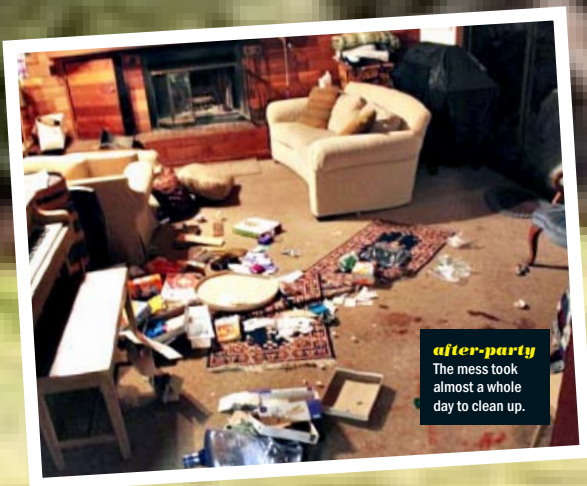


Life



after-party
The mess took
almost a whole
day to clean up.

**“one text turned
into the house party
from hell!”**

A girls' night with no parents and no rules was exactly what Julia, 15, needed! But one little lie almost destroyed her house. as told to ashley mateo

I wasn't supposed to have a party. I was *supposed* to stay at a friend's house. But as soon as my mom told me she'd be out of town for a night, I knew I was going to invite a couple friends over. Schoolwork was piling up, and I was willing to risk a little punishment to let loose. So on a Friday night last December, my best friend, Sophia, and three other girls came over. We were just sitting around gossiping when our friend Michael texted to ask if he and his friends could come hang out. We didn't usually chill with them outside of school, but I knew they'd be fun. We got dressed up cute in sequin tops, since guys were on their way. We were excited to blast music and dance all night—just silly fun!

girls' night gone wild

Around 11 P.M., a few other people started showing up, too, saying they were Michael's friends. We were having a blast so I let them in, figuring since they were friends of my friends—why not? I could handle a few extras. But 20 minutes later, big groups started pouring in without knocking. I found out Michael had texted my address to his *entire* contact list, and they were forwarding it to total strangers! Guys were lugging in alcohol and setting up beer pong on the dining room table. Sophia and I don't even drink! Most were upper classmen I didn't recognize, but a few of my friends were there, too, so I felt weird kicking some people out and not others.

By 12:30 A.M., though, the party was just getting wilder. I got this weird feeling—like, *What* kind of people are in my house? People I've never seen before were sprawled out on my furniture, and guys who weren't even from my school were ransacking my cabinets for alcohol. The music was so loud, it blew out the speakers! I was freaking out that a fight or something worse was going to happen.

losing control

I had no idea how to manage all these people in my house. In a total panic, I

called a friend who had stayed away. She said I had to call the cops, but I knew I'd get in huge trouble if my mom found out. Even Sophia was like, "You have to do *something*." But I didn't know *what* to do. Out the window, I could see cars full of people coming up the street. By then there were *already* about 100 people. I had lost total control over this party. . . . Then, the police showed up.

“Guys were lugging in alcohol and setting up beer pong!”

party's over

Three cops knocked around 2 A.M., and I was so scared my whole body was numb. As I went to answer the door, people hid or ran out the back door—even my friends. "Is your mom home?" they asked. I said no, and they told me a neighbor had complained about the noise. We had to get people out, or I was going to get majorly fined. I was relieved—then I got mad, shouting, "Everybody needs to leave! I'm not getting in any more trouble." Seeing the cops had scared people, so finally someone turned off the music and Sophia and I were able to get most of the people out.

busted

I really thought I could get away with it. I cleaned *everything*, and even managed to get the stains out of the rug. In my mind, there was no way my mom would ever know. But my neighbors ratted me out—an e-mail about the party went out to the entire neighborhood! My mom flipped and I had to confess. I couldn't believe how stupid I'd been to get caught up in such an out-of-control party. I was grounded for weeks, and my mom tells me flat-out she doesn't trust me.

The worst part is that now people see my house as the go-to party spot, despite the fact that I got in so much trouble. They keep asking when the next



reply all
Julia (left) and Sophia had no idea what they were in for when they answered Michael's text.

party is—I say never again. I hate that I was so taken advantage of by people I didn't know. I feel used. It started out all fun and games, but one person can cause a lot of damage—he or she sends your address to a hundred people, who send it to a thousand, and then it's out of your hands. I put everything on the line for people just looking for a place to party. **17**



WATCH WHO YOU INVITE!

No serious crimes or injuries occurred at Julia's party, but these events became all-out riots!

■ IT TOOK A WHOLE DAY TO SHUT DOWN!

Nearly **4,000 people** RSVP'd to a Colorado apartment complex's annual back-to-school pool party. In the end, four people were arrested and almost a dozen ended up in the hospital.

■ COPS SHOWED UP IN RIOT GEAR!

When word got out about a block party hosted by James Madison University students, more than **8,000 people** came. Over **200 cops** were needed to keep the peace after people started throwing beer bottles and lighting dumpsters on fire.

■ 15,000 PEOPLE RSVP'D!

A 16-year-old in Germany forgot to mark her birthday party as private on Facebook, and **RSVPs skyrocketed**. She canceled and notified the police, but about **1,500 people** still came to her house bearing alcohol, gifts, and cake.