

Mercy Dunn

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Period 3

Arrive Alive

It was the last Friday night before school started up again. Me and a couple friends were just planning on staying in and having a girls night. We were all sitting on the couch watching a movie when Avery's phone starts buzzing. "Ethan is typing..." it reads. Five seconds later, "Snapchat from Ethan". We all look at each other with excitement as we pester her to open the message. Each of us peer over her shoulder as she swipes her phone open and clicks on Snapchat. "314 brackett st portland" it says. She looks up at us and asks us if we want to go. "Of course!" Jenny replies. "Let's go! We need to get ready!" We all go upstairs and change into party clothes as we're touching up our makeup that was left on from earlier that day. I go into my mom's room. "Hey, Mom, is it okay if we go out tonight, I'll be the designated driver, I won't drink." "Fine, text Dad the address when you're there, and be home by curfew. And not one drink." She replies.

We get there thirty minutes later and I see my friend Sydney. "CALLIE!" She yells from across the room as she drunkenly runs toward me, alcohol bottle in hand. She hands it to me and encourages me to take a shot. "I'm DD tonight, I can't." I say as I hold up my keys. "Come onnnn, one sip won't hurt!" I sigh as I take the bottle from her and put it to my lips. I convince myself that one shot won't do anything, and I drink it.

As the night goes on, one shot turns into four, and four turns into eight. I am now drunk and nervous about driving home. I look down at my phone. The blurry numbers read 12:37. I

have to be home in 23 minutes. I stumble around the party trying to find my friends. I see Avery across the room. I tell her to help me find our other friends because we need to leave right now. They all pile into my car. I hesitate for a second before climbing into the driver's seat. "I don't know if I can do this right now." I say to my friends. "Come on Callie you have to, you're fine you barely had anything to drink." Avery replies as I put the key into the ignition and flick my lights on. "I'm fine." I say to myself. "I can do this. It's just twenty minutes away." My shaking hand puts the car into reverse and I back out onto the street. I put it into drive and slowly start to pick up speed. I can hear the music from the party fading in the background. One minute everything's fine, we're driving. The next minute I can feel myself veering off into the other lane. I try to swerve back into my lane but it's too late. Two headlights and a blaring horn. My life flashes before my eyes and that's the last thing I remember.

I am woken up in a hospital bed. I hear "Callie. Callie are you awake?" As I fade back into consciousness. "Where are my friends? Are they okay?" I ask. The nurse looks at me with a sad look on her face. "I'm sorry Callie, but your friend Avery didn't make it."

I can't look at myself knowing that I had killed my best friend. I had destroyed her future and mine too. The only person to blame in this situation is myself. Don't be the person who puts anyone in danger because of your mistakes. You might think only one drink won't make a difference, but it does. Once you put that bottle up to your mouth, you're putting your own life and your friends' lives in danger. So many people get killed by drunk driving every year. Save someone's life, call your parents or an uber. Make the choice to arrive alive.