

## On My Way

The date is December 21st, 2020. A cold, snowy night a few days before Christmas in Gorham, Maine. The roads looked like typical Maine roads in the winter, partially snow-covered and a bit slick, but this night was especially horrid driving conditions. The roads were covered in a mix of ice patches and a layer of snow that has not been sanded yet. These slick, snowy roads are not new for 17-year-old Dennis Culver, who has lived in Gorham his whole life. On this snowy night, Dennis was driving home from his basketball practice. Dennis is a senior at Gorham High School and has played basketball for as long as he's walked. Basketball is his love, the only thing he loves more is his family.

His mother, father, and two younger brothers that look up to him. They gave Dennis the nickname "Superman" because of his jumping ability. Dennis's mother was very worried about him driving that night due to the ice-covered roads and the heavy snowfall. To calm his mom down before he left for practice, Dennis promised he would text her before he left the gym. After his practice was over, Dennis decided to get milkshakes for his brothers at Burger King. Dennis went to Burger King and bought two medium chocolate milkshakes.

Now it was getting very late and Dennis needed to get home. Dennis was about 5 minutes away from his home when his phone that hung on a magnet on the air vent started going off with messages. Dennis wondered who would be texting him that late at night, and then he realized he forgot to text his mom. Dennis immediately grabbed his phone and opened the messages. They were from his mom and she was asking him, "Dennis please text me ASAP". Dennis, wanting to comfort his mom, started texting her that he's almost home. When he sent the message and put the phone on the magnet, he looked up and saw a deer right in front of him on the road. Dennis

in a panic tried swerving around but because the roads were so icy, his car went off the road and rolled down the hill into the shallow creek.

Dennis lost consciousness but he was slowly regaining it. His ears were ringing, his eyesight was blurry. When Dennis's eyesight fully came back he saw the wreckage around him. Glass was everywhere, water from the creek was flowing through the shattered windows forming a little stream from one window to the other. The left turn signal was on and the chocolate milkshakes were spilled right in front of him. The phone also laid right in front of him. His mom was calling him. Dennis tried reaching out for his phone but his arms were just short of the phone. No matter how hard he tried, he could not reach the phone. Dennis then tried turning his body but he was stuck. No matter how hard he tried, he could not move.

He then tried yelling for help but when he opened his mouth, nothing came out but blood and a muffled voice. Dennis then started struggling to breathe, gasping for breath but his lungs were not taking any oxygen in. Every time he took a gasp he coughed blood up. He started panicking internally because he could not show it externally. His eyesight started to fade again, soon his eyes shut and he saw nothing but darkness. The only thing he could hear was his car blinker, the water flowing in the creek, the howling wind of the night, and his phone ringing.