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### Drive or Arrive Alive?

“Come on Lexi, I know you said you would drive us but someone else can bring us home later! You never drink so let’s go have some fun”... Erin said it would be a good time and I believed her. I would have never known that that night would take a turn for the worst.

The girls and I were getting ready at my house since my parents were gone for the weekend. The party was during the weekend of Halloween so we all dressed up in different costumes. I dressed up as a cowgirl, Erin was a mouse and Soph was a bunny. Erin and Soph went to parties all the time, like almost every weekend. I never had the chance to go with them though, since my parents are so strict.

Finally, my mom left me home alone and I took advantage of it and decided to go to the Halloween party with the girls. They were so excited that I could actually go with them this time. This is one of the biggest parties of the year so I was extremely pumped about going. Since I don’t party often, I told the girls that I would just D.D. for them. I didn’t hate the idea of going and staying sober since I knew I could easily have a good time without any drugs or alcohol.

It was 9pm and we were ready to make the hour drive to the house party. Erin and Sophia decided to have a couple drinks before we even hit the road. I realized I was going to have to babysit tonight and I didn’t know how to feel about it. I knew I would have to drive extra careful since they were a little tipsy already.

We made it to the party and we all got out of the car. When we headed inside, the music filled the room and the air was thick from the heat of everyone's bodies. I had no clue that the number of people that was there was gonna be so large. Everyone was drinking and dancing and

singing along to every song. Hours went by and Erin came out of nowhere and handed me a drink. "Come on Lexi, I know you said you would drive us but someone else can bring us home later! You never drink so let's go have some fun". I saw how many people were there and truly thought that someone would be willing to bring us back to my house later.

After an hour I was already feeling drunk. I looked at the clock and realized how late it really was; it was already 3am. I called the girls over in a rush and said it was time to go. I grabbed my keys and helped them out of the door since they were so out of it. I thought to myself that no one else can drive my car and that I was sober enough to drive. The minute I turned the car on I felt anxiety rush through my body. I took a deep breath and started to drive.

We were so close to home and I was so proud of myself for keeping them safe. I turned the corner to head into my neighborhood and I took the turn too fast and sharp, not knowing I was driving recklessly. We headed straight into the telephone pole on the corner of the road. Everything went in slow motion and all I remember feeling was Erin's arm reach across to hold me. All I remember hearing was Soph from the back seat, "Wait Lexi, slow down".

We all woke up in the hospital with many injuries. All I could think about was how I caused this to happen and that I should've never taken a single sip of alcohol. I knew that Sophia and Erin would never want to see me again and that it was me who put them in a dangerous situation. They wanted to have fun that night and so did I. But what's more important at the end of the day? Driving under the influence or arriving alive? I'm relieved that us girls lived to see another day but not everyone is that fortunate. Just remember that a life is more important than a good time. Drive safe.