

If I Could Go back....

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Do you know the saying, "Most people crash within five miles from their house"? A week before Christmas, 2021, I crashed one minute from my house. I try not to remember the accident too much. However, what I remember is seeing the bright lights from the plow truck, while turning my wheel to get more over on my side of the narrow road. The bright lights blinded me. I turned the wheel. As i braked, I saw the bright plow truck pass. Terror registered in my body as my car spun, spun, and spun more. What was I supposed to do? I did the worst thing possible. I closed my eyes. I felt a hard, heavy object hit my car. I was scared to open my eyes. Was I in the lake? What was happening? I opened my eyes to see broken glass from the windshield all over my lap. I looked at my hands, covered in blood and scratches. Over to my left, I saw the driver's side door caved in, and a telephone pole up against the car. My body was in utter shock. I couldn't believe what had just happened. People came up to my window and I saw their mouths moving, but I couldn't comprehend what they were saying. My body was frozen. I couldn't find my phone. Everything was such a blur. So there I was, sitting on the side of the road next to my car, balling my eyes out while the snow was falling faster and faster. The world seemed so cruel at this moment. For a 16 year old girl, this felt like the end of my life. This was the scariest moment of my life. I was extremely lucky to have hit the telephone pole because I would have ended up going off a 10 foot cliff into the frozen lake below. How did this happen? How did I get here? Why couldn't I just stay home?

Looking back on the accident, my biggest regret is leaving the house in a huge snow storm. Why did I have to leave? If I didn't hang out with my friends, This story would have never happened. I would have never almost died. I remember earlier that day, my dad told me he didn't want me leaving the house because it was already snowing and later it was going to start to hail outside. I didn't care about the snow; I didn't want to be a lame teenager . All I cared about was having fun with friends. If I could have seen into the future five hours from that talk

with my dad, I would want to be that lame teenager. If I had stayed home, I would still have my freedom and my car. Something I worked so hard to get. Something I bought, and now it was just gone because I had to go out. All I have to say now is, just stay home. Winter roads suck, and especially for teens who are new to driving. If I could I would never have left my house that day.

I wasn't distracted while I was driving, I remember on the way home that night, focusing really hard and almost over thinking the drive home. When I got in the car, it was just snowing but there was a inch of ice on the road. As I got about 10 minutes into my drive home, It started to hail. Ice and snow was falling faster and faster and It was getting hard to see. I wish when I saw the plow truck coming over the narrow hill I had just pulled over instantly. I was a brand new driver and it was snowing. I turned the wheel to get over too fast that night, and that's what made me spin out of control. I should have pulled over or stopped the car because I knew I was unsafe driving that night.

It's been a couple months since the accident and my two biggest take aways from the accident are: just stay home when it's unsafe to drive, and pull over if you ever feel unsafe. We are teenagers, we are brand new drivers, especially to the snow. Driving is dangerous; it's a two ton vehicle that could kill us, or anyone. if it's snowing, please just stay home, and if you do have to go out and you feel unsafe, just pull over, so you can arrive alive.

