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Arrive Alive

Oh, here he comes. I thought he had forgotten to pick me up, as usual. If I had a car everything would be easier, but rules are rules. As an exchange student, I can't drive a car during the whole program. So I hop on his old Hyundai and connect my phone to the aux.

"How you doing, Salvi? Ready for tonight? It's finna be fire, you'll see."

"Sure man, let's go. Wait, let me check the address. 55 Farrington Road. Oh, yeah, I know where it is."

As we get to the party, the first thing I see on a table is a Keglevich bottle. I think to myself: "Alright, I better check my driver and control him tonight. I trust him, but better safe than sorry."

Five minutes later I already have no idea of where he is. It doesn't matter, he has previously proven to be responsible. Come on, he knows he has to drive me home, there's no way he won't control himself.

It's 1 AM, time to head back home. Oh, here is Seth. I call him: "Dude, it's time!" It's freezing cold outside, we're shivering and even in the car our breaths condense. I can smell the alcohol so I ask him how much he drank. "Just a beer, mate, don't worry. I got this." I really need him to bring me home, I don't want to bother my host-parents at 1 AM.

Two minutes later, we're exceeding the speed limit by 15 mph, singing aloud the new banger by Lil Tecca I poorly decided to put on the aux. The road is straight, and the car's trajectory is slightly bending to the right. We both notice a tree, on the side of the road, which is close to the car. It would have been more convenient if we did not see it when it was just 5 yards away from us.

If someone was standing next to the car, this is what he would see:

Tons of dust enlightened by the right headlight, the one still working.

Shreds from different components of the old Hyundai, that shine reflecting the dazzling light. A young man on the driver seat whose short life would have come to an end half an hour later, on the ambulance bringing him to the closest hospital

On the right seat, one of the top players of the school's soccer team, which will never live the life he was used to due to a severe nerve injury, that will bring him to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.