

Surprise

by Rick Marcou

1.

Why do we have to go?
You know I don't like her.
Either of them really.
Do you?

Stop that. I told you already,
we're going, that's it.
They're our friends,
have been for a long time.

She's a prima donna.
It's all about her, always.
Never could stand her.
And he's a blowhard too.

Will you please stop.
They're not that bad,
You're just a curmudgeon.
You hate everybody.

Not everybody. Most people
deserve to be hated.

You probably hate me.

I don't hate you.
Unless you make me go.

Then get your hate on,
and get your ass in the car.
And no driving angry.

Bitch.

I heard that.

I didn't say anything.

I've known you forever.
I know what you were thinking.
I'm not a bitch.

2.

Will you slow down,
you're going way too fast.
We're not in a hurry.
We'll get there on time.

Isn't it a surprise party?
Wouldn't want to miss it.
Her pretending to be surprised,
even though she planned it all.

She didn't plan it.
You know Bob did.
Jackie and Felice helped.
It'll be great.

The center of attention
just like she always wants.
Bob makes sure of it,
so he can also be heard.

Wow, you just won't quit
harping on this.
Why can't you ease up,
think better of people?

Remember last time there?
Dinner, last summer.
They did all the talking.
All about them.
Never once asked about us,
barely even let us speak.
Like watching a dialogue
between 2 psychos.
Never again.

That light was red.
And you're going too fast.

It was still yellow.
Turned red only once I was under it.
That's legal.

Oh yeah?
Tell it to the cop behind you.
You asshole, now we'll be late.
You did that on purpose.

Damn right I did.

I heard that. Again.

3.
License and registration.

Sure. What's the reason
you pulled me over?

Seriously?
You ran a red light,
and you're speeding.
What's the hurry?

Oh, jeez, looked yellow
when I went through it.
Heading to a party,
A surprise party.
Can't be late.
Sorry officer.

OK, I'll be right back.
Just sit tight.

Aren't you the charmer?
Now the party's important.

Just trying to minimize
the damage, lost time.
That's why I was speeding.

Bullshit. You were speeding
so you'd get stopped.
And maybe we'd miss the party.

What, no response?
Guess I'm right, as usual.

What's taking so long?
Write the damn ticket already,
For this long a time
he better be giving you a ticket.

Calm down. We'll get there
when we get there.

Yeah, after the surprise.
We'll look like idiots
walking in late.

But then we won't have to see
her fake surprise act.
It's gonna be awful,
her artificial modesty.

Finally, he's coming.
I can't tell if he has a ticket.

Here you go sir.
I just wrote you up
for running the red light.
Gave you a break on the speeding.
Take it slow please.
Enjoy your party.

Thank you officer.
Have a nice evening.

Terrific, 15 minutes wasted.
We can't get there in time.
Might run into them
as they're going in.
Great job.

Thanks.
How about we go
to Federico's instead?
Your favorite restaurant.

Nice try.
Like we could even get
a reservation now.

We have a 6:30 reservation.
Booked it yesterday.

You sonofabitch!
You DID do this on purpose.
I knew it.

Yup. Told you many times,
I don't like them,
don't care to see them.
They treat us like shit,
but you keep going back.
I won't.

You're right.
She never once called
when my mom died,
or said congrats
when Will graduated.
Screw her.
Let's go to Federico's.

That's my girl.
Knew you'd come around.

You really are
a sneaky bastard though.
I guess I don't always know
what's in that mind of yours.

Damn right you don't.

I heard that.