

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 112

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Not only do we have road rage, but it seems we have road love, too. Here Elizabeth Hobbs of Maine offers us a two-car courtship. Be careful with whom you choose to try this little dance.

### Slow Dancing on the Highway: the Trip North

You follow close behind me,  
for a thousand miles responsive to my movements.  
I signal, you signal back. We will meet at the next exit.

You blow kisses, which I return.  
You mouth "I love you," a message for my rearview mirror.

We do a slow tango as we change lanes in tandem,  
gracefully, as though music were guiding us.  
It is tighter than bodies locked in heat,  
this caring, this ardent watching.

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