

Kate Larkin

### Arrive Alive

Try and picture it. picture your mom's face when she hears the news. The way she'd collapse to the floor, her body taken over with emotions of disbelief, fear, anger and pure sadness. Picture your dad trying so hard to hold it together in front of the police officer in your home's entryway. And for your mom whom your dad believes is having an intense enough reaction for the both of them. Picture your little sister being awoken by mommy's loud cries and wondering who hurt her. Your less naive big brother who worked so hard to protect you and keep you safe his whole life, has now realized that there was only so much he could do. Unfortunately this time, there was nothing he could do, but he will still continue to blame himself somehow. Picture all of your relatives coming to town from near and far to be with, cry with, and grieve with your family. And your poor, 95 year old great grandmother who just can't imagine how the world could take a young soul like you, before they take an old, sick women like her. Picture your best friend's face when she hears the news, that the one person in this world who seems to get her, is gone. Picture her trying to hold her tears back, sitting in your high school's gym bleachers when they announce the news. Her other friends surround her, all hugging and supporting one another. But the thing is, none of them are the one person she wants to be with, that persons you.

It seems impossible to picture it because you feel as though it won't happen to you. Everyone feels that way, because picking up your phone really quick to change the song isn't texting and driving. Driving home from a party because your the "most sober" out of all of your friend seems like the safe thing to do, but in reality that's not true. It takes less than 5 seconds for

an animal to run out into the road or for a car to swerve into your lane without you noticing because your eyes are glued to your phone. It only takes the slightest bit of alcohol to limit your ability to drive safely. Imagine if you were the cause of this. If because of you a family was put through this situation. Would you ever be able to forgive yourself for something that you so easily could've prevented?