Copyright (c) 2011 This screenplaymay not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of the author

Sam Klein

"Hudson"

EXT. CLIFF LOOK OUT - NIGHT

Braeden sees his friend, HUDSON, a homeless man that sleeps on a bench at the cliffs.

Hudson sits on the park bench, looks out at the city. He has a newspaper, of which he tears tiny pieces off from it and places them on the ground. Braeden, short of breath, approaches him.

BRAEDEN

Hey! Hudson, man, I need your help. Where'd she go? She must have been here, you see anything?

Hudson does not respond as he continues to tear tiny pieces from the newspaper.

BRAEDEN

Hudson, are you listening? This is serious man, remember that girl? Layla?

Hudson, still no reaction to Braeden, continues to tear tiny pieces from the newspaper.

BRAEDEN What the fuck is wrong with you!? Answer my fucking question! Have you seen Layla?

Hudson still does not respond or react. Hudson lies down, puts the newspaper over his face, and begins to sleep.

BRAEDEN (to himself) What is this shit?

Hudson is asleep on the bench, with the newspaper over his face.

BRAEDEN Really? Whatever, man.

Braeden walks off, head down.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Layla and her friend, ADRIANNA, sit in Adrianna's apartment. Adrianna brings popcorn over to Layla. ADRIANNA What movie do you want to watch?

LAYLA Nothing romantic, got any comedies?

ADRIANNA Oh right, how's lover boy?

LAYLA Shut up, it's not funny.

ADRIANNA Alright, alright, I'm sorry, but really, how is he?

LAYLA I don't know, I haven't heard from him in a week. His phone's been off, he hasn't been online, he-

ADRIANNA He's probably on to the next one.

LAYLA You're such a bitch, seriously.

Layla looks at the ground for a moment.

LAYLA (CONT'D) I think I'm gonna go home for now.

ADRIANNA Layla, come on, you know I'm kidding.

LAYLA No, I know, it isn't you, I just kind of want to be by myself right now.

ADRIANNA Alright, call me if you need anything.

LAYLA I will, thanks. EXT. HUDSON RIVER MARINA - ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS - NIGHT

Braeden is at the Marina below the cliffs. There are many covered boats and docks. Braeden slowly continues to search.

EXT. CLIFF LOOK OUT - NIGHT

Layla approaches Hudson, who is asleep on a bench with a newspaper over his face. Layla wakes him up.

HUDSON Whoa, hey, why'd you do that?

LAYLA You're Hudson, right?

HUDSON Oh, hey, you're that fellah's Braeden's girl, h-...

LAYLA That's what I need to ask you about, I'm looking for Braeden.

Hudson does not look at Layla while he speaks.

HUDSON Hadn't come 'round here in some time.

LAYLA Come on, please, you don't know anything?

HUDSON Sorry, nothing.

Layla begins to cry.

HUDSON Hey, hey now, I bet he's around here somewhere.

LAYLA Somewhere, where?

Hudson does not answer.

LAYLA (CONT'D)

Where!?

Hudson moves over on the bench.

HUDSON Try readin' the newspaper.

Layla ignores Hudson, sniffles, and walks away.

In front of Hudson's bench, in cut out newspaper letters it reads: "I won't wait for her, but at the same time I'll never go away".

EXT. HIGHWAY

Layla gets to the end of the highway. There is a "road closed" sign. After the sign is a dark, winding road.

EXT. CLOSED ROAD

She walks past the sign and down the road. She gets up on a ledge and looks out over New York City. She gets down, walks further down the road, and sees a waterfall on her right. She continues down the road and sees a path on her left that leads off the road.

Layla takes this path. It is a stone staircase that brings her down the side of the cliffs and into a cave.

EXT./INT. CAVE

She enters the cave and sees a dark, shadowy figure laying on the ground.

Layla slowly walks closer to the figure. Her eyes slowly widen. She kneels down and begins to cry. It is Braeden's dead body, with the same clothes on that he wore a week ago. She turns his body over and in his hand is a ring and a note. She begins to cry hysterically and gasps.

FLASHBACK: ONE WEEK AGO

INT. CAR - NIGHT

BRAEDEN Here we are.

LAYLA I see what you mean, this is a really nice parking lot.

Braeden and Layla get out of the car and walk over to the cliffs.

EXT. CLIFF LOOK OUT

Hudson sits on a bench as Braeden approaches him.

BRAEDEN Hudson! Hey man, how's it going?

HUDSON You know, same old freezing out here, can't complain though. Now who do we have here, this young lady I been hearing about?

Layla looks back at Braeden, then slowly puts her hand out to shake Hudson's hand.

LAYLA

Hi, I'm Layla.

HUDSON Pleasure, Layla. They call me Hudson.

LAYLA Nice to meet you.

HUDSON Likewise. So you guys have a fun night out?

LAYLA

Oh my G-d, it was amazing! I feel spoiled, I love it.

HUDSON Ha you gonna have to get used to that, now you ain't even seen the amazing part of tonight, ain't that right Braeden?

Braeden gives Hudson a stern look.

BRAEDEN

I don'-

LAYLA

What?

BRAEDEN Nothing, come on let me show you the spot.

Braeden leads Layla to the cliff look out over New York City. They both admire it.

LAYLA

So what else is going to be amazing tonight? According to Hudson...

BRAEDEN Eh, nah it's nothing.

LAYLA Come on! Tell me.

BRAEDEN I've just been thinking about us a lot lately.

LAYLA (calmly, smiles) Uh oh.

BRAEDEN

No, not like that. Just. I don't know. Like look out there, right in front of our faces. Nine million people.

LAYLA Yeah, there's a lot out there.

BRAEDEN

And it's hard to know that there is just one person out there for you.

LAYLA

Definitely.

BRAEDEN

But when you do, the other eight million, nine hundred ninety nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety nine don't even matter.

LAYLA

But they do, Braeden.

BRAEDEN

Do they?

LAYLA You don't just know, without exploring your options. I'm kinda glad you brought this up.

Oh yeah?

LAYLA I mean I love you, I do, but we're young, how can we really know?

BRAEDEN

We just do.

LAYLA

It doesn't work like that for me. I think we need to give those other nine million people a chance, you know?

BRAEDEN No, I don't know, Layla.

LAYLA

And when we explore, and find we are meant-

BRAEDEN

-If, we explore.

LAYLA

No, Braeden. When, we explore. I'm sorry, I just can't get anymore serious without experiencing something else, I-

BRAEDEN

How long have you been thinking like this?

LAYLA I just need a break. I'm sorry.

BRAEDEN

This is fucking ridiculous. Have fun! Go start off with Hudson, huh?

LAYLA

Braeden, d-

BRAEDEN

No, not my friend here, I mean the whole fucking Hudson county! Might as well fuck around, that'll help you figure out we're meant to be, right?!

Layla begins to cry.

LAYLA

Braeden!

Braeden storms off to the parking lot.

BACK TO PRESENT.

EXT./INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Layla trembles. She takes the note from Braeden's hand. It reads: "I won't wait for you, but at the same time I'll never go away."

Layla cries hysterically.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER MARINA - ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS - NIGHT

Braeden walks around the Marina, as he looks for Layla. He walks past a dock and several boats. He looks out across the Hudson River towards New York City. He then looks up at the top of the cliffs. He sighs and starts to walk away.

A few seconds after he begins to walk away he hears a loud "thud" sound. Something just fell from the top of the cliffs. He turns around and runs over to see what it is.

It is a body. He turns the body over and discovers it is Layla. Braeden's jaw drops. He cries, shakes, and shivers as he looks around wildly and back at her.

Braeden takes the body and puts it over his shoulder. He walks up the path of the side of the cliff and into the cave. He gently puts her body down in the cave.

EXT./INT. CAVE - NIGHT

BRAEDEN

No, no, no, no, no. No. No!

Braeden kneels down next to Layla's body. He stares at her. He touches her arm. She has a postmortem spasm in her arm. Braeden jumps back quickly. When he jumps back, he touches something else. He turns around, and it is his dead body, dressed the same as one week ago, with a note and a ring in its hand. Braeden stares at his dead body, with a look of complete shock on his face.

FADE BLACK.

ALTERNATE ENDING:

EXT. HUDSON RIVER MARINA - ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS - NIGHT

Braeden walks around the Marina, as he looks for Layla. He walks past a dock and several boats. He looks out across the Hudson River towards New York City. He then looks up at the top of the cliffs. He sighs and starts to walk away.

A few seconds after he begins to walk away he hears a loud "thud" sound. Something just fell from the top of the cliffs. He turns around and runs over to see what it is.

It is a body. He turns the body over and discovers it is Layla. Braeden's jaw drops. He cries, shakes, and shivers as he looks around wildly and back at her.

Braeden notices a ring on Layla's finger. It is the ring he was going to propose to her with. In her other hand is a note. The note reads:

"I won't wait for you, but at the same time I'll never go away."

Braeden mourns over Layla's body. He picks her up and walks away with her in his arms. As they walk further, Layla is still seen on the ground. Her body remains there, as his spirit carries her spirit.