The Parking Brake is Engaged

Philip Fullman

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The Parking Brake is Engaged

PHILIP FULLMAN

Can you throw up devil horns listening to Journey?
You can hold up a lighter to “Open Arms,”
but can you bang your head to “Separate Ways?”
You can bang Cynthia Marie in the back
of your Chevy Caviler
once you flip the seats down and
move them up.
You turn off the engine
leave the key in the ignition and
turn the key to ALT
so the cassette player will still work.
You tell yourself not to take everything off
in case a cop comes banging
on the window with the foot pressed against it
but your clothes still get lost on the floorboard.
She’ll put a hand on your chest to make you stop
and ask by both your first and middle name
if you’re trying to keep beat with the music.
It’s “Don’t Stop Believin’”
so it was probably pretty obvious.
What?
is both your reply and
your defense.