

FOLLOWING FOOTPRINTS

Written by

Natascha Pearson

ACT ONE

EXT. NAKAMURA HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

There is a lighthouse to the east and clouds approaching from the west. Three JETS fly overhead in formation.

GRANDMA NAKAMURA, 80's, is in a sleeping gown. Her hands tremble as she holds a glass of wine. STANLEY NAKAMURA 60's can be heard O.S.

STANLEY (O.S.)

Get out of my house until you do something with your life, boy!

JACOB NAKAMURA, 18, in a white button down and jeans, stumbles out of the front door and grabs a hold of the porch for support. Jacob's eyes are weary and his shoulders are slumped as he stands next to grandma.

GRANDMA

Don't listen to that ole' grump, life is about adventure, Jacob! I remember in my day, oh life was a twirl.

Grandma spreads her arms like an airplane and makes a motor noise. She "airplanes" her way into a rocking chair.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

You only live once, you know.

JACOB

It is my duty as father says, to enlist. It's been my dream to get off this island, there is something out there, waiting for me.

GRANDMA

Well, Jacob, life is full of choices. It's never too late to change your course.

Grandma grins. She rocks her body and drinks her glass.

JACOB

I think about it everyday. I only have one option.

Grandma shows signs of intoxication as if in a dream state.

GRANDMA

When you were a kid, you had such a
vibrant imagination.

Jacob wraps his arms around his stomach in pain. He glares
away from his grandmother to the lighthouse.

JACOB

Love you Grandma, see you soon.

Jacob runs through the

GRASS FIELD

GRANDMA (O.S.)

You live and then you die son.
There is always room for the
unexpected.

Into the

FOREST

Until he reaches the

BEACH

Panting.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The sun is out, the sky is clear, and the ocean is calm.
Jacob, exhausted, takes off his jacket and lays on his back
with his legs and arms spread, on a boulder.

Birds CHIRP and fly overhead. Jacob closes his eyes and falls
asleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey, are you alright?

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Jacob blinks his eyes. Standing in front of him is MIKA, 20's, traveler, wears a worn jacket that is three times too big and parachute, outdoor pants.

JACOB
Hello?

MIKA
Hello! My name is Mika. I'm lost, could you help me? I'm looking for the Harbor Deli?

JACOB
Next, to the lighthouse, you can't miss it, just follow the light.

MIKA
I'm anchored offshore. I was on my way to the lighthouse, but this storm makes it hard to see very far. Aren't you cold without your jacket?

Jacob looks up. Dark clouds are above.

JACOB
I guess I better get out of here. I must have been asleep for a while.

Mika's face fills with excitement.

MIKA
Do you want to come with me? It's just been Skippers and me.

SKIPPERS the rat peeks his head from Mika's jacket.

JACOB
I have obligations.

MIKA
You don't have enough time for lunch?

Mika takes a pack of cigarettes from out of her pocket and lights one.

JACOB
I can't, sorry.

MIKA
Please?

JACOB
Persistent, aren't you.

Mika's smile stands out behind a backdrop of storm clouds.

MIKA
Suit yourself.

Mika blows out a puff, then moves her arm, with the cigarette, away from her body. Jacob's eyebrows raise as Mika approaches him. Her face gets closer to his, then their noses touch, and she plants a kiss on his lips.

MIKA (CONT'D)
Nice meeting you!

Mika walks away. Her footprints leave a trail in the sand. Jacob checks his watch.

JACOB
I'll meet you there.

Mika spins around.

MIKA
What?

JACOB
I'll meet you at the deli in an hour.

MIKA
Alright sailor, I'll see you there.

INT. NAKAMURA HOUSE - KITCHEN

Stanley, in overalls and a checkered shirt stands in front of Jacob.

STANLEY
Did you go to the recruitment office?

JACOB

I got side tracked. All go in the morning.

Stanley knocks plates and newspaper onto the floor.

STANLEY

We're going into war, son! This is not the same country I grew up in, you don't have the same options!

A recruitment commercial comes on the TV in the background.

JACOB

I've met a woman.

STANLEY

Stop living in this imaginary world of yours and focus on what's important!

JACOB

Yes, father.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE SANDWICH SHOP

Jacob walks up to Mika at a picnic table under an umbrella. He sits across from her as it pours rain. She hands him a sandwich.

MIKA

Thanks for coming.

JACOB

I told you I would. What else do you enjoy, besides the boat?

MIKA

Reading, writing, movies. I love the movies.

JACOB

It take a while for a film to make it to the island. Do you like any I might have heard of?

MIKA

Have you seen the kid by Charlie Chaplin?

JACOB

I don't live in a cave. Of course,
I've seen it. It must be Caplin's
best film!

MIKA

Perhaps, I've always fancied the
idea of being adopted by Chaplin.

JACOB

He could make light of any
situation.

MIKA

Total satire.

INT. NAKAMURA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Jacob walks through the doorway. Grandma is on the couch
asleep. A glass of wine, tilted, in her hand. A red stain is
on the carpet.

Jacob grabs the glass and puts it on the table. He stares at
the stain. He leaves the room.

Jacob returns to the room with a cloth and dabs the stain. He
grabs his jacket and leaves.

EXT. MIKA'S BOAT - NIGHT

Jacob's jacket is in his hand, over his shoulder. He opens
the latch to the door.

MIKA (O.S.)

I'm so glad you came!

The light from inside the cabin fades as Jacob closes the
door behind him. The boat clock's arm reaches midnight.

INT. GRANDMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jacob turn on the lights in the living room and rubs his
eyes. Grandma is still on the couch slumped over. Jacob
approaches her.

JACOB

Grandma? Grandma? Are you alright?

Jacob puts his ear to his Grandma's mouth. There is no
breath. He walks to a wall phone, then calls 9-1-1.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. GRANDMA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jacob is in tears, STANLEY comforts him. They share a stern look and Jacob nods.

EXT. INSIDE OF MIKA'S BOAT - DAY

Jacobs comes through the hatch. He looks distressed.

MIKA

Jacob...

JACOB

My grandmother died. I have to go.
I'm sorry Mika.

MIKA

But our plans-

JACOB

I have to follow through with my
obligations. I'm sorry.

INT. BOOTCAMP - TENT - DAY

Jacob lays on his bed and opens a letter. Inside is a written message from Mika. It is accompanied by a photo of her hanging off the lines of her boat. A native child is hanging off with her, while another is climbing up a ladder to the boat and another child is in the water. Mika's smile is apparent.

INSERT: Letter

MIKA (V.O.)

Dear Jacob,
My travels have been a blessing in
disguise. Sometimes I can't take
another day at sea but I'm looking
for a place where you can return
too. There's something I've been
meaning to tell you.
Love,
Mika

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE- CEREMONY PARK - DAY

Jacob stands next to THIRTEEN AIR FORCE GRADUATES. A GENERAL hands out degrees. He shakes the graduate's hand and passes him a rolled certificate. JETS fly overhead.

Stanley stands in a small crowd. The General salutes the Air Force Graduates. The Air Force Graduates salute back. Jacob walks over to Stanley. Stanley pats his shoulder.

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE- COMMUNITY ROOM - DAY

Jacob, in uniform, talks into a wall telephone.

JACOB

Father, I want to marry Mika.

STANLEY (O.S.)

Absolutely, not! She is going to leave you like your mother left us. You need to stay focused.

JACOB

You've never given me the option not to, father.

STANLEY (O.S.)

Do what's right, Jacob. If not for me, do it for your country.

INT. SMALL JET COCKPIT - DAY

Jacob steers the plane and speaks into a microphone.

JACOB

Target is sighted. Aligning missiles.

Jacob presses a button.

GENERAL (O.S.)

You got this, rookie. Make us proud.

JACOB

Target hit.

GENERAL

That's a boy.

A loud IMPACT comes from the left wing, then an explosion. The plane begins to spiral down.

JACOB
Mayday, Mayday, Mayday.

MONTAGE- JACOB'S VISIONS - VARIOUS

INT. SMALL JET COCKPIT - DAY

Jacob closes his eyes and cries.

A) EXT. NAKAMURA HOUSE - DAY

Grandma smiles on the porch.

GRANDMA (O.S.)
You only live life once.

INT. SMALL JET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Jacob opens his eyes, he nears the ground. He closes his eyes.

GRANDMA (O.S.)
...life is full of choices.

C) EXT. MIKA'S BOAT - DAY

Mika and Jacob are laughing. They are on a boat, Jacob is hanging off the rigging. Thousands of dolphins surround the boat. Jacob HOLLARS.

D) EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT -

Mika and Jacob are naked in the sand. He runs his hands through her hair. The full moon shines over the silhouette of a mountain and trees and lines a path of light in the ocean in front of them.

E) EXT. MIKA'S BOAT - DAY

Mika and Jacob both eat a sandwich in the cockpit of the boat.

MIKA
(dream-like)
Imagine if you didn't come with me that day. You would be on a plane thousands of miles away and I would be on my boat, alone, thinking of you.

Mika lets out a SIGH.

MIKA (CONT'D)
(dream-like)
I'm glad you came with me.

JACOB
(distorted)
I've never regretted it.

F) EXT. BEACH - DAY

Mika's nose touches his. Her bright green eyes parallel from his own. Her lips touch his. Mika walks away and smokes her cigarette as she leaves footprints in the sand.

INT. SMALL JET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Jacob touches his lips.

Red lights flash and sirens BLARE. The v reads 8am on December 7, 1941. Jacob closes his eyes.

J) EXT. AIRFORCE BASE- CEREMONY PARK

Mika walks out of the mist in black with a baby in her arms.

INT. BOAT - BED ROOM

H) Jacob opens his eyes. The image is distorted. He is in a bed in the hull of a boat. Mika is next to him.

CHILD (O.S.)
Daddy!

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. PEARL HARBOR - DAY

An airplane crashes and a large explosion follows.

THE END