

A Night to Remember

Prom night is one of the most highly anticipated events of a teenager during their high school years. It is a night that most people remember for a long time. It symbolizes the winding down and conclusion to four long years of high school. And for my friends and I, it was the event we had all been waiting for since freshman year. We were anxiously awaiting the day to come. It felt like just yesterday we were envying all the upperclassmen who got to attend something so eventful and monumental. I still could not believe that in just a couple of weeks we would all be graduating and I would be beginning my life in college as an adult.

It was Saturday, the day we had all been waiting for. We got ready together and put on our dresses. We all looked so gorgeous in them. I was beyond excited and anxious of the evening that awaited. The dance started at seven but Ashley had suggested that we go to her friend Jessica's house before the dance to take pictures. I did not know her that well but I figured it would be fun anyways. We were greeted at the door by Jessica and she took us to the backyard to take pictures. Before we left Jessica had come up to us and asked if we wanted to stay a little longer before going to the dance. I did not see why we should, but Ashley insisted we stay. We walked back into the house and into the kitchen where some people were.

I had not noticed until now that her parents were not home. Jessica came up to us and handed us each a red solo cup filled with a clear liquid. She insisted that we all drink it and proceeded to make a toast. "Cheers to the greatest night of our lives" she exclaimed. I quickly

swallowed the contents of the cup. The back of my throat began to burn. I figured out shortly after that it was alcohol. I turned to Sarah nervously and asked if she thought it was okay that we were drinking. She answered back saying "it is fine, only a little sip will not do anything to us". About an hour later we decided to leave. We got back in Ashley's car and she drove us to the dance. As I entered the dance I looked around the venue. I was in awe of how beautiful everything looked. The music was blasting, I looked across the dance floor to see every one of my classmates dancing and having the time of their lives. We walked over to some of our classmates and joined them in dancing and singing along to our favorite songs.

The hours went by fast. We decided to take a break from dancing and go sit down at a table together. Sarah offered to get us some drinks. She brought us back three waters. I thanked her and gulped down the glass of water, or what I thought was water. Once again my throat began to burn. I asked Sarah what was in it and she quickly responded and said "do not worry, it is not enough to get you drunk". I was kind of upset that she did not tell me what was in the drink before I drank it, but I decided that I would not let that ruin my night. It was getting late so we decided to head back to Ashley's house. All three of us got into her car as she began to drive back to her house. I asked her if she was sober enough to drive. She quickly insisted that she was, and proceeded to drive towards her house.

Sarah was in the passenger seat as I sat in the back seat. As we pulled out of the venue I started to realize that Ashley was veering off the road a little bit. I quickly told her what

was happening and she jerked the wheel so the car would be between the lines again. Ashley advised us that she was fine. That it was just because it was dark and a little hard to see. For the next ten minutes Ashley continued to slowly veer off the road a little bit, but then quickly adjust so that no one would notice. We came upon the main intersection in town. It was surprisingly busy for a Saturday night. The light was green and Ashley began to increase her speed and pass through the intersection. Sarah was quick to tell her to slow down but she once again said "it is fine I just want to get home as soon as I can". As soon as we got through the intersection her swerving began to get out of control. The car began to jerk from side to side. Ashley tried to correct it, but it just made everything worse. All of a sudden there was a huge white light flash from an oncoming car in front of us and everything went black.

The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital. I can hear my parents crying in relief that I have woken up. I quickly ask them what had happened. My mom began to say "Honey I am terribly sorry to tell you this but you were involved in an accident. Ashley and Sarah did not make it. It was a head on collision and you were the only one that survived". I was speechless. I did not know what to say or what to think. I was devastated. I should not have drank any alcohol. I should have said no before it was too late. I could not believe that what I thought was the best night of my life would end up being a night I will never forget.