# Lucky to be Alive

By Rhys Saunders

*8:36 pm*

"Bye, Mom!" I happily yell as I head out to the party. "Bye, hunny. Be safe!" she responds. Right as I'm about to close the door, she adds, "And no alcohol young man!" I knew this probably wouldn't be the case, though. It's a high school party, after all. But I responded with the usual little lie I told to get her off my back. "Of course, Mom." I close the door behind me, excited for the night to come, expecting this night to be crazy, but not in the way it would turn out to be.

*8:52 pm*

When I showed up at the party, my friends had already arrived. They handed me a drink which I happily took and gulped down over the course of a few minutes. I then followed my friends' lead and indulged in another drink. Then another… and another… before I knew it, I had happily drank 5 drinks. A little more than I was used to, but it would be fine. Gotta live a little, right?

*10:41 pm*

"I'll see you guys later!" I say as I stumble out the door. "Are you sure you're okay bro? I can drive you home if you need." adds one of my friends. "Nope, all good here!" I say enthusiastically as I shut the door. I fumble around with the keys in my pocket before finally getting a grip on them and opening the car door. I felt like an F1 driver getting behind the wheel. I had done this a few times, and it wasn't too hard. Sometimes I drifted, maybe missed a stop sign, but there wasn't anyone else on the road

anyway. I turned the key to the ignition and put the car in reverse as I backed out of the driveway, almost hitting the mailbox, and ready to start my journey home.

*10:53 pm*

I was almost home. Just a few more blocks and I'd be home free, defying expectations once again. All of a sudden I feel a big impact on my left, with the door bending to the pressure. I skidded across the road for what felt like a lifetime before the car finally settled. I slowly lost consciousness as I tried to understand what had happened. The last thing I heard was the other driver opening their door and yelling “You okay over there?”.

*9:36 am*

I woke up in the hospital bed, with my parents overwhelming me with hugs and kisses. “What happened?” I asked with a foggy memory. “You were in a crash…” Said my dad, pausing for a second to sniffle. “The doctors said you’re lucky to be alive.” He said. “They also told us you were intoxicated.” Said my mom, who couldn’t seem to be mad at me right now. I look at her ashamed, remembering what I told her before leaving last night and saying “I’m sorry you guys.” We all embrace and start tearing up once again. I end the conversation with a sentence that we all took for granted before tonight. “I love you guys.” “We love you too hun. No more distracted driving. Okay?” Says mom. I laugh as this now became obvious to me and say “I promise.”