

Accident Prone

By Al Arcand

Scene 1

Page 1:

Panel 1: The panel focuses on a hanging wire traffic light. A crow is perched atop the wire. The streets are not seen in this panel. In the background a partly cloudy sky is seen. The radio and radio announcer is heard but not seen.

Radio Announcer (OP)

Today on the news...

Panel 2: Zoom in on the crow who turns it's head to the side to caw. The background changes to television static in which a zig zag appearance takes place. The background should have a very intense feel to it. The radio is still not seen but the sound of the static from it is heard.

Radio (OP)

Hzzggghzzzghh!!

Panel 3: Shows a panoramic view of the city of Memphis, Tennessee where the story takes place. The Mississippi river is seen as well. The sun is low in the sky but it is summer time so it hasn't set just yet.

Radio Announcer (OP)

Call now and get...

Panel 4: Close up on the front tire of the Lincoln Navigator that Jenna, the protagonist of the story is driving on the highway. The Lincoln belongs to her father but she is allowed to drive it. Jenna is about 16 years old so she has just earned her driver's license.

Radio (OP)

Hzzggghzzzghh!!

Panel 5: View is from behind the Lincoln Navigator as it makes for the exit ramp on the highway. The sun can be seen near the horizon and partially blocked by the clouds.

Radio Announcer (OP)

...Experts conclude
most car wrecks
will occur at 5:16 PM.
Studies show that...

Panel 1: Panel focuses on Jenna pushing the off button on her car radio/clock. This is seen from a profile view. Jenna is wearing a cutesy but yet pricey wristwatch. The clock face is on the palm side of her hand rather than the back of her hand.

SFX

Ker-click

Jenna

Nonsense.

Panel 2: View is from inside the windshield looking at Jenna turning her car to the exit ramp. In the background past her back window and passenger side window the traffic on the highway is seen. There is moderately heavy traffic. The top half of Jenna's face is cut off by the top of the panel so her eyes aren't seen.

Jenna

Of course you're more likely to crash then...
It's rush hour traffic.

Panel 3: Jenna looks up at her rear view mirror. The panel focuses on her eyes in the mirror.

Jenna

It's like saying you're more likely to get heat stroke in July than March.

Panel 4: Front view of Jenna checking her rear view mirror. In the background past her back window a Toyota Camry should be seen trying to merge into the left lane and drive past Jenna.

Jenna

But this is like that Friday the 13th idiocy. Whenever something bad happens then everyone gets all superstitious about it. Idiots.

Panel 5: The Toyota Camry drives past the Lincoln Navigator that Jenna is driving. Seen from a close bird's eye view.

Jenna

Even if more people actually DO get in car wrecks at 5:16pm I'm sure it's just coincidence.

Panel 6: Profile of Jenna down to her neck. Looking through the driver side window at Jenna. The passenger side window is seen (the driver side window is not seen but seen through).

Jenna

...

Panel 1: Profile Worms Eye View from the Passenger's side looking at Jenna driving the car.

Jenna

Listen to me. This is silly.
That radio program was
probably just trying to
give people a good scare.

Panel 2: Jenna is approaching a stop sign. View is from Jenna's perspective looking straight ahead and seeing the stop sign off to the side of the windshield.

Jenna

I bet people who actually
believe it get into accidents
trying to avoid one in the
first place at 5:16pm.

Panel 3: Extreme close up profile on Jenna's eye from the passenger's side. She's looking straight ahead.

Jenna

People do dumb stuff
when they get scared.

Panel 4: Rather than actually coming to a full stop. Jenna does a California Stop and slides through. View is from Jenna looking through her windshield and seeing the stop sign near the passenger's side.

Jenna

I bet Dad would kill me
If I wrecked his car...

Panel 5: Same view as panel 3 except now Jenna is looking up as if she was thinking

Jenna

Unless of course
I was already dead.

Panel 6: Zooms out to Jenna in profile. Focus on Jenna. Driver side window not seen.

Jenna

What am I even saying?
I'm sounding too morbid!

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Panel 1: View is from behind Jenna. Close up.

Jenna

I need to think
of something else.

Panel 2: Jenna looks over at her cellphone which is on the passenger's side seat.

Jenna

Perhaps I should
call Emily and
see if she wants
to hang out later.

Panel 3: Shows Jenna entering a suburban neighborhood

Panel 1: View is from outside the Lincoln Navigator looking at Jenna on the phone from a 3/4ths perspective

Answering Machine

If you like to leave a message...

Jenna (thought)

She's not there...

Panel 2: Shows the outside of the car. Worms eye view. At least three wheels can be seen. The car runs over a stray beer bottle on the ground and the glass beer bottle shatters under the tire.

Jenna

Hey, Emily. This is Jenna.
Call me back when you get
a chance. Talk to you later.

Panel 3: Without looking Jenna sets her cell phone down on the passenger's side seat while focusing on the road. View is from the back seat diagonal to Jenna (and behind the passenger side seat) looking at Jenna.

SFX

Click

Jenna (thought)

I wonder time it is anyways...
Would be ironic if it was 5:16...

Panel 4: Jenna slowly and cautiously turns her hand to see read her watch. View is from Jenna's perspective looking down at her hand. The backside of her hand is facing Jenna. Jenna's watch is on the palm or underside of her hand.

Panel 5: Jenna gets a bit nervous. Her hand starts to tremble as she is about to see the time on her watch. View is a worms eye view looking up from Jenna's hand which is turned half way and looking up at Jenna.

Jenna (thought)

Why am I so tense. This isn't like...

Panel 6: A semi-truck is about to crash into Jenna's car. View is from inside the car looking through the windshield at the semi-truck which is about to crash straight on into Jenna's car. The semi-truck is only a few feet away.

Panel 7: Jenna is terrified . Front view of Jenna looking like she's about to scream. She thinks she's going to crash.

Jenna

!

Panel 1: Jenna is holding the steering wheel but hasn't yet started driving again. She takes in a deep breath

Jenna

Get a hold of yourself, Jenna

Panel 2: Jenna breaths out heavily.

Jenna

Phew.

Panel 3: Outside view shows the car being driven again

Panel 4: Shows the sun parting from the clouds from the worms eye view of a beer bottle on the road

Panel 5: Jenna's car drives over and crushes the beer bottle

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Panel 1: Shows a little boy about eight years old playing with a hackey sack on the side walk

Panel 2: The little boy kicks the hackey sack up into the air

Panel 3: The scene transitions to Jenna entering the suburban neighborhood

Panel 4: Shows the sun getting lower in the sky

Panel 5: Jenna is blinded for a moment by the sun

Panel 6: Shows the little boy about to 'catch' the hackey sack again

Panel 7: Jenna is fumbling to get the sun visor down

Panel 8: Jenna panics when she notices something

Jenna

Oh....!!!

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Panel 1: The little boy turns to face the reader as if he just saw something

Panel 2: The panel zooms in on the boy who's frozen in his stare. The hackey sack drops without his notice

Panel 3: Shows the front of Jenna's car from a close up Worm's Eye View as if the reader was about to get hit

Panel 4: Extreme close up of the boy's wide eyed expression. There is a phone ringing in the background however it is actually from Jenna's car although Jenna is actually not near the boy. These panels are meant to confuse.

SFX

RRRIINGG

Panel 5: Shows Jenna's car at a stop. The car is seen from behind.

SFX

RRRIINNG!

Panel 6: Shows the hackey sack plop to the ground

Panel 1: A beagle dog runs past Jenna's car. If Jenna has not stopped her car in time the beagle would have been run over. Of course the beagle doesn't know this. Jenna watches the beagle get away safely

Panel 2: Jenna is seen looking at the clock radio

Panel 3: Shows that the clock radio is now reading: *5:16 PM*

Panel 4: Jenna smiles smugly

Panel 5: Jenna hears the cell phone again and looks at it. The cell phone is placed on the passenger's seat. View is from near the cell phone looking up at Jenna who notices the phone ringing.

Panel 6: Shows the beagle running off. View is from the perspective of the front right tire of Jenna's car looking forward.

Jenna (OP)

Mom! You startled me!

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Panel 1: Shows the time display on the LCD screen. It reads 5:16 pm

Panel 2: Jenna quickly looks up realizing she's still driving

Panel 3: The beagle has chased the little boy into the street and into the path of Jenna's car

Panel 4: Jenna desperately tries to swerve out of the way but she is too late

Panel 5: The little boy makes eye contact with Jenna and is too much in shock to know what to do or be able to

Panel 6: Shows Jenna's foot slamming on the brakes

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Panels 1-3: Jenna's car crashes violently into the little boy. Seen from three different angles.

SFX

CRASH!

Panel 1: Profile view of Jenna staring petrified and horrified through the windshield at what just happened

Panel 2: Close up on Jenna's mouth to show she is hyperventilating and breathing heavily

Jenna

pant pant pant

Panel 3: Jenna takes her hand off the steering wheel to cover her mouth. Jenna is frightened and upset and looks like she might be on the verge of crying.

Panel 4: Close up of Jenna. She is teary eyed and scared.

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Panel 1: Seen from the wind shield, the 8 year old boy lays on the road in a puddle of blood near his head.

Panels 2 and 3: Jenna opens the car door and steps out of the car her eyes always deadset on the boy.

Panel 4: Jenna closes the car door. She sees the 8 year old boy laying on the road either dead or in a coma.

Panel 5: Jenna's hand nervously reaches towards the 8 year boy to check for a pulse.

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Panel 1: Jenna turns off her cell phone in a panic

Sfx (phone)

Click.

Panel 2: Realizing what she just did, Jenna does a face palm and reflects upon her decision to hang up on 9-1-1.

Jenna

Great...
Now they must
think I'm hiding
something.

Panel 3: Jenna looks down at the 8 year old boy. She's half worried and half empathic.

Panel 4: Jenna picks up the 8 year old boy and decides to carry him.

Jenna

C'mon
let's go...

Panel 5: As Jenna looks up, something catches her attention.

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Panel 1: The father of the 8 year old boy emerges from his home's porch and is staring at Jenna. Seen from faraway. Jenna is off panel along with the 8 year old boy.

Panel 2: Zoom in on the father. The sun causes a ominous glare on his glasses.

Panel 3: Jenna carries the 8 year old boy on her shoulder. She faces away from the father

Panel 4: Close up of Jenna's face from a rear 3/4ths view looking back at the father. Jenna is nervous

Panel 5: Extreme close up of the father's glasses. In the reflection, Jenna can be seen running to her car.

Panel 6: Jenna tosses the 8 year old boy on the passenger seat.

Panel 1: Focus on the father's shoes slowly but surely walking down the small step of stairs to the porch

Father Jenna...

Panel 2: View is from behind the father who walks down his drive way towards Jenna's car

Father Where are you
taking my son!?

Panel 3: Jenna turns the car keys and tries to get the car to start.

Sfx (Car Engine) Sput sput sput

Jenna Not now...

Panel 4: View is from behind the father again as he reaches for his pocket, this time he is closer to the car.

Father I asked you
a question
Jenna.

Panel 5: Close up of Jenna turning the key and finally getting the engine going

Sfx (car) Vroom!

Panel 6: The father has a Desert Eagle armed and ready aimed at Jenna's car

Father I want
my son!

Panel 7: Close up of Jenna's father's car's tires almost shot if Jenna didn't drive away in time.

Panel 8: The father watches as Jenna drives away and does a quick u-turn.

Sfx (Jenna's car) Vrooom.

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Panel 1: Jenna is driving her father's car. The 8 year old boy is slumped over on the passenger seat.

Jenna (Thought)

It's about an hour
drive to the hospital....

Panel 2: Jenna looks at the 8 year old boy

Jenna (Thought)

Hope I'm
not late...

Panel 3: The father is getting inside his own car

Panel 4: Jenna speeds through her neighborhood

Panel 5: the father calmly puts his seat belt on.

Panel 6: Jenna is racing through the suburbs

Panel 7: The father puts his keys into the ignition to start the car up

Panel 8: Jenna is in a rush driving her car

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Panel 1: scene changes to an ambulance truck at the hospital

Panel 2: Ambulance truck leaves the hospital.

Panel 3: Front view of Jenna driving. Rear view mirror is seen. Focus on Jenna

Jenna (Thought)	It's been a hour...
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Panel 4: Jenna's eyes look up at the rear view mirror. Something startles her.

Jenna	!
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Panel 5: Shows the father's car approaching Jenna quickly

Panel 6: Extreme close up front view of the father's glasses and the sun reflecting off of them.

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Panel 1: the father rams his car into the bumper of Jenna's father's car

Panel 2: Jenna is shook up but not injured by the fender bender

Jenna !

Panel 3: Extreme close up of the father's determined mouth

the father I want
my son!

Panel 4: Jenna is disturbed. She's completely overwhelmed. She's looking at the rear view mirror.
The father's car can be seen through the back window of Jenna's father's car.

Jenna Not
good...

Panel 5: Shows the bright sun appearing in the corner of the windshield and Jenna's driver side window

Panel 6: Jenna is blinded by the sun temporarily

Jenna ack!

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Panel 1: Shows the tires of the father's car. He is driving fast.

Panel 2: Shows the tires come to a quick abrupt stop

Panel 3: Jenna squints through the bright light of the sun

Panel 4: Jenna's father's car is in the path of the oncoming ambulance truck

Sfx (ambulance)

Honk Honk Honk

Panel 5: Little too late, Jenna tries to turn the steering wheel and swerve out of the way

Panel 6: The ambulance violently crashes into Jenna's father's car

Sfx (car crash)

CRASH!

