

**CAR <sup>N</sup> AGE**  
**WRITTEN BY NEIL COULSON**

CHARACTER LIST	
<b>ASHLEE</b>	Daughter of KAREN & SEAN; Is having a birthday party.
<b>KAREN WILLIAMS</b>	ASHLEE's mother.
<b>SEAN WILLIAMS</b>	ASHLEE's father.
<b>DEVON</b>	Best friends with SAM; is attracted to ASHLEE.
<b>SAM</b>	Best friends with DEVON. In the local footy team.
<b>COREY</b>	Friend of DEVON and SAM; ASHLEE invites to party.
<b>DEAN</b>	Experienced Paramedic. Coach of local footy team.
<b>REBECCA</b>	Trainee Paramedic; is on her first 'placement' at DEAN's unit.
<b>JULIA</b>	Fairly new teacher, trying to motivate her students.

ENSEMBLE			
<b>News Reporter's 1 - 4</b>	Reporting on the crash	<b>OPERATOR 1 - 2</b>	Triple-0 Operators
<b>STUDENT's 1-10</b>		<b>Party Goers, Cliché Choir, Chorus</b>	

### **New Happy Birthday Song**

Song was written by: Mark D Allen

[www.thenewhappybirthdaysong.com](http://www.thenewhappybirthdaysong.com)

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**This script was originally written for, and performed by an amateur youth theatre company. The lighting cues, and stage directions are merely suggestions, and each location will be different, for schools etc. that do not have access to theatrical equipment, these can easily be disregarded or simplified. For example; instead of a blackout, the cast can leave the stage.**

**The required props are minimal, and can easily be purchased or interchanged with another ubiquitous object.**

**The wheelchair, while providing a powerful image throughout the show, can be replaced with a normal chair.**

**The garden gnome can be replaced with some flowers, garden ornaments, etc.**

**PROLOGUE**

*A WHEELCHAIR is sitting at the back of the stage. None of the cast reference it, or notice it throughout a majority of the play, unless specifically noted in the script. It should cause some mystery over what will happen during the play.*

**AFX – LIGHTS UP**

*Open to birthday celebrations, teenagers  
People mingling*

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

*Cast move to 'crash tableau' or 'frozen image' – some fallen, others in groups huddling, consoling, some first respondents*

**AFX - Red flashing light, siren, washes the stage****AFX - BLACKOUT**

*4 News reporters take positions DS*

**NEWS REPORTER 1:** ... as crews continue to clear the carnage behind me, the tragic loss of life this morning brings the road toll up to 175, 17 more than this time last year...

**NEWS REPORTER 2:** ... it is still uncertain if drugs or alcohol were a contributing factor, what is certain, is this accident has shaken the local residents on what was to be a celebratory occasion...

**NEWS REPORTER 3:** ...with one of the bodies still to be identified -

**NEWS REPORTER 4:** ... though no physical marks may appear, the number of those affected by today's tragedy, will never truly be known.

**AFX - BLACKOUT****PARTY PREPERATION****AFX - Fade up**

*ASHLEE entering with ASHLEE's mother, KAREN in toe. They are setting up for ASHLEE's party.*

**ASHLEE:** No Mum, just no. I don't want them.

**KAREN:** What are you talking about dear?

**ASHLEE:** I don't want speeches. Please can we not...

**KAREN:** Your father and I won't embarrass you.

**ASHLEE:** Yes you will! You won't intentionally, and I don't want to sound like a precious teenager –

**KAREN:** - Yes why start now -

**ASHLEE:** - BUT as endearing as you think the story is about me when I was 8, it is not! It makes me sound pathetic!! And I know you are going to tell it; you do every chance you get.

**KAREN:** It's adorable! You were so –

**ASHLEE:** Just NO.

**KAREN:** Ok I'll talk to your father, but I can't promise anything.

**ASHLEE:** Try please...

**KAREN:** Now you haven't invited anyone you don't know have you? I don't want this becoming another one of those "FaceSpace Parties"

*ASHLEE looks befuddled at KAREN*

**ASHLEE:** No Mum, I haven't invited anyone I don't know.

**KAREN:** And if you want you can have a glass of bubbles when we are cutting the cake

**ASHLEE:** (*sarcastic*) Thanks

**KAREN:** But if your father sees you or any of your friends drinking anything else you know what he'll do, you know what he thinks about that.

**ASHLEE:** Yes Mum, but you really don't have to worry; my friends and I aren't like that. It'll probably just end up being me and a few friends; we'll probably watch some movies or something. Nothing to worry about.

**LFX - BLACKOUT**

### TWO MATES

**LFX - FADE UP on DEVON and SAM**

*DEVON and SAM are at school, hanging out. SAM playing with football (or other sports ball that can be the sport that DEAN and SAM are involved in)*

**DEVON:** Hey mate.

**SAM:** Hey, so are you going to Ashlee's thing?

**DEVON:** Yeah I should be

**SAM:** Apparently Corey's gonna sneak some drinks in.

**DEVON:** Yeah (*pause*) nah I should be, I just gotta grab a lift off someone

**SAM:** That's fine you can grab a lift with me

**DEVON:** You sure? Your parents won't mind picking me up?

**SAM:** Nah, Dad's on night shift. I have the car tomorrow night; I'm so responsible!

**DEVON:** Oh cool, thanks.

**SAM:** Besides I am already taking Tess, you two can share the back seat!

**DEVON:** Ha-ha Jealous much?

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

**TRIPLE-0 CALL (PRE-RECORDED)**

**– If cannot be pre-recorded will work with the lines being said off-stage**

**AFX – IN BLACKOUT**

**SFX Three numbers dialled.**

**OPERATOR:** Fire, Police or Ambulance?

**DEVON:** Um, ah, Ambulance.

**OPERATOR:** Connecting you now

**OPERATOR 2:** Ambulance.

**OPERATOR:** Reference 8054

**OPERATOR 2:** Thank you. Can you tell me where you are?

**DEVON:** There's been a... God... Um there's been a crash.

**OPERATOR 2:** Are you injured?

**DEVON:** No, no I'm ok, but... I can't see her...

**OPERATOR 2:** You can't see who? Can you tell me where you are?

**DEVON:** Um she's not here, I can't see her. I can't see her... (Breathing heavily)

**OPERATOR 2:** I have your position; can you confirm you are near a Station Street and Smith Street?

**DEVON:** It um, it's... yes I am.

**OPERATOR 2:** An ambulance is on its way. Can you see anyone else in the car?

**DEVON:** No, I...

**OPERATOR 2:** that's ok, that's ok. Are you injured? An ambulance is on the way, it will be there in five minutes. Can you tell me what happened? Was there another car involved in the accident?...

**SFX - FADE OUT**

**CLASSROOM (ONE)**

*STUDENTS enter rowdy*

**STUDENT 1:** I had like 8 minutes to get to work, from home, and I made it.

**STUDENT 2:** Nicely done.

**JULIA:** Alright now, Come on.

*STUDENT 3 enters. Pause*  
Where have you been?

**STUDENT 3:** Music lesson.

**JULIA:** Alright sit down, there are seats up here.  
Most of you either have your learner's or your licence, so most of this should already be known information, but the school feels that it never hurts to go over. Driver Ed -

*CLASS groans. JULIA stops and stares at the class*

How is that helpful? Now the school has set aside 4 hours over the next 4 weeks to making you "driver safe".

How many of you have your licence or Learners? *(A majority raise their hands)*

How many of you think L and P platers are unfairly victimised by Police? How many think too much emphasis is put on young drivers *(nearly all raise their hands)*

Why do you think that is?

**(THE ANSWERS BELOW ARE JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE SAID. MEMBERS OF THE CAST ARE INVITED TO RESPOND TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS WITH THEIR OWN ANSWERS.)**

**STUDENT 4: Because they think we are stupid?**

**STUDENT 5: We are easy targets?**

**STUDENT 7: It's all just revenue-raising for the government anyway...**

**STUDENT 8: They think that we can't look after ourselves?**

**JULIA:** No. That's not it. How many of you have read this? *(Holds up a Learn to Drive Manual)*

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

**FIRST RESPONSE PRE-CALLOUT*****AFX -FADE UP on REBECCA and DEAN***

DEAN has been showing prospective paramedic student REBECCA around the building he operates out of.

**DEAN:** So that's the place, did you have any questions?

**REBECCA:** Umm, I think I'm right; there's just so much I have to remember.

**DEAN:** Well don't worry; you have a few years of training to get through first.

**REBECCA:** How busy does this station get?

**DEAN:** It's pretty constant. Mostly with older patients collapsing in their homes, but occasionally there's a farming incident or something like that.

**REBECCA:** Oh ok, probably best for the first ride along. Thank you again for arranging this.

**DEAN:** Not a problem, (*humourously*) we don't get many passengers here that don't require medical attention, it's refreshing.

**REBECCA:** Ha-ha I bet that sense of humour helps with this job?

**DEAN:** Too right. I still remember the first day at St Johns. "You have 6 weeks to develop a sense of humour". Best advice. And it's true Rebecca. There are some things that you see in this job that are NOTHING like TV. Nothing like it. If you don't have a sense of humour, then it will haunt you.

**REBECCA:** I've been practising my 'knock knock' jokes.

**DEAN:** Sarcasm. Nice. You get to ride in the gurney now.

**REBECCA:** Damn it. Ok seriously have you ever used the siren for –

***SFX -Pager alarms***

**DEAN:** (*Looks at pager*) we gotta go. Grab that bag.

**REBECCA:** What's happened?

**DEAN:** Car crash.

***AFX - BLACKOUT*****BIRTHDAY SEQUENCE**

*Party goers fill up back of stage, dimly lit.*

*DEVON and SAM enter, walking along to get to the party.*

**DEVON:** Damn it, we forgot her present...

**SAM:** Um what girl doesn't love a...

*Rummages off stage; produces a GARDEN GNOME, hands it to DEVON*

**DEVON:** (sarcastically) Wow, fantastic....

**SAM:** Oh you spoil her

**DEVON:** I know; I'm just trying to buy her love that's all.

*ASHLEE greets SAM and DEVON*

**SAM & DEVON:** Happy Birthday (*forces gnome onto ASHLEE*)

**ASHLEE:** Oh thank you, I love it, it looks like.... It's the...

*(Awkward look; finds Spare key)*

**ASHLEE:** oh it is the gnome from next door. .. You guys you shouldn't have...

**DEVON:** I know... well you do deserve the best.

*DEVON goes for a hug, ASHLEE obviously turns and exits, DEVON is left pawing at air.*

**SAM:** SWING AND A MISS!

*DEVON & SAM move further into the house*

**DEVON:** Hi Mrs Williams, need any help?

**KAREN:** No thank you Devon, I think they are all out the back

**DEVON:** Thanks Mrs Williams

**SAM:** (*Sarcastically*) "Thanks Mrs Williams"

**SFX – Party Music in background**

*SAM & DEVON exit, and re-enter to -*

*Typical party set up. Guys & Girls on opposite sides of the stage. Lots of awkward silence. Failed attempts to interact. Guys can be sneaking drinks that COREY has brought, trying to impress girls etc. Girls gossip, bitch laugh at guys etc.*

**COREY:** Man this party sucks, C'mon let's get out of here, my cousins 21<sup>st</sup> is just down the road, who wants a lift?

*(Goes for exit, SAM starts to follow)*

**SAM:** Did you want to go?

**DEVON:** Yeah, um, (*looks over at ASHLEE*) I dunno I might stay

**SAM:** Suit yourself.

**DEVON:** Wait you're my lift home, come on stay for a bit longer. Hasn't he been drinking anyway?

**COREY:** Sam, you in or you out? Emma, Travis and Michael are coming, one seat left.

**DEVON:** Sam, mate, stay.

**COREY:** Right well I'm out.

*(Corey and 3 others leave)*

**KAREN:** Oh Devon, any chance you could run to the store, we're out of food, and your 'friend's car' is blocking the way. (*Looking sarcastically sweet at SAM*)

**DEVON:** Not a problem –

**KAREN:** Ashlee, will you go with Devon to get some more food, and some ice please.

**ASHLEE:** I have to get my own food for my own party, awesome...

**KAREN:** I could tell these fine boys about an 8 year old Ashlee and how she spent her -

**ASHLEE:** - No, it's FINE, I'll go.

**KAREN:** Thank you dear and we'll cut the cake when you get back.

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY / CRASH**

*Two chairs and wheelchair placed on one side of stage.*

*ASHLEE, DEVON and SAM sit in chairs/wheelchair*

*All party goes on other side of stage. Singing "New Happy Birthday" Song*

**ALL:** Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday my friend,  
We all wish you -

**AFX - Lights up on ASHLEE, DEVON and SAM are on other side of stage. In Car.**

**ASHLEE:** Do we have the ice?

**SAM:** Yeah

**ASHLEE:** Thank you guys for coming tonight

**SAM & DEVON:** Nawwww

**ASHLEE:** Shut Up

**SAM:** Oh they grow up so fast don't they?

**DEVON:** Oh they do, dear

**ASHLEE:** And Shut up

**DEVON:** Naaawwww (leans forward and ruffles ASHLEE's hair)

**ASHLEE:** Hey

*(Turns and retaliates, flirtatious)*

**SAM:** Ok settle down, hey guys stop it

**ASHLEE:** Aww somebody is jealous!!

*Playful scuffle*

**LFX - Lights fade up FAST**

*ASHLEE snaps look forward*

**ASHLEE:** DEVON NOO!

**ALL:** Happy Birthday Ashlee  
My Friend...

**LFX - BLACKOUT**

*Chairs off, Wheelchair returned to back of stage.*

**ASHLEE: FOOTPRINTS**

**LFX – SOFT FADE UP ON ASHLEE**

**ASHLEE:** End of year 12 exams.

*Friends Gather Around*

**ALL:** SHOT SHOT SHOT!

**ASHLEE:** Schoolies!

*Friends fade away*

University. Flirting with a boy at a party. *(Boy appears)* Graduation. Holidaying in southern India. The cute boy from the university party proposes. I'm engaged. Take up a position at the small local school, where every Student and every parent knows my name. A sweet and simple garden wedding. Pregnancy. Cravings. My first born; Emma. Aging with that cute boy, who is now a grumpy old man. Grandkids. Reflecting on the foot print that my life has made on my little world.

But now all I can see are two bright white lights.  
*(As the monologue ends, suggest quickly fading up a light either side of Ashlee to symbolise the car lights approaches her.)*

**AFX QUICK FADE UP OF LIGHTS. BLACK OUT**

**CLASSROOM (TWO)**

**JULIA:** Ok we are going to try a couple of activities to get you out of your seats. There are 10 in this class. Can you all please stand up?

*Class stands (throughout the scene class looks around and become affected by the stats)*

I need a volunteer. (STUDENT 1 steps forward) You represent all drivers between the ages of 16-25.

**STUDENT 1:** Cool, Ok.

*STUDENTS laugh*

**JULIA:** *(cont.)*

Now the rest of you represent the 2000+ road fatalities on Victorian roads in the last 5 years.

*STUDENTS settle down and sombre*

Three of you make a group please.

*Three STUDENTS move away*

You three represent all who died on the roads from ages of 16-25.

While you represent only around 10% of drivers, the 16-25 year olds make up nearly 25% of all casualties...

*Pause*

Ok, now you all represent the 500 fatalities in the 16-25 age bracket. What do you think were the most contributing factors? How? Where?

**STUDENT 1:** Alcohol? Busy Streets?

**STUDENT 2:** Talking on the phone? Freeways?

**STUDENT 3:** Inexperience? Unfamiliar roads

**STUDENT 4:** Traffic?

**JULIA:** 50% of crashes involving 16-25 year olds occurred when there was no one else on the road. Single Car Accidents. Alcohol, phones, speed, distracting passengers and fatigue can, and usually are the contributing factors.

I've arranged for a guest speaker to come along next week. He has firsthand experience of the aftermath of a car crash.

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

**FIRST RESPONSE POST CALLOUT**

**AFX - FADE UP ON REBECCA enters distracted and withdrawn. Silent, shaken.**

*DEAN enters sits down. Silence.*

**REBECCA:** That wasn't... *(Pause)* That... *(Pause)* I don't know if I can do this...

**DEAN:** Rebecca, I haven't seen anything like that in 5 years here. What you saw tonight, I'd like to tell you that it goes away. In Uni they show you videos of accidents like that, but being there, seeing a body first hand, Rebecca, it's not going to go away.

**REBECCA:** They was just... she looked the same age as me. How can I...

**DEAN:** You didn't know her. She is not someone that you know. You have to remember that. One thing that they aren't going to teach you is;  
*(Pause)*

The family and friends of a victim won't be returning to work or school that day or that week, or for the next month. But for you, it's just the start of a shift.

**REBECCA:** I don't think I'll be able to detach myself like that. That... How I feel right now, how can you work with this?

**DEAN:** Over time, with help from peer support, from talking about it with other paramedics, with people who know exactly what you have witnessed, you learn how to cope. And that's really all we do. We cope. 18 years ago, my first fatality was an impatient hoon, who tried to speed past a semi-trailer on a dark night. And failed. I thought I was done, I, its surreal, it's nothing like on TV. They would never be able to air what it's really like. But a few months later, I started to help with coaching my son's football team. It forced me to focus on something else, it helped me to cope. Spending time with him and his mates. Having fun, that is how we cope.

**REBECCA:** *(Reflecting on what she has heard. Slowly start to come to terms with what he has said. She is more trying to convince herself that she will be ok, than actually believing that she is. )*

*OK. (Pause) OK. (Pause) She is gone. (Pause) They. Are. Gone.*

**SFX -Pager beeps again**

**DEAN:** *(Looking at pager)* I'm sorry, but we have to go. One thing about this job, it doesn't give you time to over think a callout. Come on get in. Paramedic.

**AFX - BLACKOUT**

**PUBLIC OPINIONS / RUMOURS**

*Groups of CHORUS wander the stage, circling the WHEELCHAIR, referencing it occasionally. Slowly they start to huddle in one group on one side of the stage.*

**CHORUS 1:** ...Apparently they were racing with another car that had cut them off...

**CHORUS 2:** ...I heard she was drunk and they were returning to the party with more drinks...

**CHORUS 3:** ....I can't imagine how he must feel, knowing you are responsible for that...

**CHORUS 4:** ...How could the parents allow him to drive?

**CHORUS 5:** ...I drove past the crash this morning; they were still clearing and cleaning up the wreck..

**CHORUS 6:** ...The poor parents, it's just horrible...

**CHORUS 7:** ...I've always said that's a dangerous road, about time the Council did something about it! Maybe NOW they will...

**CHORUS 1:** ...So young; what a waste!

**CHORUS 2:** ...The government should ban those cars, a P plater with that much power at the wheel? It's ridiculous...

**CHORUS 3:** ...She used to come in every Monday, I knew her well...

**CHORUS 4:** ...The whole school is in shock, we have called in a few psychologists for the students and staff...

**CHORUS 5:** ...What were they all doing in the car? The laws are there to prevent accidents like this from happening!

**CHORUS 6:** ...They don't think he will ever walk again...

**CHORUS 7:** ..They must have been so scared...

*The CHORUS stay in the group they have formed as:*

**PARENT'S WORST PHONECALL**

*KAREN enters and stands on the other side of the stage, addressing the group, starting the monologue as a eulogy.*

**KAREN:** Ashlee wouldn't have wanted there to be any speeches, however, as I am the mother, I feel I am allowed to say a few words at least.

I would just like to thank you all for coming I know she cared for you all.

Ashlee has always been quite an independent girl. I remember when she was little, on her first day of school, I expected her to cling to the car or my leg, but she didn't, she just smiled

and waved, "See you after school, Mum".

As she got older, she became more independent. When Ashlee was 8, she made a habit of "running away from home". Every weekend, if she didn't get her way, or didn't get something she wanted, she would "run away", climb up the tree out the front, and stay there, sulking, until she got hungry, at which time she would return home for dinner.. What Ashlee never knew, is that after the first time she did this, I had her father climb up the tree to clear a safe area for her to sit; except he fell out of the tree half way up. We still have no idea how you got up there!

And we were so proud of her when she got to –

**SFX - Phone rings**

*CHORUS separate again, and return to their 'party positions'.*

*SEAN enters*

**SEAN:** Karen, has Ashlee returned yet? I think we should get the cake and speeches out of the way...

*KAREN intensely focuses on the phone. It is her daughter, ASHLEE, KAREN answers the phone.*

Ashlee... I thought you were back... Ashlee what's... Sweetie...Ashlee...You're going to be ok my darling... We are on our way...

*(shouting)* SEAN! SEAN!

*(Into phone)* Have you called an ambu...

*(To SEAN)* Sean, its Ashlee... get the car...

*(Into phone)* I...I love you too darling.... Ashl...Ashlee...

*KAREN wilts, SEAN catches her. The two stand, silent for a moment. SEAN grabs phone.*

**SEAN:** Ashlee! Ashlee! *(unconvincingly but caringly)* Karen she'll be ok, it will be alright. I'm here, we are going to be... *(into phone)* Ashlee...

**LFX - BLACKOUT**

**DEVON: APPLE CRUMBLE**

**LFX – INTENSE SPOT**

*DEVON as he wheels around stage*

**DEVON:** It's the little things. The little things that are the hardest. It's not the marathons or Kokoda Trails that, this prevents, that upset me. I see in people's eyes, the pity. Poor Devon, he'll never get to be exhilarated by falling through clouds, or exploring the watery depths beneath the horizon, obtain the goals of personal endurance.

And yes that sucks, but if I wasn't like this, I probably still wouldn't want to go hiking.

Honestly who actually enjoys hiking? If nature is so great, why have we been spending the last twenty-five hundred years inventing things to stay INDOORS!

No it's the simple things this – what I have become – affects everything. Nothing I do or did hasn't been affected. I hate being this. It is impossible for you to understand so stop with your silent judging pity - I don't want it.

I used to make the best apple and berry crumble. The best. The secret is oats and cinnamon. I always kept a stash of cinnamon in the pantry. Emergency crumble supply. The problem now is; it's up there, on the top shelf. I can't be who I wanted to be. It's not the pain that keeps me up at night; it's not the pity that I detest. It's my future. I can't be who I was supposed to be. I can't play with my unborn children in the backyard; walk my unborn daughter down the aisle of her wedding. I can't be the father I wanted to be. And there is nothing that I can do about that. Before this, there was nothing I thought that was impossible. I wasn't reckless, I didn't tempt fate, but it was the youthful immortality of Icarus that fuelled me. And so now, I am this.

*SAM enters*

### TWO MATES (PART 2)

**DEVON:** Hey mate, you heard?

**SAM:** Yeah.

**DEVON:** Yeah. You gonna go? The funeral's on Tuesday I think.

**SAM:** ...I should be.

**DEVON:** How's your Dad?

**SAM:** He's OK, Mum's shook up, but... The whole team is struggling though.

*Silence*

**SAM:** About the other night -

**DEVON:** Look I don't care

**SAM:** No, about the other night.

**DEVON:** I said I don't CARE!

**SAM:** You're blaming me?! Really? You think this is MY fault? You think she, and... you think it's my fault?

**DEVON:** Yeah I do, alright. I do.

**SAM:** I wasn't even... it was an accident

**DEVON:** You think that matters? – she would be here...

**SAM:** If what? I wasn't there? You don't think I wish it was different? You don't think that I wish I could change what happened?

**DEVON:** I would give anything to have her back.

**SAM:** It had NOTHING to do with me. *(Pause)* I'm sorry!

**DEVON:** What and that is supposed to help?

**SAM:** Yes.

*Silence*

**SAM:** Now come on, I'll take you to the Church.

*Directing to the wheelchair*

This'll fit in the car.

*DEVON still staring at SAM, SAM starts to push DEVON around stage as CHORUS slowly enters*

**DEVON:** Aah... The Cliché Choir come to sing me another song

#### CLICHÉ CHOIR

*As DEVON and SAM pass a cast member they recite a cliché from the list below. After the first few everyone start to follow/crowd in on DEVON and SAM as an almost vigil around him, chanting the clichés*

I'm Sorry...

Life stinks

Jeez man, I don't know what to say

Life sucks

You're as tough as nails

Better to feel pain then feel nothing at all

Strong as a bull

Hang in there

In every life a little rain must fall

Life is unfair

Life goes on

Pain is nature's way of telling you that you are still alive

Life is hard

If nothing else....

Life is life

Nothing is impossible

Bet this has changed your life; change can be good

What doesn't kill us makes us stronger

*During the mayhem, ASHLEE enters and escorts SAM off stage. DEAN replaces SAM and continues to push DEVON around.*

*Crowd disperses.*

**DEVON:** How can they think they are helping? If they really wanted to help, they would just leave us alone! *(Pause)* I miss her... Sam...

*Pause*

**DEAN:** Sam? Devon, where do you think we are?

*DEVON looks around and sees he cannot see SAM anymore. DEAN leaves.*

**DEVON:** Sam? Sam?

*Fade up on the 'ghosts' SAM and ASHLEE on side of stage.*

*DEVON looks around and sees he is all alone, stranded in the middle of the stage*

**AFX – BLACKOUT**

**FIRST RESPONSE: WHEN IT'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW****LFX -FADE UP**

*DEAN silently sitting REBECCA walks in*

**REBECCA:** (not noticing DEAN) Dean, I have to tell you, I didn't think I would be coming back today. After last night... but like you said, it's just the start of -

*(She notices DEAN)*

What's wrong Dean?

*DEAN stares in reply, stone silent*

**REBECCA:** Dean, what is it?

**DEAN:** The crash from the last night, the 3 teens in the car. The unidentified male with the excessive trauma...

*Pause*

SAM; One of kids I've trained since the Under 10's.... I was RIGHT THERE, and I didn't ...

*Silence*

*REBECCA doesn't know what to say.*

**SFX - DEAN's pager goes off,**

*DEAN stares at it. He starts to get ready to respond to the call*

**REBECCA:** No Dean, what are you doing? Go home. Shouldn't you tell someone? You shouldn't be here.

**DEAN:** No. It's just the start of the shift...

**LFX - BLACKOUT****CLASSROOM (THREE)**

**DEVON:** ...and it's a night that still haunts me to this day. That's how I ended up like this. Yeah it has affected me, and there isn't a day I don't regret the mistakes made that day, but there isn't anything I can or could have done. I guess that's the biggest hurdle I faced, was dealing with the idea that the anger, the depression, it's not going to help me, it's not what caused the accident, and I was wasting time by trying to "get even" with the world.

**JULIA:** Now, any last questions? Can we please all thank Mr Wood for coming in today to talk to us?

*STUDENTS give a miserable clap*

**JULIA:** Ok thank you Devon, and that's lunch.

*JULIA, DEVON & STUDENTS leave. STUDENT 1 & 2 remain.*

**STUDENT 1:** Uugh so bored!

**STUDENT 2:** Yeah, you want a lift to Kate's tonight?

**LFX - BLACKOUT**

**SFX – TYRES SCREECHING**

**End**

Possible temple for advertising (if any)

