

“We’ll Be Fine”

Everyone says senior year is supposed to be the time of your life, and my senior year was going great up until I woke up in this hospital bed with the realization that I probably just ruined my life. About 2 weeks ago I went to the big party before graduation. I convinced Mike to go to the party and told him I would drive him home because we both had soccer practice in the morning. Everyone was having the night of their lives because it was almost time to graduate and get out of this town with a fresh start. I decided I would have a drink but I told myself that with soccer practice the next morning I would only have one. I finished the first drink and before I could set my cup down it was filled again. It was one drink after another and I kept telling myself I would stop but then my cup was always filled back up before I had the chance to stop. One more drink won’t hurt is what I continued to tell myself.

When I finally decided I needed to get home I could hardly stand up let alone get to my car. I had to ask around the party trying to find Mike because we needed to get home. When I finally found him he was passed out on the couch so I had to have some people help me get him up and get him in the car so we could finally leave and start heading home. We finally made it out to the car and I knew I was drunk and I couldn’t drive but I had told Mike I would bring him home and I wasn’t going to be the reason we both got in trouble and missed soccer practice the next day. Just as we were starting to pull away someone asked me if I was okay to drive and I said “we’ll be fine.”

I put the car in drive and the next thing I knew there was a telephone pole in the front of my car and my head was throbbing with pain. Blood was dripping from my head down onto my seat and I had no idea what was going on. I had a look over at Mike and he looked like he was in really bad condition. Mike hadn’t even woken up from the crash. I tried waking him but he wasn’t responsive. All I could think about was the worst possible outcome. If Mike died, it was my fault. All I could feel was guilt and I felt like I was gonna throw up. I tried to get out of my seat to go help him but I couldn’t move. I couldn’t feel anything. The numbness throughout my body

was an indescribable feeling. All I wanted was to wake up and have all of this over with because I had to have been dreaming. The blinding blue lights were in the distance and I felt this great feeling of relief. The lights started moving closer and I sat back in my seat knowing they would take care of Mike and I.

I had finally woken up from this nightmare so I took a deep breath and tried to calm down. I opened my eyes to some very bright lights that I had never seen before. I took a deep breath thinking that the nightmare was over except I had no idea where I was. A doctor came into the room and asked me how I was feeling. It was that very moment that I came back to reality and had the realization that everything in my body was still numb. I saw my mom walk into the room and I asked her what was going on. She told me I had been in an accident and was in a coma for 2 weeks. She told me that I was paralyzed from the neck down due to the severity of the collision. I asked her what happened and she told me that I crashed my car into a telephone pole with Mike in the passenger seat.

The first thing I did was ask if Mike was okay because it was all my fault if something had happened to him. It felt like we sat in silence for ages. The next words that came out of my mom's mouth would change my life forever. "Mike never made it to the hospital, he died at the scene of the crash." Chills rushed throughout my body and I broke down into tears. I couldn't stop crying and my mind was racing with everything that I had just been told. All I could feel was pain and guilt. Mike's life was put in my hands. I was responsible for getting him home to his parents and I am the reason he didn't make it there. I am the reason Mike will never get to see his family again and I don't know how I am going to live with that. I am the reason he didn't arrive alive.