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Honors English II
February 9, 2020

A Murder Warning

“A second chance doesn’t mean anything if you didn’t learn from your first.” -Anurag Prakash
Ray

It was the year 2096 and Hank White was in trial for murder. The years have changed and murderers aren’t punished like they used to be. Before murderers were punished with life in jail or sometimes death. Recently murderers have been getting away with their terrible acts. Hank White is sitting in the courtroom waiting for his trial to begin so he can hear the verdict.

“All rise, this court is now in session”, says Judge Martin. Hank was itching with fear because he was uncertain what his punishment would be. As the trial continues and the jury hears both sides, Hank begins sweating profusely. His nerves are not helping him win this trial. Judge Martin and the jury can see his fear. They can see he isn’t confident in winning this case. Hank thinks to himself, *I must hide my nerves, I can show no weakness.* He feels guilty for killing the poor girl he spotted at the coffee shop. He thinks, *Why? Why am I here? Why did I kill the girl? It was that auburn hair, it gets me every time. It lights a fire in me that I cannot put out in any other way.* He ponders those thoughts in his head, forgetting to even listen to what Judge Martin is reciting. Now Hank was drenched in sweat looking as if he just took a shower and fear was seeping out of him.

Judge Martin stands and announces, “now, we will wait for the jury to decide Mr. Hank White’s verdict.” Twenty-seven minutes have passed and still, nothing has been said. Hank’s defense lawyer has put up a good fight to keep Hank away from severe punishment. Hank and his defense lawyer have done their research. Judge Martin seems to be more lenient on murder cases. She feels bad to put the man or woman in a cage for the rest of their life. And Judge Martin would never put someone on death row. Her views on life are very extreme and have changed the ways of Ohio trials. Trials nowadays are very different. Criminals have started to get punishments that mean nothing because humans are becoming too kind. Judge Martin often thinks to herself *Everyone deserves a life, even those who have done wrong and those who have been killed off probably had a reason to be.* Hank and his lawyer believed they were in good hands, but nothing was set in stone.

It has now been forty-three minutes and the jury was coming back to tell the verdict of the case. A member of the jury and Judge Martin recite together, “The verdict of the Hank White Murder case is guilty. Although, with lots of thought and consideration Mr. Hank White will only be receiving a warning for his actions.” Hank’s body sunk in a stage of relief. Both Hank and his defense lawyer were grateful to hear the news Judge Martin just gave them. Hank’s thoughts are in a whirl *Thank God! I am free! No more sweat, no more nerves!* Hank thanked Judge Martin and the jury and started to run out of the courtroom.

Hank arrives at home still ecstatic that he has no punishment for what he did. He killed someone and didn’t get punished, what could be better? Hank wants to celebrate his awesome self. All of that sweating and those nerves have also made him thirsty. Hank thinks to himself how he should celebrate. Hank leaves his apartment in his favorite black hoodie. He then starts walking towards the coffee shop, hoping to see that auburn hair and ignite a new fire inside of him.