Really...

LILLIE
Please dad.

JEFF
No Lillie, you can't.

LILLIE
Please, pretty please dad, I know how to drive.

JEFF
Have you driven before?

LILLIE
Well no but-

JEFF
Another time Lillie, I'm late for work already.

LILLIE
Daaaaad...

JEFF
There's too much traffic-

LILLIE
I'll just go around the block, it's only going to take 5 min. My friend Harry he drives all the time with his dad and my friend Jason too.

JEFF
Hold on...

Jeff takes a turn. Jeff stops the car and pulls the hand break.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Do not under any circumstance tell your mother.

LILLIE
I don't even want to talk to her.

JEFF
Okay, c'mon, switch with me.

They clumsily switch places. She is now at the driver's seat.

JEFF (CONT'D)
What do you do first?

LILLIE
Keys.

Jeff pulls his seat belt.

LILLIE (CONT'D)
Seat belt...

Lillie puts her seat belt on.

JEFF
Now?

LILLIE
Keys!

JEFF
No Lillie. Now you adjust your seat...

Lillie complies.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Can you reach the pedals?

LILLIE
Humhum.

JEFF
Okay. Very important. You have two pedals, but you only use your right leg, okay? Your right foot to press the pedals. Understand?

LILLIE
Okay..?

JEFF
So your left leg it's only for support, you don't push any pedals with it.

LILLIE

Okay.

JEFF

So when you want to give it gas you use your right foot to press the pedal on the right. That's the gas. Good... Press it very slowly. Yes... And if you want to slow down, you are going to slowly take your foot off the gas and using the same foot your are going to press the pedal on the left which is the break. Good...

LILLIE

Got it.

JEFF

All right. What now?

LILLIE

Keys!

JEFF

No Lillie. Fix your mirrors first.

LILLIE

Oh, right.

Lillie complies.

JEFF

Okay. Now?

LILLIE

Keys?

JEFF

Yes.

Lillie turns the engine on. She is nervous an excited.

LILLIE

Oh my goooood.

JEFF

Okay. The signal, push it down.

Lillie signals a left turn.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Good. Lillie?

LILLIE
Yes?

JEFF
Calm down. Everything is okay.
Breath.

LILLIE
Okay, I'm okay.

JEFF
Gear on drive.

Lillie puts the gear on drive.

LILLIE
Oh my god.

JEFF
Let's check your mirrors again.

There are no cars in sight.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Okay, we're good... Now, gas...
slowly.

She starts driving real slow.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Good. You see? It's easy. Eyes on
the road. Eyes on the horizon.

Lillie takes deep breaths. Her phone rings.

JEFF (CONT'D)
No. Eyes on the road. Two hands on
the wheel. You are not gonna pick
that up. Stay focused.

The phone stops ringing.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Good. You always keep two hands on
the wheel...

Jeff's phone starts to ring.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Eyes on the road.

Jeff picks up the phone and looks at the phone screen.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Shit, already.

Jeff answers.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Hi Margaret... She can't come to
the line right now... Because...
she is driving.

Margaret starts shouting on the other side of the line. Jeff
is seen pulling his ear away from the phone.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
She is fine, don't worry... What
Margaret, don't start... No...
What?

As he talks on the phone he tries to signal Lillie to stay
focused on the road.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
...No, she is gonna stay with me
now... You are such... Why do you
do that? You can't do that! ...
What the hell is wrong with you?

Lillie feels pressured when her parents argue. She is losing
focus.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Lillie slow down.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Whatever Margaret. What?

JEFF (CONT'D)
Lillie slow down.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Yeah that's what I am doing!

JEFF (CONT'D)
Lillie slow down! Lillie stop the
car! Hit the breaks!

Lillie is freaking out. Jeff grabs the wheel.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Lillie remove your legs!

Jeff pulls the hand break.

JEFF AND LILLIE
Aaaaaahhhhh!

The car skids and stops. Nobody is hurt. Lillie is in shock.

JEFF
It's okay darling. You did good.

JEFF (TO MARGARET ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Hi Margaret. Yes everything is
okay. Yes, she is fine. Hold on
Margaret.

Jeff steps outside the car. He goes around to the driver's door and helps Lillie out of the car.

JEFF (CONT'D)
C'mon darling. Come outside.

Jeff hugs Lillie. She feels a little better.

LILLIE
Is mom on the line?

JEFF
Yeah. Do you want to talk to her?

Lillie nods.

LILLIE (ON PHONE)
Hi mom. Yes, everything is okay...
Yes mom, I'm coming home right
now... No it's not his fault- well,
you are right, I guess it was his
fault... Yes mom. I'll be there
soon... And mom? I miss you
already.

The line is silent.

LILLIE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Mom? You there?

Margaret says something. Lillie smiles.

LILLIE (CONT'D)
Well, you should. Okay. I'll see
you soon mom. Bye.

Lillie hangs up.

JEFF
What did she say?

LILLIE
She wants me to come home.

JEFF
Of course she does. C'mon.

Jeff goes around the car and enters on the passenger side.

LILLIE
What are you doing dad?

JEFF
C'mon. Let's go around the block a few more times.

LILLIE
No way dad. I'm so scared.

JEFF
That's why you have to do it. No daughter of mine can be scared of driving.

LILLIE
But you are gonna be late.

JEFF
Yeah... but I'm always on time anyway. I need to be late more often.

Lillie takes the driver's seat. She instinctively puts her seat belt on. Jeff fasten his seat belt as well. Lillie fixes her seat, checks the mirrors, turns on the engine and signals left. Jeff observes her with pride.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Real slow. We got all the time in the world.

LILLIE
Okay dad.

Lillie starts driving.

JEFF
Nice and easy. Nice and easy...

Silence.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Are you really gay?

Lillie shrugs her shoulders. She is not sure.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Because that's okay. Better than
bringing home some random douche
bags.

Lillie does a clumsy turn on the wheel. Jeff grabs hold of
the safety handle.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Slowly!

LILLIE
Who's the little girl now dad? Huh?

THE END