

Nothing but Time

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Developing New Worlds

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Story Premise

What if you had a decision to make that could change the entire course of your life? Would you take it knowing you had to give up the ones you loved?

That was the decision Jack Kalmin had to make in order to be free from a life behind bars. But could he? He didn't have a lot of time to decide whether to give up or move on. Either choice was going to break his heart, but he had to decide and soon.

Background Information

Jack always wanted to be a carpenter. He watched his grandpa build things out of wood his whole childhood. It fascinated him that such things could be built with his hands. That was until he watched his mother being taken from him at the age of ten. His whole world changed. It was then he slipped into a deep depression. He lost interest in friends, sports and the world around him. Eventually after much therapy and medication Jack was on the road to recovery. He knew he no longer wanted to be a carpenter. He wanted to fix people's brains. He started researching neurology very early age. By the time he reached high school, he was careful to keep a 4.0 grade point average to get a scholarship to college. He made his grandpa proud. He always knew he was meant to be more than a carpenter. He could tell those hands were meant for so much more. His drive to fix people eventually earned him the chief of neurosurgery job many years later. He strives every day to help figure out a way to better treat depression. He knows it's not the most important problem the world has, but he knows it was a big problem in his world. If he could help others suffering, then it would all seem worth it somehow. So, he spends much time in the lab, on his computer and in the books trying to find a way to ease depression, if not cure it. That was until his world once again changed and this time, no research or lab was going to fix his problem.

Main Character

Jackson Kalmin was born on September 28, 1972 to Ralph and Denise Kalmin. His entrance into the world was greatly anticipated by both parents, as he would be their only child. They lived in a ranch style white house with black shutters and a tire swing in the front yard hanging from the tall oak that Jack's grandpa planted as a child. He grew up in Augusta, Kentucky. His house was within a few minutes walking distance of the river. He spent so much time there with his best friend Tom and fishing with his dad. He could hear his mother call for dinner when the sun got close to setting and the mosquitos began to bite. It was just after his tenth birthday when it happened. His parents and him were on their way home from a family night out. They went to dinner at their favorite restaurant and had ice cream after. It had gotten dark as they left the ice cream parlor. The radio was turned up and they were all singing along to "Come on Eileen" when suddenly his mom screamed and the car swerved, slamming him up against the door. Everything went silent and Jack scanned the front seat for his parent. His dad was slumped over and blood dripped from his forehead. His mom was gone. Turns out she was ejected from the car through the windshield when the drunk driver hit their car. Jack got out of the car and found her down the road with no signs of life left. After the accident, Jack went into severe depression. He saw a therapist for well over a year. He was finally better when his father, a local cop, got transferred to Cincinnati, Ohio for a chief of police job. He told Jack it was the fresh start they both needed. Jack started at a new school, made new friends and excelled in his studies. Jack grew into his six-foot, slender frame. His lightning blue eyes and silly half grin seemed to attract the girls. He had only one serious relationship in college that ended when college did. He graduated with honors and received a full scholarship to The University of Cincinnati. After he graduated college, he started his internship at Mercy Health West Hospital. There he continued on with residency and becoming an attending. He met his now wife Victoria there. Three children followed. He rose above the best surgeons to become chief of the department while continuing to research ways to end depression. Life couldn't have been going any better until a colleague decided his success had gone far enough and rage sent him over the edge resulting in Jack being framed for multiple murders that sent him to a life in prison.

Supporting Characters

Victoria Kalmin is Jack's wife. They met during Jack's residency when she was a nurse for his floor. Victoria was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio as Victoria Smythe. After high school she went on to nursing school and later started her career at Mercy Health West Hospital, where she met Jack. She was slightly younger than Jack, but only by a few years. Jack towered over her five-foot-two-inch frame. She loved that about him. They dated secretly until he asked her to marry him. They were married during the spring of 2003. Victoria gave birth to their first child, Ronin, a year and a half later. Two more children followed. Jacoby and Willow. Vic continued to work as a nurse throughout their marriage.

Ralph Kalmin was born in Kentucky in the fall of 1943. His parents both lived full lives and were very active grandparents to his son Jackson, whom was born in 1972 to his wife Denise and himself. Jack would be their only child due to issues Denise had with reproduction. Ralph became a police officer when he was 25 years old. After graduating the academy he started his career at the Augusta police department. In 1982, after just fifteen years of marriage, Ralph lost his wife Denise to a drunk driver. Barely a year and a half later, he accepted a job offer in Cincinnati, Ohio to become the chief of Police. He accepted the offer. He took his son Jack and they started a new life in another state.

Stacy Hamilton, from a suburban neighborhood in Cincinnati, found herself undecided in her life when she graduated high school. She was a wild child. Rebelled constantly against her parents, and always went against the grain. She found herself pregnant at the end of her senior year, but just before graduation she miscarried the baby. She took that as a sign and enrolled in college. She wanted to be a teacher. During her junior year at the University of Cincinnati she met Jack. They dated until he graduated a year later. She was madly in love with him and he couldn't take his eyes off her porcelain face that framed her caramel eyes. They discussed marriage and children until one day he decided he wanted to go in a different direction. Her heart never fully healed. She found out he had been sent to prison. She then decided to visit and get her revenge.

Locations

Augusta, Kentucky is a very historical town in Kentucky. It sits on the southern bank of the Ohio River. Its population is tiny as it is less than 1500 people. There is a ferry operation ran

on the Ohio River. The town is small, but friendly. In the fall the changing leaves are a bountiful beauty to be seen. Augusta is a mere forty-eight-minute drive to Cincinnati, Ohio. The close distance made the move from Kentucky to Ohio much easier for Ralph and Jack. It's one of those small towns where everyone knows everyone. A must visit if you are looking for charm!

Cincinnati, Ohio. Also, a city on the Ohio River. This was a way for Jack to take part of his Kentucky memories with him. A city filled with gorgeous architecture, food and festivals. There is also an abundance of things to do including several museums to visit, a zoo, aquarium and so much more. Cincinnati also homes the hospital Mercy Health West, where Jack decided to build his career as a neurosurgeon. The city holds an urban feel, but also has many suburban residential areas, one of which Jack made his home for himself and his family. Cincinnati does have its sketchy areas, but all in all is a good place to call home.

Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown, Ohio. The building houses roughly 502 inmates. The stone and concrete structure is entirely fenced in multiple layers of barbed wire. This is the second of two prisons named Ohio State Penitentiary. The first was located in Columbus, Ohio and is now closed down and is currently used for touring purposes only. The Youngstown prison is where they sent Jack to serve his life sentence for the murders he was framed for committing. The prison houses mostly maximum-security inmates. It offers many programs for rehabilitation. The multi-level prison would become Jack's home until he was given an option to get out.

Synopsis

Jack Kalmin was an ordinary boy who was born in a small, Kentucky town. He lived a normal childhood until life took a huge turn for him. When he was ten years old a drunk driver took the life of his mother. He went into deep depression from that night on. After much therapy and medication, he was able to get out of his depressive state. This happened just as his father decided to take another job in the next state over. Soon after they made the move to Cincinnati,

Ohio. He made new friendships and excelled in his academic ventures. His childhood dream was to become a carpenter, but all of that changed when he went through the mental anguish of watching his mom pass in front of his eyes. He chose to chase the dream of being a brain surgeon so he could possibly help others who struggle with the same issues. He attended The University of Cincinnati. There he met Stacy, his first real girlfriend. They parted ways when graduation approached. He went on to work at Mercy Health West Hospital. There he started his research for depression cures and met his future wife, Victoria. They had a whirlwind romance, married and had three children. His research and career flourished. The jealous rage of a co-worker ignited a murder investigation that implemented and charged Jack with murder. He received a life sentence but was given an offer to get out he might have to refuse.

Excerpt

Jack looked around his cold cell. The walls closed in daily. He reached up and traced the pictures of his wife and kids that adorned the stone wall with his right hand. He glanced into his left hand. A blue pill sat in his palm. It was unlike any drug he had ever heard of. She told him to take it, but only if his freedom meant giving up the most precious parts of his life; his wife and kids. Either way, they lose him. He clinched his fist that held the pill. Could he give up a life that

he built from the ground up for a life he didn't even know? Was what she was saying even the truth?

He walked the dreary hall to the phones and waited in line until it was his turn. When he got to the phone, he picked it up and dialed his wife's number. After accepting the charges, he heard her sweet voice on the other line.

"Hello?" she said.

"Hi baby," he replied.

"I miss you," she said.

"I miss you too. I need you to make a visit. We need to talk. I can't do it over the phone."

She agreed that she would. His visitor told him to sleep on the decision. He knew sleep wouldn't come. And he knew no decision could be made without the wise words of his adoring wife. The wife he may never see again if he takes this pill. The offer would expire in three days. Victoria was coming to visit in two days. He had to choose a life outside the bars without her or a life behind them only seeing her through glass.

He leaned over the toilet and vomited. Thankfully his cellmate was out. He had no idea what to do. The impending dread loomed.

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