

What Happened After?

By

Raymond Gomez

Fairfax High School

INT. U.S. HISTORY CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

There's two more weeks left for 8th grade year to end for Jake, 15, slim, and he's off to high school. He stares blankly open-mouthed at Hail—the most beautiful girl Jake had ever seen, sitting at the end of his row of seats. Soon after, South, 15, buff, walks in class.

SOUTH

GREAT! A substitute. What now, Mr. Creed got the hick-ups?

Jake

I love the streak of substitutes we're getting this time around. Why are *you* late?

South

My dad was too tired to take me so...

Jake stares hard and points at South's face while he sits down.

Jake

What happened to your cheek?

South touches his bruised cheek.

South

Oh, my.....yeah.

Jake nods his head understanding

Jake

I uh....actually got into the chorus thing.

South

You joined chorus? Dude why would you embarrass yourself? I mean you're good, you are, but you're just not someone that can

create emotion or whatever
when singing.

Suddenly, the phone rings. The substitute gets up from his seat and answers it. There's this great feeling that overpowers him.

Mr. Riley

South, we seem to have a
problem. Can you come over
here?

South
Yeah, alright.

South reluctantly walks over. Jake looked confused and questioning while South and Mr. Riley whisper rapidly. South left the room angry.

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON 2 YEARS LATER

Jake's in 10th grade and is eating lunch with his new friend Axe.

Axe
There were around 45 people
around him just annoying
him.

Jake
Huh? Who?

Axe
The slayer get-together

Jake was confused about anything happening. He was day dreaming.

Axe
My girlfriend wanted us to
take a picture together.
Wanna see it? This pic is so
old.

Jake

Sure. I should have gone
with you guys. That is if I
knew you back then.

Axe leans over to his backpack on his side and takes a
photo out. He passes it to Jake and he observes it with a
hard look on his face.

Axe

What?

Jake

Oh, um nothing. It's just
the picture. This kid looks
so familiar...

Axe's friend Drake approaches to him almost running over
Jake's milk kart.

Drake

Hey dude, Allen brought over
his guitar and is playing
"Mercy Ball."

Axe

Oh hell no. Alright I'll be
there in a sec.

Drake

No, come with me now.

Axe turns to Jake thinking about what to do.

Axe

See ya Jake!

Axe stands up from the bench and leaves abruptly. Jake has
no expression on his face.

Jake

Ok...bye!

Jake feels lonely and stares at the photo of Axe and his
girlfriend one more time pointing at it, puzzled.

Jake (V.O.)

That can't be South. It
just...can't.

INT. DANCE CLUB - MORNING 2 YEARS LATER

Jake's in his senior year of high school. He enters the
room.

Ms. Culprit
Hi Jake!

Jake
Ms. Culprit? You're our
dance teacher? I thought you
were the orchestra
assistant?

Ms. Culprit
Budget cuts. They let Ms.
Kramer go and I took his
job. Oh Jake, you should
have been there, at the
district meeting. So many
students along with me were
fighting to keep this dance
club up to date and very
diverting for you guys.

Jake
Oh that's okay.

Jake gives a nervous giggle.

Jake
I'm just taking this class
for graduation.

Ms. Culprit
Oh?

A loud laughter was echoing throughout the hallway. The
students laughing burst into the room with scared faces.

South
Oh my god! HAHAAHAHA...He
almost caught us. I'll see

you Sanny! Sam...NO!
HAHAHAHA...

The bell rang. Sam came into the room laughing, almost bumping over South.

Sam
Your butt got saved by the bell.

Ms. Culprit stands up from her seat in front of her desk.

Ms. Culprit
Okay, everybody, welcome to dance club. Whether you can dance or not I'll teach you myself and you'll all understand how each music, each song, really has its own dance routine. But first, I'll love to get to know all of you. Here's a Q and A worksheet to fill out.

Ms. Culprit grabs a stack of paper from her desk and begins passing them out. Jake had been cautiously staring at South and Sam the entire time.

Sam
Miss, this class is only for one semester right?

Ms. Culprit
Yes, but I encourage you all to have fun throughout our time and perhaps get a part in a movie or on a play one day.

South turns around his desk and notices Jake, for the first time, staring at him casually. South turned the other way immediately and began working on his assignment. Ms. Culprit walks over to Jake to hand out the worksheet.

Jake
Ms. Culprit, are the chorus team and the dance club ever

going to reunite and make a huge performance?

Ms. Culprit
Oh, no. I hate Mr. Gandhi.

Jake
Oh, that's right. He's your ex.

Ms. Culprit frowns.

Jake
I'm sorry...I'm just too mature for this.

INT. AXE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Jake and Axe are hanging out in Axe's bedroom, flipping through channels on the television.

Jake
So what was the final score on the football game?

Axe
Twenty-six to three. We frickin' murdered them. I got tackled so hard though, I felt breathless. You should have gone. I would have given you free tickets. You would have gone along with South. Do you know him?

Jake shrugs.

Jake
I've known him longer than you.

Axe
How?

Jake gets up from the floor and begins pacing.

Jake

We've been best friends ever since the 4th grade up until 8th grade and now he ignores me like I'm nothing. And he was my only friend when I had to get through tough situations. I thought that we would never...like distant ourselves. One of the big reasons why I liked being his friend was because he was more popular than I was and by his help, I was able to achieve what I wanted, what I needed. There were so many things I wanted to do once I got to high school but was always too afraid to actually seek them. Like singing...I can sing...but it's just...I can't...I'm nervous and I don't know why.

Axe

Well obviously you don't know him that well. Dude, his dad abuses him, his mom's a pimp, and he brings a Desert Eagle to school everyday only because his brother is stupid enough to gang around crisis.

Jake sits down on a chair next to him merely smiling.

Jake

I knew all of that.

Axe giggles.

Axe

Then why did he leave you in the 8th grade?

Jake was attentive.

Jake
How do you know that?

Axe
He told me.

Jake gives Axe a mischievous look.

Jake
Alright, fine, tell me why
he left?

Axe gets up from the floor and reaches for Jake's bag.

Axe
Okay, I think it's time for
you to go. I'm tired and I
have to call m girlfriend.

Jake
You're hiding something from
me. Tell me!

Jake stands up and approaches Axe.

Axe
No, I'm not, Leave now!

Jake
You're girlfriend kissed
Mark.

Axe
What? When?

Jake
No...Just...tell me. I need
to know

Axe stares at Jake tensely.

Axe
I need your help.

Jake
What is it?

Axe

You know how South takes a weapon to school everyday?

Jake

Yeah, but he told me he wouldn't begin taking it until high school would begin.

Axe

Exactly, now I met him the day before he left in 8th grade. We had met the day of the Slayer get-together. My girlfriend had gone to Burger King with her best friend when South and I had bumped into each other. He explained to me everything about the stressful days of how life treats him. He told me that for his safety he would start bringing a weapon to school due to him having problems with his brother's stupidity. The day after, he invited me to his house that morning so I believe he came late to school that day. Anyway, he showed me everything: where his dad hides his drugs and their weaponry. Afterward, South's dad calls him out from the room and I believe he strikes South in the face. I'm left alone and his backpack's in front of me and weapons to the side of me. I then put one in his backpack and frame him.

Jake

Why would you do that?

Axe

I wanted to help him by not exactly being caught as a snitch but it was pointless because I went too far into saying that his dad held drugs in his house.

Jake

How did South and his dad find out it was you?

Axe

Because the stupid police officer told them that I reported them. I think they knew each other somehow.

Jake

Alright, so you told me. What do you need from me?

Axe

It turned out that they only got partially punished. When they were both released, they captured my brother and held him hostage.

Jake

Are you serious?

Jake walked over to his bag, picks it up, and puts it on.

Axe

I'm being watched by somebody. And they're inspecting every move I make to not risk from me telling on them or else something bad'll happen to my brother before I know it.

Jake

This is too creepy. I gotta go.

Axe

Wait!

Axe holds Jake while he tries to leave.

Axe

I need your help. I need for
you to go and tell the
police...

Jake frees himself from Axe's grip and begins walking
towards the door.

Axe

To tell the police about
what's happening while my
dad and I distract South and
his dad.

Jake begins opening the bedroom door but then freezes.

Jake

How long has he had your
brother hostage?

Axe

Since the beginning of
senior year.

Jake

Tomorrow's Saturday...

Axe

Yes and will you please do
it? It'll definitely change
our life around...

Jake pauses for a moment to think about it.

Jake

Fine, I'll do it!

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Jake walked into the building anxious to talk to an officer. He went to go stand in front of a desk and moments later an average sized officer came to greet him.

Officer Morales
Hello, I'm officer Morales.
Can I be any help to you?

Jake
Hi, my name is Jake and I
have a very serious problem
with my friend regarding
kidnap issues.

Officer Morales
Why don't you step into my
office?

Jake nods and follows him into a dark, small room with a table in the middle and a pair of chairs in front of them on either side.

Jake
Wow, this is so sudden.

Officer Morales
What's your problem?

Jake explains to officer Morales every detail Axe had told him.

Officer Morales
Okay, this is something
serious. I will have to
check on this right now with
some back up. Can you please
bring your friend here at
this moment?

Jake
Alright, but my friend Axe
actually...

South walks into a room next to Jake's room. There's a window visible that they can see each other from.

Jake

Who's that? What is he doing here?

Officer Morales
Oh, that's South. He's my nephew.

Officer Morales takes out some handcuffs and gets up from his seat approaching Jake. Jake gets up from his seat and backs away in fear.

Officer Morales
It's okay, you'll be perfectly safe here.

Jake
You're crazy.

Officer Morales is still approaching Jake but with a wide smile on his face.

Jake
No! Don't.....

Axe, his dad, and a couple of other police men burst into the room and jump on top of Officer Morales

Jake
Oh, thank God.....

Axe
Are you okay?

Jake
Yeah, I'm fine.

Axe
It's all over now. I ended up telling South where you were once he told me his uncle was head of the police department.

Both Axe and Jake leave the room relieved.