Death of an Innocent

I went to a party, Mom. I remembered what you said. You told me not to drink, Mom, so I drank soda instead.

I really felt proud inside, Mom, the way you said I would. I didn't drink and drive, Mom, even though the others said I should.

I know I did the right thing, Mom. I know you are always right. Now the party is finally ending, Mom, and everyone is driving out of sight.

As I got into *my* car, Mom, I knew I'd get home in one piece, because of the way you raised me– so *responsible* and sweet.

I started to drive away, Mom, but as I pulled out into the road, the *other car* didn't see me, Mom– and hit me like a load.

As I lie here on the pavement, Mom, I hear the policeman say, "The other guy is drunk," Mom, and now *I'm* the one who will pay.

I'm lying here dying, Mom. I wish you'd get here soon. How could *this* happen to me, Mom? My life just burst like a balloon.

There is blood all around me, Mom, and most of it is mine. I hear the medic say, Mom, I'll "die in a short time".

I just wanted to tell you, Mom, I swear I didn't drink. It was the others, Mom. The *others* didn't think.

He was probably at the same party as I. The only difference is, *he* drank– and *I* will die. Why do people drink, Mom? It can ruin your whole life. I'm feeling sharp pains now. Pains just like a knife.

The guy who hit me is walking, Mom, and I don't think it's fair. I'm lying here dying and all he can do is stare.

Tell my brother not to cry, Mom. Tell Daddy to be brave. And when I go to heaven, Mom, put "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.

Someone should have told him, Mom, not to drink and drive. If only they had told him, Mom, I would still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, Mom. I'm becoming very scared.

Please don't cry for me, Mom. When I needed you, you were always there.

I have one last question, Mom, before I say good bye. *I* didn't drink and drive, so why am *I* the one to die?

several authors

SOURCES

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http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/research/drink.html

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Penalties for Drinking
www.telusplanet.net/public/willisb/drinking/penalty.html

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Think Before You DRINK

Young Drivers and ALCOHOL

- People between the ages of 16 and 24 were involved in 28 percent of alcohol-related accidents
- Even when their blood alcohol contents (BACs) are not high, young drinkers are involved in driving accidents at higher rates than older drivers with similar BACs.
- Every 30 minutes, someone in this country dies in an alcohol-related crash.
- Last year alone over one million people were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes.

Penalties

FOR DRINKING AND DRIVING
IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Australia:

The names of the drivers are sent to the local newspaper and printed under the heading "He's Drunk and in Jail".

Malaysia:

The driver is jailed and if married, his wife is jailed too.

Turkey:

Drunk drivers are taken 20 miles outside of town by police and are forced to walk back under escort.

Bulgaria:

A second conviction results in execution.

El Salvador:

Your first offense is your last---execution by firing squad.

Statistics about Drinking and driving

- **Drinking and driving contributed to 101 fatal crashes, 360 serious injury crashes and 723 minor injury crashes.**
- Drinking and driving contributed to 115 deaths, 478 serious injuries and 1272 minor injuries. 25% of all road deaths were in drinking-related crashes.
- The social cost of drinking related crashes was about $590 million (nearly a quarter of the social cost associated with all injury crashes).
- Over 80 percent of drivers with excess blood alcohol levels that were involved in fatal crashes were male.
- Drunk drivers were responsible for killing 28 of their own passengers, 21 other drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians, and 66 of these drunk drivers were killed themselves.
- The combination of alcohol and speed during the period 1998-2000 contributed to 11% of fatal crashes. Alcohol alone contributes to 14.5%, and speed alone contributes to 16.5% of fatal crashes. So alcohol and speed are factors in 42% of all fatal crashes
- 1.9 million people were breath tested by Police.

People that Died in Crashes Where A Young Driver (Ages 15-20) Was Involved? (1998)

Casualties from crashes where drunk driving was a factor

Year	Deaths caused by driving drunk	% of total road deaths	injuries caused by driving drunk	% of total road injuries
1990	318	43.6	4531	25.6
1991	269	41.4	3935	23.5
1992	273	42.3	3672	22.8
1993	227	37.8	3042	20.1
1994	225	38.8	3300	19.9
1995	200	34.4	3421	20.3
1996	148	28.8	2664	18.0
1997	147	27.3	2317	17.4
1998	142	28.3	2233	18.0
1999	122	24.0	1904	15.9
2000	115	24.9	1727	15.8