

# *Paralyzed*

Brent Files

Life is the most important thing we have. Whilst driving certain people believe answering a text is more important than other drivers' lives. This behavior is semi-normalized, if you don't answer people they can become furious. Avoiding this anger seems like your best option, however, that one text could be the reason another person lost their life.

**11:53pm:** Todd is leaving his office after a long day of work, his bones creaking. He arrives in his car, taking a deep breath before starting his 40 minute drive home.

**12:00am:** John is leaving his friend's house after a day of socializing. Everyone around him was consuming drugs and alcohol but he avoided it because of the drive home. John makes his way to his car, letting his mom know he'll be home in about 20 minutes.

**12:14am:** Todd's wife sends him a text, wondering where he's been all day. He is responding as he's cruising through a neighborhood. In the distance he sees headlights approaching in the opposing lane but he just keeps on typing.

**12:15am:** John is five minutes away from his house. From the embrace of his mother when all of a sudden the car in the other lane is going at an alarming speed. John sees the person through his window and they are using their phone at the wheel. The most obvious use of a cellphone while driving ever witnessed, one hand on the steering wheel the other holding the phone directly above the steering wheel. The car is rapidly approaching him, their tires jerking with the sudden movements of the steering wheel due to the lack of attention on the yellow lines of the road.

**12:16am:** The cars collide, both men go forward before their head bangs into their steering wheel. Todd's phone goes flying and shatters when it hits the ground. People in the neighborhood start to call the police about the accident, mentioning how both cars are in shambles and the bloody drivers laying on the ground, neither man moving.

**12:20am:** Emergency services arrive at the scene, but it seems far too late. Unsure if they will awaken from their slumber, John and Todd are helped into ambulances. Todd is paralyzed below his waist, he probably will never walk again. John however isn't as lucky. John passed away on their way to the hospital. His mother is called and you can hear the tears fall for miles and miles. The disbelief in her voice as she lets their relatives know, anger in her heart grows more with each car she sees driving by. The remanence of her son is left in his bedroom, the door shut because she couldn't take the pain.

John got his life taken by something completely out of his control. His mother will never hug her son again because Todd "had" to send one last text. That is the world we live in. Anyone could go anytime, especially when people continue to drive distracted.