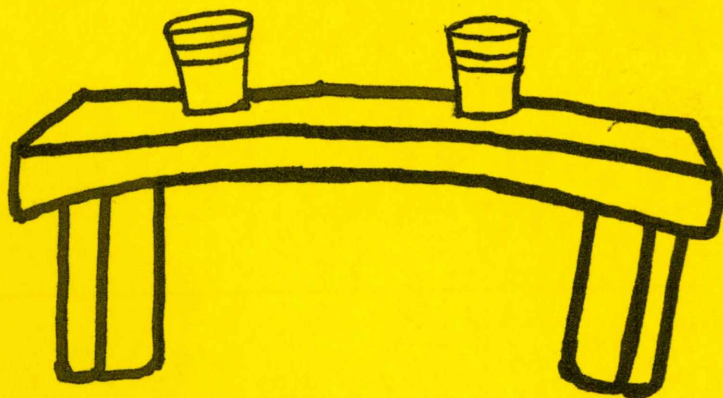


# More Than A Moment

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## More than a Moment

Looking into his piercing blue eyes again is as if I'm looking out into the ocean. With so much depth in them that I can't even see what he is feeling. His short tousled brown hair uncombed. His shirt's hanging slightly loose to his California tanned body. The muscles he gained from playing football can be seen clearly. As I look at him, I can tell he's still the same boy I met a few years ago at this very same house that held this very same party.

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I hadn't wanted to come to the party, but my sister who was graduating high school dragged me along saying I needed to get out more. I went unhappily with her to this stupid end of the year school party. It was at this two story house that was a dark blue and had white window shutters. There were so many people I was amazed that this house could hold them all. It was stuffy and hot. People were drinking and others were drunk. I noticed some other freshman from my school. I had wondered what they were doing there. *How did they know about this party?* I followed my sister around like the lost puppy I did not know exactly what to do at all.

She ditched me at one point to go drink with her friends that were there. I ended in the backyard sitting on a bench next to a plot of flowers.

I was playing on my phone and looked up every now and then waiting for my sister to come find me. This wasn't my scene. I was much more comfortable going to theatre with friends or the mall. Partying wasn't my thing. *I mean god only knows what half the people are doing inside that house besides playing games and getting drunk.* I was thinking about just leaving and letting my sister think she lost me and panic only to come home and see me there. I was thinking seriously about it when I felt someone's presence. I turned my head and there was this boy. Some random boy that I didn't know at all.

"Hi," He said as he looked at me. He had short brown hair that was combed to look like David Beckhams' faux hawk. He wasn't skinny, but he wasn't muscular either. He looked like he was on the cross country team. He looked out of place especially with his glasses that he pushed back up from the end.

"Hi," I said and he looked at me. He took a sip from his red

solo cup.

"Hi, I'm Thaddeus, Thad," he said and I nodded.

"Berit, but call me Beth," I said and he nodded.

"How do you get Beth out of Berit?" He asked with a smile.

"My name is Berit Bethel Barnes, my parents thought it was cool," I answered with slight annoyance towards my parents for this triple B name.

"No worries, my name is Thaddeus when they could have just named me Thad," He said stated, then looked at me quizzically, "You, you don't go to Belmont High do you?" he asked me and I shook my head.

"Carlmont," I said and he nodded. "How do you know about this party? I mean everyone at Carlmont does, but Belmont?"

"Word travels," he said and then pointed to a boy that was inside the house visible through the kitchen window. "That's my cousin. This is his house."

"Ahh," I said and he nodded. His cousin like my sister was graduating in three weeks from school.

"Yeah, I'm a freshman at Belmont," he said. I turned my head

to look at him. He looks like someone who runs track; you know skinny, but a bit muscular.

"I'm a freshman at Carlmont," I said and he nodded. "Do you play any sports?"

"Yeah, baseball and football. Except I didn't play as much this year on the football team as I would have liked to, you know, being a freshman and all, but I will get more playing time next year because I'll be a sophomore and all. I only played a total of five games this year," he said, "What about you? Cheerleader?" he questioned.

"Pfft, no," I said with a small laugh, "No, no I'm not a cheerleader. I, I don't really play sports. I mean I run every day, but I'm not in track or cross country. I just run for fun."

"So you don't play sports, at least on a team," he said. I nodded his head and looked at me.

"What?" I asked.

"Your smart aren't you?" he asked.

"I. What? How'd you come up with that idea?"

"Well... You, you have that distant look like you always



thinking and you're out here alone instead of inside partying. You keep to yourself and are quiet. I'm not saying all smart people are like this, but...I'm a nerd, I'm smart, like I read Marvel and DC comics and know all the lines in Avatar and I have a 3.5 gpa."

"Nice save," I said and he blushed looking down, "But yes, I do think a lot, I do keep to myself and tend to be quiet because I read more than anything. I have 3.79 gpa." He smiled, "And between you and me, I can recite every line in the first Harry Potter movie."

I surprised myself in that moment. I had never opened up to some random stranger before, but talking was nice. It was nice having someone who actually pays attention to what you are saying. Talking with him was nice.

We talked about songs that were playing and criticized some artist, mainly rappers and there weird lyrics or names, like Two Chains. *Two Chains is such a dumb name, it's so dumb I still can't fathom the idea that someone named themselves that.* At one point the music that was playing had changed to a random mix of everything. When I say everything I mean folk, rap, hip hop,

classical, rock n roll, country, pop, and depressing songs. We wondered who was in charge of playing all this music, because they were horrible at being a dj.

Bobby left to get something to drink an hour later and to my surprise he came back. I didn't think he would. He handed me a bottled water and I thanked him. We both looked through the window and saw people kissing and others cheering.

"I can't wait for that," he said.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"To be leaving and going into the world. To know what you want to do in life and all."

"I doubt half of them know what they want. My sister doesn't know what she wants," I stated and he looked at the window. "But I get what you're saying. The excitement of it all, I get it."

We stayed silent and listened to the music playing.

*I'd love to know just what you're thinkin'*

*Every little river, runnin' through your mind*

*You give and you take*

*You come and you go  
You leave me here wonderin' if I'll ever know  
How much you care or how much you don't  
Whatever you need, whatever you want*

"Hunter Hayes," I said and he looked at me, "Hunter Hayes sings this."

"Oh, yeah...good song." I nodded at him even though I was sure he had no idea who Hunter Hayes was at all.

We stayed in awkward silence for the rest of the time. I saw him open his mouth to say something, but I stood straight up because my sister yelled my name and was coming towards me like a mad woman. She said we needed to go home. She also muttered something about some stupid boy she liked kissing some slut. I waived by to Bobby and followed her out.

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Looking through the depth in his blue eyes I could see the excitement that Thad had wished for when we were just freshmen in high school swimming in his eyes. He's talking to one of his



friends at the moment. I walk towards the punch bowl and grab a drink. I walk outside to the bench that I sat on only three years ago.

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Looking at her she's still the same girl I met. She still looks like she keeps to herself and probably reads just as much as she did the first time I met her. She looks so lost in her thoughts. I hope she doesn't realize I'm looking at her. She has perfect dark brown hair in small waves, her hazel eyes look far away, like she's staring at something in the distance. Her pale skin looks soft and her cheeks are a bit pink either from make up or from blushing at some thought she had. I remember when I saw her during winter of junior year. I was too nervous to even go up and talk to her. It was a Christmas in The Park.

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I was walking with my friends around the park looking at all the decorated trees. We laughed and made fun of some of them. Granted the one's we we're making fun of were decorated by kids. They tended to have drawings that kids drew or paper handprints

as ornaments. You see it every year that it gets old. We kept walking and even looked at the little set ups they had of elves working in a factory making toys, reindeer in there stable or flying. There was even a Christmas around the world part of the park.

I followed my friends to the main attraction, Santa's Sleigh Ride. It's a rollercoaster, an amazing fast, high, crazy one. *It's like Santa decided to have a turbo booster on his sleigh, had a lot of turbulence, and had to dodge asteroids of something. It's awesome!* I waited in line and then got on. I was nervous and even more so when it finally got to the top. I looked down for a moment. I saw her. I saw her, Beth.

"Ahhh," I screamed as the roller coaster went down at a speed sure to give someone a driving ticket.

I turned my head looking around hoping to see her. I didn't though. I couldn't find her at all. When the rollercoaster ended I got off and looked around. Where is she? I swear she was right there, right next to Santa's Sleigh Ride sign.

"Dude, you okay?" Adrian my friend and football team mate asked.

"Yeah," I said.

"Sure, because you screamed like a girl," he said.

"It caught me off guard."

"Sure."

We continued walking and looking around again. I stopped when I saw her. She was standing in line at the hot chocolate stand with two other girls. She was laughing at something one of them said. She was wearing a white and light grey north face jacket, blue skinny jeans, and black boots that don't have a heel. I lifted my hand up to wave and then put it down thinking better of it.

"Who is she?" Adrian asked.

"Beth," I said and looked at him. "Some girl I met last summer at my cousin's party."

"Your hung up on her," my other friend Jason said.

"Not even, she's just cool," I said and we walked away from where we were at to go across the street.

I turned my head to look back for a second and I swear she was looking at me. She was looking right in my direction. I put my hand up a bit to say hi. She didn't notice though. I ran to catch up

with my friends. We ended up getting food two blocks away from the park. When we were done we went to the skating rink back at the park. We were just looking at the people.

It was funny some of them completely fell on their face, while others didn't know how to stop and ran into other people. I was looking and saw her again. She was behind someone. I moved my head and saw her putting skates on with her two friends. I started to feel nervous. *What if she falls? What if she eats shit?* I watched carefully as she stepped onto the ice. She glided onto it and I let out a sigh of relief.

I watched her skate around with her friends. I guess she knows how, because she knew how to spin and twirl around. She just glided around smoothly across the ice rink. She smiled every now and then, except you can tell that she was in her own little world most of the time. She was happy and looked like she was in her element. Her nose was a bit red and her cheeks were flushed. She looked amazing.

"Dude you're staring too much," Jason said.

"I know," I said, "But I can't look away."

"You're whipped," Adrian laughed and I shoved him playfully.

"You wish I were," I said while never taking my eyes off of Beth.

After much thinking, I stood up. I looked at my friends and then started to walk. I walked closer to the ice rink. I ended up at the railing. She was going to come my way soon. I saw her, she was making her way around. My heart beat picked up a bit. She was getting closer. *Shit, what do I say? What do I say? Do I just grab her? No, she 'd fall and then yell at me.* I looked at her and turned around as she passed by me. I walked back to my friends.

"Damn, you got it bad," Jason said. I didn't say anything.

Adrian stood up and we left to his car. He turned the heater on to war up the car. Listening to the song on the radio playing I sighed in relief that it wasn't a Christmas song. The singer sounded familiar though. It was a guy, a country singer. The song made me think of Beth though.

*I guess that all I'm tryin' to tell ya*

*Is a minute with you is better than two without*



*Oh, I won't be a fool but I can't play it cool  
So I'm playin' safe and I'm breakin' the rules  
I'm wishin' I had what I know that you got  
So if you're comin' my way then please don't stop*

"Dude change this shit," Jason stated. Adrian laughed and changed the station.

That song playing has to be the song that was playing when I was talking to Beth. It has to be it sounds the same.

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Looking around the house I realized Beth wasn't here anymore. Well, at least not in the same room as me. *Was I thinking to myself for that long that I didn't even notice her leave?* I hope she didn't leave. I know she didn't like being here when we were freshmen. I'm sure she didn't leave.

"Dude," I heard Jason say as he hit my back.

"Yeah," I said as I walked to the kitchen to throw my now watered drink down the sink.

"That girl, you know the one from the park? The one you were

going to talk to, but were to chicken shit to do so?"

"Beth," I said as I turned around from the sink. Jason nodded.

"What about her?" Jason handed me another drink.

"She's here," he said. "Go get her man."

Jason left. I looked down at my drink. Spiked fruit punch. He should have handed me a shot of liquid courage. I took two big gulps, and then started to look for her.

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Sitting on the bench was like walking down memory lane, even if it is just one memory. This bench holds the secrets that Bobby and I revealed that night. This bench is the only thing that ever heard what we talked about. I took a sip from my red solo cup and turned my head as I felt a presence.

"Somebody's Heartbreak by Hunter Hayes," Thad stated with a smile. "It's the song that was playing before your sister came out like a raging bull."

"You looked it up," I stated and he smiled sheepishly.

"Guilty. I didn't know who the hell he was at all, but it was a

good song," He said. "You know when I'm here at my aunt's house I always sit on this bench for a couple minutes to think."

"You know I think back to that night too," I said and he looked at me surprised. "I was always curious as to what you were going to say before my sister came out."

"Oh yeah," he said.

"So you're aunts letting you throw a party?" I asked and he shook his head.

"They're out of town. My cousin is letting me throw a party. How did you hear about it?"

"Word travels," I said and took a sip of my poisoned punch. He took a long sip of his drink and then put it down.

"Do you want to dance?" he asked. I did a double take when I heard him.

"What?" I asked stupidly.

"It's what I was going to ask you," he said. He stood up and held out his hand. I sighed and put my drink down. I took his hand and stood up. We danced in silence.

"I'd love to know just what you're thinkin'  
Every little river, runnin' through your mind  
You give and you take  
You come and you go  
You leave me here wonderin' if I'll ever know  
How much you care or how much you don't  
Whatever you need, whatever you want," He sang. I stepped  
back and looked at him.

"It's the first stanza of the song," he explained and I nodded a  
bit surprised that he knew it. "I looked it up and have been  
listening to it at least once every two weeks of our sophomore  
year." I looked at him questioningly, "I saw you at Christmas in the  
Park, but I was too nervous, scared, or just too chicken shit to go  
talk to you."

"Really, you were there."

"Yeah, I was. I saw you ice skating."

"The most memorable thing from that night is someone  
screaming really loud from Santa's Sleigh Ride. It was hilarious," I

said, he looked at me.

"That was me," he said. I laughed, as did he. "I saw you near the sign and I was too caught up in looking at you to realize I was about to go down." I laughed even more.

"I can't believe that was you...that scream made my night though, so technically you made my night," I said.

"That makes me feel better, thanks."

We were silent for the rest of the time. We just stayed in one another's arms, swaying slowly to the music. We were swaying in sync. It was almost like we were one. He never moved away from me nor did I from him. It was just us, the empty backyard, and the music playing.





HUNTER HAYES  
"SOMEBODY'S HEARTBREAK"

