

Connor Murnion

## -Take the Exit You Like

"Well, I mean, does it matter which one?" I ask.

She looks out the window and says, "No, just take one of them."

"But..." I hesitate. "Isn't one going to be better than another? Closer to where we want to be?"

"It's not a big city. Just take one and then we'll figure out where we are."

I watch the consecutive numbers looming ahead, staring at me from their green perches. They all look so unappetizing, why can't there just be one?

"Ok, so what side of town is it on?" I ask.

"It doesn't matter, really," she responds vaguely. Is she trying to confuse me?

"I don't know about this," I whisper.

"You only have about six miles to decide," she reminds me. Six miles? Ok, so if we're going eighty miles per hour right now, then how long do I have? Let's see, six divided by eighty is 0.075, multiplied by sixty minutes is...four and a half minutes. I glance at the clock: 10:16 AM. So by 10:20 I have to make a decision. That's not nearly enough time...

With a choice of three items total and four and a half minutes, I can spend one and a half minutes on consideration of each item. No, no, no, that doesn't take into account the relationship among the choices. Different approach: define the variables in the equation. Ok, that sounds good.

Let's see, what are the numbers? I can barely make them out, but I think I see 212, 213, and 214. No, nothing significant there. The 212 exit is closest, but it could potentially be the farthest away from our destination. In terms of fuel efficiency, it would be ideal to stay on the interstate as long as possible. So maybe 214? But what if the destination is on the near side of town? Then the fuel efficiency would be vastly decremented by traveling through the city. That leaves 213, the middle exit. Why didn't she just tell me? I glance at the clock again: 10:18. Shit, not much time left. I can see the signs coming up.

"Please," I beg her, "tell me what side of town it's on."

She finally looks at me and responds, "Make a decision." She's doing this on purpose, isn't she? Alright, so the major variable is still undefined. Given the circumstances, any logic is mostly inapplicable. Too much is unknown. Error. The clock: 10:20.

We pass by the first sign and one less choice is available to me. She looks out the window. As we pass by the second sign, she looks about in slight alarm and now there is only one choice left to me. But is there really only one choice? The parameters of the system are still undefined, it therefore carries a risk if a choice is made. Then it follows that the option that has the least amount of risk is to not participate in the system at all. We roll by the third sign and she starts in her seat.

"What the hell are you doing?"

"You said it didn't matter where it was in town. That means that it doesn't matter where our destination is either. It is undefined." I slowly crack a grin and say calmly, "I didn't take one."