**'Romeo and Juliet' runaway teens found safe and well in Chicago after spending almost two weeks living in the back of their parents' stolen car**

* **Jayden Thomas, 13, and Braxton Wood, 14, found living in SUV near the lake front of Chicago on Sunday morning**
* **They were last seen on Monday, August 26**
* **Only had $80 between them and some sellable items**
* **Parents do not know why they would run away but said the six-month relationship was 'too serious'**
* **Said they could not live without each other**
* **Jayden's mother told her on the day she ran away that she didn't support the relationship**

By [Rachel Quigley](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Rachel+Quigley)

**PUBLISHED:** 16:53 EST, 8 September 2013 | **UPDATED:** 06:13 EST, 9 September 2013

The missing Michigan teenage runaways who fled together because they did not want to be sent to separate high schools have been discovered safe in Chicago this morning, according to authorities.

Jayden Thomas, 13 and Braxton Wood, 14, had been missing since August 26th, when Braxton took his mother's black 2005 Ford Explorer and vanished.

The two young lovers were spotted at a gas station near to Wrigley Firled and an anonymous caller informed the Chicago police who arrived to find the teens in the back of the vehicle in a parking lot adjacent to the station.



*Monitored: Jayden Thomas, 13, right, and Braxton Wood, 14, left have to wear GPS anklets to keep them in check*

Sgt. Tim Edeling of the Chicago police department told ABC News that the SUV battery was dead and that the pair had run out of gas.

Private investigator, Michael Cook, said that the young teenagers had been living in the car for nearly two weeks after they fled with only $80 between them.

Police did not issue an Amber Alert as they believed Wood and Thomas had runaway together.

Sgt. Edeling said that the teens told him they had been 'going to the local Starbucks and enjoying our lakefront'.

However Chicago police are trying to gather more information on how the two managed to financially support themselves since they left on August 26th.

They also want to know what they were were doing in Chicago.

 Inside the SUV, police discovered suitcases belonging to the two, indicating to them that Wood and Thomas had indeed planned their escape.

The Isabella County Sheriff’s Department says Jayden Thomas, 13, and Braxton Wood, 14, were last seen on Monday, August 26, in Clare, Michigan. Braxton took his mother's Ford Explorer.

Since then, neither family heard anything from them. Both sets of parents said the young couple's relationship had grown too serious too soon. They were said to have been very upset at the news they would be going to different Michigan high schools, which they would have started this week. Jayden's mother also revealed that she told her daughter she no longer supported the six-month relationship. She ran away some time later.



*Appeal: Braxton's father, pictured with his mother Sarah Kiley, said: 'It's like a nightmare. You don't know what to do, where to go or who to call'*

Kelly Drinkwine said: 'It's like they fell off the face of the earth. No one can find them.

'She wrote a message for me in lipstick on the mirror saying, "I love you so much, stay happy and beautiful".

'They are two babies trying to take on the world. There are mean, horrible people out there. Just come home, baby. Just come home.'

She said their six-month relationship was too serious and Jayden said she could not live without Braxton.

'That's when I felt I had to bring my daughter back to reality. The day she left I told her I no longer supported their relationship.'

Brandon's father Ed Wood told [WZZM13](http://www.wzzm13.com/news/article/266902/14/Private-eye-in-search-of-runaway-Mich-teens): 'It's like a nightmare. You don't know what to do, where to go or who to call.'

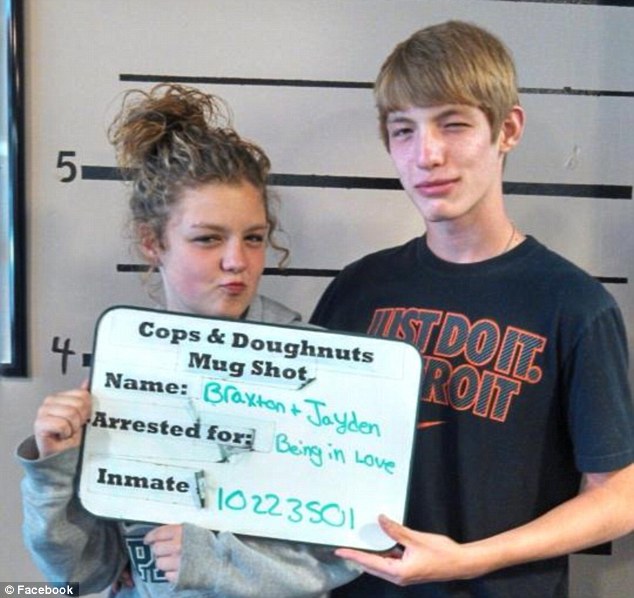
Braxton's mother, Sarah Kiley. 'They can't live on their own. They are 13 and 14 years old. They didn't want to do anything but be with each other. It was pretty intense for a 14-year-old.

Sarah told [ABC:](http://abcnews.go.com/US/parents-police-search-teen-couple-believed-runaway/story?id=20161687) 'We looked around the house and realized Braxton was missing and we still didn't comprehend it because Braxton hasn't had driver's training. He is a young 14, so no drivers' experience whatsoever.'

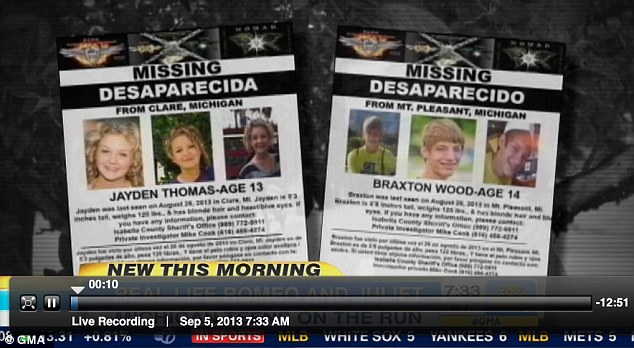
She said she became concerned when the two of them started alienating friends so they could spend all their time together.

'They didn't want to hang out with friends. Their focus was each other and that's pretty intense for 14-year-olds,' Kiley said, adding that her son did not take the news they were going to different high schools very well.

'Braxton told us he was heartbroken. We thought that they had cooled and not seeing each other anymore,' she said.



*Broke: The teens only had approximately $80, a video game console, a coin collection and other items that could be sold for cash*



*Appeal: The missing posters circulated around the area for the teens who have been gone for ten days*

Jayden is described as five feet, three inches tall and weighs about 120lbs. She has blonde hair and hazel/blue eyes.

Braxton is five feet, inches inches tall, weighs 125lbs and has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Their parents believe they only had approximately $80, a video game console, a coin collection and other items that could be sold for cash.

West Michigan private eye Mike Cook is part of the team trying to find the teenagers.

'Trying to find these two has been a little bit more difficult than any of us would have thought,' he said. 'They are 13 and 14-years-old, boyfriend and girlfriend. It's our impression they have not made contact with anyone.

'We know they have been in western Michigan. We know they have been throughout central Michigan.

'The last area we know for sure is the Mt Pleasant area, but it's been a few days since we've had a good solid lead of where we knew they were.'

He added that the teens have likely run out of money and will likely start 'doing things you don't want to see kids do to make money'.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2415664/Romeo-Juliet-runaway-teens-safe-Chicago.html#ixzz2sZVqPTxm>   
Follow us: [@MailOnline on Twitter](http://ec.tynt.com/b/rw?id=bBOTTqvd0r3Pooab7jrHcU&u=MailOnline) | [DailyMail on Facebook](http://ec.tynt.com/b/rf?id=bBOTTqvd0r3Pooab7jrHcU&u=DailyMail)

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| Historical Document: Sullivan Ballou Letter |

**July 14, 1861**  
Camp Clark, Washington  
  
*My very dear Sarah:  
The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more . . .  
  
I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans on the triumph of the Government and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and sufferings of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt . . .  
  
Sarah my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me unresistibly on with all these chains to the battle field.*  
  
*The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them for so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our sons grown up to honorable manhood, around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar, that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battle field, it will whisper your name. Forgive my many faults and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often times been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness . . .*  
  
*But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the gladdest days and in the darkest nights . . . always, always, and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath, as the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again . . .*  
  
Major Sullivan Ballou was killed a week later at the first Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861.  
  
Born March 28, 1829 in Smithfield, R.I., Ballou was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.; Brown University in Providence, R.I. and the National Law School in Ballston, N.Y. He was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1853.  
  
Ballou devoted his brief life to public service. He was elected in 1854 as clerk of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, later serving as its speaker.  
He married Sarah Hart Shumway on October 15, 1855, and the following year saw the birth of their first child, Edgar. A second son, William, was born in 1859.  
Ballou immediately entered the military in 1861 after the war broke out. He became judge advocate of the Rhode Island militia and was 32 at the time of his death at the first Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861.  
  
When he died, his wife was 24. She later moved to New Jersey to live out her life with her son, William, and never re-married. She died at age 80 in 1917.  
Sullivan and Sarah Ballou are buried next to each other at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, RI. There are no known living descendants.  
  
Ironically, Sullivan Ballou’s letter was never mailed. Although Sarah would receive other, decidedly more upbeat letters, dated after the now-famous letter from the battlefield, the letter in question would be found among Sullivan Ballou’s effects when Gov. William Sprague of Rhode Island traveled to Virginia to retrieve the remains of his state’s sons who had fallen in battle.

**In America; Romeo And Juliet In Bosnia**

By BOB HERBERT  
Published: May 8, 1994

*The potential for clashes among the numerous ethnic groups in Eastern Europe goes back hundreds of years. After communism collapsed in Yugoslavia in early 1990, civil war, and all its tragic consequences, erupted.*

*One of the many divisions in Bosnia is that between the Eastern Orthodox Serbs and the Muslims. Hatred and intolerance between these two religious groups ended the lives of a young couple in the capital city of Sarajevo.*

Two ordinary young people, Bosko Brkic, an Eastern Orthodox Serb, and Admira Ismic, a Muslim, who met at a New Year's Eve party in the mid-1980's, fell in love, tried to pursue the most conventional of dreams, and died together on a hellish bridge in Sarajevo.

The documentary, called "Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo," achieves its power by focusing our attention on the thoroughly human individuals caught up in a horror that, from afar, can seem abstract and almost unimaginable.

For viewers overwhelmed and desensitized by the relentless reports of mass killings and mass rapes, the shock of "Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo" is that what we see is so real and utterly familiar. Bosko and Admira could be a young couple from anywhere, from Queens, or Tokyo, or Barcelona.

We learn that they graduated from high school in June of 1986 and that both were crazy about movies and music. Admira had a cat named Yellow that she loved, and Bosko liked to play practical jokes.

Admira's father, Zijo, speaking amid clouds of cigarette smoke, says, "Well, I knew from the first day about that relationship and I didn't have anything against it. I thought it was good because her guy was so likable, and after a time I started to love him and didn't regard him any differently than Admira."

Admira's grandmother, Sadika Ismic, was not so sanguine. "Yes, I did have something against it," she says. "I thought, 'He is a Serb, she is a Muslim, and how will it work?' "

For Admira and Bosko, of course, love was the answer to everything. While Bosko was away on compulsory military service soon after high school, Admira wrote: "My dear love, Sarajevo at night is the most beautiful thing in the world. I guess I could live somewhere else but only if I must or if I am forced. Just a little beat of time is left until we are together. After that, absolutely nothing can separate us."

With a population of Serbs, Croats, Muslims, Jews and others, the city had become a symbol of ethnic and religious tolerance, a place where people were making a serious attempt to live together in peace.

But civilization is an exceedingly fragile enterprise, and it's especially vulnerable to the primal madness of ethnic and religious hatreds. When the madness descended on Sarajevo, Bosko Brkic faced a cruel dilemma. He could not kill Serbs. And he could not go up into the hills and fire back down on his girlfriend's people. Says his mother, Rada: "He was simply a kid who was not for the war."

Bosko and Admira decided to flee Sarajevo. To escape, they had to cross a bridge over the Miljacka River in a no-man's land between the Serb and Muslim lines. Snipers from both sides overlooked the bridge.

It has not been determined who shot the lovers. They were about two-thirds of the way across the bridge when the gunfire erupted. Both sides blame the other. Witnesses said Bosko died instantly. Admira crawled to him. She died a few minutes later. The area in which they were shot was so dangerous that the bodies remained on the bridge, entwined, for six days before being removed.

There are various ostensible reasons for the endless conflicts -- ideological differences, border disputes, oil -- but dig just a little and you will uncover the ruinous ethnic or religious origins of the clash.

The world stands helpless and sometimes depressed before the madness. Millions upon millions dead, millions more to die. It is not just the curse of our times. It seems to be the curse of all time.

Use “In America: Romeo and Juliet in Bosnia” to answer questions 1-6.

1. What is the author’s purpose in writing this article?
   1. To persuade the reader to join the Muslim cause in Bosnia
   2. To entertain the readers with the love story
   3. To criticize the parents of the teenagers
   4. To inform the reader about the casualties of religious conflict
2. This author of this article has the opinion that
   1. the teenagers were right to run away from their parents
   2. many lives have been needlessly lost due to religious strife
   3. Bosnia is a place where peace has finally been achieved
   4. teenagers must just groups of protesters in Bosnia

"My dear love, Sarajevo at night is the most beautiful thing in the world. I guess I could live somewhere else but only if I must or if I am forced. Just a little beat of time is left until we are together. After that, absolutely nothing can separate us."

From the quote shown above, the reader can tell that-

* 1. Admira was not serious about the relationship
  2. Bosko wanted to run away because the city was a disaster
  3. Admira would run away even if she were separated from Bosko
  4. Admira felt torn between leaving her city and being with Bosko

1. Which line from the article shows how the author develops Admira’s character
   1. “after a time I started to love him and didn't regard him any differently than Admira”
   2. Admira had a cat named Yellow that she loved
   3. Admira crawled to him. She died a few minutes later
   4. the bodies remained on the bridge, entwined, for six days
2. What type of tone does the use of words such as *hellish, madness,* and *ruinous* create in the article?

A delight at the love between the teenagers

B mournful of the pain the parents feel for their loss

C shocked horror at the atrocities created by the war

D sarcasm at the way the Bosnian’s reacted to the deaths

1. What message does the author want the readers to learn from what happened to Bosko and Admira?

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