

## Crash and Burning: The Story of Two Friends

“Hey, let's go to the Mall,” said Chris, “you’re driving though. My license is still suspended.”

“I don’t know man,” replied Carter, “I’m really tired and I got a test I have to study for. I don’t really have the time.”

“Come on, you’ve already studied so much. You’ll be fine.”

“Whatever man, let’s just go quickly though. I don’t want to be there too long,” Carter reluctantly replied.

Chris knew Carter. He knew how to convince him to do anything he wanted. After all, they had been best friends for seventeen years now. Carter was a very successful student. He was top of their class. He was also the star soccer player for their school. They both were captains on the team, but Chris was much better. His dream was to go to Princeton. His smarts mixed with his skill on the field had allowed him the chance to get in. He had worked every day of his life to get in, and he would only have to wait a little longer before he could find out.

Chris was the opposite. He did not care about school. He was most likely going to attend the local community college in his town. Chris loved to have fun. He has the most fun when he’s with Carter. Chris is also a little upset that Carter is leaving him after this year.

“Man, why do you have to go all the way to Princeton next year?” Chris said as he got into the car.

“You know it’s my dream school. Plus, I haven’t even gotten in yet anyways.”

“I know, but it’s just so far away,” said Chris. They both know that Carter will get into Princeton. “Can you speed up, you are going a little slow.” Carter was surprised by this, but did it

anyway because he just wanted to go home. “That’s as fast as you go? We are never going to make it to the mall at this pace.”

“I’m already going above the speed limit. We really shouldn’t be going any faster.”

“Nothing bad will happen. I don’t know why you are worried all the time.” At this point, Carter is starting to get annoyed with Chris, but still speeds up. The two continued on their ride, until Chris decided that he wanted to put some music on.

“Let’s play some music, it’s too quiet,” Chris said, as he cranked up the music.

“Woah, that’s way too loud.” Carter went to turn the music down, but Chris smacked his hand away.

“I said that was too loud. Let me turn it down.” He went to turn it down again, but his hand was pushed away again. Frustrated, he reaches down again, taking his eyes off the road. His steering wheel turned to the right, throwing them off the road. The car flipped and rolled it’s way into a ditch.

At first, they didn’t realize what was happening, The two had been thrown all around the car. A few minutes later Chris crawled out of the car. His arm was broken, but he couldn’t feel it. He was looking for Carter for a little bit, shouting his name, but he didn’t hear any response. After a little while he heard sirens coming their way. Most of what followed was a blank for Chris. The one part he did remember was Carter being pulled out of the car, put onto a stretcher, and into an ambulance. Chris did not realize it at the time, but he had lost the best friend he had ever had in that moment.

After a day in the hospital, Chris left with just the broken arm. Carter wasn’t as lucky. Carter was there for a few weeks. When he left, it was in a wheelchair. He had been paralyzed from the waist down. Carter’s scholarships were gone. He would never play soccer again.

Everybody had blamed him for the crash too, as he was the one driving. Chris and Carter knew the real story. This was something that ruined their friendship. Chris tried to reconnect with Carter, but Carter never wanted anything to do with Chris for the rest of their lives. One silly mistake. That's all it took for the two to ruin a friendship that lasted a lifetime.