

COMMENT

Momma s got a brand new ride

By Ted Brown
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A Ted Bit

When it comes to cars, I could never be accused of rushing into a purchase.

I m pretty sure The Sidekick can be driven to the brink of frustration with my approach to buying cars, but I think she s still on board.

I like to enjoy the chase, let the salesperson work a bit to convince me that I should purchase that car.

Eventually, I ll give in, and the purchase is complete.

The Sidekick and I don t change vehicles very often. We drive our cars for years, and when the time comes to buy a car, we ease into the chase.

But this past week kinda changed that approach for us.

The Sidekick had booked her car in for service and we decided to drop it in the night before, and throw the keys through the door slot.

You drive it, she said, It s been making a funny noise lately and I was wondering if you could hear it.

Something I ve noticed about women-when it comes to noises in cars is they are the queens of denial.

One time, when my daughters were all still at home, I took the kids car to a meeting. As I drove it, I noticed a rumbling noise. I swerved the car back and forth and the noise quit when I pulled the one way, but was louder the other way.

It had to be a wheel bearing.
When I got back, I asked the kids why they didn t tell be about the noise.

Oh that, one said. We just turned up the radio so we couldn t hear it

So I thought I was back to that time and place, as I drove her car to the service centre.

Next morning, The Sidekick received THE call.

A broken frame the 2003 Ford Focus, with only 167,000 km on the odometer, was toast.

I was figuring we d get another two years out of it.

Saturday we went in search of a vehicle a

brand new vehicle.

The Sidekick has been talking about how she wanted a new vehicle, and three years ago, I bought a brand new F150 so it was her turn.

We dropped by our local Ford dealer and sat down with John, a colleague I ve know for years.

The Sidekick told him what she wanted absolutely not black, silver or white, a four-door (she s had a two-door for years) and it would be nice with heated seats.

John flipped through his inventory, looking for something red, blue or green. She then suggested she d like an Escape (she d been waffling between a Focus and an Escape.)

John pointed at the red Escape in the showroom it was pretty nice.

The Sidekick was pretty impressed too, and John arranged to have one of the sales guys bring one around from the back. (There was no sense in jockeying the one in the showroom when he had another identical one out back.

We headed out on a test drive and The Sidekick experienced the same trauma that I felt when I got my F-150 three years ago. In the new cars you almost require a degree in engineering to read the instrument cluster.

Some time later we returned to the dealership.

She was smitten okay, if I were honest we were both smitten.

The price between the Focus and Escape wasn t much different, but the deal maker was the hatch that could carry a months groceries.

It would also be great for a road trip with better mileage than the F150 for sure.

So Tuesday night, after work, The Sidekick became the proud owner of a brand new Ford Escape.

Yup, Momma s got a brand new ride.

And as we left the dealership, I couldn t help but cast an eye in the direction of that 5.0L Mustang GT out there .

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