



Red Card Wreck

GENERAL FACTS:

Chris Greene and Alex Reyes are two high school seniors living in the suburbs outside Phoenix, Arizona. Their friendship began when they met playing middle school soccer and solidified over the years, becoming almost like family to each other. With graduation on the horizon, both had grand plans for the future: Chris had secured a full scholarship to play soccer at Arizona Tech, a major division one program. Alex also got into Arizona Tech, and although not on a scholarship, hoped to walk onto the team alongside Chris.

Their families have become quite close, and weekends often saw them at each other's homes discussing their dreams and planning for college life. On one such evening, Chris was at Alex's house. The house was quiet, and after a few hours of hanging out, the friends had an idea that seemed thrilling and rebellious — sneaking out to attend a party using Alex's parents' car.

Alex hesitated. They knew that their parents would be furious if they found out, but the allure of the party and the prospect of a spontaneous adventure with their best friend were too tempting. After some convincing, Alex agreed, and they managed to find the car keys where Alex's parents usually kept them.

The night was clear, the air warm, and the roads were quiet as they headed towards the party. Alex does not have a driver's license, so Chris was driving. Chris was confident behind the wheel despite not having much experience driving at night. They were excited, the car filled with laughter and music, as they sped along the dark, suburban streets. However, as they approached a wooded area, two coyotes suddenly darted across the road. Startled, Chris swerved sharply to avoid hitting them. The car skidded off the road and crashed into a tree with a violent jolt.

In the chaotic moments that followed, it became clear that Chris was seriously injured. Their legs were trapped, and Chris was in severe pain. Alex, although shaken and bruised, managed to extricate themselves from the wreck and call their parents. In a panicked voice, they explained the situation. Gabi and Casey Reyes rushed to the scene, their hearts pounding with fear. They called 911 and Chris's parents, Pat and Jamie Greene, hurried to the hospital as fast as they could.

At the hospital, it was determined that Chris had sustained serious injuries to their legs. The recovery will take months and jeopardizes their soccer career. The news was devastating for Chris and their family. The scholarship, which they had counted on to ease the financial burden of college, was likely lost. Chris's dreams of playing soccer in college and possibly beyond were shattered in an instant. The emotional toll on the family was immense. Pat and Jamie Greene felt a mix of fear for Chris's future and anger at the circumstances that had led to the accident.

Meanwhile, Alex, though physically less injured, was deeply affected emotionally. They have been consumed with guilt, feeling responsible for having agreed to Chris's suggestion and worrying about the repercussions that would follow. Gabi and Casey Reyes, while relieved that Alex was relatively unscathed, were anxious about the legal and financial implications of the incident. They knew the Greenses were upset and were likely to seek compensation for the damages and injuries sustained.

Chris's parents, Pat and Jamie, believed that Gabi and Casey were responsible for the accident due to their failure to supervise the teens adequately. They argued that Alex's parents should have ensured the car keys were kept out of reach. Pat and Jamie were not just concerned about the immediate medical expenses, which were substantial, but also about the long-term impact on Chris's future. They estimated the medical expenses at \$50,000 and sought an additional \$200,000 in damages for the loss of the soccer scholarship and potential future earnings.

On the other side, Gabi and Casey contended that Chris had been the one to suggest sneaking out and was the one driving the car when the accident happened. They felt that Chris bore a significant portion of the responsibility for the crash. Furthermore, they were facing the cost of repairing their severely damaged car, estimated at \$15,000, and believed the Greenses should share in this financial burden.

****Attorney/client duos should select one parent to serve as the client for each side of the case.***