

SURPRISE IN THE REAR

by Christopher Stewart

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EXT. HOUSE - SUNRISE

A blue Prius is parked outside a middle-class home.

SPENCER and CHELSEA exit the house. Both are in their late 20's. Visibly excited. Carrying luggage. Wearing matching Disney-themed shirts.

Chelsea presses a button on the trunk of the Prius. It pops opens and they set their suitcases inside.

INT. PRIUS - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer is in the driver's seat. Chelsea gets in the passenger's side and taps on the screen of the car's GPS.

GPS DISPLAY: A route is plotted from Knoxville, Tennessee to Orlando, Florida.

 SPENCER
Ready, babe?

 CHELSEA
Let's do this!

Spencer puts the car in drive.

START MONTAGE as "ZIP-A-DEE-DO-DAH" by Allie Wrubel plays.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

- The Prius travels down I-75. It passes a billboard: "THANK YOU FOR VISITING KNOXVILLE".
- Spencer drives. Chelsea has her feet on the dash, carefully painting her toenails.
- The Prius passes a sign: "CHATTANOOGA CITY LIMITS".
- Spencer glances down at the gauges. The "low oil" light is illuminated.
- Chelsea exits a gas station with a bag of snacks. Spencer stands at the engine of the Prius, pouring in oil.
- Chelsea drives. Spencer rides shotgun, eating Doritos.
- The Prius passes a sign: "ATLANTA - 5 MILES".
- Spencer and Chelsea take a selfie at Olympic Ring Fountain.
- Spencer drives. Chelsea naps in the passenger's seat.

- The Prius passes a sign: "FLORIDA STATE LINE - 1 MILE".
- Spencer and Chelsea take a selfie next to a palm tree.
- The Prius passes a sign: "ORLANDO - 10 MILES".

MONTAGE ENDS as the music FADES OFF.

INT. PRIUS - DAY

Spencer drives. Chelsea points up ahead.

CHELSEA
Pull off at the rest area, babe. I
need to stretch and get something
out of the trunk.

SPENCER
Sure thing.

EXT. FLORIDA TURNPIKE - DAY

The Prius merges onto a ramp leading to a rest area.

EXT. REST AREA - DAY

Chelsea exits the Prius and goes to the trunk.

She clicks the button. The trunk pops opens. Her eyes widen
as her smile gives way to total shock.

INT. PRIUS - CONTINUOUS

Spencer mindlessly scrolls through his phone.

CHELSEA (O.S.)
What the fuck?!

Startled, he drops the phone and gets out of the car.

EXT. REST AREA - CONTINUOUS

Spencer hurries to Chelsea's side.

SPENCER
What?! What is it?!

She doesn't respond. Her gaze is fixated down at the trunk.

Spencer's eyes follow. His face goes pale.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
You gotta be shitting me.

THEIR POV: A male HITCHHIKER lies in the trunk. Mid 60's. Vagrant clothes. Eyes open. Not breathing. Clearly dead.

CHELSEA
Who the hell is this?!

Spencer SLAMS the trunk shut. Stunned. Mind racing.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
Hello?! Earth to Spencer?! Who the fuck is in our trunk?!

SPENCER
Will you keep your voice down?!

Spencer looks around. There's no witnesses nearby.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
He's a hitchhiker. He was at that gas station in Chattanooga. Asked me for a ride while you were inside getting snacks.

CHELSEA
And you said yes?!

SPENCER
Of course not! I told him no and he walked away. That was it. I swear!

CHELSEA
So how'd he get in here?!

SPENCER
I don't know. Best guess? He climbed in while I was busy adding the oil.

Chelsea looks at him. Incredulous.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Babe, we saved three years for this trip. Our dream of doing butt stuff in a Disney World bathroom is about to come true. Why would I ruin all that by offing some random dude and toting his body along with us?

This lands with Chelsea. She relaxes some.

CHELSEA
And you wouldn't have let me open
the trunk if you knew he back here.

SPENCER
Exactly.

Chelsea ponders this. Sighs. Nods in agreement.

CHELSEA
Okay. I believe you. But the cops
may not and if that gas station
doesn't have cameras to back our
theory, we're screwed.

SPENCER
So what do we do?

A long beat.

Both wrack their brains. Thinking hard.

Suddenly, Chelsea snaps her fingers. Inspired.

CHELSEA
I'll call my cousin Dale! He's an
EMT. Doesn't live too far away.

SPENCER
Sweet! He'll know what to do.

Chelsea pulls her phone out. Dials. Puts it to her ear.

CHELSEA
(into phone)
Hey cousin! You got a shovel?

"YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME" by Randy Newman starts playing.

FADE TO:

INSERT - PHOTO

A selfie of Spencer and Chelsea in a bathroom stall. They're naked. Spencer's face is contorted with pleasure. Chelsea is positioned behind him, giving it to him doggy-style.

THE END