

Hair - Georgie Hood

The most popular girl in high school. Silky, blonde hair, gorgeous, green eyes. Spectacular sense of style and she wears the most complimenting makeup. Her skin is so clear, it's almost intimidating. Her name is Kassie Moore. She is the perfect girl, so kind and thoughtful, as well. Except, one day, her whole life changed...

... in the hospital.

"It's just an annual checkup, Kassie." Her mum whispered comfortingly. "Nothing to worry about."

Kassie gave her a small smile, but it was so fake. They were keeping her for so long that she had a gut feeling that something was wrong. That's when the doctor walked in.

"Alright, you might want to sit down for this." The doctor said sadly. Kassie's heart was beating so fast that she was worried it would pound out of her chest. "I'm so sorry, you have a type of cancer, Leukaemia." Kassie was speechless. Her mum was so shocked that she froze up. Kassie's face was blank but tears were pouring out of her eyes.

"What - what does this m-mean?" Kassie replied stuttering.

"It means that, you'll have to have chemotherapy. Your hair is going to fall out. It means that you can't fight infection the way that normal white blood cells do. Eventually, you may not have enough red blood cells to supply oxygen." Said the doctor slowly.

"My-hair?" She responded, "no, I can't let go of my hair."

Her mum soon unfroze and tried to explain the situation to Kassie.

"Honey, I know you - we are upset but we are going to get through this." Her mum said holding Kassie's hand.

Kassie felt this whirlwind of emotions attacking her. She couldn't express how she was feeling in words even if she tried.

"Mum, does this mean I need to buy a - a wig?" Kassie asked nervously.

"Yes, you can choose whichever one you want Kass." Her mum replied.

Tears kept pricking in her eyes.

After Chemotherapy, at Kassie's house...

Chunk after chunk, Kassie's hair started to fall out. But the thought that kept popping into her head was her popularity. What's gonna happen when her school finds out that she's got cancer. Holding her hair in her hands, she clenched her fists and started crying into her palms. Kassie couldn't bare the thought that people would feel sorry for her. She was the popular girl not the 'I'm sorry for you' girl. Kassie wanted to buy a wig immediately. But that meant, shaving her head. As she held the vibrating hair chopper in her hand, her heart was racing.

The razor was so powerful, it could change her whole look. After three deep breaths, Kassie finally got the courage to shave her head. When she looked in the mirror she felt the coldness on the top of her head. Her life had now crumbled into a million pieces. "So long beauty," she thought. Tears were rolling down her face. She felt like her life had no purpose anymore, no hair, no life. Kassie just couldn't even look at herself. The inside was all people could judge her on now. But could that be enough? Yes her glowing eyes and flawless skin was still there. But did that really matter, without her hair? It was her biggest secret, only her family knew.

Kassie needed to tell someone, it was going to eat her up from the inside if she didn't do anything about it. The only person she could trust was her best friend Blake. Her hands were shaking as she held her phone to her ear. On the last dial there was an answer.

"Kass? What's up?" Asked Blake.

"Blake? Blake - help me, I have cancer, I have no hair, please come over!" Kassie cried.

"Cancer? Kass what? I'm coming over now!"

Kassie felt really bad at how she brought it all upon Blake. It would've been the last thing he expected. She bit her nails as she waited for a response at the door. The door knob opened quickly and there Blake was. He looked at Kassie and ran to her. She leaped into his arms and hugged him. Blake held her tight as he brought Kassie up to her bedroom. They were both crying, but Kassie was more upset than Blake was.

"I'm so sorry I didn't tell you." Said Kassie sadly.

"Kass you have nothing to apologise for, are you okay?" Wondered Blake.

"I don't know - I have no hair, I have no idea what is going to happen." Kassie just sat on the floor and leaned her head against the wall.

"Come, we'll go to the shopping centre. I'll buy you a wig."

"You don't have to do that, Blake."

"I want to." Blake took her hand and they went to his car.

After about ten minutes they got to the shopping centre. Kassie was really scared that someone would recognise her. They then got to the wig shop.

"Pick out any one you want." Blake said kindly.

"Are you sure, Blake? They cost a lot of money." Asked Kassie.

"Kass, I'm sure."

Kassie looked around the shop. She held up a bright, neon wig and looked in the mirror. She then moved towards the more natural wigs. Kassie was drawn to a flawless, blonde wig. It fitted perfectly on her head. "That's the one Kass."

Blake said excitedly.

They walked out of the and Kassie had her amazing wig on. It was so different to her original hair but still gorgeous.

On first day of the new school year, Kassie felt pretty confident. Her hair was looking incredible. Kassie was head of the drama club and they were about to start a production. Kassie (like every year) has to make a speech to start the year off in front of the drama club.

"Hello everyone." Started Kassie. "My name is Kassie Moore - my name is Kassie Moore." Kassie didn't feel right, she felt like she should be happy but she wasn't. "I'm Kassie Moore and I am not perfect. I have come to realise that looks are not as important as we think. Everyone has a story to tell and mine is that, I have cancer." Kassie took off her wig from her head and looked at it. "I am the same person that I always have been, just without hair and that's okay." Kassie expected the drama club to walk out of the room but there was a huge round of applause. She smiled and walked around the school corridors, with no wig on, like she owned the place.

Kassie was not going to let cancer ruin her life, she was going to climb up the mountain and make it down again. Blake came catching up to her in the corridor. "That was, pretty cool, Kass." He said with a smile on his face. "Yeah? Good." She replied.

A week later at school...

A girl came up and approached Kassie.

"Kassie, would you like to come to this party I'm having tonight?" She asked politely.

"Yeah, sure." Kassie replied. She took the invite and was very excited for the party. Kassie hadn't been to a party in ages, she was super excited.

"Do you want me to pick you up at seven?" Asked Blake.

"That would be great, thanks."

Kassie felt like she was in a cliché montage of trying on dresses. She finally found the black, sparkly dress that ended just above her knee caps. She was considering putting her wig on but she changed her mind. Bald rocks and she realised that she needed to embrace it. Then there was a knock at the door.

"Hey, wow you look beautiful." Said Blake stunned.

"Aww thanks. Let's go!" She replied happily.

They got to the party and couldn't wait to dance. Blake was with Kassie the whole time, they laughed, dance and had a great time.

"You having fun?" Asked Blake.

"Ye - Blake I need to go to the hospital." Said Kassie panicked.

"Wha - okay I'll take you to the car." Blake carried her to his car and drove as fast as he could to the hospital. Kassie was gasping for air.

"Kassie, it's going to be okay, we are almost there." Blake said really worried.

They finally got there and he ran in there with Kassie in his arms.

"Help, this is Kassie, she has cancer and I think she needs help." Blake was so upset. They took Kassie out of his arms and into a hospital trolley. He called her parents and told them to come to the hospital right away.

Once Kassie was hooked up to the machine, Blake could go into her room. He ran in and she was still having problems breathing.

"Kassie?" Blake asked. But she couldn't respond, it was almost like her throat was closing up. Her parents arrived after ten minutes and watched her. Blake took a nurse aside, "is she going to be okay?" He asked horrified.

The nurse sorrowfully shook her head. Blake looked back at Kassie. He held her hand and she looked at him.

"Kassie, I'm here, okay?" Blake said sadly.

Kassie tried to speak.

"I know, just promise me something." She said.

"Yes, anything."

"Keep that wig, then my hair will live on." Kassie squeezed his hand.

"I will, Kass." He cried.

The dreaded beep sound was now one long note.

"Kass?" Blake whispered. "N - no."

He couldn't believe it, Kassie had. *Gone.*