

**Melinda Lopez**  
**from *Sonia Flew***

*ORFEO looks away. PILAR goes on her knees to him.*

PILAR

My darling. I beg you to listen. There is a way to get Sonia out— for a little while. You swear this madness won't last. I believe you. I do. But I am so afraid. I beg you to trust me now. Forgive me. I have done something—something—

ORFEO

What have you done, Pilar?

*(YOUNG SONIA enters, still wearing her uniform)*

YOUNG SONIA

What are you whispering about? Why is everyone always whispering in this house?

PILAR

We thought you were sleeping.

YOUNG SONIA

I'm sorry I ran away at the rally, Papá. I know you must be upset about that. But I don't want any lecture from you.

ORFEO

I was worried about you.

YOUNG SONIA

Why? I'm not a china doll.

ORFEO

I know that.

YOUNG SONIA

They shot Professor Waldman.

PILAR

Oh my god.

ORFEO

I know.

YOUNG SONIA

Why?

ORFEO

I don't know.

YOUNG SONIA

He must have done something. He was teaching something? Was he smuggling? Seditious? He must have done something—what did he do?

PILAR

You mustn't look at your father like that.

YOUNG SONIA

You knew him—he was your colleague, what did he do?

ORFEO

I don't know. He told bad jokes. Made terrible coffee.

YOUNG SONIA

Papí? Are they coming for you?

ORFEO

Why would they?

*(Beat)*

YOUNG SONIA

I want to go to join the literacy campaign.

PILAR

No.

YOUNG SONIA

Tito goes to the provinces next week.

PILAR

My darling...

YOUNG SONIA

The schools are closed down. There is nothing for me to do, and we all have to help in this difficult time.

PILAR

Why go to the Provinces? You can stay here and teach Marta.

YOUNG SONIA

I already talked to Tito about it, and he has signed me up.

ORFEO

Tito did this? Our Tito?

YOUNG SONIA

Yes. He is counting on me. It's only for the summer.

PILAR

The summer?

YOUNG SONIA

Yes. The summer! What's wrong with you? Tito! The summer! It's happening all over the place.

PILAR

Over my dead body. Over your fathers dead body, and mine.

YOUNG SONIA

You sound just like the nuns!

PILAR

That is not what you are here for.

YOUNG SONIA

What do you mean here? Do you mean on the planet?

PILAR

You know what I mean.

YOUNG SONIA

What am I on the planet for, Mamá? Can you tell me that? What have you done? I'm not going to end up like you, I know that much. I'm going to do something with my life. Things are changing everywhere, and I am part of it. And if I don't go this summer, I'll go next summer, or I'll just get out of the house soon, and get married and then I can do what I want. (*PILAR finds this incredibly funny.*) What? What?

PILAR

(*Laughing*) Get married and do what you want? Oh mother of God.

YOUNG SONIA

Stop it! You always do that? What is it?

PILAR

Oh my dear, my dear one. (*She is erupting again, laughing.*)

ORFEO

Enough.

YOUNG SONIA

Fine. Don't tell me anything.

PILAR

I'm sorry. I am sorry. I'm sorry. We were only trying to give you some good news.... Let me, Orfeo.

*(Beat.)*

ORFEO

Yes. Tell her. Wonderful news, Sonia. Listen.

PILAR

Your father and I have found you a scholarship to attend school in the United States. They can take you right away.

YOUNG SONIA

I don't understand.

PILAR

*(To ORFEO)* Study abroad.

ORFEO

*(To PILAR)* For a year.

PILAR

*(To ORFEO)* Anything you like. *(To YOUNG SONIA)* And then come back. You'll be sixteen by then. Old enough to make your own decisions. Go to the country. Or get married and ruin your own life. *(She starts laughing again.)* I'm sorry. Run your own life.

YOUNG SONIA

I can't go. I need—

PILAR

We have a visa.

YOUNG SONIA

How did you—the embassy is closed—how?

PILAR

A student visa. For students. For studying.

Papá? YOUNG SONIA

My dove? ORFEO

You're sending me away? YOUNG SONIA

Never! This is to school. For a year. ORFEO

But what about Tito—can I go in the fall? YOUNG SONIA

We've decided. PILAR

You haven't even talked to me—I won't go—You can't make me go. YOUNG SONIA