

There Was A WHAT In The Front Seat?

Just in time for Halloween, I came across a macabre news story the other day involving a woman whose actions had even veteran police officers scratching their heads.

Woman Drove with Corpse for 10 Months

'It was very shocking'

COSTA MESA, Calif. (CNN/KTLA) – It's hard to shock a seasoned police officer, but cops in the Los Angeles area say they were shocked by what they found in a woman's car this week. They say a woman was driving around for months with a dead mummified body in the front passenger's seat.

"It was surprising even to myself. I've been a police officer for 15 years. To find a mummy in a vehicle, it was very shocking," said Det. Sgt. Ed Everett.

Police say a corpse was propped up in the passenger seat of a Mercury Marquis for the last ten months. A woman was driving it around town during that time. Apparently, conditions inside the vehicle allowed for mummification.

But how did this happen?

"Initially the driver of the vehicle had indicated that she was unaware that this person was in the vehicle and didn't indicate that there was anything wrong with the vehicle," Sgt. Everett explained.

But later, the driver came clean. The 57-year-old woman says she met a homeless woman at a local park and allowed her to sleep in the car. One day, the driver discovered her friend was dead, panicked, and she left the corpse in the passenger's seat. But she continued to dress the body and drive around with it.

“Due to the condition of the body, the coroner’s office was not able to determine the cause of death. There was no obvious signs of foul play at this point or trauma to the body that we know of,” said Sgt. Everett.

Police have few details on the deceased woman’s identity. The driver only had a first name for the lady and the poor condition of her remains will make identifying her difficult.

First my sympathies to the deceased and her family, and I hope they can identify her and then let her rest in peace. But how does this happen? Was the woman lonely? Afraid of getting into trouble? Lazy? Crazy? Wanted into the carpool lane? Here’s to hoping she gets the help she needs, whatever that might be.