

"THE PAST FOLLOWS"

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

Written by

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INT. MADDIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

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CHANCE, 7, sits on the floor. ALLEN, 7, scoots toy cars along the dark wood floor with Chance.

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COLE, 5, scribbles a fistful of crayons against a coloring book.

MADDIE, 30, country woman, naps on the couch. The home phone RINGS. Maddie opens her eyes, sits up, and grabs the phone. She presses the answer button.

MADDIE

Hello?

LYNN (V.O.)

Hey, Mom. Can you pick us up at the theater?

MADDIE

Who's us?

LYNN (V.O.)

Ugh! Me and my friends, duh.

MADDIE

Of course! I'll be there in a few.

The phone emits the DIAL TONE of a dead line.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Bye... love you too.

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Maddie hangs up and tosses the phone on the couch.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Kids, it's time to go.

Maddie and the kids exit.

INT./EXT. MADDIE'S CAR - DAY

Maddie pulls out of the driveway. A dark green truck speeds around the corner in Maddie's direction. Both vehicles slam on their breaks. Each of the drivers stares the other driver down. THE MAN IN THE TRUCK, 30, looks away. Maddie drives away.

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MADDIE

That's right, asshole. You should pay better attention next time.

COLE

Mama said a bad word!

MADDIE

Adults can say bad words sometimes.

Maddie cruises down the busy streets in her red Suburban. She *
sings along to country music and Chance plugs his ears and
stares out of the window.

COLE

Stop!

ALLEN

Stop what?

COLE

Stop touching me!

CHANCE

One, two, three, four.

ALLEN

I'm not touching you. I'm not
touching you.

COLE

Quit it!

Maddie sighs and turns down the music.

CHANCE

Finally!

MADDIE

You two need to knock it off.
Please stop fighting.

Allen folds his arms and Cole smiles. Maddie turns the radio
back up.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

LYNN, 13, walks out of the theater. LYNN'S FRIENDS exit with
her.

Maddie looks out of her car and waves to Lynn.

An OLDER BOY, 16, exits the theater. Maddie watches the boy
hug Lynn from a distance. Maddie's face grows red. She pulls *
at her seatbelt to unbuckle and stop this. *

MADDIE

What in the hell does she think
she's doing? Who is that boy?

Lynn and her friends approach the car and get in.

INT./EXT. MADDIE'S CAR - DAY

Maddie yanks her seatbelt around her and shoves it in until
it CLICKS. She glares at Lynn. *
*

MADDIE

You and me need to have a talk.

LYNN

Mom! Not in front of my friends.

MADDIE

I don't care! Who was the boy? You
know you aren't allowed to --

LYNN

God, Mom! You're such a control
freak... and a pain in the --

MADDIE

Watch your mouth! If you think I'm
just going to let you talk to me
that way you are gravely mistaken,
young lady. *

LYNN

Yes, ma'am.

The friends giggle and Lynn's face turns red. Maddie grips
and twists her hands against the steering wheel and grits her
teeth. *

ALLEN

Mom! It's my favorite song! Can you
turn it up?

CHANCE

Not again.

Maddie turns the volume up. A country song PLAYS from the
radio and the car sits in silence for a moment. Lynn and her
friends whisper. Maddie takes a deep breath. *
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*

MADDIE

Ooo, what's the hot gossip, ladies? *

The young girls stare back at her.

LYNN

It's nothing, Mom.

Maddie flicks her blinker and switches lanes. She brakes and the car slows down to a halt. *

INT./EXT. RED LIGHT - DAY

A dark green truck pulls up next to Maddie's car. THE MAN IN THE TRUCK, 30, rolls its window down. Maddie glances over and sees the man signaling her to roll her window down. She does. *

MADDIE

Can I help you?

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

Do you know what you did?

MADDIE

Not a clue.

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

You cut me off!

MADDIE

I did?

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

You know damn well you did.

MADDIE

Someone needs to take a chill pill. It's not a big deal.

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

A chill pill?

MADDIE

Yep. You need to calm the hell down.

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

How about my gun and I show you how calm we are?

The Man in the Truck glares.

MADDIE

That's fine. My husband's gun is loaded inside the glove box. *

THE MAN IN THE TRUCK

Yeah, right.

Maddie moves her hand to the glove box. The Man in the Truck flashes his gun. *

MADDIE

Look, there are kids in the car,
and I'll do anything to protect
them. Don't test me!

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INT./EXT. MADDIE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The stoplight turns green. Maddie slams her foot on the gas and speeds off. The dark green truck pursues them.

MADDIE

Shit! Shit, shit, shit!

Maddie maneuvers through traffic.

COLE

Mommy, what's wrong?

MADDIE

Just let me focus!

ALLEN

Cole, just shut up! Mom's trying to keep us from getting shot!

COLE

Shot? Mama, are we going to die?

CHANCE

God, please don't let me die today.

MADDIE

Hush!

Maddie yanks the steering wheel to the right and turns. She steps on the gas. She sighs.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Kids, everything is going to be okay. I think we lost him.

Maddie sees the truck grow closer in the rearview mirror.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Damn it! I guess not. Everyone hold on!

LYNN

Smooth move, Exlax.

Cole pees his pants.

ALLEN

Aww, did the baby have an accident?

COLE

I'm not a baby!

MADDIE

There!

Maddie sees a gated community with a SECURITY GUARD in the booth. She turns in and stops next to the booth. The truck drives past them. *

SECURITY GUARD

Hello, there. How are you doing on this beautiful day? *

MADDIE

Not too great.

SECURITY GUARD

Oh, no. How can I help? *

MADDIE

Well, a dark green truck has been following us for a few miles and flashed a gun at us! *

SECURITY GUARD *

That's not good. Do you need me to call the police? *

MADDIE

No. He drove past us already. Can we just stay parked here for a few minutes?

SECURITY GUARD

Are you sure you don't want me to call nine one one?

MADDIE

He's gone now. I just want to make sure he doesn't come back.

SECURITY GUARD

Okay. Of course you can wait here. If someone pulls in behind you just move over.

MADDIE

Great. Thanks!

Maddie rolls the window up. Everyone sits inside in relative silence.

SUPER: "5 MINUTES LATER"

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MADDIE (CONT'D)
The coast is clear!

Maddie drives off.

INT. MADDIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BRYAN, 30, Maddie's husband sits in a recliner.

BRYAN
Why did Cole need a bath before dinner?

MADDIE (O.S.)
He had an accident.

BRYAN
Of course he did.

Maddie walks in with a plastic cup and bowl. She shoves it at Bryan. She pauses. She snaps at Bryan.

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MADDIE
You're welcome!

BRYAN
Oh, thank you so much.

LYNN
Oh my God, I'm sick of you two fighting!

*

Lynn storms off. Maddie stomps to other side of the living room and sits on a couch. The kids finish dinner. The family goes to bed.

INT. MADDIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bryan and Maddie sleep on opposite sides of the bed with their backs towards each other. Bryan SNORES. Maddie jolts awake and shoots up in bed.

MADDIE
Oh my God. The man in the truck... was it --

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