

BEAUTIFUL NIGHTMARE

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INT. MINT URBAN APARTMENTS: SOPHIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SOPHIA (28) sits on the couch flipping through channels before ZEKE, a young Hispanic male in his mid 20s knocks on the DOOR before entering the premise. Zeke walks over to the COUCH after closing the door and sits down next to Sophia. He reaches in his BACKPACK for a CLEAR PLASTIC BAG of pills.

ZEKE

Sophia, you're beginning to worry me. Don't you think you're over doing it?

SOPHIA

I'm a fucking adult Zeke. I know what's best for me.

ZEKE

You can't finish a whole bag in a couple days and know what's best for you.

SOPHIA

But you still take my money every time I call you over here.

ZEKE

I'm looking out for you...as a friend.

SOPHIA

I don't care about friendship or the effects, just give me what I'm paying you for.

Sophia slides the money on the TABLE and Zeke looks at the BAG full of pills before looking back at her. Zeke takes a deep breath as he clutches the bag of drugs.

ZEKE

I care.

SOPHIA

It's the only way I can sleep. I need this more than you think.

ZEKE

Please take it easy. I'm warning you. Too much of anything isn't good for you. I hope you understand that.

Zeke drops the drugs on the TABLE and pats her leg. Zeke takes the money, grabs his backpack, and walks out the door.

Sophia snatches the bag once the DOOR closes. Sophia looks at the pills through the clear bag and clinches it tight. The HOUSE PHONE rings while Sophia is in the bathroom running water and pours bubble mix into the TUB. The ANSWERING MACHINE goes off.

ANSWERING MACHINE

Mister and Misses DeLaney, this is the phone company calling about your phone bill. You guys are past due once again. And unfortunately, we'll have to cut off your service tomorrow morning. If you have a form of payment, please call us back. Goodbye and have a nice day.

Her UNDERWEAR hits the ground and her LEGS steps into the bath tub where BUBBLES cover her body up to her neck. She lifts her LEG out of the water to run the wash cloth down her leg. She steps out the bathroom in her NIGHT GOWN and sits on the edge of the bed looking at the PICTURE of Brad on the NIGHTSTAND. She picks it up and holds it close to her heart.

SOPHIA (V.O.)

I feel like the girl in the story without a happy ending. But just because I'm telling you this story, doesn't mean I'm alive at the end of it. My tragic journey intertwine like dangerous grapevines filled with deadly landmines. Being trapped in this orchard leaves me weak and delusional like a leaky facet dripping water slowly as it sucks the life from my body. They say...in every beautiful nightmare, there's a beautiful struggle. I often wonder will things ever get better. All I taste is this bitter sweet nectar and most times I don't want to stick around this branch to find out. It's much easier to stick a needle in my arm and leave this pain behind to fade into the black. They say, living is so complicated because we face too many obstacles on this journey we call life. We can't hide from what's in front of us. But slipping into the darkness is the band-aid I use to fix my problems. Because life is filled with good and evil. A violet rain storm that can drown a planet trying to stay alive.

(MORE)

SOPHIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But in every dark cloud, there's a
silver lining. Will I ever find
happiness at the end of my rainbow?
Guess you'll have to stick around
to find out.

Sophia places the picture down on the nightstand as a TEARS runs down the side of her FACE. She reaches for the bag of pills and takes a few before laying her head down.

INT. SOPHIA'S APARTMENT / NOAH'S SMALL HOUSE - DAY

The next morning a BOTTLE OF WINE and the bag of PILLS sits on her nightstand as Sophia rolls over in the bed. Noah climbs out of bed in his pajamas after throwing the covers aside. Noah waits at the BUS STOP reading a newspaper with another lady rider. The BUS pulls up to the curb and Noah waits for the lady to board first by extending his hands. She smiles and boards the bus. Noah steps up and puts the bus fare into the MACHINE. He looks up and doesn't see any seats up close so he walks to the back of the bus. Noah sees Sophia sitting on the bus with her face leaning against the WINDOW. She looks up at him as he walks towards the back. Noah sits two seats behind her and opens up his newspaper. The bus pulls off after the passengers sits down. He walks into the hospital and the CLOCK on the wall as the HANDS turns expressing time passing by.

EXT. MINT URBAN APARTMENTS: SOPHIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Later that day Sophia happens to be walking towards her apartment. LARRY the landlord sees her and walks towards her to find out about the rent. Sophia scrummage through her PURSE to find her keys. Larry stands there with his arms folded once she finally pulls out her keys.

LARRY
(Clears his throat)
So about rent?

She gets startled.

SOPHIA
Oh Larry! It's just you.

LARRY
Who else are you expecting?

SOPHIA
No one. You just startled me is
all.

LARRY

So what about that rent money
Sophia?

Sophia puts key in the DOOR KNOB.

SOPHIA

I need a little more time Larry.
(Twists the knob)
It's tough right now but I promise,
I'm working on getting all for you.
Please, just give me some more
time.

She walks in and starts to close the door. Larry slides his
BOOT into the door way to wedge the door with his foot.

LARRY

I understand your situation but you
still have responsibilities Mrs.
DeLaney. Have you thought about a
cheaper place or maybe a shelter?

SOPHIA

I'm not a child Larry. I'll have
your money soon enough.

LARRY

You're 4 months behind. Most
landlords would've kicked you out
after 1. I'm being reasonable here.

Larry pull his foot out of the door and Sophia gently closes
the door leaving Larry on the other side to lick his wounds
and thinking about his next option. He shakes his head.

INT. MINT URBAN APARTMENTS: SOPHIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sophia throws her purse across the room and walks towards her
bed. She stands in front of her bed before extending her arms
out and falling faces first into the bed. She starts kicking
her feet, pounding her fist in the bed, and screaming in the
pillow as the pillow muffle her SCREAMS.

INT. NOAH'S SMALL HOUSE - DAY

Rocky is lying down on the SOFA as Noah walks up to the
couch. He puts his KEYS on the center table and reaches for
Rocky's head to pat his the head. Rocky barks and jumps down
off the couch. He heads into the kitchen and drinks from his
WATER BOWL. INSIDE the FRIDGE, Noah opens the DOOR to get a
POM WONDERFUL DRINK.

He opens the caps and drinks from the bottle. His PHONE rings and he accidentally spills some on his SHIRT.

NOAH

A-h-h! That's my good shirt!

Noah puts down the drink and grabs a cloth from the sink to wipe his shirt. A little while later, the PHONE goes off again. He reaches for the phone on the kitchen counter top and looks at the CALLER ID.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Noah speaking!

INT. SOPHIA'S APARTMENT / EMERGENCY DISPATCH - NIGHT

Sophia STUMBLES back and forth as she tries to hold herself up against the WALL to make it to the other room. She TRIPS reaching for the house phone. She knocks the PHONE off the foundation but catches herself. She reaches down and leans against the wall and dials the 911 OPERATOR.

911 OPERATOR

Nine-one-one! How can we assist you?

SOPHIA

I-I-I...need help.

911 OPERATOR

I didn't catch that ma'am.

SOPHIA

(Soft)

I need help. Send help.

She drops on the ground and the PHONE lands next to her face as she lay their life less. The operator holds her EARPIECE.

911 OPERATOR

Hello...miss? Hello?

(No answer)

Are you still there?

(No answer)

Help is on the way. Stay with me.

The operator starts typing on her computer to send out a response team. An EMS UNIT and a POLICE CAR wait outside her apartment with LIGHT flashing. EMT MEDIC 1 and EMT MEDIC 2 put Sophia on the STRETCHER and rolls her out the apartment. The medics try to stabilize her heart rate on the MONITOR as the driver makes a dash to the hospital.

One medic holds the mask over her FACE. Sophia's EYES slowly open and close numerous times becoming slightly responsive.

EMS MEDIC 1
Stay with me! Okay! We're almost
there Mrs. Delaney.

Medic 1 looks at monitor. Sophia coughs and the mask slides off slightly. Medic 1 fixes the mask back over her face.

EMS MEDIC 2
Are we losing her?

EMS MEDIC 1
She's stable for now. But it might
not be that way for too long.

The SIREN echos through the streets as the AMBULANCE makes it walk through traffic. CARS pull to the side and the AMBULANCE heads to the hospital.

INT. LEGACY EMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER - NIGHT

Sophia lies in a HOSPITAL BED with the bed slightly arched up. Dr. Ashley is briefing DR. WEXLER as the HEART MONITOR captures Sophia's heart beat as she sleeps. Noah walks to the door and peeks in. He KNOCKS on the wall to get their attention.

NOAH
Knock! Knock! Sorry to interrupt.
Michelle called and said we were
short tonight.

DR. WEXLER
Great! Glad you made it in.

DR. ASHLEY
Didn't I see you this morning?

DR. NOAH
I kind of need the money so here I
am

DR. ASHLEY
(Waves him over)
Medical records are in her file.
Read it over when you get a chance.

Ashley hands Noah the clipboard.

NOAH
Will do.

DR. WEXLER
I'll be in the east wing.

Dr. Ashley and Dr. Wexler walks out leaving Noah there as he reads her file. Noah looks at her FACE with curiosity as he tries to remember where he saw her. He places the CLIPBOARD down and slowly walks over to get a closer look. The DOOR closes and Noah gets up to places the clipboard on the side table. He stands over Sophia body and looks at her.

NOAH
(Checks her pulse)
Sophia! It's time to wake up.

Sophia's EYES slowly start to open and close slightly as she wakes up...she looks around the room as she pulls herself up on the bed. She speaks softly.

SOPHIA
(Softly)
Where am I?

NOAH
You're at the hospital.

SOPHIA
(Pull covers back)
Shit! I have to get out of here.

She pulls the patches off her arms and Noah jumps back. Sophia slides out of the bed. Noah tries to block her as she tries to head towards the door in her hospital gown.

NOAH
What's wrong! You needed medical attention. That's why you're here.

SOPHIA
(Pushes Noah back)

NOAH
(Blocks the door)
Talk to me. Please!

SOPHIA
(Folds her arms)
I have to go. Okay. Where's the exit?

NOAH
The doctor hasn't released you yet.

SOPHIA

Please! Just sign the paperwork and let me go. I need to get home right now.

NOAH

Tell me why you're freaking out. Maybe I can help you.

SOPHIA

I don't have health insurance. I can't afford this place.

NOAH

Don't worry! I'll take care of that.

SOPHIA

So can I go now?

NOAH

I'm not a doctor but she'll be back shortly though.

SOPHIA

(Deep breath)

Just great!

(Walks to the bed)

NOAH

Do you normally ride the city bus in the morning?

SOPHIA

Seeing that I don't have a car. That's my only form of transportation

NOAH

Me too. Well...my car is in the shop. But I should be getting it back soon.

SOPHIA

Lucky you.

NOAH

Why'd you look so upset on the bus the other day?

SOPHIA

It's complicated.

NOAH
Well make it uncomplicated if it's
not too personal.

Sophia sees an EMPTY CUP on the table next to her and reaches for it. She looks at it before looking up once Noah speaks.

NOAH (CONT'D)
You thirsty?

SOPHIA
No. This is my life.
(Shows the CUP)

NOAH
A cup?

SOPHIA
Empty!

NOAH
How? You're still young and alive.

SOPHIA
You'll never understand so just let
it go. I hate trying to explain it.

NOAH
That doesn't sound encouraging.

SOPHIA
I'm that lost book on the shelf
that sits there and collects dust.
Nobody wants to read me.

Sophia looks away in shame and shortly after, Noah reaches for her hand blows on it to symbolize him blowing the dust off the "book".

NOAH
Well I'm a fan of beautiful
literature?

SOPHIA
Charming! But seriously. This is
one book you don't want to read.

Dr. Ashley enters.

DR. ASHLEY
I forgot my pen earlier. A-h!
You're up. Excellent! How is she
doing Noah?

Noah plays off holding her hand as if he's checking her pulse.

NOAH

It looks like her vitals are back to normal. Her friend gave her the wrong medication. Simple mistake she said.

DR. ASHLEY

Now Ms. DeLaney, you can't go around taking random prescription from other people. That's why we don't recommend

SOPHIA

I thought it would be a quick fix.

DR. ASHLEY

So you're not suicidal or anything.

SOPHIA

God no! I'm perfectly fine!

NOAH

Think she's ready to go home?

DR. ASHLEY

(To Sophia)

You ready to be released?

SOPHIA

Yes!