

Beckett Road

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Developing New Worlds: Environment and Historical Research

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## Story Premise

A depressed and anxious junior in high school, Parker Knox, becomes the anti-hero in a culture war in Beckett, North Carolina. He makes unlikely allies in Haley, princess daughter to the first family of Beckett, the Stergios's.

Haley lives the life of the student council president, head cheerleader, and prom queen. Parker Knox lives the life of a socially awkward recluse who can't wait to leave this small town. This unlikely pairing is about to flip this stubborn town upside down. In Beckett, North Carolina everyone has a secret and people can be very unforgiving.

## **Historical Background & Timeline**

Here's what you need to know about Beckett and the recent history about this area. There is a clear line between the wealthy class and working class. Separated by one road, the north-siders and south-siders of Beckett Rd live in perfect discord.

The south siders live in decent homes with perpetual plumbing or electric issues. They are working 9-5's and maybe some 5-11's to keep that expensive roof over their head. The south-siders work in department stores, plants, and whatever hard labor they can find. Someone of them work more than one in order to make it work. Most of the standalone businesses in this town are owned by the north-siders.

The north-siders come from money. Either passed down from dead relatives or from good investments in the stock market, local businesses, etc. They are very protective of their assets and their children. It creates a divide in the city because they'd rather their children stick with other north-siders than co-mingle with the south-siders. There is only one high school in Beckett, Beckett High School.

The two main families that you'll meet are the Knox's and the Stergios's. Marie Knox has worked for the Stergios's for years at various businesses they own. The children, Haley Stergios and Parker Knox know each other but are in different cliques in high school. Marie did go to Beckett High with Daniel Stergios, Haley's father. There is a history between them. There is a connection between the two families. That dates back to their parents.

## Main Characters

The main protagonist in this story is Parker Knox. Parker is a smart kid. He's a 17-year-old about to start his junior year at Beckett High School. His parents are Robinson and Marie Knox. They are south-siders. Both parents are working class although his mother is a stay at home now while his father works.

Parker is super bright kid. He gets straight A's and he tutors on the side to make some money. He's usually untouchable by the north-siders because of it. At the same time, he realizes the growing tension between the two. He tries not to get involved given he has his own demons to fight.

Parker suffers from depression and anxiety stemming from his early introduction into death. When he was 9, he lost his best friend to appendicitis and his great grandfather to a heart attack. Even at that age, he had a sense of death being very final. His parents never lie to him. Their reasoning is that if they always told him the truth, they can expect the same.

Parker's best friends are the Stamos's family specifically his classmates, Nathan and Brooke Stamos. They grew up with each other on the south side, a couple of houses apart. He enjoys playing video games with Nathan. Brooke is a bit of an artist. Brooke would paint, and Nathan would write while she did so. These two keep him grounded and his mind occupied. They know the warning signs in the event he has a panic attack. He's had them before while in their presence.

Parker is very well read. He doesn't speak like your typical teenager. While he will throw some slang from time to time, he will also speak intellectually depending on the situation. His aspirations are to become a screenwriter in Hollywood, or a fiction writer as a backup. He thinks it's his ticket out of this town. As much as his family is important to him, Beckett's culture war



is a toxic environment. He wants nothing to do with this town. He can't wait to make it in Hollywood and never come back.

## Supporting Characters

Haley Stergios is the only daughter to Daniel and Loren Stergios. She is the heir to the Stergios family fortune. They are considered the first family of Beckett NC as they have been there since the Colonial period of America. Wealth handed down through the generations, she has not needed for anything. Haley is sharp kid herself. She is a junior at Beckett High School. She is a straight A student, multiple extra-curricular activities such as student council and cheerleading.

She is a north-sider as she is part of the town that has come from riches. That being said she is humble. She doesn't intend on being this big fish in the small pond of Beckett, NC. She has her sights on leaving this small town and becoming an actress or producer in Hollywood. She loves vintage movies all the way back to Greta Garbo. She used to watch these movies with her grandmother. She always thought they lived in a romantic era back then. She hates this reality TV, social pressure world we live in.

Nathan Stamos, best friend to Parker Knox. Avid video gamer. He is a junior at Beckett High School. His family are close friends with Parker's family in the southside of Beckett, NC. He is the moral compass for Parker. He's quick to offer him advice and support when his friends need it. He's a musician. He likes to play guitar and bass. He is an A-B student. He also likes to play sports. Baseball is his favorite. He'd like to go to college on a baseball scholarship as a pitcher. He is a trusted confidant of those who know him.

Brooke Stamos, friend to Parker Knox and brother to Nathan Stamos. She is a junior at Beckett High School. Even as a south-sider, she works hard to make nice with the north-siders. As much to keep the peace as anything. She loves to paint which connects to Parker's creativity. If Parker isn't writing in the park, you'll see him at the Stamos house writing while she paints. She likes thrifting and restoring. She'll make anything look like it was brand new or a brand

name product. As opposed to many south-siders, she tries to fit in rather than disturb the apple cart.



## Locations

Airlie Gardens in Wilmington NC are going to be the setting for critical moments in this series. This is the place where both Haley and Parker go to, in order to collect their thoughts. Sort through the nonsense in Beckett. They will share many moments such as first kiss, where they decide to go to college, and more. This is their secret place. Their connection is very Romeo and Juliet. They come from two sides of the same town and they refuse to be defined by dueling entities. Parker likes to write here. It's his favorite place to write. So, it becomes Haley's favorite place to spend time with him.





The Riverwalk is a great open area for character interaction. We'll see dates in this area with our characters. Specifically, Haley and Parker will go out here. It'll cause a scene within the city to see those two out in public together given the tension between northsiders and southsiders. Parker wants no part of the conflict, while Haley would love to see everyone get bent out of shape about it.

This is the area of town where both sides agree not to cause a scene, yet it'll happen from time to time when tensions boil. You'll see a conflict between the popular northsiders and some of the southsiders minding their own business. Just to give a taste of the differences. It's a beautiful area set by the cape. It makes for a good setting.



### **Additional World Information**

The story is based on real life Wilmington, North Carolina. You can actually see the seasons change in North Carolina's climate. May through September, you see an average temperature of 86 degrees. October through April will see an average of 65 degrees. I'd love to film on location to capture all the seasons in action.

The wildlife will include birds, dogs, cats, and fish as this is a coastal city. I plan on filming for all seasons. You'll see the leaves changing in the fall. The winter episodes will have authentic snow. There will be plenty of footage in parks and nature as my protagonist will spend time outdoors writing. His love interest will spend time here too as the season goes. Parks such as Airlie Gardens and Greenfield Lake Park & Gardens would be good choices for some outdoor scene setting.

For the city of Beckett, it'll dates back to the Pre-Colonial period. There may be some historical sites I may use for some projects for the characters as it does take place in the high school.

The ethnicity I will be focusing on is Caucasian. This town will have a respectful mix. It being a small town, I will address some race relations that occur in real life. It'll be an episode here and there. For the most part everyone will get along, but we'll see certain things to address that they happen. Primary races will be Caucasian. However, with any school, there will be other races in play, African American, Asian American, and Hispanic.

Religion will not play a huge role in the story itself, although the character will have a Christian background.

This story will be told in present day. There may be flashbacks to tell some of the history with the characters and to explain facets of present-day situations.

Modern day medicine will be used for this piece. Diseases such as Cancer, HIV, Strokes, Diabetes, and various others may or may not be used in the series. I will say that there is a definite possibility if only because the main character has dealt with death pretty early in his life. It has contributed to his own health, having depression and anxiety. I may have him taking Cymbalta. This is preliminary at this time.

## Story Synopsis

The first season of this series will set the stage in Beckett NC. There is a clear divide between the northsiders and southsiders in Beckett. The storefronts and department stores are all run by the northsiders. They run the entire town. The mayor is a northsider. The conflict stems from the purchasing of property on the southside and charging an enormous rent so that they can kick the southsiders from the property.

The kids are at the center of this divide as the kids carry on the fights the parents started. Haley's boyfriend, Alex, starts going in on one of the southsider kids which causes Parker to stand up to him. That confrontation leads to a showdown late at night, refereed by the wrestling coach (a northsider). No rules, no holds barred, and the one who stays down loses. Parker keeps getting up, even after Alex pounds him to the ground.

This fight sparks a buzz amongst the southsiders that there is a hero amongst them. Things change after this fight for Parker as he earns the respect of his fellow southsiders and thrusts him into an anti-hero role. Haley breaks up with Alex. Haley gets placed in a partnered assignment for a class they share which sparks a budding romance

The season cliffhangers will be a showdown between Parker and Colin. Colin concocts a school prank and frames Parker for the deed. Parker's father, Robinson, is in a serious car accident which forces Parker to face his biggest fear, death. Haley confesses her feelings to Parker only to be denied. Haley's father threatened to fire Robinson, if he didn't leave her alone.



## **References**

Harry. Airlie Gardens in Wilmington NC. Photo Composition. September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Pulled from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/harrytakespictures/36424248424/in/photolist-EBAvtp-29ZAoGX-LNFpM1-2dx3vXv-28GDQmr-27zirtg-GM44fu-2cBqipm-HJsZsS-2dPVvrw-21qbEqU-2enX9kC-29EECTt-23H9sjA-2domS7n-EHkmtV-2135gSG-9ejivS-UR5HGL-295c4xP-XuFN4b-7UET92-qkv2X2-2cmGPUY-242Cs88-26jmkNq-LWxpA7-Kqh6PH-2cqLuM7-2bgMhAx-25FcdkJ-2dPVwmC-aSZLSH-28m2Aj4-23Hje6t-28m2zy6-JiP3jr-Yy8dFZ-MAdsls-28m2yst-2dPVxxA-9GiQV9-23VDiNr-MAdsaq-H4VUYc-FzbFzQ-HmDo5t-Zobrv6-PBabmW-2eytZFu/>

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