

## Always Bring Your phone

It felt like there was a thousand children running around in this tiny, cooped up house. I was sitting on the hardest couch I've ever felt, it was so stiff I felt like I was about to slide off. This was when I wished I remembered my phone. I wanted to hit myself I was so mad I left it at my aunt's house. And it was not like I could go back to grab it, I was in the middle of Pittsburg, I had no idea where anything was around here! It was so loud I couldn't hear myself think, every other minute it would get quiet and then a burst of laughter would come screeching from my aunt and all of her sisters in law. I didn't really know anyone there, only my aunt and two cousins, Becca & Sam. I didn't even know who's house I was in, I went down to visit my family but we ended up visiting their family too. I sat in the living room alone & bored. All I could think about is how this entire house smelled like cigarettes and dust. My nose was burning just from breathing. And the way they had everything set up in the living room was so awkward. The matching love seat to that grey rock of a couch I was sitting on was squeezed into the corner of the living room, facing on an angle. Which was insane because the tv was facing straight, looking directly at the couch I was on. To the left of the love seat was an enormous clock that clicked so loud it was hard not to pay attention to it. It also made it hard to not watch every second while I was waiting to leave.

My aunt finally made her way to the living room after a half hour pasted. "Can we go soon? I don't feel too good", I lied. My aunt sighed, "Yes, give me a couple minutes to get the girls ready & we'll head back home." I couldn't wait, It felt like we have been there for years. Once we got in the car I felt less awkward. I never knew how many

bridges Pittsburg actually had until the day before when I went down there. We had to drive over two rustic bridges to get home, no wonder it takes forever to get anywhere around there.

As soon as we pulled up to my aunts bright blue house, I darted for the bathroom. There was only one bathroom, and you had to go through Becca's room to get to it. As I ran through her room I saw my phone sitting on her bed. My best friend, Nicole, was calling me but I ignored it. I planned on calling her back when I was done. The bathroom was really the only unfinished part of the house. It had a yellow old, torn wallpaper with a horrid design that lets you know it was extremely old. The two oak cabinets under the sink was so busted you couldn't close them at the same time. And the mirror on top fell off a little so the whole right side sagged. While I washed my hands I heard my phone go off again, which was weird because Nicole never calls twice before I have a chance to call her back. I figured it was my mom calling to ask how the trip down to my aunts was going so far. By the time I left the bathroom and walked to Becca's bed, whoever called had hung up.

As soon as I pick up my phone my heart dropped. Fifty seven missed texts & sixteen missed calls all from Nicole. Before I call her back I tried reading her texts but they were all just telling me to answer. So I called her back. My phone only rang for half a second before Nicole picked up. She was hysterically crying, screaming so many things I couldn't understand what she was trying to say. "Nicole! You have to calm down, I can't understand you", I kept repeating in hopes it would work. After a few minutes she calmed down and uttered "Andrew killed himself", the three words that changed my life

forever. I didn't even reply. I fell to the ground, hitting my back against Becca's squishy bed with my knees sticking up in front of me. After a second of registering what I had just heard, I grabbed my phone and hurried Nicole off so I could have some time to myself. Throwing my head between my knees, I sat there in silence. I kept trying to register this horrible information but I couldn't, I was in complete denial. It felt like years have past before I tried to even move and when I attempted my entire body felt limp, almost like everything just went numb. Becca came in and saw me sitting on the ground. She quickly shut her door and sat next to me. I laid my head on her shoulder and balled my eyes out. I was hundreds of miles away and felt completely helpless.