

Sasha

Written by

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Draft #1

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INT. CAR - EARLY MORNING, RAINING

Two people are in a car, Alex and Sasha. Alex is 31 years old and is dressed in casual clothing; he has a stern look. Sasha is 35 years old and is wearing a lab coat. Alex is currently driving the car. They hit a speed bump and after Alex pulls out his phone.

SASHA  
Hey, stop that

Alex puts his phone in the driver's compartment and abruptly readjusts himself.

ALEX  
How's Madeline?

A small bit of awkward silence

SASHA  
Fine. You'll go to 11th after dropping me

ALEX  
I know that

More pausing between them, then Sasha looks at Alex directly

SASHA  
Are you not gonna tell me?

Alex stops at a traffic light and looks at the speedometer of the car

ALEX  
Look, you know how much I want to tell you.

Another minor pause between the two characters. Alex points his gaze straight towards the road and starts driving forward. Sasha exhales and looks back towards the window, gripping the side door leather with her right hand

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I signed an NDA

SASHA  
You're a lead scientist, Rish would have let it slide.

Alex gives a short exhale

ALEX

No, it doesn't work like that...  
Sasha, I promise I will try to tell  
you as much as I can when I get the  
chance. These things just take  
time.

The car turns right into a dimly dark green-lit garage which  
is next to a hospital building.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE 1

Mattea, a 10 year old girl, is sitting on a hospital bed with  
a white cover next to her dad, Silas. Sasha opens the door  
holding a clipboard.

SASHA

Hi, sorry to keep you both waiting.  
Ok, Mattea right? Is that how I say  
your name?

MATTEA

Yeah

SASHA

Awesome, how are you doing?

MATTEA

Ok, I guess

SASHA

What year of school are you in now?

MATTEA

5th grade

SASHA

(Excited)

Wow, you're a big kid now!

Mattea cracks a smile while Silas still has a serious look

SASHA (CONT'D)

So tell me how you've been feeling  
recently?

MATTEA

I feel cold, and I feel like, I  
hurt a lot

SASHA

Where does it hurt?

Mattea starts looking at herself

MATTEA

Like everywhere, my face, my back,  
my legs. Do you know what's wrong?

Sasha waits a moment, taking a glance at Silas who has now closed his eyes. Sasha takes a deep breath and transitions to a more serious tone

SASHA

Our bodies make blood cells that try to keep us healthy, they carry oxygen and help us fight nasty germs and diseases. Sometimes though, these blood cells start to grow too much and they don't know when to stop, which can make parts of your body like your bones too full.

Sasha takes a brief pause here

SASHA (CONT'D)

This is a type of cancer called leukemia. Your dad and I are going to talk through some ways to potentially help you. This is going to be hard but you have been so strong getting through everything so far.

MATTEA

Did I do something wrong?

SASHA

No, you did nothing wrong.  
Sometimes the worst things happen to those who don't deserve it

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE 2

In a small office setting, Alex is standing up and is calm, Oris is also standing up and looking at a piece of paper.

ORIS

Hey, I've taken a look and there seems to have been no major issues with the surgery. I may prescribe some pain medications, potentially some oxycodone to deal with any pain that you may still have.

ALEX:  
That sounds great

Alex looks at the window towards the sunrise and walks towards it, now arching his head down

ALEX: (CONT'D)  
Say, do you want to see a magic  
trick?

ORIS:  
(smiling)  
Sure

Alex begins to walk towards the doctor's desk and takes out a pen; he begins to write on a piece of scrap paper that he tears out.

ALEX:  
I'm gonna write down a number here.  
Now, I want you to tell me a number  
from 0 to 1000.

ORIS:  
375

Alex smiles now. He opens up the piece of paper to show Oris the number he got

#### INT. MADELINE'S OFFICE

The space is disorganized with papers everywhere. There are some family photos above on a wooden cupboard. The door opens and Madeline, sitting at her computer, turns around. Sasha's tone is a bit more somber in this scene.

SASHA:  
Hi Maddie

MADELINE:  
Oh my gosh Sasha! It's so good to  
see you!

Madeline starts looking back at her computer, filling in patient details into a database. Sasha sits in the chair across her desk and takes a breath out.

MADELINE: (CONT'D)  
Have you gotten through most of  
your appointments yet? I don't have  
mine until later today.

SASHA

(somber)

Nope, I'm 30 minutes behind like usual, I just needed to get out of that room

MADELINE

Hey, did you see that they opened an Au Bon Pain. In about an hour, do you want to get lunch there?

SASHA

Yeah

Madeline swivels her chair to face Sasha now.

MADELINE

Hey, you look different, did anything happen?

SASHA

I'm sorry, I just was with a kid with leukemia and watching her in pain was

Sasha pauses for a bit and looks down for a bit

SASHA (CONT'D)

Definitely a hard experience.

MADELINE

Oh my, I'm so sorry Sasha. That is so horrible.

SASHA

I'll get through it, I just needed some space to decompress.

MADELINE

Yeah, it's good to get out of there sometimes.

Madeline takes a brief pause here.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Have you considered switching hospitals?

SASHA

I have not

MADELINE

Well, maybe you could find a place better than here, Highland just doesn't get the resources anymore it needs; like I said before, I'm in the process to transfer to Providence.

SASHA

I'm not in the position to move right now

MADELINE

How come?

SASHA

Some family issues

INT. HOME

The lights are somewhat dim in the clean and tidy house. There is a couch near a TV. Both Alex and Sasha go through the door.

SASHA

(angry)

Ok, what just happened? You told me it was part of your Neuralink experiment but why were you made the test subject?

ALEX

Look, it is none of your business, ok

SASHA

Well, clearly everything I do is your business right? Why am I the only one who has to show myself?

Sasha walks a bit closer towards Alex, both getting louder while talking but never shouting.

ALEX

Oh my god, can you calm down, what has gotten into you!

SASHA

No, I'm not going to calm down until you tell me what the operation was for

ALEX  
I got an implant in my fucking  
head, alright!

Sasha pauses, still looking at him. Alex takes a step forward  
and Sasha precedingly takes a step back

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Yeah, it's for work. I'm the first  
test subject because I made it. You  
know the work I've done on rats,  
I'm testing it now. Do you know  
what that means?

Alex stares at Sasha who is now standing frozen

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I can read your mind and I can put  
thoughts into it, I know exactly  
what is going up there. You will  
stay loyal to me and you will not  
disrespect me anymore here!

Alex relaxes his shoulders a bit

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I know sometimes things get a bit  
heated between us and I understand  
what has been happening with you  
recently, I know you've been on  
your period and...

Alex rests part of his body against the wall

ALEX (CONT'D)  
and work has gotten really hard and  
stressful, look, I get it. I want  
you to know that I still love you.  
I love you as much as you love me.

Sasha starts looking at the floor and starts to tear up a  
little bit

ALEX (CONT'D)  
No, don't do that, come on, there's  
no reason to. We all make mistakes.  
Anyways, we have to go to dinner at  
7:00, we can't be late for that.

Alex starts to walk out of the living room, then turns back  
to face her after taking a couple of steps.



ALEX (CONT'D)

Hey, I read that you don't want to  
come, I promise it'll be fun.

Alex walks up the stairs