

VISA-COVID

Written by

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Based on, If Any

INT. ZOOM CALL - DAY

The screen displays a Zoom call.

BOSS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that it will be necessary for all executive employees to have their salaries reduced this year in order to protect the overall headcount.

The camera zooms in on one of the participants: MICHAEL (40s).

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Michael slumped in front of his desk, eyes weary and fixed on the screen.

A notification ring on his phone. Michael looks down.

The notification reads: Dad: "We gotta talk."

Michael discreetly grabs his phone, ensuring he isn't noticed on the Zoom call.

He types: "Is it urgent?"

We see three dots indicating Michael's dad is typing.

Michael looks worried but focused.

Dad: "It's about mom."

Michael's face falls apart.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MICHAEL

How is she?

His dad speaks over the phone.

Michael stays silent.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm here. I'm sorry.

Michael stands up from the chair. He looks at a framed picture.

We see a little girl Sasha (10) and Michael.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I don't know how I'm gonna tell
her.

We hear the door open.

We see Sasha (18) who enters. She is wearing mask. She takes
it off.

She drops her bag pack and crosses to her room.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Hi Sasha...

Michael looks at her going up the stairs.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha is lying back on her bed looking at her phone.

We hear a knock on the door.

SASHA
Yes?

MICHAEL
Hey, how are you?

SASHA
I'm fine.

Beat.

SASHA (CONT'D)
What's up?

MICHAEL
You know, your grandma has been ill
for quite a while now.

Michael puts his hand on top of Sasha's hand.

Both stare at each others.

SASHA
Did she pass away?

Michael sadly nods.

Sasha turns over and wraps herself in her blanket. Michael
caresses her.

Sasha looks out the window.

SASHA (CONT'D)
Are we going to be able to go to
her funeral?

Michael hesitate at first, but...

MICHAEL
Yes, I promise.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Michael is typing on his laptop. We see two Canadian
passports next to his laptop.

His laptop displays the flights available. Round trip from
New York to Toronto. The prices are quite low.

Michael clicks on another tab. An article titled "Guidance
for Travelers to **Re-Enter** the U.S." appears.

Michael reads the following line: "non-citizen travelers will
not be permitted to enter the U.S. through a land border."

MICHAEL
Fuck...

Michael bites his lip, holding his breath for a brief second.
We hear a knock at the door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Yes?

Sasha enters.

SASHA
My cousins just texted me.

MICHAEL
What did they say?

SASHA
They are wondering if we're gonna
be able to come next week.

Michael slams the computer shut.

Sasha's eyes land on the passports.

SASHA (CONT'D)
Uh. What's up?

Michael realizes the passports. He pushes them away, then accidentally falls into the trash can.

MICHAEL
Nothing! Nothing to worry.

Sasha is perplexed by Michael's behavior.

SASHA
What's on your laptop?

Sasha grabs Michael's laptop but Michael catches and pulls it back.

MICHAEL
It's from work.

SASHA
So, why are you hiding it?!

Michael tugs back forcefully.

MICHAEL
I signed an NDA, I can't tell you.

SASHA
You think I'm dumb!

MICHAEL
Sasha, drop the computer!

Sasha drops the computer. Michael falls onto the ground.

SASHA
Are you ok?

Michael holds his computer close to him.

MICHAEL
I'm ok...

Beat.

Sasha crosses to the door. She turns around and looks down at him.

Michael looks defeated.

SASHA
Why can't we go back home.

MICHAEL
The problem isn't to go to Canada.

Michael stands up.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

The problem is to re-enter the US.
We will be stuck in Canada and I
will lose my job.

SASHA

But you don't even like your job.

MICHAEL

What?

SASHA

You spent your days sitting in
front of your laptop listening to
people telling you what to do! Is
that what you wanted to do in life?

MICHAEL

What about your school?

SASHA

My school? All my friends are in
Canada! We moved here and I have no
friends.

Beat.

SASHA (CONT'D)

By the way, when was the last time
we had people over? Before covid.

Michael looks down.

SASHA (CONT'D)

That's what I thought...

MICHAEL

I'm really sorry, Sasha.

Sasha crosses to the door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Sasha?

Sasha turns around.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Do you think I'm a loser?

Sasha sighs.

SASHA
No... I just think our lives are
over there. Not here.

Sasha exits and closes the door.

Michael goes to the trash can and gathers the passports. He
stares at them.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Michael slumped in front of his desk, eyes weary and fixed on
the screen.

BOSS (O.S.)

Michael your numbers have been
quite low lately.

Michael is annoyed by his boss comment.

His iPhone rings with a notification.

A message from the Photos app pops up: "New Photo Memories
from Toronto 2016."

Michael, surprised, clicks on it.

A photo slideshow starts playing:

Pictures of him with his friends.

Pictures of him with his family.

As the slideshow progresses, Michael starts tearing up.

The final picture shows him with his mother and Sasha.

BOSS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Michael! Are you listening?

Michael looks up to his laptop and see all the people on the
zoom call looking at him.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry.

Michael covers his tears.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I must go.

Michael shuts his computer down.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sasha is on her bed looking at her phone. We hear a knock on the door.

Michael opens the door. He is smiling, holding a suitcase, and waiting for Sasha.

THE END