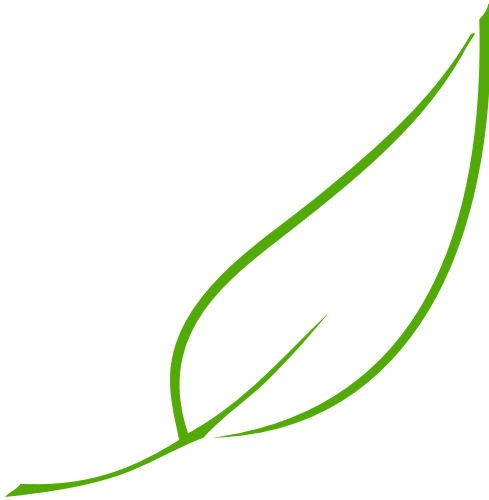


THE TRIP

by Robert L. Crowe



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Author's Note: This is intended to be a smooth conversation, not a series of stand-up punch lines. She is very quick, not dumb.

(At open, the actors are seated in the front seat of a car. He is driving.)

HE: Did you turn off the coffee pot?

SHE: Yes, did you lock the front door?

HE: Yes, I did. The house is secure.

SHE: So is the coffee pot.

HE: Then we can continue our drive with relaxed confidence.

SHE: Unless our car breaks down.

HE: Relax. Sit back and enjoy the trip.

SHE: Take a right at the corner. Be careful. This is two-lane, you know.

HE: Yes, I see that. I won't confuse this with the Interstate. What I hate about driving on the Interstate is that the trucks just blow right past us regardless of how fast we go. I'm a good driver but those semis are intimidating.

SHE: Why is it called a semi?

HE: Because that's the kind of truck it is.

SHE: No ... There has to be more. A semi is only part way. A semi-final is right before the final. Semi-sweet is close to sweet but not quite. A semi-colon is almost a colon. Semi-retired is still working. So if that is a semi-truck, what do they call a full truck?

HE: They call a full truck ... "over the weight limit" ... probably. They call it a full truck. That's the answer.

SHE: Really?

HE: Yes. I have it on good authority.

SHE: You're like a little boy chasing the firetruck to see where it's going. Why do you feel you have to catch the trucks? You always go over the speed limit. You're going to get arrested.

HE: Why won't you let me use the radar detector?

SHE: If you're going the speed limit you don't need to detect any radar. Airplanes need radar. Cars don't. Take a right at this corner.

HE: I know where we're going.

SHE: That's good because you would never stop and ask directions.

HE: I know the directions. (*turns wheel to right at the street corner*) Our next vacation, we should fly instead of drive.

SHE: Airplanes frighten me.

HE: They are more scared of you than you are of them. Anyway, take an airplane and get there faster. Some can even go the speed of sound.

SHE: How fast is that?

HE: About 760 mph.

SHE: If the plane flies faster than the speed of sound, can you still hear the movies?

HE: Yeah. The actors have to talk faster but you can follow the story pretty well.

SHE: I don't know about the speed of sound but I do know they fly faster than the speed of luggage. I like car travel because we get to see the scenery. Look at all those pretty trees.

HE: What fir?

SHE: Because I said so.

HE: No ... that was a joke. See the "fir" is a kind of tree and I said ...

SHE: You said, "what for."

HE: No, I said fir.

SHE: What for?

HE: I don't know how to answer that. (*pause*) How about we play a game. Alphabet. We look for something as we're riding that starts with each letter of the alphabet. Like A ... like, for apple tree. Then B ... for barn ... and so on. Go ahead. You go first.

SHE: Apple tree.

HE: I don't see any apple trees.

SHE: I saw it in my head when I close my eyes.

HE: We better play a different game. When I close my eyes, it adds too much excitement to the driving. We could get lost.

SHE: Are you lost now? Are you sure you know where we are?

HE: I'm sure, yes. No need to get out the GPS.

SHE: I never get out the GPS.

HE: Why not?

SHE: I don't trust that girl. She's kinda ... uh ... know-it-all.

HE: I understand. Sometimes I use the GPS over-ride system.

SHE: What is that?

HE: You.

SHE: Glad to be of assistance. (*in computer voice*) Prepare to turn right in 200 feet. Turn right.

HE: (*HE turns right.*) Very helpful. Thank you.

SHE: (*still in computer voice*) You are welcome.

HE: I know you're enjoying this mini-vacation but when we get a chance for a major vacation, where would you like to go?

SHE: Tibet

HE: Tibet? Why?

SHE: Because it will make me wise.

HE: How so?

SHE: Early Tibet and early to rise makes you wealthy and wise.

HE: Oh. Well, that explains it very well.

SHE: I was kidding.

HE: It's hard to tell, sometimes.

SHE: I'm not sure where to travel ... foreign or domestic. A lot of domestic is conveniently located right here in this country.

There is a lot of interesting history to visit. You know, I've never understood why so many Civil War battles were fought at National Parks.

HE: Yes, quite a coincidence.

SHE: And ... the problem with foreign travel is that they have a different word for everything. That's not very thoughtful. It



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