

Love of Silence

Written by

Marven Likness

Drama

Email Marven Likness
(780)699-0311

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

CROWDED SWIMMING POOL

ALEX (18), awkward but athletic. Alex and the boys are playing volleyball in the pool with friends. Alex looks over at MICHELLE (17), petite with glasses reading a book on a pool chair under an umbrella. Mike watches her for a bit then gets hit in the side of the head with the ball. BRANDON (18) grabs the ball.

BRANDON

Come on man. Get your head in the game.

Alex points to Michelle.

ALEX

Who is that?

BRANDON

Michelle I think. I don't know her personally. She always has her nose stuck in a book. Her sister Becky is hot though.

The boys go back to playing their game.

CAMERA BLUR

Alex and Brandon are in a line up for the diving board.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

I invited Becky to the party tonight.

ALEX

Do you think Michelle will be there.

BRANDON

I don't know. I can ask for you.

Alex gets up on the diving board and dive bombs the pool. Water sprays Michelle. Michelle jumps up from her chair and looks angry then grabs a towel and dries off her book.

Alex is watching from the diving board as he turns the diving board tension wheel. STEVE (18) behind him bangs on the board.

STEVE

We haven't got all day. Jump already!

Michelle looks at Alex on the board. Alex flexes his mussels then quickly walks the board and jumps on the end getting some real height. Alex completes a somersault and slips into the water with hardly a ripple.

He swims under water until his head pops up on the edge of the pool by Michelle. Alex puts his arms on the edge and watches Michelle.

Michelle is sitting on her chair again deeply involved with her book again. Steve swims up beside Alex and puts his arms on the pool edge.

BRANDON

I'm telling you she is a lost cause.

Alex continues to watch Michelle as Brandon swims away.

FADE

EXT. PARTY - NIGHT

HOUSE PARTY

Alex is walking up to the house with Brandon. Michelle is in a window well reading a book. Alex stops and watches Michelle. Brandon stops, looks at Alex then Michelle.

BRANDON

Jeese not again. Here's your chance.
Go talk to her.

ALEX

I (pause) I can't. We don't have
anything in common.

BRANDON

Pussy.

ALEX

I am not! I will talk with her
tonight.

BRANDON

You better. You got it bad man.

Brandon walks towards the house. Alex sits at a base of a tree on the lawn and keeps watching Michelle.

FADE

INT. PARTY - DAY

Alex and Brandon are sitting at a kitchen table with drinks on the table.

ALEX
It's time. I am ready.

BRANDON
For what?

ALEX
I'm going to talk to Michelle.

BRANDON
(Chuckles)
Too late man.

ALEX
Why?

BRANDON
I saw them leave.

Alex jumps to his feet and looks over the crowd where Michelle was.

ALEX
No!

Brandon laughs.

BRANDON
You snooze you loose buddy.

ALEX
Shit!

BRANDON
She will probably be at the pool again tomorrow. This time talk to her!

ALEX
(Depressed)
I suppose.

Brandon slumps down into his seat and takes a drink.

FADE

INT. DINING TABLE - DAY

OPEN CONCEPT

Alex and Brandon sitting at a kitchen table. News in background.

REPORTER (O,S)

Due to the pandemic protocols all non essential services are shut down immediately. All gatherings are now illegal. Law enforcement will be handing out fines for people not following social distancing protocols.

ALEX

Did you hear that.

BRANDON

The shutdown. Ya everything is closed. It's crazy. Schools, bars (chuckle) libraries, bookstores. Ha Ha.

ALEX

The pool. Michelle. How will we meet up?

BRANDON

Oh you poor brooding sole.

ALEX

(Dramatic)

Now we will never meet.

Alex flops his head on crossed arms. STACY (45), (Alex's Mom) walks in with two plates of breakfast.

STACY

Breakfast ready.

Alex raises his head and looks at Stacy.

STACY (CONT'D)

(Signed)

You Okay?

ALEX

(Signed)

Fine.

Stacy places the food on the table then walks away.

BRANDON

This virus thing will blow over.
They can't close down for ever.

ALEX

(Depressed)

I suppose.

BRANDON

I will text Becky. We have been
texting since the party.

ALEX

I. I don't know.

BRANDON

Don't worry. A wing man never leaves
his best bud hanging.

ALEX

Well, okay do it.

Brandon looks at the TV and scoops another morsel of food in
his mouth.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Really you aren't going to text her
now!

BRANDON

Ha Ha Okay. I will. I will.

Brandon smirks at Alex as he picks up his phone.

BRANDON (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Hi Becky looks like next weekend is
a washout.

Brandon puts his phone on the table. Alex looks at his phone.
Brandon picks up his phone and places it upside down on the
other side of his plate. Brandon smirks at Alex.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

That's private.

The phone chimes. Brandon ignores it. Alex looks at Brandon
in disgust.

ALEX

You can be a real prick Brandon.

BRANDON

You can't be too eager. Women hate
that.

ALEX

Just check your dam phone!

Brandon picks up the phone and looks at the text. Alex watches inattentively.

BECKY (TEXT)

That's okay we have a family situation. We won't be meeting up anytime soon.

BRANDON (TEXT)

Are you Okay?

BECKY (TEXT)

I'm not sure I am allowed to tell you.

BRANDON (TEXT)

?

Brandon looks at Alex and shrugs his shoulders.

BRANDON (TEXT) (CONT'D)

I am really texting you for a buddy of mine. He wants to meet your sister Michelle.

BECKY (TEXT)

That won't be possible.

BRANDON (TEXT)

I can give you Alex's number and you can have her text him.

BECKY (TEXT)

Just a moment.

Brandon puts his phone down. Alex tries to see the texts.

BRANDON

If you must.

Brandon slides his phone to Alex. Alex reads the texts and puts the phone on the table again. It chimes and Alex picks it up.

BECKY (TEXT)

Mom says its okay to tell you but you can't tell anyone else. Michelle has the virus. She is not doing well and we are in quarantine.

ALEX

Aw crap!

BRANDON

What?

Alex hands the phone to Brandon. Brandon looks at the phone.
(Pause)

BRANDON (TEXT) (CONT'D)

How bad is it? Do you have it? Are you sick?

BECKY (TEXT)

Michelle was very sick. EMS picked her up this morning. We weren't allowed to go with her. They tested the rest of us but we won't get our results for a few days.

Brandon puts the phone down out of reach of Alex. Brandon looks sympathetic to Alex.

BRANDON

Michelle was taken to the hospital.

FADE

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

ONE YEAR LATER

Alex is standing beside the watch platform in a lifeguard uniform. Brandon is beside him. Michelle and Becky walk into the pool area. Brandon nudges Alex.

BRANDON

Well, will you look at that.

Alex look in the same direction as Brandon.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Now's your chance. Go talk to her.

ALEX

(Smiles)

I will have to wait for my break but yea first chance. You bet your ass I will.

BRANDON

I found something you have in common

ALEX
What's that.

BRANDON
Oh you will find out.

ALEX
Tell me.

BRANDON
You'll find out. Trust me.

ALEX
You prick.

Alex climbs the life guard tower and watches Michelle when he gets the chance. Michelle looks up at Alex, smiles then picks up a book and starts reading. Becky approaches Michelle with a floating chair.

BECKY
Come on Sis. Put that book down and get in the water.

MICHELLE
You know I can't get my processor wet!

BECKY
Take your processor off and get into the pool with me. Brandon is here and I want to see him but I need your help.

MICHELLE
You know I won't hear you talking to him.

BECKY
Just sit in the chair and let me push you around. (Pout face) Please.

MICHELLE
Fine.

Michelle reluctantly marks her book and places it on the table. Michelle removes a container from her beach bag, opens it and places it on the table.

WHEN MICHELLE REMOVES HER PROCESSOR ALL SOUND IS REMOVED.

Michelle grabs a towel and reaches up beside her head. She discreetly removes her processor and places it carefully inside the protective case then drops the towel and case into her bag.

SOUND RETURNS TO NORMAL AS THE GIRLS HEAD FOR THE POOL

Alex watches the girls. Michelle looks up at Alex, dunks her head under the water and lifts her body out of the water chest first then as if in slow motion flips her hair around her shoulders. Becky holds the chair as Michelle attempts to climb on top but the chair flips out from underneath her. Alex is still watching the girls attentively.

Brandon sees the girls and lends a hand. Once in the chair Brandon and Becky push the chair in front of Alex while talking. Michelle waves at Alex. Alex waves back. Michelle blushes and looks at Becky.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(Signs)

Thirsty.

BECKY

(Signs)

You want pop?

MICHELLE

(Signs)

Yes.

BECKY

(Signs)

Okay. We will get you one.

MICHELLE

(Signs)

Thank you.

Brandon and Becky leave area. Michelle looks at Alex, blushes and paddles her chair to turn away from him. Michelle relaxes in the chair and closes her eyes. The chair slowly drifts into the deep end. A prankster swims up under the chair and flips it over. Michelle tumbles into the pool with a yelp. The prankster laughs and takes Michelle's place. Alex stands on the tower and yells.

ALEX

Hay you! Get off that chair!

Michelle's head surfaces for a moment. She takes a gasp of air then slips back into the water with her arms waving madly. Alex blows his whistle three times.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Everyone out of the pool now!

Alex throws his buoy into the water and jumps in. Alex swims to the aid of Michelle as two other LIFE GUARD 1 (20s) and LIFE GUARD 2 (20s) join in. Alex throws a rope to Michelle but she doesn't grab it and sinks under the water again.

Alex and another life guard swim down and grab Michelle and bring her lifeless body to the surface. Alex wraps his arm around her chest and with help from the other guards pull her onto the deck. A crowd gathers.

Alex pinches Michelle's nose and breathes into her mouth then listens to her mouth as he watches for movement in her chest. Life guard 1 (20's) looks for vital signs then looks at Guard 2 blows one long whistle blast. The third guard starts chest CPR. After the fourth compression Guard 1 checks for pulse as Alex again breathes into Michelle's mouth her chest raises. LIFE GUARD 3 arrives and moves the crowd back.

LIFE GUARD 3
Everyone move back. Give them some space.

The crowd moves back a step. Alex starts another breath. Michelle's chest rises then her body jolts. Michelle expels water from her mouth coughs and gasps for air. Alex rolls her on her side and rubs her back until her coughing subsides. Alex rolls Michelle on her back supporting her head.

ALL SOUND IS REMOVED

Michelle looks terrified. Guard 2 grabs a towel from an onlookers hand, rolls it up and places it under Michelle's neck.

ALEX
(Mouthing words only)
Are you okay? Can you breath? Can you speak?

SOUND RETURNS

Becky looks over the shoulders of the crowd.

BECKY
(Screams)
MICHELLE!

Becky tares her way through the crowd followed closely by Brandon. Becky kneels beside Michelle and grabs her hand.

BECKY (CONT'D)
 (Signed)
 You Okay?

Michelle is still looks stunned and frightened. Michelle sits up and hugs Becky. Becky looks at Alex.

BECKY (CONT'D)
 What the hell happened?

ALEX
 She fell in the pool and almost drowned! She won't talk at all.

BECKY
 She is deaf you idiot!

Alex has a look of shock. Looks as if he is going to say something then stares at Michelle. (pause) Alex looks at Brandon who raises his eyebrows and nods yes.

BECKY (CONT'D)
 She lost her hearing to the virus.

Becky hugs her sister again and rubs her back. Alex looks at Brandon in bewilderment. Brandon nods his head yes. An EMS team shows up and places Michelle on a stretcher then checks her vitals. Brandon gets the girls things. Becky grabs Michelle's bag from Brandon, reaches in and grabs Michelle's phone. She taps the phone twice and hands it to one of the EMS.

BECKY (CONT'D)
 She is deaf. This is her medical information.

The EMS worker looks at the phone then motions Becky to come with them. The two EMS wheel Michelle away followed quickly by Becky. Alex looks at Brandon.

ALEX
 I. I didn't know.

FADE

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - DAY

OLDER INEXPENSIVE MOTORCYCLE.

Alex angrily walks towards his motorcycle. Brandon follows and puts his hand on Alex's shoulder. Alex shrugs it off and puts on his helmet.

ALEX

You could have told me! I could have responded faster!

BRANDON

This is not the way it was going to go down.

ALEX

Now she is afraid of me!

BRANDON

It's not like that buddy.

ALEX

Yea right. What ever.

Alex sits on the bike and starts it up revving the engine.

BRANDON

(Loud)

She likes you! She really really likes you!

Alex keeps running the engine as he puts up the kickstand.

ALEX

What's that. I can't hear you.

BRANDON

Turn the bike off!

Alex keeps revving the engine.

ALEX

(Loud and angry)

I can't hear you.

Alex waves Brandon off and peals out.

CUT TO

EXT. SCENIC VIEW - DAY

Alex is driving fast. Alex pulls into a parking lot with a gorgeous view in the back ground. Alex takes off his helmet, as he walks to a bench kicking a pop can on the way. He looks at the scenic view as he slumps down on the bench. Alex's phone chimes. He removes it from his leather and looks at it.

MICHELLE (TEXT)

I hope it's okay I text you. Alex gave me your number. Alex looks both surprised and excited as he straitens up on the bench.

ALEX (TEXT)
Your Deaf [Delete]

ALEX (TEXT) (CONT'D)
I thought. [Delete]

Alex stands up and paces then looks at the scenic view. He sits back down on the edge of the bench.

ALEX (TEXT) (CONT'D)
I was worried about you. Are you all right?

There is a long pause. Alex stands up and paces while looking at the phone. The phone chimes. He takes a big breath and sits back down.

MICHELLE (TEXT)
I am good. Are you okay?

ALEX (TEXT)
I just [Delete]

Alex pauses looks at scene then back to the phone.

ALEX (TEXT) (CONT'D)
I didn't know your were Deaf. I would have been quicker.

MICHELLE (TEXT)
My friends told me what you did. I want to thank you for saving my life. Brandon has been telling us about you. I have been wanting to meet you too.

ALEX
Yes!

ALEX (TEXT) (CONT'D)
You have? [Delete]
I thought [Delete]

Alex looks at the scenery again.

ALEX (TEXT) (CONT'D)
I want too see you soon. I don't want to waste another moment.

There is a pause. Alex paces.

MICHELLE (TEXT)
 May be tomorrow? With my sister and
 Brandon?

ALEX (TEXT)
 If your up to it I was thinking
 tonight.

Long pause as Alex paces with his phone.

MICHELLE (TEXT)
 Brandon is already here. Come by the
 house.

ALEX (TEXT)
 I can be there in an hour.

MICHELLE (TEXT)
 *Thumbs up *Smile

Alex paces for a bit, smiles, snaps his fingers then puts on
 his helmet and rides off.

FADE

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex drives by Michelle's house. He looks up on the way by.
 Michelle is in a window sill on the second floor reading a
 book. Alex circles the block then returns parking under a
 street light. Alex gets off his bike and hangs his helmet on
 a mirror. He watches Michelle as he sets the bike and leans
 against it.

ALEX (TEXT)
 Michelle look out the window.

Alex places a red rose between his lips. Michelle picks up
 her phone. Puts her book down and looks at Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (Signed)
 How you? You Okay?

Michelle looks surprised and eager.

MICHELLE
 (Signed)
 You know sign language!

ALEX
 (Signed)
 Little. I want to know more.

MICHELLE
 (Signed)
 When? How? Why?

ALEX
 (Signed)
 Secret. Come out. I can explain.

MICHELLE
 (Signed)
 Wait one moment.

Michelle leaves the window sill. A few moments later she stealthy makes her way across the lawn to Alex. Alex hands her the rose.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 Thank you. Your so sweet.

ALEX
 What?

Michelle looks at Alex strange and slightly angry. Alex looks like he just remembered something.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (Signed)
 Just a moment.

Alex pulls a case from his leather, opens it then pulls plugs from his ears and places them in the case. Michelle's face has an aha moment.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Sorry after the incident in the pool
 I wondered what it would be like
 being deaf in public. I know this is
 not the same because I can still
 hear people. What did you say?

MICHELLE
 I said thank you and you are sweet.

ALEX
 So are you. Um That sounded wrong.

Michelle leans in and gives Alex a peck on the cheek, then pulls back.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Your. Um. Not deaf?

Michelle moves her hair to reveal her processor.

MICHELLE

Yes deaf but I can hear some with this. It helps if I can read your lips too.

ALEX

Um wow. Does it hurt.

MICHELLE

I hardly notice the processor but sudden loud noises from it scare me.

ALEX

It looks cool.

Michelle smiles. Alex points to the bike.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Come for a ride. I want to show you something.

MICHELLE

I shouldn't. My family are concerned for me after what happened today.

ALEX

Trust me. I will take care of you.

MICHELLE

But my sister and Brandon.

ALEX

They will be fine. I want to show you something but we have to go quick or we will miss it.

Michelle pauses for a second.

MICHELLE

Just a moment.

Michelle pulls out her phone and texts madly. Alex puts on his helmet. Michelle's phone chimes. She reads it then places her phone into a jacket pocket.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Okay.

They both smile. Max hands Michelle the helmet. Michelle tries to put on the helmet but it doesn't fit with her processor. She takes off the helmet and and inspects it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
It wont fit. I will have to take off
my processor.

ALEX
Take it off you won't need it for
the ride.

Michelle looks angry for a moment, pauses then takes it off
and puts it in a protective case and tucks it into her jacket
pocket. Michelle puts the helmet on and it fits this time.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(Signs)
Ready

MICHELLE
(Signs)
Yes

Michelle mounts the bike behind Alex. Curtains in a window on
the main floor of Michelle's house are pulled away. The face
of Brandon and Becky look back. They smile as Michelle and
Alex get on the bike and ride off.

CUT TO

EXT. SCENIC VIEW - DUSK

MOTORCYCLE GOING DOWN ROAD WITH TWO PASSENGERS. DAY TURNS TO
DUSK.

THERE IS NO SOUND UNTIL A COUPLE OF SECONDS AFTER MICHELLE
PUTS ON HER PROCESSOR

Alex and Michelle pull into a parking lot with a scenic view.
Alex stops the bike and puts his feet down. Michelle
dismounts the bike.

Alex watches her over his shoulder. Michelle removes her
helmet and flips her hair over her shoulder. Michelle mounts
her processor on her head, turns and looks at Max.

MICHELLE
That was incredible.

Max opens the front of his visor then smiles.

ALEX
Your first time?

MICHELLE
yup, and it defiantly won't be my
last.

Michelle turns to the scenic view.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
What an amazing view!

Alex removes his helmet and walks up beside her.

ALEX
I come her often to think.

Michelle looks at Alex. Alex returns her gaze. They look like they are going to kiss then Alex breaks their gaze and points to a bench.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Lets sit and watch the sunset.

Michelle looks disappointed then heads for the bench and sits. Alex joins her then awkwardly places his hand around her back. She responds by leaning her head on his arm while watching the sunset. They watch the view as street lights turn on and the sun goes down.

MICHELLE
You have me at a disadvantage.

ALEX
What?

MICHELLE
Our first kiss.

ALEX
What first kiss.

MICHELLE
You have already tasted my lips. I
have yet to know if I like yours.

ALEX
That wasn't a kiss. I was saving
your life. I was um distracted.

Michelle sits up and looks at Alex. Alex brushes Michelle's hair.

MICHELLE
Well I guess we will have to rectify
that.

They lock gaze again. Michelle pulls slightly on Alex's shirt. Alex cups the back of Michelle's neck with the palm of his hand. They kiss passionately.

PULL CAMERA
BACK THEN FADE