

One Mistake

When tragedy strikes it takes no victims. Scholarships. Talents. Innocents. All lost with one mistake-but then that is all it takes. Why? he thought. To be cool? To have affirmation from his friends? Because he thought he could handle it when others urged him not to? Was it an act of rebellion? None of these were good enough reasons. One mistake and everything was changed. His life. How could he go on? There was no hope for him because of what he had done and no forgiveness from the people he had hurt. There were no more dreams of college and getting out of this place. There were no more dreams about anything anymore. But did it matter? No. One mistake and lives were lost. That girl hadn't been doing anything wrong. How could she have been? She was only three. One minute she was sitting in the backseat sleeping and the next she was being slammed into at 105 miles an hour by a stupid teenager who thought he could handle a couple of drinks. He was so self-centered and wrapped up in his own problems that he didn't realize his actions would affect other people. How wrong he had been. One mistake and there was no going back. He stared through the bars.

"I deserve to stay here." He thought

He was a hated man. People read about him in the papers and read about what he had done to that little girl and her family. They hated him. Anyone who had ever lost a friend or relative to a drunk driver, well, they hated him too. That was saying nothing of the family who never got to watch their little girl grow up into a beautiful young lady with a big heart. They must despise him. He would do anything to go back and change that night. He would have listened to his parents and not snuck out. The next time he saw his parents was from the backseat of a police car. The disappointment on their faces was too great to handle. Sobs racked his body.

"Why?Why?Why?" he thought.

With one mistake everything was lost.

Remember this next time you get in a car. Whether old or young, whether it be texting or drinking or speeding, your actions affect more than just you. They affect your family and your friends and the lives of people you have never even met. So be smart and think before you drive so that you can arrive alive.