

DRIVE

Written by

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EXT. ROAD - MORNING

An early model 1950's automobile is barreling down the darkened country street. A passengers right arm is leaning out the open window. They're having some fun. A graphic offers more insight:

1:55AM on September 27, 1959

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

MANLY PASCHALL, dressed in his Navy issue chief petty officer uniform that's not as crisp as when he put it on many hours ago, is the passenger of the automobile. He's having the time of his life.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
That's Manly Paschall.

He picks a bottle up from between his legs and takes a big sip before holding it off screen toward the driver. He wipes his mouth with his other hand.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
That's my father.

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

PHYLLIS is dressed in fashionable clothing. She takes her eyes off the road to accept the proffered bottle of booze.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
That's Phyllis.

Phyllis takes a big sip from the bottle and puts it between her legs before zooming away.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
That's not my mother.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Automobile takes a squealing left. We watch the automobile speed down the street as the tail lights dim and fade from view. A graphic tells us where we're headed:

Meeting Street Road, Charleston Heights, SC.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

No one is really sure how long dad
and Phyllis were acquainted, when
or, for that matter, where they
met. The only fact we have is that
their relationship will end in less
than five minutes.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A house with all the lights except the front porch light off.
There is no driveway and no automobile parked in front of the
house. A graphic tells us where it is:

Celtic Road, North Charleston, SC

After a few beats a line is added underneath:

4 miles from Meeting Street Road

A light comes on in an upstairs bedroom window. A curtain
parts slightly. We see a darkened human shape look out for a
moment. The curtain flutters shut.

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

We see Manly and Phyllis. Manly is reaching over to Phyllis
trying to get the bottle of booze back. Phyllis is playing
keep away with it.

Manly leans over and they kiss.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The automobile drives down Meeting Street Road. Meeting
Street Road is lined with stores and other commercial
buildings. The streetlights are spaced fairly far apart so we
see the automobile enter the bright lights after a period of
darkness.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

From behind and above we see the automobile driving past the
buildings on Meeting Street Road.

In the distance we also see a set of slower moving red lights from the back of another automobile. Manly's automobile is gaining on the other automobile rather quickly.

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

We see the back of Manly and Phyllis' heads and see they are rapidly gaining on the automobile in front of them. The automobile in front does not speed up.

As they gain on the automobile in front Phyllis turns into the other lane to pass the automobile in front. Manly reaches out with one hand and grabs the dashboard.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The lead automobile continues down the street out of frame as Manly's automobile skids out of control.

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

Phyllis struggles to get the automobile under control. Manly grabs the dashboard with his other hand.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The automobile hits the corner of a building and begins to spin out of control. The sign painted on the building says CANNON CONSTRUCTION.

INT. AUTOMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

The shot is static as we see the automobile spins around.

Front: Manly and Phyllis in a panic.

Drivers side: Phyllis trying to get the automobile under control. Manly is getting thrown around beside her.

Back: Phyllis and Manly are getting tossed around the automobile. On the outside we see a light pole on the passenger side.

Passenger side: Manly's head is sticking out of the automobile. The light pole is closing in on him. The screen fills with darkness as we hit the light pole.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

From above we see the car stop spinning and start driving fairly quickly across the brightly light intersection of Meeting Street Road and Dorchester Avenue toward a Esso service station. The light pole crash to the street in a spark filled explosion.

The damage to Cannon Construction is noticeable. The automobile that was in front of Manly's automobile has stopped in the middle of the street. The DRIVER is moving toward the careening automobile shocked by what he is seeing.

The automobile slams into the pair of gas tanks. No one in the automobile is moving. The other Driver backs away when he sees gas leaking onto the ground. He gets into his car and slowly drives out of frame.

We move in toward the wreckage. Manly's head is resting on the door covered in blood. We keep moving in slowly until the explosion fills the screen.

The image pulls out to see the Esso station engulfed in flames. We keep pulling out until the accident sight gets smaller and smaller until it's black.

Slowly the black fades into a gloomy gray sky as the end of the song, 'Taps' plays.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

A two year old CHRIS is sitting on his unseen Mother's lap. A pair of white gloved hands places an American flag on his lap covering him.

The song 'Taps' ends. After a beat seven rifles fire three times each.

Every time the rifles shoot Chris jumps slightly. At the end of the 21st shot we pause on Chris for a moment before the graphic comes up:

Drive Safe. Not only your life depends on it.

FADE TO BLACK.