

Lyndsey Estes

Period 6

11/01/17

Arrive Alive

"Babe, come on let's go home. I want to go home now can we please go," tugging on your boyfriend's arm you keep repeating this same question over and over again. "Ethan we have been at this party for hours I want to leave," finally the rise in your voice gets his attention. "Yeah fine let's go home," but before leaving he finishes his drink and slams it down onto the table.

The two of you start walking down the porch steps outside towards your car. "Hahaha did you ssshhee me completely kill Jamesssh in our game of beer pong," he yells. Ethan starts laughing at his slurred words and trips down the porch steps. "Okay you are not driving us all the way home that is for sure," you tell him giggling. "Race you to the car," the two of you start running to the car and the ground in front of you starts to spin in all different kinds of directions. "I've only had one drink tonight so I am fine to drive home right?" While asking yourself this Ethan has climbed into the passenger seat and shut the door.

"Come on get in the car! What are you doing," Ethan asks. You are staring at the car door handle. Right now you know you are making a huge decision. Fighting with yourself. "I'm not drunk. Yes I am. I shouldn't be driving. Why is the ground spinning?". You open the car door and jump in the driver's seat anyway.

The ride home is roughly fifteen minutes max. It's late at night and the cool summer breeze feels warm on your skin as it floods in through the window. Suddenly, another car beeps at you and you realize you are in their lane not yours. Instantly everything turns black. A loud ringing is in both your ears, it's deafening. You feel something damp and warm, dripping onto your hand. An immense pain is coming from one leg while you can't feel the other one. You can barely feel your heart beating. Your eyes slowly start to open. Everything is spinning slowly, hurting your head even more. Everything starts to fade back in as you regain your eyesight. Red and blue lights are blinding you, making your head pound. Two hands grab you and pull you out of the car and place you in an ambulance. But you were the only one taken to the hospital. "Where's Ethan? What happened? Is Ethan okay," the EMT shuts the door and the ambulance starts pulling away. "You and your friend went over into the other lane and collided with another car. I'm sorry but the other driver and Ethan were both killed at the scene of the accident. Do you have alcohol in your system tonight?"

"I only had one drink," this is the next sentence that replays in your mind day after day. Your accident killed two people. Remembering the fact that Ethan still needed to grow up and have a family. He was still young and still needed to learn. Ethan could have had a career in football and played in college. Those things were taken away from him in a second. Living with this moment and guilt for the rest of your life was a hard time. Every time you climb into the driver's seat of a car you will think of this moment and the guilt will just come running back. Never drink and drive, even if you have only had one drink. Plan ahead for rides and arrive alive.