

Road Rage

By

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Logline: A man with road rage is stopped by something
smaller than himself.

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EXT. A TWO-LANE ROAD -- DAY

A two-lane twisty hilly road. The weather is nice.

The Driver, a young man driving a moderately-nice sports car, top down, leans back, hair blowing in the wind. All is well in Young-Man Land.

He comes up behind a minivan. He looks annoyed.

DRIVER

Grrrr....

To pass the minivan, the Driver edges around. But the oncoming lane is blocked. Oncoming car whizzes past.

It seems clear. He edges out again. Again a car is approaching. He pulls back.

He edges out a third time. It's clear! He blasts around the minivan, stepping on the gas with a loud roar.

DRIVER

Ha-hah!

In his rearview mirror, he sees the driver of the minivan -- a man -- and woman in the front seat.

He grins. Then sees something ahead. He yells in fear.

DRIVER

AAA!!

Driver slams on the brakes. Just in time to avoid crashing into the back of a slow-moving tractor trailer truck.

The road is too twisty and windy. He can't see around the long truck.

DRIVER

Grrr...

While he frowns, Driver sees something in his peripheral vision. It's the minivan, passing on his left. Driver does a double take.

DRIVER

What the...?

As the minivan drives by, he sees the woman in the passenger seat smiling and nodding at the minivan driver.

The minivan passes both Driver and the big truck.

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DRIVER

Noo!!!!

He edges out again. Sees no oncoming traffic. Floors it.

DRIVER

AAARRHH!!!!

He roars past the truck. Then past the minivan. As he passes, he sees the man driving the minivan, who smiles and talks to his woman passenger.

CAR IN ONCOMING LANE

HOOOONNKK!

Driver looks, swerves right, and narrowly misses a head-on collision.

He looks again at the minivan in the rear-view mirror. The minivan driver is smiling and nodding to his woman-passenger.

The woman gestures with her arms as though she's telling a story.

They are oblivious to the sports car that has passed them twice now.

The Driver continues on, stepping on the gas to put as much distance between him and the minivan as possible.

He begins to relax somewhat.

Then he comes upon a stoplight.

Driver pulls to a stop and sits. Bobbing his head to his music.

He glances in the rearview and sees the minivan approaching.

The minivan pulls into the lane alongside him.

Just then the light turns green, and the minivan continues on, never slowing down.

DRIVER

Arrrrhhh!!

The Driver tears away from the light. But his engine sputters and dies. He was too quick with the clutch.

He sees the minivan continue on, turn signal blinking. It switches lanes to pass him again.

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The Driver's car slows to a stop. He resets. And restarts his car. Tears off once more.

Spies a police car sitting at a gas station on the far side of the road. Slows down again.

DRIVER

Grrr....

Driver smiles and nods at the police officer as he passes. He checks his rear-view until the officer's car is out of sight. Then Driver hunches over the wheel, racing to catch up.

Driver pulls alongside the minivan once more.

They both stop at a stoplight. Driver glances over. Sees the woman in the passenger seat still smiling. Still gesturing. Still telling her story.

In the back seat, there is a small girl looking out the window.

The girl smiles and waves at the Driver.

The Driver looks back at the light.

Light turns green. Driver pulls out more slowly this time. To avoid killing the engine.

But then a car in front of him stops to turn left. Driver slams on the brakes again.

DRIVER

Get out of the way!

Driver waves at the offending car, as the minivan pulls ahead once again.

We see the driver of the offending car. A woman who is scared by Driver's yelling and waving. She looks in her rearview. Hesitating.

Driver waves his hands, yelling!

DRIVER

Just turn! It's clear! Turn left!

Finally the woman pulls forward and turns left.

As she moves out of Driver's way, we see the minivan way ahead of him. It disappears around a curve.

Driver races to catch up, makes the curve.

After the curve, the Driver sees the minivan parked at a roadside restaurant.

He angrily pulls into the parking lot.

He stops the car. Pulls out his keys. Gets out. Slams the door.

Driver storms toward the entrance of the restaurant.

As he approaches the restaurant, he sees the family sitting by a window.

The man, the woman, the little girl, and another small child are sitting at a table -- laughing, gesturing, talking.

The Driver stops when he sees a waitress coming to the table.

She is holding a small birthday cake. Waitress places the cake in front of the little girl. The little girl closes her eyes, makes a wish, and blows the candles out. The family claps.

Driver's shoulders sag. He looks for a moment or two more.

Then walks back to his car.

He sits in his car another moment or two before starting the engine and driving off slowly.