

Tick Tock Heart

Written By

Matt Allgood

Draft Number: 1  
Date: 1/6/2015  
©Matt Allgood  
6 Baccata Place  
Forest Lake  
0414306756

1. INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

MARKUS (37) lies on a bed not moving, eyes open staring at the ceiling and listening to his heartbeat. A clock is ticking in the background.

THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP CLICK THUMP-TICK

ALARM RINGS. Markus reaches over and hits the alarm clock, his eyes never leaving the ceiling. He sits up, swings his legs out of the bed and stands as his feet touch the floor.

TICK-TICK

3. INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Markus stands before the bathroom mirror staring at his reflection. There are recent cuts on his cheek and lip, deeper cuts that have been recently stitched on his arms and chest and two large bruises, one running diagonally across his chest from shoulder to hip, the other on the opposite shoulder and biceps. The towel falls from his waist and pools around his feet. He looks down at his chest, above his heart is transparent. There are gears and cogs and springs and spinning things where his heart should be. Underlying it all is a soft ticking. FADE OUT on Markus shaving.

TICK-TICK

4. INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Markus is Drinking coffee while checking appointments. He dresses and packs his bag. He places the alarm clock in his bag and picks up the photo from the bedside table. Markus sits on the bed, gripping the photo tightly. A photo of himself, a woman and a young boy.

TICK-THUMP

5. EXT. CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Car drives through the rain toward an intersection. Traffic light is green for the car. Car is halfway through the intersection when a truck runs the red light and crashes into the car, smashing in the passenger side.

6. INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Markus is moving, blood running down his face from a gash on his head. The two passengers in the car, a woman and young boy, have not survived the impact.

7. INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Tears well up in Markus' eyes. Markus wipes his eyes with

the back of his hand and carefully places the photo into his jacket pocket. Standing, he looks slowly around the room, picks up his bag and leaves.

TICK-TICK

8. INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Markus walks to the Hotel Reception Desk. The RECEPTIONIST (28) at the desk smiles at him. Markus does not smile back.

RECEPTIONIST  
Good morning sir.

Markus looks blankly at the Receptionist, mechanically places the room key on the reception desk then turns and walks away.

TICK-TICK

9. INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

BUSINESS MAN (45) nods to Markus as he pass in the lobby. Markus ignores him.

TICK-TICK

Markus reaches the front door and pulls it sharply open. An ELDERLY WOMAN (72) shuffles through smiling warmly up at him as he holds the door open.

TICK-THUMP

10. EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Markus steps onto the footpath, people bustling past, intent on themselves. He looks about slowly, mechanically, then plunges into the sea of pedestrian traffic, early morning rain making the footpath greasy. No-one pays any attention to him, they keep their heads down and move on.

TICK-TICK

Markus is jostled by people around him as he makes his way up the street. A few steps in front of him, a MAN bumps into a BUSINESS WOMAN (32) carrying a stack of papers. The man mumbles something and continues on his way as the papers fall to the footpath. Markus stops. He looks down at the distressed woman trying to collect all the papers. Mechanically, Markus begins to help the woman, collecting papers, putting them into a pile.

BUSINESS WOMAN  
Thank you.

MARKUS  
You're welcome.

TICK-THUMP

The Business Woman almost drops her stack of papers again as she walks away.

Markus continues up the street until he reaches the intersection. He is smiling.

THUMP-TICK

11. EXT. STREET INTERSECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Markus stands with everyone else waiting to cross. A SMALL BOY (7) with his distracted MOTHER (33) stand near him. The Small Boy has a small bear in one hand while his other holds the sleeve of his Mother's coat. She is paying little attention as she talks heatedly into her phone.

TICK-THUMP

A MAN (35) barges through, the boy drops his bear and it's kicked by the man, into the traffic.

SMALL BOY  
No! Teddy!

Small Boy rushes forward.

MOTHER  
No! Stop!

Markus reacts, reaching out and grabbing the boy by the collar of his jacket. The Small Boy struggles to reach his bear. Markus kneels down, holding him, calming him.

THUMP-THUMP

The Small Boy's Mother steps forward and claims him in her arms. Markus stands, steps forward, picks up the bear and returns it to the boy.

MOTHER  
Thank you, thank you so much.

SMALL BOY  
Thanks mister.

THUMP-THUMP

The Mother and Small Boy make their way across the intersection now the lights have changed. Markus stands by the traffic light as the people move by. He is standing straighter, shoulders back, looking happy and content. Slowly, he raises his hand and puts it inside

his coat, over his heart.

THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP

12. EXT. STREET INTERSECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Markus straightens himself up, fixes his tie, looks forward across the intersection. A big smile on his face He steps forward, crossing the street.

THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP

13. EXT. STREET INTERSECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Bus screeches into the intersection, brakes locked, blocking audience view of Markus as he crosses.

TICK-TICK, TICK-TICK, TICK-TICK