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Traveling Together

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TRAVELING TOGETHER

Jane Scoville

Why does it anger me -
You read the map
And drive, at the same time -
Sometimes for miles?
Not that I worry
For our safety,
But that you'd need guidance,
And be afraid
To venture forth
Adventurous, free,
Into uncharted territory.

Oh, no, not you -
You keep the map
Surely on your lap;
Plotting a path,
Arranging our arrival.
Dear, it's been too many years
Of this: our marriage
Safe and sound,
Both children planned;
Your job secure,
Our mortgage small.

I yearn to tear the map away,
Laugh in your face,
And say "Come on -
Be foolish with me;
Let's see where we land."
Instead I smile,
Swallow my thoughts
And choke out
The expected chatter:

Knowing it's your safe
And steady hand
That's allowed me to be
Mad as a hatter.