

Is it worth it?

By Joe Russell

Narrator (Kyle):

South Australia has the highest drink-driving rates in the nation. In 2019, 114 persons lost their lives and 902 were seriously injured. We are not here to provide a solution, but to educate. This is our story...

(At a bar with friends, having a drink)

Connor

What a nightmare of a day! I don't know how many times I have to tell her!

Ava

By tomorrow, it'll be forgotten. She'll find another employee to harass and you will slip under the radar.

Connor

Yeah, I know. Just really gets under my skin.

Zoe walks in with three drinks and hands them out, holding onto one for herself.

Zoe

Here you go, get those down you.

Connor

You are a legend, thanks.

Ava

I can't, I have to drive.

Zoe

Come on, it's only your second, you'll be fine.

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Connor

Cheers.

Connor clinks the glasses and Ava feels obliged to drink.

Bar Person comes down stage, cloth in hand drying a pint glass, talking to the audience as Connor, Ava and Zoe leave the stage in the background.

Bar Person – Kane

What will it be? Just put it on the tab?

2 standard drinks in the first hour will raise your blood alcohol concentration to 0.05%, the legal limit to drive. 1 standard drink per hour thereafter will maintain that level. But, everyone's different. Weight, gender, metabolism and food consumption can alter results. Think, is it worth it?

So, what will it be?

During the above monologue, Ava re enters the stage and sits in the driver seat of a car, acting as she fishes for her keys, unlocks the car, enters and sits down. All the motions of starting the car up and driving before the monologue finishes. Music starts and Ava sings along as she drives. Hands on the steering wheel the entire time. Sound effect is heard to the left, Ava spins on her chair to look at the sound but her hands turn the steering wheel causing the car to swerve. Ava quickly tries to course correct the car and mounts the curb. At that moment Myra walks onto stage towards the car and quickly side steps and falls backwards and lands on the ground. Ava slams on the brakes and gets out of car and runs to Myra.

Ava

Oh my god, are you okay? I'm so sorry.

Myra

What were you doing? This is the pathway.

Ava

There was this noise... I don't know what happened? I'm so sorry.

Myra

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Pedestrians walk here. You could have seriously hurt me.

Two police Officers walk on from the opposite side of the stage, Maisy and Kane.

Kane

What's happening here?

Ava

Officer, I'm not sure what happened.

Myra

She was driving at me!

Maisy

Miss, can you please join me over here.

Both Ava, Kane and Maisy walk down to centre stage as the others leave the stage in the background. Kane begins to breath test Ava as Maisy turns to the audience.

Maisy

Police have the power to conduct random breath tests at any time. Any road collision requires all drivers to be breath tested within 8 hours of the crash. You can face being fined, charged for drink driving, lose your licence on the spot and even have your car impounded. Imagine no car licence, no car! Does that affect your job? What would your family say? Is it worth it?

During the above monologue Ava has provided a breath test and gone positive. Kane walks Ava to the opposite side of the stage and sits her down in a chair. Ava looking down in her lap. Mum (Zoe) and Dad (Connor) walk in and stand either side of Ava facing the audience.

Connor

I can't believe you were so stupid Ava. You could have hurt someone really bad or even killed them.

Zoe

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You've lost your licence, your car and there's no way you'll keep your job now.

Connor

I suppose that means we'll have to drive you around, great thanks.

Zoe

Why didn't you think before you drank so much? Just two drinks! I don't believe you!

Both Mum and Dad turn and walk off stage. Ava looks up and stands.

Ava

I'm so sorry. My friends, we were frustrated with work. We had some drinks. But, I knew it! I should have stopped. Just one drink has caused all of this. How can I make it up? I lost everything. My licence, my car, my job. I've disappointed my family. I have a criminal record. I could have killed someone! I'm sorry... I'm sorry!

During the above monologue all characters appear and semi-circle around Ava. Whenever she looks at them, they shake their heads in disappointment.

Connor (Dad)

Safe driving requires the ability to concentrate, make good judgements and quickly react to situations.

Zoe (Mum)

Drink driving significantly increases your risk to have a car collision. Drinking alcohol blocks chemical signals to the brain cells, which affects many things, including slowed reflexes.

Kyle

As a learner or provisional licence holder, you are subject to zero blood alcohol concentration limit. This means drinking any alcohol will put you over the legal limit to drive.

Myra

1 in 4 drivers and riders killed on Australian roads are above the legal limit to drive.

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Maisy (Police)

Police conduct Road Breath Testing stations on a regular basis and will stop drink drivers.

Kane Walks to centre stage, still glass in hand and cloth.

Kane (Bar Person)

So, what will it be?