

11/31/06: A Short Story on the Importance of Safe Driving

Lucia Holloway

1:13am

Screams fill the car as Lily veers the car over the white line, sending an ear-ringing screech into the passengers ears. "Don't do that!" she screams, regaining position on the road, to Jack in the backseat, behind the passenger seat, who had covered her eyes jokingly. "Oh c'mon it was only like two seconds you're so dramatic," he replies laughing.

1:14am

Hour 14 of his shift, Jeff drives the massive semi-truck that has just reached Maine. He is in the home-stretch of the truck stop.

1:15am

"I can't wait to shower," Meghan complains out loud. "I need to get this glitter off of me," she adds. "That concert was amazing. I can't believe we saw the Rolling Stones. Did you see the guy getting arrested on the way out?" says Jack, "He was probably drunk out of his mind." "We should drive down for concerts every weekend!" Meg smiles. "I don't know about every weekend. Burning a lot of gas here," Lily says giggling. "I will volunteer to drive next time," Matt replies. "Fine but that means no drinking," Lily replies sternly, eyes still fixed on the road. "Does anyone have a piece of

gum? I want to stay awake,” Jack asks from the back seat. Meg hands him a piece of Extra spearmint gum.

1:19am

Jeff stays in the left lane. Having been awake for over 20 hours now, he keeps his eyes fixed on the road. His mind filled with thoughts of his wife and newborn daughter back in Ohio. Tiredly, he reaches his hand over to switch on the radio station, “Paint it, Black” fills the truck, Jeff unsteadily singing along.

1:20am

“Only 21 more miles of highway then I will drop Matt off first,” Lily says. “Sounds good,” her passenger, Meg replies sleepily. “Hey Lils your mom’s texting you to ask for ETA,” she says shortly after, “can you just reply with about 30 minutes?” “Sure.”

1:34am

Lily’s passengers have mostly fallen asleep. Jack is still awake in the backseat with his headphones on and Meg has been sleeping a good 10 minutes now.

1:40am

“Finally!” Jeff mutters to himself as he begins to switch to the right lane, the bobblehead on the dash beginning to move back and forth.

1:40am

“Lily, where are you?” lights up across her screen. Lily grunts to herself, glancing over at her sleeping friend and reaches down to text a quick reply. Typing “Almost h...” with her free hand, not noticing how her right foot has begun to press the gas harder ever so slightly. Looking up for a glance, Lily can’t stop the car as a massive semi-truck switches into her lane. Not having enough time to stop, having accelerated so much, Lily tries to swerve but runs the car into the back right side of the truck.

1:41am

A loud crash and screeching sound causes Jeff to slam on the breaks, adding to the ensemble of loud crashes.

1:41am

Meg awakes to the car flying into the barrier of the highway not having enough time to think, or snap her seatbelt in place. She goes head first through the windshield.

1:42am

Jeff is running around the truck, knowing what he’ll see as he wraps around the back. Frozen in fear he sees a ruined gray car. He notices a nest of brown hair tangled in the broken glass of the driver's window.

11/31/06 7:02am

BREAKING NEWS

Three Killed When Small Car hits Massive Semi-Truck

Early this morning four teenagers were driving home from a concert when they made impact with a Peterbilt 359 Semi-Truck, driven by 32 year old Jeffery Gaines. "I don't know how this happened, one second no car was there and then all I heard was the screeching noises." 17 year old driver of the vehicle Lily White was killed on impact. Her passengers Meghan Dawn and Matthew Elsher were pronounced dead on the way to the hospital, 16 year old Meghan flying nearly 25 feet through the windshield. 17 year old Jack Buford is the only one to have survived the crash and is currently awake at Delmont Memorial Hospital. Buford is unable to answer any questions at this time, the reason for the crash still a mystery.

12/3/06 10:34am

Reason Three Teens are Dead: Preventable Dangers

Earlier this week four teenagers were killed in a collision with a massive 18 wheeler. Local High School Students Lily White, Matthew Elsher, and Meghan Dawn are among the deceased. The reason for the crash comes to light through Jack Buford, the only one to have survived the accident. "She [Lily] was answering a text, she's usually such a safe driver, even had Meg answer some texts earlier in the drive. Meg must've been asleep because I saw Lily reach down towards her phone and start to send a message.

Next thing I know I'm covered in my best friend's blood." Matthew Elsher, who had been in the back seat with Buford, died on the way to the hospital from extensive blood loss. "I don't know how I'm supposed to be the one who just goes on with life. I had a piece of her [Meghan's] gum in my mouth. Focusing on the taste of that gum really got me through it... I can't believe she's just gone." Unfortunately, this is yet another case of distracted driving ending the lives of young people.