

"ON THE ROAD TO"

by

Austin McKinley

06/15/07
PO Box 48582
Sarasota, Florida 34230
941.266.1381

FADE IN:

EXT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY

Two young men, about college age. Adam, in street clothes, sits at the counter while Arlan, in waiter's uniform, stocks his tray.

ADAM

Do you think we're destined to work together?

ARLAN

Why don't you get a job at Carrapio's and find out?

ADAM

Do you think passive aggression is an effective tool?

ARLAN

Where are you going with this?

ADAM

How about Las Vegas?

ARLAN

What, right now?

ADAM

Do you have something better to do?

Arlan stops and thinks. He really doesn't.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - TRAVELLING

ARLAN

Where are we going to stay first?

ADAM

Don't you have family in Louisiana?
(drums on the steering wheel)
Why can't we ever work together?

ARLAN

Is it because every time we try to write a story together, it degenerates into an argument?

ADAM

Do you think our arguments are more about winning than pursuing honesty?

ARLAN

Do you think we play the question game because it makes us better listeners?

ADAM

Huh?

They both laugh.

ARLAN

Why, are you looking for some personal revelation on this trip?

ADAM

That's what road trips are for, aren't they?

ARLAN

Could you be any more of a dork?

ADAM

Do you wanna fight about it?

EXT. THE ALAMO - DAY

They stand looking at the building.

ADAM

Remember the Alamo?

ARLAN

How could I forget?

INT. ADAM'S CAR - TRAVELLING

ARLAN

But seriously, why do we have to work

together?

ADAM

Aren't we, like the Beatles, better together than apart?

ARLAN

We haven't tried being apart yet, have we?

ADAM

Why would we keep trying to collaborate if there wasn't something there?

ARLAN

Gluttons for punishment?

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

A HIGHWAY PATROLMAN has pulled them over. He stands beside Adam's window.

ADAM

Is there a problem officer?

PATROLMAN

Can I see your license and registration?

ADAM

Why do you ask?

PATROLMAN

Do you know your tail light is out?

ARLAN

Which way is it to the Grand Canyon?

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

They stand, looking at it.

ARLAN

It's so big, it doesn't seem real, does it?

ADAM

Do you think we discover more together
or apart?

ARLAN

Apart.

ADAM

Statement.

ARLAN

I know.

Arlan walks from the edge, Adam follows.

ADAM

Is that why you quit on me?

ARLAN

Why do you want this ironbound
commitment from me?

ADAM

Why is it such a big deal to want to
know where we stand?

ARLAN

Why are you hanging on to the past?

ADAM

If we don't resolve this, do you think
we can have a future?

ARLAN

Why do we have to know the future now?

ADAM

Do you have a better idea?

ARLAN

Can't I live a little first?

ADAM

Why are you so selfish?

ARLAN

Why are you so selfish?

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

They sleep by the side of the road.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - TRAVELLING - DAY

ARLAN

Shall we go and see the Mormons?

ADAM

Are we allowed in the temple?

EXT. MORMON TABERNACLE COURTYARD - DAY

Arlan gets the attention of a passerby.

ARLAN

Where's the visitor's center?

INT. VISITOR'S CENTER

Adam and Arlan are looking at the paintings. They HEAR the VOICE of JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS CHRIST

(filtered, over loudspeaker)

I am Jesus Christ. Will you listen to my teachings and learn from me?

ADAM

(looking around him)

What the hell?

A SUDENT MISSIONARY comes up to them.

MISSIONARY

Do you have any questions about what you just heard?

ARLAN

Where are the paintings from the book of Mormon?

INT. HALLWAY OF CONVERSION

A corridor lined with paintings of Mormon super heroes.

ADAM

So you're telling us the Prophet Nephi traveled to America in a prehistoric submarine and converted the Indians?

ARLAN

Was that before or after he invented Orange soda?

STUDENT MISSIONARY

Did you know that family is very important to Mormons?

ADAM

Is it true you can even be baptized again to save your family members who died without converting?

ARLAN

How come the paintings of Old Testament guys were scrawny but the guys from the book of Mormon look like pro wrestlers?

ADAM

Is it true that the guy who founded Mormonism was given commandments on a golden day planner that he read with stone glasses only he could use?

STUDENT MISSIONARY

Can I read you a passage from the Book of Mormon?

ARLAN

Do you have to?

STUDENT MISSIONARY

So, would you like to become Mormon?

ADAM

You're joking, right?

EXT. MORMON TABERNACLE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The boys walk back to their car.

ADAM

How could anyone believe this stuff?

ARLAN

Do you think we're still friends because we're smarter than everyone else?

They arrive at an empty parking space.

ADAM

Where's our car?

ARLAN

Are you sure you parked it here?

ADAM

Is that a pile of glass?

EXT. MORMON TABERNACLE PARKING LOT - LATER

A POLICE OFFICER takes their report

OFFICER

Are you sure it wasn't towed?

ARLAN

What kind of question is that?

ADAM

Are you going to find it?

OFFICER

Do you know we have something like three hundred cars stolen a day?

He leaves.

ARLAN

Well, what do we do now?

INT. TRAIN - DAY

They ride in the observation car, watching the scenery.

ARLAN

Have you ever had a bad experience and pulled back and thought how you could apply it to a story?

ADAM

Haven't we all?

ARLAN

Does that ever scare you?

ADAM

What are you so afraid of?

ARLAN

Aren't you afraid that you'll never get it?

ADAM

Maybe we don't get it, but we're good at the game, right?

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A train trundles eastward.

FADE OUT

THE END