

Fiona's Former Lover, Sam's History:

Sam grew up with a younger brother who adored him. Mom a teacher, dad a doctor. In high school, he pretty much became a football star quickly. He became the guy every girl wanted because he was popular, gorgeous, sweet, and athletic.

Comment [LS1]: I would never write this into the story, because it's too obvious: Sam is perfect. But for my story's purpose, he's too perfect. That's why he's not the hero. You'll see later—he still has lessons to learn and he does make mistakes.

Despite being a gifted quarterback, Sam kept his head together. It was a great way to get to college to get a degree. He wanted to be a cop. His father wanted him to be professional and finally refused to pay for college to be a cop.

Comment [LS2]: I added this here to explain for myself why Sam needed a scholarship. Rich family, right? Except, I can see his dad not wanting him to be a cop and, knowing Sam as I do, I can see him refusing to let go of his dream.

But, his dad did respect the independence, the work ethic. Sam didn't have to work, not with his talent, but he did do an internship his senior year, plus volunteer work, and work an actual job during off-season.

Comment [LS3]: This tells me a little more about his family dynamics. His father may not even be in this story—he isn't so far—but it's part of who Sam is.

Comment [LS4]: Before you slam me for the too perfect thing, a lot of program's require volunteer work. But, the point, is that these nuggets come out when I write a bio, and I learn more.

Billy (*A minion of my antagonist*) was a deputy who took Sam under his wing a bit. Sam liked him, too. Despite Billy engaging in hazing with other interns and Sam calling him on it (he wouldn't haze Sam, a football God)—they become friends. Likely, Billy craves Sam's approval, as a "manly-man."

Comment [LS5]: The information here serves two purposes. 1.) It explains why super-good Sam would actually be friends with such a loser (trust me, he's a loser). 2.) It started me down a road that hit pay dirt later when I delved into Billy's past. Writing character dynamics into a bio is always a good thing.

So, Sam ends up being Billy's best man at his wedding to Elle (*Heroine's best friend*) and his friendship with Sam gives him the perfect excuse to cut Fiona (*Heroine*) out of Elle's life when the mess with Tony (*Hero*), Fiona, and Sam happens.

Comment [LS6]: The thing to remember here: this is backstory. Every line of it is backstory. Some of it will be a crucial part of the story; some of it will never see the light of day outside my notebook. But it's all important to me, the writer.

Anyway, Sam has become a sensitive, kind, caring man. He's dated plenty but never met anyone special—until Fiona. She's this ball of independence and innocence, whimsically creative and fiercely intelligent. Sam just wants to dig in and get to know her.

Comment [LS7]: Lest you think I'm writing Fiona as a Mary-Sue, believe me, she has plenty of flaws. But this is how SAM sees her when he's falling in love with her. I think we can all agree, we tend toward the romantic at those times.

They fall into a relationship quickly. Fiona really tried to love Sam. Not in the way she's aware of trying to, but come on. He's exactly the kind of guy any not-self-hating, sane, mature woman would want.

Sam becomes aware fairly early that Tony has a thing for Fiona. But Fiona would never cheat. Still.

Tony was worth watching.

Comment [LS8]: Yeah. He really was.

When Tony is arguing with Fiona just inside the apartment, and Sam overhears him drop the not-so-sexually satisfied bombshell, Sam is surprised, humiliated by them (I can't quite read my writing here), and he becomes furious. He attacks Tony and can't believe it when Fiona kicks him out to go cool off.

Comment [LS9]: There are pages upon pages of all this in another file. But the point here is to get Sam's perspective on what happened.

But, cooler-headed, he understands. He goes to see her, they talk it out, and they seem okay.

Sam is working—all the time, now. There's an opening he's hoping to land, but he needs to get noticed. And even though football season is over (for good, in his case), he still works out. Basically, he is a busy, busy man.

Comment [LS10]: What's important here, since this is Sam's "memory" most of the time, is that he recognized he was just way too busy.

Fiona understands, but the flip side is she's spending more time with Tony. Sam is a little worried she's going to feel he's not there for her, so he decides to make official what he sort of expects to come next. He buys candles, takes her out to an expensive dinner, and brings her back to his apartment. Sam gives her a locket he bought for her.

Comment [LS11]: This is still Sam's perspective of what happened.

They argue because Sam makes the assumption they'll be moving in together after graduation. Fiona gets upset—and feels pressured. Sam gives her an ultimatum: either they're moving forward or they're going nowhere. Fiona is stunned. She tries to reason with him, but Sam is upset and a little embarrassed. If she won't move in with him—it's over. *

Comment [LS12]: I'm skipping what happens in between this and the next paragraph because that's not Sam's story. He didn't witness it, he only knows what he's told. But, remember, characters don't live in a vacuum. His perception of what happened is one sided and colored by his interactions with the other characters.

The next day, Fiona is waiting for him at his apartment. Sam believes she's there to work things out, which is good. He'd spoken to fast when he broke things off.

But Fiona is there to return the locket. Sam is confused, was sure they could work things out. But, Fiona tells him the truth: she was with Tony (sexually) last night, but realized that at some point, she's fallen in love with him.

Comment [LS13]: Again, Fiona and Tony are the bad guys, right now, in SAM'S story. There's more to it than what we're reading here, but that's irrelevant. In a bio, it's THAT character's story.

Sam is hurt and furious. He wants to kill Tony, who he believes manipulated or lied to Fiona. She insists that's not the case. He still believes it (and when Tony and Fiona blow up, he is even more sure).

Moving forward, he leaves her alone; he's hurt and she asked him not to fight with Tony. He loves Fiona. And, at least partly, he blames himself. If he hadn't given her an ultimatum, hadn't broken things off—it probably wouldn't have happened. He believes he gave Tony the emotional opportunity to take advantage of her.

Comment [LS14]: Two things relevant to the now the story will begin in: 1. He still doesn't blame Fiona. That may not be right, but it's how he feels. 2) He still does blame Tony. A lot. And there will be animosity there when they have to work together.

He works hard, graduates, gets his job, and keeps his head down. When things explode with Fiona and Tony, Sam is sure she'll come back. She'll be hurt and ashamed; he'll let her know he understands, it's not her fault. They'll get past it.

Comment [LS15]: Yeah, I don't know why he'd take her back either. Except, I do. He, mistakenly, sees her as a victim. But the point of this isn't rightness, it's perception.

But Fiona leaves. She leaves her family; she leaves her friends and Sam.

And that's when he realizes it's over. That's when he reaches out for someone to fill the void. And he discovers Marianne (*Antagonist*), with her prestigious family and lifetime of cheerleading.

They get married and she quits her job at her father's department store. Her dad expects her to "make her own way" and has NO intention of supporting her. Marianne wants Sam to get his law degree. Sam is doing what he wants to be doing. She complains, bitches, withholds sex. Sam tries to suck it up. Sort of a he-made-his-bed kind of thing.

Comment [LS16]: Another one of those instances where I found a nugget of biography on another character.

Until he catches her in bed with a local banker. The he gleefully tosses her things and herself out on her ass.

Sam starts to feel normal. He runs for Sheriff and she stops missing Fiona.

Comment [LS17]: It's important for my story to see, Sam's life went on. At one time, he did love Fiona. And when she comes back, he may entertain the thought of making a play for her affection once again. But, it's important that he moved on.