

The Mass Shooting

By: Holly Hintz

“It was all a lie. I knew I shouldn’t have trusted him.” Rachel thought to herself. Rachel and Zach met around a year ago. They became close friends before turning their friendship into a relationship. The couple always talked about moving in together, they just never got the money.

After another month went by, they finally decided to move in together. They’ve been living together for around 3 months now when Zach started acting strange. Everytime Rachel said something about it, Zach denied it. Every night Zach started going out and coming home later and later each night. “Where were you?” Rachel asked Zach. “Just out with some friends,” Zach replies. Rachel knew that wasn’t fully true.

The next morning Rachel woke up and Zach wasn’t in their room. “Zack!” she called. No answer. She searched their house for him but he was nowhere to be found. Rachel called Zach but he didn’t answer. She then proceeded to text him, “You didn’t come home last night? Is everything okay?” There was still no reply.

Rachel started scrolling through social media. She came across a post from a news page. As Rachel reads through the newsletter, she becomes more and more speechless. She couldn’t believe it. A mass shooting in her town that night that killed 17 people and the suspects are on the run. She started to panic. “What if it was Zack? What if he’s hurt?” she thought to herself. She called him again. Still no answer. She started shaking before sobbing.

Rachel called Melissa, her best friend. “Do you want to hangout?” she asks Melissa. “Of course!” Melissa replied. Rachel and Melissa met at their favorite restaurant. “Did you hear about the shooting?” asked Melissa. “Yeah it’s crazy, Zach didn’t come home last night.” Rachel responded. The waitress came and took their order. Melissa and Rachel spent time together for the rest of the day.

Rachel went home. Zack still wasn’t there, and hadn’t replied to her text yet either. Rachel decided to stop worrying about it and go to bed. Later that night she woke up to someone pounding on her door. Rachel got up and went to see who it was. Zach was at the door panicking and dressed in all black. “What’s wrong?” Rachel asks. “We can talk about it later Rachel, let’s just get some sleep.” replied Zack. Rachel sighed and laid back down. After what felt like hours of tossing and turning, Rachel finally fell asleep.

Later that morning Zack’s friends came over to their house. “Did you tell her yet?” Jacob, Zack’s friend asked. Rachel looked confused. “Tell me what?” she said. “Are you going to tell her?” Jacob asked. “I-I-I did it.” Zach stutters. “Did what?” Rachel said. “The mass shooting. It was me.” Zack says while shaking. His eyes start to tear up. Rachel was speechless. There were so many thoughts going

through her mind. "I knew it. I can't believe him." she thought to herself. She began to panic. "I-I... I don't know what to say. Why didn't you tell me?" she sobs. "I tried. I wanted to. Rachel, I already regret it." Zach says with a shaky voice. "Did you know about this?" Rachel asks Jacob. "Yes. I wanted to tell you last night but I'd rather Zach tell you."

Moments later there was loud pounding on the door. Rachel wipes her tears and goes and opens the door. It's the police.

"Um hello?" Rachel says. "Is Zack Johnson here?" the officer asks. Zach stands up and instantly puts his hands up. "Right here sir," Zack says. "You're being taken in for questioning," said the officer. Rachel began to cry.

Zach was found guilty and sent to prison for 20 years. She found out Zach was on drugs. He had to go to rehab to recover from his drug addiction. Rachel never went to visit him in prison. Everything was better for Rachel afterwards.