HAYDEN'S STORY

Written by

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Based on, If Any
"The Protagonist" By Brian Allan
EXTREME CLOSE-UP of HAYDEN’S weary eyes peaking over the rim of his glasses.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

HAYDEN(twenties) is sitting at his desk in the darkness. He has intelligent eyes hidden behind thick framed glasses and set in an exhausted, good-looking face. The glow from his laptop monitor is the only light in the room. On the screen we can barely make out about a paragraph written in a word document.

Hayden's voice-over begins:

HAYDEN (V.O.)
Everyone has a secret love; but no-body had one like George McKinley.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK:

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Hayden sits alone at a desk in the corner, his are EYES PEAKING over a book and are locked onto KATIE MARSH(Early twenty's). She is sitting in a STUDY GROUP across the room.

HAYDEN (V.O.)
With good reason. She was as beautiful as a sunrise in the mountains. Perfect in every way. His forbidden fruit.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

HAYDEN (V.O.)
And he was afraid she would never know the way he felt.
HAYDEN opens his desk cabinet to find a half empty bottle of KENTUCKY BOURBON. He grabs the bottle and takes a swig. He sets the bottle down on the desk. His eyes start to close.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP of HAYDEN’S eyes popping open.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE – MORNING

Hayden jolts his head from his desk and tries to orient himself. A small trail of blood begins to leak from his nose. He wipes it with his finger, then looks at the clock on the wall.

THE CLOCK READS: 7:00 am

HAYDEN then glances up at the computer screen to find The cursor blinking at the end of a fully written page. He strolls up and notices more pages. He begins to read:

HAYDEN (V.O.)
George answers the door and finds the girl he never knew, his secret crush standing on his doorstep. Who would have known something as simple as an English project would bring them together.

HAYDEN
What the hell?

HAYDEN skips ahead.

HAYDEN (V.O.)
“Yeah I love volleyball” George says as he... What is this?

HAYDEN hi-lights all of it and hovers his finger above the delete key. THE DOORBELL RINGS, HAYDEN gets up and walks out into

INT. LIVING ROOM. – CONTINUOUS

He walks to the door and opens it to find KATIE MARSH standing in the doorway.

KATIE
Hey Hayden! Um.. You weren't in school yesterday, so I just came over to let you know.
HAYDEN
English project?

KATIE
Oh good you already know.

HAYDEN
Um.. Yeah, I guess so?

KATIE
Well, I was wondering if you weren’t busy or any thing, maybe you would want to start on it now, because I have a game later.

HAYDEN
Yeah! Sure, come in.

INT. HAYDEN’S LIVING ROOM - LATER

The two of them are sitting on the couch, laughing together as they work on their English project.

KATIE
I cant believe we’ve been in all the same classes since the 3rd grade and never spoke.

HAYDEN
Me either.

KATIE
You probably didn’t even notice.

HAYDEN
Oh I did. Trust me.

KATIE
Don’t you write books, or screenplays or something?

HAYDEN
Yeah, I write books. Don’t insult me and call me a screenwriter. I’d never jump on that band wagon.

KATIE
I’m sorry, How is it so far.

HAYDEN
Its very.. Interesting.
KATIE
Well let's just finish tomorrow. I've gotta get to my volleyball game. Hey you should come by and watch.

HAYDEN
Yeah! I love volleyball.

KATIE
OK so, I'll see you there?

HAYDEN
See ya.

She exits through the front door. Hayden walks into

INT. HOME OFFICE - DUSK

He looks at the computer screen, stares mystified for a moment, and saves the file.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Hayden watches Katie as she walks out of the gym. She starts walking toward Hayden with her arms out. He starts to put his arms out expecting a hug. A JOCKEY GUY walks in front of him and Katie hugs him. This is CHRIS.

CHRIS
Great game, babe.

KATIE
Thanks!

She looks up and notices Hayden.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Hayden!

Hayden walks over to them.

HAYDEN
Nice game.

KATIE
Thank you, I didn't you were going to come.

HAYDEN
Yeah! Well, I had nothing better to do.
CHRIS clears his throat.

KATIE
Oh, this is my boy friend, Chris.

CHRIS
Yeah dude, I know you. Your in my physics class right?

HAYDEN
Yeah!

KATIE
Well I gotta go. But ill come over tomorrow to finish that project. Thanks so much for coming out.

HAYDEN
No problem. OK, see you then.

They walk away. Hayden’s eye’s peak over the rims of his glasses and are locked on the two of them, patiently watching.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

HAYDEN is sitting at his desk drinking from his nearly empty bottle of KENTUCKY BOURBON. The BOTTLE DROPS to the floor as he once again falls asleep.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXTREME CLOSE-UP of Hayden’s eyes slowly opening.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Hayden lifts his head from his desk. His left cheek is stain in dried blood from his nose. He scrubs it off with the palm of his hand. Still disoriented he looks around the room to notice the floor is covered with printed pages. He picks a page up from the floor and starts to read:

HAYDEN (V.O.)
The detectives’ are left clueless when they find his lifeless body in the river behind his house.

HAYDEN
What?

THE PHONE RINGS, Hayden stares at it for a moment then finally answers.
A girl crying is heard.

HAYDEN (CONT’D)

Hello?

KATIE (O.S.)

Hayden! He’s dead.

Hayden is shocked to hear her voice. He immediately jumps to his feet.

HAYDEN

Katie? Wait.. Who’s dead?

KATIE (O.S.)

Chris!

What?

KATIE (O.S.)

He tripped and fell into his creek, hit his head on a rock. He drowned. I’m sorry, I just don’t know who else to talk to who isn’t freaking out.

HAYDEN

It’s fine. I’m here for you Kate. I’m always here for you.

HAYDEN (V.O.)

Why did I say that?

Katie’s cries get harder.

HAYDEN

Katie, you should come over. Ill make some hot chocolate and you can let it all out.

KATIE

Are you sure that’s.. OK?

HAYDEN

I’m positive.

KATIE

Thank you, your perfect, Hayden.

HAYDEN (V.O.)

Perfect.
KATIE
OK, I’m on the way.

HAYDEN
See you soon.

The phone hangs up.

Hayden picks up a stack of pages from the floor, and begins to read.

HAYDEN (V.O.)
Was it the jealousy that did it, or the rage? George just couldn’t stand the idea of her being with another man. So he killed him.

Hayden jumps out of the seat.

HAYDEN
No, it couldn’t be.

HAYDEN (V.O.)
Or could it?
SEGMENTS OF FLASHBACKS.

EXT. KATIE’S HOUSE - NIGHT
Katie is walking her dog, talking on the phone. Hayden is watching on her from a distance.

KATIE
Yeah I’m partnered up with Hayden Glass for that English project... Well I can’t find anyone with his number so I’ll just go to his house tomorrow to let him know.

EXT. CHRIS’S HOUSE - NIGHT
CHRIS is in his backyard shining a flashlight into the woods.

CHRIS
Who’s back here? Show yourself you pussy.

Hayden runs up behind him and pushes him into the creak.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - DAY
Hayden is pacing back and forth.
HAYDEN
I can’t be a murderer, I can’t be.

A trail of blood begins to drip from his nose and down to the floor landing on a page of the story.

Hayden FAINTS.

FADE TO BLACK.

The ringing of a doorbell is heard

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Hayden calmly strides to the front door and opens it to find Katie. Katie’s puffy eyes are resisting tears. Hayden smiles at her.

HAYDEN
Hey there.

KATIE
Hey!

HAYDEN
Get in here before you freeze.

Katie walks in.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Katie is crying her eyes out. Hayden arm is wrapped around her shoulders, comforting her.

KATIE
It just happened so fast, you know? I was just with him yesterday. I can’t believe he’s gone.

HAYDEN
Death always takes us by surprise. Life is so uncertain, so fragile. It can be taken in on blink of the eye.

Hayden stares off at what appears to be a picture of his parents hanging from the wall.

HAYDEN (CONT’D)
Well, you just have to think he’s in a better place now. Maybe it’s for the best. Maybe it’s destiny.
Hayden leans in and kisses Katie. She quickly pushes him away, and jumps to her feet.

**KATIE**
What are you doing?

**HAYDEN**
I don’t know. I just..

**KATIE**
Hayden, I think you got the wrong idea. I should go.

**HAYDEN**
I’m sorry, please don’t go. I’m an idiot.

**KATIE**
Can I use your bathroom?

**HAYDEN**
Yeah sure, it’s down the hall to your left.

**KATIE**
OK, Thanks.

She begins walks away, Hayden’s eyes peak over his glasses. Watching her.

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Katie walks past the room, stops, then turns around and walks in curiously. She picks up one of the pages from the floor and begins to read:

**HAYDEN (V.O.)**
Katie was the love of his life. He knew the feeling would never be the same towards him, but towards another man. He couldn’t live with that. That’s why he killed him. That’s why he had to kill her.

Katie turns around to find Hayden standing in the doorway. One of his hands is hidden behind his back as if hiding something.

**KATIE**
What’s wrong with you? What is this?

Hayden begins to inch closer to her.
HAYDEN
I have loved you for a long time.
Do you love me Katie?

KATIE
No!

Hayden reveals a kitchen knife from behind his back.

HAYDEN
I know you don't.

She pushes him and runs out into

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
Katie runs to the door and slams it open then runs out of the house.

EXT. HAYDEN HOUSE - DUSK
Katie sprints to her car and gets in. FRANTICLY she searches her purse for her car keys. Hayden walks out of the house jiggling keys at her.

HAYDEN
Oh! That might be a problem.

She gets out of the car and runs into the back woods.

HAYDEN (O.S.) (CONT’D)
Yeah! Run into the woods that’s a smart idea. My woods that I know better than you.

EXT. BACK WOODS - SUNDOWN
KATIE runs through the woods as fast as she can, she stops to catch her breath Nervously.

A SUDDEN STRIKE from behind sends her down. Katie looks back and Hayden is standing over her holding a LOG.

KATIE
Why are you doing this?

HAYDEN
Because this is how it has to end, don’t you get it?
KATIE
Please, don’t.

He LIFTS the LOG above his head.

KATIE (CONT’D)
(Whimpering)
Please don’t.

HAYDEN
I’m sorry Katie. It has already been written.

Hayden, forcefully drives the log down.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. HAYDEN’S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Hayden is typing at his desk.

HAYDEN (V.O.)
George knew it wouldn’t be long before someone stumbled upon Katie’s body in the woods. Or for the police to launch a full investigation for the two murders. Which inevitably would lead them right to his doorstep. He knew this, but he didn’t care. Sometimes when you see something as beautiful as the sunrise in the mountains, you just want to reach out and touch it. But you can’t quite reach it. And it will drive you insane. George understood that from now on, everyday the sun wouldn’t rise, and he’d be left in the cold.

HAYDEN
A Perfect Ending.

A small trail of blood begins leaking from his nose. He wipes it with his finger.

THE END.