

A WINDING ROAD

Written by

Madison Simmons

1

EXT. ROADSIDE- DAY

1

On a long never-ending winding road of in the middle of nowhere sits a black 90s on its last leg Jeep. MO (African American Male, 25) in a worn out black suit eats a cheeseburger with a napkin in his collar while sitting on the car's hood. While B (African American Female, 23) wearing an all black fit, uses a screwdriver as a makeshift knob to turn the station on the car's radio.

We hear nothing but static and faint voices.

RING! RING! RING!

A small timer goes off that has been hot-glued to the dashboard. MO immediately turns backs to B.

MO

We good?

B slams her hand down on the timer and feels the dashboard.

B

Its cool.

Mo jumps off the car and lifts the hood.

MO

Smoke cleared. She good!

Mo closes the car hood.

2

INT. CAR- DAY

2

Mo hops into the driver seat. B puts the screwdriver in the cupholder.

A vintage cookie tin that reads: HAPPINESS IS HOMEMADE sits DEAD CENTER in the middle seat.

Mo switches her into various gears. We can hear the gears shift through the hood.

B

When are you gonna get rid of this piece of shit?

MO

(putting on seatbelt)

O the piece of shit that's getting you from point A to point B.

She starts and stalls before she moves forward.

B
We ain't going nowhere with this
fucked up engine.

B resets the timer on the dashboard.

MO
Daphne been my ride or die and you
over here trynna get rid of her.-

B
I hate to tell you but your ride or
die already got one foot in the
grave!

B takes the screwdriver from the cupholder opens the glove box. A large clear medicine bag filled with different types of prescriptions has been jammed inside. B toss the screwdriver in the glovebox and takes the bag. All the bottle labels read: JANET GILFORD.

B (CONT'D)
I didn't know she needed to take
this many.

MO
I meant to dump that shit out a
while ago.

B puts the bag back in the glovebox but the compartment door wont close. Mo leans over and slams it shut. He pulls forward and back on the road. They ride in silence.

B
We gonna be in this car forever.

MO
Have some faith in Daphne, she'll
get us there.

B
Stop calling this thing Daphne.

MO
Daphne is like your auntie.

B
O so she gonna fix me a plate at
the cookout and ask me "when you
gonna get a man?"

The siblings laugh.

MO
You sound like Aunt Jackie.

B chuckles to herself but makes her move to change the subject.

B
Mo, we don't have to go, we can
turn around right now.

Mo SLAMS the breaks.

In the middle of the road, sits a pile of dead branches.

TING!

B turns around. Mo doesn't bother to look back. The cookie tin has vanished from the middle seat.

B looks further into the backseat. The tin, now on it's side and lying against the backseat door. B tries but can't reach it.

B
Mo, can you reach back there?-

Mo looks back and sees his sister struggle, he turns back around.

MO
It's fine.

B
We can't leave her like that.

MO
Yes we can.

B stares daggers at Mo and jumps out the car.

3

EXT. ROADSIDE- DAY

3

B slowly opens the rear door. The container nearly falls out. But she catches it right on time.

The edge of the container is open; B closes it shut, a puff of dust follows. A dent in the tin has punctured the bag. She tries to collect as much dust from the carpet as possible and place it back in the container.

4

INT. CAR- DAY

4

B gets back in the car.

MO

Can we go?

B

Some of it came out.

MO

Does it matter?

B looks at Mo in disbelief.

B

Yes! What is wrong with you!

MO

Who fucking cares?! They not gonna put her on a scale!

B

Mo!

MO

What?! You wanna check the trunk for a broom and a dust pan!?

B

Shut up and drive Mo!

MO

Why you worried! Now she matches Daphne's carpet.

B

I can't believe you! Why can't we just take her back home?!

MO

We talked about this.

(beat)

It was decided she's going in the family columbarium.-

B

She never wanted to be with everyone else.- She didn't want to be in a box!

MO

Then where's she going B?

B
We let her go-

MO
We are not doing that. Everyone is
waiting-

B
Who gives a fuck?!We-

MO
We don't own her ashes!
(beat)
Aunt Jackie legally owns her ashes.
We couldn't even if we wanted to.

B leans against the car window. Mo drives around the pile of
dead branches. The siblings ride in silence.

B
Since you're staying for the
funeral, I'll catch an Uber back.

MO
B! There are no Ubers out here! Why
can't you just get it over with!
Just stand there, say "thank you
for coming" and we're done!

B
You have me all the way fucked up
if you think imma stand there and
listen to them fake-ass
condolences.

MO
Now you just being disrespectful.

B
Disrespectful?!

B looks back at the cookie tin and feels a tightness in her
chest.

B (CONT'D)
Stop the car man.

MO
What

B
Stop the car!

5

EXT. ROADSIDE- DAY

5

Mo stops the car and B jumps out. She walks the opposite way alongside the road. Mo pulls over and gets out the car.

MO

B, get back in the car!

B

Nah, I'm good.

B sticks out her thumb to hitchhike.

MO

Where are you going?!

B

Home!

Mo starts walking towards B.

MO

At this point, what do you want me to do B!

B stops and stares at Mo.

B

Exactly, at this point.

(beat)

I'm done.

B turns her back on Mo and walks on the roadside. Mo runs up in front of to B.

MO

I'm sorry B! Is that what you want me to say to you?! I'm sorry I made sure you were good EVERY. SINGLE. DAY! When she's was no where to be found!

B turns and walks away. Mo walks her down.

MO (CONT'D)

I'm SO sorry, I made sure you didn't have to listen to everyone argue about what to do with our mother! That I kept her away from you when she was having an episode!

B stops in her tracks and faces her brother.

B

You HONESTLY thought I didn't know what was going on?! When they decided to throw her in some back room, God knows where! When you, Aunt Jackie and EVERYONE telling me everything was ok! But NO ONE would tell me where she was- I wanted to help- I wanted to be there for her.

MO

You were a child!-

B

SO WERE YOU!- But you were grown enough to go along with their BULLSHIT and regurgitate their lies to me!

MO

Everything I did- was to protect you!

B looks at mo tired and broken.

B

Mo.

(beat)

Do I look protected!?

Mo, defeated sits on the ground.

MO

Why can't you just let this shit lie?

(beat)

I let her go long time ago.

B

I tried. Didn't work.

MO

I had no control over what they did with her.

B sits down next to Mo.

B

I know, its not your fault.
I just wish things were different.

The siblings sit in silence.

MO

There's nothing we have to do.
Let them tell their stories from
when they were kids. Sing their
songs and release the doves.

B

There's gonna be doves?

MO

Aunt Jackie insisted.

B rolls her eyes, gets up and runs back to the car; Mo gets up and follows. B opens the car and grabs the container and walks off.

MO (CONT'D)

B, where are you going?

B

Come on!

Mo catches up to B and snatches the container. B walks past her brother and into the nearby field. Mo barley holding his mother's Urn follow behind.

6

EXT. FIELD- DAY

6

B sits in the grass.

MO

B.

B pulls up grass from the ground and breaks it into little pieces.

B

Do you remember the last time we
saw her?

MO

She was calm.

B

Yeah, I noticed that too. Everyone
was in her room, getting their "The
last time I saw her" moment for
their speeches. She wasn't paying
attention to any of em. She was
just staring at the emergency exit.

MO
Wasn't there a painting on the
door?

B
Mountains and fields. She would
stare at it for hours.

Mo looks out into hills, it finally clicks. Mo sits next to
his sister.

B (CONT'D)
No one could get her to talk. She
wasn't there. She was climbing
mountains.

Mo has a protective hold over the urn.

B (CONT'D)

I asked one of the nurses why'd
they painted the mural on the exit.
She said "Its a distraction, to
keep them calm, soothes the urge to
runaway."

The siblings look out into the open plain. Mo places the urn
in B's lap. She opens the lid and opens the bag. Their
mother's ashes join the wind.

B (CONT'D)
Are we gonna give them the tin?

Mo takes the urn from B and throws the urn like a football
across the plain.

SMASH RING

The container hits the ground and the dashboard timer go off
simultaneously in the distance.

The siblings take one last look out into the open plain and
walk back to Daphne.

7 INT. CAR- DAY

7

B uses the screwdriver to turn on the radio, now clear as
day.

Mo starts Daphne starts without a hitch, the siblings get
back on the road and drive off in the opposite direction-
Back Home.

THE END