# Transgender Artist's Manifesto Unveils Motives Behind Deadly School Attack



In March 2023, Audrey Hale, a 28-year-old transgender artist who identified as male and went by the name Aiden, carried out a deadly attack at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. Hale forcefully entered the elementary school armed with two assault-type guns and a handgun, killing three adults and three nine-year-old children before being shot by responding officers.

Recently obtained writings, which some refer to as Hale's 'manifesto,' reveal Hale's personal struggles and motivations for the attack. The documents, acquired by the Tennessee Star, depict Hale's journey through her female-to-male transition, her deep-seated anger towards her conservative Christian upbringing, and her distress over not having access to puberty blockers during childhood.

In her writings, Hale discussed her desire for gender-affirming medical treatment and the emotional turmoil she faced. She expressed hatred towards her parents and conservative views, detailing her longing for a male identity and resentment over being raised as a girl. Hale's journal entries began with titles like 'My Imaginary Penis' and contained crude drawings, revealing her feelings of frustration and desperation.

These writings have sparked controversy and debate regarding their release, with some arguing that they could negatively impact the transgender community. Despite authorities' reluctance, the writings were eventually made public, shedding light on Hale's mindset and her politically charged beliefs related to gun rights and transgender issues.

The attack on the Covenant School took place after several warning signs were missed, including a goodbye message Hale sent to a friend just minutes before the shooting. The incident unfolded rapidly, with Hale beginning her assault at 10:10 a.m. and being neutralized by police at 10:27 a.m.

Hale's writings, found in her car, have been part of a contentious legal battle involving the Metro Nashville Police Department and the FBI, who initially advised against their release. Families of the victims have also been involved, asserting ownership of the writings and their potential impact on ongoing investigations. The unsettling details in Hale's documents underscore the complex and multifaceted nature of the tragic event, leaving lingering questions about her motivations and the systemic failures that may have contributed to the deadly outcome.