

# The Balcony

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*Photo - Balcony*

## *Honorable Mention - Short Story*

He was there day after day, watching me and my friends walk by his balcony. His name was Ben. Ben Johnson. He goes to the same high school as me and he is a junior; he is the star football player and almost every girl had a crush on him.

Anyway, my name is Taylor Ellis. I am the youngest and have two older brothers. They aren't that much older than me, because we are triplets, but they are still "older". Their names are Trevor and Troy. I kind of wish I had a sister though. I mean, I never really had anyone to do girly stuff with, but I shouldn't be complaining; I have a pretty great life. We just started high school, sophomore year, and are on really good sports teams. I am a cheerleader, and my brothers play football with Ben. *Ben*. The sound of his name gives me chills. The best thing is that I get to be a cheerleader for him! Things can't get any better!

It is only the first week of school and I am already tired. No surprise there, but then I see Ben. Whenever I see him, my eyes light up, and I can't hold my happiness in. He starts to walk over to me. What do I do? Do I stay still? Do I walk away? This has never happened to me before! I want to say hi, but he keeps walking. Why did he keep walking?! Did I do something wrong? Turns out he is just trying to get to my brothers behind me. Well, lucky them. I thought I had a chance, but it turns out I was just invisible.

I head straight for class because I don't know what else to do. The bell rings and everyone takes their seats. I thought I had an empty desk next to me, but someone is sitting there. It's Ben! I can't believe that he actually chooses to sit next to me! Me! Taylor Ellis!

"Hey, you're Taylor, right? One of the triplets?" asked Ben.

*Oh my gosh! Now he's actually talking to me!*

"Yeah, you're Ben, right?" I asked.

*That was such a stupid question! Why did I say that!? Everyone already knows who Ben is! He started to laugh a little. He obviously thinks I'm dumb.*

"Yeah, anyway, could I borrow a pencil, I forgot mine."

"Yes, of course!" I said excitedly.

I quickly got out a pencil and gave it to him. He didn't say anything after that, but maybe that was because he was busy writing.

Class after class went by until finally the end of the day came. Ben ran out of the classroom. I'm not sure-why, but he did. I met up with some of my friends and my brothers and we walked home, past Ben's house; there he is, like always, sitting on the balcony looking down at us. I decided to look up at him, and as soon as I did, he smiled at me. I was blushing uncontrollably.

"Why is your face red?" asked Trevor.

“Oh, just the sun,” I lied.

That was the worst lie I have ever told, but I think he bought it. I ran inside and into my room. Thank goodness I have my own room. I checked my phone like I always do when I get home and guess who texted me? Ben Johnson! One of my brothers must have given him my number. The text read, “Hey it’s Ben Johnson. I was just wondering if you were going to cheer at the football game tonight?” The game! I completely forgot! I wasn’t even ready and had to leave in ten minutes! I left him on read and ran around my room trying to find my cheer uniform; I put my hair up in a high ponytail and put a red bow in. Finally, I grabbed my phone and cheer bag and ran down the stairs at lightning speed. Trevor and Troy followed me with their bulky bags filled with football equipment. We all got into the car, and I was so ready to answer Ben back, but then I got distracted by the music. It wasn’t my fault a good song came on!

We finally got to the game and I saw Ben practicing. I had completely forgotten to text him! He probably thought I hated him!

“Taylor!” he yelled.

I felt my face go red because all the football players were looking at me. He ran over to me and I could hear my brothers laughing behind me. I looked back at them and told them to leave me alone. They left, and I turned around and there he was, standing right in front of me.

“Hey, I was wondering if you wanted to come over to my house after the game?” he asked. On the outside I looked normal, but on the inside, fireworks were going off; I could barely form words to talk.

Finally, I said. “That sounds fun!”

“Cool! I’ll meet up with you after the game then,” he stated as he ran back to the field. I could see all the guys surrounding him when he ran back. They probably all know that he asked me. I walked to the other cheerleaders and got swarmed with girls. They were asking so many questions. *Did they know about him asking me? Wait, do they know that he likes me? So many things were running through my head.*

Finally, the game started and all I could think about was Ben. Maybe he was thinking about me, too. He kept on looking over at me and smiling. Every time he did, I felt like everyone was looking at me. Every couple minutes I would look over at the clock and waited for the game to be over, but it was like the clock just stopped. My heart started beating faster and faster. *Is this what happens when you like someone?*

The game ended and Ben ran to get his bag. He got swarmed with guys again and they were all smiling. I grabbed my bag and walked over to Trevor and Troy.

“I heard you’re going out with someone,” Troy said. I started smiling, but they just laughed. “Can you just tell mom where I am?” I asked. “Yeah we will. Have fun with your boyfriend!” Trevor said humorously. “He’s not my boyfriend!” I shouted.

“Yet.” they both laughed and left.

I walked over to Ben and the guys around him were all smiling and laughing. He grabbed his bag and keys and led me to his car. We talked and sang a bunch of songs together the whole way to his

house, like two old friends. It was like we were best friends, or like we were meant to be together. When we arrived at his house, which was only a couple houses away from mine, we went up to his balcony. It was actually really pretty. You could see the mountains and trees. Everything felt so peaceful. It though to myself that the sunset would be really pretty from here with the sun hiding over the mountain.

We could hear his brothers shouting from downstairs. I couldn't help but laugh.

"Ben has a girl over!" shouted his brother.

We both started laughing continuously. He wouldn't stop yelling.

"Ben has a girl over! Ben has a girl over!" he shouted over and over again.

Eventually, Ben went down the stairs to tell his brother to be quiet. I could hear their conversation from the balcony.

"What's her name?" his brother asked.

"Her name's Taylor. Now can you just be quiet?"

"You like her, don't you?"

"Just be quiet! I'll answer your questions later," said Ben as he returned to where I sat.

"Sorry about him," he said, "he can be annoying sometimes."

"Its fine, it was actually kind of funny." I stated.

"Anyway, I wanted to talk to you," he said shyly.

He looked embarrassed and his face was turning red. *What was he going to tell me? Does he like me too? Will he hug me? What if his brother interrupts? That will ruin the whole thing! I wish I could see what he was thinking about. The suspense was killing me!*

"Taylor," he said, "I think you are really cute...,"

*He what?! I can't believe this! Ben, the best football player and the guy that everyone has a crush on, thinks I'm cute?! I feel so hot and sweaty. Is this what happens when a guy likes you? I hope I can get used to this.*

"...and I really like you."

*Is this a dream?! I mean, I don't want it to be a dream, but is it?! Nothing like this has ever happened to me. I feel like I'm going to faint, or maybe I'm just really happy.*

"So, will you go out on a date with me?"

*Inside my head I was screaming so much. I couldn't form the right words. All I was thinking about was our future. All I could get my body to do was shake my head "yes".*