

Arrive Alive

“It’s never going to happen to me.”

That’s what everyone says, but it happens. I tricked myself into believing that lie, too, yet, the harsh reality of life is that it can change in a blink of an eye. Sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worst. Mine turned for the worst. Well, I didn’t exactly picture myself in a wheelchair at 18 years old. Before, I had my whole life planned out, and being confined to a chair was never apart of that plan. Now, I have this to remind me every single day of that night, the night full of stupid decisions, bad choices, and regrets. But I’m getting ahead of myself; my story began on Friday, October 25, 2018.

It was period four, study hall when Ella Genkins invited me to her party.

“Hannah, you have to go! It’s going to be so much fun, and you can’t miss it,” Ella gushed as I worked on my calculus homework. It didn’t take much for Ella to convince me. All my friends were going,

and to be honest, I didn't want to miss out on having fun. It was my senior year, so I might as well.

“Okay, yeah, I'll be there! Just text me the details.”

Saturday, October 26, 2018, at 9:30 p.m. was the exact time I arrived at the party. Cars lined the driveway, and people moved in and out of the house like clockwork. The minute I arrived, my senses were overwhelmed by all the people dancing to the loud base, and the smell of alcohol.

It is now midnight and everything is a little fuzzy. Okay, okay, I had a few drinks but so what it's a party! It is all about having a good time and fitting in. At least that's what I thought.

A few of my friends and I decided to leave the party at 2:00 a.m.

When your intoxicated common sense is thrown out the window. We should have never gotten into that car; we shouldn't have been so stupid not to put our seat belts on. In a blink of an eye, everything changed. Before I knew it, we were colliding head into a red pick up truck.

Now, I live with the fact that two of my best friends are dead and I'm lucky enough to have survived an accident that could have been so easily avoided. Stop, think, and most importantly arrive alive.