

(Name of Project)

by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

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INT. LIVING ROOM

Nila looks outside at the rain as Michael tries to sort through the emotions. They were married a few days ago and now Michael drops the bomb.

NILA
Are you alright?

MICHAEL
I want to go back.

NILA
To the hospital?

MICHAEL
To Iraq.

NILA
What? You're joking, right?

He's not joking.

NILA (CONT'D)
Michael, I know it's difficult seeing your friends and all of those soldiers like that, but you know going back is not going to change what happened to them.

MICHAEL
No, no, but I can help prevent other guys from ending up like that, or worse.

NILA
Okay, look, we'll talk about this after you've had time to think about it.

MICHAEL
I've already been thinking about it for weeks, Nila.

NILA
Without bothering to tell me??

MICHAEL
Look, Nila, I left people over there, people who need me.

NILA
I need you!

MICHAEL
Not like they do.

NILA
Oh, my God, Michael, I can't believe we're having this conversation. I thought you joined the army so they would pay for medical school.

MICHAEL
I did.

NILA
And you put your time in?

MICHAEL
I did put my time in, but there's more to it.

NILA
What?

MICHAEL
Look, Nila I don't expect you to understand --

NILA
Well then explain it to me, Michael because I really want to understand this.

MICHAEL
Something happens over there. I just...I had a purpose over there. My life had some clarity. I just can't abandon those guys.

NILA
But you can abandon me?

NILA (CONT'D)
Look, I understand that there's camaraderie with those you served with, and I respect that, I do. If you still need to experience that, then you can volunteer at the VA hospital.

MICHAEL
It's not the same. Nila, there's a war going on. People might like to forget that, but I can't.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And I can't live with myself if I don't go back.

NILA

Well, then we'll both go. I'll volunteer with an NGO or something.

MICHAEL

It is too dangerous.

NILA

Oh, it's too dangerous for me, but not for you.

MICHAEL

Nila, I am a soldier, remember?

NILA

You are also a husband. Do you remember that? You asked me to marry you! You looked into my eyes and asked me to be your wife. And to share a life together. We took vows, Michael! I mean, what the hell was all of that? A whim?

MICHAEL

That was not a whim. I thought I could do this, Nila. I thought of nothing else but coming home and making a life with you. I have tried to make it work, but I just can't stay here, knowing what's going on over there. Nila, I am sorry. But you, you know how much that I love you.

NILA

If you did, you wouldn't do this.

MICHAEL

If you loved me, you would understand that I have to.

NILA

Yeah, well, maybe that's the problem. I love you, but I still don't know you.