

The Night That Shattered Lives

On a sunny and dry summer evening, the air was thick with excitement as my friends and I planned a party. But I wish we would have known that this seemingly ordinary night would turn into a heart wrenching tale of the consequences of drunk driving. Forever etching its lessons into our lives.

The night started just as any other night where we had plans. We were laughing, the music was playing, and drinks were flowing. And as the night passed and the hours ticked by the atmosphere grew with more and more livid with excitement. And as things began to die down and the party started to come to an end. Our friend Sarah, seemed determined to have a night she would never forget.

Sarah had always been the life of the party. Known for always having a smile on her face and an adventurous nature. With a smile that made the room glow. But that night, she took things to an entirely different level. She consumed alcohol at an alarming rate. Brushing off concerned expressions and comments from her friends and insisting that she was “fine” to drive herself home.

In everyone’s state we failed to intervene with the urgency of the situation. We watched helplessly as she walked to her car. Fumbling her keys and barely able to walk.

The phone call came just hours later. Sarah had been involved in a horrifying car crash. Her car had collided head on with another vehicle. The passengers of the other car were a family of three, where they were all left with life altering injuries. The mother and father had sustained fractures and required major and extensive surgery. While their young son, not even 7 years old, was in critical condition, fighting for his life.

I could feel my heart sinking into my stomach as I was in the hospital waiting room, seeing what we had done by not stopping Sarah and the reckless choice she made. Sarah miraculously had survived with minor injuries. But her recklessness had caused pain and suffering to an innocent family.

The legal justice because of Sarah’s actions were unbearable and life changing problems for her. She faced charges of driving under the influence, reckless endangerment and causing bodily harm. Her drivers license was suspended. And she was now potentially facing jail time. The guilt and the weight of her actions and the realization of her poor choice she had made that night hung heavily over her. As she knew she hurt an innocent family.

The accident changed everyone involved for the rest of their lives. The young boy, once vibrant and full of life, now faced with an uncertain future. His parents, struggling with physical and emotional trauma, Faced with medical bills and the uncertainty of their future. Sarah now is a defendant in a criminal case, she has the guilt and remorse that caused so much harm to others.

For me and our friend group, this incident became life altering and almost as a wake up call. We had witnessed first hand the devastating consequences of drunk driving. The reality that we had failed to stop her from driving that night. The incident served as a shift in our attitudes towards alcohol and personal responsibility.

In conclusion this is a fiction story of how drunk driving can impact and ruin people's lives. Not just the driver but the driver, their friends, the possible family in the other car, or the family you're hurting when they get the knock on their door saying their child has passed. This story serves a purpose of how everyone should know that there is no excuse to drive under the influence. And to intervene when some else is at risk.