Hit Replay

Episode Six: Drop

Content Warnings:

Work stress, discussion of obsessive behaviour, discussion of anxiety and panic, arguments.

SFX: tape sound effects, distant traffic, phone call voice distortion, fabric rustles, muffled voices.

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 Six (**SFX: Two sharp thuds**) Drop.

(SFX: Button Pressed)

(SFX: Flat interior, a ticking clock, distant traffic continues throughout the episode)

HAIDEN:

It's just (*sigh*) uh, one of those weeks, you know? That feels like it's been going on forever, and I'm having the same conversations and- is this adulting?

JAMIE:

I think it's capitalism. But I get you, feels like I've been writing the exact same email for aaages.

HAIDEN:

Urghhh, God, a desk job. (*A disgusted choke*) How could you betray your creative roots, Jamie?

JAMIE:

Once again, *capitalism*. (Pause) (*Haiden laughs*) But, you didn't ask me over to talk about work. You said you…got something? From Riley?

HAIDEN:

Yup, here.

(SFX: Beep)

RILEY (Through the Phone)*:*

(SFX: Unknown interior, wind blowing, floorboards creaking, rain spitting underneath the flat interior soundscape)

Haiden. I'm…sorry. I- I- I know this is a lot. But…I needed to go, for the both of us. Because I'm a coward. And I am sorry, for so much more than you know. Don't try to find me. You'll hurt yourself, and me, in the process. You were the best, Haiden. Remember that, if nothing else. The goddamn best.

(SFX: Voicemail ends)

(SFX: Beep)

JAMIE:

Damn, that's- that's all she left you? I thought getting ghosted was bad.

HAIDEN:

Thank you!! It just…. (*they sigh sharply*) sucks.

JAMIE:

(*Hesitant*) Sounds pretty…definite, though. You're sure you can't remember anything that would've…you know…?

HAIDEN:

I've been wracking my brain since they left, J. I- I keep coming up blank.

JAMIE:

You said you saw her, right? On the first day?

HAIDEN:

Yeah, I-I left early for work and we just…ran into each other. Kind of. I mean, she was on the opposite side of the street and she just- she looked *scared*. Of *me.*

JAMIE:

Damn. And you're sure-

HAIDEN:

We hadn't had a fight. Nothing was different than the day before. And now no-one knows where she is (*Haiden snorts bitterly*)

JAMIE:

What do you mean?

HAIDEN:

I've asked around.

JAMIE:

Haiden…you said she was still texting people right? That means she hasn't actually disappeared-

HAIDEN:

I know, I know! She has every right to disappear off the face of the earth if she wants but…does that really sound like Riley?

JAMIE:

No, (*he sighs*) no it doesn't.

HAIDEN:

(*Intense*) And you haven't heard anything? Right?

JAMIE:

(*Uncomfortable and rambly*) No, not really. I mean, we don't really talk to each other anyway, so that's not a surprise but…

HAIDEN:

Jamie, if- if you know something-

JAMIE:

Listen, I… (*he sighs*) she sent a text. It must've been before she left. Said she couldn't make it to movie night. I thought it was weird 'cause, well, I thought you'd be the one to let me know if she wasn't showing up-

HAIDEN:

D- di-did she give a reason? Uh, like, w-why she couldn't, um-

JAMIE:

No. Listen, H, I know you're worried. I do. But maybe you need to let her be.

HAIDEN:

(*Defensive splutter*) I- i *have* been-

JAMIE:

Leaving her messages every other day and…talking into a recorder constantly about her isn't letting her be.

HAIDEN:

Ok, the messages might be a bit much, but it's not like (*defensively joking, trying to force a laugh*) she'll hear my recordings-

JAMIE:

It isn't just about her though. It's about *you*. You said it yourself, you haven't been sleeping. You've been obsessing over this and I get it! I do but…Riley left because she felt she needed to. Maybe she needed a break. (*Hesitant*) Maybe you do too.

HAIDEN:

(*Defensive*) But I can't just stop!

JAMIE:

Why not?

HAIDEN:

Because that'll mean…accepting it! It'll mean being fine with this whole thing and I! Am not! Fine! I'm scared, and I'm worried, and I'm angry, and I'm- I'm so many things-

JAMIE:

Then talk to me! Or Jessica! Anyone! Not a….recorder, not a pretend version of Riley!

HAIDEN:

Bu- But that's easier! Because- because she can't-

JAMIE:

Talk back?

HAIDEN:

I can control it! What I say! When! I don't have to worry about fucking up because I already *have*! I made her *leave.*

JAMIE:

Oh, Haiden.

(**SFX: Jamie grabs Haiden, pulling them into a hug**)

JAMIE:

(*Muffled as they hug Haiden*) I'm sorry I didn't check in more.

HAIDEN:

(*Muffled as they hug Jamie*) It's not your job.

JAMIE:

(*Muffled as they hug Haiden*) I know, but you're my friend. And you're hurting.

HAIDEN:

(*Muffled as they hug Jamie*) I don't know how to stop. Just…almost every second I'm thinking about why she left, how I can fix it, where she is now-

(**SFX: Jamie pulls back**)

JAMIE:

Your head sounds *exhausting*, H.

HAIDEN:

(*A bitter, broken laugh*) It is.

(Pause)

JAMIE:

Listen, we'll do a movie marathon tonight, OK? We'll order in, and we'll get popcorn, and we'll make blanket forts. I'll invite Jessica and Aaron round, and we'll just…hang out. See if we can quiet that mind of yours for a bit.

HAIDEN:

It'll come back, though.

JAMIE:

I know. But this is how it starts, couple of hours of movies that we are all way too passionate about, a chance for your mind to focus on something else and we- we build from there. You're not alone, Haiden. You have *us*. And you'll get through this, I promise.

HAIDEN:

(*Vulnerable and halting*) Alright. Just…don't leave, alright? I- I know, I *know* I'm a lot right now but- I need you to talk to me, to tell me if I'm upsetting you- I. Please.

JAMIE:

I promise.

OUTRO

KIT: (Under a vocal filter)

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This episode featured:

BECA:
Beca Barton as Haiden Buxley

THEO:
Theo Wampuszyc as Jamie Narrow

HANNAH:
Hannah Lapworth as Riley Jenkins

KIT:
To learn more, visit us on Twitter @Hit_Replay_AD.

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