

Hello YaleWomen,

My name is Kimberly Cruz, I am Yale Class 2022, Pierson College. I am the founder of Kinetic Civic Education, an organization focused on streamlining kitchen table issues into New York's Sixth Congressional District home to 772,000 people immersed in 800 languages. Here is my website for more information on that: <https://www.kimberlycruz.me/>

Happy Thanksgiving! I am asking my network of strong powerful women to help me in a time of need. I have advocated for the last ten years of my life on various issues but on the eve of The Game, on November 17, 2023 at 7:40 pm I survived a near fatal car crash, on CT 15 near exit 60, fifteen minutes away from Pierson. By some miracle, all three people in this crash survived but we have injuries that need to be heard so others do not experience a similar or worse fate. How can we activate our networks to help a Yale and change Connecticut safety on the highway?

I do not have a degree in journalism, I do not have my desired JD/PHD degree yet and I do not have any governmental power at this moment, but I do hold myself to the very most ethical and practical approach on primary source gathering. I lead by example so I led as an advocate.

Tldr: "Rob flew, so please check on Rob... I am on some railing, I could have F**** died", please officer, I want to check on Rob, he could have gotten hurt..."

Rob was my roadside assistance person, a 23 year old white male, and Kesnel, a 33 year old Black man who hit the side of my car. There is a fourth vehicle but the police did not do their due diligence and have not followed up on tracking this vehicle who could have caused the whole crash. As seen in the pictures I am lucky to be alive and I am so very grateful to be here writing in pain while the back of my head burns, my neck and spine experiences excruciating pain, so much pain from the knee and below that I want to cut off that limb to rest from the pain. However, none of these symptoms stopped me from advocating for others while I simultaneously advocated for my own needs.

I would love to share more but I come here to emphasize: my Yale and Bronx Science mentorships prepared me for disaster. I did not know these individuals but truly I want you to know them and hear our story.

"A little empathy can go a long way".

- 1) If anyone is interested in highway safety, there is a pattern on this highway that has not stopped the death of countless individuals who have been parked in a "safe designated areas" on this specific highway and have been killed when another car crashed into them (so far I have read about eight families in the last three years).
- 2) If any YaleWomen recommend any personal injury attorneys who are intersectional and can parse out the trauma as well please contact me kimberlycruz.b@gmail.com or 646-895-4909. Also, just to make a new Yale friend.
- 3) Any journalists who can explain the whole process of "getting the whole story"; from the eight articles I have read about the incident, they do not mention the state of my Nissan

Altima which ended getting hit from the left side, back, and pushed into the truck flatbed so the front of my car impacted the back of the tow truck head. I almost flew off the 25 feet drop solely by the impact of these vehicles. The articles focus on Rob which is fine but there were two other bodies who were also very hurt– Kesnel and my body– which were not mentioned to the same extent. Another instance of POC being erased from major events– maybe intentionally, not intentionally, or there are methods of information collecting that may be improved.

- 4) Are there people who are interested in medical advocacy and trying to analyze how to correct procedures in professional fields to take into account the totality of the circumstances, human biases, and proper documentation to prevent other accidents in the future.
- 5) Legislatively: any connections to people in CT with governmental power or other organizations that care about highway safety or other issues you may see fit. There is Vision Zero in New York City but I am not sure if there is a sister organization. Any wisdom would be much appreciated.

Transcript of the day Final Destination saved me: The Initial Minutes

“Im gonna... quickly– fucking christ okay– yes please, Im scared, I’ll step away from the vehicle, some other car was behind and he left, I did not take his vehicle number, I do not know if he is the one who hit me but there is one that is directly...and I am on a tow truck and Rob flew so please check on Rob, okay, Rob is over there and is talking to a civilian, he is on the road okay, and I am scared, I am on the railing on, I could have F**** died, f**** G*** holy shit, holy shit, please officer I want to check on Rob, he could have gotten hurt, one second I have to get away from this car, F***, what happened,

[Shouting over to the car that hit the Nissan Altima at a right angle on the left side]

Guy get out of the car

Guy get out of the car

Get out of the car

Get out of the car

WHY? → another person

Because we are smashed in, get away from it, Rob flew over there, my roadside assistance guy, he flew over, okay, I called 911.

He is over there, where is he at?

He flew over bro

What do you mean, aren't you happy you are alive? Did you see what happened?

Am I happy I am alive? My little brother died in a car accident last year. Am I happy I am alive? Yeah, I am going up here because...

What is your name? What is your name?

Kesnel Minard.

Kesnel Minard.

I am going up there because of a car accident event. I am going up here and my little brother died of a car accident and I am going right here.

We have to step away from these cars so we can be safe. Please step away.

What was going on?

My name is Kimberly Cruz. My name is Kimberly Cruz. Your name is what?

Kesnel Minard

Okay, my blood type is A-, what is your blood type?

I don't know.

You need to know your blood type. Okay. Well I need to get away from these cars. I am scared of Rob ** starts crying** Rob is over there.

Yelling:

Rob, are you okay, are you bleeding? We called 911.

What do you mean he flew?

He fucking flew.

But like where was he at?

Crying: Right there, talking to me. He was here talking to me and he was just right here talking to me.

He didn't get hit with your car.

I don't think so because he is over there. He is over.

So he jumped over?

No, he fucking flew.

Where was he talking?

I was on my driver's side and he was on the passenger side trying to open my door but my car

He was standing there.

He was literally here, I wasn't even on the tow truck. Yeah, and I guess your car or someone hit you and I don't know what happened and then it pushed my car and I could have died *** starts hyperventilating ***

Please stay away from the car, it might explode, you know your motor is there, think about it, just get away from it,

I shut it off.

I don't know if mine is off.

What! It's not off?

I don't f***** know. I almost died so I don't know but I don't think its on but I don't f***** know.

(yelling to Rob) Rob are you bleeding?

Is he okay? I have first aid in my back.

Oh my fucking god, oh my god. What is this?

[getting closer to the accident]

It smells like smoke, it smells like smoke.