

Morgan Walton

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A Regrettable Mistake

Unexpected, horrendous, terrifying, words came from the phone. "I'm in the hospital". The trees going by the window appeared to look wavy from the tears building up in my eyes. I looked over at my oldest sister hoping to get some reassurance, only to find she looked as scared as me. We looked at each other with the same scared unknowing look in our eyes.

It all happened so quickly. One second my mom and I were on vacation, visiting my oldest sister. I was the only one with time off school since I was the baby of the family and still in high school. It felt like the second we got to my oldest sister's grown-up apartment we were receiving a phone call from a doctor saying my second oldest sister was in the hospital. This was hard, not only because she was in a different state and in the prime of college but she was also in the ICU with a brain bleed. I almost immediately googled what a brain bleed was and phrases like, "survival rate of a brain bleed being," "extensive recovery," "surgery," "death," and "symptoms like trouble speaking and walking, numbness in the face" filled the screen. Googling this was a terrible idea. After hours of trying to decode what happened, the story came to the surface.

My sister and her friends got a ride with someone who was not in the right state to be driving a vehicle. The car swerved, and she got thrown out of a car, her body flipping onto the hard, cold, unforgiving pavement. The car was crushed and unrecognizable. The reckless individual driving, was speeding irresponsibly, looking like a race car driver. The person completely disregarded his life as well as my sisters and her friends lives. He was distracted, intoxicated, and who knows what else. My sister's entire future was in jeopardy, and yet she

didn't call her family. She waited to call because of embarrassment and fear. She waited to go to the hospital. My mind kept repeating the imaginative image of what happened. Her head hitting the pavement, her body flipping as she hit the undamaged, cruel, man-made asphalt. The breaking, crushing, and snapping of bones as they disconnected, the crashing of the cars. I started to think of not only my sister but of the other people involved.

My thoughts raced. The same way we raced on the backs of our horses. In the green, freshly cut fields by our house on the snowy white and charcoal black horses. Why did she get in that car? What was she thinking? Why didn't she call sooner? Why did she wait to call? But the most prevalent thought that raced through my mind was that one mistake should not affect a person's life forever. Unfortunately, this is not the case. It will be a very long time before we can blissfully ride our horses together. One mistake or wrong decision can affect your life forever. Before you get in a vehicle ask yourself the following questions, "Am I being safe?" If the answer is no, call someone for a ride if you are under the influence, don't ever be a distracted driver and if the conditions are bad never take the chance. There is always a better option. One mistake can not only change your life but others lives as well.