

Hit Replay

Episode Four Transcript: Searching

Content Warnings:

Catastrophic thinking and poor mental health, self deprecation, illusions to suicide, missing persons, swearing, anxiety, panic, mentions of car accidents, memory issues.

SFX: Repeated phone call effects, repeated recording sound effects, automated vocal distortion, phone call voice distortion.

(SFX: Tape sound)

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 Four **(SFX: Two sharp thuds)** Searching

(SFX: Button Pressed)

(SFX: Recording clicking on)

(SFX: Flat interior, a ticking clock, distant traffic)

HAIDEN:

I called round your friends today, just to see if you were with any of them. You weren't. Obviously. Er, they, um, seemed a bit confused as to why I was calling. Said they'd spoken to you recently so-

(Pause)

HAIDEN:

(Shaky breath) So, it's only me you're not speaking to. I should be relieved. It would be worse, obviously, if no one had heard from you. But...er, but I feel worse. Because that means you haven't...er, had a breakdown, or life's gotten too much, or- well. It just means I got too much. And, here's the thing, I knew I would one day. I knew my neurosis and desperate need for validation and reassurance would...It's not fair on everyone else. Er. The way I am. *(They sniff)* I know that but you said you didn't care, that you'd stay, that I would never be too much. *(Laughs)* I should've known you were lying.*(They sniff)* I know that's not fair to you, but...I don't feel like being fair or rational right now. I feel like *shit*. I feel like being sad and angry, and crying alone is so much worse, and it's not like you're gonna hear any of this anyway-

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

(SFX: Recording clicks on)

(SFX: Flat Interior)

HAIDEN:

Um, sorry. About that. Um, you're, you're probably coming back. Probably just needed a break. I, um, catastrophised. (*Small chuckle*) Again. Um, but, like I said you won't hear this so- no. Okay. Er, phrasing. Let's try-

You did this to- No. Er. No. I- communication 101 come on-

(*Sounding words out very carefully, feels awkward and forced*) I felt...bad. When you left. I thought it was my fault. But I didn't know what I did wrong. And that made me feel...stressed. You need to, um, I should've-

Fuck.

(*They sigh*)

I'd like to know why you left. I'd like for us to talk about it. I...don't want this to happen again, for either of us. So, how can we...fix or solve this? We can, right? We-

(Pause)

Jesus. (*Breath*) This is hard. But it's a start.

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

(SFX: Recording clicks on)

(SFX: Flat Interior)

HAIDEN:

I talked to your brother today. Um, he's doing well, looking forward to getting back to York at Christmas to see you. Which means, er, he hasn't seen you recently. Which means you're not at his.

HAIDEN:

I know it's bad. I- I know it's- I just need to know you're safe. That's all. Because no one seems to know where you are but-but no one seems concerned and I don't want to wake up to the news that- that there was some terrible accident on the M5, and you ended up in a ditch and no one looked for you. *(She sniffs)* Or that- that Christmas will roll around and it'll turn out no one's actually *seen* you for months and all the leads have all gone cold and your mum'll look at me as I- I stutter that I knew something was wrong but I left it and-

(She scoffs, annoyed at herself)

HAIDEN:

There I go. *(They sniff)* Catastrophising again. Making this all about me. Isn't it though? If I'm the reason you left then-

HAIDEN:

I haven't been sleeping. You can tell. *(A small, sad laugh)* Or, I've been going to sleep, closing my eyes, waking up and feeling exhausted. Which isn't helping anything. And work is going so slowly, and it's like moving through molasses just to get through the day and I've got to- there's something I'm missing. I know there is. I just need to remember. And- and then things'll be better. Then I can start moving again.

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

(SFX: Recording clicks on)

(SFX: Flat Interior)

HAIDEN:

I went into your room again, today. I don't know why. *(Small laugh)* Nothing's changed. I think...I thought maybe you'd been sneaking back in when I was at work. That you're round the corner instead of miles away. It was stupid, I know, but...well. *(They sigh)* It's dusty in here. Or it should be because you've been gone for weeks so... Maybe I'll run the vac round. That's something to do at least.

(SFX: Recording clicks off)

THE VOICEMAIL:

You have one new message. Message One.

RILEY: *(Through the phone)*

Haiden. I'm...sorry.

(SFX: Tone)

OUTRO

KIT: (Under a vocal filter and tape hiss)

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Social Media by Kit Lovick.

This episode featured:

BECA:

Beca Barton as Haiden Buxley

KIT:

Kit Lovick as the Voicemail

HANNAH:

Hannah Lapworth as Riley Jenkins

To learn more, visit us on Twitter @Hit_Replay_AD.

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