

Zach Bucholtz
"The Designated Driver"
Character Profiles

Zach –

Zach is 20 years old, and a sophomore in college at the University of Michigan. He's long considered himself a "mama's boy," opting to spend time with his family instead of go out with his friends for most of his life. In high school, he never went to any parties or hung out with friends outside of school-related activities. Even though he was a member of the varsity baseball team, he was always an outsider and didn't fit in with the "cooler" guys on the team. In elementary school, he was so shy his teachers would force him into social situations, going as far as to have him greet people entering the school and putting him on the school television channel just to get him to talk.

His freshman year of college, Zach fell into a deep depression; stuck in a single-tenant dorm room and possessing no social skills, he made no friends and spent most of his nights alone watching movies and eating junk food. He gained 25 pounds, failed a class, and was very homesick. His close relationship with his parents has his parents worried about him academically and pushing him to improve his grades, though they also want him to be happy and make friends. Zach also refuses to drink, and therefore avoids normal college social situations. He also had nobody to move in with off-campus his sophomore year, and at the last minute found Lance, Paul, and Sam on Craigslist.

Zach's greatest strength is also his greatest weakness: he is unfailingly kind and cares about people, sometimes to a fault. He also – just before moving in with Paul, Lance, and Sam, bought a 3-year-old Mustang: a present for himself as he starts this new chapter in his life.

Laura –

Laura is Zach's friend, but not initially. Originally, she's a friend of Lance and Paul's from freshman year who comes to their first party and meets Zach. She is everything Zach isn't: attractive, outgoing, tough, and forceful. She gets what she wants, because she bosses people around. She lost her father at a young age and it made her tougher than most girls; she had to be that way. She works her way through school, but her family isn't struggling financially. She's very bright and a good student, but likes to go out and get drunk every weekend, often ending up getting take out late at night with her friends.

Michele –

Michele is Zoey's roommate and Zach's potential love interest. She comes from a wealthy family and was always a model student in high school. When she reached college, she started to rebel, not necessarily against her parents but against herself. She started drinking a lot and going out a lot, and often finds herself in troublesome situations because of it. She's nice and cute, and outgoing, but lacks Zach's compassion or Laura's deep soul.

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Lance –

Lance is Zach's suave, playboy roommate. He's incredibly good looking and has different women over to the house all the time.

Paul –

Paul is Zach's goofball roommate, but also someone Zach finds wildly entertaining.

Sam –

Sam is Zach's nerdy, introverted roommate and Zoey's boyfriend.

Zoey –

Zoey is Sam's longtime girlfriend and Michele's roommate. She has a heart of gold and acts as a sister-figure for Zach, often trying to guide him in the right direction. She is the first person to befriend Zach his sophomore year.

Britney –

Britney is Zoey and Michele's other roommate, who gets drunk and doesn't talk.

Alex –

Alex is Laura's friend, who often gets crazy drunk.

Kim –

Kim is Laura and Alex's friend, who lacks a filter and says mean things, only to take them back when she sobers up.

Gina –

Gina is Laura, Kim, and Alex's friend, who will find any excuse to drink.