

# The Long Road

A Brief Comedy in One Scene



Cast: 1 man 1 woman

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

WIFE  
HUSBAND

SETTING:

The front seat of a car on a long road trip, crossing a bleak landscape.

AT RISE:

HUSBAND is driving. WIFE is getting antsy.

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Honey?

WIFE

Yeah?

HUSBAND

Do you remember how we decided *not* to stop in the last city for lunch?

WIFE

Of course. Who wanted to get stuck in all that noon traffic?

HUSBAND

Well...

WIFE

Come on, sweetheart. That was only twenty minutes ago, and you weren't hungry then.

HUSBAND

I know, but...

WIFE

Why don't you just break open a bag of chips to hold you?

HUSBAND

I'm not *hungry*.

WIFE

Well, the soda in the cooler should still be cold enough.

HUSBAND

I *definitely* don't want anything to drink.

WIFE

Huh? Oh. HUSBAND

How far is it to the next town? WIFE

I'm not sure. Check the map. HUSBAND

Seventy-two miles!?! There must be *something* closer than that! WIFE

You've got the map. HUSBAND

Wait a minute. Here's something. Some kind of Indian name. WIFE

How far? HUSBAND

Forty-one...miles... WIFE

Oh, well. We haven't had our souvenir speeding ticket from this state, yet. HUSBAND

Oh, look! WIFE

Rest stop! HUSBAND

Thank God! WIFE

Uh, oh... HUSBAND

What? WIFE

Closed. HUSBAND

Oh, God... WIFE

Want to stop and look for a bush? HUSBAND

Oh, right—out here in the middle of the desert? WIFE

Well, I would. HUSBAND

That's easy enough for a man to say! WIFE

Hang on. There's something up ahead. HUSBAND

(There is a "thud" and both jolt. From here on out, it is a very bumpy ride.)

What was that!? WIFE

County line, I think. And I guess they ran out of highway funds. HUSBAND

Oh! Honey, couldn't you at least try to miss the bumps? WIFE

Not if you want me to miss all the pot holes. HUSBAND

Well then, slow down! WIFE

I thought you were in a hurry? HUSBAND

Never mind! WIFE

We'll try in here. HUSBAND

A restaurant!

WIFE

If you want to call it that.

HUSBAND

Who *cares*! I don't want to eat there!

WIFE

Don't look now...

HUSBAND

What?

WIFE

The sign.

HUSBAND

"No purchase, no key"!? Here! Take my purse! Buy anything!

WIFE

You've got to be kidding. Look at the size of those prices. God! Look at the size of those flies! I wouldn't even want that garbage in the car, let alone in my stomach!

HUSBAND

So, I'll flush that, too! Just get that key!

WIFE

(The car comes to a screeching halt. Both jump out and make a run for it.)

(BLACK OUT.)

END OF PLAY