



EASTCHESTER COMMUNITIES THAT CARE

What Should I Do?

(Lisa stands in the middle of the stage, the only thing lit)

Lisa: Sometimes adults think we're oblivious, like we don't ever consider the possible outcomes of our choices when we make them. It may seem like that sometimes...but we do think about it. Or at least, I do. There's always that flash of consideration before I answer yes or no...I think back on all I've been told, and all I've seen. Doesn't mean I always make the right choice. But the consideration is there.

(Anthony comes on stage, lights come up fully. He is SLIGHTLY intoxicated.)

Anthony: Hey are you ready? It's almost 12. You have to get home soon, right?

Lisa: Yeah, it's almost my curfew. But are you sure you're good to drive?

Anthony: I'm fine. Don't I look it? I had like 2 beers, I swear that's all. Let's do this. C'mon we have to bring John home too.

Lisa: I don't know...

(Anthony freezes, Lisa turns back to audience)

Lisa: At times like these, I think about my cousin's friend. She was killed in a drunk driving accident because the guy giving her a ride home didn't even realize he was running a red light. But then I think about my uncle leaving the party last week after having a couple of glasses of wine. He said he was fine to drive too. And he got home safely.

(Anthony unfreezes)

Anthony: C'mon, the clock is ticking.

Lisa: What if we get pulled over?

Anthony: Are you kidding? We will be driving for less than a mile. That's like a 2 minute drive. It's not a big deal.

(Anthony freezes)

Lisa: So when he says that, I think "He's right. 2 min is not a big deal." Plus we'll be taking back roads in a really familiar neighborhood. How could anything



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possibly go wrong in 2 mins? (Pauses) And then I think of how long it takes to run a red light, blow a stop sign, or just nod off. 2 seconds? 3?

(Anthony unfreezes)

Anthony : Do you really want to walk home right now? It's like 25 degrees out there and not the shortest walk. There's no way you'll get home in time.

(Anthony freezes)

Lisa: So at this point in the argument, I'm thinking about curfew. It's only a few minutes away, but if I walk it, I'll be late and I don't want to get screamed at or grounded by my parents. But then, I remember that contract thing that they made me sign when I was like 14. I rolled my eyes so hard at the time...but it said something like they'd promise to pick me up from wherever I am- if I'm worried about my safety. No matter what time. If I called them, they'd probably be pumped that I actually listened to them and made a responsible choice.

(Anthony unfreezes)

Anthony: Look, I'm not gonna stand here all night trying to convince you. Are we going or what?

Lisa: You know what, I think I'm just gonna call my dad.

Anthony: To pick you up from a few streets away?

Lisa: Well...yeah. You want a ride? I'm sure my dad wouldn't mind dropping you and John off.

Anthony: (Sighs) Nah, were' good. We do this all the time.

(Friend exits)

(Lisa takes out cell phone, dials, holds up to ear)

Lisa: Dad? Yeah it's Lisa. No, no, I'm fine. (Starts to exit) Sorry to wake you, but...could you come get me?

Pause in Scene

Narrator: but our story does not end here



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EMT: (In uniform, wearing gloves, holding her medical kit)

We got the call at 12:07, a report of a motor vehicle accident on Joyce Road. Two males, approximately 17 years old. When we arrived at the scene, the passenger was unconscious and bleeding from the head, the driver was hurt, but conscious and crying out his friend's name. I remember he kept apologizing to him. Neither one of them were wearing their seat belts. We stabilized them both at the scene and sped off to Lawrence Hospital.

Nurse 1:

When the EMT's arrived at 12:18, I assessed the first patient. The passenger, John had a serious head injury. Apparently, he hit the windshield. He was moved to the trauma room. We placed two IV lines, a urinary catheter, and sent STAT labs. We also needed to place a breathing tube down his throat and hook him up to a ventilator. We rushed him for an emergency cat scan. It showed massive head trauma and internal bleeding. He coded at 12:53. We started CPR.

Nurse 2:

I took care of the driver, Anthony. He was awake, and breathing OK, but he had fractured ribs from hitting the steering wheel. A chest X-ray showed a collapsed lung, which was a result of the fractured ribs. We had to put a tube in his chest to help the lung re-inflate. His EKG shows he has some damage to his heart as well, but it's a little too soon to tell if that will be permanent or not. Anthony is very upset. He keeps asking for John. I don't want to tell him that we're coding him right now.

Doctor:

Anthony's B.A.C was .06, enough to be charged with a DWAI and certainly enough to impair his judgment and slow his reaction time. While being assessed, he admitted smoking marijuana that evening as well. The police are in the nurse's station waiting to talk to him.

In time, Anthony, will heal, but he will always bear the physical and emotional scars caused by this accident. Unfortunately, we could not do anything for John. I called the code at 1:24 am. Excuse me. Now, I have to go tell his parents. This time we know whose kid it was.

End Scene



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