

HIT THE ROAD

An original feature by

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WRITING SAMPLE

Pages 57-63

EXT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The rain batters the Road Runner in the parking lot. The Motel sign sways aggressively in the wind.

A flash of lightning and a crash of thunder.

INT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. DANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

SALLY
(to Lucas)
OK, your turn!

Sally shines the torch in Lucas' face; he squints.

LUCAS
No, I'm good.

Sally and Danny look disappointed.

SALLY
Oh, come on.

DANNY
Yeah, come on, man.

LUCAS
I don't do stories.

DANNY
My ass you don't do stories!

SALLY
Yeah, what he said. Come on, Lucas.
We did one.

DANNY
Yeah man, it's the rules.

Lucas hesitates.

LUCAS
Hmm, I...

SALLY
Come on.

DANNY
Yeah, come on.

Danny slaps Lucas on the back.

LUCAS
OK, OK. Let me think.

Sally hands Lucas the flashlight; he shoots her a look.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Are you for real?

Sally raises a stern eyebrow.

Lucas takes the torch and places it under his chin.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
OK...

Lucas closes his eyes as the sounds of the approaching storm grow louder from outside.

He opens his eyes.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
OK, yeah, I got one. Right... A husband and wife were driving home late one night after a party. The rain was beating down, the wind howling. The radio was tuned in.

Sally rests her head in her hands, listening intently.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
A news reporter described the storm outside:

EXT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Rain beats down, illuminated by the swinging 'Vantage Point' sign.

LUCAS (V.O.)
"Strong winds escalating. Stay safe, stay indoors."

Strong winds blast the Roadrunner as it shakes on its suspension.

LUCAS (V.O.)
Their car shook, uneven on the road. The young woman was uneasy as she sat staring at her husband.

INT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. DANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sally's eyes dart from Lucas to Danny. Danny's eyes dart from Sally to Lucas.

LUCAS

The car cruised along the road and into a deep forest, sheltering them from the bulk of the wind.

EXT. DEEP FOREST. ROAD - NIGHT

Car headlights illuminate a deep forest as a car moves swiftly along the road.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

A WIFE turns to look at her HUSBAND in the driver's seat. The steady sound of the car engine begins to stutter.

LUCAS (V.O.)

The car began to cough and stutter.

HUSBAND

God damn...

The fuel gauge drops into the red.

WIFE

Are we going to make it to a gas station?

The husband watches the road ahead with worried eyes.

HUSBAND

I don't know.

A flash radio report sounds and the wife turns up the volume.

RADIO REPORTER (O.S.)

A mad man has escaped from Ivywood Psychiatric Hospital and into the Ivywood Forest.

A sickened look engulfs the wife's face.

WIFE

We're in Ivywood Forest.

The husband nods with an uneasy demeanor.

RADIO REPORTER (O.S.)
Authorities are urging nearby
residents to lock your doors, take
precaution, and to call the police
if you see anyone wandering outside
in the storm.

The husband and wife shoot each other a worried look.

RADIO REPORTER (CONT'D)
Do not, and we repeat, do not,
under any circumstances, approach
the man.

The car coughs and stutters.

EXT. DEEP FOREST. ROAD - NIGHT

The car goes silent and comes to halt on the wet road.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

The wife breathes fast.

WIFE
What are we gonna do?

HUSBAND
Listen, don't worry.

The husband puts his hand on the wife's shoulder.

LUCAS (V.O.)
He tried to calm her down, telling
her everything would be alright.

The husband strokes the wife's cheek.

LUCAS (V.O.)
He told her about a gas station,
about a half mile through the other
side of the forest.

The husband points out of the window and into the forest.

LUCAS (V.O.)
He'd take the Jerry Can from the
trunk, jog the half mile, fill up
with gas, and be back before she
could say "Blueberry Pie"... She
wasn't convinced.

WIFE
(distressed)
Did you hear the radio report?
There's a mad man out there!

The husband turns and brushes the wife's hair back.

HUSBAND
Listen, you have nothing to worry
about. The guy will be long gone by
now.

He leans over and kisses her.

He exits the car, grabs the Jerry Can from the trunk, and
disappears into the forest.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - NIGHT

The car sits still in the rain.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

The wife switches the radio to some tunes and stares out the
window, through the rain, and deep into the dark forest.

WIFE
Blueberry Pie.

Lightning flashes followed by a crack of thunder. She locks
the doors.

LUCAS (V.O.)
An hour went by and her husband
hadn't returned. [Beat] She gave it
another half hour before getting
concerned.

The wife chews her nails, tapping her foot fast to the radio
music.

LUCAS (V.O.)
Another half hour went by and her
heart rate began to rise.

She looks out into the darkness, her heart pounding over the
tunes. She sinks back into her seat and closes her eyes.

INT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. DANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sally and Danny stare hard at Lucas.

LUCAS

Suddenly, there was a tapping noise coming from the roof of the car.

Lucas taps a few times on the flashlight with his finger.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

A tapping rings out from the roof of the car. The wife's eyes roll up to the ceiling.

Tap, Tap.

She puts her hands over her ears, her heart racing.

Tap, Tap.

LUCAS (V.O.)

Then, out of nowhere, a bunch of police cars showed up.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - NIGHT

Four police cars screech to a halt in front of the vehicle.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

The wife looks on in shock, pulling her hands from her ears.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - NIGHT

A hoard of Policemen get out and aim their weapons towards the broken down car.

Detective Anderson steps out of a Police Car, holding a megaphone to his mouth.

ANDERSON

(to the wife)

Now listen to me very carefully. Don't panic, you're safe now. If you could exit your vehicle and slowly walk towards me. But, and this bit is very important. Do not, I repeat, do not look back at the car.

INT. DEEP FOREST. CAR - NIGHT

The wife appears worried.

She obliges, unlocking her door and climbing out of the vehicle.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - NIGHT

Tap, Tap.

The wife refrains from looking as she walk towards the police officers.

ANDERSON
(encouraging)
That's it, keep coming, keep
looking at me.

Tap, Tap.

She keeps her eyes on Anderson, scraping her feet along. Police have their guns raised, aimed at the roof of the car.

LUCAS (V.O.)
She got about halfway before her
curiosity got the better of her.

She begins to turn, slowly, despite Anderson screaming for her not to. She looks to the roof of her vehicle.

Her eyes bulge with horror.

A disturbing scream howls from her gaping mouth.

The Man in a Trench Coat stands on top of the car, with evil in his eyes. In one hand he taps the roof of the car with an axe, in the other, he holds up the Husband's severed head.

Tap, Tap.

INT. VANTAGE POINT MOTEL. DANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas looks back and forth from Danny to Sally.

Sally appears spooked.

Danny nods with approval.

LUCAS
The end.