

University of the sacred heart
San Juan, Pr

Taking on Bliss

SCRIPT

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up to her to choose wisely in order to prevail. There is no choice without consequence. For this reason, she needs to decide carefully before moving on with her life. There is no return after embarking on the journey. The question relies upon if she will regret or embrace her choice in the end.

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Scene 1

START

Sofía is a young woman of 21 years old, full of energy and very determined; she is a college student and is madly in love with her boyfriend, Alec, who is also 21.

Alec has just come back from military boot camp and is about to leave again. She feels devastated. They decided to meet at some nearby isolated woods to talk about their future together.

It is a spring afternoon in 2012 near the San Juan city. It is very gloomy and peaceful, with an air of mystery and very blossomed. Sunlight barely reaches the ground between the tree branches. It is majestic; the true meaning and most pure expression of mother-natured beauty.

Although near civilization, it is barely visible. The woods have an enchanted fairytale-like feeling.

Fade in:

[They arrive to the woods and Sofía jumps out of the car and paces rapidly, deepening into the woods. She seems a bit upset and thoughtful. Alec quickly follows.]

ALEC: Soph! Would you stop walking, please! I know you're upset. I am too, but let's both calm down and talk.

[Sofía stops.]

SOFÍA: I... I just don't know what to do or say! I'm not really even sure of what to think... I love you so much, but how will we make this work after you leave again?

ALEC: I'm sorry, hun. You make me feel so guilty, but you know how important this was and still is for me.

SOFÍA: I know... That's why I know I shouldn't stop you. I shouldn't even feel like this... so upset!

ALEC: It's not like I'm leaving you.

SOFÍA: But, you are! Again! What are the options? You're leaving, period. Once again, we're barely going to see each other. After the time you've

come back and been here... you leave tomorrow again and God knows when you'll be able to come back! You're going away for a really, really long time this time and you are going to meet lots of new people... We'll basically be leading two completely different lives apart from each other. You know how hard it was for me to be without you these past few months?

[Alec looks down; thoughtful and apologetically.]

ALEC: If it was hard for you... Imagine how it was for me. You know you can come with me and we could get married.

SOFÍA: That's the problem... I don't really think it's right to rush into getting married like that. We could do it, but there are so many things still left to do, such as finishing my college degree.

Plus, my parents would never approve of me hurrying. They want me to have a professional career, a future... I want a future! I have years ahead of me... marriage would just make everything harder...

ALEC: I don't know what to say...

SOFÍA: I really love you, Alec... and I would do anything to be with you, really. But I also know that I don't want to disappoint myself or my parents, and I don't want to GET disappointed. At this point I need certainty. I don't really know where we're headed anymore.

ALEC: I can't really promise certainty... But, we could still give it a shot. We have done it so far...

SOFÍA: Honestly, you know what's going to happen if we decide to stay together but not married. It's hard to admit, but you're going to be far away and meeting a lot of girls.

Let's be honest. You're attractive and we both know how they throw themselves at you... even knowing that you're with me.

Military life is tough! Even if we do get married, you'll probably never be around and I'll be staying alone for the most part, and even more if you get deployed... that'll be for months and months! Could we really handle it?

ALEC: I'm sorry for that. I know it's very complicated, but I do love you, Sophie.

SOFÍA: What if you go to war and never come back to me?

[She says sadly and her eyes water a bit.]

I don't think I could take it...

ALEC: You're seriously taking every aspect into consideration aren't you?

[He giggles lowly.]

I know I'm not exactly the same Alec you used to know... Military life changes you... I'm very aware, but I haven't stopped caring for you.

SOFÍA: Frankly, I have never stopped caring for you either. Every time I received one of your letters, it was like Christmas for me! I remember I spent almost four weeks without hearing or knowing anything about you and I was near a breakdown... even depressed. But, I also know that in a matter of time we'll probably officially become two completely different people.

ALEC: We're different people right now...

SOFÍA Don't be stupid... you know what I mean.

ALEC: I know it has been hard and it's all barely beginning. I can see how it could work, but I also see how we're in different pages. If it's already causing you so much trouble, then why don't we just end it here? It'll save us both from all the upcoming headaches.

SOFÍA: I'm nervous about the whole thing... I have never seen myself becoming an Army wife and we're still very young. I am very proud of you, though... I want you to know that. Being without you was excruciating! I love you too much, that's why it's so hard...

[She seems very sad now. Alec stays silent.]

ALEC: I'm sorry for all of this... I'm sorry I hurt you.

SOFÍA: You're not hurting me... it's the situation what is. Why did you ever have to go?! You had everything here!

ALEC: You know it was always something that I felt I needed to do. Nothing in my life worked out before, except for you and I'm not sure if that will even continue to work out now... I know for sure the military works for me.

SOFÍA: You're just a coward. You never finished anything before because you didn't want to nor committed to it! Not because opportunities didn't exist.

[She says angrily.]

ALEC: I needed money, I needed to find purpose to my life and my future and I don't have the same family support as you! I needed to do this for myself! To prove to myself that I can be and do anything!

SOFÍA: And you thought a military career was the answer?! Gosh! You're such a guy! All of that could have been worked out if you stayed, because I support you. You have me!

ALEC: You know it doesn't work like that... You've already done more than enough for me.

SOFÍA: The months before you left were magical for us, and you know it! It all clicked after we broke up and came back together. I felt like our relationship blossomed and took a positive turn. We were able to connect even better than before; deeper than we ever did. You know I hoped and wished you'd change your mind and not leave... but you still did.

The months without you were agonizing, there was a hole in my heart. I would cry myself to sleep; I cried almost every night imagining what they were doing to you, the things you described in your letters. My world lit up every time I got your writings, but it still hurt so much to know what you were going through. I could see how you were slowly changing letter by letter. By the time I got the last one a few weeks ago... I couldn't even recognize the person you had become.

ALEC: I'm aware of all of it, Soph. Those months before I left were great, I was incredibly impressed of how strong we had gotten. Don't you think I doubted whether to leave or not? Of course I did! Even right before I entered that airplane and all because of how I felt and feel for you... But something way beyond my understanding told me that I needed to go.

I'm not the same man, I know. But you're still in me; in my heart, and somehow I'm here again.

[Sofía begins to cry. Alec comes closer to her and hugs her. They drop together and sit on the floor while still embracing.]

I missed you every single day! At one point I didn't even know how much time had passed since the last time I had seen you. It seemed like ages! But it was you who kept me strong. Your letters made my day every single time and they were the only thing that brought me joy while in there.

SOFÍA: Why have you been so distant since you arrived then? I just don't want anything to happen to you.

ALEC: I'm sorry. Things just don't click the same way they used to in my head. I see everything differently. People, society, life... And you know I'll do anything in my power to keep safe always. I promise that.

[Sofía sighs.]

SOFÍA It's like you're brain washed...

Plus, you can't promise... You don't even know if by next year you'll still be alive!

ALEC: Neither do you.

SOFÍA: I have more chances of living by not going to war...

What if I ended up marrying you know? What if after starting a family you die on me?

ALEC: I... I don't want to think about that. I know the risks. But, if it's finances you're worrying about, I know you'll be fine whether I die or not.

SOFÍA: You do me no good while dead, ALEC. It's basically self suicide. You're not even scared of dying anymore! It's like you've lost a bit of the value of life... This is exactly what I never wanted to happen to me. I always pictured myself as a hardworking professional woman, married to the man I loved and having him there with me, supporting each other and our family. Not having to deal with separation or long distance...

ALEC: You will never be able to understand, Sofía. I don't think about my life or anyone's life the same anymore. You can only think like a civilian.

[Sofía shakes her head in disbelief of what she just heard him say.]

You should know that Even if it's not with me that you end up... you can still have all that, you know.

SOFÍA: But, I really want it to be you. I have never felt with anyone the things I've felt for you.

ALEC: But you said it yourself... with me, you can't have all of those things you said you wanted for yourself. Heck... we're not even sure we'll be able to stay faithful to each other while being apart... because we're human. We need human touch... We'll miss being close to someone and embracing each other.

[They lie down in the grass, side by side, and stare at what's visible of the sky between the tall dream-like trees that create the entrance of dim sunlight. They stay silent and thoughtful for a while. They can hear the mix of their breathing and nature's music.]

SOFÍA'S THOUGHT (speaking to herself):

I think I know what I have to do. But, gosh! Leaving him hurts so much! That dreadful, burning sorrow... I don't think I'll be able to ever forgive myself for this... But I think this is the way it's supposed to be. Life has clearly chosen a different path for us...

[She lets a few tears run down her cheeks]

There is only so much pain I can withstand... Sofía, you know this will be a never ending cycle... You have to do it.

[She finds confidence in herself and decides to speak. But she is clearly saddened.]

SOFÍA:Alec... I know what we should do. I think this is it. We can't live like this..

[They both begin to sob very quietly.]

Somehow I wish circumstances were different, but they aren't. Guess some things are just not meant to happen or continue.

It so happens that true love stories never have a happy ending.

[She looks into Alec's eyes. He nods and closes his eyes while he reaches for her and pulls her in towards him while still lying down.]

[She turns over and puts her head on his chest while hugging.]

ALEC: I think it's what's best. I know it's hard... but it's better for both of us. We're only suffering while being apart from each other for so long.

SOFÍA:I know I will always love you in a way; you'll always be extremely special because you have taught me so much. With you I have learned what it is to love. With you I've also learned that some things are just to better to be let gone.

ALEC: Promise me we'll stay friends at least and never lose contact. You have really given me strength when I've needed it. You're good for me.

SOFÍ: I promise.

ALEC: Sorry I can't be the "ONE." I really hope you find him soon and he makes you even happier than you were back at some point with me.

SOFÍA:I wish just the same to you.

Sorry I can't be the girl you'd like me to be. But at least we can honestly say we tried.

[They continue to embrace while looking into each other's eyes.]

ALEC: Do me a favor; please be all that you can be. I love that about you, how you always know exactly what you want and you're not afraid to go for it. I'm glad you didn't change it even for me and you mustn't change that for anyone! You're strong.

[They giggle.]

SOFÍA: I promise I won't.

Now, don't you dare ever feel sorry about this, please! You know this is how it was meant to happen eventually. Don't take this wrong... You know my strong feelings for you. They are stronger than you could ever think or imagine! Maybe even stronger than what you feel for me...

ALEC: I do love you too, Soph. I could never force anyone to change their road in life for me. You weren't able to change mine... So I don't really feel bad. I know exactly how you feel. Love may be stronger than destiny, but life is stronger than love. It changes unexpectedly. I'm just enjoying this moment; probably one of the lasts like this with you.

[Sofía hold on to him tighter.]

SOFÍA: Taking on a moment of bliss... I really never want to let it go, but the memory is all we can hold of it.

[Alec wipes Sofía's tears.]

[They both close their eyes and take in a deep breath while embracing. Arms and legs intertwined. Sofía's head on top of Alec's chest, listening to his heart beat. He's still there. He's alive. They fall asleep together laying in the woods while the sun slowly turns into twilight.]

Everything Fades to black

CUT

Author note:

Looking more into the meaning of the names, I would like you to notice why I chose them.

The name Sofía is derived from the Greek word for "wisdom." I chose it because it portrays the female character's personality and strong opinion.

The name Alec is a Greek variation and diminutive of the name Alexander, which stands for "defending men." As you can once again see, it also portrays the male character's personality and what he does for a living.