

ALLISYN:

No, I need to see it, Ben. Me. So I don't forget.

She gets light headed and has to sit down.

(Beat)

begin

BEN:

You know, I met this woman in Cairo. She showed up to cover a story with me. And from the second she got there, all I wanted was to be next to her. The way she looked and talked. Goddamn it- she was smarter than me. We made love for almost two weeks. She started to tell me things about her life- her parents and family. Really open up. She had her own shit. I knew that. But I was more honest with her than any woman for as long as I can remember. And you know what she did? She left me. She got up in the night, without a single word of explanation, and she left. Didn't just leave *me*- but left the country. I had to call Edward and ask if something had happened to her. When I found out that she'd asked to be reassigned- I was knocked out. And when I realized she wasn't going to give me the explanation that I was looking for- you know what I did? I forgave her.

And *then* when I realized that she had actually sabotaged the promotion I busted my ass for- which would've allowed us to be together- I forgave her *again*.

Because as much as I wanted her- and still want her- I can't let that claim me.

I forgave her for *me*.

end

She cries.

BEN (cont'd):

You're the strongest woman I've ever known.

ALLISYN:

I did call. Last summer. I called from the airport. It went straight to voicemail. I was hoping you'd tell me to come back.

BEN:

Should I stay?

Allisyn shakes her head no.

ALLISYN:

I think I need to go home for a while.

(beat)

BEN:

The Times is lucky to have you.

ALLISYN:

No, *home*. To Melissa. She's due any minute.