

Two Right Feet and a SWAT Team – Just Another Typical Day

By Are We There Yet



Photo credit: someecards

Finally. Double-digit temperatures *above* zero. I was ecstatic. And decided it was now safe to get the winter tires off the car. Sounds simple, right?

A typical day in our life:

- Spend 20 minutes trying to remember where I parked the car, after moving it in last-minute panic the day before because had parked on wrong side of the street.
- Find car. Leave for insanely early appointment to pick up summer tires from storage at car dealership.
- Drive 45 minutes to dealership to find out tires have not arrived.
- Confirm that dealership is not only total rip-off, but also unorganized.
- Call friendly very-willing-to-negotiate-if-pay-cash garage and tell them will be late for appointment to change tires. Plus fix all rusted stuff falling off car.
- Drive 45 minutes back into town to go to bank. Convince myself I can make tiny account do big things.
- Go to supermarket on other side of town. Choose birthday cakes. Ooh and aah over glow-in-the-dark chemical pink icing.

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- Get call from rip-off dealership. Tires have arrived.
- Eat cheese sandwiches in car for lunch on way back to dealership. Explain to children that even though they hate cheese sandwiches, they now love them, because it's what we had in the fridge.
- Pick up summer tires and drive back into town again, to friendly garage.
- Leave car with friendly garage. Realize I now don't have a car. Garage man hands me the key to his car. No papers, no signatures, just trust.
- Drive away from garage in awe of trust.
- Hear very loud noise. It's the radio station in the car. It's stuck on one station, at one volume. Loud. In a language none of us could figure out.
- Look for off button. No off button. Kids joyfully sing along, thrilled that a radio can be so loud. With few other options, I sing along too. At least we didn't have to worry about knowing the words, we just made them up.
- Try to avoid going to children's store. After eight months, it has finally stopped snowing, which means the kids can no longer wear winter boots. Attempt to convince kids if we cut off the tops and the toes of the boots, they would be sandals.
- Convincing doesn't work. Go to children's store.
- Look for shoes and knapsacks.
- Realize we're going to be late for swimming lessons. Quickly choose shoes, run home. Forget to buy knapsacks.
- Get home, pick up swimming bag. Children examine shoes. Exclaim they are very funny, as shoes only have right feet.
- I look. We bought two right feet.
- Go to swimming lessons. Go back to store. Exchange shoes for both right and left feet. Ask where the two remaining knapsacks in the store went. One was sold. We need two.
- Go downtown to get other knapsack. Children are no longer laughing and singing. I am no longer laughing and singing. It is late and we are tired.

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- Turn onto main street downtown.
- Police barricades go up behind us. Police waving frantically at us. Armed SWAT team comes running down the street towards us, dressed in fatigues, parting around our car and filling the street.
- Get police escorted out as paddy wagons come rumbling down street. Have no idea what's going on because of indecipherable radio station.
- Decide we never wanted a knapsack anyway and go home.
- At home, we take one tired bath after another and tumble into bed. I lie there and decide I qualify for a global strategy award.

Welcome to our family. Some people need to look for excitement. We just have to get our tires changed.

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