

HAYDEN'S STORY

Written by

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Based on, If Any  
"The Protagonist" By Brian Allan

TITLES EXPLODE TO WHITE

SLOW FADE TO:

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 lets 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 outs. 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!

HAYDEN  
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 cant 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 cant 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, its 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 cant 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.