

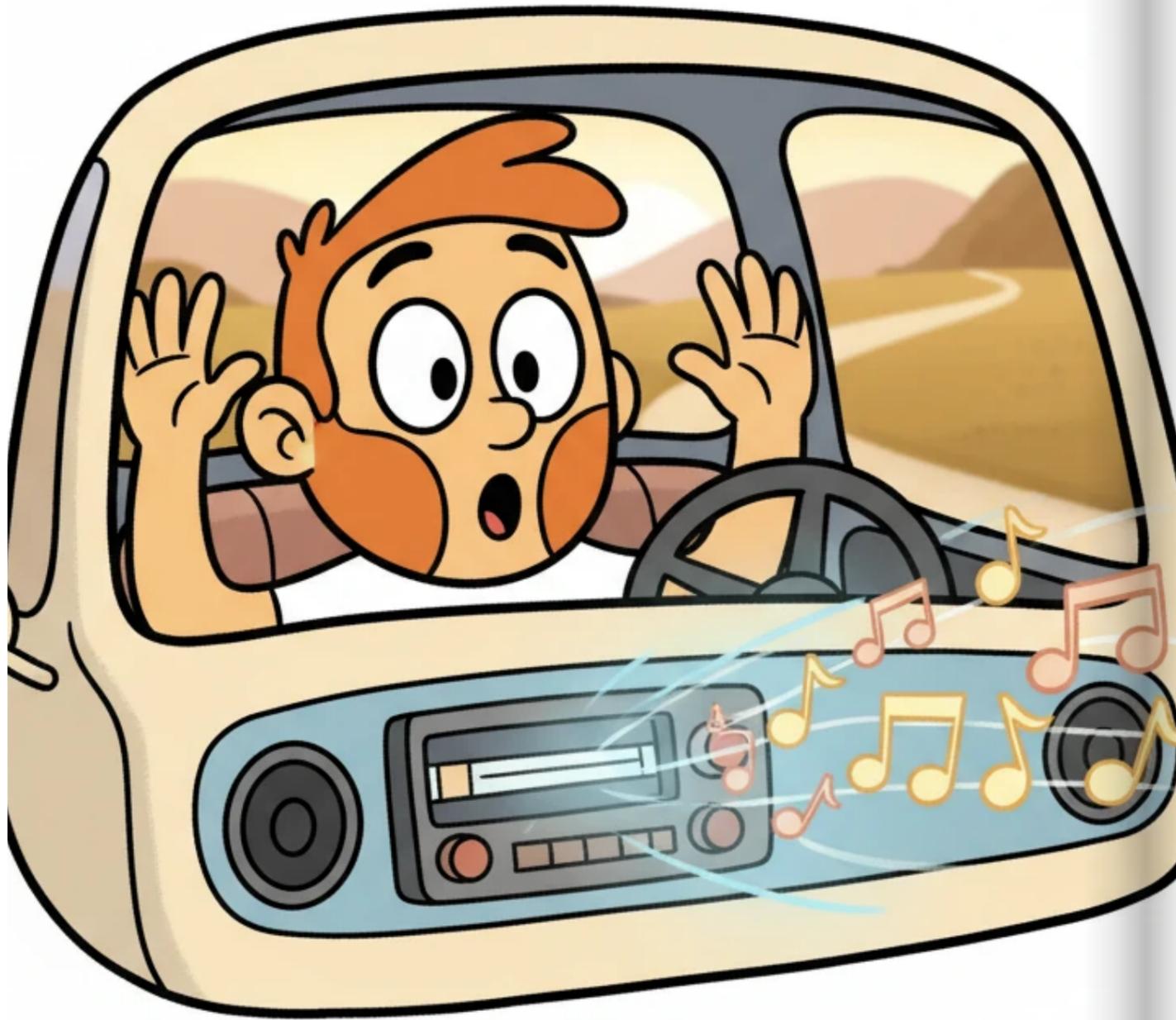


# The Extra Passenger

Fake Acc



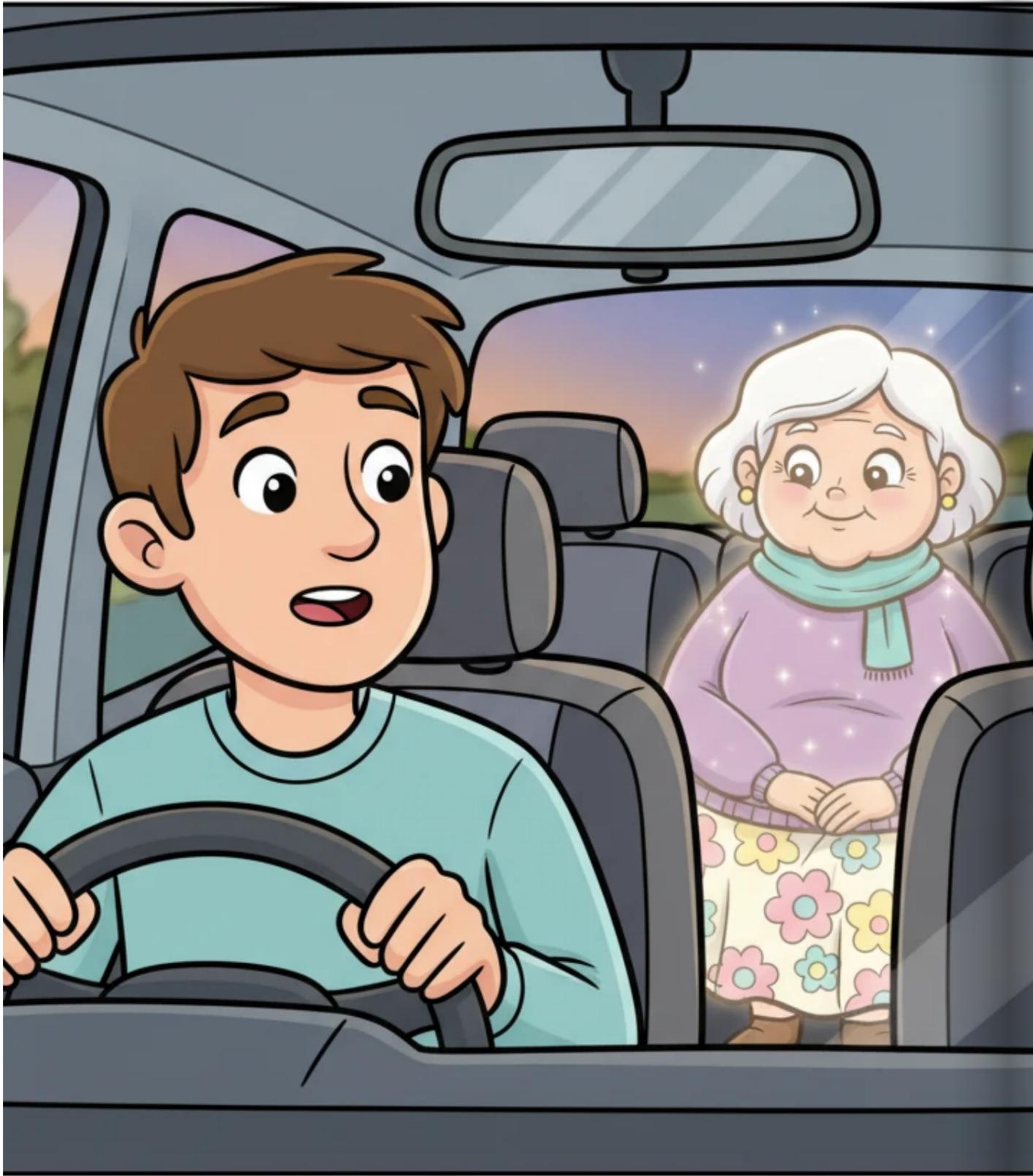
Leo was driving his brightly colored car down a long, winding road late at night. A gentle, swirly fog hugged the ground, barely lit by his car's big, friendly headlights. He hummed a little tune, feeling completely alone on the quiet highway at 2:13 AM.



Suddenly, with a cheerful 'POP!', the car radio sprang to life all by itself. Leo's eyes widened in surprise, his hands lifting from the steering wheel in a cartoonish gesture. An old, familiar melody, a sweet and gentle tune, began to play from the speakers.



Leo leaned closer to the radio, his ear comically tilted, a soft, nostalgic smile spreading across his face. It was 'Sunshine Lullaby,' a song his beloved grandmother used to sing. The music filled the quiet car, making the dashboard glow with a warm, comforting light.



As the song played, Leo glanced into his rear-view mirror, a whimsical thought crossing his mind. To his utter astonishment, a soft, shimmering figure with a kind, familiar smile was sitting in the back seat! The figure was translucent, like a gentle, glowing whisper.



With a startled gasp and an exaggerated jolt, Leo whipped his head around, his eyes as wide as saucers. But the back seat was completely, utterly empty. Only the plush, patterned fabric of the seat could be seen, looking perfectly ordinary and undisturbed.



Leo blinked, rubbing his eyes with a cartoonish hand, then looked again, just to be sure. He even leaned over, peering under the seat with a comical frown, but there was no one. A swirl of confusion made his eyebrows bounce up and down.



Just as he was about to shrug it off, his phone, resting in the cup holder, suddenly lit up with a bright, friendly glow. The screen showed a new message, and Leo's heart did a little flip-flop. The caller ID displayed 'Grandma's Hugs,' a contact name he hadn't seen in years.



Leo carefully picked up his phone, his thumb hovering over the screen. The message popped open, its words glowing warmly: 'Drive safe. I'm still with you.' A wave of warmth and wonder washed over Leo, making his expressive face soften with emotion.



Slowly, Leo pulled his car to the side of the road, the gentle static of the radio now accompanying the quiet night. He looked out into the misty darkness, a thoughtful, tender expression on his face. The words on the phone echoed in his mind, bringing a bittersweet comfort.



A single, happy tear rolled down Leo's cheek as he whispered, 'But my grandmother died... three years ago.' The car's interior filled with the soft radio static, and the scene gently faded to black, leaving a feeling of peace and lasting love.