

14. A Ride to Remember

(Guy or girl)

1 I cannot wait to get my license. You have no idea. I know
 2 it's still three years away, but it's all I can think of! It's not
 3 just your average turning-sixteen, can't-wait-to-drive-and-
 4 have-a-little-independence syndrome. This is a life and
 5 death situation. Seriously — if I don't get me and my friends
 6 out of my mother's car, I'm going to grab the steering wheel
 7 and crash us all into the nearest tree!
 8 You think I'm kidding? Hop in for a spin. It's not the
 9 constant slamming of the brakes, or the incessant blinker
 10 that she never turns off, or even the occasional grazing of
 11 the curb — oh no! Those I can live with. Those are normal,
 12 get-under-your-skin-but-deal-with-it things that any kid can
 13 live with. This is so much worse.
 14 It's the singing. The top-of-your-lungs, screeching-like-
 15 an-owl, can't-hit-a-note singing from the moment the engine
 16 starts. She thinks she's being cool because she listens to
 17 the same music that I do — which, OK — could be cool if
 18 she'd keep her mouth shut!
 19 She doesn't even know the words! Just makes them up
 20 as she goes. Do you think a teeny little thing like not
 21 knowing the words would stop her? Of course not! They
 22 don't even make sense! The other day — I swear this is
 23 true, I am not making this up — how could anyone make
 24 something like this up — she sang about a *salad bar!* Who
 25 in their right mind sings about a salad bar? How could she
 26 possibly think the words in a rap song would be about a
 27 stupid salad bar?
 28 It's so humiliating. I'm seriously considering getting a

1 bike and riding it everywhere! At least until I get my own car
 2 and then if Mom rides with me — the radio stays off! (*Slaps*
 3 *head.*) Oh, no! Then she'd be singing a cappella!