

# The Promise

Promise – a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen. This is the definition of the word promise. You see I hate this word more than I hate anything. But first let me tell you how the whole story began. My name is Juliet Jane White, but you can call me Julie. All of my problems began with one promise. In the beginning of high school I, like most girls of my age fell in love, well at least is what I thought. His name was Jason Scott and I loved him. We met in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and started dating from 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I guess you could have called us the perfect couple, but unlike most fairy tales I didn't get a happy ending. Jason got a scholarship for a college far away but he promised me at graduation day that after college he and I will get married. He promised that he will come for me. But college was over and then seven years passed and I didn't even get a phone call from him, so you can see why I hate that word and Jason. You have no idea how that felt. It made me feel like I was worthless. Like all those years meant nothing to him, like he never loved me and just left me, with no reason or explanation for anything at all. But I have moved on from Jason, well sort of. I now live in an apartment with my best friend, Alice Rose. Alice has been with me through the tough days and has stayed with me by my side, unlike Jason. Alex is my other friend, Alice swears on her life that Alex has a crush on me, but I don't think so.

Today Alice and I are driving to Rio Rancho, NM. You may be wondering why on earth I'm going there with Alice. Well it started 37 hours ago. It was Valentine's Day and like every other Valentine's Day my thoughts were on Jason. Alice finally had enough of it and told me to go find him and ask him, and of course yell at him because he deserved it. After so many hours driving we were tired and decided to take a break, so we stop in a hotel. I about to go to sleep when Alice asked me a question I wasn't expecting at all.

"How was he like?"

"What?" I asked stunned

"How was he like?" "Alice repeated"

"He was.....kind, caring, loving and brave".

"What was your favorite memory of him?" Alice asked curiously

"When he promised me after high school he would wait until we both finished collage and we will get married, and you know, I actually believed him. But he never came for me".

"Oh Julie"

"Why didn't he come back for me Alice? Didn't he love me? Did he fall in love with another girl? Was I not worth the wait?"

“Don’t think about it Julie. You’ll find out all of your answers to your questions”.

As I turn off the lights and get comfortable in the bed, I hear Alice ask me another question.

“Do you still love him?”

After a quiet moment I replayed “Yes.”

I respond in a quiet voice I’m not even sure if she even heard me. The next morning I was too sad to wake up from my dream. My dream was an old memory of me and Jason. It was the first time he told me that he loved me. It was on our 37<sup>th</sup> date. We had just finished eating dinner at a restaurant, when we had decided to take a stroll. I remember him being nervous when he told me that he loved me, and even more when I didn’t respond. I was so stunned that I didn’t know what to say. So I grabbed the collar of his shirt and pulled him into a kiss.

“Julie, are you ready to go now?”

I was so nervous, all I could do was nod. So now I’m in the car with Alice.

“So this is his house, huh?”

“No, it’s his sister’s house.” I respond

“So then why are we here?”

“Because his parents don’t live in America and his sister is the only one who knows where Jason could be.”

“Ummm.. Alice, are you going to get out of the car? You do know that’s the only way to find out the truth, right?”

“You stay in the car; I need to do this alone, Alice.”

“I understand.”

I get out of the car and walk up to the door. I knock on the door three times. That’s when I see Madison Scott open the door. She had the same eyes as Jason.

“Juliet, Juliet Jane White, is that really you?”

“Yes, Madison it’s really me.”

“Well come in, what brings you here? Would you like anything to drink?”

“No thank you I’m fine. I’m actually here to ask you a question.”

“Well it must be an important question to bring you all the way down here. Last time I heard from you, you were in New York.”

“Yeah, well, something like that”

“Sit down. Tell me what your question is.”

“Madison... where is Jason?”

“Julie, I...”

“Yes?”

“Julie, he’s dead.”

“What?”

“He passed away six and a half years ago. He was in a car crash and died. I’m so sorry, he really did love you.”

“That’s when I ran to the car with tears in my eyes.

“Julie, what’s wrong?!”

“Drive!”

“Sure but where?”

“The cemetery...”

“I don’t know where that is, Julie. Wait, why the cemetery?”

“You know what, Alice? Just forget it!”

I got out of the car and started running towards the cemetery, where I knew Jason was going to be at. The whole time I was running I was remembering about Jason. How he wanted to become a doctor and save lives. How he talked about the future. How he said he wanted to have two kids, one girl and one boy. The moment we had our first kiss. The first time he said “I love you”. Before I even knew it I was in front of the cemetery I walked in trying to find Jason’s name. When I finally did, I just couldn’t hold it in any longer. That’s when I burst into tears. I started yelling at his tombstone.

“WHY?! WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?! WE WERE GOING TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER! DID YOU EVEN LOVE ME?! WHY GOD, WHY DID YOU TAKE HIM AWAY FROM ME?! I HAD EVERYTHING PLANNED AND YOU TOOK THAT AWAY FROM ME! WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS? I LOVED HIM! I STILL LOVE HIM! WHY?! Why did you take him away from me?”

Not long after that Alice found me and drove us back home. None of us spoke on the ride back home. It’s been two years since I discovered the truth. I’m going to be completely honest with you, a part of me will always love Jason but I had to move on. You can’t start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one. I still live in New York City with my friend Alice. I’ve gotten closer with Alex. Actually I’m waiting for him to pick me up so we can hang out. Finally he arrives. During the time we

were hanging out I could see he wanted to ask me something. I was about to get out of his car and go to my apartment when he said my name.

“Juliet?”

“Yes, Alex?”

“I was wondering if you would like to go on a date with me next Friday?”

“I would love to go.”

“Really?”

“I promise I do.”

And in that moment I knew that I was going to start my new chapter and that I was going to love it.