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It Can Wait

Thick clouds roll overhead, and lightning colors the dark sky. Clear rain droplets pour down making it hard to see. Cars of every color speed by in a blur. Everything is still and gray as the child in the back sleeps peacefully. She looks to the glowing screen beside her and smiles. 5 seconds. She never saw it coming when the window is smashed to smithereens. Glass is sprayed everywhere leaving a bloody, screaming mess in the backseat.

Time itself seems to stop. Flashing lights pass by, but the only thing she hears is her own heart beat slowly fading. The pain is unbearable. She cries for the child who will never open his eyes again. For the storm that made it hard to see. And for the 5 seconds of ignorance that caused a lifetime of pain. She knew the risk, and she's seen the signs. Friends tell her all the time to never text and drive, but she disregards the message. Never in a million years would she have thought her life would be a living example to never text and drive. Blurry images appear overhead to lift her onto a stretcher, but it is too late. She feels herself slipping into a cold darkness, and she gladly welcomes it.

But what if it happened like this: The rain creates a steady drum on the windshield and the music is loud. The child in the back happily sings along to everything that plays. The phone

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on the dashboard glows brightly indicating a text message. “Mommy, you got a text message!” the child sings. She looks in the rearview mirror and smiles. “It can wait.”

According to the National Safety Council, 1.6 million crashes occur every year due to texting and driving. It is said to be more dangerous than being under the influence behind the wheel. If you are distracted, then who is driving? She refuses to be an example to those who are too selfish to put down their phone for what could possibly save a life. Her life - more importantly her child’s life- is too important. She can’t stand the thought of him never going to middle school. Never going to prom. Graduating. Growing old and having a family of his own. The phone glows brighter as if to convince her to change her mind. Ignoring this temptation, her choice is made. No text is worth a life, and this is her pledge.

Take the pledge to never drive distracted at ItCanWait.com.