

Hit Replay

Episode Seven: Fault

Content Warnings:

Discussions of fear, memory issues/deja vu, discussion of obsessive behaviour.
Brief mention of bullying and uncomfortable situations.

SFX: Repeated recorder sound effects, repeated ringing sound effects,
automated vocal distortion.

BECA: (Under a vocal filter)

Hit Replay

(SFX: Tape Sound)

SFX: Theme music plays, a piano haunting and sharp, growing and cutting off abruptly with a tape sound effect.

BECA: (Under a vocal filter)

Episode Seven **(SFX: Two sharp thuds)** Fault.

(SFX: Button Pressed)

(SFX: Recorder turning on)

(SFX: Flat interior, a ticking clock, distant traffic continues throughout the episode, Haiden's voice echos slightly)

HAIDEN:

It's been weeks since I used one of these. I'm saying that for my benefit as much as Jamie's. It's been, uh...difficult, I won't lie. I was starting to....come to terms with it. I wasn't waiting for you to show up at home or at the café. Jamie's thinking of moving in, when their lease is up. He and Aaron aren't quite ready for the whole 'living together' thing, and Jamie said it'd be just like the uni days (*a slight chuckle*), but with less hangovers and more joint pain.

HAIDEN:

I've been doing better.

(SFX: Shuffling)

HAIDEN:

I need to know that. I need you to know that.

HAIDEN:

And then today, I saw a guy. Across the street, on my way home from work. Um, unremarkable, fairly tall, broad shoulders, White. Wearing... (*she sighs*) I can't actually remember? How do they always remember details on those crime shows? You know the (*a very bad American accent*) 'he had piercing blue eyes and was wearing Levi jeans, and was exactly 6'3, and his belt was maroon with scuff marks'. I always knew I'd be useless in one of those. You know? (*A slight chuckle*) Like, he was tall-ish? **(SFX: Traffic outside gets louder)** Isn't height subjective? Anyway, the guy I saw just...didn't stand out. Looked. Average. Dark hair, I think. But...I *know* I've seen him before. That sounds strange, I know, I just said he looked average and nondescript, but I... I've seen him before. With you.

HAIDEN:

It- it was like deja vu. I saw him for a split second and I just *knew* I'd seen him before. And you were there. He made me feel scared. That's the weirdest part.

I- I just...knew I was afraid of him, knew he'd made me afraid and he didn't even look at me. He was just walking along and I felt like he'd- ruined my life.

HAIDEN:

God that sounds so dramatic.

HAIDEN:

It probably is. You know how I am.

HAIDEN:

But I- I- couldn't place him properly. I tried- I spent hours thinking back- was he a shitty customer? A guy at a party who gave me the creeps? One of the bullies from school? He just didn't fit anywhere but he- *you* were with me. You saw him too.

HAIDEN:

(*Tsk*) Jamie will say I'm obsessing (*A slight chuckle*) Maybe I am. But is he why you left? Him and me and you it- it makes sense.

HAIDEN:

(SFX: Traffic dies down)

Or maybe I'm clutching at straws. (**A bitter laugh**) Maybe he looks like someone from somewhere and my brain is scrambled at the moment. (Pause) Maybe I'm looking for a reason for this to not be my fault. Because it would be easier then. If- if I didn't do anything, then maybe this is some big misunderstanding and not the worst thing to ever happen to me. Second worse. I'm sure there's been worse. I think.

(Pause)

HAIDEN:

(A scoff) God, uh, this was stupid. I shouldn't-

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

(SFX: Recording clicks on)

HAIDEN:

I saw him again today. Uh, same place. Same clothes. I-ER (*quickly, wanting to get it out in case they forget*) white button-up, black trousers, brown shoes. God, I hope I'm not...stalking? Or over-analysing? Some stranger. God-but it felt important- it felt like- like you'd described him before. To me, or someone else. I still can't remember.

HAIDEN:

But that's not all. I slowed down when I saw him, tried to take it all in, tried to remember, and then- I saw a postcard. In a window, just behind him. It was stuck on this corkboard, looked a bit like a kids summer project (**SFX: The sound of wind whistling through trees and birds**) or something, along with a bunch of tickets I couldn't see the names of and pieces of paper with bubble writing on them. But it was the postcard I saw properly, clear and sharp, sharper than everything else I've seen or experienced in months. It was for Carren's Woodland. You know that place where you used to be able to rent cabins in the middle of the woods for a few weeks. I- I remember going with my parents a couple of times when I was really little and- I remember going with you, at uni. And I remember you saying-

HAIDEN:

(Putting on an English accent) "Haiden, this is the place, you know? The- the place in all the films when people are running away and they finally, finally see something. And they're saved. Or doomed, depending on the movie. But this is the place."

HAIDEN:

It felt like...fate. Like the universe reaching out and saying 'here' with a gentle nudge. (Pause) **(SFX: Woodland ambiance fades out as flat interior fades in)** And maybe this is foolish but....I think I know where you are. I should leave it, I know. Er, even if you are there you've made it very clear you don't want to talk to me but, God, I need to try, Riley. For my sake. So, I'm sorry if this upsets you, I'm sorry if you're angry, uh, and I'm sorry if this makes things worse. But I need to hear all of that from you.

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

(SFX: Ringing, Ringing, Ringing, Ringing)

THE VOICEMAIL:

(Under a filter)

I'm sorry. Your call cannot be taken at the moment, please leave a message after the tone.

(SFX: Tone)

HAIDEN:

(Through the phone)

(SFX: Flat interior, mixed with the sounds of Haiden packing)

Hey, Riley. I'm...coming up to the cabins. I- I'm gonna pop in, alright? To say hi.

(SFX: A bag being zipped up)

(SFX: Hanging up)

OUTRO

KIT: (Under a vocal filter)

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This episode featured:

KIT:

Kit Lovick as the Voicemail

BECA:

Beca Barton as Haiden Buxley

KIT:

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(SFX: Two bangs, followed by a tape click)