

Car Ride

By

Kamali Culpepper

1 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 1

NORA and her MOM sit on the couch.

MOM

Nora, I just got a call that your  
cousin Nate has been in a car  
accident and is in the hospital.

Nora throws her hand in the air.

NORA

What! We have to go see him!

MOM

Your father is coming to pick you  
up to drive to Atlanta.

NORA

No! I can't stand to be with him in  
the car for hours.

Mom touches Nora's arm.

MOM

He's really worried and doesn't  
want to drive alone.

NORA

Fine. I'll go.

2 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 2

Nora sits on her bed while she waits for her dad to come.  
She hears her fathers' car barrel down the street. BOOM!  
HISS!

NORA

Ugh, he's here.

Dad HONKS the horn. Nora takes her suitcase and walks out of  
her room.

3 EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS 3

Nora walks to the car and puts her suitcase in the trunk.

MOM

Bye, Honey, have fun!

4 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS 4

Nora sits in the car and buckles her seat belt. DAD sits patiently with one hand on the wheel.

DAD  
Hi, Sweetie, how are you?

NORA  
Fine.

DAD  
Okay let's hit the road!

Nora and her father drive on the highway and pass many trees and cows. The tire makes a noise. POP! HISS! Nora moves the side view mirror and looks at the tire.

NORA  
Oh my God! Was that the tire?

Nora looks at the clock.

NORA (CONTD)  
We've only been driving for an hour!

DAD  
Relax, Sweetheart, I have a spare in the trunk.

5 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS 5

Dad parks the car on the side of the road. He gets out and checks the trunk but there is no spare. He walks to Nora's window.

DAD  
Okay don't worry there's not a spare, but I can call AAA.

6 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS 6

Nora HUFFS and crosses her arms.

7 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS 7

Dad leans on the car while he calls AAA.

DAD  
Hi, I have flat tire and I need a ride to the car shop... Okay one hour thanks.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL the AAA man arrives.

PAUL  
Hey, are y'all looking for a ride?

DAD  
Hey, Man! You're a lifesaver.

PAUL  
No problem, I'm just doing my job.

8 INT. CAR SHOP - AFTERNOON

8

Paul sets the car in the car shop garage and leaves. The car repairman, CHARLIE, comes over to take a look at the car.

CHARLIE  
Looks like your car needs more than a new tire. You need a new engine and battery too.

Nora shakes her head.

NORA  
Unbelievable.

DAD  
How long will it take?

CHARLIE  
A few hours.

DAD  
Okay we'll just get a rental car.

NORA  
Thank God!

Nora's dad rolls his eyes.

DAD  
We're going to get there in no time. The car rental place is across the street.

CHARLIE  
You've got a feisty one there.

Charlie LAUGHS.

DAD  
You're telling me.

Nora's dad LAUGHS. Nora walks away.

9 INT. CAR RENTAL PLACE - CONTINUOUS 9

They meet a MAN at the desk, sign some papers, and receive the keys to an SUV. They walk outside to get the car.

10 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS 10

Nora plays around with the heated seats function. Then she decides to play around with the radio.

DAD

Will you pick a station already!

NORA

It's already bad enough that I have to be stuck in the car with you for hours! Can I at least pick the station?

DAD

Just turn it to 105.5 we both like the old hits.

NORA

Second best decision you made all day.

Dad LAUGHS.

Nora's dad looks at the clock.

DAD

Hey it's been a couple hours will you finally tell me why you're so angry with me?

NORA

Don't you know?

DAD

Nope.

NORA

After what you did to mom I just can't trust you anymore.

DAD

It was ten years ago!

Nora throws her hands in the air.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

It still matters! And your new "girlfriend" offers me a car like that's supposed to make up for what you guys did.

DAD

I made a mistake, I am sorry for hurting you and your mom.

Nora crosses her arms and looks down.

Dad's phone RINGS.

DAD

Hey Sarah. How is Nate... Really...I can't believe this is happening...Okay we'll be there soon...Bye.

Nora looks slowly up at her dad.

NORA

How is Nate?

DAD

She speaks! He's not doing too well. They don't know what to expect yet.

Nora tears up.

NORA

Oh my gosh this is awful. I was just remembering when Nate was little and he used to mock grandma's sermons after church.

Nora's dad LAUGHS.

DAD

Oh ya he was such a goofball.

11

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING

11

They walk in and make their way to the outside of Nate's room.

12 INT. NATE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS 12

Nate suddenly has a seizure. A NURSE and DR. JONES check on him. AUNT SARAH talks to Dr. Jones.

AUNT SARAH  
What are you going to do to fix  
this!

Dr. Jones whispers to Aunt Sarah. She rushes out of the room to talk to Nora and her dad.

13 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS 13

Aunt Sarah hyperventilates.

DAD  
What's wrong Sarah! What happened!

Through tears Aunt Sarah speaks.

AUNT SARAH  
Looks like... they will have to...  
induce him into a coma.

Aunt Sarah cries into her hands. Nora and her dad hug Aunt Sarah. Aunt Sarah sits downqq while she continues to cry. Nora pulls her dad aside. Nora speaks in a shaky voice.

NORA  
Life is too short for me to hang on  
to the past.

Nora pauses and looks her dad straight in the eyes.

NORA (CONTD)  
I forgive you, Dad.

Nora and her dad tear up. Dad gives Nora a hug. Dad smiles through tears.

DAD  
Thank you, Nora.