

The Birthday Crash  
By: Sarah Rosingana

**June 6th, 2024 4:00 p.m. Amy's Point of View**

"Happy birthday Amy!" I hear from my mother inside. I quickly walk through the front door with an enormous smile on my face, run to my mom and scream, "I passed!" She gave me a gigantic momma bear hug and said, "I'm extremely proud of you." My dream came true on my sixteenth birthday. Officially, I am a new driver and ready to grasp the world.

**June 6th, 2024 6:00 p.m. Colins Point of View**

"Happy birthday Colin," my parents shout from down the stairs. It's my twenty-first birthday, and I can't wait to celebrate with my friends. Hollering to my dad as I stand in the hallway about to leave, "A couple of my friends and I are going into town to have a couple drinks." My dad replies, "Okay make smart decisions. Stay safe, and don't drink and drive. Call me if you need." I answer, "Dad everything will be okay, I promise."

Once I arrive at the bar I'm instantly greeted by my friends. One friend hand's me a drink, as the party had already started. As the night rolls on we play games, eat food, and drink. Numerous beers flow through my body. One after another, I can't recall the number of drinks I've consumed. Few hours have passed since arriving, and I'm starting to not enjoy this anymore. Gripping my friend's shirt by the collar I say, "I'm heading out now, thanks for the party." He responds fully drunk patting me on the back, "Okay man see you later, happy birthday."

**June 6th, 2024 8:00 p.m. Amy's Point of View**

Waiting outside is my 2012 deeply colored blue Hyundai Elantra. Putting on mascara, straightening my long blonde hair, and setting my birthday tiara on top of my head. Flying down the stairs, I yell to my mom, "I'm leaving to go to Lexi's house." She responds, "Okay honey, drive safe, I love you." I reply, "Yeah, yeah, don't worry mom, I love you too." Snatching the keys I grip them strong, dripping in sweat as this is my first time I'm driving alone. Opening the car door, I smell the ocean breeze coming from my air fresheners. I sit down on the soft gray leather seat, listening to the roar of the engine while clicking my seatbelt in. Turn the volume of the radio on a quiet level to focus. Slowly backing out of the driveway, I'm on my way to Lexi's.

**June 6th, 2024 8:30 p.m. Colins Point of View**

Stumbling into the car, I manage to find my keys to turn on the ignition. I take a second to catch my breath. As each second passes dizzier, and dizzier I become. Seeing two of everything. I need to get home to lay down. While driving I feel myself dozing off, as the alcohol and tiredness deeply tread through my system. The voices in my brain are yelling,

*Home...*

*faster...*

*SCREAMING*

*home...*

*faster!*

I speed up.

60, faster,

70, quicker,

80.

The car makes a screeching vroom sound, as it reaches maximum speed. I feel my hands shaking on the wheel, sweat starting to fall. Losing focus on myself and the vehicle. Seeing the other cars beaming headlights, until I lost control of the car.

BANG.

**June 6th, 2024 8:30 p.m. Amy's Point of View**

The rush of adrenaline and excitement filters in me. I turn up the volume of music slightly louder, feeling more confident in my driving. Only one more mile till I arrive. In the distance I hear the rumble of a loud engine. Zooming in my direction a car is going highly over the speed limit. I keep my eyes glued open to the road. Closer, and closer the car gets, swerving in and out of my lane. Tears falling as my eyes change from blinks to a stare. I'm almost past it. Suddenly the car darts over the yellow line. I slam on my breaks. Honk the horn abruptly.

*I am okay,*

*I am okay,*

*I'm not going to be okay.*

Screams out of my mouth fill the air, until they don't...

**June 6th 2024 11:00 p.m. Short Statement-Published by The Portland Press Herald, "A 16 year old girl died after a head-on collision due to drinking and driving, in Gorham Maine."**

A few hours ago a head-on collision in the center of town occurred around 8:30 p.m. At the site of the crash, the 16 year old girl was found dead. The male aged 21 named Colin, found alive

with minor injuries. The police took him through a sobriety test, he instantly failed. He has been taken to jail, and will be sentenced later on.

The young girl's mom was willing to share her thoughts about the tragic accident that happened to her daughter.

“My sweet baby’s sixteenth birthday, all she wanted to do was visit her friends and celebrate an important day. Instead she’s gone from something easily avoidable. She’s not coming back, and I will never get to see her ever again. To those reading this statement, this is an opportunity to learn from the destruction caused by others' mistakes. Two people, one dead, and the other one being sentenced. He will forever see the lifeless body of my daughter in his mind. Understand that what is destroyed can not be fixed. Abide by the rules, and know that the consumption of alcohol while driving is illegal. Don’t drink and drive, instead arrive alive.”