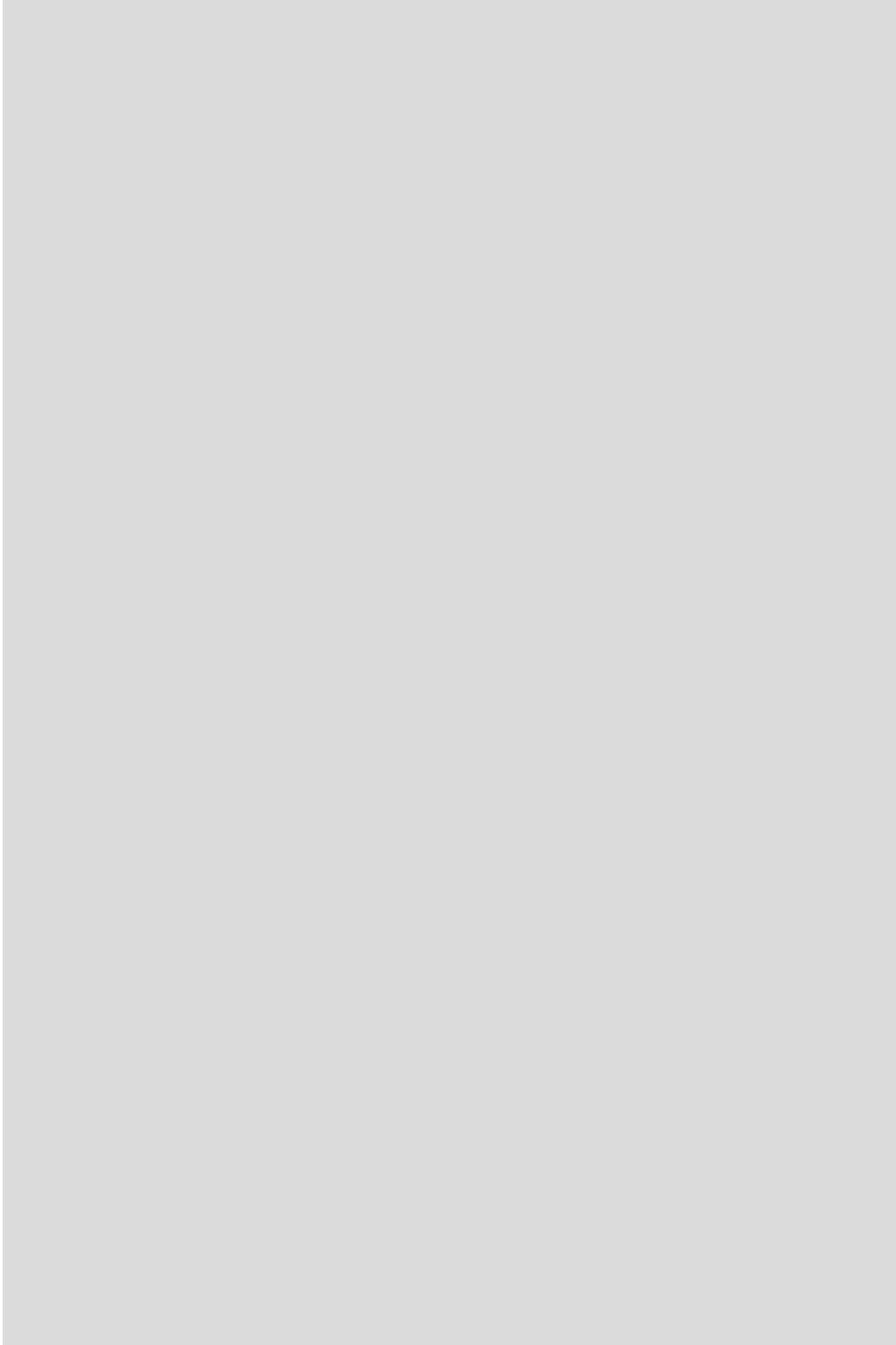


Consequences

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Capítulo 1

Austria, one of the largest country in Europe where people speak German. Its capital is Vienna. I was in Graz. January 2023. This country gave me a new opportunity to start but not exactly there, my new life will start in my country where I was born, Colombia.

I was in Austria living with my partner in a small apartment, most specifically in a student apartment. It means a small bed, small kitchen, small bathroom. It was designed just for one person. If you stand up in the middle, you will be in the bedroom, in the kitchen and in the living room at the same time. Everything was close to you. Sometimes, I used to take food from kitchen just stretching out my left arm from bed. In front of my bed, on the left there was a window, a small one of course. Throw this one, I could see the shy sun, the rain, and the snow. Yes, January is winter time, which it means I was happy because I could see the snow, feel it, touch it and admire it.

But also, the same snow make me sad many times, I was alone in that apartment every single day, but during night, my boyfriend arrived with cute surprises, like roses, wine, cookies, chicken, meat, chinese food and many others even beers and vodka, but the most important surprise was the exactly moment when he knocked the door. I run to open the door and hug him, give him thousands of kisses and feel his arms around my body. I loved that moment, I always wanted to be in his arms for long time. However, he had his hands busy with shopping stuff so he smiled at me, gave me kisses and started to take off his jacket and pants, then I saw the show watching him naked going to the bathroom to take a shower.

While he was taking a shower, I prepared our dinner, sometimes we ate, pasta, rice, potatoes, chicken and mini pizzas. We ate and watched netflix or sometimes we went down stairs to talk with his friends. Well, we were there because he is a robotic engineer and he had a project over there so I was there just waiting for him every single night with dinner ready.

We were together living our life of a couple, going to bed together, having dinner together, having crazy sex, on the desk, on the bathroom, on chair, and of course most of the time in bed. We were living a kind of honey moon, specially because we had a LDR so you can imagine how it works when couples are together after long time separated.

He woke up before the sun, and he went to work, I always stayed in bed til 10 am and then I started to prepare my brunch and I used to listen to music, but I played Colombian radio so in that way I could know the news about my country. After my brunch, I took a shower, read, write, and look for some places to visit in Graz. Although, I do not like to go out alone, I

wanted to go with my guy, but as you can see he was working 10 hours.

So, I took courage and I went out many times alone, I visited the Schlossberg and the Clock Tower, also the Murinsel (Mur Island) and my favorite I called it the whale but it was a museum, Graz Art Museum. I did not go into there but I liked to see it from the tower. Sadness, loneliness, ten hours without him, and then saw him tired after work wasn't easy for a latina like me who likes to work, dance, play and smile to the world.

Food was killing me, in Colombia we have many different dishes made with love, we spend 2 hours or more cooking, preparing everything from the beginning, I mean, we peel, cut, clean, wash potatoes, carrots, cut onion and in Europe I saw many packages of potatoes with vegetables ready to cook, you do not spend some much time to cook because everything is almost ready to serve. And for me, it was a big shock, cooking for me it's a kind of therapy I was angry with food in Austria, the savor of an egg was tasting terrible, even the chicken or meat. I was becoming sick, I bought an avocado and also it was tasting different I was angry with food. I was missing my colombian food. But, before to go to Austria I was in Poland meeting my boyfriend's family and friends and I learnt how to love polish food because I saw his mother preparing, cooking and I loved her chicken soup, it remained me my colombian food, so I was missing a lot his mother's food, I was counting days to see her and visit his family in Poland again.

One of those afternoons planning to do something alone, I was on facebook and I saw an opportunity to work in Colombia as an english teacher with the government. I asked to a friend if that place was secure because as you know in Colombia we have something called Guerrilla. Well, that school was located in one of the most dangerous places to work (North of Cauca), my friend who is from that department did not recommended to me.

Nevertheless, I asked to another friend who was studying with me at the university and of course he repeated the same, but he knew about another offer and he shared it with me. It was very interesting: work with the government means good payment, but also, work with an indigenous community, in the middle of the mountains, with a cold weather where it rains almost every day, and with difficult access. I did not think too much, I just asked again to my friend if this place was dangerous, he said no, he recommended me that place, so I started to do documents, and unfortunadly I sent it one day later.

One week later, I received a call from a man asking me if I was still interested to work in the indigenous community, I did not think twice, I said yes without asking my partner if he was agree with me, I just say yes, the only thing I wanted to do was coming back to my country with a

big purpose to stay and win more money. One fast decision, and one big consequence.

After one week, I received a videocall, it was the main surrounded by the indigenous community. The main said that I have to expose why I applied there, why I wanted to work there, and also Why they should choose me. I was so nervous, I could see throw my screen many people around. I just said what I had in my mind, about education, about the importance of English around the world. But I forget something very important. This indigenous community has their own language, and I have to understand that they will be learning 3 languages. What a challenge! So I said what my heart told me in that moment. After this videocall, the main said that I had to wait if the community chose me.

After 45 min I received a message telling me that I had been chosen to work there. But I had to be in Colombia in less than 3 weeks to accept the job with the government or in other way I could lose the opportunity.

Following the decision I started to think finally about the consequences about EVERYTHING, some questions like, What kind of consequence would it have? How it will be working in an indigenous community? Where will I be living? What kind of restrictions I will have? Well, I talked with my boyfriend, I told him about my decision to come back to Colombia and start to work. I did not think about my future with him, I did not think about a life with someone, I just think about win money and continue travelling with him, but If I wanted to travel I need money, for me it was easy to take the decision. After telling him, I noticed he was totally disappointed, we had an idea before to live together in Mexico, but honestly I was scared, he will be working 10 hours and I will be looking for a job in a country that I don't know completely, it could be a chaos, for that reason I decided to come back, and of course he was sad.

Finally we went to Poland, we talked with his family about my decision to work with the government in Colombia and his mother was happy because I will win good money. Even my parents were excited of my decision. It meant to have a good salary, a purpose in my life, constancy and stop working a lot for few coins in private enterprises. However, my parents were scared because of the Guerrilla. As I said, I didn't apply for the job in the north of Cauca because it was dangerous, but in spite of that I applied for a job in the south of Cauca. Something that scared because Cauca is a department where is well known due to Guerrilla. It is a department which has many different indigenous groups. We do not know if the indigenous are making business with the guerrilla. It is a political issue.

So I accepted something without looking for information, but something inner myself told me to accept and do not deny. I came back to Colombia, we said goodbye to my Polish boyfriend after having wonderful

holidays.

Nowadays, after that decision I am single.

Let's say, I had everything in one person. But I threw everything to the trash.

Some years ago, When we started our LDR Covid arrived and to be honest I did not expect to continue because everything was looking impossible to see us again. So, I did some wrong things, I kissed another man, I was happy with someone else, but also I was still talking with my Polish boyfriend like normal. My mind was busy with studying, working, and trying to keep a LDR even with my infidelity.