

Basic

by

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**FIRST DRAFT
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OVER BLACK:

The sound of HELICOPTER ROTORS slicing through the air.

STYLES (O.S.)

Jesus, God. . .

FADE IN ON:

An ARMY HELICOPTER as it soars over the thick LOUISIANA BAYOU. Lush and green only a day ago, the foliage below has been ripped to shreds. The kind of damage that can only be done by nature.

SUPERIMPOSE:, FEBRUARY 2 - 0630 HOURS - 32 KILOMETERS NORTH OF FORT MCKINLEY, LOUISIANA

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER (FLYING) -- SUNRISE

Sitting next to the PILOT is COLONEL WILLIAM STYLES. Mid-40's, normally gruff, but completely cowed by the damage below. The PILOT, unfazed.

PILOT

Hurricane Beth, huh? Had an ex-wife
named Beth, this is pretty much par
for the course. This area got the
worst of it, I hope these guys are
all intact-

STYLES

That's enough, Lieutenant.

SOMEONE'S P.O.V. - RUNNING through the underbrush - ducking branches, pushing through bushes, splashing through streams. LABORED BREATHING wheezes over the sound track. We're headed for a CLEARING...

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER (FLYING) -- SUNRISE

The Pilot pushes his stick forward, descending to tree level.

PILOT

Coming up on the pick-up.

EXT. CLEARING -- DAWN

TWO MEN emerge from the underbrush at a run. The BIGGER MAN carrying the wounded SMALLER MAN over his shoulder. Both in ragged army cadet fatigues - ripped, muddy, and bloody. The Bigger Man lowers the Smaller Man to the ground and unshoulders his M-16. Face panicked. The sound of the HELICOPTER approaching...

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER (FLYING) -- SUNRISE

The unmistakable SOUND OF GUNFIRE from below.

PILOT

Holy shit, that's live fire!

As the Helicopter comes over the clearing, Styles and the Pilot squint down through the windscreen to see the Two Men, huddled together as BULLET HITS kick up DUST around them!

STYLES

Who's shooting at them-

The Bigger Man raising his own his weapon and RETURNING FIRE. The Smaller Man frantically waving the Helicopter down...

PILOT

I can't see-

Below, the Bigger Man still shooting and then he lowers his rifle and there's only SILENCE. No return fire.

And then Styles sees why. A THIRD MAN. Lying by the treeline. Chest torn open by gunfire. Obviously dead. His clothes - the same fatigues the first two men are wearing.

STYLES

That was one of their own, he just
Shot one of their own men-

PILOT

Who was trying to shoot them-

STYLES

Get us on the ground!

EXT. CLEARING -- SUNRISE

As the Helicopter comes in for a landing, the Bigger Man kneels next to the Smaller Man, who bleeds from a bullet wound to the arm. His face, pale, sweating. The Bigger Man wipes the Smaller Man's brow and speaks softly and seriously.

BIGGER MAN

Are you ready for this?

The Smaller Man nods.

INT. ROADHOUSE -- MORNING

A full on shit-kicking dive. Nearly empty, given the hour.

A TELEVISION plays the morning news over the bar. Only two inhabitants - one a BARTENDER, the other the lone CUSTOMER, smoking and picking at a plate of criminally runny eggs.

3.

HARDY

Tell the truth, Vic. You made these with a blender, right?

He grins and we get our first good look at TOM HARDY - Three day stubble, dark rings around his eyes, but a with strong jaw and steady voice. Not your average barfly. Somebody who maybe used to be somebody.

BARTENDER

Don't like 'em, don't eat 'em, don't make no damn difference to me.

HARDY

You know that was like a quadruple negative?

The Bartender takes the plate away from him.

HARDY

Can I at least have a drink?

BARTENDER

It's ten thirty in the morning.

HARDY

Yeah, if you've slept.

BARTENDER

You know the law - no liquor before noon. Could lose my license.

HARDY

Don't you mean "don't need no liquor license not taken away from me"?

The Bartender smiles.

BARTENDER

Hurricane kept you up, too?

HARDY

Yeah, and I could've used the sleep. I'm supposed to meet people here tonight, try and get some work going.

He stops, his attention suddenly on the TV. A NEWSCASTER:

NEWSCASTER

...is expected to announce the grand jury indictments in the Guissepe Torres police corruption case as early as tomorrow afternoon. Speculations abound that up to ten former homicide detectives could be named in the proceedings-

4.

The Bartender turns the TV off hastily. Embarrassed:

BARTENDER

Sorry.

Hardy just looks away. The Bartender puts an empty glass down and fills it to the lip with bourbon. Hardy nods a "thank you" and reaches for the glass when the PAGER on his hip goes off. He checks the number.

HARDY

Bill Styles...

BARTENDER

Who?

HARDY

Old friend. Haven't talked to him in- 911. Can I use your phone?

The Bartender hands him a cordless and Hardy dials.

HARDY

Hey, Bill, it's Tom. Long time no. . . whoa, whoa, slow down. Yeah... yeah, of course I'll come. An hour.

He hangs up and hands the phone back to the Bartender.

BARTENDER

What was that?

Hardy, obviously shaken by the call.

HARDY

I gotta go out to McKinley.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- MORNING

Establishing. A sprawling five square mile compound nestled in the Louisiana backwoods. Also damaged by the Hurricane. HELICOPTERS loaded with emergency supplies land and take off, REPAIR CREWS work feverishly on damaged buildings, all while CADET PLATOONS complete morning drills around them. This is still a boot camp after all.

SUPERIMPOSE: 1130 HOURS - FORT MCKINLEY BASIC TRAINING CENTER

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- MAIN GATE -- MORNING

Styles stands waiting nervously just beyond the CHECKPOINT with WARRANT OFFICER JULIA OSBORNE - early 30's, attractive, close cropped hair and icy eyes. In the middle of protesting.

5.

OSBORNE

This is totally unnecessary-

STYLES

He asked to see a policeman, we're getting him a policeman .

OSBORNE

But this guy you called, he's not even Army-

STYLES

He's former Army and the best I've ever seen in a room. Besides, he knows the territory, we did Basic together here.

(off her look)

You've had three hours with Dunbar and haven't gotten a peep, we need

to take a different tack.

OSBORNE

He's not Army, it's not official-

STYLES

Then it's unofficial.

He takes a hit from an ASTHMA INHALER, as a '71 PONTIAC GTO drives through the gate and pulls up. Hardy emerges.

OSBORNE

(re: his appearance)

Doesn't get any unofficialer than that...

The two old friends embrace.

HARDY

How are you?

STYLES

Been better.

(pause)

I read about what's been happening
With you... I should have called-

HARDY

What kind of trouble are you in?

Styles looks at the ground. Momentarily flustered.

HARDY

That bad?

STYLES

Would I have called you if it wasn't?
If there was any other way-

6.

HARDY

Tell me what I can do.

OSBORNE

You can get us some answers.

Hardy takes off his sunglasses, noticing her.

STYLES

This is Warrant Officer Julia Osborne,
The closest thing we have to an in-
House investigator.

HARDY

And here you are going out of house.
How's that make you feel, Jules?

OSBORNE

Hostile and uncooperative.

HARDY

Fantastic. You want to tell me what's
going on?

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDORS MORNING

Hardy follows Styles and Osborne. They pass SOLDIERS replacing broken windows and sweeping up glass.

STYLES

The official term for it is
"Clusterfuck" . By the time Beth hit

us, I'd canceled all off base exercises save one - a six man cadet team and their Drill out in the bush. We're missing three and the Sergeant. The cadets are in their eighth week of the cycle, nobody here knows much about them, up to and including their names. But the Sergeant...

HARDY

It's not West, is it? Tell me it's not West.

Styles' look tells him it is.

HARDY

Ah, Christ

OSBORNE

You knew Sergeant West?

HARDY

He was our Drill here. Man's older than sand.

7.

STYLES

A few years ago, the Army picked our good buddy as their go to non-com to trot out to the press to talk about the kinder, gentler military. He even did the standard video greeting played to all incoming Basic cadets across the country.

HARDY

Well, he's a good soldier.

Osborne nods, agreeing.

HARDY

I didn't mean that as a compliment.

OSBORNE

Sergeant West's served for twenty-Three years. He's the public face of the modern Army.

HARDY

And you notice I'm not in the Army anymore.

They round a corner.

STYLES

The exercise was one of his Section Eight "private sessions". Left around 2100 yesterday and were scheduled for pick up at 0630 this morning.

HARDY

And the problem is you only got three.

STYLES

No, the problem is one's dead, one's got a bullet in his arm, and one

won't talk. The one who won't talk was trading live fire with the dead one as we reached the pick-up.

HARDY

I'm assuming that's what made him the dead one?

STYLES

Cadet Roberto R. Nunez. Killed right in front of me.

OSBORNE

Search parties for the others are fanning out in a ten click radius from the pickup. If they're hurt and we can get to them in time...

8.

STYLES

I called the JAG Corps, the two cadets we retrieved are to be flown to D.C. On a transport leaving here at 1700-

HARDY

Which gives us about five hours. Why'd you call me?

STYLES

The guy in interrogation said he'd only talk to a cop.

HARDY

And I'm the closest thing to it, right?

Styles stops, turning to his friend.

STYLES

Tom, bottom line: I let those kids go out there. If JAG shows up and I don't have any answers for them, my career is finished-

HARDY

I'm not gonna let that happen.

Styles exhales, relieved.

STYLES

Thank you. Osborne will brief you on the cadets. And Tom?

(half-smile)

It really is good to see you.

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- OSBORNE'S OFFICE -- MORNING

Osborne and Hardy enter, stepping over broken glass and hurricane debris. Hardy looks around.

HARDY

Gotta be honest, I love what you've done with the place-

OSBORNE

You and the Colonel go back.

HARDY

He got me through Basic and a lot of other stuff. I owe him.

OSBORNE

You're the Tom Hardy I've been reading about in the papers, right? New Orleans PD fired you for taking bribes from Guissepe Torres.

9.

HARDY

It was for suspicion of bribery, it's really all in the wording-

OSBORNE

Wording and your friendship with the Colonel aside, I'm not comfortable having you involved in this.

HARDY

Subtlety really isn't one of your finer points, is it, Osborne?

Osborne opens her mouth to reply but Hardy cuts her off.

HARDY

Three things. First - You don't have a choice. Second- I've never taken a bribe in my life. And Third - I'm still a little drunk from last night, so if I skip over the witty banter and move forward to straight hitting on you, try not to take offense. Tell me about the two guys.

OSBORNE

Hurricane knocked out our Mainframe, so all we have are their dogtags. Cadets Raymond Dunbar and Levi Kendall-

HARDY

Levi? Who names their kid Levi-

OSBORNE

Senator Jonathan Kendall, of Ohio.

HARDY

Christ... Remind me to thank Bill for mentioning that on the phone-

OSBORNE

Kendall Junior is still in surgery, so he won't be available to answer for his name or anything else for another hour - the cadet we're talking to first is Dunbar.

HARDY

He's in interrogation?

OSBORNE

Yes.

HARDY

Move him.

OSBORNE

Why?

HARDY

Because interrogation rooms look suspiciously like interrogation rooms, which doesn't exactly put people at ease. Is he cute?

OSBORNE

Excuse me?

HARDY

Is Dunbar cute?

OSBORNE

(pissed)

That is the most unprofessional-

HARDY

Is he handsome, self assured, carry himself well, does he look you in the eyes or down at the floor, does he have good bones, suggesting good breeding, does he slouch or sit up straight - these are important questions, as they reveal a great deal about this man's character so please get over yourself for two and a half seconds and tell me is he cute?

Osborne stares at him. She finally nods.

HARDY

Thank you. At some point in there I'm gonna rub my nose. When I do, go at him with everything you got.

OSBORNE

Good cop/bad cop?

HARDY

Something like that.

She starts to go make preparations.

HARDY

Oh, and Osborne? You have any donuts around here?

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDOR -- MORNING

As two M.P.'s escort RAYMOND DUNBAR (the "Bigger Man") into

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- MORNING

A small cluttered room with the shades drawn. A folding table has been set up in the middle of it with a chair on each side. Dunbar takes a seat in the far chair. Takes in his surroundings as the MP's leave, locking the door.

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDOR - MORNING

Hardy and Osborne head towards the Coffee Room.

OSBORNE

I questioned him for three hours and he didn't make a sound. You don't have a badge, he won't talk to you.

HARDY,

Ten bucks says I have him talking in under three minutes.

Osborne starts the timer on her digital watch.

OSBORNE

Go.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- MORNING

Dunbar looks up as they enter. Hardy smiles, cheerily.

HARDY

Cadet Dunbar, good morning! I'm Tom Hardy and I believe you've already met Officer Osborne. I understand you had a rough time of it last night?

No response. Hardy takes a seat across from the cadet.

HARDY

Not talking, huh? You probably just want to get some food and some sleep. They feed you yet?

No response. Hardy reaches into his pocket. Pulls out a **DONUT.**

Dunbar eyes it, wary but definitely wanting it.

HARDY

Go on. You can eat in front of someone and still not talk to them - my parents did it for years.

Dunbar grabs the donut, wolfing it down.

HARDY

Want another one?

No response. Osborne looks to her watch - it's been a minute.

12.

HARDY

Maybe later. Ray, let me say this up front - I'm not a cop.

Dunbar turns away, no longer interested. Hardy continues:

HARDY

I used to be, but that's beside the point. Who I am doesn't really matter; what matters is that right now, you're in a shitload of trouble. You understand that, right?

No response.

HARDY

Now, I don't know if you did what you did in self defense and frankly I don't really care. I'm just doing a favor for Colonel Styles because he wants to know if anyone else who's

still out there is in need of assistance. To be honest with you, though, I don't care about that either.

Dunbar looks up at this, surprised.

HARDY

I don't know those guys, you do. They die, to me, it's like seeing a couple people died in a fire on the news - tragic, but it doesn't affect me. The only thing I care about is I agreed to do a favor for a friend and try and talk to you till your transpo shows up. You like baseball?

No response. Osborne looks at her watch - two minutes.

HARDY

I could talk baseball for days. Batting averages, ERA's, I got statistics in my brain, I don't know how I remember them. It's freaky. You wanna talk baseball?

Dunbar, completely confused.

HARDY

Come on Ray, we're gonna be here five hours, we gotta talk about something. So who do you like?

A long silence and then:

13.

DUNBAR

I don't like baseball.

Hardy grins as Osborne stops her watch at 2:41.

HARDY

Why not?

DUNBAR

I asked for a policeman.

HARDY

You're under military arrest, it's not gonna happen. What's wrong with baseball?

DUNBAR

It's... too slow.

HARDY

Well, it's a game of anticipation, that's the beauty.

DUNBAR

I just don't like it.

HARDY

What do you like then?

As they continue, we TRACK under the table to reveal a HIDDEN MICROPHONE...

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- MORNING

Styles and an M.P. listening to the Coffee Room conversation.
DUNBAR'S VOICE, over the speaker:

DUNBAR (O.S.)

I don't know... I like the Army.

HARDY (O.S.)

C'mon, Ray, everyone hates the Army
during Basic. I'll tell you straight,
I hated it here.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- MORNING

DUNBAR

You did Basic here?

HARDY

Fifteen years ago under Sergeant
West. Piece of work, that guy. I
remember, he used to have these two
silver .45's with ivory handles and
if you weren't quick enough, he'd

(MORE)

14.

HARDY (CONT'D)

knock you on the head with one of
them. He still carry those guns?

He Dunbar nods.

HARDY

I was also his " knife dummy" .
(to Osborne)

See, West used to say he could slit
a man from stem to sternum in three
seconds. He'd use this length of
pipe to demonstrate and if you were
the knife dummy, you'd spend all day
getting a pipe rammed into your balls
if you weren't fast enough to defend
yourself. That was a loooong day.

Hardy laughs at the memory and turns back to Dunbar.

HARDY

Incidentally, Ray, I promised them
I'd ask where West and the others
are. Can we get to them?

He looks to the floor.

DUNBAR

There's no need...

HARDY

They're dead, aren't they?

Dunbar looks back up at Hardy.

DUNBAR

Yeah.

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- MORNING

Styles lowers his head at this.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- MORNING

HARDY

You kill them?
No answer. Hardy rubs his nose. Osborne steps forward.

OSBORNE

The Colonel saw you shoot Nunez,
You're a murderer-

HARDY

See, Ray, this is what we call "good
cop, bad cop".

(MORE)

15.

HARDY

She shouts, I stand up for you, you're
grateful, a bond of trust is
established.

Osborne, stunned by this.

HARDY

But I don't want to play games.
That's why you're not in an
interrogation room, with one of those
two way mirrors - everyone knows
those things are two way, right?

Dunbar looks at him good nods slowly.

HARDY

Right. Now, I'm gonna go get you
another donut and you think about
whether you want to talk more, okay?

DUNBAR

Okay.

Hardy smiles at him, gets up, and leaves.

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDOR -- MORNING

Osborne follows him out into the hall where Styles waits.

OSBORNE

Baseball?

HARDY

Believe somebody owes me ten dollars-

OSBORNE

You made me look like an idiot-

HARDY

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know the
object of the interrogation is to
make you look good- Everyone knows
good cop, bad cop - by admitting it
I appeared trustworthy.

STYLES

You think he did it?

OSBORNE

No-

HARDY

Yes-

They stop, looking at each other.

STYLES

You've got four hours and forty-five minutes to find out.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- MORNING

Hardy returns, another donut in hand, Osborne behind him.

HARDY

Why'd you ask for a cop, Ray?

DUNBAR

I'm not telling you what happened.

HARDY

Okay... but I would like to know about the other cadets. What they were like - nice guys? Dunbar takes a deep breath.

DUNBAR

Some.

HARDY

Tell me about them.

As Dunbar begins to talk, we FLASHBACK...

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- PARADE GROUNDS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO

Row upon row of freshly shaven headed CADETS stand at attention. Their first day of boot camp.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

First day was when I met Pike. Sarge hated him from the beginning.

A man with a face of granite strides up and down the lines.

Two ivory handled pistols on his hips. His lifeless cobalt blue eyes take in the Cadets. This is SERGEANT WEST.

WEST

You motherfuckers have just made the worst mistake of your lives! You have chosen to join my Army! This Army is my mother, my father, and my little virgin sister and I will not allow anyone or anything that is not up to my standards near her pretty little virgin cooze, do you understand

me - give me a sir, yes, sir!

THE CADETS

Sir, yes, sir!

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WEST

Those who I deem unworthy to pass through this camp will quit, and those who refuse to quit I will kill. You ever hear of a training accident - Give me a sir, yes, sir!

THE CADETS

Sir, yes, sir!

WEST

In my time I have killed sixteen men for the good of my country, sixteen men whose entrance into this Army I could not condone, as it would weaken the fabric of this nation's defense! This base suffers an average of three training accidents a year, unfortunate incidents that I will not hesitate to repeat if you cross me, understand - Give me a sir, yes, sir!

THE CADETS

Sir, yes, sir!

WEST

So forget what you've seen on Sixty fucking Minutes about the kinder, gentler military - you will either succeed, quit, or die by my hand!

He walks over to a tall black cadet in the front row. PIKE.

WEST

My power here is absolute, isn't that right, nigger?

PIKE

Sir, yes, sir!

West hauls off and SLAPS Pike across the face!

WEST

I hail from Biloxi, Mississippi where we string greasy coon necks up from tree branches when the mood strikes us you have a problem with that?

PIKE

Sir, no, sir!

West grabs Pike by the neck, CHOKING HIM. The others Cadets GASP. Pike goes down on his knees, the loss of air is so great. He reaches up automatically to try and save himself...

18.

WEST

What the fuck is this? You lay a hand on me while I'm trying to do my duty and rid the world of you?
He KICKS PIKE IN THE BALLS and releases him. Pike goes fetal on the ground, VOMITING, as West stands over him, screaming.

WEST

Get the fuck up, you're still in formation, get the fuck up!
Pike somehow gets to his feet, vomit streaking his clothes.

WEST

What the fuck have you done to that uniform, take it off, take it off, take it off!
Pike, still gasping, can't move fast enough. West slaps him again and tears the man's shirt off.

WEST

Get those fucking pants off, I want you buck ass naked, you don't deserve to wear these beautiful United States Army issue clothes!
Pike struggles off the rest of his clothes until he is NAKED.
West turns and spies Dunbar in the line.

WEST

Cadet, what's your name!

DUNBAR

Sir, Dunbar, sir!

WEST

You know how to work a pistol, Dunbar?

DUNBAR

Sir, yes, sir!

West draws one of his PISTOLS and gives it to him.

WEST

Dunbar you are to stand here and guard this nigger for the next twenty-four hours! He is not to be given food, water, or clothes! If he so much as moves, you are to blow his nigger brains out, is that clear?

DUNBAR

Sir, yes, sir!

19.

WEST

The rest of you, fallout for physicals!
The rest of the Cadets fallout, following West away to one of the buildings, leaving Dunbar and Pike.
One with a gun, the other naked.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Fifteen guys quit that day. But not Pike.

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- MORNING

The CADETS, navigating a log spanned over a PIT OF MUD.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Time went on and the Sarge started
singling people out.

One of the Cadets, a small man named ANDERSON, falls from
the log. Screaming, West dives into the pit and pulls
Anderson out, knocking him on the head with a pistol.

EXT. TARMAC -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- AFTERNOON

Anderson stands naked, his arms straining to hold up, TWO
PAINT CANS perpendicular to his body as West berates him.

DUNBAR

He'd zero in on a fella and ride him
till he quit.

EXT. MAIN GATE -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- NIGHT

Anderson, now in civilian clothes, gets into a TAXI. Quit.

EXT. FIRING RANGE -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- MORNING

West, screaming at a weasely looking cadet named CHILDS.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Those who wouldn't quit, he'd put in
what he called Section Eight.

INT. SECTION EIGHT BARRACKS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- NIGHT

A horribly dilapidated quarters. Four cadets, Dunbar, Pike,
Childs, and MUELLER sleep in rickety bunks.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Washout rejects, guys he said were ,
"dumbfucks too stupid to know they
were dead". He separated us from
the rest. We slept alone...

20.

INT. MESS HALL -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- MORNING

The same four Cadets, eating ON THE FLOOR as the other members
of the Cadet Corps chow at tables.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

. . . ate alone.. .

EXT. REGULAR BARRACKS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- EVENING

The four Cadets fallout on a run shirtless, with heavy packs
and rifles held over their heads as the rest of the Cadet
Corps files into their barracks for sleep.

DUNBAR (V. O .)

...and trained long after the other
guys got to turn in.

EXT. PARADE GROUNDS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO -- MORNING

The Cadet Corps, mustered. West zeroes in on NUNEZ (the
"dead one"), whose t-shirt has a spot on it.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Fellas lived in daily fear of being
Sectioned and with good reason, too.

West pulls Nunez out of line by his ear and kicks him over
towards a separate muster of our Four Section Eighters.

DUNBAR

They figured we were the boys who'd

meet with a "training accident" .
Nunez takes a place among them. Looking absolutely terrified.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

Osborne leans forward.

OSBORNE

Are you saying Sergeant West tried
to kill you?

DUNBAR

No, ma'am, he just wanted us to quit.
Making it through was kind of an
honor. Some of the other guys on
the base told us that if you could
hack Section Eight, Command would
consider you at the top of the class.

HARDY

That's not exactly true...
(off their looks)
I'm living proof. How did you get
Sectioned, Ray?

21.

Dunbar gives a look that almost resembles a smile.

DUNBAR

That first night with Pike. I made
the mistake of letting him sit down
at around 0300.

OSBORNE

Tell us about the other guys, the
ones West weeded out.

DUNBAR

There were six of us...

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE.-- ONE WEEK AGO -- EVENING

The six members of Section Eight on a forced run through the
rain. We focus in each face as Dunbar describes them. First
up is MUELLER a tall Aryan looking blonde with a square jaw.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Mueller was from Tulsa, a real good
ol' boy type. One of those "his
Daddy's Daddy's Daddy died at Bull
Run and no bleeding heart Yankee was
gonna take away his scatter gun" .
He idolized West.

Muller, grinning, as West kicks his ass to pick up the pace.
Next to him is NUNEZ, a strapping hulk of a manchild.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

And Nunez idolized Mueller. Big
fella from New Mexico. After he got
Sectioned he just followed Mueller
around like a lap dog. He wasn't
mean like Mueller, though, didn't
have it in him.

Next to Nunez is CHILDS, small and weasely with feral eyes.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

But Childs did. Didn't talk to anyone, but you got this feeling something was wrong with him, like real wrong. Type of guy you felt uncomfortable going to sleep near. Behind Childs runs Pike.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Pike I told you about. He took the brunt of it from Mueller and West. Once they found it out he was a convict they were merciless.

(MORE)

22.

DUNBAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He'd been busted for Auto Theft, judge gave him the option of jailor the Army. He made the wrong choice. Next to Pike, Dunbar and KENDALL run side by side. Kendall is short like Childs, but also weak. Wheezing.

DUNBAR

Finally Kendall and me. Kendall was a smart guy, we got along okay. Pike and I tried to help him, but... Kendall falters and Pike stops to try and help him up. West smacks the him away, practically kicking Kendall to his feet.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

He was sickly. Had that shaking thing, whatd'yacall it, epoxy?

OSBORNE (V.O.)

Epilepsy.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Yeah. Spent half his time in the infirmary. Only reason he enlisted was his father. West didn't section him till last week.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

HARDY

And those were the guys who went on the exercise with you?

DUN BAR

Yeah. And that's all I'm saying. Hardy leans back in his chair.

HARDY

You smoke, Ray?

DUNBAR

This is one of those interrogation tricks, isn't it? You don't give me a cigarette till I tell you more.

HARDY

No, actually, I just left mine in

the car and was hoping you had some.
Dunbar studies him for a moment and then pulls a pack of Dorals from his pocket and puts them on the table.

HARDY

My brand. Must be my lucky day.

23.

He takes one and lights it. Dunbar does the same.

HARDY

Let me ask you one thing. You seem like a good guy, Ray. You carried Kendall wounded to the pickup. So what I don't get is what you did to make Nunez want to kill you?

Dunbar just looks at the ground. A KNOCK at the door. Hardy and Osborne turn to see an M.P. stick his head in.

M. P.

Sirs?

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDORS -- MORNING

Hardy and Osborne emerge to find Styles waiting for them.

HARDY

He's not done by a longshot, I can get more out of him-

STYLES

He can wait. Kendall's out of surgery.

EXT. ARMY JEEP (MOVING) -- MORNING

Hardy and Osborne sit in the back of the open car as it rumbles across the grounds, headed towards the Base Hospital. They sit in silence until:

HARDY

Why'd you join the army?

Osborne looks at him, annoyed.

OSBORNE

You really want to make banal chit-Chat like that now?

HARDY

You're right. We should sit in silence.

OSBORNE

We're in the middle of a murder case-

HARDY

Best time for banal chit-chat.

He slips something into his pocket.

OSBORNE

What is that?

24.

HARDY

Microrecorder for Kendall - didn't have- time to wire his room. Now tell me why you joined the army or

I'll jab this pen through your neck.
Osborne smiles in spite of, herself.

OSBORNE

Typical army brat story. Dad was
noncom, Mom was a Nurse. There was
never any real doubt of joining up.

HARDY

You had a mobile of bayonets above
your crib.

OSBORNE

Something like that. You?

HARDY

I lost a bet.

Osborne laughs.

OSBORNE

You're kidding.

HARDY

Yeah. That's just the story I tell
the girls to get them into bed.
Truth is... I don't know. The whole
honor and duty thing. Make a
difference in the world, crap like
that. Didn't really work out.

Osborne studies him.

OSBORNE

I bet that's the second story you
tell the girls to get them into bed,
after you make them laugh with the
first one.

Hardy just smiles.

OSBORNE

This is the straight hitting on me
you were talking about, isn't it?

HARDY

The very same.

OSBORNE

You do understand that there's
absolutely no way I could ever be
attracted to you, right?

25.

HARDY

I plan to grow on you.

OSBORNE

You're off to a late start.

HARDY

So noted.

They pass an OVERTURNED CLIMBING TOWER.

HARDY

You guys really got the shit kicked
out of you here.

OSBORNE

Imagine what it must have been like
for them out there. What do you
think of Dunbar?

HARDY

He's telling the truth, up to a point.

OSBORNE

What point?

Hardy doesn't respond, instead looking out as they pass the
SECTION EIGHT BARRACKS.

OSBORNE

Something wrong?

HARDY

Being back here. Gives me the
willies.

OSBORNE

Not the happiest of memories?

FLASHCUT TO - FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. A bunch of young Cadets,
Hardy and Styles among them, doing forced push-ups by the
barracks in the rain as West randomly berates and KICKS THEM.
BACK TO HARDY - As he looks away and shakes it off.

HARDY

No.

INT. BASE HOSPITAL -- RECOVERY UNIT -- DAY

A NURSE leads Hardy and Osborne down a spotless white hall.

NURSE

Normally we wouldn't let anyone see
him this soon, but Colonel Styles
said it was urgent-

26.

HARDY

It is.

OSBORNE

Remember, he's the son of a Senator,
so go easy. Kid gloves.

HARDY

Got it.

INT. BASE HOSPITAL -- KENDALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Kendall lies in a bed, a network of tubes in his arm. He is
awake but pale, still weak. He studies his visitors.

KENDALL

You... I've seen you around the Base.
But you...

(POINTING TO HARDY)

You're not Army, are you?

HARDY

Coast Guard, special detective detail.
We feel this incident may have put
the beaches of Florida at risk.

Kendall's laugh turns into a cough. Placing Hardy.

KENDALL

That's it. You're that policeman

with friends in low places. Tell me, how's Guissepe Torres doing these days? Those racketeering indictments must have really been a downer-

HARDY

Levi, you got about four hours before armed men show up here, put you on a plane to Washington, and lock you in a very small dark room. I suggest you talk to us.

Kendall smiles again, not losing any of his cool.

KENDALL

I've done nothing wrong.
(gestures to his wound)
I'm the victim here.

HARDY

But not the only victim, right?

KENDALL

My, my, my, how did things turn so hostile so quickly? If I didn't know better, I'd say you two were out to get me.

27.

OSBORNE

We just want-

KENDALL

What, "The Truth"? Please. There are degrees of truth, officer, always degrees. Things are not what they seem.

Hardy stares at him for a moment and then gets up to leave.

HARDY

It's too early in the day for me to give a shit about some pissant cadet's bad version of "intrigue". You want to talk to us, send word over to the brig. Let's go.

Nonplussed, Osborne follows. Hardy turns back at the door.

HARDY

You're working too hard, Levi. I can tell cause you're sweating. And you're sweating cause you have no idea what Dunbar's already told us.

INT. BASE HOSPITAL -- CORRIDORS -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne walk to the NURSE'S STATION.

OSBORNE

That was kid gloves?

HARDY

Have no fear, Osborne, we have not yet begun to fight.

He pulls a cigarette from his pocket and lights it.

OSBORNE

But we have to question him-
(noticing)
Thought you didn't have cigarettes-

HARDY

I lied. Wait for it...

Osborne just stares at him, not knowing what to say next.
The PHONE at the Nurse's Station rings and a NURSE answers.
Listens for a moment, hangs up, and turns to them.

NURSE

Cadet Kendall-

HARDY

We're on our way.

28.

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne sit across from Kendall's bed.

HARDY

Sergeant West is dead isn't he?
Kendall nods.

HARDY

And the other three Cadets?
Kendall hesitates, then nods again.

HARDY

Feel free to elaborate .
Kendall takes a breath and begins, all trace of bravado gone.

KENDALL

My father is a powerful man. Over
the years he's used that power to
protect me, in one form or another,
from certain... unpleasantries.

(deep breath)

I am a homosexual.

HARDY

Senator Daddy must be thrilled.

KENDALL

He is not, shall we say, wild about
the idea. He has asked me on numerous
occasions to be more discreet about
my proclivities, and I have done my
best to oblige him. However, in the
last four weeks, I began a
relationship with another cadet.
What do you think of that?

HARDY

I think you just blew "Don't Ask,
Don't Tell" out of the fucking water.

KENDALL

The Sergeant discovered this
relationship and wanted me expelled.
My father interceded, so instead,
West Sectioned me and made sure every

other cadet knew that I was gay.

OSBORNE

He couldn't kick you out so he wanted you to quit on your own.

KENDALL

He wanted more than that.

29.

HARDY

More intrigue, Levi?

Kendall stares at them, dead serious.

KENDALL

Yes.

INT. SECTION EIGHT BARRACKS -- LAST NIGHT

The six Cadets asleep, all except Kendall, who stares up at the patchwork ceiling.

KENDALL (V.O.)

It was the regular Tuesday night drill. He'd let us sleep for an hour and then wake us up, drag us out to the bayou, and work us all night, separate from the others. The door SLAMS OPEN, revealing West.

WEST

Get up, get up, get up! We're going on a little night hike, boys - muster in five on the south tarmac!

He leaves as the Sectioners rise, groaning.

PIKE

Hurricane's due after midnight and we're still going out?

MUELLER

Toughens us up, Pike. You don't like it, quit.

Pike pulls on his pants and shoots him the finger.

KENDALL

Maybe we shouldn't go.

MUELLER

The faggot speaks.

KENDALL

You ever been in a hurricane, Mueller?

MUELLER

(mocking gay lisp)

You ever been in a hurricane, Mueller?

Mueller and Childs laugh, but Nunez looks concerned.

NUNEZ

You really heard this?

30.

PIKE

You know Popham, works in the kitchen?

He told me it was on the radio.

He stops, listening. They all hear the WIND, HOWLING outside.

KENDALL

We should tell him we're not going.

MUELLER

Oh, yeah, "Excuse me, Sergeant, sir, we don't feel like going out - we don't want to get rained on." He'll kick our asses from here to Cleveland.

He pulls on his rain poncho and is out the door, Nunez right behind him. The others, getting ready, all except Kendall. Dunbar comes over and puts a hand on his shoulder.

DUNBAR

He's right. We don't have a choice.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- TARMAC -- LAST NIGHT

The six cadets, mustered in front of West and a TRANSPORT CHOPPER. West hands out M-16's, sidearms, and grenades while yelling above the wind.

WEST

A rifle, a pistol, and three phosphorous grenades to a man! This is live fire, so keep those safeties until we touch down; I don't want anyone shooting their dick off!

Some chuckling.

WEST

Some of you may have heard there's a hurricane coming! American soldiers do not wait for good weather - they do not wait for a bright sunshiney day to do their duty! An American Soldier learns to operate in the worst conditions and turn said conditions into an advantage against their enemy! Anyone who thinks these conditions are too harsh, feel free to lay down and die, you get me?

THE CADETS

Sir, yes, sir!

WEST

LZ is two clicks North of a cabin,
you are to split into teams of two

(MORE)

31.

WEST (CONT'D)

and work your way through your
designated area blasting as many
targets as you can find! Each area
has twenty targets, first team to
take all twenty and find the cabin
wins! Teams are as follows - Dunbar
and Nunez, Pike and Mueller, Kendall
and Childs!

Mueller groans.

WEST

I will be in the areas monitoring
your progress and if I see anyone
drag ass I will personally slit you
stem to sternum and leave you for
dead! Fall out!

The Cadets board the Transport Chopper. Kendall gets on
last, passing West who leans in and whispers to him:

WEST

You're gonna die tonight, faggot.

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

Osborne looks up.

OSBORNE

He said what?

KENDALL

"You're gonna die tonight, faggot" .
Clear as day.

OSBORNE

No one else heard it?

KENDALL

He whispered it in my ear.

Hardy scratches his temple.

HARDY

Levi, I don't know if you're familiar
with investigative work, but we have
this little thing called "motive"
and you just gave yourself one.

KENDALL

You said you wanted to know what
happened- I'm telling you the truth.

HARDY

What happened to "degrees"?

32.

KENDALL

Didn't kill him-

HARDY

Then who did?

INT. ARMY TRANSPORT HELICOPTER (FLYING) -- LAST NIGHT

On Kendall, sitting among the Sectioners in silence. terrified he looks like he's about to throw up.

KENDALL (V.O.)

I wanted to tell someone what he'd said, but I couldn't. Mueller would just laugh. Nunez and Childs wouldn't care. Pike and Dunbar were okay, but... When West outed me, he isolated me. An outcast among outcasts. And I'd just been told tonight was the night I'd die.

The Chopper touches down on the edge of the BAYOU. The door rumbles open as West points out different team directions in the blackness.

WEST

First team, second team, third team,
go, go, go!

The click of rifles being unsafetied as the cadets pour out of the helicopter.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- LAST NIGHT

We track with Kendall and Childs as they head away from the Landing Zoe, rifles up, heads down, side by side. Moving the brush quickly and quietly, eyes scanning for targets.

KENDALL (V.O.)

I knew Childs a little, we worked at the PX together.

The wind is picking up and it's started to RAIN. Their ponchos flap loudly against the elements.

KENDALL (V.O.)

I started getting it in my head that maybe West had paid him, maybe he was the one who was supposed to give me a training accident-

The ROAR of GUNFIRE! Kendall turns towards it, SCREAMING for a moment... Until he sees Childs lower his smoking rifle, a SHREDDED TARGET on a tree in front of them. He looks down, noticing has his own weapon TRAINED ON CHILDS. .. Childs steps forward, knocking Kendall's rifle away.

33.

CHILDS

Don't you ever point a gun at me!

KENDALL

I'm- I'm sorry. . .

Kendall, terrified. Shaking. A beat. Childs picks up the

rifle from the ground and hands it back to him.

CHILDS

Come on, let's move.

VARIOUS SHOTS -- Kendall and Childs, moving through the bayou, Childs taking out targets. It's raining harder now.

KENDALL (V.O.)

All I could think of was West, out there somewhere in the dark. Maybe watching the others, maybe watching me. And waiting to make his move.

Childs speaks, and Kendall almost jumps out of his skin.

CHILDS

Christ, am I alone in this world?
Shoot something-

A SOUND from the left. Kendall panics, pivots, and FIRES... Into DARKNESS. No target, no West, no nothing. Kendall, really freaked out now.

CHILDS

A target, Kendall, cap a fucking target. What's wrong with you?

KENDALL (V.O.)

I thought I was gonna have an attack. Go into a fit and bite off my own tongue in the middle of the bayou. Childs could tell I wasn't right.

CHILDS

Just safety your shit and get behind me, okay? I'll take care of this.

Kendall nods and lets Childs walk ahead. Staring at Childs' back as they move on. On Kendall's face, thinking...

KENDALL (V.O.)

Maybe it was a trick. Maybe this was when they'd get me, when I felt safest.

CLOSE. ON KENDALL'S FINGER - Clicking off the safety again. Moving towards the trigger...

34.

KENDALL (V.O.)

But if I struck first and took out

Childs, then maybe I could make it
out alive...

Kendall raises the rifle. Sights Childs' back. A moment
of utter silence and then...

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

KENDALL

Maybe I shouldn't tell you that.
Maybe I should tell you I wasn't
scared at all. But I was...

(long pause)

Enough to almost kill him.

HARDY

But you didn't.

KENDALL

No. Poetic justice, though.

OSBORNE

Why?

No reply. Hardy smiles, understanding.

HARDY

Because Childs is the one who shot
you.

Osborne looks up, surprised. Kendall nods.

KENDALL

But that came later.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- LAST NIGHT

As Kendall safeties his rifle and lowers it... The SOUND of
a tremendous EXPLOSION comes from their right! Kendall and
Childs knocked off their feet as the sky momentarily LIGHTS
UP with the blast as a MAN SCREAMS!

CHILDS

Over there!

Childs points to the right, where the dim shine of PHOSPHOROUS
can be seen through the trees. He drags Kendall to his feet
and the two take off running towards it.

Kendall panting and scared, ducking branches and leaping
ditches as the two sprint towards the dying glow.

CHILDS

Hello! HEL-

35.

The sound of GUNFIRE! Childs TACKLES Kendall...

CHILDS

GET DOWN!

They hit the deck, face down in mud. It takes them a second
to realize the shots are not directed at them.

CHILDS

Fuck, what the fuck is going on-

KENDALL

What do we do?

CHILDS

Whoever it is isn't shooting at us...

He trails off. The gunfire and screaming have stopped.

Silence now, save for the wind and rain.

KENDALL

Don't want to go-

CHILDS

Fine.

Childs rises and heads towards where the sounds were.

Kendall, lying in the rain and mud, shivering. Alone. After a moment he gets up and follows.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED,-- LAST NIGHT

The SCORCHED GROUND and TREES smolder under the rainfall.

Kendall finds Childs, standing down by the creek.

Something lies by his feet.

KENDALL

What's-

He stops, seeing.

KENDALL

Oh, Jesus.. .

WEST. Literally spread out on the ground, dead. Eyes open, face half blackened, he has been ripped in two at the torso.

A horrifying sight. Kendall stumbles back from it.

KENDALL

Did- Did you-

CHILDS

It was the grenade you fucking idiot.

Look at him!

36.

Kendall can't. He sits, sobbing. Part horror, part relief.

CHILDS

This isn't our area. Whose area is

This-

MUELLER

Can anybody hear me!

Childs pivots at the sound of Mueller coming over the ridge.

MUELLER

Hey, I-

(seeing it)

Holy fuck. ., . holy fuck, what the

fuck did you guys do?

CHILDS

We found him like this-

Mueller raises his rifle at the weeping Kendall.

MUELLER

You killed him you fucking faggot-

CHILDS

We found him like this! Kendall was

with me the whole- Listen to me!

Mueller, finally seeming to understand. Lowering the gun.

MUELLER

Jesus, Jesus fucking Christ...

Muttering to himself, walking in circles.

CHILDS

Where's Pike?
No response.

CHILDS

Mueller, where's Pike?
Mueller looks up.

MUELLER

We got- I don't know, we got separated

CHILDS

Before or after the explosion?

(no response)

Mueller-

MUELLER

I don't know!

37.

KENDALL

How can you not know-
Mueller comes at him, screaming:

MUELLER

Shut the fuck up, you fucking faggot,
You just shut the FUCK UP-

CHILDS

HEY!

Mueller stops, eyes crazed. Childs looks to the sky, which
is becoming worse by the second.

CHILDS

We have to get out of this. To find
the cabin.

He helps Kendall to his feet.

KENDALL

What about Pike?

CHILDS

Maybe he'll be there. Either way,
we have to go.

Kendall nods, slowly. The two start up the hill.

MUELLER

Shouldn't we- I mean, we shouldn't
just leave him here.

He points down to West's body. Childs looks at it.

CHILDS

You can carry him if you want.

He and Kendall continue on. Mueller lingers a moment longer
and then turns, following them up the hill.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- LAST NIGHT

Kendall, Childs, and Mueller make their way through the bush.
The WIND and RAIN have conspired into a FULL BLOWN HURRICANE.
The three men are practically stumbling now, leaning in
against it to stay on their feet. Kendall spies something
through the maelstrom. It looks like WET WOOD. He points:

KENDALL

There!

THE CABIN -- Wooden, one story, and large, it resembles a

solidly built shack. It is being thrashed by the storm.

38.

The trio stumble towards the front door...

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Obviously abandoned. Bare of any furniture save for two wooden chairs next to an empty fireplace.

DUNBAR and NUNEZ shout in surprise as the three men practically collapse into the cabin. Dunbar runs to bolt the door against the elements as Nunez helps them up.

NUNEZ

What happened to you-

MUELLER

What happened to you?

DUNBAR

We finished the course and came here,
Then heard an explosion-

(to Mueller)

Where's Pike?

CHILDS

We don't know. West is dead.

Silence. Dunbar and Nunez stare at him. Mueller jerks a hand towards Kendall and Childs.

MUELLER

They found him. Poor fucker was
Practically blown in half-

KENDALL

Poor fucker my ass...

MUELLER

You better watch it, faggot, I'm not
Sure you and Childs didn't do him-

CHILDS

What about you, wandering around
Alone? At least we have an alibi-

DUNBAR

What do you mean, alone?

MUELLER

Pike and I got separated-

KENDALL

Yeah and he doesn't know when-

MUELLER

I remember now, it was before the
Explosion-

39.

KENDALL

Oh, you remember now-

MUELLER

I'm about two seconds away from seeing
If fairies really can fly-

NUNEZ

What about Pike?

Mueller stops, as the others turn towards the big man.
Silence. They realize what the question means.

DUNBAR

He wouldn't kill anybody. . .

MUELLER

Oh, bullshit, he's a fucking convict.
You know how much he hated West-

DUNBAR

I hated West, Childs hated West,
everyone with a goddamn brain hated
West but that doesn't mean we killed
him!

NUNEZ

What if it wasn't one of us? What
if it was a local-

KENDALL

He was blown up by a phosphorous
grenade, they don't exactly sell
those at 7-11.

MUELLER

Look, here are the facts - Roberto
was with Dunbar, Queen Kendall was
with Childs, and Pike's the only one
not here. He did it!

The others nod, becoming convinced.

CHILDS

He is the only one unaccounted for.

KENDALL

Maybe he's dead too. Maybe you killed
Them both, Mueller-

DUNBAR

Shut up.

(to Mueller)

Let me see your grenades.

MUELLER

Why?

40.

DUNBAR

We were each given three so whoever
killed West will be missing one.
Mueller angrily digs into his sack and pulls out his grenades.

MUELLER

See? Three. Now can we please-
He stops. Hearing a SOUND outside. Through the wind and
rain, FOOTSTEPS on the porch.
They all turn to the door. Waiting...
The DOOR SWINGS OPEN.. Pike. Covered in BLOOD.

PIKE

Hey, guys.

They stare at him as he calmly closes the door and walks
over to the empty FIREPLACE. Finally:

DUNBAR

Whose blood is that, Jay? West's.

PIKE

Any kindling for a fire?

He looks around for kindling. A beat.

DUNBAR

What do you mean, West's?

PIKE

I mean I killed him.

(pause)

Isn't that what we all wanted?

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

HARDY

He admitted it.

KENDALL

Right in front of us. Mueller went after him but we held him back. Pike surrendered and volunteered to be tied up. So we roped him to a chair and tried to ride out the storm.

OSBORNE

Why would he just surrender?

Kendall turns to her and smiles.

KENDALL

Because he had a plan.

41.

INT. CABIN -- LIVING ROOM -- LAST NIGHT

Pike, tied to a chair by the fireplace while the others look for, food in the KITCHEN. Alone, Kendall walks past Pike:

PIKE

Hey, Kendall, talk to you for a sec?

Kendall looks around - there seems no harm in it.

PIKE

You hated West as much as I did. I'm not saying what I did was right, but you can't tell me you're not glad the motherfucker's dead.

Kendall says nothing. Pike looks around, makes sure no one is listening and then whispers:

PIKE

The thing is, we've got a real opportunity here. You turn me in tomorrow and we're both fucked-

KENDALL

What are you talking about?

PIKE

A gay Senator's son who let his Sarge get fragged on a training exercise? The press'll crucify you and your father. His career will be over and it'll be your fault. But we do this

different and you come out a hero.
On Kendall, thinking about it. A beat.

KENOALL

How?

PIKE

Mueller. He's as bad as West and we
both know it. Now I can't do it,
cause I'm tied up, but we get the
others to go along-

KENDALL

Don't think I want to hear this-

PIKE

Someone else can do the deed, it
doesn't have to be you. Maybe Nunez
too, he's got a tendency to follow
Mueller, but the rest of us can come
out ahead - the guys who took out
their Sergeant's killers!

(MORE)

42.

PIKE (CONT'D)

We'll move the bodies out to the
creek and say we came over the hill
right as they fragged West, all we
gotta do is tell the story right.

Kendall stares at him. Disgusted.

KENDALL

You're sick, Pike.

He turns and walks away. Pike watches him go.

KENDALL (V.O.)

Later on I saw him talking to Dunbar.
They had been close. I was in another
room when it happened.

INT. CABIN -- KITCHEN LAST NIGHT

Kendall, looking through the empty cabinets for food when
A GUNSHOT -- From the living room. As Kendall bolts towards
the noise, the air is filled with the sounds of SCREAMING
and SHOOTING! He pushes through the door...

INT. CABIN -- LIVING ROOM -- LAST NIGHT

Kendall, coming through the door as we SLO-MO...
Mueller, sprawled out on the floor, dead... Pike, tied to
the chair, bullethole in his forehead... Nunez, wounded,
stumbling out the front door into the hurricane...
And a badly wounded Childs, pistol out, TURNING towards the
SOUND OF THE DOOR and FIRING...
Kendall's arm, HIT with a SLUG, and he starts to go down...
FREEZE-FRAME -- On Kendall's form, falling.

KENDALL (V.O.)

I don't think he meant to do it. It
was just reflex - he'd already been
gutshot. I must have passed out

cause next thing I knew...

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- DAWN

The sounds of RUNNING and HEAVY BREATHING. Kendall's eyes flutter open. He's on Dunbar's back, being carried through the woods. The sound of GUNFIRE and a TREE BRANCH SHATTERS next to them. Someone is chasing them. Trying to kill them. Nunez.

43.

Dunbar bobs and weaves as another volley of bullets comes from behind and we can now hear ROTOR BLADES APPROACHING...

EXT. CLEARING -- DAWN

As Dunbar bursts into the sunlight, carrying Kendall. The entire thing dreamlike, what we saw at the opening, but from KENDALL'S VIEWPOINT -- the helicopter overhead, Nunez behind, Dunbar turning and shooting, NUNEZ GOING DOWN...

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

KENDALL

And that's it.

Hardy is silent. Staring at him.

OSBORNE

Nunez was chasing Dunbar.

KENDALL

Because he'd shot Mueller.

OSBORNE

But you didn't see it, right?

KENDALL

Like I said, I was in the kitchen. When I came out, Mueller and Pike were dead, Nunez and Childs were hit and Dunbar was gone.

HARDY

Why did he come back for you?

KENDALL

I honestly don't know. Maybe to have someone to cover for him. And I wish I could, but there's no doubt in my mind he killed those men.

Silence. Kendall's got nothing more to say.

HARDY

Okay. I think that's it. He rises and walks to the door.

KENDALL

Mr. Hardy?

Hardy turns back.

KENDALL

What did Dunbar tell you?

44.

Hardy smiles and pushes out the door...

EXT. STYLES' OFFICE -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne stand before the Colonel, filling him in.

HARDY

Pike killed West, Dunbar killed
Mueller, Childs, and Nunez.

STYLES

Who killed Pike?

HARDY

Someone must have got a shot off.
He wasn't exactly a moving target.

Styles turns to Osborne.

STYLES

What do you think?

OSBORNE

It's too neat.

HARDY

"Too neat." How long have you been
an investigator?

OSBORNE

I don't think that has anything to
do with-

HARDY

That means under a year. Let me
explain what ten years of police
work has taught me - murder is basic.
There are no conspiracies, no grand
mysteries, and no evil puppet masters
behind it all, pulling the strings;
murder is shitty people doing a shitty
thing to other shitty people - it
doesn't always make sense but it's
always neat. Dunbar's our guy.

Osborne struggles to put it into words.

OSBORNE

I just... He came back for Kendall.
I don't think he's capable of murder.

HARDY

Everyone's capable of murder, Osborne.

Osborne turns, making her case to Styles.

OSBORNE

Look, all we've got is what Kendall says, and he didn't actually witness any deaths except Nunez. He found West, he saw Mueller and Pike, but just their bodies - he didn't see any crime committed.

HARDY

Well, I'm sure if he'd known this was all going to happen he'd have Tried harder to witness it for you-

STYLES

West's body isn't in the creek bed. They stop arguing, turning to look at him.

STYLES

We've already been over the terrain twice. Nothing.

HARDY

There was a hurricane, Bill, the wind probably moved it.

STYLES

Habeas Corpus - you have to have a body to have a crime.

HARDY

Okay, then let's widen the search 'to include the endzone in Giants Stadium and the trunk of my car-

STYLES

Without the body we have no physical proof. We need a confession.

HARDY

From Dunbar? I hate to break this to you, but I don't think he's gonna be all that psyched to put himself in for the death penalty.

STYLES

Nevertheless-

HARDY

Nevertheless what'? Kendall will testify and that'll be enough.

STYLES

Not for me.

A beat. Almost accusingly:

HARDY

You mean not enough to save you.

STYLES

JAG gets here in three hours. Try for the confession.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- DAY

Dunbar looks up as Hardy and Osborne enter.

HARDY

(cheerfully)

Hey, Ray! Just had a nice talk with your buddy. Kendall - seems you killed three people!

DUNBAR

That son of a bitch.

HARDY

That'd be my reaction too-

DUNBAR

He's lying.

HARDY

Well, why didn't you say so? We'll just drop all your charges, then-

DUNBAR

I'm serious-

Hardy leans across the table.

HARDY

Fuck "you're serious", Raymond, you got exactly zero truck with us; right now we'd take the word of a crackhead over yours, so if you've got something to say, say it.

DUNBAR

Did Kendall tell you about the PX?

OSBORNE

He said he worked there-

DUNBAR

No, did he tell you about it? About the business Childs ran?

OSBORNE

What business?

47.

DUNBAR

Pills, shots, you name it, Basic's a lot easier when you don't feel pain-

HARDY

So Childs made some side money, so what? People are dead, Ray, and the only one we have to blame is you-

DUNBAR

Didn't shoot West-

HARDY

Yeah, we know, Pike did.

Dunbar stares at him.

DUNBAR

You think you know everything, don't you? You haven't even scratched the surface.

Hardy leans across the table, looks Dunbar dead in the eye.

HARDY

I know enough to know you got two choices - you can sign a confession, in which case you'll probably spend the rest of your life in a military prison, or you can tell us to fuck off, in which case you'll probably get the gas chamber.

(smiling)

Am I scratching your surface yet?

Dunbar stares at him for a moment and then LAUNCHES HIMSELF at Hardy, SCREAMING. Tackles him to the floor, CHOKING HIM... Osborne, pulling her sidearm, and PISTOL WHIPPING Dunbar in the head! Dunbar goes sprawling off Hardy as M.P.'s rush into the room, RESTRAINING him.

Hardy gets up, gasping, and stumbles to the door.

OSBORNE

Hardy!

But he's already gone.

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- CORRIDORS -- DAY

Hardy, walking angrily towards the front entrance, wheezing and massaging his neck. Osborne, running to catch up.

HARDY

Why the fuck wasn't he in restraints?

48.

OSBORNE

I don't know.

Styles appears at the end of the hall.

STYLES

Tom, where are you going-

HARDY

Home, I'm done.

STYLES

What about the confession?

Hardy stares at him. ..

HARDY

You want a confession? Why don't you confess, Bill: people are dead and you don't give a shit about it! Only reason you called me is to protect your fucking job, you know this is your fault-

STYLES

What the hell are you talking about-

HARDY

I'm talking about West! We had him, Bill, we were there. You're the fucking Base Commander, you knew what he did to Cadets and you let him go on the way he always he has- Styles couldn't reassign him, he's a legend-

HARDY

You knew what he was capable of and you just stood by. It was just a matter of time till somebody fragged his ass, and you know what? He deserved it. There's your confession.

He pushes past a shocked Styles and walks out the door.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- PARADE GROUNDS -- DAY

Hardy storms across the grass. Osborne, still following.

OSBORNE

Goddammit, Hardy, you can't just leave-

HARDY

Watch me.

49.

OSBORNE

You said you owed Styles and now you're gonna turn your back on him? Hardy whirls on her.

HARDY

West was a monster! Fifteen years ago, I was here, I was Section Eight, I was Pike. Fuck being the knife dummy- that thing he did, stripping Pike down, making him stand outside all night? He did that every year, he did that to me. Fifteen years ago, I wanted him dead, and now I'm supposed to care that somebody offed him? Sorry, no can do. I tried.

OSBORNE

You did more than try. You cracked Dunbar in less than three minutes, as an investigator you're phenomenal-

HARDY

Phenomenal at taking bribes, right?
A beat. Osborne shakes her head.

OSBORNE

I was starting to believe you, you know? That you weren't who everyone said. I guess I was wrong-

HARDY

Oh, spare me the reverse psychology bullshit! This isn't my "great second chance", Osborne. Everyone thinks I'm a piece of shit cop who took money and nothing is going to change that. Nobody will ever know what happens here-

OSBORNE

But you will.
Hardy stares at her.

HARDY

Why do you care?

OSBORNE

Because it's my job. Because people are dead. Because of the whole honor and duty thing, make a difference in the world, crap like that.

(pause)

We can do this, Hardy.

50.

Hardy looks at the ground.

OSBORNE

Two and a half hours. That's all I'm asking. Two and a half hours to maybe get the truth. Silence.

Hardy looks back up at her. Speaking softly:

HARDY

I didn't shoot West...

OSBORNE

What?

HARDY

Dunbar... He said he didn't shoot West. West wasn't shot, Kendall said he was blown apart by a phosphorous grenade and Dunbar never saw the body.

They stare at each other for a moment...

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne enter to find Dunbar in SHACKLES.

DUNBAR

Apologize-

HARDY

You saw West's body.

DUNBAR

Of course-

OSBORNE

Where?

DUNBAR

The creek bed-

HARDY

And he'd been shot.

DUNBAR

Yeah-

OSBORNE

What about the phosphorous grenade?

DUNBAR

One went off, yeah, but it didn't
Touch him- I thought you knew this-

51.

HARDY

Tell it to me.

INT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED -- LAST NIGHT

Dunbar and Nunez RUNNING towards the glow of phosphorous and sound of GUNFIRE. They come over the hill to see Childs and Kendall, standing over WEST'S BODY. Dunbar stops, shocked.

DUNBAR

Holy fuck... Holy fuck, what the
fuck did you guys do?

CHILDS

We found him like this...

Dunbar edges closer, looking at West. With BULLET HOLES.
His chest, riddled.

KENDALL

Somebody emptied a full clip into
him-

HARDY (V.O.)

Stop.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

HARDY

Kendall told us Mueller was the one
who found them with West's body.

DUNBAR

He's lying, then. We didn't see
Mueller till we got to the cabin.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Dunbar, Kendall, Childs, and Nunez push through the door to
find Mueller in his undershirt, a FIRE burning in the hearth.

MUELLER

Jesus, what happened?

DUNBAR

(breathing hard)

West...he's dead.

OSBORNE (V.O.)

Back up.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

OSBORNE

Mueller was alone in the cabin?

52.

DUNBAR

Yeah.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

MUELLER

Pike and I got separated... then I heard gunfire. Close.

DUNBAR

So did we. Why didn't you come?

Mueller looks down, scared.

MUELLER

I was afraid... Mueller voice FADES OUT as he continues to talk.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I didn't buy it. But Mueller had all three of his grenades.

Mueller shows his three grenades to the others.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

OSBORNE

At least you and Kendall agree on that.

HARDY

What happened next? Dunbar shudders.

DUNBAR

Pike came back.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Pike, staggering in through the door. The others get up from where they are sitting - it's been awhile since they arrived. Pike shouts at Mueller:

PIKE

What the fuck happened to you-

MUELLER

What the fuck happened to you? One minute you're next to me and the

next you're gone and the sky lights
up like fucking Christmas-

DUNBAR

Where have you been, Jay?

53.

PIKE

Wandering through a hurricane trying
to find this place. It's gettin'
bad out there-

(looking around)

Where's West?

CHILDS

Yeah, right. . .

DUNBAR

Shut up.

(to Pike)

West's dead.

A beat.

PIKE

What?

Silence. All of them staring at Pike.

DUNBAR

Where have you been, Jay?

Pike, suddenly understanding. Fear creeping into his face.

PIKE

Oh, no. . . no, fuck that-

He moves to the door, but. . .

NUNEZ

Hey!

Nunez, with his PISTOL out. Trained on Pike.

PIKE

Roberto, what the fuck?

DUNBAR

We just want to check your pack-

PIKE

Why?

MUELLER

Whoever shot the Sarge blew a grenade
first-

PIKE

Blame the nigger, then, huh? Someone
turns up dead, you just look for the
Darkest face in the crowd-

DUNBAR

You know it's not like that-

54.

PIKE

Do I?

The CLICK as Nunez pulls back the pistol's hammer.

NUNEZ

Let him check your pack.

Pike stares at them and then throws his pack down, angrily. Dunbar goes to it, opens it, and reaches in. Pulls his hand out. Only TWO GRENADES. Looks at Pike. Sadly.

DUNBAR

Tie him up.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Later. The fury of the storm has increased. Kendall, Childs, Nunez, and Mueller, in the KITCHEN looking for food.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Pike, tied to the chair. Dunbar sitting in a corner, listening to the hurricane rage outside. Pike watches him.

PIKE

Just like the first day, huh? You standing guard on me.

A CREAKING as the cabin SHIFTS on it's foundation. Dunbar looks up at the roof, scared. It holds.

PIKE

This place ain't gonna hold much longer.

Dunbar doesn't reply. Still staring nervously at the roof. Pike looks to make sure the others out of earshot, then:

PIKE

You and me are friends, right?

No reply.

PIKE

Right?

DUNBAR

Yeah...

Pike takes a deep breath.

PIKE

You gotta untie me.
(off Dunbar's look)
I didn't do this thing, Ray.

55.

DUNBAR

You hated West more than any of us.

PIKE

Maybe, but that don't make me a killer-

DUNBAR

You're the only one missing a grenade.

PIKE

Which anyone coulda taken out of my gear on the chopper. Were you watching your pack on the ride in?

Dunbar starts to get up.

PIKE

Ray, this is my life here. I ain't gonna pretend I'm not happy West is gone, but you know I couldn't have

done this. It's not in me.

DUNBAR

If not you, then who?

PIKE

Mueller.

DUNBAR

Oh, come on-

PIKE

We're sweeping our area and suddenly he's gone. Couple minutes later, phosphorous grenade pops off about a third of a click away-

DUNBAR

That's exactly what he says about you.

PIKE

Who you gonna trust, Ray? Him or your friend?

Dunbar stares at him.

DUNBAR

You hated West, Mueller loved him-

PIKE

Enough to go to prison? Childs' PX Scam, Mueller was in on it-

DUNBAR

Bullshit.

56.

PIKE

Look in my pack.

DUNBAR

Why?

PIKE

Just look. Little pocket.

Dunbar walks over to Pike's pack and unzips it. Checks the little pocket. Pulls out a VIAL and a SYRINGE.

PIKE

Combat grade morphine. Mueller sold it to me. .

DUNBAR

You're lying-

PIKE

Pull up my sleeve. Right arm.

Dunbar does to reveal a cluster of TRACK MARKS.

PIKE

That look like a lie to you? I been using solid for the last eight weeks.

Dunbar sits down. Not knowing what to say.

PIKE

After that first night on the parade Grounds with you, I was bad - Exposure, malnutrition, the works.

I needed something to keep me from crashing. Mueller found me.

INT. CADET SHOWERS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO

Empty except for Pike. He sits, nude, curled up on the tile, as the nozzles blast STEAMING WATER down onto his shivering form. FOOTSTEPS approaching. Mueller. He leans down next to Pike, speaking to him. Kindly.

PIKE (V.O.)

He said he knew guy who had an in at the PX, could hook me up. This is before I knew what a dick he was.

As Mueller produces a SYRINGE from his pocket...

INT. BASE PX -- BACKROOM -- SIX WEEKS AGO

A covert meeting among stacks of supplies. Childs stands with Mueller, talking to a gaunt Pike. Behind Pike are a group of other SICKLY LOOKING CADETS, all jonesing.

57.

PIKE

Later on Childs got assigned there, started running the shit out to every cadet who needed it. But I was our class's first customer.. .

Pike hands the smiling Mueller a WAD OF CASH...

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Dunbar staring open mouthed at Pike. Shocked.

DUNBAR

Why... why didn't you tell me?

PIKE

Becoming a morphine addict during Basic ain't exactly something you want to broadcast. Only Mueller and Childs know.

A beat. Dunbar gets to his feet.

DUNBAR

That still doesn't mean you didn't kill him.

PIKE

You saw West, right? How was he killed?

DUNBAR

Full clip to the body-

PIKE

From up close or far away?

DUNBAR

His chest was hamburger-

PIKE

That's close range. You go full auto on a guy from close range, you're gonna be swimming in blood. Look at my uniform. Nothing.

Dunbar looks. Not a speck of blood on it.

PIKE

And where's Mueller's? When I came in, he was only wearing a t-shirt. Dunbar looks over to fireplace, where ashes are smoldering...
FLASHCUT TO - When Dunbar first entered the Cabin: Mueller, standing there in a T-SHIRT, a FIRE burning in the hearth.

58.

PIKE

Way I figure it, West must have found out about their little business and was gonna bust them, so they decided to get rid of him first...

DUNBAR

(softly)

They?

PIKE

Mueller and Childs. One of them must've taken the grenade from my pack on the chopper...

INT. TRANSPORT HELICOPTER (FLYING) -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

The Sectioners sit, stonefaced, staring out the window. CLOSE ON - Mueller's hand as it snakes into Pike's pack and extracts a phosphorous grenade.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Mueller and Pike, twenty feet apart, scouring the brush for targets. Mueller looks to Pike and then slips away...

PIKE (V.O.)

Then Mueller ditches me during the exercise and heads for the creek.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED,-- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Mueller stands on the hill and pulls the grenades pin, tossing it down the embankment. . .

PIKE (V.O.)

He blows the grenade to frame me and gets West to come running... .

The grenade BLOWS, setting the entire area AGLOW...

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Kendall and Childs, turning towards the sound...

Note: Each shot of Kendall and Childs in this sequence should correspond exactly to Kendall's Flashback.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED -- NIGHT

West emerges from the bush at a sprint.

WEST

What the fuck is going on?!

Mueller runs down the embankment toward him.

59.

MUELLER

Don't know, sir, I-
Six feet away from West, Mueller suddenly raises his rifle and PULLS THE TRIGGER.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Kendall and Childs, running in the direction of the grenade...

PIKE

Childs' job is easy, he only has to
delay Kendall long enough for Mueller
to get away.

Suddenly MACHINE GUNFIRE shatters the night!

CHILDS

GET DOWN!

He tackles Kendall into the mud.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Mueller, smoking rifle in hand, uniform covered in blood
stands over WEST'S DEAD BODY. He turns and runs off INTO
THE BRUSH. A moment later, Childs and Kendall come into
view at the top of the embankment...

PIKE (V.O.)

Now all Mueller has to do is get rid
of the evidence...

INT. CABIN -- EARLIER LAST NIGHT

Mueller, still covered in blood, enters the dark cabin. He
strips of his shirt and throws it in the fireplace. Striking
a match, igniting the bloody rag... .

PIKE (V.O.)

And wait for everyone else to arrive.

Mueller, watching the evidence burn...

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Pike sighs, finished with his story.

DUNBAR

I... I don't know...

PIKE

What don't you know?

DUNBAR

This is a lot of information to be
Getting... I have to think-

60.

The hurricane outside GROWING LOUDER as the Cabin ROCKS again.
The sound of WOOD SNAPPING. Pike stares up at the roof.

PIKE

There's no time to think, Ray, we
gotta get out of here! You untie
me, we grab the guns, get Kendall
and Nunez, and make a run for it-

DUNBAR

No... no, we can just wait till we
get back and then tell the M.P.'s-

PIKE

We wait and I'm a dead man. I got a
black face, a criminal record, and
over a hundred other cadets who'll
testify how much I hated West - my
court martial will take six minutes.

It's either me or them, Ray, and you
gotta decide right now.
The cabin SHIFTS again. Dunbar stares at him.

PIKE

Untie me.
Dunbar doesn't move.

PIKE

Untie me, Ray.
A long beat. The two men stare at each other.
And then Dunbar pulls his knife from his boot and leans down
to cut Pike's bonds.

PIKE

Thank God. . .

MUELLER (O.S.)

What the fuck are you doing?
Dunbar freezes. Caught.
He looks to the open kitchen door where Mueller stands.

MUELLER

Guys, get out here!
The others enter the room. Dunbar, kneeling there, knife
inches away from severing Pike's ropes.

PIKE

This place is going, Mueller. We
gotta move-

61.

MUELLER

Shut the fuck up.
(to the others)
He was gonna cut him loose.
The others stare at Dunbar.

NUNEZ

Why?

PIKE

Cause I didn't do it.
Childs motions to Dunbar.

CHILDS

Get away from there.
He's serious. Dunbar moves away from Pike.

MUELLER

We all know what you did, Pike. I
don't know what kind of nigger voodoo
You been working in here, but-

PIKE

Where's your shirt, Mueller?

MUELLER

Used it to start the fire-

PIKE

Still got mine on, not a speck of
blood on it. Not a bad trick for a
murderer- you said you burned yours?
The others begin to look at Mueller with new eyes.

MUELLER

Was freezing from the hurricane-

KENDALL

So you took off your shirt?

MUELLER

To start a fire, goddammit!

(pointing to Pike)

What about him, huh? Maybe he offed
the Sarge and changed shirts, brought
an extra one in his pack. Y'ever
think of that? Go ahead, cut him
loose! First chance he gets, he'll
waste the rest of us, that's how
they work-

The hurricane, reaching FEVER PITCH outside as WATER begins
leaking in through the roof.

62.

PIKE

Goddammit, Ray, we gotta get out of
Here-

MUELLER

We're not going anywhere.

PIKE TURNS TO MUELLER:

PIKE

Cadet Michael Mueller, I hereby place
you under military arrest for the
Murder of Sergeant Nathan West-

MUELLER

The fuck are you talking about-

PIKE

You are to be stripped of all weapons
And placed under guard-

MUELLER

Bullshit-

PIKE

Until we return to base, and
ballistics can match your weapon to
the slugs in Sergeant West's body-

MUELLER

Shut up!

Mueller pulls his SIDEARM and POINTS IT AT PIKE.

KENDALL

Mueller, what the fuck-

DUNBAR

Don't do this-

Pike, EYES LOCKED with Mueller. Continuing:

PIKE

A test will no doubt link you to the
Killing-

DUNBAR

Put it down!

MUELLER

Tell him to shut up-

PIKE

-failure to comply with this arrest
is a court martialable offense in
and of itself-

63.

KENDALL

Pike, please-

PIKE

Although that won't matter much when
Coupled with the murder charge-

MUELLER

SHUT THE FUCK UP YOU FUCKING NIGGER-

Pike leans forward.

PIKE

You stupid white trash motherfucker,
I saw you do it-

And Mueller FIRES.

Pike's head SNAPS BACK.

The gunshot, DEAFENING. Then, for an eternity, SILENCE.
Nobody moves. Nobody breathes. As if time has stopped.

KENDALL

Oh... my God...

Mueller lowers his arm, the pistol clattering to the floor.
His face, as shocked as the others.

MUELLER

He wouldn't... stop talking...

He takes a step forward towards Pike. A hole in the middle
of the black man's forehead.

DUNBAR

(softly)

So you killed him?

MUELLER

I. . .

Almost mechanically, Dunbar begins to reach for his own gun...
The unmistakable sound of a two rifles' magazines being RACKED
simultaneously. Dunbar turns to see Childs and Nunez, their
M-16's in hand. Levelled at him.

CHILDS

Get that hand away.

Dunbar does. Looks to Nunez.

DUNBAR

You too?

64.

CHILDS

We can still come out of this okay.
Pike got free, he got a gun, he came
after us. That's the story.

Mueller collapses on the ground. Head in hands.

MUELLER

West was one thing, but this-

CHILDS

Shut up, Mueller.

KENDALL

You framed-him...

CHILDS

None of that matters now. We got two dead bodies and a story that explains them. You're either with us, or against us - which is it?

Dunbar and Kendall, looking at each other. It's clear what the wrong answer will mean. A long beat, until

KENDALL

Okay-

He is cut off as the WIND outside ROARS - the HURRICANE mounting to it's FULL FORCE - and the WINDOWS BLOW INWARDS, showering Childs, Mueller, and Nunez with glass! Dunbar's hand flies to his pistol, PULLING IT... Mueller, SCREAMING, trying to claw the glass from his EYES... Childs, seeing Dunbar move, PULLS THE TRIGGER... . And the cabin is filled with the THUNDER OF GUNFIRE as Kendall goes down, clutching his ARM... DUNBAR FIRES, hitting Childs directly in the chest... Childs, still shooting, falls back, his random spray of bullets PUNCHING INTO MUELLER who jerks like a marionette... Nunez, drawing a bead on Dunbar, about to shoot, when... A great CRESCENDO of WOOD SPLINTERING and SUPPORTS BUCKLING overtakes them and the CABIN'S ROOF COMES DOWN ON THEIR HEADS.

EXT. DEMOLISHED CABIN -- FIRST LIGHT

Hours later. The rain has lessened and the Hurricane has begun to lift as Dunbar pulls himself from the debris. Hearing a FAINT CRY from his left.

65.

Kendall. Half conscious, his arm, bloody. Dunbar slings the man across his shoulders as the rising sun begins to peak through the clouds overhead.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- SUNRISE

Dunbar, carrying Kendall towards the clearing when GUNFIRE comes from behind. He turns to look... Nunez. The only other survivor from the Cabin. A hundred yards back, rifle in hand, coming after them with a vengeance. Dunbar, sprinting towards the clearing, bullets at his heels and as he bursts from the tree line he looks up to see a **HELICOPTER OVERHEAD**

DUNBAR (V.O.)

And then I killed the last of them.

FLASHCUT TO - Nunez, chest blown open, going down...

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

And we're back to the interrogation. Dunbar, stubbing out a cigarette and looking up at Hardy and Osborne.

DUNBAR

Can I have some coffee?
Osborne blinks, like a trance has been broken.

OSBORNE

Yeah... yeah, sure.
She goes over to the machine and pours a cup.

HARDY

You shot Childs and Nunez.

DUNBAR

They would have killed us both. You want me to write a confession, I'll write a confession.

HARDY

You saved Kendall's life-

DUNBAR

But not Pike's.
Osborne hands him the coffee.

OSBORNE

Why didn't you tell us all this in the first place?

66.

DUNBAR

Would you have believed me?
Their faces say "no". Osborne spreads a MAP out on the table.

OSBORNE

Where's the cabin?

DUNBAR

Don't know on a map. West told us it was there, we just found it. Maybe the hurricane took it away.

HARDY

Raymond, for you to have any chance of coming out of this, we need to locate the other bodies and examine them to corroborate your testimony. Otherwise this is just another story-

DUNBAR

Mr. Hardy, I joined the army for college money. I didn't ask for any of this - I tried to do the right thing out there and people got killed. You say finding those bodies'll help me, then go find them. I don't want to die.

EXT. FOR MCKINLEY -- CORRIDORS -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne, walking and talking.

OSBORNE

Talk it through: Childs, Mueller, and Nunez know they're going out on the regular Tuesday Night drill, hurricane or no hurricane, so they

plan it: Kill West, pin it on Pike.

HARDY

And they're smart about it. They know when you commit a crime you know is going to be investigated, you need a fall guy and for that to work, you have to have a witness.

OSBORNE

Dunbar.

HARDY

Exactly, someone who's not involved, who's word can't be questioned. You only let them see what you want them to see, you make them believe, so when the time comes, they've totally bought into your version of events.

67.

OSBORNE

They believe the innocent are guilty and the guilty are innocent.

HARDY

And if they're asked, that's what they'll tell the, world.

OSBORNE

So it's a good plan but it goes wrong; Mueller flips out and shoots their fall guy, which means they have to bring Dunbar and Kendall into the Cover story-

HARDY

Kendall maybe would have agreed, but The hurricane buttfucks the cabin-

OSBORNE

Buttfucks the cabin?

HARDY

And all hell breaks loose. A lot of Good guys shoot a lot of bad guys and whiz, bang, zoom, happy ending.

OSBORNE

So why, after Dunbar drags Kendall out from under a house, does the Senator's son try and get us to put his savior in the gas chamber?

HARDY

That bugs you too?

OSBORNE

Little bit.

HARDY

Let's go talk to Bill...

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne stand in front of an agitated Styles. He

tries to take a hit off his asthma inhaler and gets nothing. Frustrated, he tosses it away.

STYLES

Fucking asthma... This whole thing's driving it nuts.

A beat.

HARDY

What I said before-

68.

STYLES

Was dead right. You think Dunbar's on the level?

HARDY

Yeah.

STYLES

Does Osborne agree?

OSBORNE

Yes, sir, I do.

Hardy lays a piece of paper on Styles' desk.

HARDY

Dunbar's confession. It should be enough to get you out of trouble.

Styles looks at it and then slowly up to Hardy.

STYLES

You want Kendall, don't you?

OSBORNE

He tried to burn Dunbar to us. You don't do that if you're not involved.

Hardy nods, agreeing. Styles stares at them.

STYLES

You both know if you do this, if you go after a Senator's son and you're wrong... it's not just me in the hot seat anymore.

OSBORNE

We know.

STYLES

(to Hardy)

I'm giving you a chance to walk away.

HARDY

We know.

Styles nods and looks to his desk. Almost to himself:

STYLES

You don't get to be a Colonel without compromising. Without getting out of the way of the bigger dogs. You politic, play it safe, think of the career first. And when things get dirty, you just look the other way...

He looks back up at Hardy. His eyes, steeled.

STYLES

Four of my men are dead. You think Kendall had something to do with it, then you go get the son of a bitch.

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Kendall lies in his bed, looking worse than before. Hardy and Osborne enter.

OSBORNE

Pike never confessed.

KENDALL

We've been making progress, I see.

Osborne looks to her watch. Kendall notices.

KENDALL

Running out of time, are we? Tick-Tock, tick-tock, how long till your witnesses fly the coop?

OSBORNE

Fifty minutes.

KENDALL

Not much time to solve the crime. Tell me, detective, how did it feel taking blood money from Guissepe Torres? Did it weigh on your conscience or did you just not think about it?

HARDY

You tried to pin three stone murders on Dunbar-

KENDALL

How many murders did you cover up? One? Five? Maybe an even ten.

HARDY

(to Osborne)

Can I go to jail for punching a guy who's been shot?

Kendall begins coughing.

KENDALL

I think they're giving me the wrong

medicine. This isn't a very good
Hospital, you know-

Hardy sighs and goes to the sink to get him some water.

70.

KENDALL

Epileptic attacks are murder on your
system. Rattle your internal organs
like a paint mixer.

HARDY

My heart weeps.

He returns with a GLASS OF WATER and hands it to Kendall.

OSBORNE

Pike never confessed.

KENDALL

No, but it got you interested, didn't
it? Got you to dig. Inspired Ray
to tell you terribly sordid tales
about drugs and creek beds and dead
little sergeants who stuck their
noses where they didn't belong.

HARDY

Is it the truth?

KENDALL

There's that word again.
(smiling)

As I told you, I wasn't in the room
when everyone started shooting.

OSBORNE

Dunbar says you were.

KENDALL

Then he's mistaken. You know, I
really don't think my father would
approve of this line of questioning-

HARDY

Why did you tell us he shot everybody,
Levi? You put him in for three
murders, the man saved your life-

KENDALL

So I should stay silent about his
misdeeds? The guns went off, I ran
in, Childs shot me, Pike and Mueller
were dead, and Dunbar was running
out the door with the smoking gun-

HARDY

Dunbar was running out the door?
Ohhhhhh... See that's where I was
confused, because I thought you said
Nunez was running out the door.

71.

KENDALL

No. I said Dunbar.

HARDY

Huh. You know, I really thought you said Nunez. I thought you said "Dunbar was gone," My fault, I gotta check the tape on that.

(off Kendall's look)

Oh, yeah we taped the last interview. This one too. Cause it'd be a real break for us to catch you in a lie.

Silence. They wait for Kendall's reaction. He looks momentarily flustered by this... and then he smiles.

KENDALL

I believe your next line is "What are you trying to hide?"

HARDY

Well?

KENDALL

Sorry to disappoint. I'm on painkillers for the injury - they cloud the mind. You're right, it was Nunez. Any more questions?

Hardy doesn't know what to say. That was his ace card.

KENDALL

Don't get me wrong, Mueller and Childs were quite the pair, the type of guys you didn't feel comfortable going to sleep around. Completely capable of murder. But as I said, I didn't hear the exchange before the shooting. I wasn't in the room.

Osborne furrows her brow at this as Hardy continues.

HARDY

Dunbar will testify that you were.

KENDALL

Then we'll leave it up to the courts - His word against mine. What does his father do again? Steelworker?
(smiling)

Doesn't matter, I'm sure justice will be served. In any case, my father will definitely want to talk to you about all these questions, these accusations on his son. He's quite protective.

72.

Osborne turns to Hardy.

OSBORNE

I need to talk to you outside.

EXT. BASE HOSPITAL -- CORRIDOR -- DAY

Osborne and Hardy, exiting the room. Whispering:

HARDY

We're fucked, I know-

OSBORNE

They got their stories straight.

HARDY

What?

OSBORNE

What Kendall said - "the type of guys you don't feel comfortable going to sleep around." That's what Dunbar said about Childs to the letter.

HARDY

Are you sure?

OSBORNE

Positive. Hardy, they planned this.

She grins. He grins back.

OSBORNE

Not bad for hostile and uncooperative, eh?

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Hardy and Osborne reenter, smiling. Kendall chuckles.

HARDY

Something funny, Levi?

KENDALL

I was just thinking of what's going to happen to your careers when my father gets through with you.

Hardy pulls the out MICRORECORDER and hands it to Osborne.

HARDY

Why don't you talk to Levi off the record for a second?

OSBORNE

Good idea.

73.

Smiling, she stops the tape. Then turns to Kendall.

OSBORNE

You and Dunbar got your stories straight. Little details, little inconsistencies, designed to bounce us back from one of you to the other, asking questions, killing time, until the transport arrives and whisks you away to where Senator Daddy can protect you. You think you're just going to slide out of this? You're an accessory to murder, Levi, you're Going to jail-

KENDALL

You can't threaten me-

HARDY

Jail if he's lucky, the gas chamber
if he's not-

KENDALL

Didn't do anything-

Osborne laughs.

OSBORNE

It doesn't matter, Levi. We're going
to find those bodies and when we do,
I'm going to make sure one of them
has a bullet in them that matches
your weapon-

KENDALL

What?

HARDY

That's a fantastic idea-

OSBORNE

See, I just take your gun to the
morgue and fire it into one of their
skulls; then I call every newspaper
in the country with the story about
how Senator Kendall's gay son went
nuts on a training mission-

KENDALL

(beginning to panic)

It won't work-

OSBORNE

It will and you know why?

(MORE)

74.

OSBORNE

Because you're not a person anymore,
you're a cadet in the United States
Army; you have no identity, no Miranda
warning, and no rights. So I'm gonna
throw you to the wolves, and unlike
you I'm gonna get away with it,
because you're pissing me off!

She finishes, breathing hard. Kendall, totally cowed. Hardy,
trying to suppress a smile. Osborne rises for the door.

OSBORNE

Enjoy your flight to Washington-

KENDALL

Wait-

OSBORNE

What.

Silence. Kendall takes a deep breath.

KENDALL

Dunbar's telling the truth.

OSBORNE

Wrong answer-

KENDALL

We did get our stories straight, but not because we killed anyone.

(pause)

It was because I threatened him.

HARDY

Why?

KENDALL

Because of what I saw.

(pause)

Who really killed West.

Osborne holds up the microrecorder and starts the tape again.

OSBORNE

Who killed Sergeant West?

Kendall stares at the recorder. A long pause.

OSBORNE

Who, Levi-

KENDALL

Childs.

75.

HARDY

How do you know?

KENDALL

Because I was standing next to him.

He pauses, taking a shaky sip of water.

KENDALL

I was in on the PX thing. He and Mueller and me, we were making thousands. West found out. Childs said we were just gonna scare him - Use my Dad's clout. I had this whole speech prepared about how if he ratted us, his career was over. We met him in the creek bed but before I said anything...

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED -- LAST NIGHT

West stands in front of Childs and Kendall, facing them. Kendall opens his mouth to speak, but Childs steps forward and raises his rifle, FIRING...

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

KENDALL

I swear, I didn't know he was gonna do it. After, he told me we were gonna pin it on Pike, one of our biggest customers.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

As they TIE PIKE to the, chair.

KENDALL (V.O.)

Nobody'd believe the word of a black junkie ex-con against ours.

Childs gives Kendall a look that says "Stay quiet".

KENDALL (V.O.)

He told me I'd better keep quiet, or I'd end up the same as West.

Pan over to Dunbar, who binds his friend, sadly.

KENDALL (V.O.)

Dunbar didn't know anything about any of it. Everything he told you was true, except after...

76.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- LAST NIGHT

Dunbar pulls Kendall from the cabin's wreckage. As Kendall begins to talk to him, Dunbar's eyes widen in shock. ..

KENDALL (V.O.)

I told him what had really happened to West. Told him to keep quiet about it or I'd destroy him. Because if it came out that I was involved with the whole PX scam, my father would be finished.

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

KENDALL

I scared Dunbar into silence. He's been trying to cover for me the whole time. We got here, you came to see me... I didn't know if I could trust him with that kind of secret-

OSBORNE

So you framed him. The same way Childs was going to frame Pike.

Kendall nods. Crying a little.

HARDY

Little advice, Levi, next time you frame a guy, pick someone who can't defend themselves.

Kendall says nothing.

OSBORNE

What happened with Nunez?

KENDALL

He came after us. And I told Dunbar he had to kill him...

EXT. CLEARING -- EARLIER THAT MORNING

The helicopter, hovering overhead. Dunbar, carrying Kendall, spinning his rifle to face Nunez, sixty yards away. Dunbar hesitates before firing, not wanting to...

KENDALL

Do it!

Dunbar's rifle ERUPTS...

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- PRESENT DAY

KENDALL

And he did.

77.

Kendall finishes, wiping his face. Osborne turns to Hardy.

OSBORNE

That's how you do good cop/bad cop.

Hardy smiles and gets up. Walking slowly to Kendall's bed.

HARDY

Childs did it, huh?

Kendall nods, still a little teary.

HARDY

First Pike, then Mueller, now Childs?

When are we getting to the others?

When are we gonna hear about Nunez?

FLASHCUT TO - NUNEZ, in the creek bed, SHOOTING WEST.

HARDY

Or Dunbar?

FLASHCUT TO - Now DUNBAR, SHOOTING WEST.

HARDY

Or you, Levi? When is it finally going to come out that you were the one who killed him?

FLASHCUT TO - KENDALL, SHOOTING WEST.

KENDALL

I didn't-

HARDY

But you can't prove it! You can't prove anything until we find the bodies!

Kendall, crying harder now, beginning to shake.

HARDY

You lied to us, Levi, you're going to the gas chamber unless you tell us where to find them!

KENDALL

I don't know-

HARDY

Where are they!

KENDALL

Maybe-

HARDY

MAYBE WHAT-

78.

KENDALL

MAYBE HE-

And then. His mouth SLAMS SHUT. Teeth cracking together over and over again like a metronome on speed, and his body JERKS HORRIBLY, going horizontal, SHAKING VIOLENTLY!

Osborne, leaping to her feet.

OSBORNE

Get something between his teeth!

Hardy grabs a fork from the bedside table and tries to shove it into Kendall's chattering mouth. His teeth, CLAMPING DOWN on the metal and Hardy's hand, drawing blood.

HARDY

Shit!

The Nurse bursts into the room.

NURSE

What is-

OSBORNE

He's an epileptic!

The Nurse runs to the bed, pushing Hardy aside. As more MEDICAL PERSONNEL runs into the room, they usher Hardy and Osborne to the door.

DOCTOR

You're going to have to wait outside-

OSBORNE

He's a witness!

DOCTOR

It doesn't matter, outside-

KENDALL

F-F-F-F-F-F-Fuh-

Osborne tries to move to him, but the Doctor blocks her path.

OSBORNE

He's trying to say something-

DOCTOR

Out, NOW.

KENDALL

Fuh-Fuh-Fuh-Fuh-Fuh-

Osborne knocks the Doctor down and runs to Kendall's side.

79.

DOCTOR

SECURITY!

Kendall looks up, focusing on Osborne, a slight moment of clarity in his eyes.

KENDALL

Fuh-Fucking Pike.

And relapses into ANOTHER FIT as SECURITY GUARDS drag Hardy and Osborne from the room.

INT. BASE HOSPITAL -- WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Later. Hardy and Osborne sit in silence, eyes downcast. Waiting. Hardy pulls his last cigarette from the pack, lights it, crumples the pack and tosses it into a garbage can.

HARDY

I pushed him too hard.

OSBORNE

You couldn't have known-

HARDY

Yeah, I could've. Should've.

OSBORNE

You wanted to get the truth.

HARDY

No, I didn't. I wanted to humiliate him. For what he did to Dunbar. For fucking over the little guy.

OSBORNE

You mean the falsely accused?

Hardy looks up at her and nods.

OSBORNE

You wanted to break him.

HARDY

Yeah.

OSBORNE

So did I.

She looks back to the floor. Hardy takes a drag from the cigarette, and then tosses that away too.

The door opens and Styles walks into the room. Somber.

STYLES

It's over. Time of death was 4:42.

(MORE)

80.

STYLES (CONT'D)

JAG's been notified and I called the Senator myself. My report will reflect that his medical condition made this unavoidable... you two had no culpability in the matter.

HARDY

That's horseshit and you know it.

STYLES

Maybe. But it's my fault and I'll carry it.

He sighs and takes a seat next to them.

STYLES

We found the cabin. Demolished, like they said. No bodies. Hurricane like that coulda scooped 'em up, dropped them down two counties over. We'll find them.

Hardy says nothing.

STYLES

You think you could explain all this to me?

HARDY

I wouldn't know where to start.

(pause)

I guess it was about one man framing another. He thought if the other guy got blamed, people would over look his own wrong doings.

Styles nods, understanding.

OSBORNE

What happens to Dunbar now?

STYLES

Gets on his plane in ten minutes, which means you two are done. You'll understand if I don't walk you out.

Hardy gets up to go and then stops. Realizing something.

HARDY

They're taking your command, aren't they?

STYLES

The Senator...

He points to Kendall's hospital room.

81.

HARDY

I'm sorry, Bill.

STYLES

Don't be. I'm not cut out to deal with the West's of the world.

HARDY

You're a good soldier, Bill.

STYLES

I thought you said that wasn't a compliment.

Hardy smiles.

HARDY

This time it is.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- PARADE GROUNDS -- EVENING

The sun, beginning to dip in the sky, as Hardy and Osborne exit the hospital.

OSBORNE

Your car's in the motor pool. I'll
walk you over.

They walk in silence, for a bit.

OSBORNE

So what now?

HARDY

Now I go home, get drunk, and try
and forget this ever happened.

OSBORNE

Think it'll work?

HARDY

Nah.

They pass a GROUP OF CADETS doing drills. Hardy, watching
them. Almost looking wistful.

OSBORNE

You know, you never told me why you
left the army.

HARDY

It dawned on me one day that we were
supposed to be a nation founded on
the principle of questioning
authority... and all I did here was
follow orders. It didn't add up.

82.

HARDY [CONT'D]

Plus, I got kicked out.

OSBORNE

For what?

HARDY

That's gonna stay my secret.

INT. MOTOR POOL -- EVENING

Hardy and Osborne make their way towards Hardy's car.

OSBORNE

We were close to something with
Kendall.

HARDY

Maybe... Maybe we were nowhere near.
Sometimes mysteries stay mysteries.

(pause)

I haven't by any chance grown on
you, have I?

OSBORNE

No.

HARDY

Good, just making sure.
Osborne turns to the DUTY SERGEANT.

OSBORNE

We're going need a vehicle release.
The Sergeant nods, walking up with a clipboard.

SERGEANT

Sign here and here.

(recognizing them)

Hey, ain't you the folks workin' on
that whole hulabaloo from last night?

OSBORNE

Yeah.

SERGEANT

Terrible tragedy. One of those
Section Eight boys worked in here.
Pike. Heard he got out okay.
Hardy signs the clipboard and hands it back.

HARDY

Hate to be the bearer of bad news,
Sergeant, but he didn't make it.

83.

The Sergeant scratches his head.

SERGEANT

Funny. I swear I saw them bring him
and the smaller guy in this morning.

OSBORNE

No, no that was Cadet Dunbar-

SERGEANT

You mean Ray Dunbar? Well, that
ain't right.

HARDY

Why not?

SERGEANT

I saw 'em get off the chopper. White
guys, right? Two

OSBORNE

So?

SERGEANT

Ma'am, Ray Dunbar's black.
Hardy and Osborne stare at him. Shocked
A beat.

SERGEANT

Did I say something wrong-

HARDY

(to Osborne)

What runway's that transport leaving
from?

OSBORNE

Four-

HARDY

Get in.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- PARADE GROUNDS -- EVENING

CADETS SCATTER as Hardy's car ROARS OUT OF THE MOTOR POOL,

PEELING across the grass towards the far side of the base!
Hardy, white knuckling the wheel, doing his best to steer
around anyone who can't get out of the way in time.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY RUNWAY FOUR -- EVENING

A Large TRANSPORT PLANE sits on the runway waiting as three
M.P.'s and a JAG LAWYER lead Dunbar/Pike (who, for purposes
Of continuity, we will continue to call DUNBAR) out to it.

84.

The SQUEAL OF TIRES as Hardy's car SLIDES around the corner
of the nearest building and SCREECHES to a halt by the plane.
Hardy and Osborne, leaping out, running towards Dunbar and
the M.P.s.

OSBORNE

We need to talk to him-

JAG LAWYER

Sorry, Officer, we have a schedule
To keep-

OSBORNE

We need to talk to him now.

Hardy grabs Dunbar by the arm.

HARDY

We're not finished yet-

DUNBAR

You wanna bet?

JAG LAWYER

M.P.'s, escort this man off the base!

DUNBAR

(smiling)

Sorry, detectives. Time's up.

As the M.P.'s grab Hardy, dragging him away. Osborne, trying
to stop them. Dunbar, climbing the stairs onto the plane...
Osborne pulls her SIDEARM, levelling it at him as Hardy yells:

HARDY

James Randall Pike, COME ON DOWN!

Dunbar stops at the hatchway. Slowly turning back to them.
Seeing the gun. The M.P.'s release Hardy. Nobody moves.

OSBORNE

Let's go have a talk.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- EVENING

Hardy and Osborne roughly lead Dunbar into the room, the JAG
Lawyer trailing behind, shouting:

JAG LAWYER

This is your entire career here-

OSBORNE

Fuck off.

She slams the door and BARRICADES it. Turns to Hardy.

85.

OSBORNE

We got maybe three minutes till they
break it down.

HARDY

Right back where we started.

DUNBAR

You want to talk about baseball now?

Hardy practically throws Dunbar into a chair.

HARDY

No more games, right, Pike? It was
you who West singled out...

FLASHCUT TO - WEST on the parade grounds, now strangling
DUNBAR on the first day...

HARDY

You who got hooked by Mueller's
morphine...

FLASHCUT TO - Now DUNBAR in the showers as MUELLER hands him
a syringe...

HARDY

You who did it all.

Hardy steps forward and RIPS OPEN Dunbar's right sleeve,
revealing the TRACK MARKS.

HARDY

You wanted revenge on West, revenge
on them all, so you killed them.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

Dunbar standing in the Cabin; Mueller, Childs, and Pike,
dead at his feet.

HARDY (V.O.)

But that wasn't enough. You needed
a new identity, because no one was
going to believe James Randall Pike,
convicted felon, had acted so nobly
in the face of danger - you needed a
name people could trust, one that
hadn't been to jail, one that hadn't
publicly been West's bitch boy.

He stares down at the bodies in the cabin, his eyes focusing
on the black man's uniform. The name on it reads - "DUNBAR".

As he reaches for it...

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT EVENING**OSBORNE**

You kept Kendall alive to corroborate your story and he did it all they way up to the end. You even gave him his own motive in case we decided to burn him, too.

DUNBAR

Can't do that now, though, can you?

HARDY

You walked into the army a convicted felon with a sentence of five years in a uniform and were going walk out eight weeks later with a different name, a clean record, and an honorable discharge - a guy who did "everything he could" to save his friends.

Dunbar looks at them. One to the other. Slowly.

DUNBAR

Is that what I did, now? And of course, you can prove all of it.

OSBORNE

We can prove that you're not Ray Dunbar. Impersonating a fellow Cadet is a court-martial in and of itself-

DUNBAR

Did I ever claim I was Raymond Dunbar? Was I ever told to state my name rank and serial number for the record? No. You assumed who I was, because I was wearing this uniform. Don't believe me?

He reaches under the table and rips out the HIDDEN MICROPHONE.

DUNBAR

Check your tapes.

Hardy and Osborne exchange an uneasy glance.

HARDY

We don't need the tapes-

DUNBAR

Oh, you don't? What else do you have on me? You haven't found any bodies yet, have you?

HARDY

We've found all of them.

Dunbar chuckles at the bluff.

DUNBAR

Ohhhh, I don't think so...

OSBORNE

How do you know that?

DUNBAR

Just a guess. Maybe they're not where they're supposed to be. Maybe somebody moved them. Habeas Corpus - no bodies, no crime, and Nunez still plays as self defense. Face it detectives ... you have nothing.

Hardy, knowing he's right. In a flash he reaches down PULLS OSBORNE'S GUN and grabs Dunbar, SLAMMING him up against the wall, pressing the weapon TO HIS TEMPLE!

HARDY

Not true, Cadet, I've got a gun-

DUNBAR

(terrified)

Jesus!

OSBORNE

Hardy, what are you doing-

HARDY

Isn't this how your story goes?
Pike annoys someone so much he gets shot in the head-

DUNBAR

Please, please don't-

A POUNDING on the locked door. Hardy ignores it.

HARDY

We can tie you to the chair if it'll work better for you-

OSBORNE

Hardy, for Chrissakes-

HARDY

WHERE'S WEST'S BODY?

DUNBAR

(practically in tears)

You'll never find it-

Hardy COCKS the pistol as Dunbar screams:

DUNBAR

You'll never find it cause HE'S NOT
DEAD!

A CRASH as the door's lock SNAPS and M.P.'s POUR into the room! Styles and the JAG Lawyer behind, taking in the scene.

STYLES

What in God's name is going on?
Hardy releases Dunbar, who slides to the floor, gasping.

DUNBAR

He- He made me do it-

HARDY

Do what?

DUNBAR

Hunting- we had to hunt him-

JAG LAWYER

Sergeant, arrest these men!

OSBORNE

You mean the exercise?

DUNBAR

There never was an exercise! Never
targets, never teams, I don't even
know if there's a creek bed out there-

As the M.P.'s grab Hardy and Osborne, pulling them away...

HARDY

What did you do?

JAG LAWYER

That's enough-

HARDY

Goddammit, what did you DO?!

DUNBAR

I COULDN'T KILL HIM!

He breaks down sobbing. Styles holds up a hand to the M.P.'s.

STYLES

Hang on.

JAG LAWYER

Colonel-

STYLES

No. I want to hear this.

The JAG Lawyer glowers as the M.P.'s stand down. Dunbar
tries to pull himself together. To Hardy:

DUNBAR

You're right. I was the one he
singled out. Beat me morning, noon,
and night, ran me ragged. When
Mueller found me, I was gone. He
gave me a little taste...

INT. CADET SHOWERS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO

Mueller showing the syringe to the naked Dunbar. Dunbar's
voice over speaks in unison with Mueller:

MUELLER AND DUNBAR (V.O.)

I got a friend with an in at the PX,
can hook you up...

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT EVENING

DUNBAR

What I didn't know, was his friend
was West. He ran the whole thing.

STYLES

You're lying, son.

DUNBAR

You think it's easy to have all that
morphine just disappear without a
higher up authorizing it? Check the
requisition orders, I'll lay money
it's his signature on them.

INT. SECTION EIGHT BARRACKS -- EIGHT WEEKS AGO

Dunbar, alone, sleeve rolled up, arm tied off: Sliding the
needle into his vein...

DUNBAR (V.O.)

That was his game, see? Ride the
cadets so hard they'd need something
to stay on their feet. Then he'd
send Mueller or Kendall to them,
waving around their magic needle
promising to make it all go away.

He hits the plunger, injecting. His face goes tranquil.

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT EVENING

DUNBAR

It wasn't a new thing either. He'd
been doing this for years.

(MORE)

90.

DUNBAR

Every nine weeks, a new class of
cadets, new potential customers.
The amount of money involved over
that period of time... this was some
high stakes shit.

He takes a deep breath, looking at them.

DUNBAR

Dunbar moved his through the kitchen.
I worked in the motor pool and hooked
all the mechanics. By the time the
hurricane hit, we were all in. Some
using, some pushing, some both. But
then something happened. West heard
one of us was about to talk, to blow
his whole operation. He figured
he'd made enough money, had enough
of the army, maybe it was time to
disappear. But first he was gonna

teach us one last thing.

INT. SECTION EIGHT BARRACKS -- LAST NIGHT

West, entering the, barracks, shouting the cadets awake.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

The Tuesday Night drill was the perfect cover. The hurricane made it even better.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- TARMAC -- LAST NIGHT

The cadets, climbing aboard the chopper.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

He put us on the chopper and flew us to his cabin. And then he told us.

INT. CABIN -- LAST NIGHT

The six men stand in rigid formation, eyes on West.

WEST

Gentlemen! It has come to my attention that there is a traitor in our midst. Someone who was going to break the code of fraternal brotherhood that I have endeavored to create in all of you. Perhaps that failure is mine. But we take care of our own. And this traitor must be made to pay.

He walks down the line of the six men, eyeing each of them. Finally stopping at one. Putting a hand on his shoulder.

91.

Nunez.

WEST

Run.

NUNEZ

Sir, I wasn't-

WEST

I know you were. Cadet Mueller found the letter you'd written to the Colonel in your locker. You were going to betray us all. Now, run.

He points to the door. The hurricane, RAGING outside. Nunez looks to the others, then the door, and understands.

He takes off running out the door. Gone.

West walks over to a table covered with a tarp. Pulls the cloth aside to reveal M-16's, PISTOLS, and GRENADES.

WEST

Now we'll see whose training's paid off the most. You are to hunt Cadet Nunez down and bring his body back to me. If you fail and he escapes, we all go down together.

The remaining five cadets, understanding there is no place for friendship or kindness here. This is life and death.

They walk to the table and gear up.

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- LAST NIGHT

Lightning, thunder, and rain as Nunez runs unarmed through the thick brush.

SOMEWHERE BEHIND HIM - The other five fan out, rifles up, following his trail, ready to kill.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

It was insanity. We were hunting a man down to kill him.

ON MUELLER

Making his way down embankment, M-16 out, ready for anything. From behind him, MOVEMENT...

DUNBAR (V.O.)

He got Mueller first.

Nunez TACKLES HIM at full speed, feet SLIPPING on the wet hill, and the two TUMBLE head first into a GULLY. Punching, kicking, biting, anything to stop the other man.

92.

Nunez, CHOKING Mueller as he strains to reach his gun...

MUELLER

Roberto...

With a HEAVE, Nunez SNAPS HIS NECK. Mueller lies still.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

He took his gun. Used it on Childs.

Nunez spins, seeing CHILDS BEHIND HIM. He DIVES as Childs fires! Hits the ground in a roll, comes up with Mueller's rifle, and SHOOTS - BLOWING CHILDS BACK against the wet rocks.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I can't imagine what it was like.

Having your friends try to kill you...

Nunez slumps against the gully's wall, breathing hard. In agony over what he's just had to do.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

But you do what you have to survive.

Closing his eyes, Nunez steels himself. Wipes the blood from his hands and climbs out of the gully.

ELSEWHERE

PIKE, creeping through the foliage. Trying to listen for sounds of movement through the storm. His eyes narrow as he hears a HIGH PITCHED WHINE...

The bullet hits his forehead dead center. He crumples.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - Nunez in a tree, thirty meters away.

Lowering his rifle. He climbs down.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Kendall and I found Dunbar a couple minutes later.

TIME CUT TO:

Dunbar and Kendall come upon Pike's fallen form. They gaze down at the uniform emblazoned with the name "DUNBAR".

DUNBAR (V.O.)

It came to me in a split second.
Change clothes, change identities.

If James Pike gets discharged he goes right back to jail. But if I was Dunbar, I could walk away from all this with a new life. But then...
As he reaches down for the uniform, a SHOT RINGS OUT.

93.

KENDALL FALLS, wounded in the arm. Dunbar raises his rifle to find Nunez, standing ten yards away, gun trained on him.
YELLING OVER THE HURRICANE:

NUNEZ

Put it down!
A Mexican stand-off. The rain continues to fall.

DUNBAR

I just want to go!
Nunez shakes his head.

NUNEZ

You were gonna kill me, Pike! Thought you were my friend!
Dunbar, torn. He can't bring himself to shoot, but he can't surrender either.

DUNBAR

I have to get Kendall to a hospital!

NUNEZ

He was gonna kill me too!
Silence. The two men still facing each other.

NUNEZ {CONT'D}

I snapped Mueller's neck! He was my best friend and I had to snap his neck because he was gonna shoot me for drugs! For West!

DUNBAR

We don't have to do this! You go that way, I'll go this way!
Nunez laughs.

NUNEZ

You'll shoot me in the back!

DUNBAR

You killed three people! Isn't that enough for one night?
More silence. Neither moves. The sky above, a maelstrom.

DUNBAR

I don't want to die out here, Roberto!
Do you?
Nunez, staring at him. Deciding.

94.

NUNEZ

If you even twitch...
Dunbar nods.
Nunez begins backing away, rifle still trained on him.
And then Dunbar spies something behind and to the left of

Nunez...

West.

Staring down at him from behind some brush. Watching.
Nunez, slowly backing away. He pauses as his foot catches
on a fallen branch. Looks away from Dunbar for a split second
to step over it...

West nods to Dunbar as if to say "Go on. . . "

DUNBAR

Forgive me. . .

And Dunbar FIRES.

Nunez, caught by the burst, GOES DOWN. The echo of the
gunshots, swallowed by the storm. Dunbar lowers his head in
agony. West walks down.

WEST

Congratulations, Cadet Pike. You
get the gold star.

Dunbar stares at his Sergeant through the rain.

DUN BAR

Fuck you.

West smiles. Tilts his head to Kendall.

WEST

You'd best get him out of here.
Don't worry about the bodies, they'll
be taken care of.

Dunbar doesn't move.

WEST

This is where we part ways, Cadet.
You tell them I died out here, or
I'll come back for you. Tell them
one of the others did me. Mueller,
Childs, I don't care who. You and
Kendall, you tell them a story.

(smiling)

You can tell a story, can't you?

Dunbar doesn't reply. West laughs and flips him a salute.

95.

WEST

Dismissed.

And West turns and walks away, stepping over Nunez. Giving
Dunbar a clear shot at his back.

Dunbar raises his rifle, wanting, needing, dying to shoot
the old man...

But he can't. West disappears into the bayou.

A GROAN from the ground. Kendall. Dunbar's reverie broken,
he leans down, beginning to unbutton the Dunbar Uniform...

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- PRESENT EVENING

Dunbar stubs out a cigarette, finished. Hardy, Osborne, Styles, and the JAG Lawyer gaping at what he has just said.

DUNBAR

I guess Nunez wasn't dead after all.
He came after us with a vengeance.
(to Styles)
You know the rest.

HARDY

And the bodies?

DUNBAR

You won't find them. Won't find West, either. He's too good.

OSBORNE

No bodies, no West...

HARDY

No death certificates. No crime.

DUNBAR

Just four people MIA. Silence.

The JAG Lawyer steps forward.

JAG LAWYER

You'll testify to this, the corruption, the drug scam?

Dunbar says nothing.

JAG LAWYER

We can cut a deal for you on the Nunez killing.

DUNBAR

I don't want any deals.

96.

JAG LAWYER

If you're telling the truth, the PX requisition records will prove it-

DUNBAR

All the proof you need will be when West comes back and puts a bullet in my brain. But I'll do it. I'm a dead man, anyway. Like Kendall.

(looking at Hardy)

We both should have died out there

with our brothers. I know that now.
Silence. The JAG Lawyer looks to Hardy, all anger gone.

JAG LAWYER

I'll take him now if you don't mind.
Hardy nods. Dunbar rises and slowly walks to the door.
Turning back to Hardy.

DUNBAR

Tell me, detective. Did you get
what you wanted?
Hardy shakes his head, sadly.

HARDY

Not even close.
They leave. Styles walks over to Hardy.

STYLES

Tom-
Hardy holds up a hand, cutting him off. Styles nods,
understanding, and leaves, closing the door behind him.
Hardy and Osborne stand there. Not speaking. It's done.

INT. FORT MCKINLEY -- OFFICER'S CLUB -- NIGHT

Several hours and bourbons later, Hardy sits at the bar,
drunk and alone. Out of place, the only one not in uniform.
Osborne walks in, locates Hardy, and strides over to the
bar, a sheaf of papers under her arm. Her face, stoic.

OSBORNE

We need to talk-

HARDY

Seven.
He takes a slug of his drink.

OSBORNE

What?

97.

HARDY

Seven guys. What was it you said?
You were "just starting to believe I
wasn't the guy people said".
He chuckles.

HARDY {CONT'D}

Seven. That's the answer to Kendall's
question. How many? Seven.
Osborne looks at him. Realizing what he's saying.

OSBORNE

This isn't the time-

HARDY

This is the perfect time. You know
what makes a good detective? The
number of confessions they get.
You're a good detective, Osborne.
So now you get mine.

OSBORNE

What if I don't want it?

HARDY

Tough.
He pours himself another drink.

HARDY

Thing about taking money is, you
don't have to do anything. You just
sit there. Maybe you don't return a
phone call. Maybe you don't follow
up a lead. But that's it. Keep the
money, your work's done.
Osborne stares at him.

HARDY

Seven unsolved murders. And you
know what? It didn't weigh on my
conscience. Not one goddamn bit.
He takes a slug from his glass and grimaces.

OSBORNE

That's not true.

HARDY

There are degrees of truth, officer.
Always degrees.

98.

OSBORNE

You're a good man, Hardy.

HARDY

Really.

OSBORNE

Far as I'm concerned, whatever you
did in the past can stay in the past.
Hardy stares at her.

HARDY

I may not be growing on you, but
you're sure as hell growing on me.
He motions to the bartender for another glass, but Osborne
takes his hand, stopping him.

OSBORNE

And because you're a good man, I
know you'll do the right thing.
Hardy looks at her, questioning. Osborne takes a deep breath.

OSBORNE

Pike never made it to D.C.. Somebody
took him off the plane before it
left. My guess is he's already dead.
Hardy stares at her.

HARDY

West?

OSBORNE

Nobody saw. But I don't think so.
She puts the papers on the bar.

OSBORNE

These are the requisitions from the
PX, the ones used to release the

drugs to Mueller. West signed half of them - Pike was telling the truth. Look who signed the other half. She taps the bottom of the paper. Hardy, not wanting to believe it. He looks up at her, pained.

HARDY

Do I have a choice in this?

OSBORNE

Yeah. I can wait till you're off the base and do it myself.

99.

Hardy stares at his glass. Deciding.

HARDY

Fuck it. Let's go finish this.

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- NIGHT

Styles, finishing his paperwork. He rises and turns off his desk light, bathing the office in DARKNESS. He's about to leave when he notices a SILHOUETTE in the doorway.

HARDY

"You have to get out of the way of the bigger dogs". That was good. Styles squints at the figure.

STYLES

Tom, is that you?
Hardy steps forward, into the office.

HARDY

It was so good, I actually forgot you're one of the bigger dogs now. The Base Commander. The one in control.
You couldn't let him testify, could you?

STYLES

What are you talking about?

HARDY

If you let him testify then it would have all come out. West was supposed to take care of it out there, shut Nunez up and then disappear. But it got messy and people got killed. So you called your old pal Tom Hardy, figuring if worse came to worse, he'd cover for you.

STYLES

You're drunk-

HARDY

I'm not going to cover for you, Bill. Not for this.
Styles, realizing what Hardy's talking about.

STYLES

Look-
He begins to move from behind his desk.

HARDY

Stay where you are.

STYLES

Or what? You've gone round the bend-

HARDY

West had a partner. Someone who knew how to get things done.

Hardy throws the papers onto Styles' desk.

HARDY

What I can't understand is why you signed these. If you'd just let West take care of the paperwork, no one would have known, but you got careless. So when Pike finally told the truth you had to get rid of him, too.

STYLES

That's preposterous-

HARDY

Toxicology report came back. Kendall's attack was caused by a drug known as anephadrine, maybe you've heard of it. It's for asthmatics. If an epileptic takes enough, it kills them. I checked with the nurses at the hospital - you're the only other person who visited Kendall.

STYLES

Wanted to see if he was okay-

HARDY

You poisoned him, Bill. You heard our interrogation, you knew he was ready to crack, so you killed him, just like Pike.

STYLES

I'm not even going to dignify that-

HARDY

No! You will stand there and you will listen! What happened to you,

Bill? You were the one who joined
up to do good in the world. You
were the one who believed in it-

101.

STYLES

You want to get into a finger pointing
contest about character? The army
kicked you out for drugs, the cops
fired you for taking bribes from a
mobster, and you think you can stand
there and lecture me on codes of
conduct? There's only one criminal
standing in this room and it's you.

HARDY

Not for long.

He walks towards the desk.

HARDY

No more witnesses. West's a ghost.
But it doesn't matter because we
have your signature, the hospital
log, and Kendall's toxicology report.
And that'll be enough.

STYLES

You're crazy-

HARDY

You can't duck this, Bill. I may
have done every goddamn thing in my
life wrong but I won't let this
happen.

STYLES

For the last time, I have no idea
what you're talking about-

HARDY

(squinting)

Get your hands away from the desk!

In the darkness we see Styles MOVE SUDDENLY...

HARDY

Osborne, gun!

Hardy DIVES to the floor - Osborne in the doorway, PISTOL
raised, FIRES TWO SHOTS! Muzzle flare lighting the room for
a split second as Styles is BLOWN BACK against the wall!
Hardy gets to his feet and flicks on the LIGHT. Styles lies
slumped in the corner, two holes in his chest. Dead.
Osborne lowers her weapon, shaking.
Hardy points to the top desk drawer, which is open. Inside
it sits an IVORY HANDLED PISTOL. Fully loaded, safety off.
It's presence tells them everything they need to know.

102.

OSBORNE

It's West's, isn't it?

Hardy nods and then turns to look down at Styles' body.

HARDY

Now it's over.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- PARADE GROUNDS -- NIGHT

The aftermath. Flashing blue and red lights from parked Military Police vehicles illuminate the grounds as M.P.'s string crime scene tape around the front entrance of the building, securing the site for investigation. Hardy takes in the entire scene from afar. Standing by his GTO, watching as several M.P.'s finish questioning Osborne. When she's done she spies Hardy and walks over to him.

OSBORNE

What are you doing out here?

HARDY

Leaving without saying goodbye.

What are you gonna do?

OSBORNE

Go home, get drunk, and try and forget this ever happened.

HARDY

Think it'll work?

OSBORNE

Nah.

HARDY

Want company?

Osborne smiles.

OSBORNE

A word of advice about women - that first hour or so after they kill their boss? Probably not the best time to hit on them.

HARDY

I should probably write that down.

OSBORNE

Yeah. .

Hardy pulls a card from his pocket and hands it to her.

OSBORNE

Your phone number?

103.

HARDY

In case you need me to testify about the shooting. They'll clear you.

A beat.

OSBORNE

He was your friend.

HARDY

Yeah. But he was a lot of other things, too. Thanks.

She nods. An awkward moment. Finally:

HARDY

I'll see you.

He turns away. Walking towards his car.

OSBORNE

Hey, Hardy!

He turns back. She walks up and holds something out to him.
A ten dollar bill.

OSBORNE

I owe you this.

He looks down at the money.

HARDY

You saved my life tonight. Keep it.

(pause)

Actually, don't keep it, I need the
money.

He takes the bill and Osborne laughs. He climbs into his
car and starts it. Grinning at her through the open window.

HARDY

You're one of the good ones, Osborne.

Don't sweat the details.

He puts the GTO in gear and drives off. She watches him go,
then looks down at his card. Smiling. Maybe she will call.

INT. OSBORNE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

A bottle of Scotch at her side, Osborne slips a tape marked
"BASIC TRAINING INTRO - SGT. N. WEST" into her VCR. Settles
back to watch it. West's face fills the screen.

WEST

Welcome, Cadets. The art of warfare
is simple and complex. Simple in
its goal, complex in its execution.

104.

INT. HARDY'S GTO (MOVING) -- NIGHT

It's started to rain. Hardy drives in silence.

WEST

As Sun Tzu writes, the true warfare
is deception.

A HITCHHIKER up ahead. Hardy pulls over for him.

INT. OSBORNE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Osborne, drinking and watching.

WEST

At all times you must confuse your
enemies, surrounding them with
uncertainty, giving them false hope.

INT. HARDY'S GTO -- NIGHT

The Hitchhiker gets into the car.

WEST

At all times, you must mask your
true intentions.

Hardy, smiling at him, because the Hitchhiker is not a
Hitchhiker at all...

HARDY (V.O.)

Why'd you ask for a cop, Ray?
The Hitchhiker is Dunbar.

OSBORNE (V.O.)

They got their stories straight. . .

EXT. LOUISIANA BAYOU -- CREEK BED -- LAST NIGHT

24 hours ago. The hurricane rages. A HAND pulls the PIN on a phosphorous grenade and CHUCKS IT.

It blows, frying brush and nothing more.

West comes over the hill, running to investigate. He stops at what he sees. Nunez stands unarmed in the creek bed, SURROUNDED by the other Section Eight Cadets. A prisoner.

WEST

What the fuck is going on?

DUNBAR

Your weapons, Sergeant.

West doesn't move. Kendall walks over and DISARMS West, pushing him into the circle next to the terrified Nunez.

105.

WEST

Is this about that little drug business you all are running? Yeah, I know about that, Roberto told me-

NUNEZ

Shut up! Look, we won't say anything-

WEST

Fuck that. You little pissers really think you can throw a scare into me?

Dunbar raises his rifle and SHOOTS NUNEZ. He goes down, twitches once and lies still. Dead. West looks at Dunbar.

WEST

You're gonna have to do a lot better than that, son.

HARDY (O.S.)

How about this?

And with that, Tom Hardy emerges from the brush carrying, a COMBAT KNIFE. West's eyes sparkle with recognition.

WEST

Didn't I kick your ass out for this drug thing fifteen years ago?

Hardy just smiles.

WEST

Should've known you were involved in this. Come on then. Let's see you try and stick me-

Moving faster than West thought imaginable, Hardy moves and the knife FLASHES, CUTTING WEST OPEN stem to sternum. Hardy grips the older man by the shoulders, lowering him to the ground as he dies. Whispering in his ear:

HARDY

Stem to sternum. You taught me well, Sarge.

And WEST DIES. A moment of utter silence and then VOICES FROM THE PAST begin coming back to us:

STYLES (V.O.)

You think you could explain all this
to me?

Kendall walks over to Hardy and hands him a PISTOL.

HARDY (V.O.)

I wouldn't know where to start.

Kendall holds out his arm, gritting his teeth...

106.

HARDY (V.O.)

I guess it was about one man framing
another...

And Hardy SHOOTS Kendall once, THROUGH THE ARM.

EXT. CLEARING -- THIS MORNING

Mueller and Childs lay NUNEZ's DEAD BODY out in the brush.
The sound of the Helicopter approaching...

TIME CUT TO:

Dunbar raises his rifle and FIRES towards the tree line.
Aiming at nothing. The Helicopter comes into view overhead.

DUST KICKS UP around Dunbar and Kendall - bullet hits.

HARDY (V.O.)

When you commit a crime you know is
going to be investigated, you need a
fall guy.. .

ON STYLES' FACE - Watching this through the windscreen.

STYLES (V.O.)

The one who won't talk was trading
live fire with the dead one as we
reached the pick-up.

RACK FOCUS TO - Hardy, concealed in the woods, FIRING at
Dunbar and Kendall's feet to simulate Nunez shooting at them.
Dunbar, shooting towards where Nunez's body lies. Making it
look like he just killed Nunez.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- THIS MORNING

Hardy arriving at the Fort, EMBRACING STYLES.

HARDY

And for that to work, you have to
have a witness...

PAN OVER to OSBORNE, watching.

HARDY (V.O.)

Someone who's not involved, who's
word can't be questioned...

VARIOUS SHOTS -- Of Hardy and Osborne, investigating the
case, talking to Dunbar, talking to Kendall...

HARDY

You only let them see what you want
them to see, you make them believe...

107.

INT. OFFICER'S CLUB -- EARLIER

Osborne, showing Hardy the requisition forms.

OSBORNE (V.O.)

They believe the innocent are guilty
and the guilty are innocent.

EXT. FORT MCKINLEY -- EARLIER

After shooting Styles, Osborne gives her story to the M.P.'s.

HARDY (V.O.)

And if they're asked, that's what
they'll tell the world.

INT. OSBORNE'S APARTMENT -- PRESENT NIGHT

Osborne, watching the taped West.

WEST

Your greatest weapon will be your
allies . . .

INT. COFFEE ROOM -- EARLIER

Hardy, taking a cigarette from Dunbar's pack.

HARDY

My brand. Must be my lucky day.

INT. KENDALL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- EARLIER

Kendall, coughing fit. Hardy, getting him a GLASS OF WATER.

WEST (V.O.)

. . . some of which you may have to
sacrifice for the greater good.

Hardy, secretly dissolving a POWDER into Kendall's water.

HARDY (V.O.)

We got the toxicology report . . .

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- EARLIER

Hardy, confronting Styles in the dark.

WEST (V.O.)

Make no mistake, the innocent will
die. . .

Osborne, FIRING TWICE into Styles. As he hits the wall

108.

HARDY (V.O.)

Next time you frame a guy, pick
someone who can't defend themselves...

But it will not be in vain.
Sometimes, you can trick the enemy
into doing your work for you. . .
Osborne, staring down at WEST'S PISTOL.

HARDY (V.O.)

He still carry those guns?

INT. STYLES' OFFICE -- EARLIER

Earlier. Alone, Hardy plants West's pistol in Styles' desk.

WEST (V.O.)

...if you engage in a clever enough
subterfuge.

INT. BASE PX -- BACKROOM -- EARLIER

Hardy stands behind Kendall and Dunbar, overseeing them as
they fill out requisition forms. Kendall signs West's
signature, Dunbar signs Styles'.

HARDY (V.O.)

What I can't understand is why you
signed these...

As we move into a CLOSE UP on Hardy:

OSBORNE (V.O.)

You never told me why you got kicked
out of...

STYLES (V.O.)

The army kicked you out for drugs...

MUELLER AND DUNBAR (V.O.)

I got a friend with an in at the PX,
can hook you up...

STYLES (V.O.)

There's only one criminal standing
in this room and it's you.

INT. OSBORNE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Osborne, watching the tape of West's speech.

WEST

Which brings us to the simple goal.
For the true warrior, the one and
only objective is to emerge from
conflict unscathed.

109.

EXT. ROADHOUSE PARKING LOT -- PRESENT NIGHT

The GTO pulls into a space and Hardy and Dunbar get out.

HARDY (V.O.)

I promised them I'd ask you where
West and the others are...

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Washout rejects, guys he said were
"dumbfucks too stupid to know they
dead"...

HARDY (V.O.)

He's telling the truth up to a point...

They walk towards the bar's entrance.

HARDY (V.O.)

You can't prove anything until we find the bodies...

PIKE

All we gotta do is tell the story right...

DUNBAR (V.O.)

You haven't found any bodies yet, have you...

As Hardy and Dunbar push through the doors into the bar...

HARDY (V.O.)

WHERE ARE THEY?

INT. ROADHOUSE -- NIGHT

A table of FOUR MEN look up as Hardy and Dunbar enter.

Mueller, Childs, Pike, and the Motor Pool DUTY SERGEANT.
All drinking beer, having a grand old time.

STYLES (V.O.)

Habeas Corpus - you have to have a body to have a crime.

Hardy and Dunbar smile and go to join them.

INT. OSBORNE'S APARTMENT -- PRESENT NIGHT

As the taped West concludes his speech.

WEST

Thank you.

110.

The screen cuts to STATIC. Osborne turns off the TV, extinguishing the last source of light. OVER THE DARKNESS:

WEST (V.O.)

You can tell a story, can't you?

EXT. ROADHOUSE PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Silence. We slowly move towards Hardy's parked GTO...

HARDY (V.O.)

Murder is basic.

Focusing on the TRUNK...

HARDY (V.O.)

There are no conspiracies, no grand
mysteries, no evil puppet masters
behind it all, pulling the strings.

INT. GTO TRUNK -- NIGHT

WEST'S BODY, stuffed into the trunk of Hardy's car.

HARDY

Everyone's capable of murder, Osborne.

EXT. CLEARING -- THIS MORNING

Dunbar lays the wounded Kendall down as the Helicopter
carrying Styles comes in for a landing. Dunbar wipes the
sweat from Kendall's brow and asks him seriously:

DUNBAR

Are you ready for this?

ROLL CREDITS

FADE OUT