

The Shark and the Cow

by

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INT. CAR - DAY

The car interior is nothing spectacular. The dashboard is plastic, the seats are leather. Through the windscreen it can be seen that the vehicle exterior is equally bland. It is also seen that the car is parked on a leafy suburban street. Traffic is non-existent. In the passenger seat is the EXAMINER, MR. GREEN. He is 60 and suited. In the driving seat is the EXAMINEE, COLIN. He is 20 and smartly dressed.

MR. GREEN
(excitedly)
Good afternoon, Colin!

COLIN
Good afternoon, Mr. Green.

MR. GREEN
I bet you're nervous about this
DRIVING EXAM...

COLIN scratches his head.

COLIN
A little...

MR. GREEN
Well there's no need to be. I've had
decades of experience. Today is the
last day before I retire, in fact.

COLIN
That's good to know, thanks.

MR. GREEN
Seeing as it's my last day, why not
make this test fun?

MR. GREEN winks.

COLIN
What do you mean?

MR. GREEN
Oh, never mind, just start the engine
and go.

COLIN twists the key and gently accelerates to 20 mph. His driving is superb.

MR. GREEN
Very smooth.

COLIN
Thanks.

MR. GREEN
 You misunderstand me. I was calling
 you a pussy.

COLIN keeps driving.

COLIN
 What?

After passing the odd PEDESTRIAN, COLIN reaches a T junction
 and stops. In front of him and MR. GREEN is busy traffic and a
 range of small shops.

MR. GREEN
 Why did you stop?

COLIN
 ... Because if I didn't people would
 crash into me...

MR. GREEN
 Oh no, no, no. You have to be
 assertive, fairy boy. How long do you
 intend to wait around? An hour?

MR. GREEN opens his window then furiously toots the horn in
 front of COLIN.

MR. GREEN
 (to the motorists)
 MOVE!

There is no change in anyone's driving habits.

MR. GREEN
 They're taking the p**s. Ram these
 f***ers.

COLIN
 Are you on drugs??

MR. GREEN
 What did you think I meant when I said
 I wanted to have some fun?

COLIN
 I thought you wanted me to drive like.
 .. to drive.... Ok, I had no idea what
 you were on about. Anyway, this isn't
 fun!

MR. GREEN
 Bitch.

COLIN
 You're not a real driving instructor,
 are you? Where's your exam sheet or
 whatever you call it?

MR. GREEN ducks his head then peeks around, looking shifty.

MR. GREEN
 (quietly)
 I'll level with you. I hit the real
 instructor on the head and stole this
 car.

COLIN
 Jesus Christ!

MR. GREEN maintains relatively normal posture.

MR. GREEN
 (confidently)
 It's ok, I didn't kill him! God. I
 just gave him a bit of a headache. You
 want to know why I'm in a hurry? I'm
 on the run from my drug dealer. I kind
 of stole everything he had on him. Too
 much really, would you like some
 drugs?

COLIN
 No thanks. I get the feeling they're a
 bad idea. Why don't you drive?

MR. GREEN
 I have to be honest...

COLIN
 Again?

MR. GREEN
 Everything looks a little weird to me.
 I know there are cars in front of me,
 but they look like spaceships. You
 look like a shark. I'm sorry, but I
 might poke you in the eyes if you get
 too close to me.

After spotting a large enough gap in the traffic, COLIN joins
 it, soon at 30 mph. He doesn't know what else to do.

MR. GREEN
 Well done for avoiding the minotaur.

COLIN
 No problem. So what's LSD like then?

MR. GREEN

I wouldn't know. I'm on crystal meth.

COLIN furrows his brow.

COLIN

I didn't know meth made people see things...

MR. GREEN

Actually, I'm hallucinating because I'm schizophrenic. My psychiatrist is another person I'm hiding from. I'm more scared of the dealer, though.

For a brief moment, COLIN rubs his chin.

COLIN

Oh. Do you have any more interesting psychiatric conditions?

MR. GREEN

Have you heard about boanthropy? It's where you believe you're a cow.

COLIN

I know most would disapprove of what I'm about to say, but this is one of the more interesting conversations I've had.

MR. GREEN

Mooo. You're a good shark. Now see that huge plate, coming up?

COLIN

The mini roundabout?

MR. GREEN

Whatever. Just go straight ahead and keep driving through the following street.

COLIN

Why?

MR. GREEN

I can't remember.

As COLIN passes through the roundabout(!) there is a sudden change of atmosphere. COLIN edges away from GREEN as far as he can.

MR. GREEN

You've been quiet for a long time, now, Jaws.

COLIN

A few seconds, you mean?

MR. GREEN

Don't get clever with me SHARK BOY.
You may have big teeth, but I can ram
you. Remember that. Moo!!

As COLIN drives he looks left and right in desperation. He hopes to see a pedestrian who can save him. Of course, he is zooming right past the few that there are. He is stuck. GREEN raises his hand to COLIN.

COLIN

F**k off my eyes!

COLIN pushes MR. GREEN back with his left hand, as his right remains on the wheel.

MR. GREEN

Shut your mouth then!

COLIN

Sorry, this isn't the experience I was
hoping for at all! I'm out of here!

COLIN pulls up on the curb, jumps out of the car and runs for his life, constantly checking his back. MR. GREEN also leaves the vehicle, gets on all fours and charges at the YOUNG MAN as fast as he can, which isn't very fast at all. Still, the poor soul is now wide-eyed and trembling.

MR. GREEN

Moooo!!!!

Knowing the EX-DRIVER is easily outrunning him, GREEN decides to eat the grass by the pavement instead. Well he thinks it's grass, it's actually a discarded crisp packet and various other non foods. These actions cause COLIN to stop and stare for a while. The distressed EXAMINEE signals to the speeding MOTORISTS that he is being harassed by a nutcase, by pointing his finger to his forehead. Thank God, a 50 year old MALE picks him up.

COLIN

Drive! Please!

MOTORIST

Of course. Let's go.

The two leave GREEN to keep munching. He is seen getting smaller in the rearview mirror.

COLIN (V.O.)

That was the last I ever heard of Mr.
Green.

Some say he now lives amongst the cows
in a nearby countryside area, others
that he spent his life savings on
plastic surgery to turn himself into a
cow. All I know is he'll never truly
leave me, for better or for worse.
Well it's for the worse, isn't it?
What a loon.