

Jonah Doucette

November 1, 2022

## Bad Friend

**7:25pm**

The door slammed shut behind me as I left the house. The party had already started at John's, "I don't want to be the only one late" I thought to myself as I flew down the street in my mother's new car. I glance over my right shoulder and see the white sign reading "speed limit 45." Letting out a little chuckle, my speedometer is somewhere between 85 and 90 mph. With the windows rolled all the way down and music blasting I feel like nothing can stop me. Suddenly the song ends, "shoot I reached the end of my playlist," I said out loud with a sigh. As I picked up my phone without hesitation. I just needed a few seconds to find the right song. I clicked on the search bar to look it up, at that moment I peeked up at the road and felt the right side of the car dip down, "Shit." I regained control of the Honda just in time to avoid being sucked into the ditch.

**10pm**

"Serinah come on, just take this one shot with me," my friend Mia Khalifa said. "Ughh fine, you know I usually don't drink though." It should be fine, I've got a safe ride home tonight, Julia agreed she was the designated driver. "Hey Serinah try this one it's really good, I made it for you" said Allie. I couldn't turn down that offer, I mean she made it for me. "Of course" I said, as I chugged the concoction. The music and lights are all the way up and I can't stop dancing and singing along with it. Just then as everyone's having so much fun, Julia shouts "girls time to go. Dammit I wanted to stay longer. "Julia don't worry about it, I'll take my own car

later.” In response I get the most stern “No” I have ever heard “We will get your car back tomorrow, im bringing you home.”

### **12:45am**

Julias SUV was perfect for blasting music because she had a new speaker system. “Turn the music up, let's keep this party going,” said Serinah. “Yea come on don't be a party pooper” Allie said with demand in her voice. Julia wasn't budging and she was too focused on the road. I grabbed at the wheel laughing slightly yanking it towards me. Julia screamed “What the hell are you doing, you're going to get us all killed” I laughed so hard as did my other 2 friends. This time I turned up the volume to full blast and started singing “Starships were meant to flyyyy, hands up and touch the skyyyy”. “Please” Julia said, “I can't focus on the road with you guys doing that”. But it was making my friends laugh and it was funny, reaching my hands out onto her lower abdomen I started tickling Julia. “Serinah please we're going to ....” “Skirttt, BANG” The car performed 3 barrel rolls in an attempt to avoid oncoming traffic. I screamed at the top of my lungs. The vehicle finally settled and I said “is everyone okay”. “I'm good,” said Allie. “I'll survive,” said Mia. Hey what about Julia, “Oh god no, please no”. The tears began flowing as I looked to my left and saw Julia with cuts and bruises all over her face, not breathing.

### **5 days later... 10am**

“We would like to take this moment to honor the wonderful life of Julia Paul, everyone please rise.” Those words hit me like a train. Questions started flooding my mind, “how am I going to forgive myself for what I did?” I wished for nothing more than to go back in time and

fix things. But it was too late for that and now I knew this guilt was going to carry with me for the rest of my life.