

HAIL MARY

You never forget your first



INTRODUCTION

The fabled ex is a figure of contention and the recipient of vitriol in media, fictional and otherwise. In most stories, they serve as an antagonist, an enemy, an evil for the hero to overcome. But every ex starts as a partner, and every pair of exes started as two people with a connection that made each other want to make an oath. No one knows this better than lesbians, and therefore no one has it messier.

The lesbian experience is unique in almost every facet. Add being young, closeted, and surrounded by conservative fundamentalism, and it's infinitely more strange and awkward. If two young lezzies are lucky enough to find each other in an environment that hostile, it's not a connection they can shake. They can't escape without being fundamentally shaped by one another. Even a breakup is a revered secret that two young girls keep together.

This show is an exploration of that kind of connection and how it follows and forms you throughout your life.

Some people are with you for a season, others for a reason, and some--if you're lucky--for several of both.

LOGLINE:

Two high school ex-girlfriends move in together as adults and find themselves learning the same lessons in the big city as they did as closeted teens in their southern Catholic school.



FORMAT

Hail Mary is a 40-minute, 15-episode series that follows two former girlfriends through both their adult challenges and their coming of age.

It is set in the present day, but frequently includes flashbacks to experiences from their teenage years as they encounter challenges and lessons that remind them of their formative experiences.

It is semi-serialized show, with the roommates encountering new challenges each episode that allow us to learn more about their background.



SEASON ONE

After a messy breakup and a hasty move, Barrett shows up at Ryan's door asking for a place to stay. Despite the unease of Ryan's current girlfriend, Barrett moves into the recently available room in their Chicago apartment. Once again, the two find themselves in a period of rapid transition and questioning of their place in the world.

Barrett starts her clean slate as a theatre teacher at a public high school, only to find that her most recent ex-girlfriend had a similar idea and moved to Chicago to work in the athletics department at the very same school. Upon learning that the program itself is in danger of being dismantled, she must learn to stand her ground and carve out a place of safety in the school for young students like the one she used to be.

Ryan, in spite of their efforts, remains an easily-controlled pushover in most areas of their life. They've found themselves working for an environmental nonprofit that does essentially nothing but fund itself and take up all of Ryan's time so that they can't work on their passion of writing essays. On top of this, their controlling parents remain an issue in their life as they attempt to draw them into the family business, aptly named Good and Splinty Springs and Coils.

The two roommates are frequently reminded of their experiences in high school, and rediscover the connection that made them young friends in the first place.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

Catholic all-girls schools are cesspools of uncertainty and pubescent confusion. It doesn't help when the school is named after the most embarrassing Marian dogma, a foundational Catholic belief stating that Mary was a virgin until she died (or actually got sucked into Heaven.) Like every all-girls Catholic school, it's a foreign social landscape filled with strange traditions and quirky faculty.

In season one flashbacks, we find Ryan and Barrett (and their friends by association) in the wake of their breakup. They navigate the way this alters their social interactions, and how they can go about grieving while keeping the relationship's existence a secret.

Our Lady of Perpetual Virginity High School is located in Kentucky, often joked to be the unwanted child of the South and Midwest. While it shares seasons with the Midwest, it is deeply steeped in Southern culture and ideals. This means traditionalism and old fashioned values, yes, but also community, warmth, and looking out for your neighbor.

Often, media pushes the belief that the only good place a marginalized person can be is the big blue city. This show will delve into the complexity of growing up queer in a red area, and how beautiful, diverse communities can persistently flourish in the southern U.S.

CHARACTERS

THE EXES

BARRETT MOUSE (28) - After a messy end to a long-term relationship, Barrett made an abrupt move to Chicago for a fresh start and a chance to reconnect - and move in - with an old friend. Driven, personable, and generous to a fault, Barrett must learn to navigate awkward transitions while rediscovering herself.

RYAN SPLINTY (27) - Ryan has lived in Chicago for nearly a decade now after becoming independent from their controlling family. Despite their efforts to maintain independence, they still find themselves frequently emotionally controlled by their family, even from a distance. A chronic pushover with a lack of drive, they're pushed by Barrett to take their life by the reins and carve the path they want.

CHICAGO

Carmen Steeley - Barrett's ex-girlfriend, who carries the lesbian curse of still being wrapped up in Barrett's life. She works as a fitness instructor at the same school as Barrett. Headstrong, fiery, and stubborn, it's clear she has no intention to coexist with her ex.

Max Creek - Ryan's current girlfriend of 1 year. She works as a poet and spends more time defending its validity as work than writing poetry. She also has a litany of side jobs that change frequently. She is uneasy around the concept of Barrett living with her partner, but grows to understand how important the two are to one another.

Linda Martreuse - Ryan's boss and greatest critic in the workplace. A granola-crunching, sandal-wearing CEO, she harps on about "the mission" and "the work" with no specificity and has little tolerance for those who don't follow suit.

Morris Cardemom - Interim principal for the 7th year in a row, Mr. Cardemom serves as a voice for the school board of Starnmos College Preparatory School and doesn't pretend to be much more. When Barrett is brought on as the last-minute head of the drama department, she learns that Interim Principal Cardemom values order above all things.

OUR LADY

RYAN (15) - Awkward, eccentric, and just freshly left-leaning, young Ryan is reckoning with the whiplash of a rapidly changed identity. Subsequently, her primary focus is staying under the radar from her parents who are just as controlling as they are conservative. In the pilot, we see her processing her first ever breakup in almost complete secret.

BARRETT (16) - An avid dancer and advanced student, Barrett has difficulty finding balance between everything that interests her and what is expected of her. Her teenage years have brought on increasing struggles with mental health, which are made heavier by her tense home life and newly-discovered queerness.

BLAIRE CARMICHAEL (15) & MAL TORNUP (14) - Barrett and Ryan's closest friends in a friend group that solidified with the two couples dating. Blaire and Mal's relationship was short-lived and quickly transitioned into platonism, and the group as a whole bonded over shared nerdy interests and solidarity.

SENA (17) & KENZ(18) - Lesbian couple of upperclassmen that work as technicians for the school theater company. They've taken Ryan and Barrett under their wings throughout the course of their relationship and its aftermath.

THE SPLINTYS

Paul Splinty - Ryan's father. A staunchly fundamentalist Christian, Paul serves as a traditional head of the household, outside of his tendency to allow his wife her tantrums. He is the owner and head contractor of Good and Splinty Springs and Coils, a spring and coil supply and installation company.

Brenda Splinty - Ryan's mother and the CFO and secretary of Good and Splinty Springs and Coils. A helicopter mom with no emotional regulation. She spends much of her life in tears.

Shannon Splinty - Ryan's sister who is 5 years older than her. Despite aligning with their parents in beliefs, she is constantly butting heads with them as a brooding high school graduate still living at home.

THE MOUSES

Pamela Mouse - Barrett's mother. Warm but reserved, she struggles to connect at with her daughters and spends most of her time playing pickleball and volunteering for programs at the Lutheran school where she works as a Spanish teacher.

Martin Mouse - Barrett's father. Cold, awkward, and temperamental, he is almost always confined to his home office and closed off from his family. His struggles with progressive illness manifest in outbursts of anger.

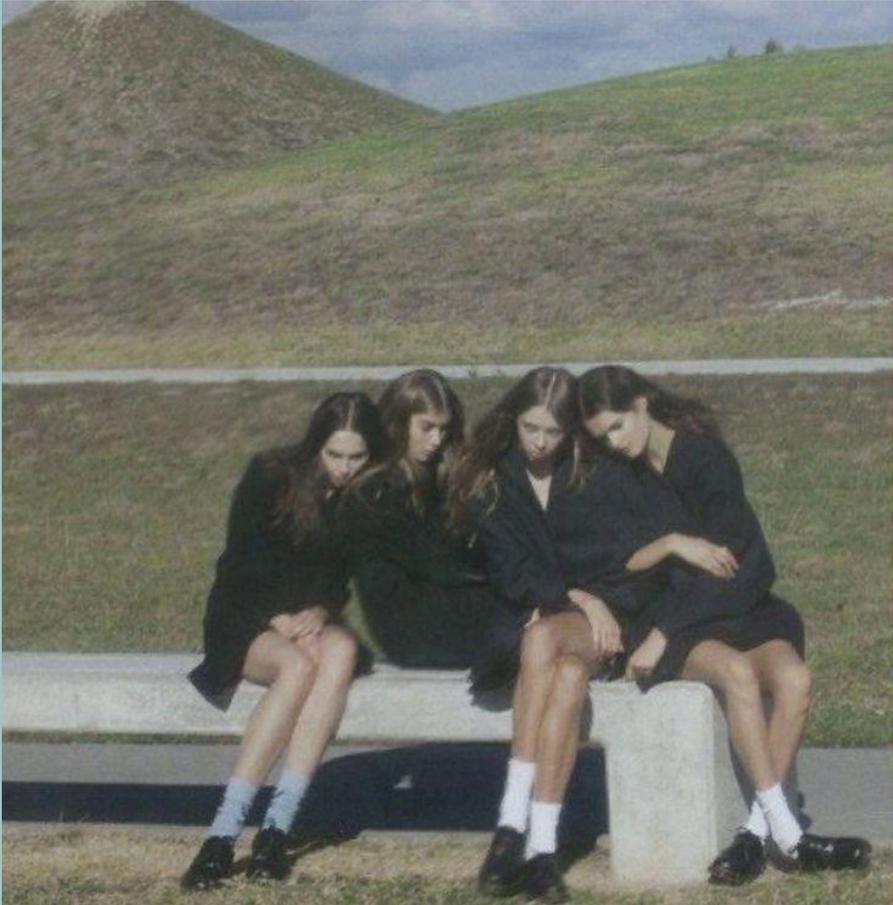
Reagan Mouse - Barrett's sister who is a senior at Our Lady Of Perpetual Virginity. She is a closeted bisexual, and is familiar with the network of other queer students within the school.

TONE & STYLE

Hail Mary is primarily a situational comedy that explores the lives of two lesbian exes and their history of navigating life and identity together. It explores how their environments and relationship have changed over time, and how the latter continues as an anchor for the both of them.

It includes serious themes of abuse, discrimination, and the awkwardness of growing into yourself in an un-accepting space, but it does so with levity and optimism.

Ultimately, this is a show about maturing and growing in community, and how that is a process that never truly ends. People are constantly becoming, experiencing metamorphoses, and it does not end at puberty. Relationships are this same way--shifting, fluid, and finding new ways to evolve and fall into the right place.



FUTURE

As Ryan and Barrett continue living together, their relationship will be put through tests that bring them closer to each other and to their own selves. Future career pursuits will be explored, such as Ryan's pursuit of being a full-time essayist. In addition, we will see how Max and Ryan's relationship stands the test of time.

While season one reflects on the girls' sophomore year of high school, future seasons will reflect on lessons from following years and, eventually, freshman year when the two began dating.

There are elements of Ryan and Barrett's modern life that imply significant shifts that have occurred since the snippets of high school we see in the first season. Ryan's gender identity is an example of this. Of course, not all students in "all girls" schools are actually girls. Transgender and gender-expansive students will be explored in future plotlines, including some we meet before their egg has begun to crack.

Additionally, young Ryan and Barrett in season one are deeply closeted and flying under the radar from their homophobic parents. In the current day, both of them are out to their parents, and the circumstances of Ryan's family learning this are implied to be extremely messy. This situation unfolded near the end of their time at Our Lady of Perpetual Virginity, and will be explored in flashbacks in future seasons.

Characters from their past, like their fellow classmates, will make appearances in future storylines as well.

