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Prompt #1

The Right Side

Honk! Honk! “Out of my way!” she shouted. My mom is the most entertaining driver I’ve ever known. Whenever she’s behind the gray, rubbery steering wheel, I always try to imagine what it is like to be right where she is. Especially when clutching on to that moist wheel due to lotion applied to the hands and pushing down the dirty black accelerator to make the car progress forward. Then I would stare out into the world in front of me that is waiting to be discovered, well behind a glass windshield smothered with dead bugs who don’t know their way around cars.

Then one sunny Sunday afternoon I got to push the pedal to the metal for my very first time. Right after church my mom asked me, “We don’t have anything planned today, do you want to drive the car?” “ Of course” I responded, “I sure do! I never imagined the day I could finally be a driver.” I admit butterflies flooded my stomach because I didn’t want to make a mistake and ruin everything. Also, my heart started beating through my chest as adrenaline was running through me. I could breathe a little better when she said “We can go practice in the empty parking lot at Hunter library; due to it being a Sunday.”

When we finally got to the deserted parking lot, it seemed so different without any cars that are usually taking up pretty much the whole lot. I joyfully exited the passenger seat, which I have been sitting in for the past eight years and skipped along the hot pavement to the driver side of my mom’s shiny marine blue P.T Cruiser. When entering the seven year old Chrysler which inside had a burst of 70 degree heat from sitting in the church parking lot for about an hour and a half, a gust of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies that I received from church filled my mouth. Usually my mouth would water but today I was so focused on the wheel that my mouth didn’t crave the chewy melted chocolate cookies as much as it usually would. I could already tell this was going to be a sweet ride.

I jumped in the driver’s side so excited to experience the wheel for the very first time. It felt so different being settled down on the driver’s left side instead of the passenger’s right side. It really let me experience a whole new perspective of that empty Hunter Library parking lot. The view outside the windshield seemed like a wide new horizon.

I put my nylon seatbelt which felt like it was choking me until I heard the big CLICK, which pronounced that I was safe. I gripped the metal keys that jingled in my hand so I could place them in the key ignition that would get the engine grumbling, like my stomach does when it’s craving juicy sweet pork burrito from Café Rio. As I started the car the sound of the engine was loud but quickly decreased to a bearable rumble.

My mom was by my side directing me by saying, “Make sure you check your review mirrors, and make sure you look both ways.” So I did exactly what she said because she was the expert. “Yes mom, I understand” I replied in my sarcastic tone of voice.

For the next hour or so, I contently practiced my sharp right turn, left turns, u turn and my fabulous parking skills that I managed to stay in-between the white lines painted on the black asphalt. While I was cruising up the vacant parking lot suddenly my mom shouted, “DOG!” I cluelessly kept accelerating and angrily asked, “Why in the world did you yell that?! You scared me half to death!” My mother explained to me like she was talking to a clueless toddler “Sometimes animals or small children don’t pay attention and run out in front of ongoing traffic. You must always be paying attention for such accidents waiting to happen.” Now understanding I replied “Oh, next time I will push on the brakes until the old car come to a screeching halt. You do learn something new every day.”

 I learned so much in this driving experience that will stick with me for years to come when I’m actually on the road ready so discover the reality of the world in front of my curious eyes. Watch out, here I come!