

3 DRIVING LESSONS

by Chrissie Russell

I'd always been nervous about learning to drive. I didn't think I'd be a good driver, certain I'd be too terrified to go over ten m.p.h. When I was finally old enough to get my license, I signed up with a private driving school, the same one my brother John had used. I wasn't surprised when I got the same instructor, Frank.

John said Frank was funny and easy. I knew that Frank was Cuban and very religious, but I didn't know that he dressed like a Hell's Angel most of the time. Walking down my driveway to meet him — learner's certificate, driver's ed certificate, and a check for \$135 in my hand — my heart speeded up and my steps slowed down. Frank just handed me the keys and, pointing to the little red sedan, said "Go on!"

Of course, I had driven before with my mom, but I was still just a beginner. I put the key in the ignition and turned on the engine. Loud music came from the speakers. It took me a moment to realize that it was Spanish — another moment to realize that it was a religious song, "Amazing Grace." I turned the corner, stopped at the sign, and asked Frank where to go.

"To the end of the world. Always straight to the end of the world," he said in a thick Spanish accent that I thought nobody had in real life. Frank put in a tape. I could only make out a few of the words with my school Spanish: "Este es peligroso, peligroso! PELIGROSO!" someone shouted. This is dangerous, dangerous, DANGEROUS!

By my third lesson I thought I was pretty good, but I had only driven between ten and one on sunny Saturdays. My third lesson was in the evening. It was 8.15 p.m. and it had started to rain. All these new difficulties in one night! I could hardly see because it was pitch black without any street lights. It was raining and I didn't know how to turn on the headlights. I slowed down at every turn and whenever a car drove by from the other direction, praying that neither of us would

wander across the centre line.

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During those early lessons, I just concentrated on not crashing the car. Not conscious of my morbid preoccupations, Frank was not very encouraging. He didn't say much, except to tell me when to turn. But he liked singing gospel songs as we sped onto the highway, or as we drove along a twisty road.

Frank also loved to yell, usually in Spanish, to teach people caution: "Stop before you kill us all!" He never yelled at me. But he did call me "Señorita Tortuga" (Turtle Girl) when I was going five miles under the speed limit on an unfamiliar road. I was shocked when the car suddenly speeded up on its own, until I realized that Frank was controlling it.

I don't know how much I learned from my lessons with Frank. He never told me anything except that I was going to kill him, and to turn right at the next intersection. I think he thought that if we didn't crash, I was good enough to get a license.

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After hours of listening to Spanish sermons and gospel songs, Frank gave me my final certificate. It was a standard certificate, except that Frank had filled it in with beautiful calligraphy. I was surprised that someone who dressed in black leather and jeans and sang loud gospel songs in the car could write with such grace.

I watched Frank's new student, a beginner like I was, sit in my seat and turn on the ignition. I smiled, wondering if she knew what "peligroso" meant. ■

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DRIVING LESSONS

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

1. Number of characters: _____

2. They are: two young men

- a teenage girl and two young men
- two women and a young man
- a young man and a teenage girl

3. It takes place in: Spain Cuba the U.S.A.

Which words from the story support your answer?

4. Exact place: a school a car a house

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

1. THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTER

a. First name: _____

b. Job: _____

c. Nationality: _____

d. What s/he wears: _____

e. What s/he is compared to: _____

f. This comparison is: positive negative

g. What Hell's Angels usually represent: _____

h. S/he is similar to them: yes no

What sentence from the story supports your answer?

i. The narrator's reaction: _____

j. 3 adjectives from the story showing his/her personality: _____

k. His/her attitude while working:
 nervous relaxed worried

l. Two habits while working: _____

2. THE NARRATOR

a. Sex: _____

Which sentence from the story supports your answer?

b. Occupation: _____

c. Age: _____

d. Members of family mentioned in the story: _____

e. Reasons why they are mentioned: _____

f. Decision: _____

g. Feelings: _____

Which sentences from the story support your answer?

3. THE LESSONS

a. Number of people: _____

b. Type of lesson: _____

c. They are always: different the same
 ordinary unusual

Explain with three examples:

d. Total cost: _____

e. The learner's attitude: scared relaxed indifferent

Which words/sentences in the story support your answer?

f. A foreign word which describes the lessons: _____
g. It means: _____
h. Learner's nickname: _____
i. It means: _____
j. What it indicates: _____

k. The instructor's opinion is justified: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

m. The instructor encourages the learner: yes no

Which sentence from the story supports your answer?

n. The narrator knows for sure s/he has improved a lot:

yes no. Explain: _____

4. THE LICENSE

a. It is difficult to get: yes no

Explain with words/sentences from the story:

b. Person who decides if the learner gets a license:

c. The narrator took: many lessons few lessons

Which sentence from the text supports your answer?

d. The lessons have a positive result: yes no

Which sentence from the story supports your answer?

e. Something special about the certificate:

WORD STORE

1. FIND WORDS ABOUT DRIVING IN THE STORY

a. the official document needed to drive a car: _____
b. where you can learn how to drive: _____
c. people who teach how to drive: _____
d. where you put the key to start the car: _____
e. part of the car that makes it move: _____
f. they give instructions along the roads: _____
g. you use them when you can't see: _____
h. to hit something violently: _____
i. to drive fast: _____
j. the legal maximum speed: _____

2. FIND THE BRITISH EQUIVALENTS IN THE STORY

a. check: _____
b. mom: _____
c. highway: _____

3. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

a. to wear the same clothes: _____
b. directly: _____
c. relatively good: _____
d. very dark: _____
e. with lots of turns: _____
f. to shout: _____
g. to ask oneself: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Would you like to take driving lessons with Frank?
2. What qualities are necessary to be the ideal driving instructor?

5 I'LL WEAR A ROSE

by Anonymous



John Blanchard stood in his Army uniform studying the crowd in Grand Central Station. He looked for the girl he loved, but whose face he didn't know; the girl with the rose. His interest in her had begun thirteen months before in a Florida library. Taking a book off the shelf he found himself intrigued, not with the words of the book, but with the notes written in the margin. He liked the writing and the sentiments.

In the front of the book, he discovered the original owner's name, Miss Hollis Maynell. With time and effort, he found her address.

She now lived in New York City. He wrote her a letter introducing himself and inviting her to correspond. The next day he went to Europe as a soldier in World War II. For the next year and one month the two got to know each other through their letters.

A romance was starting. Blanchard asked for a photograph, but she refused. She felt that if he really loved her, her appearance wasn't important. When the day finally came for him to return from Europe, they planned their first meeting for 7:00 p.m. at Grand Central Station in New York.



"You'll recognize me," she wrote, "by the red rose I'll be wearing on my jacket."

So at 7:00 he was in the station looking for a girl whose heart he loved, but whose face he'd never seen.

I'll let Mr Blanchard himself tell you what happened:

A young woman was coming towards me. She was slim. She had blond hair and delicate ears; her eyes were blue as flowers. In her pale green suit she was so beautiful.

I started to walk to her, forgetting to notice that she wasn't wearing a rose. As I moved, she gave me a small, provocative smile. "Going in my direction, soldier?" she murmured.

Then I saw Hollis Maynell. She was standing just behind the girl. A woman well past forty, she had greying hair and an old hat. She was quite fat and wore grey, dull clothes. The girl in the green suit was walking quickly away.



I felt as though I was split in two. I wanted to follow the girl, but I needed the woman who had been my imaginary companion, the woman whose personality I loved.

And there she stood. Her pale, plump face was gentle and sensible, her grey eyes were warm and kind. I did not hesitate. My fingers gripped the small worn blue leather copy of the book that was to identify me to her.

This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a wonderful friendship. I saluted and held out the book to the woman, even though I felt totally disappointed.

"I'm Lieutenant John Blanchard, and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me; may I take you to dinner?"

The woman smiled. "I don't know what this is about, son," she answered, "but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, she asked me to wear this. And she said if you were to ask me out to dinner, I should tell you that she is waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street. She said it was some sort of test!" ■

I'LL WEAR A ROSE

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

THE STORY

1. It is a story about:
 the army a joke love
2. It is about: seeing somebody off
 meeting somebody missing somebody
3. Number of narrators: 1 2 3

Explain with details from the story:

4. Number of characters: _____
5. When it takes place: _____
Year: _____
6. Country: _____
7. City: _____
Exact location: _____
8. Time: _____

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

1. THE HERO

- a. First name: _____
- b. Last name: _____
- c. He is in the Army: yes no
Support your answer with two sentences from the story: _____

- d. He loves a girl: yes no
Support your answer with words from the story: _____

- e. He knows her well: yes no
Explain: _____

- f. State where it all began: _____

- g. Exact place: _____

- h. A book was important to him: yes no
Explain with details from the story: _____

- i. What he did then: _____

- j. Consequences: _____

- k. Where he had to go: _____

Explain with a sentence from the story: _____

- i. Reason why he is now waiting: _____

- m. He will recognise the face of the person: yes no
Explain: _____

- n. What the recognition signs are:
for the woman: _____
for him: _____

2. THE FIRST WOMAN HE SAW

- a. She was: slim plump fat
 young middle-aged very old
- b. Hair colour: _____
- c. Eye colour: _____
- d. What she was wearing: _____
- e. The hero's opinion about her is: very positive
 positive negative

Support your answer with three details from the story: _____

- f. These words concern: her physical appearance
 her personality

- g. She was wearing the recognition sign: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

h. She notices him: yes no

Support your answer with words from the story:

3. THE SECOND WOMAN HE SAW

a. Age: _____

b. She was: slim fat

c. Hair colour: _____

d. Eye colour: _____

e. What she was wearing: _____

f. He knows what to do: yes no

Explain: _____

g. The hero's feelings about her:

- First: _____
- Then: _____

h. She was wearing the recognition sign: yes no

i. Who the hero thinks she is:

j. The hero's opinion about her is:

very positive positive negative

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

k. This concerns: her physical appearance

her personality

l. What he decides to do: _____

4. THE END

The following statements are right (R) or wrong (W).
Correct them when necessary.

R W

a. The hero decided to follow the first woman.

b. The hero fell in love with the second woman.

c. The hero invited the second woman to dinner.

d. The woman accepted.

e. The second woman only helped the first one.

f. The first woman is waiting for the hero in a restaurant.

g. The first woman is Hollis Maynell.

h. She was sure of his love.

5. CHOOSE ANOTHER TITLE FOR THE STORY

a. Falling in Love
b. Coming Back Home
c. Don't Trust Appearances

Explain your choice: _____
