

## In The Blink of an Eye

*By Jessica Porter*

I struggled to open my eyes, though I was afraid to find out what was on the other side of the darkness. I could hear a low constant beeping sound. I wanted to reach over and turn it off; make it stop, but all I could feel were tubes and cords. I located a button, and pressed it hard, hoping that would stop the awful beeping. Of course it didn't, it just made a new beeping sound; an awful high pitched one. In a matter of seconds, a nurse rushed in. A light went on, and she was quickly at my side. She kept talking to me, in a rushed manner, but all I could see was her lips moving. I tried to make out what they were saying, but I didn't understand. Everything was silent. All of a sudden, my sister came into the room where my mom already sat. At that moment it came back to me, as if the last puzzle piece had just been clicked into place. I couldn't remember everything, but I could remember some of it, which was more than enough.

It was early on a Friday evening, and my sister Chrissy, her boyfriend Corey and I decided to go out. We stopped at one of the local restaurants named Chico's, to grab a bite to eat and decide what kind of adventure we were going to go on. Soon enough, we all agreed that skating would be fun, since they had the new glow in the dark skating at the newly built rink downtown. When we got in my sister's car, I called my friend Brooke to see if she would like to come along. She was staying at her grandparents' house that weekend and would do anything to get out of the house for

a few hours. Her grandparents lived down in North Nanaimo, on the high side along the ocean front. Their driveway was slanted and very steep, with one side being a slight cliff. As Chrissy was backing down it, she turned too soon and we almost went off the end of the cliff. Good thing we were almost at the bottom so it was only merely a two foot drop or it would have been a bit scarier of an event. We all laughed the shakes off and continued down the road to head to the skating rink. All of a sudden, a deer jumped out into the middle of the road and my sister, who is terrified of deer, screeched to a stop. Tears streamed down her face as she tried to catch her breath. After a couple minutes, she regained her strength to carry on down the road, slowly, on the look out for more deer. We all found it funny that we almost got into two accidents in the last five minutes, because you never think that it would happen to you – until it does.

The clock on the dashboard stated that it was around eight pm as we drove by Chico's along Bowed Rd. This time, as we rounded the bend in front of the gas station, the outcome was a much different. People say that accidents happen so fast you can't see it coming – and it's true. The last thing I remember is driving along the road, singing and laughing, then all of a sudden a dead silence as we watched the nightmare unfold. A lady under the influence of alcohol and drugs, going way over the speed limit, came over the center lane and headed straight for us. My sister reacted very fast, and swerved

so it wouldn't be a head on collision. Instead, the other vehicle smashed directly in between the driver and the back passenger – the driver being my sister and the back passenger being me. The impact made our car spin around and abruptly stop by hitting a light post. The abrupt stop made my head go crashing through the little back passenger window, leaving me with a bad concussion. The only thing I actually remember from the accident is sitting in the ambulance, strapped to a stretcher with a neck brace on, and looking up and seeing my sister's face completely covered in blood. She sat so still and brave, and here I was, screaming her name and crying for her. She held my hand and told me everything was going to be okay, but I couldn't believe her, seeing her the way she was.

Apparently the neighborhood houses that saw or heard the accident came rushing to our side. They brought blankets, water and their comfort in hopes of keeping us calm until the ambulance and police arrived. The vehicle who hit us tried driving away, but with all four tires off, the rims allowed her only a short getaway. The police found her just a little ways up the road, with a two year old child in the front seat. Luckily, she had enough common sense to strap the poor child up in his car seat and he was okay. At the hospital, child services

arrived and took the boy away so he could have a fresh start at a better life.

Meanwhile, I woke up at the hospital not knowing anything that was going on. The nurse told me I had been in an accident, and my family was here to see me. My mom had been sitting beside me holding my hand the whole time. I was completely unaware of anything around me, and I just kept asking where I was and why. Naturally, my mom kept asking the nurse if this was normal. She told my mom that yes, it is and that they gave me a cat scan and everything showed to be completely normal. I vaguely remember anything from that night. The only memory I have of the whole accident is the horrific scene of seeing my sister's face covered in blood in the ambulance. Still to this day, I don't even remember having done my exams, which took place about a week and a half prior. I'm just very grateful that we were all lucky enough to walk away from the accident with only the memory to haunt us.

Next time you think this kind of thing could never happen to you – think again. I never dreamed that this would happen to me in a million years, but in the blink of eye, everything can change. The world is full of wonders.