



Left Turn

By R. George

Adapted by Christy and Marlin Stutzman

That's right, ma'am, just relax – we'll have you driving this car in no time. Now the first thing to do is sit in the driver's seat and fasten your seat belt. That way you're safe, and . . . no, no, the seat belt goes in front of you, not behind you! There ya go. That's right. All right, now check your mirrors, make sure your seat is also adjusted properly so you can reach all of the driving mechanisms comfortably – What are you doing? The mirrors aren't for checking your lipstick . . . (sigh) O brother. O.K. ! Now, start the car. - - - It's the key, . . . right there! Turn it forward. O.K let go of it! Whew! No, no, you're doing , . . . just fine. Is this your first time? Fifth?!? I see. Well, yes ma'am, it is difficult to start a car, . . . sometimes, . . . I guess.

All right, put the car in gear. No, . . . um, . . . not R. R is not for road. D! Put it in D for Drive. Whew! Now, gently let off the brake. - - - -No ma'am, the brake is on the left. Right! No, left! - - I mean correct! The brake is on the left. The gas pedal is on the right. Now, gently let the car ease forward . . . (jerk violently, shout) I said gently! Yes ---yes that's better. We're on our way. Remember, if you want to stop, just GENTLY press your brakes. No. . . hehe . . .no, a tree will not do just as well. Hehe – yeah, that was funny. Watch out for that truck over there! Well, you never know, he might be a new driver too.

O.K., put your right blinker on, because you're going to make a right turn. No, you can do it. Simply remove your left hand from the steering wheel, and reach for the lever. Just relax. Gently now. Whoa!! (car swerves to right) No, no, we're o.k., - - - I think. Next time loosen that grip with your right, hand. Just hold it still. There! Yes! That was great! But you missed the turn! Ma'am? Uh, you're supposed to be driving the car, not waving to all the boys in the car in front of you. Let's keep our minds on what we're doing.

Now, do you realize that you're only going 10 miles an hour? Let's speed up a little. No, ma'am ninety is not what I meant by a little. Hehe . . . another of your cute little jokes. Yeah, . . . very cute. Be careful, we're coming to a hill. Oh, you're afraid of heights? Hehe --- oh, you're NOT joking? Well, really ma'am, it's just a

small hill. Just take your time. Please, lady, open your eyes! Watch the road! See, we're about to the top. No, no, your nose is not bleeding. Saints preserve me!

Here we are, on the top of the hill, and you're perfectly o.k. Don't be frightened. No, there are rarely any bears seen here. Wait, that was a joke, right? Well, it wasn't funny.

We're just about back down the hill, just watch your speed. Good, good. We're back down (thank heavens!).

The next thing we need to learn is how to go around corners. See that corner coming up? I want you to make a right turn. Remember how to turn your blinker on? O.K. great! Turn the wheel . . . (shout) No, the other way! That's right. Now, make a turn here, and watch out for the hardware store ---- careful ---- well, that wasn't too bad, but we'll have to return those rakes and shovels that caught in the bumper.

Let's take up street signals. No, I don't mean we're going to dig them up, just study them. Ah, yet another joke, and still not funny. I'm serious lady, you really need to concentrate. That's all right. Remember, a red signal means stop, and a green one means go. I'm sorry you don't like those colors. Well, maybe they do clash, but they're not meant for fashion. Yeah, a man probably did choose them, but it wasn't me, so don't get all flustered.

Now, ya see those yellow lines in the middle of the road? Be sure you stay on this side of them. I know there are cars on the other side, but if you look very closely, you'll see that they're going the other way. Yes, when we come back you can have that side. It's all fair and square. No, the yellow lines are not for motorcycles. Just keep thinking to yourself, my side, his side, my side, his side. Just pretend, o.k."?!

Uh, oh, I hear a police siren. Pull over to the curb and stop. That's it. (quickly) No, no, it's not necessary to blow your horn as he goes by. O.K., let's pull back into the flow of traffic now. Remember to keep your eyes open for traffic signs. See those over there? . . . 30 mph speed limit. . . Slow, Curve Ahead . . . RR crossing . . . See if you can read a few. Yes, Joe's Hot Dogs, but . . . Eggs For Sale, . . . well, that's the general idea. . . be sure to watch for signs that say curves ahead. No, there won't be any that say curves behind. And be extra careful for animals that might dart across the road . . . you know, dogs, cats, rabbits . . . no, it's not likely that you'll see any bears. Do you think you can drive back to town without help? You can? Great! Just a minute, while I put this blind-fold on and take a few sleeping pills. Why? I don't think I can take any more of this!

Reproduction prohibited except for competitive purposes.

Resale strictly prohibited.

Copyright 2004 (pending) N.C. Publications, Taylors, SC

www.FINDASPEECH.com