

Last Minute Plan

By Lindy Moreland

“Going out with my friends after work today honey, I’ll be back by 6 to make dinner for you and your brother” 4:10pm

“Sounds great mom, have fun!” 4:15pm

“I love you” 4:17pm

“I love you too mom” 4:18pm

I recently got a new job and honestly it's been stabbing me in the back. I can never get a break from all this paperwork, piles and piles of paperwork and never ending due dates. I can barely support myself and my two children causing my stress levels to be through the roof. Kelly asked me and a couple other people to go out after work and I think that’s exactly what I need to help settle myself. I need something to take my mind off of things and just relax. This is the perfect opportunity. As soon as the clock ticks to signal my work day has come to an end we all drive over to the local bar leaving the stress of work far behind.

“Will you be home soon?” 6:10pm

“Yes, soon not much longer, I’m about to leave” 6:15pm

“I forgot to tell you guys! We are all getting a raise!” Yelled Kelly. I had no idea those words would come out of her mouth but as they flowed into my ears I immediately burst with excitement. “My daughter will be so excited! I can finally send her to her dream school!” I explained with pure joy. “Shots to that!?” Asked Kelly. “Of course” I yelled with pride. I gulped a shot and felt my mind buzz with happiness. Julie has always talked about this college and as soon as she graduates next month we are going to go on a mother-daughter trip and explore the world. “I can’t wait to tell her, she’s going to be thrilled!”

“Mommmmm where are you? We are getting hungry” 6:45pm

“Leaving now, but I think I might just go to bed when I get home, I’ll Venmo you some cash and you and your brother can get a pizza” 6:53pm

“Ok mom, drive home safe, Love you” 6:57pm

I need to get home to my kids, the only thought that fills the spaces of my brain that aren’t foggy. I stagger my way across the parking lot to my car, moving my hand around to find the handle, slowly falling into my seat attempting to find the buckle. I aim to put my keys into the ignition, stumbling to buckle myself into the seat. I didn’t think I drank that much, until I was face to face with the road ahead of me. My mind is convinced I can make it home, ignoring the blurriness that fills my vision.

“I’m leaving to pick up the pizza now” 7:20pm

Eventually I make it onto the road, trying my best to find sight of the centerline slowly putting more pressure onto the gas. Looking through the windshield feels like a never ending puzzle, pieces flying all over the place and scrabbling in a different direction every second. Suddenly my vision goes completely black, nothing to see except within a slight blink of an eye, a set of headlights gliding in my direction. I feel my hands slipping away from the steering wheel as my vision disappears trying to keep my head in place and suddenly **CRASH**. My body slams against the airbag as I collide with the headlights, everything goes numb, as I gasp for air trying to get a hold of what just happened. I slowly step out of the car stumbling as my leg gets caught within the smashed floorboard beneath me. Ahead of me is a car, a car that looks very familiar, the front smashed into pieces, glass shattered all over the pavement, sparkling within the streetlights.

I slowly walked over to the driver side of the car, stumbling every step only to realize this was my daughter's car, my daughter lying unconscious in the front seat. Sirens fill the air but are muffled by my thoughts. I just hit my daughter.