

## I never imagined things would go so far

I never imagined things would go so far. Why had any of this happened? All I ever wanted was a fun night out, make friends with some new colleagues and start afresh. Mum warned me leaving home and moving away from her would end in trouble.

I am lying on a hospital bed, hurt, and confused. I feel awful, like I have been hit by a bus. *What am I doing here? What happened last night?* My eyes peer down, and I see a cast around my right leg. Just then I become conscious of the neck brace holding my head up. *I must remember last night. Why am I here? I must retrace my steps to yesterday's events.*

It was my first day at my new job and I was welcomed with kind smiles and greeted by my new colleagues. I was invited to their annual welcoming party at the local bar in town. Later that day I went home and started to get ready for a fun night out, excited to make friends.

At the bar I spotted some of my colleagues in a group. They waved at me and called, "Emma, over here." I felt so welcomed. It was lively as we drank, sang and played games. I remember it all so clearly now. That was the best night I had had out in a long time. I had decided to cut my night short and head back home, so I was prepared for work the next day. I do not remember making it home. Something must have happened between the bar and my journey home through town. A screeching sound suddenly comes from outside my hospital window, and then a car outside starts beeping loudly. Something about that sound triggers me. I feel panicked and cannot breathe. Suddenly I remember, the night that was supposed to be the best night ever was in fact the worst night of my life.

I can feel an immense pain like an electric shock down my body. The crashing and screeching sounds running through my ears as I relive that horrible incident and my back is in agony. *Was I involved in a car accident?* Just then a nurse enters my room and greets me with a warm but concerned smile. "Oh, you're awake dear," she says calmly. I tried to find my voice for a moment, and I tried to speak, "I- there was a car?"

"Yes, you were in quite a serious accident. You broke a couple of bones, including your ribs," placing down a plate of food on the table, she continued, "not to worry, we're here to help. You'll be back to normal in no time."

I try to process the night before. Looking around the room I notice a "Get Well Soon" balloon. It was bright pink with large silver words sparkling. Suddenly, I felt a nerve in my body, *I had seen that balloon before?*

Then the visions were even more vivid. It was dark and the rain was hitting the pavement violently. I turned to cross the road, then these lights appeared from nowhere. I could not move out of fear as they were coming closer at speed.

I can't picture the driver but remember a pink balloon in the passenger seat, the same balloon that is at the end of my bed.

"Who sent that?" I asked, with a sickening feeling of realization.

"A lady came in to give it to you and said that it would all be alright now, I warned her that things would go wrong if she moved away, but all will return to normal and that you would go back to living with her. I think the other nurse said she was your mother," the nurse replied.

She whipped her head around to face the door as footsteps quickly approached the door, and the door handle slowly started to turn. Her eyes widened, thinking she was caught, the door swung open. It was the seeker. She was caught.

“Nobody’s in here!” The seeker shouted.

What? She thought to herself, she was in the closet, how could he not have seen her, it would be impossible, she was right there! She felt a wave of sickness and the colour drained from her cheeks. This was when she realized she was invisible. She had wished never to be found. she fell to her knees. She heard a loud chime, and then another, and another, she had never imagined things would go this far.