

The New Car

Creative Note: This is a straightforward look at a situation teenagers can relate to. Its purpose is nothing more than to demonstrate an act born out of love.

Characters:

JARED
DAD

Props: Car keys; two chairs; coffee table

(DAD enters. He pulls a set of car keys out of his pocket and sets them on the table.)

DAD: Jared! You around?

(Jared walks in.)

JARED: Yeah, Dad. What's up?

DAD: Have a seat.

JARED: All right.

DAD: Big day today, huh?

JARED: Nah. No big deal.

DAD: No big deal? Turning 16? Getting your license? It's all you've been able to talk about for months.

JARED: Yeah, I guess.

DAD: You know I'm proud of you, son.

JARED: Thanks, Dad.

DAD: How's the savings account?

JARED: Pretty good. I've been saving just like you told me. In a few months I should have the money for a down payment for a car.

DAD: Well . . . why don't you just hang on to that money?

JARED: What do you mean?

(DAD points at the keys. JARED looks at them.)

JARED: What are those?

DAD: Car keys.

JARED: I know they're car keys . . .

(JARED looks at DAD. He's beginning to get it.)

JARED: No way.

DAD: Happy birthday, son.

JARED: No way. Are you serious?

DAD: It's in the driveway. Unless you don't want it . . .

JARED: No! I want it! I want it! I just . . . I just can't believe it! Thanks, Dad.

DAD: You're welcome.

JARED: Can I go see it?

DAD: Sure!

(JARED gets up and is about to dash off.)

DAD: But first . . . a couple of things.

(JARED sits back down.)

JARED: OK.

DAD: Now, this car is a gift. But I want you to treat it like you worked and slaved for it yourself, because I know very well that, if you had, you would take care of it.

JARED: I understand.

DAD: Second, before you so much as take it out of the drive, I want to walk you through changing the oil, checking your tires, and other maintenance

issues. If you take care of the car, the car will take care of you.

JARED: OK.

DAD: Finally, if something goes wrong with the car, I don't want you to hide it from me. I want you to come to me with any question you might have. If there's a problem and you ignore it, it's only going to get worse, and I'm happy to help.

JARED: Got it. Thanks.

DAD: Think you can handle that?

JARED: Yes.

DAD: Okay. Ready to see your new car?

JARED: Yes!

DAD: It's a 1972 Ford Pinto. Got a great deal on it.

(JARED's face falls. DAD smiles.)

DAD: I'm kidding! Come on. I want you to see it for yourself. I think you're going to be surprised. In a good way.

(JARED smiles, relieved. He and DAD walk out together.)

(The End)