

Katie O'Donnell
Period 4
9 November 2018
Arrive Alive Contest

Your mother would not understand, she would be confused. She would wonder if she could have done anything to stop it, wonder if she had done anything that caused you to feel this way and make these choices. The night you didn't come home, the night the police knocked on her door, the night she knew she would never see you again, the night she will never forget. The minute she opens the door, she knew. She didn't want to believe her gut, but she knew. You were gone, her baby, her one and only. The moment your mother got the news her world stopped, distracted driving had taken her daughter's life. She was in denial, she could not believe it. How could her baby be gone?

Your father would wonder if he should have known. If there was something he did wrong. Maybe if he had told you one more time, "be careful driving tonight". Could you really be gone. No, it couldn't be true, his daughter could not be gone. That night he will sit on the couch, not crying, not saying anything, just sitting there, trying to decide if he was dreaming, if this was real, how could it be? Parents aren't supposed to outlive their children.

You sister will cry, she will be speechless. Who will she talk to anymore? Her best friend, her role model is gone, the one person who would always be right by her side, or so she thought. She will watch your parents pretending to be strong while they are falling apart inside. She will feel as though she has no one to turn to. No one will understand that the one person who she needs right now is her sister, the very person who is gone from her life. Then the day will come where she will turn one year older than you ever were. That day she will finally become the older sister.

Can you really imagine all your school friends, the people you saw every single day since first grade, sitting in a moment of silence for you. The principle would try to say a few words, but he wouldn't know what exactly he should say, he was never prepared for a moment like this. You always think that it could never happen to you. That bad things only happen to other people, but that's not true. It can happen to anyone. Are you truly willing to take that chance? Don't drive distracted, arrive alive.