

SPEED TRAP

By

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INT./EXT. CAR ON HIGHWAY - NIGHT

JOHN drives, perhaps a little over the speed limit, on the road back into town. On the passenger seat, his phone buzzes. He glances down, swerves slightly, corrects course. Behind him, flashes of red and blue. JOHN swears under his breath and pulls over. In the rear-view mirror, he watches a figure emerge from the squad car and start towards the driver side of the car. JOHN throws on a fake-looking smile and powers his window down.

JOHN

Good evening.

OFFICER HUDSON

Good evening, sir. License and registration, please?

JOHN passes his documents out to the Officer.

OFFICER HUDSON (CONT'D)

Have you been drinking, sir?

JOHN

No? I mean- Not, like, drinking. I had wine with dinner. Out at dinner.

OFFICER HUDSON

Mhmm.

OFFICER HUDSON is still yet to make eye contact. He starts writing a ticket in his citation book.

JOHN

Uh ... David- Dave Shaddick.

Pause. The writing stops.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you know him? You- the name, at least?

OFFICER HUDSON

No, sir.

JOHN

I work for him. In the mayor's office. It's actually Dave's office. He's the mayor.

OFFICER HUDSON

Good for Dave.

JOHN

He's actually my father-in-law. Soon to be. My "father-out-law", we like to joke... And he's a good guy. Understanding. I think you'd like each other. (*John gets bolder.*) I was having dinner with him tonight at Weston's, and he- he told me to let him know I got home safe to his daughter. So he's going to, you know, call me up and ask me how my drive home was. I'm going to have to tell him all about it.

Silence. A car drives past the traffic stop; OFFICER HUDSON looks down at JOHN's face for the first time.

OFFICER HUDSON

Are you gonna ask me? Are you gonna say it direct? Because if you want me to let you off, tonight, I want to hear you say it.

JOHN

I...

JOHN sighs through his nose. OFFICER HUDSON hands back his license with a speeding ticket.

OFFICER HUDSON

That's what I thought. Slow down, okay?

JOHN

You know this is a speed trap you're sitting in? You shouldn't even be here.

OFFICER HUDSON

Maybe you can take it up with the Mayor's office. Goodnight, sir.

JOHN takes the ticket and watches OFFICER HUDSON return to his car and drive away.