

THE BEST WE COULD (a family tragedy)
by Emily Feldman

About the play (from GPTC):

An unexpected loss sparks a road trip across America and across time. Led by their compassionate navigator, Maps, Lou and Emma careen across the country as their family asks, how did we get here? And, more importantly, where are we going? THE BEST WE COULD is an absurd and heartfelt comedy that, despite everyone trying their best, transforms into a family tragedy.

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LOU—Male, 50+, Emma's father

About the scene:

During a cross-country road trip, Emma gets pulled over with Lou in the passenger seat. Is frustrated to hear she has unpaid parking tickets and can't find her registration, and ends up making the encounter worse.

LOU
YOU HAVE A LOT OF PARKING TICKETS?!

YOU HAVE TO PAY YOUR PARKING TICKETS!

I'M NOT YELLING AT YOU.

(to the POLICE OFFICER)

I SWEAR TO GOD I TAUGHT HER BETTER THAN THIS!
I TAUGHT HER TO BE A RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO PAYS HER PARKING
TICKETS AND UPDATES HER REGISTRATION AND WORKS HARD AND IS
WELL RESPECTED BY HER PEERS. I TAUGHT HER TO BE SOMEONE
PEOPLE LOOK UP TO.

I'm calm. I'm very sorry.

The thing is, officer.

My daughter is on her way to a very important meeting.

She's a very successful person.

She wrote a very beautiful little book about quitting.

Her current registration is probably packed somewhere in the trunk.

We're driving all the way across the country.

We'd recommend the Grand Canyon but not Mount Rushmore.

We just picked up our new dog, Silky.

He was a rescue dog, but, well, it's an interesting story.

We lost our old dog, Sandy, to laryngeal paralysis.

It's a condition when.

He wasn't even very old. Only six years old.

We thought we had a lot of good years left with him.

He wasn't even an old dog.

He was sort of like, my best friend.

He was a little deaf, and he had a little anxiety, but he was really healthy.

All of a sudden, he was panting a lot.

Well. He... He couldn't catch his breath.

And he.

He just...

Collapsed.