

Driving Out – One Pager

Title: *Driving Out* – by David A. Bradley

Genre: Drama/Comedy

Logline: Leaving their lives in New York for the prospects of Hollywood, an aspiring writer and a wannabe actor make the overland trip together despite their obvious differences.

Synopsis: Robert, aka English Bob, 32, waits outside a New York brownstone in his red Mustang, talking hands-free as he awaits his passenger, Benjamin. It is clear English Bob has some bad news to deliver. Benjamin, limping into the car, reveals he can't drive – forcing English Bob to handle the entire trip to Utah's Sundance Film Festival. Their journey begins tensely, with Benjamin mocking English Bob's Wall Street career and questioning his character. English Bob retorts, revealing he emigrated as a teenager after losing his parents. Following an awkward silence – lasting the entire distance through New Jersey – English Bob plans a small detour to Gary, Indiana, to meet his old friend, McKenzie. In rural Pennsylvania, a pitstop turns violent when locals accuse Benjamin of drug dealing after spotting the \$3,000 cash roll, he is carrying. Beaten and bruised, they pick up McKenzie, who clashes with Benjamin when he criticizes her for staying in a sundown town while claiming to support black communities.

Leaving McKenzie behind, the two bond over movies and ambitions. English Bob wrote the indie film in which Benjamin acted, and they now hope to break into the industry. As their dynamic softens, English Bob encourages Benjamin to reconnect with his estranged sister in Naperville, Illinois, so they go there for breakfast. While Benjamin plays with his young nephew, English Bob chats with his sister, gaining insight into Benjamin's intelligence and family struggles. English Bob wrestles with whether to tell Benjamin his big part was cut from the film. However, learning the director is taking a co-writing credit, he decides not to mention it. Instead, he confesses his secret motive, which was because Benjamin unknowingly slept with his ex-girlfriend. At Sundance, Benjamin discovers the devastating truth that his scenes were cut, during the screening. Crushed and angry, he storms out, feeling lost without the breakthrough he believed would launch his Hollywood career. English Bob offers to drive him to an airport in Albuquerque, since flights from Salt Lake City are booked.

In the desert, the two talk about their love for cinema, detouring through Monument Valley to experience the magic of *Thelma and Louise*. With renewed resolve, they decide to press on to Los Angeles. Along the way, a mad detour in Las Vegas adds to their chaotic adventure. When English Bob finally drops Benjamin off at an affluent street in Compton, Benjamin lightens the mood, admitting his limp came from skiing – an activity he had earlier implied wasn't something a black guy ever does. A year later, the two cross paths at the Palm Springs Festival. Benjamin has landed a major Hollywood role playing Sammy Davis Jr. in a Rat Pack biopic, while English Bob confesses his Hollywood pursuits have faltered. Nostalgic, English Bob offers to drive Benjamin back to LA, but despite Benjamin's assurances, when the time comes, he knows Benjamin won't be there waiting for him.

Themes: *Driving Out* explores friendship, ambition, disillusionment, and redemption. The mismatched pair's journey reveals the sacrifices and betrayals behind their dreams, culminating in mutual respect and the enduring power of human connection.