

A BEAUTIFUL SIN

Written by

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Inspired by True Events

EXT. GARAGE IN KUWAIT CITY - NIGHT

An abandoned garage with a square window on its side.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

SARA and ADAM are facing each other with tears in their eyes. Sara, 22, cute, petite tomboy with glasses, in dark, modest clothing with a hijab covering her head.

Adam, 21, handsome young man, well toned physique, wearing casual jeans and a t-shirt.

They approach each other slowly.

They hug each other and then sit on the ground.

Sara rests into Adams arms as his back is leaning against the wall. Adam reaches for a small pouch next to him. He takes out a gun.

He wraps his arm around Sara as he goes back to hugging her from the back. He points the gun at Sara's head.

They cry even more.

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Zoom away from the garage as two gunshots are heard, one after the other, and the gunshot flares through the square window on the side of the garage.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam meets with his best friend, ALI. Ali, 20, dressed in designer brand clothes, looking very affluent.

Adam is dressed casually, and wearing a necklace that's hidden as we only see the cord around his neck.

The two friends are about to have a discussion. They're sitting across from each other with a table between them.

There's a balance scale on the table, along with a big bag of M&M's next to it. There is also a framed photo of Ali, Adam, and Sara on the table.

ALI

What are we dealing with here?

ADAM
 (hesitant)
 It's about Sara.

ALI
 Oh, I see.

Ali grabs the bag of M&M's.

ALI (CONT'D)
 Let's establish a baseline then.
 You still love her, right?

ADAM
 Yeah.

Ali adds an M&M to one side of the scale.

ALI
 Okay, that's good.

ADAM
 But, it's ... complicated.

Ali regretfully adds an M&M to the other side of the scale.

ALI
 You want to tell me what happened
 then?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. GAMING ROOM - NIGHT (2012)

Adam and Sara play ping pong. The ball goes back and forth until Adam smacks it hard and it lands directly on Sara's pinky.

Sara grabs her pinky instantly in pain.

SARA
 Son of a ...!

Sara bites her lips in pain as Adam rushes over to her aid with laughter.

SARA (CONT'D)
 It's not funny.

Adam realizes how cute Sara is and how childish she's acting. He gazes into her eyes and smiles.

SARA (CONT'D)
Hey weirdo, go get me some ice!

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

ALI
That story will never get old, I'll
give you that.

Ali takes one M&M and adds it to the good side of the scale.

ALI (CONT'D)
And I get it, you just want to
score a few M&M's, but this won't
work if you don't tell me what
happened.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (2013) - MONTAGE

-Sara and Adam cuddling on the couch watching *Boy Meets World*.

-Ali taking the group photo of himself along with Adam and Sara.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (2014)

-Adam takes out a small box and puts it next to Sara's coffee mug as they're sitting outside the little shop. It's an engagement ring. Ali captures the moment from the sides with his camera.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (2015)

-Sara smiles at the framed photo in her hand of their engagement moment. She looks behind her at Adam setting the table.

-Adam and Sara cuddling on the couch, browsing dog pictures on their iPad.

SARA
A cute little husky?

ADAM
And a nice backyard?

SARA

One day.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Adam touches his ring as Ali laughs.

ALI

I'm not here to listen to your
fairy tales bro, but fine.

Ali adds another M&M to the scale.

ALI (CONT'D)

Now I'm not going to ask you again,
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY (2017)

The trio hang out together at the bookstore.

Sara picks up a heavily censored book and turns to Ali.

SARA

With all the power your family has,
can't you freaking tell someone to
leave literature alone?

Adam shakes his head and laughs as Ali shrugs.

SARA (CONT'D)

I mean I'm not asking for much
here, you've managed to get away
with some crazy ...

Sara gets distracted by a couple of Kuwaiti men staring her down as they pass by. They are wearing the traditional Dishdasha outfit and they're giving her dirty looks as they talk amongst themselves.

NASSER

(in Arabic)

Dude did you see that shit? Can't
believe we have these people here.

MISHARY

(mocking in Arabic)

They must be in some dumb ass private school with that English of theirs.

NASSER

(in Arabic)

Yeah I know. I just don't get how those two guys hang out with someone like her.

MISHARY

(condemning in Arabic)

They'll all burn in hell. That's where they belong.

Sara chokes up for a bit and gets teary. She stares them down as they walk away.

Ali is about to confront them, but Adam holds him back.

ALI

(furious)

What? Like it's not enough she gets crap like that at home, but out here too?

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (2018)

A tearful Sara walks into Adam's living room.

Adam approaches her slowly and tries to hug her to calm her down, but she takes two steps back and puts her hand out in front of her.

SARA

Just don't.

ADAM

Whatever it is, we can talk about it.

Sara turns her back against Adam and looks down at the floor. She starts feeling her right arm.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Is it your dad again?

Sara hesitates to show Adam her arm, but he gently turns her around.

SARA

Adam, please, don't.

Adam ignores Sara's wishes and pulls up her sleeve to reveal her self harm cuts.

ADAM

These look fresh. Is it the looks
get we around here? I thought we
got over that?

Sara, frustrated with Adam's remarks, pulls her arm back and shoves him.

SARA

(screams)

WE?

Adam steps back.

SARA (CONT'D)

You don't get it do you?

ADAM

I'm trying to if you would just
talk to me.

SARA

You never will. You'd just judge me
like everyone else.

ADAM

Judge you for what?

(tearful)

Sara, if you truly know who I am
and what I believe in, then you'd
know I'm the last person on this
planet to ever judge you.

SARA

Do you know how it feels to ...

(beat)

Do you know how it feels to be
trapped and unable to escape?

Adams squints his eyes in confusion.

ADAM

Sara, what ... What are you saying?

SARA

Do you know how it feels to live
all your life knowing that you're
born inside the wrong body?

(MORE)

SARA (CONT'D)
Do you know how it feels to grow up
in this place with these feelings
buried deep down inside?

ADAM
I don't understand ...

SARA
(angry)
Of course you don't. And you never
will.

A beat.

SARA (CONT'D)
You'll never know how it feels to
know that you will never, ever be
happy because you will never get to
be your true self because of the
place we live in and the society
that I had no choice to be born
into, let alone this damn body!

Sara breaks down in tears.

Adam gapes, speechless. A beat.

SARA (CONT'D)
Just what I thought.

ADAM
It's ... It's just not that simple.

Sara sits on the couch as Adam heads towards the door.

SARA
You're just going to leave?

Adam turns around with his hand on the door knob.

ADAM
You talked about not having a
choice.
(beat)
But what choice did you give me?

Sara gets up to stop Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Just don't. After everything we've
been through, all this time, and
now you drop this on me?

Sara takes off her ring and walks over to Adam.

She hands him her ring and cries even harder.

SARA

Then take this with you.

Adam leaves the house in frustration.

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Ali slowly adds a bunch of M&M's on the bad side of the scale, one by one.

ADAM

Yeah, I saw those coming.

Ali continues to add M&M's to the scale.

ALI

I hate this as much as you do, but you know I have to.

ADAM

You knew didn't you?

Ali stops at about 15 pieces of M&M's, which have now made the bad side of the scale significantly heavier.

ALI

I'm sorry man.

ADAM

When did she tell you?

ALI

She didn't have to.

Adam gets confused.

ALI (CONT'D)

Face the facts man. She's a tomboy, and you loved her for that. Never wore any makeup. Never conformed to her gender.

Adam grabs the group photo off the table in frustration and gazes at it.

ALI (CONT'D)

And for crying out loud, we all shop together in the same damn store, in the same damn section all the damn time.

ADAM

And that makes her trans all of a sudden?

ALI

You've been oblivious to it from the day you fell for her. You barely even notice it when everyone around us stares at us for the way she acts and looks.

Adam sits back and is about to give up on the argument.

Ali looks at the scale and is saddened that it's not in Adam's favor.

ALI (CONT'D)

I knew this was a bad idea.

A beat.

ALI (CONT'D)

We've been raised and lectured over, and over, and over again how this is all wrong and how it's a sin. Look around you and wake up.

Adam stands up in frustration and Ali gets up to comfort him.

ADAM

But what if we weren't?

ALI

Do I need to grab THE BOOK and show you?

ADAM

NO.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ADAM'S FAMILY HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY (2001)

Adam's MOTHER in her early 40s, dressed in her light green prayer robe, lecturing young Adam.

ADAM'S MOTHER

Remember one thing, son. There are only two kinds of people in this world. Good people who do good deeds. And bad people who do bad.

(MORE)

ADAM'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
That's the only difference in human
beings. There's no other
difference. Understood?

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

ALI
God I miss your mom. Truer words
have never been said. Wish she was
still with us.

Adam nods in agreement.

ALI (CONT'D)
Unfortunately though, people around
here don't fully understand the
meaning of that, and we can't
change people's beliefs, Adam. WE
JUST CAN'T.

ADAM
I don't care what they believe in.
If the God you believe in will
punish Sara for wanting to be her
true self, and punish me for the
love I have for that kind of
person, then you and I are praying
to two different Gods.

ALI
Hey, don't shoot the messenger
here, I'm on your side.

ADAM
Ali, you might be right. It might
be a sin.

Adam takes off his engagement ring.

ADAM (CONT'D)
And maybe, deep down inside,
I might even believe it's a sin.

Adam places his ring on the scale, but it only manages to
balance it.

ALI
Well, there it is. You equally love
Sara and feel conflicted about
everything about her.

Adam takes off his necklace.

Sara's ring is attached to it.

ADAM
And I can live with that, but I
CANNOT live WITHOUT Sara.

Adam places Sara's ring next to his on the scale and it finally OVERWEIGHS the bad side.

ADAM (CONT'D)
There is no contest.

Ali nods his head in agreement and smirks.

ALI
Can't say I'm surprised you tipped
the scales in your favor, yet
again. Literally.

ADAM
Sara just doesn't deserve to
suffer.

Ali walks to his kitchen counter and Adam follows him.

ALI
That's why we will put an end to
it. Together.

Ali takes out a gun and puts it on the counter. Adam is very confused and a bit frightened.

ALI (CONT'D)
But are you prepared to make the
ultimate sacrifice?

Ali slides the gun over to Adam.

ADAM
(confused)
Yes, but at what cost?

FADE TO BLACK.

GUNSHOTS RING OUT.

CUT TO:

INT. COUPLE'S NEW HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Adam wakes up with a confused look on his face. He looks around the room trying to piece things together.

He sits up on the side of the bed and hears Sara calling him from downstairs.

SARA (O.S.)
You better get down here before
your breakfast gets cold!

Adam gets out of his bed and notices the wedding ring on his finger. His smile grows even bigger as he heads out.

He walks down the stairs calmly as he takes in the moment.

INT. NEW HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Adam enters the kitchen and sees the back of Sara. He is still a little surprised and confused.

Sara turns around and now looks much more masculine, with a very short haircut and a slightly lower voice.

SARA (CONT'D)
There you are, how did you sleep?

Adam is unfazed. Does not answer back. He's just taking in the moment and can't stop smiling.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ALI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (2018)

Ali and Adam are standing across from each other at the kitchen counter.

ADAM
Yes, but at what cost?

ALI
You and I both know you two cannot live around here. It'll be painful to everyone we know, but it will bring peace to Sara for the first time in her life.

ADAM
What makes you think Sara wants this?

ALI
You've been oblivious to it all. Talk to her, and you will see for yourself.

ADAM

How are we even going to pull this off anyway?

ALI

You leave that to me.

EXT. STREET BY THE GARAGE - NIGHT (2018)

An officer from the Kuwait Police department stands outside with a black duffle bag by his feet.

He hears the gunshots and waits for the report to come in.

The officer responds to the reported crime on his handheld transceiver.

Ali walks up to him and hands over an envelope filled with cash along with Sara's and Adam's engagement rings.

ALI

Get it done.

Ali walks away as the Policeman heads towards the crime scene, duffle bag in hand.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT (2018) - MONTAGE

-The corrupt police officer is ordering the doctor to forge the death certificate.

-The officer meets with Sara's mother and sister. He shows them the certificate along with pictures of Sara's body.

END OF MONTAGE.

INT. EMPTY PARKING LOT - NIGHT (2018)

The corrupt Policeman meets with Adam and Sara to hand them their new travel documents.

INT. NEW HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING (PRESENT DAY)

SARA

(cheerful)

Oh not this again, are you okay?

Adam approaches Sara and hugs his husband as if it's the first time he meets him.

ADAM

(calm)

I'll always be okay as long as I'm
with you.

Adam continues to hug Sara as he looks out through the kitchen window and realizes they have a husky and a beautiful backyard like they always wanted.

Zoom out through the kitchen door and reveal the backyard, the neighborhood they're in, and that they are now living in Los Angeles.

FADE TO BLACK.