

**Thesis Feature Screenplay Summary for *Retrograde***  
**Adrian Murray – MFA Film**

Retrograde is a dry comedy following a young woman as she attempts to overturn a ticket for a minor traffic citation.

While helping her new housemate (Gabrielle) move in, Molly is pulled over by a police officer for an unsafe merge. Molly is defiant, insisting that the officer waved her in and that she should not be ticketed for doing what she was told. Her argument is laughed away by the officer who leaves her with a three hundred dollar ticket. Back at home, Molly vents to her best friend Rose, who is sympathetic but dismissive of the incident. Gabrielle gives Molly and Rose each a small plant as a housewarming gift.

While at work, Molly files a petition with the city to overturn the ticket, requesting the body camera footage from the incident. To do this, she takes time off work to schedule a meeting with the prosecuting lawyer. After scheduling the meeting, Molly takes more time off to meet with Prosecutor in person. The Prosecutor gives Molly the news that the body camera footage has been overwritten, but that he's willing to drop the fine to fifty dollars. Molly refuses to pay, and instead requests another hearing so that Gabrielle can be her witness and confirm that the officer waved her in. A meeting with a Judge, the officer, and Molly is scheduled and Molly is sent home with a witness for for Gabrielle to fill out. When Molly asks Gabrielle to be her witness and complete the form, Gabrielle declines – apologizing that she didn't see the event and would be very scared lying in front of a Judge. After a heated debate, Gabrielle offers to pay the full fine for Molly in order to make sure there are no hard feelings between them. Molly refuses the offer.

During the housewarming party for Gabrielle, a discussion of astrology becomes pointed when Molly, angry about Gabrielle's refusal to be her witness, belittles Gabrielle's belief in the craft. The next morning, Molly throws away her gifted plant. Before Molly goes to the next hearing, Rose tries to get Molly to smooth things over with Gabrielle and apologize for throwing away the plant, which Gabrielle found in the garbage. She wonders why Molly can't take Gabrielle's offer of paying the fine. Molly states that she will not pay with fine with her or Gabrielle's money.

Molly meets with the prosecutor, the police officer, and a judge. The prosecutor and judge are frustrated with Molly for not bringing her witness as was planned. The judge offers Molly a fine reduction to seventy-five dollars, but Molly refuses to pay saying that any admittance of guilt in her part would be perjury. The prosecutor points out that all they need to agree on is that the police officer believed Molly to be driving unsafely, whether or not Molly agrees. Molly still refuses to pay. The prosecutor points out that that's Molly's right, but if she doesn't pay she will lose her license. They give Molly time to consider.

Molly arrives home to Gabrielle and Rose. She lies to them, saying that she won, the Judge listened to her and dismissed the ticket entirely. As a peace offering she offers to cook the girls dinner. Molly cooks as Gabrielle explains how astrology birth charts work to Rose.

Scholars, researchers, and fellow filmmakers who wish to view this thesis film can contact the candidate c/o: [gradfilm@yorku.ca](mailto:gradfilm@yorku.ca). Please explain your interest, and confirm that it is for personal / private research purposes only.