

# 101 WAYS TO SURVIVE HIGH SCHOOL

1x01: This is Where the Journey Begins  
Written by Brian Melanson

# 101 WAYS TO SURVIVE HIGH SCHOOL

## **Starring**

Auli'i Cravalho as Hayley Parker  
Dylan Minnette as Danny Ford  
China Anne McClain as Riley Pierce  
Dylan Spayberry as Will Hamilton  
Zoey Deutch as Katerina Coveand  
Mamrie Hart as Maureen Lynwood

FADE IN:

INT. PARKER RESIDENCE, HAYLEY'S ROOM - DAY

POV: From a Video Camera.

We come in on a young girl, HAYLEY PARKER (16. Long black hair, cute smile and a fun personality that everyone loves her for). Hayley sits at the chair, directly facing the camera.

HAYLEY

I bet you're wondering why I'm  
doing this.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

1: Hayley paces back and forth.

2: She sits on her bed, flipping through a magazine.

3: She comes out of the bathroom, her hair wrapped in a towel.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

(singing)

*Don't stop believin'.*

(off-key)

*HOLD ONTO THE FEELIN'!*

4: She now sits back down in front of the camera.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Imagine going through high school  
not knowing what the heck to do.  
That's where I come in. This is my  
"video diary survival guide" thing.

Hayley now picks up the camera and points it at her face.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Just bear with me. It all started  
with the first day of High School.  
Not just any High School. Public  
High School... DUN DUN DUN!

She smiles and stops recording.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, LOBBY - DAY

Everyone bustles into school, greeting each other with hugs and fist bumps. Hayley walks in. She tries to get through the crowd.

HAYLEY

Okay! First day of school! You got this!

She walks over towards the table where students are all lined up. She smiles at one brunette girl, who looks very annoyed.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Isn't this exciting!? First day of school! It's my first day of public school! I've never been to one before. Do they always smell like bacon and guacamole?

The girl grabs her schedule, rolls her eyes and walks away. Hayley walks towards the secretary JANET (She is VERY old and has a raspy voice.)

JANET

Name!?

HAYLEY

Um. Hayley.

JANET

Last name?

HAYLEY

Parker.

Janet slowly begins to look for Hayley.

JANET

Alan, Anderson, Ass-- !

HAYLEY

-- My last name starts with a P. You can look under the P's.

JANET

Don't tell me what to do. I was a secretary for World War Two.

She flips some papers.

JANET (CONT'D)

Here you are. Hayley Parker. Here is your schedule, your locker number and number for Animal Control.

HAYLEY

Why do I need a number for Animal Control?

JANET

Also your student hand book.

She gives Hayley a VERY big, more than 800 page book. Hayley almost falls over holding it. She then turns away.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

Hayley scans the lockers, trying to find hers. Across the hall stand two teens. RILEY PIERCE (16. She has a case of R.B.F. She's also very beautiful and very intimidating.)

Next to her is DANNY FORD (16. He has short hair and pale skin. He's kind, gentle and the exact opposite of Riley.)

RILEY

Look at that.

DANNY

At what? Cindy Desmound? Yeah, she's freaking amazing. Did you hear she helped homeless polar bears this summer.

RILEY

Not that...

(beat)

The girl that looks like a lost puppy.

DANNY

Wow. She's cute. You think she's single?

She elbows him. Hayley then finds a locker. She begins to open it. Riley's eyes widen and she runs over, slamming the locker shut as Hayley opens it.

RILEY

I wouldn't open that if I were you.

HAYLEY

Why not?

RILEY  
Because that's the Duck's locker.

Hayley raises a brow in confusion.

HAYLEY  
The duck? Who's the duck?

DANNY  
The duck isn't a person. It's an actual duck.

HAYLEY  
Why is there a duck in the locker?

RILEY  
That's a punch line for another day.

The bell rings. Danny and Riley begin to walk. Hayley chases after them.

HAYLEY  
I'm sorry, but who are you guys?  
(beat)  
It's my first day and I really don't know anyone.

RILEY  
Well doesn't that just suck. Well, see you later!

Riley starts to walk away but Danny turns to Hayley.

DANNY  
I'm Danny, by the way.

HAYLEY  
I'm Hayley.

Riley groans and turns around, standing next to Danny.

DANNY  
And this is Riley.

She does a non-interested wave.

HAYLEY  
Nice to meet you guys.

Riley grabs the papers from Hayley and looks it over.

RILEY  
Pretty much your routine schedule.

HAYLEY  
Is that a good thing?

RILEY  
It's a good thing you'll be stuck  
in a never ending paradox of  
homework and snoring teachers.

They stop walking and Riley hands Hayley back her papers.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Well, good luck. Hope you survive  
the hell that is high school. Have  
fun.

Danny stops her and gives her that "look"

DANNY  
(whispering)  
We have to help her.

RILEY  
Okay, who died and made us the  
welcoming committee?

DANNY  
You promised that this year you  
would work on your attitude. And I  
can't be your only friend.

RILEY  
Who said I'm your friend.

DANNY  
Come on, Riley. She needs us.

Hayley watches, confused. They both turn and look at her.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Maybe you should follow us around.  
We can help you find your classes  
and just be friends.

HAYLEY  
That's cool! I like friends.

Danny and Hayley begin to walk.

RILEY  
This is why we don't pick up  
strays!

She groans loudly, throws a small hissy fit and walks with them.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HISTORY HALLWAY - DAY

They come to a different part of the hall. Riley now walks in front of Danny and Hayley.

RILEY

Welcome to the hallowed halls of Serenity High School. It's high school. It sucks. You know the drill.

HAYLEY

Actually, I never went to a public school.

RILEY

Oh my god. You were home schooled?!

(beat)

Please don't tell me you're Amish!

HAYLEY

No. I went to a private school.

DANNY

Wow, a fancy friend.

HAYLEY

I don't want you guys to treat me any different. I'm pretty sure all schools have a five star lunch menu and lemon water.

Danny and Riley stare at each other in confusion.

RILEY

Yeah, no.

DANNY

That's not a normal thing.

Hayley sighs a bit and walks with them.

HAYLEY

Okay. So, how do I survive the public school life?

Riley and Danny look at each other and smile.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, SCIENCE HALLWAY - DAY

Riley and Danny bring Hayley toward a set of bathroom doors.. These doors look CLEAN and BRIGHT.

DANNY

These are the only bathrooms you're supposed to use in this school.

HAYLEY

What about the other ones?

Riley points over to the other doors where the doors are GRIMY and one is almost off the hinges. Hayley tilts her head in confusion.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher gives a very uninteresting lesson at the board. They are focused taking notes. Riley then leans over to Hayley.

RILEY

Don't rely on the text book to teach you anything. The last chapter says that millennials are taking over the world.

Hayley sighs and reads some of the pages.

HAYLEY

Wait, this says that Switzerland won World War Three.

Hayley sighs and continues reading.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

"As of 2012, we will arise to a new world order in a post Minion World"  
(whispering)  
What does that mean?!

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, GYM - DAY

They are playing a VERY hardcore game of dodgeball. Riley throws a ball at a kid and it knocks him out. Hayley screams as more balls come flying at her.

DANNY

Make sure you don't get hit in the face with a -- !

A dodgeball then hits Hayley right in the face, knocking her to the ground. Danny then looks over at Riley who is smirking.

RILEY

I didn't mean to hit her that hard.

Danny sighs and Hayley groans in pain.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

Hayley holds an ice pack to her head. She walks with Danny and Riley.

HAYLEY

Okay, so don't use the bathroom,  
we're living in a post Minion world  
and dodgeballs' really hurt.

(beat)

Anything else?

RILEY

Watch out for the falling ceiling  
tiles.

HAYLEY

Falling what -- ?!

Suddenly, pieces of the ceiling come crashing down in front of her. She screams loudly as everyone just looks at her and laughs.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

TEACHER

And that is why we have robot  
penguins fighting global warming!

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, CAFETERIA - DAY

RILEY

Don't eat the meatloaf. It's not  
meat. It's 95% cardboard.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

A piece of the ceiling falls on top of Hayley and some students laugh at her. The kids all around her begin laughing. Everything around her begins to echo when suddenly she just --

HAYLEY

STOP!

She looks at Danny and Riley. Both of them look at her in shock. Hayley then runs off, tears welling in her eyes. Riley is about to follow after her but -- .

DANNY

No. Let her go.

RILEY

This is your fault, you know. Do you remember what happened when we tried to help that international student?

(beat)

She's still in the vents!

The vents above them shudder a bit. Both of them look up in fear.

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM - DAY

Hayley bursts through the doors and runs towards the stage. She sits down on the edge of the stage and begins to cry. She grabs her phone, dialing quickly. She brings it to her ear.

HAYLEY

Hey Dad. Yeah, can you come get me?

(beat)

No the other kids aren't bullying me.

From behind the curtain comes the legendary, MAUREEN LYNWOOD (early 30s, red head, biggest smile all around. She's also the old Drama Director and current Study Hall teacher.)

She sees Hayley and takes a step back behind the curtain.

MAUREEN

(to herself)

Come on, Maureen. You didn't take those two online psychology courses for nothing.

She turns around and sees Hayley hang up her phone. She begins to wipe her eyes.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Hey kid!

Hayley screams out in fear. She turns around to see Maureen standing there.

HAYLEY

I'm sorry, I'll leave.

MAUREEN

No, no, no! It's okay. It happens, you just need to cry.

HAYLEY

I wasn't crying.

MAUREEN

Oh yeah, of course you weren't. Next time wear waterproof mascara if you're gonna cry. Easier to hide the evidence.

Maureen sits down next to Hayley and takes out some tissues from her pocket.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

I'm Maureen by the way.

HAYLEY

I'm Hayley. Just Hayley.

MAUREEN

So, "Just Hayley"... Let me guess, you're a Freshman who misses middle school? Or it's just one of those days.

HAYLEY

New kid.

MAUREEN

Ah, that explains it. You're lost and don't have friends.

(beat)

If you go to the computer lab you can print out a map and make online friends.

HAYLEY

No, it's not that. I made some friends, or at least I think I did.

(beat)

Public school sucks. I did Private school.

MAUREEN

Damn. You're fancy.

(beat)

But come on. It can't be that bad.

HAYLEY

There's a duck in the locker next to me, apparently we all missed World War Three, the ceiling is falling apart, dodgeball freaking hurts and the bathrooms are radioactive!

MAUREEN

Okay, just all that is bad.

HAYLEY

I just miss my old school. At least there they actually cared about our education. I knew everyone there and things just made sense.

(beat)

I thought this would be a challenge. But it just sucks.

MAUREEN

Look. Every kid felt the same way you do now. They want to give up and go home and cry.

(beat)

But if High School taught me anything, it sucks. Everything sucks.

HAYLEY

That's not really reassuring.

She smiles and brushes some of her hair back. Maureen sits back and sighs.

MAUREEN

Just remember this...

(beat)

It's not the end of the world... it's high school.

Hayley smiles and nods.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Okay. You're going to back to class and suck it up.

Hayley smiles and starts to walk out. Maureen watches but then an idea strikes her.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

WAIT! I have something for you.

HAYLEY

Is it more advice? And please tell me it's how to do my makeup.

She pulls out some flyers from her bag and hands them to Hayley.

MAUREEN

You should join Drama Club.

HAYLEY

Drama Club? What's that?

MAUREEN

Seriously? How does no one know what that is.

(beat)

It's acting. We meet everyday after school and just act out scenes and rehearse for a play.

HAYLEY

Oh, that's what this room for. I thought it was for school assemblies and anti-drug campaigns.

(beat)

But didn't Glee kind of kill the whole "the Arts are cool" thing?

MAUREEN

When I was your age, doing Drama Club was fun and cool. And I want to get it back to that.

Hayley nods and stuffs the flyer into her bag. She then leaves. Maureen smiles.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

(to herself)

That's your one good deed for the day. You deserve to treat yo'self. And I know just the way!

(beat)

Online order some Cheesecake Factory and binge watch Game of Thrones. This time without the subtitles because you're what the kids call "edgy".

INT. SERENITY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

Hayley walks out, wiping her eyes a bit as Danny and Riley run over to her.

DANNY

Hey! There you are.  
(beat)  
Are you okay?

HAYLEY

Just got a little stressed.

RILEY

We probably did throw a lot at you.

HAYLEY

You *literally* threw things at me.

RILEY

Try and prove that in court.

Danny sighs and steps forward.

DANNY

What Riley is trying to say is. We didn't mean to overwhelm you.

HAYLEY

You guys were only trying to help.  
(beat)  
I just gotta stop at my locker for a second before we go to class.

They nod and start to talk to each other as Hayley walks to her locker. She opens it and pulls out some books. She then takes out the Drama Club flyer and smiles.

HAYLEY (V.O.)

High School is a never ending cycle of trying to get through it all without dying.

(beat)

I don't know what tomorrow will bring and that terrifies me. But sometimes being terrified is good. Being stressed is good. It's like Maureen said "It's not the end of the world... it's High School".

Hayley takes the Drama Club flyer with her and rejoins Danny and Riley.

HAYLEY (V.O.)

So, I shouldn't worry about tomorrow. I should worry about getting through High School. Then I'll worry about the future.

(beat)

(MORE)

HAYLEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
This is where the journey begins.  
Welcome to "101 Ways to Survive  
High School

We focus in on Hayley. She's smiling. Things are going to be okay. She's going to survive High School. And off that hopeful grin we --

BLACKOUT:

# 101 WAYS TO SURVIVE HIGH SCHOOL

END OF EPISODE