

# GIRL BEHIND THE WHEEL

by Ken Bradbury



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*(2f) Furlese and Monique sit in Furlese's "car," two chairs side by side.*

**FURLESE:** This is it. I can't believe it, Monique. This is really it.

**MONIQUE:** Calm down.

**FURLESE:** The day I've dreamed of since first grade.

**MONIQUE:** You're kidding.

**FURLESE:** No! Haven't you? 16! Driver's license! My first car! Right here under my fingertips!

**MONIQUE:** Look Furlese, maybe today isn't the best day to start driving. You seem awfully ... you know... spastic.

**FURLESE:** Spastic? Spastic!!! I'm not spastic! I'm excited! I got an "A" in Driver's Ed, Monique! I was the first one to finish! Mr. Thompson said he wanted to get all my driving out of the way before the rest of the class.

**MONIQUE:** You didn't see a message in that?

**FURLESE:** He liked me!

**MONIQUE:** He was afraid of you. Look, let's just sit in your car a minute ... get the feel of things ... then we'll try it again tomorrow.

**FURLESE:** No way, Monique! I'm ready! Hang on!

**MONIQUE:** Oh, no.

**FURLESE:** I'll go slow. I promise.

**MONIQUE:** Seatbelt.

**FURLESE:** Huh?

**MONIQUE:** Put on your seatbelt.

**FURLESE:** We're just cruising around town! You want me to wrinkle my new top?

**MONIQUE:** Yes. Wrinkle it. Destroy it. I'm getting out unless you're buckled in.

**FURLESE:** *(buckling up)* Geesh. What a fuddy-duddy. Okay. Here we go. *(begins to start car)*

**MONIQUE:** Wait. I think we should pray.

**FURLESE:** Pray?

**MONIQUE:** Pray.

**FURLESE:** I didn't know you even went to church.

**MONIQUE:** It doesn't matter. I like breathing. Go ahead. You know how to do it.

**FURLESE:** Right here? In the driveway?

**MONIQUE:** God doesn't do driveways?

**FURLESE:** I mean ... of course, but ...

**MONIQUE:** Then pray.

**FURLESE:** All right. Dear Lord, thanks for this pretty day ...

**MONIQUE:** Skip the hello's. Get right to the danger.

**FURLESE:** Okay. Dear God, I hope we have a really good time.

**MONIQUE:** Forget the good time. Pray that we get back alive.

**FURLESE:** Why don't you do it?

**MONIQUE:** Because you're driving. You drive, you pray.

**FURLESE:** And I pray that we get back alive. That sounds so horrible. Scary.

**MONIQUE:** Say Amen.

**FURLESE:** Amen.

**MONIQUE:** Now drive ... slowly. (*Furlese turns the key, Monique grips her seat.*) Slow down! Slow down!

**FURLESE:** I'm still in "Park."

**MONIQUE:** I know. Even this is too fast.

**FURLESE:** (*putting the car into gear*) I know what I'm doing.

Boy, this feels great! Driving at last! (*waving*) Hey, Jonna, look! I'm driving!

**MONIQUE:** Watch the road!

**FURLESE:** I am! Look, there's a bunch of kids at the Dairy Queen. Wave! Wave!

**MONIQUE:** I can't wave.

**FURLESE:** Why not?

**MONIQUE:** My fingers are deeply embedded into my seat. Just watch the road, Furlese! And slow down!

**FURLESE:** I'm not speeding! Okay, maybe just a little and ... what's that?

**MONIQUE:** What?

**FURLESE:** That sound.

**MONIQUE:** (*looks behind her*) A policeman. He's got his red lights on. You were speeding.

**FURLESE:** I was not speeding!

**MONIQUE:** Then it's the UPS man and he's trying to flag you down for a delivery. You're busted, Furlese! Pull over!

**FURLESE:** Oh, no.

**MONIQUE:** Twenty years in prison on your first day behind the wheel.

**FURLESE:** Oh, no.

**MONIQUE:** I'm going to hide in the back seat. (*begins to crawl into the back*)

**FURLESE:** (*stopping her*) Stop that! You'll make me look suspicious.

**MONIQUE:** We're stopped on the busiest street in town with red lights flashing behind us and you don't look suspicious?

**FURLESE:** He's coming up to my car.

**MONIQUE:** Yeah. They usually do that.

**FURLESE:** (*staring out her window*) He's looking at me.

**MONIQUE:** Lower your window. It's easier to talk.

**FURLESE:** Oh. (*lowers her window, then*) Uh ... hi, Sir.

**MONIQUE:** Great opening.

**FURLESE:** Quiet. (*to the policeman*) My what?

**MONIQUE:** Your license. That thing they gave you when you passed your test.

**FURLESE:** Where is it?

**MONIQUE:** How should I know? Try your billfold.

**FURLESE:** My billfold?

**MONIQUE:** The white thing in your purse.

**FURLESE:** My billfold.

**MONIQUE:** He's staring at you. He thinks you're on something. Hurry up.

**FURLESE:** (*digging around*) My billfold. Here. (*hands a card to the policeman*)

**MONIQUE:** That's your McDonald's gift certificate. He thinks you're bribing him.

**FURLESE:** Oh. (*digging more*) My billfold! Here!

**MONIQUE:** Lunch card.



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