



From Royalty to Minor in Possession

By Seanah Kauten

Mason was a nice young man, well mannered. He was the leader in 4-H, a great wrestler, and participated in football and track. He was part of the homecoming court royalty and he had a cheerleader as a girlfriend; he had it all, the life any senior boy would want. Having his whole life ahead of him, setting his goal for a four year degree and having his own true family. When he wasn't working on academics or sports, he was in youth group, worshipping God. He was a well-liked and respected young man.

You see, Mason didn't come from a stable home. He was passed back and forth from his parents and ended up with his grandparents after being kicked out of the house. Mason met a young girl his sophomore year and fell in love. Before her, he partied, smoked marijuana, drank, and chewed tobacco. But it all stopped because of her. She made him want to be a better person and for a while he was. Then Mason fell into the wrong group of kids.

Mason had a group of friends who thought that in order to have a good time everything needed to involve girls, alcohol, and drugs. They were the party scene kind of people. All Mason wanted was his friend, Drake's, approval. So he started spending less

time with his girlfriend and more time with him. She didn't really mind because she knew he was out with the boys, but she didn't know what they were doing.

That first night, Mason lost himself at the bottom of the liquor bottle. The next morning, without the memory of what happened the night before, he texted that young girl to say "I love you." That would be the last true sentiment that Mason would say.

Weeks passed on and Mason continued to party without getting caught. One night, she caught him. He sent a message to her that was meant for his friend.

"Hey man, when are you coming? We are 10 bottles of Bud ahead of you!"

That's when his relationship started to fall apart. The more Mason partied, the more his young girlfriend was getting forgotten. She wouldn't hear from him for a whole day; he wouldn't show affection to her and acted like she was a disease. She kept finding bottles full of spit up tobacco on the floorboard of his truck. He lost his girlfriend that summer of his senior year.

A week later, pictures were posted on social media of Mason, passed out on a gravel road, drunk. He was partying every night with Drake, at-

tending multiple parties in one night. These boys didn't want to just sleep anywhere, so they drove home drunk. They finished their summer drinking and not having a care in the world.

Mason started college the fall of 2015 at the local junior college with his friend Drake. He got back into one of his childhood activities, bull riding. With college comes the temptation of more alcohol and more parties. Mason was drinking every night. It got so bad that he couldn't go a day without a beer. Until the night he received a minor in possession charge. One night he was attending one of the famous parties that are held at the college. Everyone was drinking and one person saw the campus policemen. Everyone fled from the area, except Mason. He was too drunk to even function. He was handcuffed, and was able to see his friend, Drake, leave him to defend for himself.

I was the girlfriend that Mason lost because of alcohol and drugs. I learned that I don't need anyone's approval, only my own approval. Also, that I shouldn't do things that make me look "cool" to get people to like me. I choose to focus on my dream and work with determination to achieve that dream. Others can learn from this also; don't let the bad habits in life take yourself and future away from you. Not everyone is who they seem to be. Mason could've handled this a lot better, when he began to realize that his life was being ripped from him by one bottle of liquor after another. He could've gotten help to make it through it all, with the people that surround him and love him. All he had to do was ask. This is the story of my first love being taken away from me because of alcohol and drugs. 🙏

ALERT SCHOLARSHIP

Seanah Kauten is a recent high school graduate from Colorado. *Alert Magazine* congratulates her for winning the Alert Scholarship and we encourage her in the pursuit of her academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.