

Time Heals All

By

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A man repeatedly goes back in time to watch his lover die
and is driven mad by the grief.

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EXT. STREET - NIGHT

FRANKIE, 20s, GLASSES, extroverted, talkative, but with a present sadness, walks along beside JAY, 20s, calm and quiet.

FRANKIE

This is the last time, you know
that right?

Jay doesn't respond, he just stares ahead, like Frankie doesn't exist.

FRANKIE

It's just getting too hard. I
need to move on and get my life
back.

Frankie stops, Jay stops a second later to check his watch in the light of a street-light.

FRANKIE

But I don't want it back.

Jay starts walking again, still not acknowledging Frankie.

FRANKIE

I can't keep coming back Jay, so
please... please don't turn left.
Just don't turn left. For me.

Jay and Frankie reach an intersection. Jay turns left down an alley as Frankie looks on, nearly in tears.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Jay walks down the alley and is suddenly attacked by FIGURES in hoodies. Frankie watches on, not intervening, not doing anything as Jay is beaten and forced to the ground.

A bottle is thrown at Jay and smashes on the floor. The Figures take his phone and run down the opposite end of the alley.

Jay lies there, still, blood running from his head.

FRANKIE

Goodbye.

INT. DEN - DAY - PRESENT

Frankie wakes up in a ragged bed in a small, dim room, like an opium den. He wipes sweat from his face, his breathing staccato. A MASKED MAN steps up to the bed.

FRANKIE

Why can't you change it? If I can see him, why can't I save him!

The Masked Man just looks down at Frankie, no emotion.

FRANKIE

Please. I'll pay you, everything I have, there has to be a way!

The Masked Man shakes his head slowly.

FRANKIE

I'm not coming back. I'm not!

The Masked Man hands Frankie a blank business card.

INT. FRANKIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Frankie throws the blank business card in a bin, there is already another one in there.

The living room is full of cardboard boxes with 'Jay' marked on them.

Frankie sits on the sofa, looking through photos of himself and Jay on his phone. Frankie hovers over a delete button, but can't quite do it.

Frankie takes a drink and tries to read a book, but can't keep still or focus on the page, he looks over to the bin.

Frankie paces on the phone.

FRANKIE

No. I'm fine. I was just-- I just fancied a drink and you know, it'd be nice.... no I'm really fine.

Frankie leaves, closing the door behind him.

INT. FRIEND'S HOUSE - DAY

Frankie and FEMALE FRIENDS sit on a sofa drinking, in the middle of a casual party. The girls talk and laugh at one another, but it is blurred out for Frankie as he just looks at the wrist of a MAN across the room, wearing a watch similar to Jay's.

Frankie looks at his beer bottle and hears a bottle smashing, he fakes a smile at his friends and then flips over a beer-mat, it is blank underneath.

INT. FRANKIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Frankie rushes in and roots through the bin, finding the business card.

EXT. STREET 2 - NIGHT

Frankie hurries up to a decrepit, graffitied door and knocks on it, then holds the blank card up to the door.

INT. DEN - DAY

Frankie is led through a curtain by the Masked Man, into the exotic room with the bed. He hands the Masked Man Jay's watch.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT - PAST

Frankie watches from across the street as Jay comes out of a pub, putting his jacket on. Moments later, PAST Frankie, flits out of the door, hugs Jay and kisses him.

Frankie watches as Past Frankie and Jay say their goodbyes and go their separate ways. Frankie follows Jay.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - PAST

Frankie watches as Jay turns left at an intersection.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - PAST

Jay lies beaten and dead on the floor as Frankie sits beside him, crying.

MONTAGE - Frankie keeps reliving the night:

Frankie follows Jay several times, wearing different clothes and in different emotional states.

Frankie reaches out to touch Jay's hand as he lies on the floor, but isn't able to touch him.

INT. DEN - DAY - PRESENT

Frankie wakes up, completely devoid of emotion.

FRANKIE

Please. I'll do anything. Forget
the money. Anything! Just make
this stop.

The Masked Man looks down at Frankie and then hands him a different business card, it reads: 'A life for a life.'

Frankie looks up at the Masked Man, determined.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - PAST

Frankie walks beside Jay nervously.

FRANKIE

I know you'd hate me for doing
this. But I don't have a choice.

Jay stops to check his watch.

FRANKIE

Just find a way to live. For the
both of us.

Jay reaches the intersection, pauses and walks to the right, Frankie looks on, shocked.

He hears HIS own screaming and the sound of a car crash behind him in the opposite direction. He runs around a corner to see his PAST SELF lying on the road in front of a car. Frankie smiles for a second, then closes his eyes.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. PUB - NIGHT

The white of the blank business card is held in a hand.

PAST JAY comes out of the pub, putting his jacket on, just like before. Moments later, PAST Frankie, flits out of the door, hugs Jay and kisses him. They say their goodbyes and go their separate ways.

From across the street, PRESENT JAY watches him, holding the blank business card and Frankie's GLASSES.

PRESENT JAY

This is the last time.

Present Jay sets off to follow Past Frankie.