

Brian likes to take long walks, He doesn't remember when he first started to do this, but he knows it is the only thing that calms him down. He has a five-year-old kid and a wife who is pregnant. It was one thing to deal with her when she was pregnant the first time, but a second time with a five-year-old begging for attention... ugh.

He walks past Kevin's house he would go in and have a cup of coffee, maybe chat about the album, but he won't this night when he and his own wife have something to celebrate. He keeps going down the street reaching the little park. He sees a familiar face.

"Man what are you doing out this late?" Nick looks up and shrugs, Brian sits down next to him and puts his hands behind his head.

"Let me guess... family break?" Brian nods. "You've been doing this ever since your wife had Bailey." Brian smiles. That sounds about right to him.

"Well, either you're with AJ partying or you're at your house asleep. Why are you here instead of there?"

"Howie." Brian sighs. He reaches a hand out and rubs Nick's back.

"I know it's been hard, it's been hard on all of us."

"I love him Brian I can't just forget about him."

"Well..." Brian hugs Nick. "Why don't you come back to my place? I'm sure Bailey will love to see you."

Nick takes a deep breath and lets Brian lead him back. Once inside, Bailey jumps into Nick's arms

"Nick yay!" Nick chuckles and hugs him. "You staying the night?"

"Maybe." He puts Bailey on the ground and he runs off. Leighanne walks in and puts her hands on her hips.

"Brian, may I ask-" "She couldn't finish. Brian whispers in her ear and she smiles. "Come into the kitchen Nick I was just finishing up brownies." Nick nods and follows them.

"Yay!" Bailey grabs on off the plate then drops it. "Ouch!"

"That's hot there dude let it cool down." Brian sits down next to Bailey and picks one up bouncing it in his hand and blowing on it. Leighanne's eyes roll.

"Hypocrite." Nick stands there staring at his shoes. He remembers going to the store with Howie and Howie telling him they bring out his eyes and other things. "Come on Nick

have a brownie.” Leighanne takes the cool on from Brian before he could put it in his mouth. Bailey laughs and Brian pouts.

“Thanks.” He sits down and begins eating listening to Bailey talk about his day. Nick was glad he didn’t have to live with them. After eating, Brian picks Bailey upside down and carries him to his bed. Leighanne kisses Nick good night going up the stairs slowly having had a long day herself. Brian comes running back down the stairs humming, and then stops in the doorway of the kitchen.

“He is gonna be okay Nick, you know that.” Nick sighs and wipes his eyes.

“Its just... he has a lower chance. He’s getting worse and I want to hold him kiss him again. I feel like everyday he’s getting closer to that dang light.” Brian walks over and hugs Nick patting his head.

“He is not he’s fighting and he’s gonna make it. Come on you can stay the night with me, watch a move of something.” Nick agrees.

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AJ finds Nick where he always finds him. He’s holding Howie’s favorite book sitting right next to Howie’s bed. He either reads to himself and talks about it with Howie, or reads out loud and talks with Howie. It’s just a one sided conversation.

“Nick will you just-” Nick looks up his eyes pleading. AJ sighs and sits in the corner. Nick wants Howie so bad to wake up. Kevin walks into the room and stands by the door his hands in his pockets. Brian shows up behind him. Nick starts the next chapter.

“This is a long book Howie.” Nick hears a beeping noise. “Howie?” He looks up at the heart monitor. He sees a straight line. He drops the book. “Howie please!” He shakes Howie a bit, not able to do CPR on his casted chest. Nick looks at the others. “Get some help!”

“Nick he’s-“Nick runs from the room but AJ goes after him grabbing his arm. Nick spins back around pounding on his chest.

“No he can’t leave me he just can’t!” He sobs in AJ’s chest and people stare. AJ drags Nick back into the room shutting the door. Nick walks back to Howie. “Baby please I love you I can’t... I can’t be without you.” The heart monitor stays the same. He touches Howie’s face feeling it slightly cold. He starts to cry again.

“Nick he’s gone.” Kevin whimpers.

“No!” Nick falls on his knees putting his face into Howie’s leg. “No, no, no!” He sobs. AJ walks over and rubs his back. Soon enough doctors come in and nurses. Nick can barely keep it together so AJ takes him home where he cries into his and Howie’s bed.

“Does anyone want to say a few last words?” Funerals were depressing. No one ever wanted to because they knew they were gonna cry. Brian however doesn’t care because he’s done worse on stage.

He talks up to Howie’s casket taking a deep breath.

“Howie man, you were like a brother to me. You and I had a lot of fun playing practical jokes on Kevin. “He laughs. “You really helped me out when Bailey was born. Man if it weren’t for you... yeash I would have been all over the place. I’ll miss ya and I will see you again.” Brian goes back to his seat and Leighanne holds his hand.

AJ walks up and pats the casket. “I remember you and I got drunk one night and you told me if you ever died young you didn’t want people to be mourning your death. You wanted people to be happy that you left earth and are now in a better place. Then I said that the fact your saying this drunk your gonna be in hell now.” AJ sighs. “You are the greatest guy I could have ever been privileged to work with and be friends with. Bye Howie D.” AJ sits back down blowing his nose.

Kevin would pay his respects afterwards. He was so emotional he couldn’t get out a word without it being a sob.

“Anyone else?” The pastor looks around then Nick raises his hand, stands up, and goes up to the casket. He stares at it for a few moments.

“I love you Howie and I’m waiting for you. You’re my one and only.” He keeps it together before he gets back to his seat then he hides his face in his dad’s chest.

The guys walk up and stand around Howie’s coffin. They all put a hand on the casket and AJ counts off with his fingers.

Show me the meaning of being lonely

So many words for the broken heart

Its hard to see in a crimson love

So hard to breathe

Walk with me, and maybe

Nights of light so soon become

Wild and free I could feel the sun

Your every wish will be done

They tell me...

Show me the meaning of being lonely

Is this the feeling I need to walk with

Tell me why I cant be there where you are

Theres something missing in my heart

*Life goes on as it never ends
Eyes of stone observe the trends
They never say forever gaze
Guilty roads to an endless love
Theres no control
Are you with me now
Your every wish will be done
They tell me*

*Show me the meaning of being lonely
Is this the feeling I need to walk with
Tell me why I cant be there where you are
Theres something missing in my heart*

*Theres nowhere to run
I have no place to go
Surrender my heart, body and soul
How can it be youre asking me to feel the things you never show*

*You are missing in my heart
Tell me why I cant be there where you are*

*Show me the meaning of being lonely
Is this the feeling I need to walk with
Tell me why I cant be there where you are
Theres something missing in my... heart*

Once they finish its silent. It felt weird for Nick for them all to sing in Howie's place, but to him he felt like Howie was right there singing with him. He wished he had Howie with him again, but they would always have each others' hearts.

THE END!