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### Inattentive Eyes

Red, blue, and blinding white, the repeated flashing lights impair my lifeless eyes. Whispers in the background. Sharp, glistening crystals from the shattered windows. My headlights beaming into the darkened woods. Dug in dirt tire tracks. The glowing of my phone still illuminates the instant regret I just typed into the small keyboard. The new sorrows and emptiness I have filled my family with. All because of one text I remorsefully sent.

It all began with the goodbye waves and hugs to my parents as I headed back to my apartment. Just as my mom always says, “Drive safe and text me when you get home. I love you!” I rolled my eyes as if anything bad could ruin my basic 24-year-old life. I slid into the cloth car seat and inserted my car key into the ignition, turning my headlights on for this ill-lit night. Plugging in my cell phone to blast music to keep myself awake for this long, but quick drive home. I pull out onto the road that will soon alter everyone’s life. With my window down, my hair blowing in the wind, music loudly booming, nothing could change this moment. That’s when it happened, just a simple text from my friend Emma caught my attention, where my phone patiently waited on the passenger seat for me to pick it up. I lean over the center console to grab my phone with the distracted beaming light and I start to type.

“Ma’am, ma’am, can you hear me?” Repeatedly shouted an officer while trying to resuscitate me. I was responding to him, but he just couldn’t hear me. Arms that I had once hugged my mother goodbye with, now dangle and eyes I rolled at my parents just an hour ago now blank. My stiff cold body lay jammed in those wretched cloth seats. I don’t even recognize

at first what has happened, but I know now I am looking at my own demised body and the phone that is still affixed on my fingers.

Every day I see my parents wake up with that sense of emptiness and guilt because they couldn't stop me from picking up that phone. This one night has taken my life and I don't want anyone to feel as if it is their fault, because I am the one who decided to pick up that wretched device. Cell phones are a distraction and can seriously put your life in danger. Don't think something like this can't happen to you, because I thought the same thing. Next time you reach for your phone while driving just think of everyone else you can impact with this decision, arrive alive instead.