Line-by-Line-Commentaries - Simplified

1. **F:** En - zài Westwood shàng kāi sān shí , juéde -
   嗯 - 在 Westwood 上 开 三 十 , 觉得 -
   1) *Westwood* is the name of a major street in a college town by the same name in Los Angeles.
   2) *Sān shí:* ‘thirty’, referring to driving at the speed of 30 miles per hour.

2. **F:** . . Gēn méi - chē gēn bù dòng le - gēn -
   . . 跟 没 - 车 跟 不 动 了 - 跟 -
   The speaker is struggling to put into words how bad the traffic was when she drove in that area earlier.

3. **F:** Bǐ ^zǒulù juéde hái màn ,
   比 ^走路 觉得 还 慢 ,
   *Juéde,* ‘feel’, is a word often used to express personal opinions. Because of its highly subjective nature, it often has non-conventional syntactic behaviors, such as the case here when it is used in the middle of a comparative structure.

4. **F:** Qíshí màn sǐ le .
   其实 慢 死 了 .
   *Màn sǐ le* ‘slow to death’: ‘Adjective + Si’ (A + to death) is a hyperbolic expression indicating the speaker’s strong emotional feeling.

   Note that this expression is more commonly used by female speakers.

7. **F:** Nà gè huáng chē hòulái bù zhīdào wèishénme bèi rén zhuàng le nàmè ^dà yī gè dent,
   那个 黄 车 后来 不 知道 为什么 被 人 撞 了 那么 ^大一个 dent,
   *Bù zhīdào wèishénme:* ‘Don’t know why’ is a way to express the speaker’s sense of uncertainty. It has flexible positions due to the subjective nature of the expression.

12. **M:** ài yo nǐ kāichē shì tài xiǎoxīn le .
    唉 哟 你 开车 是 太 小心 了 .
    1) *ài yo:* an interjection indicating the speaker’s deep conviction in the proposition expressed by the utterance immediately following it. The intonation of this expression characteristically involves lengthening of the vowels with the two syllables clearly separated.
    2) *tài xiǎoxīn le:* Tai ‘too, extremely’ is an adverb that usually indicates the speaker’s negative stance and disapproving of certain qualities and behaviors.
   yī tiáo dào pǎo dào hēi: ‘one way street, no returning’.

14. M: Zài nà gè - guò le Pico yǐhòu nà gè dìfāng ,
   在那-过了Pico以后那个地方,
Pico: A street in Los Angeles.

   明显你可以换到右边儿去，快一点儿。不换。
   kuài yīdiǎnr: drive faster (had the driver (Speaker F) changed to the right lane).

16. F: Y-Yìnwèi hòumian (yàoshi ) chē tài duō wǒ pà huàn bù huí lái ,
   因为后面（要是）车太多我怕换不回来,
   huán bù huí lái: cannot change back to the desired lane.

   我怕一会儿警察叔叔抓我。
   yīhuìr: in no time, any time, out of the blue.

24. F: (High pitch) Nà gè ^qī nèi ,
   (High pitch) 那个 ^期内,
   qī nèi: ‘in a phase, at a stage’. It’s likely that the speaker refers to her status as a new
   or provisional driver.

25. F: Xiànzài bù néng fèn ˇshīr zhídào ma .
   现在不能犯^事儿知道吗。
   fèn ˇshīr: ‘commit a crime, commit offense’. The term is usually used to describe a
   serious political or criminal offense.

   zhídào ma: (Do) you know? An expression commonly used for checking with the
   interlocutor. Like the expression (wo) juede ‘(I) think/(I) feel’, its syntactic position is also
   highly flexible.
28. M: Tīng zhè gè yìsi jiù shì -,
听 这 个 意思 就 是 - ,
zhè gè yìsi jiù shì: ‘You are implying that…’ or ‘I gather that…’.

29. M: Guò le , děng ^guò le ,
过了 , 等 ^ 过 了 ,
guò le: past a stage, likely to mean when Speaker F passes the new/probation driver status.

30. M: Nǐ kàn wǒ zěnme zhǎo
你 看 我 怎么 着
1) Nǐ kàn: ‘you will see’. Ni in this expression is used in a generic sense for ‘anyone’; ‘just wait and see’.
2) wǒ zěnme zhǎo: ‘what I can do’.

31. F: Děng guò le zāishuō .
等 过 了 再 说 。
zāishuō: lit. ‘speak again’, here it means (‘we) will then see (what I can do’).

33. F: Fànguī le jiù méixì le .
犯规 了 就 没戏 了 。
méixì le: ‘no more play’, an idiom meaning ‘it will be over; I will be devastated.’