

Grace Perron  
Period 1  
11.14.18  
Arrive Alive

It was Friday April 18th, the day before the biggest party of my entire high school career and there was so much planning to do. Who was driving, who was getting ready together, and what we were going to wear. My friends Julia, Lindsay, and I have been counting down the days to this party since the beginning of senior year. The entire senior class was ready to live it up for one of the last times all together. We had planned to take Julia's car because it had the best chance of getting all the way up the mountain to the house. "Whatever you do DO NOT drive and DO NOT get in the car with anyone that has had something to drink, just sleep at the house." Julia's mom said as we walked out of the house. We were on our way to possibly one of the best nights of senior year.

We got to the mansion and someone was at the door taking everyones car keys. Lindsay, Julia, and I all looked at each other with a sigh of relief that no one would even have the chance of getting in a car. So we thought. When we walked in everyone was already drunk and having the time of their lives. We went upstairs to put our bags somewhere safe and to have a quick "friend meeting" before the night really started. "No one gets in car or tries to drive a car tonight. Even if you have only had one sip of alcohol." I say. "Agreed." Says Julia and Lindsay. "Okay let's start the end of senior year right!" I say before we go back downstairs. Music is blaring and you can barely see the room it is so packed. A couple drinks down and we were feeling good having a fun time.

A few hours went by, Julia and I could not find Lindsay. We had looked everywhere; the room we put our bags in, all of the bathrooms, and the basement. "We told her that we can't

separate.” said Julia. “I know don’t worry maybe she’s outside or in a random room we don’t know about. Remember, we are in a mansion.” I say. “Okay let’s look outside and then let’s check the room we put our bags in one more time.” says Julia. We go upstairs and all of Lindsay’s stuff is still where she put it before, but her phone and wallet are gone. “That’s weird why would she take them?” I ask Julia. “I have no idea.” She says, “let’s look outside.” The boy playing “security” opens the door for us and we step outside.

“Oh my god!” Julia screams “Her car is not here!” She screams again. I immediately pick up my phone and call her. No answer. I try eight more times and I am sent to voicemail each time. “How did she even get her keys? And why did she leave?” I say to Julia. We panic for a minute and then remember about the app, find my friends. “We have her location I just remembered!” I scream. “Thank god let’s look” Says Julia. I click the yellow app icon on my phone and click her name “Lindsay with 2 yellow heart emojis” The phone shows that she is 30 minutes away but her icon is not moving. “If she was driving it would be moving.” Says Julia with panic in her voice. “Maybe she pulled over because she realized she shouldn’t be driving.” I tell her. “Then why wouldn’t she pick up her phone!” Julia screams at me. “I don’t know I say.” There is one person that is designated to stay sober at this party every year so we run back to the house to find her. “Emma Emma Emma!” Julia and I yell. “We need you to drive us somewhere we think Lindsay is in trouble. Without hesitation she says “Okay girls, let’s go” We direct the GPS to Lindsay’s location, the longest 30 minute drive of our lives.

I could not believe what I saw, it didn’t feel real. Lindsay is in Julia’s car completely flipped upside down in a ditch with another car on it’s side in the road. Emma immediately calls 9-1-1 and Julia and I run to the car. She’s hanging upside down, glass shattered everywhere, a beer can in the cup holder, and her phone on her lap. Her head is covered in blood and her neck

is broken. Lindsay was killed on impact immediately when she swerved over the yellow lines and hit the car in the other lane. We know she was drinking but may never know if she was also on her phone. Distracted driving is not a joke, life can end in the blink of an eye. Don't put yourself or others in danger, don't ever think it won't happen to you, and always call someone who can get you home safe so you can arrive alive.