

BROWN WATER

Written by

Ester Green

Based on, true events

801-502-7265
brownwater1968@gmail.com
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EXT. REDD'S HOUSE - DAY

The address "550 North Redwood Road" is shown on the house.

SUPER: "Present Day,"

Ryan MOM (39) (WHITE), and Randy (19) (WHITE), unpack boxes. Ryan and Randy unpack boxes. Randy finds a journal on the floor. He stuffs it in his backpack.

RYAN

Hurry, Randy, you don't want to be late your first day of school.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Professor EVAN HESTER (68) (BLACK), stands by a whiteboard at the front of his class. He smiles.

Forty-five students sitting in the lecture hall. Randy walks in and takes a seat in the back.

PROFESSOR

A man dark sky higher...

Randy pulls out the journal. No title page. He picks up the script and reads.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - DAY

SUPER: "Lindbergh Field, San Diego, March 1, 1968,"

A black newsboy cap sits atop a young black man's head. He sits on a bench. A baggage carousel in the background. People walk past, while others are checking boarding flight information.

P A SYSTEM (O.S.)

Flight seven seventeen arriving
from Chicago at two sixteen at gate
thirty-six.

Rose-tinted Benjamin Franklin style eyeglasses frame the handsome baby face of a much younger Evan Hester (19). At five feet eleven inches, he's an athletic 175 pounds. Evan writes in a small green notebook.

He stops writing, removes his earpiece, and pulls out a King James version Bible from a gym bag. Evan smiles and opens the Bible. He writes one sentence, pulls out a single bill from his pants pocket, places it in the center, closes his Bible, and returns it to his bag.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - DAY

MISTY (20) (BLACK), drops off some cocaine for DARLENE'S (18) (BLACK), plane ride. She hands Darlene a small vial of coke.

MISTY

Here you go, baby girl, with your scary ass.

DARLENE

Thanks, Sis.

MISTY

Have fun. I'll see you when you get back. Tell your daddy I said, hey!

DARLENE

My daddy ain't thinking about you, Misty.

They laugh.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - RECLAIM BAGGAGE - DAY

Evan wears an earpiece in his left ear and listens to a song on his green and white pocket-size radio playing from the earpiece over the noise of the airport.

EVAN

(singing)

La, la, la...

EXT. LINDBERGH FIELD - PARKING - DAY

Darlene parks her blue 1968 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 KR. Perfect weather. A song plays on her car radio. She exits the car.

DARLENE

(singing)

La, la, la...

She sings the same song as Evan. Darlene sways her hips as she walks to her trunk. She opens the trunk, lifts a medium-size suitcase, and grabs a carry-on bag. She puts her purse in the carry-on. Darlene slams her trunk. Airport sounds fill the air.

Her hips sway Darlene walks. She's gorgeous. Darlene moves like a dancer. She has below the shoulder jet black hair. Small sunglasses frame her pretty face. She wears a black and white zebra print top, red short hot pants, and black sandals.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - INFORMATION COUNTER - DAY

Evan picks up his gym bag, then walks to an information counter. A beautiful woman (40) (BLACK), in an airport worker's uniform, smiles at him. She wears a name tag, COFFEE.

EVAN

Hi, I'm Evan.

COFFEE

Welcome to San Diego. Your first time in Diego?

EVAN

Yes, my first time here and your airport is right on top of your city. I held my breath all the way down. Thank you, lord Jesus, I made it.

COFFEE

Yes it is, Our pilots are used to it. We have an outstanding safety record. And you have Jesus.

EVAN

I'm here for eight weeks of Navy boot camp.

Darlene waits to buy a ticket with four people in front of her. The line moves faster.

P A SYSTEM (O.S.)

Welcome to Lindbergh Field, Friday, March first, nineteen sixty-eight. The temperature is sixty-five point five degrees Fahrenheit.

PAUL and JACKIE, (40s) (WHITE), attractive are in front of her.

JACKIE

What time will we get to Salt Lake?

PAUL

Our flight leaves at one thirty-six. Salt Lake is an hour ahead. Our flight is an hour long... so, around three thirty-six.

JACKIE

For sure, I left the iron on.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Oh, stop worrying Jackie. I checked
the iron, water, and gas
everything's fine.

Coffee works on the information counter. She turns and looks
at the clock on the wall. Evan dances. She turns while Evan's
checking out her butt. He looks like a kid getting caught
stealing a cookie from the cookie jar. Coffee walks to the
counter and laughs.

COFFEE

I see you. I like the way you move.

Coffee writes on an index card.

EVAN

Thanks. I love to dance.

COFFEE

It's twelve forty-two. Your bus
leaves at one-forty.

She points to an orange line twenty feet away to her left.

COFFEE (CONT'D)

You see that orange line over
there?

EVAN

Yes.

COFFEE

It leads to your bus stop. Have a
wonderful day, Evan.

Coffee hands Evan the index card.

COFFEE (CONT'D)

I get off in twenty minutes. Wait
at the bench, and I'll see you
there.

EVAN

See you there.

Evan smiles and looks at the paper, then sticks it in his
pocket and picks up his bag. He walks six feet, then turns to
face Coffee.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Coffee Brown right?

COFFEE

Right as Sugar in your Coffee.

P A SYSTEM (O.S.)

Military personnel follow the
orange line to your bus pickup.

Evan walks another fifteen feet, turns and looks back. She winks. He smiles at this beautiful woman. He waves, and she sticks out her tongue playfully, smiling. Evan walks to the men's room that's next to the 'ladies' room.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - CARRY-ON BAGGAGE - DAY

Darlene purchases her flight ticket and checks her suitcase. She walks to the lady's room carrying her carry-on bag.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - LADIES ROOM - DAY

Darlene enters the lady's room. She enters a stall, then sits. She digs in her purse and pulls out a makeup container. Darlene unscrews the lid and places it on the toilet paper container. She takes out a dollar bill and rolls it up, leaving an airway.

SCREEN SPLITS

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - MENS ROOM - DAY

Evan enters the men's room.

P A SYSTEM (O.S.)

Your attention please flight seven
thirty-six to Los Angeles departs
at three fifteen at gate twenty-
three.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - LADIES' ROOM - DAY

Darlene in the ladies' room.

P A SYSTEM (O.S.)

Your attention please flight seven
thirty-six to Los Angeles departs
at three fifteen at gate twenty-
three.

She pulls a tiny vial from her purse, opens it, then pours a hit of coke on the inside of the lid. Darlene flushes the toilet, then quickly snorts the coke twice.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - MENS ROOM - DAY

Evan is alone in the men's room. He reaches in his bag and pulls out a mini bottle of vodka, then drinks it in two gulps. He uses the urinal, then washes his hands.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - LADIES ROOM - DAY

Darlene touches up her makeup and lipstick in the mirror. She brushes her nose with her fingers, checking for any white powder on her face.

SCREEN UNSPLIT

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - MENS ROOM - DAY

Evan exits the men's room with his bag in hand.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - LADIES' ROOM - DAY

Darlene fixes her hair. She looks in the mirror. She exits the 'ladies' room.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Darlene walks down the passageway with her carry-on bag in hand. She turns the corner and runs into LINDA (22) (BLACK), cute, ebony tone. They walk to the tarmac.

DARLENE

Hi, Linda.

LINDA

Hey, Darlene.

The women hug, then walk to board the same plane.

DARLENE

What you doing in San Diego? I moved here about six months ago.

LINDA

I moved here a little over a year now. I'm missing back home.

DARLENE

Me too. I can't wait until we land in Salt Lake.

LINDA
What are you doing In Day-go?

DARLENE
I'm a dancer. And you?

LINDA
I'm teaching these badass fourth-
graders.

They laugh.

EXT. LINDBERGH FIELD - AIRPORT - TARMAC - DAY

Darlene and Linda walk down the steps to the plane, waiting on the tarmac to take them to Salt Lake.

EXT. TELEPHONE BOOTH - DAY

Evan enters a telephone booth. He removes his earpiece, picks up the receiver, and places it to his left ear, then he dials 0 for the operator.

INTERCUT - PHONEBOOTH/OPERATOR

OPERATOR
How may I Help you?

EVAN
Operator, I would like to place a
collect call to Ogden, Utah. I'm
calling my mom.

OPERATOR
Number, please.

EVAN
Five, five, five... seven, six,
four... two, zero, zero, two.

OPERATOR
That will be ten cents for the
first three minutes.

EXT. BUS WAIT AREA - DAY

Coffee drives up in a red sports car with her windows rolled down.

COFFEE

Hi. Get on in.

Evan grins.

EVAN

You came.

Evan picks up his bag, then jogs to the car.

EXT. NORTH WEST MOTEL - DAY

Coffee parks the car, she exits the vehicle, then walks to the front door of the motel office.

Evan sits in the car and checks out the scenery. Coffee quickly exits the motel office. Coffee locks her door, then they walk off.

COFFEE

Why did you join the Navy?

EVAN

Had to... arrested for disorderly conduct. Judge said I had to join the service.

COFFEE

We all got to work out our own problems, Evan.

They arrive at the room, Coffee opens the door. They enter.

INT. NORTH WEST MOTEL - DAY

Coffee and Evan sit at the foot of the bed.

COFFEE

You seem like a reasonable person. What happened?

EVAN

This guy needed an ass-whooping. I gave him what he needed.

Evan pulls two mini bottles from his bag and hands one to Coffee. He drinks the mini bottle of vodka in one gulp.

They undress, tossing clothes here and there. Nude, Evan with Coffee sits on the bed and kiss.

She takes his hand, then leads him to a chair while holding a mini bottle. They reach the chair, then she drops the bottle to the floor.

Evan sits in a chair. Coffee sits on him, riding him. She stops, leans over, picks up a cup of water off a table, and drinks.

She reaches down, picks up a mini bottle, then hands him the mini bottle. He takes the bottle, then gulps it in one gulp. Coffee rides Evan.

EXT. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER - DUSK

SUPER: "April 4, 1968,"

Twenty navy recruits sit in the bleachers waiting. Seventeen are white and three are black.

BOOT 1 O.C.
Swabbies, it's pleasant out here
I'm loving boot camp. We're halfway
through.

Chief Petty Officer SPARKS (35) (WHITE), has kind beady eyes, walks to the area of the bleachers.

SPARKS
Men, I have terrible news. Martin
Luther King Junior was assassinated
earlier this evening in Memphis,
Tennessee. God rest his soul.
Anyone wanting to see the Chaplain
fall out.

The recruits sit in silence. After a minute, Sparks walks away without dismissing his boots. The recruits walk in silence back to their barracks.

INT. BOOT CAMP BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan removes his bible from his footlocker. He leans against a rack pole. He opens his bible to the last six pages, then writes.

EVAN
(quietly)
Death is freedom.

INT. BOOT CAMP BARRACKS - DAY

Evan comes off training with his fellow recruits. They enter. The men are in small groups all over the barracks, talking. Two petty officers, JOHNSON (25) (WHITE), and COOPER (23) (WHITE), enter the barracks.

JOHNSON
Recruit Hester, front and center.

COOPER
Haul your ass, recruit.

JOHNSON
What the hell is this, maggot?

Johnson holds a pair of skivvies with one hand.

Clock on the wall, little hand is on three, big hand is on ten.

COOPER
You got dirty shit stains in these skivvies, recruit.

Cooper points to the floor.

COOPER (CONT'D)
On your knees, maggot.

Evan gets on his knees.

JOHNSON
Piggy oink, dirty pig.
(beat)
Oink like a pig.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Oink like a pig.

EVAN
Oink oink

Evan crawls.

COOPER
Oink like a pig, dirty maggot, pig
dirty pig oink.

Clock on the wall, little hand is on three, big hand is on eight-teen.

EVAN (O.C.)
Oink oink.

COOPER
Oink, oink, maggot.

EVAN
Oink oink.

JOHNSON
Pig pig crawl maggot pig piggy
crawl.

Evan crawls on his hands and knees.

EVAN
Oink oink snort oink.

He stops to rub his right and left knee.

JOHNSON
Oink like a pig.

He crawls. His arms and hands hurting.

EVAN
Oink oink.

Snot running from Evan's nose, he gasps for air.

INT. YMCA - DAY

Evan spots a wallet on a bench. He walks over and picks it up, then walks off.

THREE YOUNG (19's) (WHITE), in their gym short turn the corner and see Evan pick up a wallet.

YOUNG MAN 1
What you doing?

YOUNG MAN 2
Yeah, give it back.

Evan stands there, his weight distributed equally on both legs, with his fist balled up.

EVAN
You ain't doing shit.

The three men watch him walk off.

INT. SMALL HOSPITAL GALLEY - NIGHT

Evan works in a small galley and listens to a radio. He's friends with the seven young sailor that are in the hospital unit.

RADIO

Senator Robert Francis Kennedy died at one forty-four AM this morning, June six, nineteen sixty-eight, at Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles, CA.

Evan runs from the galley to the seven sailors.

EXT. MILITARY AIRFIELD - NIGHT

CAPTAIN JOHN HARRIS, (43) (BLACK), athletic build and CORPORAL LEROY ANDERSON (22) (WHITE), athletic build depart an aircraft in fatigues. The two men walk together, carrying rucksacks Anderson to his motorcycle, Harris to his automobile. The two men drive off, speeding.

INT. HARRIS' CAR - NIGHT

Music plays on the radio. Harris speeds up 'San Marcos' steep and winding road. Harris races up the hill at over 100 miles per hour.

HARRIS

(singing)
La, la, la...

EXT. GOOD NITE INN - NIGHT

Captain Harris parks at the motel. He walks to a room, then knocks on a door. The door opens, and he enters.

INT. GOOD NITE INN - NIGHT

JAG LIEUTENANT GAIL DE NIRO (37) (WHITE), lovely looks out the window. She enters the bathroom with Harris in the shower. Water runs.

INT. NAVAL PRINT SHOP - DAY

Evan finishes a print order, then walks to the back storage room. He takes the lid off a box and retrieves two mini bottles of vodka. Evan stuffs a mini in his dungaree pocket. He drinks the other mini.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO OFFICE - DAY

Evan walks in the passageway to Lieutenant De Niro's office, then knocks on her door.

DE NIRO

Come on.

Evan enters. She sits at her desk. He places the order on her desk.

DE NIRO (CONT'D)

Seaman Hester, carpe momentum.

Evan nods.

EVAN

Yes Ma'am, carpe diem.

DE NIRO

I will, Hester. You're dismissed.

Evan salutes. De Niro returns the salute. He exits.

LEGALMAN GIL JEPSON (27) (WHITE), returns to her desk, then sits.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO OFFICE - DAY

Harris enters.

DE NIRO

Is Mathers looking for a discharge, or was there a family emergency?

HARRIS

No, lieutenant. She loves the corps. She could be pregnant.

DE NIRO

That would explain a lot, Captain.

I/E. SKAGGS DRUG STORE - DAY

Evan and Lorenzo watch the 1968 Summer Olympics through the window of the store playing on the TV. Gold medalist Tommie Smith and bronze medalist John Carlos showing raised fist on the podium after the 200 meter race; both wear Olympic Project for Human Rights badges.

Peter Norman, silver medalist from Australia, also wears an OPHR badge in solidarity with Smith and Carlos. Evan and Lorenzo raise their fist.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO - JAMES BROWN CONCERT - NIGHT

Evan and his friends are at the concert.

INT. USD TELEPHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

Evan sits in a telephone booth. He picks up the telephone receiver, then places it to his left ear. He wears a green shirt.

OPERATOR

Please deposit ten cents.

Evan takes a coin from his pant pocket, then deposits it in the coin slot.

INTER-CUT - PHONE BOOTH/RUBY'S LIVING ROOM

EVAN

Hi, Momma.

Evans MOM RUBY HESTER (40) (BLACK), has a friendly smile and kind eyes, wears a green scarf, sits on her sofa.

RUBY

How have you been, son?

EVAN

I'm doing fine. I like San Diego.
The weather is always lovely.

He takes a drink from a pint of vodka.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO - JAMES BROWN CONCERT - NIGHT

Evan joins his friends, seated on the bleachers that are on the football field.

Evan, LORENZO (19) (BLACK), six feet five inches, thin, dark tone, Jill (18) (BLACK), five feet two inches, red-bone tone, SANDRA (21) (BLACK), high-yellow five feet ten inches, and BILLIE (19) (FEMALE) (BLACK), five feet six inches, medium billed, dark tone.

Evan sits next to Jill, reaches up to her face with his hand, and pulls a coin from the back of her ear. He hands the coin to Jill.

Darlene and her two girlfriends, Misty and DEBBY (18) (BLACK), large round eyes, five feet six inches, tan skin tone are at the concert. A helicopter lands on the field. The crowd cheers and yells as JAMES BROWN exits the aircraft. He runs to the stage and entertains the crowd.

INT. SAN DIEGO ARENA - DAY

Evan and Lorenzo play basketball. Lorenzo throws Evan the ball from out of bounds. Evan dribbles down to the front court, then passes the ball back to Lorenzo. They pick and rowing. Lorenzo gives the ball to Evan, cuts towards the basket, then dunks the basketball.

INT. SAN DIEGO ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "The 1968 San Diego Rockets first-round, number one pick,"

The team gets dressed in the home team locker room. The big "E" ELVIN HAYES (19) (BLACK), slim six feet nine inches, brown tone. He wears a uniform number 11 on front and "E" above the number he wears on his back. He walks in and high-fives players and visits with the team.

EXT. JOEY'S JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT

Evan and Lorenzo walk down the street drinking. They hear Jazz music coming from across the street. They cross the street, then enter the club.

EXT. CHUCKY'S LOUNGE - NIGHT

JOAN (38) (BLACK), wears a size 13 catsuit, olive tone. Her red sport car is parked on the street. There are photos of Darlene and the other dancers on the walls of the strip club where she works, Chucky's Lounge.

INT. CHUCKY'S LOUNGE - NIGHT

Coffee and Joan sit at the bar. They drink and watch Darlene dance.

JOAN

She's got nice tits... and that
ass... wow, got-damn.

An older man walks to the bar, then sits. Darlene finishes her set, then walks off stage over to ARI HUNT (66) (BLACK), wears eyeglasses, six feet two inches, baldheaded, with a brown tone wears all black clothes.

DARLENE

Old man, what you trying to get
into tonight?

He doesn't speak at first.

ARI

Who you calling old? I'm 66.

DARLENE

Black doesn't crack. You're looking
good.

ARI

You want a drink?

DARLENE

I'll have a Coke later, if that's
fine with you. You were looking
around since you got here. Why
don't you just ask me where's
Misty? She's out back, 'token' that
weed on her break. You want to save
her. Huh? Captain Save-a-Hoe.
Right?

ARI

She reminds me of my niece, but
don't tell her that. She would
really start fucking up.

DARLENE

I got you, Ari Hunt.

Darlene walks on stage and dances.

Misty walks in, sees Ari, and waves. She orders drinks from the bartender, then picks up the two drinks and brings Ari a drink.

MISTY

Sweetie.

ARI

Good news. You and Darlene's marijuana charge was thrown out.

MISTY

Thanks. I was talking with Chucky about our case. He asked who our lawyer was. I said Ari Hunt. He said how could we afford Hunt. Chucky thought you had retired. I said you were doing it pro bono.

ARI

Happy to be of help. I'm calling it a night. Going golfing early tomorrow. Let Darlene know.

MISTY

Darlene's going to dig, not having to go to court. I'll change my outfit for you. What color do you want me to wear...red, green, or blue?

ARI

Blue, blue would be fine.

Misty walks over to Darlene.

MISTY

Darlene ARI got our case thrown out. I'll be right back, baby girl.

Darlene beams, showing all 32 teeth. Misty enters the locker room. Darlene dances on stage. Ari moves to a table. Misty enters, she wears red. Misty walks over, then sits on Ari's lap.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Ari, I know you look at me as a relative... someone in your family.

ARI

That's true.

Misty says this in a funny way.

MISTY

Well, We're going to do that incest thing.

(MORE)

MISTY (CONT'D)

You're getting this pussy this
night and in the morning, sit back
and enjoy the ride.

INT. SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA -- NIGHT

Evan, Jill, and Billie are at the concert walking in the hallway. Darlene and her two friends, Misty and Debby, are at the DIONNE WARWICK CONCERT. Evan and his friends walk behind them in the crowd of people.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - SANDRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jill and Sandra play 45rpm vinyl records and dance.

The record skips.

The girls pick outfits. Harris walks in.

HARRIS

Where do you two think you're
going?

SANDRA

The Palace, Dad. We asked you last
week.

HARRIS

Right. Don't let no boys be all up
in your ear with no foolishness,
and they better be keeping their
hands to their self.

Harris and Sandra get in a fight stance. Sandra slips, then punches. She throws a combination of punches, kicks, while Harris throws and blocks punches and kicks.

Sandra looks over and winks at Jill. Sandra throws more combinations of kicks and punches.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

San.

JILL

(quietly)
Day-go.

HARRIS

You're next, Tiny.

Harris looks over at Jill.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sandra and Jill make a couple of peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - BED ROOM - NIGHT

Coffee in the bathroom, turning off her shower. She's nude, puts a towel around her waist without drying off, walks out the bathroom door, and then walks over to a window and looks out.

EXT. NAVAL PRINT SHOP - NIGHT

In the dark, wearing night vision goggles, Anderson opens the door to the print shop with a key. He opens a case with a key, then removes two cameras. He places them in his rucksack. He exits the building.

INT. ANDERSON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Anderson sits on a sofa.

ANDERSON
(singing)
La, la, la...

The phone rings.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)
Hello. "INTERCUT TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION,"

HARRIS
Corporal, were you able to carry
out your mission?

ANDERSON
Sir, affirmative, sir. Two cameras.

Harris picks up the telephone, stands, then walks over to the window and looks out.

HARRIS
Pawn them under Hester's name. Make
a trade for an item we can plant on
him later if we need to. What cash
is leftover can go in our coffee
fund?

He walks back to the center of the room. He laughs.

ANDERSON
Semper Fi.

INT. POPSICLE PALACE - NIGHT

Evan and Lorenzo, "dressed to the nines," walk up to Jill, Sandra, and Billie.

LORENZO
How y'all doing tonight?

JILL
Fine.

BILLIE
(overlapping)
I'm good.

SANDRA
Fine, Lorenzo

Lorenzo walks to Sandra.

LORENZO
Excellent baby, I'm good.

EVAN
Ladies... Bill.

BILLIE
Dick.

Evan raises his eyebrow and smiles. He and Lorenzo go onto the dance floor and check out the people. The women leave for the 'ladies' room.

INT. POPSICLE PALACE - LADIES' ROOM - NIGHT

Jill, Sandra, and Billie enter the ladies' room.

JILL
Come here, baby.

Jill and Billie French Kiss. Sandra watches.

SANDRA
Slow down, Tiny. Oh, you nasty.

They laugh.

EXT. POPSICLE PALACE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Evan and Lorenzo walk outside to the back of the club. Ten people mingle around, drink, and smoke cigarettes and joints. Three young women in a circle pass around a hash pipe.

Evan removes a pint of vodka from his jacket pocket, unscrews the cap, and drinks. He wipes his mouth, then shakes his head. Evan passes the bottle to Lorenzo. Lorenzo drinks.

Lorenzo coughs.

LORENZO

This is for the homies.

EVAN

Remember how the Muslims would talk to us about Islam?

Lorenzo pours out a little alcohol on the deck.

LORENZO

Yeah, and the Black Panthers about Self-Defense.

EVAN

La ilaha illa Allah

LORENZO

There is no god but Allah...

YOUNG MAN 1 (O..)

What you say?

A YOUNG MAN 1 (19) (BLACK), six feet medium build high-yellow tone, YOUNG WOMAN (18) (BLACK), five feet seven inches, brown tone. YOUNG MAN 2 (19) (BLACK), straightforward appearance, brown tone. Young Man 1 walks to Evan and Lorenzo.

YOUNG MAN 1 (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What did you say?

When he's close enough, Evan punches him in the jaw. Young man falls to the ground. Lorenzo nudges Evan out of the way, then kicks the man in his side.

YOUNG WOMAN

Stop. Please stop.

His friends stand by and watch them walk away. Evan turns and pulls out a little red book from his back pants pocket. He throws it to the Young Woman.

It hits her front, then drops. She bends down and picks it up. Lorenzo points at the man laying on the deck.

LORENZO

Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, brother.

They walk off.

INT. POPSICLE PALACE - NIGHT

Lorenzo and Evan join their friends in the club. Evan dances with Jill. Lorenzo and Sandra dance. Lorenzo palms Sandra's butt with both hands. Billie cuts in.

BILLIE

I want to dance. Move nigga.

Lorenzo shakes his head and walks off the dance floor. The song ends. Sandra and billie dance. Jill, Evan, and Lorenzo stand close by and watch. The DJ on stage plays vinyl records.

Jill joins them on the dance floor. Jill, Sandra, and Billie play around. They lip-sync, make hand and facial gestures, and point to Evan and Lorenzo standing next to a wall.

Evan and Lorenzo are out of earshot of the three women.

EVAN

I'm going to call this girl in a little while.

A MC (40) (MEXICAN), handsome, five feet seven inches medium build walks on stage, removing a microphone from its stand.

MC

Corporal Leroy Anderson is going to sing for you, I'm a Watcher. Put your hands together.

The crowd gives some polite applause.

ANDERSON (O.C.)

(singing)
La, la, la...

LORENZO
 Why didn't you get with your girl
 back then?

EVAN
 She was dating my cousin James.

They walk over next to a telephone booth.

LORENZO
 I'm trying to get with Sandra.
 She's fine as hell, and she got
 that fat ass. I'm trying to wife
 her.

EVAN
 Lo, you know her daddy don't play
 that.

LORENZO
 He has to catch a nigga first, sir!

Lorenzo looks funny when he says this.

The two men rejoin Jill, Sandra, and Billie.

INT. POPSICLE PALACE - TELEPHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

Across the hall, Anderson stands in a telephone booth and
 makes a call.

ANDERSON
 Sir Jill's with Hester.

HARRIS (V.O.)
 Thanks. I know what to do, He'll be
 gone within the month. I'll see you
 tomorrow. Job well done, Anderson.

ANDERSON
 Yes, sir.

INT. THE OLD CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

Evan sits, alone, in the second row stage left, at a Roberta
 Flack Concert. The concert ends.

A man from backstage walks up to Evan. FLACK'S MANAGER (40)
 six feet (BLACK), wears a blue suit, white shirt with a stick
 pen through a tie. The two men shake hands.

FLACKS MANAGER

How are you?

EVAN

Great, sir, thanks for asking. Wow, the show... She's so... I have her album.

FLACKS MANAGER

Would you like to go back stage and meet Miss Flack?

EVAN

Yes, sir... sir, yes.

The manager asks several other people if they would like to go backstage.

INT. THE OLD CONCERT HALL - MENS ROOM - NIGHT

Evan exits the men's room and pulls out his bus pass from his pant pocket. He turns, stuffs the bus pass in his pant pocket, then walks backstage. He sits.

In walks Darlene. Their eyes meet.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Evan and Darlene sit at a table with a sewing machine. Sewing accessories and pieces of black and white leather are on the table. They're going to hand stitch leather.

EVAN

We should get started making your hot pants. That's some nice leather.

Evan picks up the phone receiver and dials.

RUBY (V.O.)

Hey Evan, it's good to hear from you.

EVAN

Yes, Momma. I want to know the best way to hand sew leather pants?

RUBY (V.O.)

Boy, why would you want to know that. You've gone to California and turned fruit?

EVAN

Hell-no...no, Momma, I ain't no
sissy.

RUBY (V.O.)

Boy, what you want, you got a
girlfriend, son?

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ruby sits in her living room. To the side of her there's a
table with Evan's sports trophies, football, boxing,
basketball and tennis.

EVAN (V.O.)

Yeah, I got a friend, momma her
name is Darlene.

RUBY

Boy put her on the phone.

FADE OUT.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darlene plays records, then sits and listens on her sofa.

EVAN

You love you some Dionne. Every
time I come see you, you're playing
Alfie. I'm trying to play this... I
wish it would rain.

DARLENE

Evan, try again, I wish you would
take that with you when you go.

Evan goes through a stack of 45s, finds the record and places
it on the turntable. He drops the needle on the record.
"We're Winners" by The Teardrops plays. Half way through the
song, he sings along.

EVAN

We're keeping on up.

DARLENE

That's not even in the song,
sweetie.

EVAN

Don't worry about what I'm doing
over here.

The second record plays. He performs.

DARLENE

Get it, man.

Evan walks over to Darlene. He leans in for a kiss on the lips. She turns her head to receive a kiss on her cheek.

He reaches around and takes hold of her butt. Evan palms Darlene's butt cheeks. He stops, then walks to the door.

Evan stands in front of the door, smiles, and winks. He turns, then closes the door. Darlene times her moves. She jumps up, then runs out to her car.

EXT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darlene's driver window is down. She leans in and French kisses Evan long and hard. Her breathing is heavy.

She takes his right hand and places it on her breast, then he embraces both. He opens her door. Darlene pushes her door closed. She turns, then walks away. Evan watches.

EVAN

Darlene.

She stops, makes a half-turn towards Evan, then points to the street.

DARLENE

Bye, baby.

Evan waves.

Evan watches her walk inside. Darlene opens her door, enters, and turns off her ceiling fan light.

INT. DARLENE'S FORD MUSTANG 1968 SHELBY GT500 KR BLUE - NIGHT

Evan looks at her door and smiles. He starts her car, then drives off.

INT. DARLENE'S FORD MUSTANG 1968 SHELBY GT500 KR BLUE -
MOVING - NIGHT

Evan grabs a mini bottle from his jacket pocket. He untwists the cap and gulps the mini.

EXT. HARRIS HOUSE - NIGHT

Evan drives by and sees a red car that looks like Coffee's. Evan honks twice, drives around the block, and parks three houses past Jill's.

INT. DARLENE'S FORD MUSTANG SHELBY 1968 GT500 KR BLUE - MOVING - NIGHT

Evan looks out at the night and smiles. Jill exits through the side door. She hurries to the car, then enters.

JILL

What's up E? Nice wheels. Who's car is this?

EVAN

It's Darlene's car. I knew her from back home. Baby's fine nice, too. I ran into her at the concert.

Evan drives off.

INT. DARLENE'S FORD MUSTANG SHELBY 1968 GT500 KR BLUE - NIGHT

He picks up two minis from his seat.

JILL

That's groovy. I want to meet her.

EVAN

You better.

JILL

Nig-row, please.

He hands one to Jill.

JILL (CONT'D)

We're picking up my Billie, then off to Jimmy's.

EVAN

Back at your house, whose red car was that? I've never seen that car before.

JILL

My mom's friend, Joan. She flew out this morning. Mom dropped her off. Her car is safe here.

Jill untwists the cap, then drinks.

EVAN

Captain Harris is your dad. I don't even know your mom's name.

She hands Evan the mini, he's drunk.

JILL

Coffee Harris.

EVAN

Nice name, Coffee.

JILL

Yeah, it's different. Hey, Evan, what you writing?

EVAN

Nothing. I ain't got nothing. What about you?

JILL

It's a poem about children.

INT. JIMMY'S DINER - NIGHT

Evan, Jill, Billie, and THE COOK, server and 10 CUSTOMERS watch THE APOLLO 11 Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969, at 20:17 UTC on a black-and-white TV.

EXT. CAMP PENDLETON - DAY

Evan fires an M16 on the rifle range. He fires again at the target. A staff sergeant walks by with instructions.

EXT. PLAYA DEL REY BEACH - DAY

Evan, Darlene, FREDDY (21) (BLACK), six feet, slim build, brown tone, and Linda run on the beach "horseplay". Two plain clothes cops (30's) (WHITE), both five feet seven inches of medium build, walk up to them. The lead officer steps up to Evan.

Evan has a small blanket draped over his shoulders. A cop, with a smug look on his face, pulls his .38 revolver. He points it at Evan's chest. His friends freeze. Evan sees the .38 and flips the blanket off to the sand. He looks the cop in his eyes, unafraid. Evan's body is relaxed.

They ask for the men's IDs. Evan and Freddy walk over 15 feet to their belongings, the cops follow. They hand over their IDs. The cops check their IDs, then leave.

Evan points at Freddy as if he's pointing a gun and pulls the trigger.

EVAN
Freddy's dead.

They laugh.

INT. ROADWAY MOTEL - DAY

Darlene watches a small black-and-white tv.

SUPER: "Woodstock festival August 15-18, 1969,".

A large audience attends the music festival. A YOUNG WOMAN (21) (WHITE), blonde hair sits on a YOUNG MALE (21) (WHITE), shoulders, she pulls up her top to expose her breast. Band plays music.

EXT. WHISKEY À GOGO - NIGHT

Evan and Darlene jaywalk across the street. They walk on the sidewalk to the club. There's a WOMAN in the ticket booth. She's (35) (WHITE), attractive with dark hair helps them.

WOMAN
Welcome to the Whiskey À GoGO. May
I help you?

Evan takes out his wallet, then hands the woman money.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
There you go. Two tickets to Herbie
Mann.

EVAN
Keep the change.

She gives Evan the tickets.

INT. WHISKEY À GOGO - NIGHT

Soft jazz music plays. A hostess shows them to their seats. Evan leans in and kisses Darlene on the mouth.

He pulls out her chair. She sits, then he sits. Evan and Darlene sit at the table and hold hands.

INT. RODEWAY MOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Evan and Darlene are nude on the bed. The room is candlelit. They have sex in many positions.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Evan drives while Darlene sits in the passenger seat. He pulls in and parks. They make out at the back of her Mustang. Evan opens the trunk, removes his seabag, then closes the trunk. He shoulders the seabag, then hands Darlene her car keys. He and Darlene enter the airport.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Evan and Darlene walk to a check-in point for his flight to Vietnam. Evan checks in. They wait for him to board a military aircraft. The two talk and look into each other's eyes. They hold hands, hug and kiss.

Darlene puts her head in his lap. Evan walks off and buys a sandwich, chips, soda, and black coffee out of different machines. He returns. Evan takes a seat next to Darlene. She hands him half the sandwich.

She opens the soda, then holds it up to his lips. He sips. She sips. Evan picks up his cup of coffee and drinks. Darlene takes his hand. Evan looks up at the clock on the wall.

He takes his dog tags from his pocket; he sticks them down the inside of his left boot. He stands, she stands. They walk to the gate, kissing and hugging. Evan walks to a plane.

EXT. CAT-LO NAVAL BASE - VIETNAM - DAY

Evan walks to the galley. He listens to his cassette player that's in his fatigues pocket. He turns off the player and enters the Galley.

INT. CAT-LO - GALLEY - DAY

Evan stands in line with a food tray being served breakfast: an orange, banana, toast, a small carton of milk, and a coffee. He takes a seat, then eats.

INT. POST EXCHANGE - DAY

Evan buys a carton of "New Port" menthol cigarettes, a Zippo lighter, some batteries, and a green critical chain rabbit's foot. The SUPPLY CLERK stands at the counter. Evan walks to the counter.

EVAN

I'll take a carton of New Port menthols, a dozen double a battery, and that green rabbit's foot.

Evan points at a green rabbit's foot.

SUPPLY CLERK

You want a little luck?

EVAN

I just like the color.

The Supply Clerk places the carton of New Port on the counter, then the batteries, and the rabbit's foot.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I nearly forgot... two Zippo Lighters.

The Clerk places the two lighters on the counter. Evan picks up one lighter.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I want an inscription.

The clerk hands Evan a form. Evan fills it out, then gives it back to the Clerk. The Clerk reads it.

SUPPLY CLERK

Slaves (nineteen sixty-nine),
Directed by Herbert J. Biberman
Writing Credits Herbert J.
Biberman, John O. Killens, Alida
Sherman Cast Stephen Boyd, Dionne
Warwick, Ossie Davis

EVAN

How much? And when will I get back my Zippo?

SUPPLY CLERK

That will be seventeen fifty. Three weeks on the Zippo..... If you buy a case of Coke, you get a free case of Freshca.

EVAN
I'm good, thanks.

Evan pays the Clerk with Military Payment Certificates. He picks up the items from the counter and places them in his fatigue pockets.

EXT. SAILORS BARRACKS - DAY

Evan sits on a plastic milk carton. He lights up a cigarette, smokes it, then drops the butt to the ground. He gets up, walks to the barracks, opens the door, then enters.

INT. SAILORS BARRACKS - DAY

Evan sees his seabag has been placed on a top rack. He had left it on a bottom rack.

Evan points at a bottom rack, takes a pillow from a top rack, and throws it on the floor.

EVAN
What's going on?

JONES (23) (WHITE), short and stocky build speaks. The other two men PERRY (20) (WHITE), brown hair, heavy build, he ambles, and HOWARD (21) (WHITE), blonde hair, six feet.

JONES
The guys are coming back.

EVAN
Why do I have to have a top rack?

HOWARD
They're coming back. You get a top rack.

EVAN
They're not here now, fuck y'all.

Evan points to Jones, then at the other sailors. Evan waves his fist at the men.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Come on, Lisa.

He picks up his M16, his seabag, and exits the barracks. He sits on a milk crate outside. Three army soldiers, JIMMY (20) (BLACK), brown tone, RED (23) (BLACK), red tone and CHICAGO (25) (BLACK), ebony tone.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Y'all know where I can bunk?

RED
We got you blood.

JIMMY
Got you, brother.

CHICAGO
Yeah, bruh, we got you.

EVAN
Thanks, I appreciate it.

INT. ARMY BARRACKS - DAY

Evan sits on a bunk and writes in his little green notebook. Jimmy carries a footlocker, then sets it down next to the bunk.

JIMMY
Here you go, Blood.

EVAN
Thanks for letting me bunk here.

JIMMY
No problem. That Devil ain't no damn good.

Chicago and Red walk up.

RED
Fuck that Rabbit Devil. We got you, Blood. What's your name? Why don't you have your name or service on your uniform?

EVAN
I don't know, and I don't give a fuck. My name is Hester, Evan. I'm an E-2 Boatswain's Mate.

JIMMY
The Bloods got this side of the barracks.

CHICAGO
And Chucky got that side over there.

Chicago and Jimmy point to the other side of the barracks.

RED

Blood, I'm going to hip you to the lingo. Mr. Charlie, White Devil, White Rabbit. They're not all bad, just most of them. We young, black, and don't give a fuck.

CHICAGO

The motherfuckers gave the wrong fuckers M Sixteens.

INT. GUARD OFFICE - NIGHT

Evan and Petty Officer Smith (30) (WHITE), with a sad face on duty, are at odds. Evan holds his M16. The petty officer sits at the desk and has his sidearm, a .45 pistol, on his right hip. His right hand moves under the desk.

Evan flips off the safety and exits the office facing the petty officer.

EXT. GUARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Evan takes a card from a posting board, then writes on it. He places the card in a small box on the desk, then he walks off.

I/E. JEEP MOVING - DAWN

LARRY BROWN (24) (WHITE), drives down the road. He wears fatigues with A US NAVY patch and a NAME patch, a helmet, a flack jacket, a .45 on his hip, and his M16 in the front seat with the barrel sticking out of the jeep.

LARRY

Everything is always changing out here. Stay ready. When you don't give a fuck, you're winning.

Evan sits in the back seat. He wears fatigues, a bush hat, and flack jacket. He holds his M16.

EVAN

Why didn't you let me sit up front?

LARRY

You can cover fire from all sides from the back. Hester, where you from?

EVAN
Ogden, Utah.

LARRY
Wow, damn dude. I'm from Laramie,
Wyoming.

Evan writes in his little green notebook. He grabs a green bandanna from his fatigues. He removes his glasses, takes out his canteen, unscrews the cap, pours water on his glasses. He cleans his glasses with the bandanna. Evan drinks. He replaces the cap on the canteen.

EVAN
Did you play sports?

LARRY
Football.

EVAN
That's killer... the Cowboys. Not too many teams wear brown uniforms. And y'all love McDonald's... the one across the street from the Hilton.

LARRY
Yea, boy. That's us.

Evan puts on his glasses.

EVAN
Yeah, them Cowgirls got the fattest asses, man. Asses like sisters... I mean, black girls. I know people in Rock Springs. You ever go over there?

LARRY
Mostly pass by. What you writing? You were writing in your little notebook since you got in.

EVAN
Just stuff, I makeup stories. How long have you been at Phu Coung Base Camp?

Shots ring out from two shooters in a row of palm trees a hundred yards away.

EVAN (CONT'D)

These fucks don't know me. That's fucked up, real fucking, mother fucking, fuckers.

LARRY

These little gook fuckers are at it again. Fuck them. They're just fucking with us. Welcome to the boonies. Lately, the only fucks that come out here are volunteers. Fuck kid, the first thing you learn is never volunteer.

EVAN

Never volunteer. I needed something to write about. They really didn't want to fuck us, whoever they were. They wanted us to know that we're guests in this bitch.

He laugh.

Write or die, mother fucks. Could you keep my story telling between us?

LARRY

Yeah, I can do that. We'll be there soon, in about forty-five minutes.

EVAN

Cool that.

EXT. PHU COUNG, NAVAL FIREBASE CAMP - DUST

The base camp is at the foot of the Phu Cong Bridge. The navy stands guard on one side of the bridge, while the Army guards the other. "The Cong" is a 20-man firebase camp.

The base has a small administration/supply hut with a boat dock for river patrols, and five small barracks, six racks to a barracks.

Evan and Larry exit the jeep. Both men carry an M16. Evan takes his seabag, then walks to a hut with a sign on it that reads "HQ".

INT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan sits on floor and reads his pocket-size Military Bible. He takes two small index cards from his seabag, then places one in the back of his bible. He writes on the other, then places it in his bible, then puts his Bible in his seabag.

Evan stands, then walks to his rack. He lies down and he mouths words...

EVAN
One hundred, ninety-nine, ninety
eight...

Evan turns over on his side.

EVAN (CONT'D)
... ninety-seven, ninety-six...

Evan closes his eyes.

EVAN (CONT'D)
... Ninety-five, ninety.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

E-2 GARY GOOD "GOODIE" (19) (WHITE), (HYPER) red hair, Casper tone wakes Evan up.

GOODIE
Get Up! Get Up!

EVAN
I got it.

GOODIE
You got two minutes. I'll see you
outside. I'm going to train you on
the watch... How we do the damn
thing here at the Coung.

Goodie walks outside with his M16, then sits on an ammo case.

I/E. GUARD TOWER - NIGHT

E-3 TOM LANG (30) (WHITE), medium build sits in the tower. A.50-caliber machine gun is mounted in the front center of the tower. He sees the two men approaching the tower, then lifts the corner of a sandbag and places a girly magazine under it.

Goodie and Evan climb the ladder with their M-16s strapped to their backs, then enter the tower.

LANG

Hey Goodie. Who's the new guy?

GOODIE

Dirty Lang, this is Hester. He's ninety days TDY from Cat-Lo, by Vung Tau, R&R center.

LANG

They got Vung Tau and Black Rock beach. New guy, I got R&R in ten days. How's The Tau?

EVAN

One Sunday, me and two of my buddies got a half-gallon each of Morgan David Wine and went to Vung Tau Beach, sat on lounge chairs drinking and watching the tide. I made it over to Black Rock Beach. I swam it. Out of Sight.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Evan points at the .50-caliber machine gun.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Ma Deuce. John Moses Browning of Ogden was the inventor. We learned that in school. I'm from Ogden.

LANG

Ogden? Where's that at?

EVAN

Utah.

LANG

Oh, I'd better be going... rack time.

Lang walks over to the entrance of the tower, then climbs down the ladder.

Goodie and Evan sit on ammo boxes and look out into the night. Goodie takes a mix tape from his pants pocket, puts it in his cassette player, then pushes the button. Music plays.

Goodie shakes his head from side to side several times. He closes his eyes and points as if he's directing a symphony. He rocks back-and-forth. Evan sits and watches him.

EVAN
Blue magic love.

Goodie picks up a flashlight and holds it up to his lips as if it is a microphone.

GOODIE
(singing)
What you need baby I got you. I'm
not fooling, I'm going to school
you...

Sounds of rifle fire break the quiet. Several tracers round light up eight feet above and five feet to the left of the top of the tower. More rifles fire. More tracer rounds fly past the tower.

GOODIE (CONT'D)
Made it, Ma! Top of the World.

Evan stands. He puts Goodie in a headlock and pulls him down behind the sandbags. Goodie pulls out a pack of military cigarettes from his pocket.

GOODIE (CONT'D)
Hester, you want one?

EVAN
I'm goody.

GOODIE
What, you got jokes?

The rifle fire and tracers continue to light up the night.

EVAN
Where's the radio?

GOODIE
Polliwog, not tonight,... that
ain't,... this little fire... ain't
shit.

Evan pulls out his Zippo lighter.

EVAN
I got goody jokes.

GOODIE
Just like Saturday night back home
in Detroit except, it's not a
thirty-eight special. It's a AK
forty-seven.

EVAN

Preach.

Goodie leans in with a joint in between his lips. Evan lights the joint.

INT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - DAY

Evan takes shower items from his seabag. He removes his glasses and places them in his seabag. He carries his towel, toothpaste, toothbrush, and exits the barracks.

EXT. OUTSIDE SHOWER - DAY

Evan enters the shower. He operates the water, gets wet, soaps up, then quickly rinses off.

EXT. SUPPLY HUT - DAY

Evan stands in front of the supply hut.

The SUPPLY CLERK GLEN (23) (WHITE), a front tooth missing, stands at the window.

GLEN

What's it's going to be?

EVAN

I'll have chicken and dumplings and some smokes.

GLEN

On Sunday we have brunch. What meal do you want for that?

EVAN

Spaghetti and meatballs. That's the one that comes with pound cake, right?

GLEN

Peaches. Chile comes with the pound cake.

Glen hands Evan the meals and cigarettes.

Evan walks to his barracks. He takes an ammo case and places it ten feet from his barracks. Evan takes out a small cooking unit from the ammo case and places it on the dozen small stones that make up the base of a heating system.

He lights the unit, pulls a tin cup from his fatigue pants pocket, takes his canteen from a pocket, fills the cup with water, and places it on the cooking unit.

EXT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - DAY

Goodie walks to Evan.

GOODIE

I'll be right back. I'd better get my ass up there before Glen closes up. I want some applesauce, yeah, and some beef stew.

Goodie leaves, then returns. Evans heats Goodie a cup of coffee. He takes the cup off the heating unit, then hands Goodie the coffee.

GOODIE (CONT'D)

What do you want, a medal?

EVAN

No, if it wasn't Sunday, I'd kick your ass.

They laugh.

GOODIE

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. That's what it means to me...

EXT. OUTHOUSES - DAY

Goodie and Evan take two outhouses drums with cut in half 50-gallon drums out from the back.

They lift out the two drums. Evan and Goodie place a 6-foot pole through the handle of one drum. They wear work gloves and cover their faces with bandanas. The two men carry the drums 20 feet away, then pour gas in them and light the drums on fire.

EVAN

Goodie, let's take five.

Goodie and Evan take a smoke break. Goodie pulls a smoke from his pants pocket and lights up. Evan bends down and pulls out a smoke from his left sock, then lights up. There's a bench that the men stand by. Goodie places his smoke on the edge of the bench, lit.

EVAN (CONT'D)

What's up with you? You're not acting like your usual. I'm here to kick ass and chew bubble gum, hyper ass.

Goodie pulls another smoke from his pants pocket and lights it.

GOODIE

My girl.

Goodie picks up the other smoke in his left hand. He holds two lit smokes.

GOODIE (CONT'D)

She ain't right.

EVAN

You got a smoke in each of your hands.

GOODIE (CONT'D)

What? Oh.

He throws the smoke in his left hand to the ground.

GOODIE (CONT'D)

My girl stopped writing me. It's been three weeks.

Goodie smokes.

GOODIE (CONT'D)

I'm afraid to get a letter now. It's going to be a Dear John.

EVAN

It's all about loving Goodie. Love yourself, Goodie Mob.

GOODIE

Check out this "Time Magazine".

Goodie hands Evan the magazine. Evan looks at the magazine. He reads out loud.

EVAN

On May forth, nineteen seventy members of the Ohio National Guard fired into a crowd of Kent State University demonstrators, killing four and wounding nine Kent State students... Damn.

Goodie sits on an ammo case and looks up to the sky.

GOODIE
That's Sad.

EVAN
Can I take it so I can read it
later?

GOODIE
Yeah, you can take it.

Evan places the magazine on the bench.

EVAN
We're going to run six fifty yards,
Goodie Mob.

GOODIE
Why?

EVAN
Why not Blue Magic Love?

Goodie and Evan run from a standing position. They race each other 50 yards, turn back the way they came, and race again. A few members (WHITE), of the base stop and watch. Evan and Goodie race again.

INT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan lies on his rack. BOOM! There is an explosion.

Evan jolts up, puts on his boots, grabs his flack jacket, takes his helmet off his M16, he places his helmet on his head, then runs out the door.

EXT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan runs toward Goodie. The two men stand ten feet apart and look around the perimeter. They see Larry Brown, Dirty Lang, and Glen standing outside a barracks.

Larry, Dirty Lang, and Glen watch Evan and Goodie.

They Laugh.

GOODIE
They have nothing better to do than
watch porn and blow shit up.

EVAN
That's your people, my brother.

GOODIE

Right.

Evan walks off, then enters his barracks. Goodie walking over to the three men.

INT. EVAN'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan sleeps on his rack.

INT. GOODIES BARRACKS - DAWN

Evan watches Goodie sleep on his rack. He places an envelope on his seabag, then exits Goodie's barracks.

EXT. PHU COUNG, NAVAL FIRE BASE CAMP - DAWN

Evan picks up his seabag and M16, then heading towards the parked Jeep. He gets 10 feet from the jeep, then Larry drives away 10 feet. Evan walks towards the jeep, then Larry driving off 10 feet again, then stops.

Evan walks to the jeep, moves Larry's M16, and places his seabag in the front on the floor. He enters the back seat and sits with his M16 on his lap.

INT. JEEP - CAR MOVING - DAWN

The jeep moves up a small hill next to Phu Coung Bridge onto the road. They enter the bridge, then Larry speeds up as they cross over the bridge.

INT. GOODIES BARRACKS - DAY

Goodie sits on his rack and reads the letter Evan left him.

EVAN (V.O.)

I told you to keep away from that radio. If that battery is dead, it'll have company. Jimmy Cagney's character Cody Jarrett, White Heat, nineteen forty-nine Warner Brothers. Peace, Goodie Mob.

Goodie stands, then walks to the door and exits his barracks.

INT. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) KITCHEN - NIGHT

BOBBY "COOKIE" SMITH (24) (Italian), mixes a bowl of ingredients for weed brownies. Evan sits at the table.

COOKIE

These brownies are going to be Koba Static.

EVAN

What the... What does Koba Static mean? I've never had weed brownies.

COOKIE

Far out man, groovy. You know Koba Static.

Cookie places a tray of brownies in the oven. MILES (22) (WHITE), walks in.

MILES

We're going to the twenty-one tonight. You two want to come?

COOKIE

I'll pass, I'm making brownies. Who else is going?

MILES

Me, Bo, and Johnson.

EVAN

What's the twenty-one?

MILES

A ship with a bar onboard. Twenty minutes up river. You can come.

EVAN

I'm going to stay here with Cookie and these brownies.

MILES

I got a go, shit heads.

COOKIE

Bye, motherfucker. See you.

Miles walks off.

An egg timer buzzes.

Miles looks back, then walks off.

COOKIE (CONT'D)

Magic time.

Cookie opens the oven, pulls out the pan, then places the brownies on a plate. Cookie and Evan sit at the table and eat brownies and drink milk. Evan holds a brownie in his hand, places it closer to his face, then stares at it.

EVAN

Now that would be Koba Static.

COOKIE

Yeah, yeah...

They laugh.

Chief Warrant Officer ATWOOD (40) (WHITE), walks in, sees the brownies, and takes two brownies from the plate.

ATWOOD

Cookie have this shit squared away before you turn in.

COOKIE

Aye, aye, sir.

Evan sips his milk.

ATWOOD

Carry on shit heads.

COOKIE

Aye, aye, sir.

EVAN

Aye, aye, yes, sir.

Atwood walks off.

Cookie appears about to have a nervous breakdown.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Damn Cookie, we got to get them brownies.

Cookie quickly mixes ingredients in a bowl.

INT. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Evan walks to the area of Atwood's quarters. He watches Atwood sitting on a toilet, reading a magazine. Evan hides and waits. The fire watch passes by.

INT. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) ATWOOD'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Evan enters Atwood's quarters, replaces the brownies, then exits.

INT. SHIP LAUNDRY - DAY

Evans sorts linen. Petty Officer Third Class HENRY ROSE (35) (WHITE), picks up his laundry.

ROSE

We're giving Jody's birthday party
at beer call tonight?

EVAN

Did you hear the scuttlebutt about
the twenty-one?

ROSE

Yeah. Last Saturday night, Bo,
Johnson, and Miles went to the
twenty-one to get shit-faced. They
all got wasted. When they left,
they went the wrong way and ended
up in Cambodia. The US government
had to give the Cambodians three
tractors to get them released.

EVAN

Those swabbies are fucked. They're
getting a court martial for sure.

ROSE

That's what you get when you're
drunk and dumb. If you go upriver,
even if the ship shifts anchor,
when you leave, you go down river,
not up river.

Evan grabs his side and grimaces. He hides his pain from Rose.

EXT. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) UPPER DECK - DAY

Evan and TAYLOR (21) (WHITE), walk down the deck and see a body in a body bag next to a hatch opening.

EVAN

What the hell?

TAYLOR

I wonder who's in the bag?

INT. QUARtermaster DECK - DAY

The men walk to the Quarter Deck. Taylor sticks his head in the compartment. Quartermaster HILL (30) (WHITE), stands on the Quarter Deck.

TAYLOR

We saw a body on the deck.

QUARtermaster

That's Walter Williams.

TAYLOR

What happen to him? How did he end up in the bag?

QUARtermaster

He fell off between the gangway and the pontoon three days ago. They found him today. One chopper will fly him out in an hour.

TAYLOR

Thanks.

The two men walk off.

EXT. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) - LOWER DECK - DAY

EVAN

He gets a whirlybird out of here.

TAYLOR

Fell in the water?

EVAN

More than likely he was shot, then fell in the water. When will they stop with their bull-shit?

TAYLOR

That's a good question.

EXT. PONTOON - DUST

Evan steps off the pontoon onto the barge. A small foil boat comes up to the barge. Evan recognizes LUKE PADILLA (25), olive tone complexion. Padilla pulls up to the barge.

EVAN

Padilla, long time no see. I see you got a boat, Sweet.

PADILLA

I love it.

EVAN

I love my duty assignment in the laundry. It keeps me in shape.

PADILLA

Are you going to Sander's birthday party?

EVAN

Yeah.

PADILLA

I need a radio operator. You interested?

Evan pauses for a moment.

EVAN

Nah, I'm good. Like I said, I'm good with my laundry duty. I run on the deck and work out in the laundry.

PADILLA

You like mama san.

EVAN

(laughing)

Three squares a day... Hell, brunch on Sunday, a movie every night... shitters and showers aboard. Beer Call every night on this here pontoon barge.

He laughs.

PADILLA

We got beer on the boat.

EVAN

Plus, my best game is defense. Never backdown. Never give up... just like back at NTC...me leading the offense, running down the court with Lo on the wing, whipping that ass.

Padilla picks up his radio and listens.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I can tie you off.

PADILLA

I have to go. Let me know if you change your mind.

EVAN

Right on. Power to the People. Be safe. Peace.

He throws Padilla the black power sign. Padilla pulls away from the barge when he's far from the barge, Evan speaks.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Shit-bird.

INT. SHIPS HELM - DAY

Evan stands at Captain's Mast on the deck of the helm. CAPTAIN AYERS (40) (WHITE), stands behind a podium. FIRST LIEUTENANT HARDNETT (38) (WHITE), stands to his right side. SECOND LIEUTENANT EDGERTON (40) (WHITE), stands on the captain's left side. PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS TELLER (25) (WHITE), and Evan stand in front of the podium. Two Master-at-Arms (20's) (WHITE), guard the hatch way.

CAPTAIN AYERS

Seaman Hester, you're charged with Article ninety-two, failure to obey a direct order. Article ninety-one, insubordinate conduct toward a petty officer. I've read Petty Officer Second Class Teller's statement, and yours. Was there anyone else present when the incident occurred?

EVAN

Sir, no, sir.

CAPTAIN AYERS

Would you care to make a statement?

EVAN

Sir, yes, sir. I would like to say I requested permission from Petty Officer Second Class Teller to go to sick bay. I was ignored.

CAPTAIN AYERS

PO two Teller, what do you have to say?

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS TELLER

Sir, this is the first I've heard of a request for sick bay.

CAPTAIN AYERS

Thank you, Petty Officer Second Class Teller. Seaman Hester, would you like to add anything?

EVAN

Sir, no, sir.

CAPTAIN AYERS

Seaman Hester, I've reviewed your service records. With this charge before me, my decision is forfeiture of base pay for two weeks, reduction in rank of one grade, and three day's bread and water. Guards, take Seaman Hester to the brig.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

The two MASTER-AT-ARMS (21) (22) (WHITE), are escorting Evan through the passageways to the brig.

INT. BRIG - DAY

They arrive at the brig. Masters-at-Arms 2 opens the cell. Masters-at-Arms 1 stands behind Evan.

MASTER-AT-ARMS 1

Enter, sailor.

Evan enters the cell.

MASTER-AT-ARMS 1 (CONT'D)

Take off your boots and belt. Place them at the entrance of the cell.

Master-at-arms 2 stands outside the cell watches the two men.

Evan removes his belt, takes off his boots, then places them at the entrance. Masters-at-Arms 1 picks up the shoes and belt.

Two Cranks (COOKS) (20's) (WHITE), wear white's, both arrive at the brig with giant plastic see-through bags of sliced bread and three canteens of water. They place the items outside the cell on the deck.

Master-at-arms 1 Picks up two bags of bread. He enters the cell and places the bread on the floor. He exits the cell, picks up three canteens of water, enters the cell, then places them on the deck.

He exits the cell. Master-at-arms 2 locks the cell.

A small mattress sits on the floor with a bible on it. Evans stands in the center of the cell.

EVAN

Oh, say can you see not in America?

Evan shadowboxes. He punches and punches, again and again. He kicks again and again.

Evan runs in-place. He sits on the mattress and reads the Bible. A GUARD shows up outside the cell, then exits. Evan folds a corner of a page in the bible to mark time.

Evan sings and dances.

EVAN (CONT'D)

(singing)

La, la, la...

Evan does push-ups, then sit-ups. A guard shows up outside his cell, then exits. Evans sits on the mattress and folds a corner of a page in the Bible. He lies on the mattress and looks at the ceiling.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Remember when you were four? How do you know it wasn't three? Stop fucking with me. You were under the kitchen table playing with your Army Men Toy Soldiers. That's right.

He walks to the front of the cell, grabs the bars, and looks out.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I can't remember anything before that. Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

(MORE)

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

Blessed is the man whose sin the
Lord does not count against him and
in whose spirit is no deceit.

Evan eats bread and drinks water. He pulls out a coin from his sock, holds it in his hand, then makes it seem to disappear. Evan shows one coin, then out of thin air, shows another.

Evan sleep on the mattress.

FADE OUT.

Evan walks to the front of the cell, then turns and looks around.

EVAN

(laughing)

Remember when you were seven or
eight, walking to the bus stop? You
thought you saw a miniature flying
saucer.

He laugh.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, I did...

He walks back to the center on the cell, then turns to face the front of the cell.

EVAN (CONT'D)

No, you didn't. It was a
dragonfly...

He walks to the front of the cell, then turns around and looks.

EVAN (CONT'D)

That's what you say. Alright, I
guess it was a dragonfly. I have an
active mind and a keen imagination.
Sue me.

Guard shows up outside the cell, then exits. Evan folds a corner of a page in the bible.

Evan lies on the mattress.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Tell me a story. Once upon a time there was a prince named Jina who lived in the jungle. He was from a tribe of forgotten people. One day on his way...

Two Guards enter his cell and hand Evan his boots and belt.

GUARD

Hester times up.

EVAN

(whistling)

Tweet, tweet, tweet...

Evan exits the cell, then stops whistling. His face and eyes dance.

EXT. TAN SON NHAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Evan travels from Cat Lo to Tan Son Nhut military airbase in Saigon. He Arrives at the MAC-V check-in counter. Two MAC-V CLERKS. A soldier (23) (BLACK), speaks. The other (19) (WHITE), stands nearby.

EVAN

I'm here to check in.

MAC-V CLERK (BLACK)

You can't check in to fly on MAC-V aircraft until you get your haircut.

EVAN

What?

MAC-V CLERK (WHITE)

Cut your hair.

EVAN

Fuck you and MAC-V.

Evan grabs his seabag, his M16, and hauls ass out of the area.

EVAN (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Can you believe shit back there, Lisa?

He laugh.

EXT. MAC DINH CHI STREET - DAY

Evan walks with his seabag and M-16 in Saigon. From a distance, he recognizes Lorenzo. Lorenzo recognizes him. They walk faster and faster, then run and meet on the street.

LORENZO
What's up, Blood?

EVAN
You looking good, brother. Still
black as night. God, brother, god.

They hug, then dap, then do the black power handshake.

INT. LITTLE SAIGON HOTEL - DAY

Evan and Lorenzo are in room 22 on the second-floor. Lorenzo stands. Evan sits in a chair by the door.

LORENZO
(singing)
I'm a soul man, I'm a soul...

EVAN
Yeah, yeah, you're a soul man, Lo.
Fuck'n right, bruh. I missed you...

LORENZO
We do what we do, go where we go,
cause we talk the talk, and walk
the talk.

EVAN
(laughing)
Right.

LORENZO
(laughing)
Lo, fuck'n, you know what I mean.

EVAN
Let's go to the Saigon Zoo.

LORENZO
Bet let's be out.

Evan grabs his camera and they exit the room.

INT. NGUYEN BINH KHIEM, SAIGON - CAR MOVING - DAY

Evan and Lorenzo ride in the backseat of a jitney (car) and pass the Saigon Zoo.

INT. BACH THAO STREET, SAIGON - DAY

Evan and Lorenzo ride past the Presidential Palace.

INT. MIA HOTEL - DAY

SUPER: "Welcome to SOUL ALLEY, an oasis of food and vice for black GIs, March 27, 1970."

Harris and Gunnery Sergeant Anderson watch criminal daily operations and investigate money laundering from their room.

HARRIS

Terry is the owner of a hotel
LITTLE SAIGON and laundry SILK
LUNDRY, Most is the owner of a
record store GRAHAM RECORDS and
CLUB ALLEY.

ANDERSON

Right Cap. What now?

HARRIS

Watch, wait. We're going to catch
these assholes in the act, and
they're going down hard. A river
cuts through a rock not because of
its power, but its persistence.

ANDERSON

Right, Cap. What you want for
lunch?

HARRIS

Cabbage soup and bread from the
Rose Garden. Order up some hoes for
our cover. We need to look the
part. Don't get them from the
hotel. Get them from down the
street.

ANDERSON

I'm on my way, Cap.

EXT. BUILDING ROOFTOP - DAY

"MAGNUM" (33) (BLACK), works for MOST (46) (BLACK), lites his cigar. JEFF (45) (BLACK), works for TERRY (50) (BLACK), brings him a rucksack. Most and Terry are placing their bets. The four men sit in chairs. Most drinks an orange soda from a bottle, the others alcohol.

TERRY

Damn, I know one of my birds is going to win, no doubt about it.

JEFF

You damn right, boss. You're the best. You got this in the bag.

Magnum looks at Jeff with a hard stare.

EXT. SOUTH CHINA SEA - DAY

A flock of racing pigeons fly across the ocean.

EXT. SOUL ALLEY - DOAN VAN BO STREET - DAY

IT EM GAI (16) (Vietnamese), rides her bicycle down the street. Her front tire goes flat. She takes a small wrench and some rope from a small pouch that's tied under her seat.

She pulls the tire, ties the bike to her back, then runs down the street, holding the flat tire.

INT. MAY MAN CUATIEM - DAY

It Em Gai walks down an aisle. She picks up a patch kit and walks to the counter where a clerk waits.

INT. GRAHAM RECORD STORE - DAY

It Em Gai enters the store, then parks her bike in a corner. There's a sound booth, a sales counter, and crates of records on tables.

She cleans the shop, empties small trash cans, and dust pictures and plaques on the walls. Then she enters the sound booth and stands behind a microphone.

INT. GRAHAM RECORD STORE - SOUND BOOTH - DAY

IT EM GAI
(singing)
It was the third of Jun...

EXT. SILK LAUNDRY - ALLEYWAY - DAY

"WONDER BOY" pulls out a new pack of cigarettes, breaks the seal, reaches in his shirt pocket, and pulls out his Zippo lighter. He lights up a cigarette. Jeff walks up and catches Wonder Boy not working.

JEFF
Get back to work, Lazy.

WONDER BOY
Ok, sorry, not happen again.

JEFF
It better not. You're not hired to smoke. You got it?

Wonder Boy hits the side of his head with the inside of his palm several times.

WONDER BOY
Yes, Mr. Jeff.

He runs into the laundry.

INT. GRAHAM RECORD STORE - DAY

Most and It Em Gai stand in the record store.

MOST
You can stay a little late today? I need you to unpack a shipment of records.

IT EM GAI
Dung Ongchu.

EXT. MAI HOTEL - DAY

From their room, Harris spots Evan and Lorenzo cross the street, they walk past stores. Harris sits by the window in a chair. Anderson sits in a chair by the door.

HARRIS

You know how we were looking for Evan Hester? There he is, right over there.

ANDERSON

Cap, damn.

HARRIS

He must do what we ask. We got all the phony evidence against him we need. Follow them. We'll talk to him tomorrow.

INT. LITTLE SAIGON HOTEL - DAY

Harris and Anderson stand outside of room 22. Harris knocks on the door.

Lorenzo speaks through the door.

LORENZO

What? Who is it?

HARRIS (O.S.)

I need to speak with Seamen Evan Hester. I'm Marine Corps Captain John Harris. Hester knows me from NTC.

EVAN

That's right. What you want Captain Harris?

HARRIS (O.S.)

This won't end well, son. Open the door.

Evan nods at Lorenzo. Lorenzo takes the safety off his M16, Evan nods again. Lorenzo unlocks and opens the door.

INT. LITTLE SAIGON HOTEL - ROOM 22

Harris and Anderson enter. Evan stands by the window and looks out unto the street below. Lorenzo stands behind the door with his M16 at the ready.

Lorenzo, Harris and Anderson stand between Evan and Lorenzo. Harris stands next to Evan.

HARRIS
You're stationed out of Cat-Lo,
five days A-Wall, son.

Harris shakes his head, side to side.

HARRIS (CONT'D)
I need you to do a job for your
country.

EVAN
What? No, not interested.

Harris speaks to Lorenzo.

HARRIS
Easy, son.

LORENZO
I ain't your son, Cap.

Anderson shifts his weight under his feet and eyeballs
Lorenzo. Harris speaks to Evan and places his index finger to
his temple.

HARRIS
We got your records, and you know
you don't want that can of worms
open.

EVAN
Is that a question? What the hell
you want?

HARRIS
I want you and your friend to work
for me. I know y'all played ball
together at NTC. I'll make it right
with your commanding officers.

Lorenzo looks over at Evan, then down at the floor.

LORENZO
What? I'm not fucking doing it.
Nope, I'm not doing it. You can
kiss my happy ass.

Harris has a .45 holster on his hip. He bends down, then pulls
a snub-nose .38 from his ankle holster.

The three men look on. Harris removes five bullets, spins the
cylinder, places the revolver to his temple, then squeezes
the trigger.

CLANK

EVAN

This is some bull-shit, Lo, but
what choice do we have?

Evan pushes all his chips into the pot. He holds out his
right hand, palm up.

HARRIS

You don't have to prove anything,
"young-in."

Harris hands Evan his .38. Evan opens the cylinder, looks down
the back of the barrel, then hides the bullet in his left
hand.

The other men watch. Evan spins the empty cylinder, places
the revolver to his temple, then squeezes the trigger.

CLANK

Lorenzo sits down in a chair by the door.

LORENZO

Gee's, damn.

HARRIS

I'm needing someone in Soul Alley
who knows about printing and how to
spot forged currency. That would be
you, Hester.

Evan holds his hand out for Harris to hand him the five
bullets.

EVAN

Nice snub nose, Captain Harris.

Evan admires the revolver. Harris hands over five bullets.
Evan places six bullets into the revolver.

HARRIS

I need you two hanging out with
these lowlifes.

EVAN

Lo, if you don't do it, they're
going to lock me up for that shit
back in San Diego.

LORENZO

Alright, but I know this shit is
going to be dangerous as hell.

Evan walks to Lorenzo.

EVAN
Good.

LORENZO
Carpe diem.

EVAN
Okay, we're in Cap.

HARRIS
Good. I can start briefing you now
on the two organizations we will
take down.

Harris walks to the window and looks out. Anderson snaps to attention. He fixes his eyes on Harris.

EVAN
When do we meet?

HARRIS
Two hours from now.

EVAN
Alright.

Harris turns to face Lorenzo.

HARRIS
Lorenzo, we'll need you hanging out
at Club Alley and their other
businesses. Here are papers from
your commands.

Harris hands Evan and Lorenzo papers.

EXT. SOUL ALLEY - DAY

Lorenzo walks across the street to Club Alley. Lorenzo sits at the bar and orders a drink from the bartender, CUNG LE "SAMMY" (30) (VIETNAMESE), short and chubby walks with a limp.

SAMMY
What you drink?

LORENZO
Jack Daniels and Coke.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF TOP - DAY

Most, Magnum, Terry, and Jeff sit in folding chairs and wait.

MAGNUM

I don't know when these birds are going to show up.

MOST

Today or tomorrow, they will be in.

TERRY

I want to raise the bet... five thousand dollars.

MOST

Twenty-five thousand dollars total sounds good to me.

EXT. GRAHAM RECORD STORE - DAY

It Em Gai works behind the counter. Evan enters.

EVAN

Little Sister, how have you been?

IT EM GAI

Been good.

EVAN

When did you leave Cat-Lo?

IT EM GAI

Three months. See you at Cat-Lo. You number one G. I, soul brother number one.

EVAN

Dung, I remember.

IT EM GAI

Work here, Soul Alley, two month.

EVAN

Good. What's going on with your boss, Most?

IT EM GAI

What he do?

EVAN

You don't know that he's Ruatien in cua hang.

EM GAI
No, me no know.

EVAN
Cuocdieutra, watch for greenbacks
and Ruatien, watch Caulacbo and
record cua hang.

It Em Gai goes through crates of records on the tables. She makes a small stack on the counter.

EVAN (CONT'D)

You will receive payments from the
United States government.

IT EM GAI
How much?

EVAN
Every thirty days, one hundred
thirty dollars, but there's a
reward of five thousand dollars for
bringing these criminals to
justice.

Evan walks over to the window and looks out.

EVAN (CONT'D)
I want you to meet my ban be,
Lorenzo. He'll be working with us.
Meet us at the main entrance at the
Saigon Zoo at seven p.m.

IT EM GAI
Me talk with ban be.

EVAN
Your friend.

Evan exits the shop.

EXT. SAIGON ZOO - DUST

Evan, Lorenzo, Harris, and Anderson enter the zoo. They walk over to a bench, and sit. It Em Gai and Wonder Boy arrive. They sit next to them on a bench.

LORENZO
I've seen that kid before.

HARRIS

What? Who's the boy?

IT EM GAI

My friend, Wonder Boy. Told him we work for U.S. government. We get payed. We get big reward.

HARRIS

That's fine. We all need to be careful. You know Wonder Boy has a reason to be around. Wonder Boy, you will carry messages between our crew.

WONDER BOY

When I get money?

It Em Gai elbows Wonder Boy in his side. He winces with pain.

WONDER BOY (CONT'D)

Yes.

ANDERSON

Wonder Boy, we need you to check what's going on at Little Saigon Hotel to see if they have a may in.

HARRIS

Someone is printing greenbacks, military scrip, and piasters.

WONDER BOY

Next day.

HARRIS

Like I said, we all need to be careful. You will hear from us through Wonder Boy.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF TOP - DAY

Most, Magnum, Terry, Jeff, BOSS PHAN (60) (VIETNAMESE), wears a hat. BOSS HO (50) (VIETNAMESE), short and fat. BOSS THAI (55) (VIETNAMESE), a thin man. Three of their men (Vietnamese), each sitting in folding chairs. Five medium build and short bird wangers (Vietnamese), wait for the birds coming to land on the rooftop. Terry looks through his binoculars.

TERRY

I see one coming.

MOST

Coming in fast. Looks like the wait
is about over.

HO

We will see.

A bird lands, and a wangler checks the tags, then checks the numbers off a list. Two more birds land. The other wangers check the tags and the list.

WANGLER 1

Mr. Washington, your bird Peanut
Butter won.

TERRY

I knew one of my birds would win.

INT. LAM STREET - DAY

QA MAR (30) (VIETNAMESE), wears shorts, RAB (25)
(VIETNAMESE), five feet seven inches looks great in his white
shirt. KAEL (30) (VIETNAMESE), wears an apron, runs the
printing press. Jeff stands close by.

QAMAR (SUBTITLE)

(in Vietnamese)

We won't take a long time.

KAEL

Greenbacks, good.

INT. PARADISE LAUNDRY BASEMENT - DAY

The press stops. Rab removes the counterfeiting plate, then
cleans off the ink. Kael cleans the press. Jeff counts the
counterfeit money.

QAMAR

(in Vietnamese)

I make a new plate for next time.

KAEL

I buy happy time.

KAEL (CONT'D)

(finish)

Hoanthanh.

They laugh. The counterfeit money is on a table. Qamar hands
Jeff stacks of bills. Jeff places the piles in a rucksack.

JEFF

I can get used to this.

QAMAR

What you mean?

Sammy shows Lorenzo how to take liquor inventory. Most and Magnum enters. Magnum carries a rucksack. They nod. Lorenzo nods back. The two men walk to a booth close to the bar and sit. Magnum places the rucksack on the table.

MAGNUM

Our five hundred thousand dollars.

MOST

Cool.

MAGNUM

I'll get this in the safe.

MAGNUM (CONT'D)

The kid works out. He comes off the streets and got work. He and his friend that works at the Silk Laundry share a room at Little Saigon. It looks like they deserted together.

MOST

Is that right?

MAGNUM

The car is ready for you. Do you want me to come with you?

MOST

No, I got this.

INT. SILK LAUNDRY - DAY

Evan and Wonder Boy work. Terry and Jeff leave the laundry. Terry and Jeff exit.

Evan puts a load of clothes in a washer. He puts shirts on hangers. Wonder Boy cleans a wall, then wipes down a counter. They take a break.

Wonder Boy pulls a coin from his pocket. He does some sleight of hand tricks. Evan joins in.

EVAN

Wonder Boy.

WONDER BOY

Dung.

EVAN

I'm going to check the tang ham.

Evan points to the basement. Evan walks over to his rucksack, picks it up, then heads to the basement.

INT. SILK LAUNDRY - BASEMENT - DAY

Evan checks a printing press for counterfeiting plates.

He enters a dark room, turns on a red light, then picks up several plates and examines them.

EVAN

Bingo.

He digs in his rucksack, pulls out a fifth of vodka, then drinks.

INT. LITTLE SAIGON HOTEL - DAY

BOBBIE (30) (BLACK), five feet six inches with a medium build, brown tone. JEAN (23) (BLACK), five feet four inches with medium build, red bone tone check in with DINHFROM (DinhFrom) at the front desk. He hands Bobbie a key. Wonder Boy sits in a chair, stands, then walks to the women.

WONDER BOY

Welcome.

He points at a trunk.

WONDER BOY (CONT'D)

Me come later.

BOBBIE

Have you seen Terry?

WONDER BOY

No, me see Mr. Jeff at laundry.

JEAN

Thank you, Wonder Boy. How have you been?

WONDER BOY

Good, much good.

JEAN

That's nice.

WONDER BOY

Me take you to room.

BOBBIE

Thanks.

They get on the elevator. Wonder Boy carries a trunk to their room.

INT. LITTLE SAIGON HOTEL - ROOM 29 - DAY

Bobbie and Jean kiss on the bed, nude. Two open shoe boxes full of greenbacks lie on the bed.

Jean walks over to an open trunk. She takes out a costume gown and headpiece, then places them on the bed. She sits on the bed.

Bobbie walks to the dresser, then picks up a small jewelry tool kit. She removes some tools, walks to the bed, and sits.

She hands Jean tools. Bobbie picks up the gown. Jean picks up the headpiece. They remove stones from the two garments.

EXT. SIX-FOOT WALL - SOMEWHERE IN SAIGON - DAY

Evan climbs a wall fast. He falls off and hits his head on a stone. He lays there, not moving.

EXT. PHAN VAN HAN STREET - DAY

Evan stumbles down the street, not wearing his glasses. Two MP see him and walk to him. Evan holds the back of his head.

Something explodes a mile away. One of the MP'S gives Evan some gauze, then they run off. Evan sits and wraps his head.

INT. MILITARY HOSPITAL SAIGON - DAY

Evan, his head bandaged, sits in a chair and looks out a window.

RADIO (O.S.)

Sad news this morning Jimi Hendrix died yesterday he was aged twenty seven.

Music plays on the radio.

EXT. MILITARY RIDE WAITING AREA - DAY

Evan sits on a bench in military fatigues with that thousand-yard stare on his face.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. BOOT CAMP BARRACKS - DAY

Evan is called to the center of the barracks.

JOHNSON
Recruit Hester, front and center.

COOPER
Haul your ass, recruit!

Cooper holds a pair of skivvies.

INT. YMCA LOCKER ROOM - DAY

A gym locker room by a bench and a roll of lockers.

YOUNG MAN 2
Yeah, give it back.

YOUNG MAN 1
What you doing?

Evan stands with his fist balled up.

INT. ARMY BARRACKS - DAY

Ten feet away from the shower.

JIMMY
The Bloods got this side of the barracks.

CHICAGO
And Chucky's got that side over there.

Chicago and Red pointing to the other side of the barracks.

INT. BRIG - DAY

TWO GUARDS enter Evan's cell. They hand him his belt and boots.

GUARD
Hester times up

EVAN
(whistling)
Tweet, tweet, tweet...

Evan exits the cell, then stops whistling. His face and eyes dance.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT. MILITARY WAIT AREA - DAY

Evan reaches inside his left boot, pulls out a photo of Darlene from his sock, and stares at it.

A Military SERVICE PERSON (21) (WHITE), walks up. Evan has that thousand-yard stare across his face.

SERVICE PERSON
Have you been waiting here long?

EVAN
No, not long.

SERVICE PERSON
I can't wait to get back to the states.

EVAN
How long have you been in the country?

SERVICE PERSON
Six months. They're cutting our time. What about you?

EVAN
Three sixty-five and a wake up, I'm going back to the world.

I/E. TAN SON NHAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Evan holds his seabag. He walks to the plane. He enters.

INT. CABIN OF PLANE - DAY

Evan sits in the plane's cabin.

INT. WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT (ALASKA) - DUSK

Evan buys a sandwich from a vending machine, then walks to a vending machine and buys a cup of coffee. People walk past him.

He takes a seat, then eats his food and drinks his coffee. Evan walks over to a large glass window and looks out into the night.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Evan walks up to the house. He knocks on the door.

EVAN

Momma.

Evan knocks.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Momma.

Ruby comes to the shear curtains, pulls them back, looks out her front window, and sees Evan already looking at the spot Ruby looks out. Ruby opens the door.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - THE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Evan enters the house.

RUBY

Boy, how have you been? Good to see you, You look good. Yes, lord.

EVAN

Momma, how have you been?

Ruby takes a seat on her sofa.

RUBY

Good. God is good. Im fine. I want to ask you, son. Why didn't you write?

Evan takes a seat in a chair.

EVAN

I didn't want you to worry. If you didn't get a letter after getting mail you would worry. That's why I didn't write.

RUBY

Boy.

EVAN

Momma, I couldn't do it. I ain't had nothing to say.

RUBY

Stop lying. You still writing them stories?

EVAN

A little.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ruby makes meatballs, spaghetti, and fried chicken. Evan enters the kitchen with a bag filled with groceries and places it on the table.

EVAN

I got two spicy sauces... Red Hot and Louisiana Hot.

He hands Ruby a candy bar. Evan picks up the kitchen wall telephone. He dials the telephone.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Operator, may I help you.

EVAN

Hello, operator I would like to make a call to San Diego, California.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

The number, please.

Evan picks up the telephone with 20 feet of cord, walks to his bedroom.

INT. EVAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Evan sits on his bed.

EVAN

Five, five, five,...seven, six,
four...two, zero, zero, two.

OPERATOR

I didn't get all that baby, what
you say?

EVAN

Five, five, five,... seven, six,
four... two, zero, zero, two.

OPERATOR

It will be ten cents a minute.
Thank you baby, here you go.

The Operator places the call.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darlene sits on her couch. The phone rings.

DARLENE

Hello?

INTERCUT - [LOCATION 1]/ [LOCATION 2]

EVAN

Darlene?

Darlene takes the receiver from her ear for a moment.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Darlene, hi.

DARLENE

Hi, hell.

EVAN

What you doing?

DARLENE

What? What you mean what I was
doing? You didn't write the whole
time you were gone.

EVAN

I didn't want you to worry or put
your life on hold for me.

DARLENE

You still should have written.

EVAN

Yeah, I should have written. Are you seeing anybody?

DARLENE

Yes, I'm seeing someone.

EVAN

That's good as long as he's a good dude, but I know you make great choices. How's Misty?

DARLENE

She's fine. I'll tell her you said hi.

EVAN

Bye, baby.

DARLENE

Bye, Evan.

Darlene hangs up.

Evan hangs up.

EVAN

She just blew me out like a candle.

Darlene sits and cries.

EXT. MARSHALL WHITE CENTER - DAY

Evan shoots a basketball at the rim and makes the shot. He walks over to the swings, then sits in a swing and smokes a joint. A car drives up. He picks up the basketball, tucks it under his arm, then walks to the passenger side of the car.

Two young women SARAH (driver) (21) (BLACK), five feet seven inches, cute with a light tone and Liz (19) (BLACK), five feet six inches, red tone sit inside.

EVAN

Hey.

Beth turns her head to face Evan.

LIZ

Hi, Evan.

SARAH

What's up, soul brother?

EVAN
Y'all, I'm out here looking for
friends.

LIZ
Huh?

EVAN
You know, amigos, partners.

LIZ
Alright, right?

SARAH
Right on, get on in, my brother.

Evan opens the back door behind the passenger, then enters and sits. Joyce reaches back and pounds Evan's clenched left fist.

EVAN
What y'all up to?

LIZ
We go'n to the club later on
tonight. You welcome to come.

EVAN
What club?

LIZ
The Legion. You know that's the
only club we got around here.

EVAN
Cool.

SARAH

A car pulls up next to them on the passenger side. Eddie (30) (BLACK), leaves his vehicle and charges with a hammer in his right hand. Evan exits. The two men fight.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What the...

LIZ
Hell is Toney doing?

SARAH
He thinks you're his woman.

Beth gestures to Eddie.

LIZ

You know I don't like you like that.

Eddie swings the hammer at Evan's head. Evan ducks, then grabs the hammer from Eddie. Evan hits Eddie twice in the head with the hammer. The women scream and move back and forth in their seats. Eddie's head bleeds. Evan drops the hammer next to Eddie's body.

SARAH

Get in. We got a get out of here.

Evan hurries to the car and gets in. Sarah drives off.

Evan sits in the back seat. He breathes hard. He takes off his shirt.

LIZ

He was always threatening people with that hammer. We never went out.

SARAH

We were never here. Anybody ask, we ran into you at Lucky's. Then we gave you a ride home.

EVAN

Best if we're not seen together for now. I'm flying back to Long Beach tomorrow.

Evan grabs his shirt. He exits the car.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Later, "Power to the People" peace.

LIZ

We can come in and help you bandage your wound.

EVAN

That's okay, Momma ain't here and I can clean up, wash up, and bandage this.

He looks at his shoulder, then touches his wound. Liz He throws up the peace sign, then walks to the house. Sarah drives off.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Evan walks to the back of the house. He opens the lid of a garbage can, throws in his bloody shirt, then covers it with garbage.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Evan enters the house and walks to his bedroom. He packs his seabag, then lies on his bed and closes his eyes. Ruby enters Evan's room. She sees his packed seabag. His white uniform hangs on a hanger from a dresser knob.

RUBY

I see you about ready to go. Your hair is so long, you need a haircut.

EVAN

Yes, ma'am.

RUBY

Oh, I got the money you sent me every month from your pay.

EVAN

I was happy to help, Momma.

RUBY

Where you off to now?

EVAN

Long Beach.

Evan picks up a black shoe and polishes it.

RUBY

You courted that Darlene girl?

EVAN

No, Momma, she's moved on.

RUBY

That's too bad, son, I could tell she had a good heart.

EVAN

I know Momma. I messed that up.

RUBY

You need to fix it if you can.

Ruby leaves the room. Evan walks to his seabag in the corner of his room, pulls out a fifth of vodka, he unscrews the cap, and places the bottle to his lips.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Evan walks out of the house. He stands beside the garbage can, pours out the liquor, then places the bottle under trash in the garbage can.

EXT. USS HULL (DD-945) - DAY

Dressed in his dress blues uniform, Evan walks on the gangway to come aboard the ship. He stops to salute the flag. Then he salutes the Officer of the Deck (OOD) (25) (WHITE). The OOD salutes Evan.

EVAN

Request permission to come aboard,
sir.

OOD

Permission granted.

Evan comes aboard, walks down the deck, then enters the port opening. He checks in with the Yeoman (22) (WHITE), wears white, five feet seven inches, hands over his orders, and leaves.

He walks to the berthing area, finds his assigned rack, then stores all his gear. Evan lies on his rack and drifts off to sleep.

INT. NAVAL BASE GYM - DAY

Evan plays basketball alone in the gym. He runs and cuts to the basket. He falls to the floor and grabs his ankle. A sailor enters the gym and walks to Evan, carrying a basketball.

SAILOR

Hey, man, did you hear about Janis
Joplin dead?

EVAN

Just now, how did she die?

SAILOR

Heroin overdose.

EVAN

Oh, no. That's a shame. I just turn
my ankle. Later, man.

SAILOR

Later, brother.

Evan picks up his basketball, then exits the gym.

EXT. NAVAL BASE SIDEWALK - DAY

Evan walks down the sidewalk. He walks up to two officers
(22) (WHITE), and salutes them. They walk by without
returning the salute. He continues to walk down the sidewalk.

He walks up to two other officers (30) (WHITE), and salutes
them. They walk by without saluting back. Evan walks down the
sidewalk he walks by two more officers (25) (WHITE), walking
together. They order him to stop and turn around.

Evan stops, he turns to face the two men. The men in question
Evan. He listens, not speaking. The two officers walk away.
Evan walks off toward sickbay.

INT. SICKBAY - DAY

Evan has that thousand-yard stare on his face. A doctor
checks Evan's ankle. He gives him a bottle of aspirin.

INT. USS HULL (DD-945) - BULKHEAD - DAY

Evan checks the Watch List posted on the bulkhead. He places
his finger on the spot where his name and watch time are
listed.

INT. CHOW HALL - DAY

Evan sits in the chow hall and writes in his little green
notebook. Third Class Petty Officer MASON (30) (WHITE), walks
to Evan.

MASON

Hester, you're late for Watch.

EVAN

That watch was at twenty-two
hundred.

MASON

Your watch was eight-teen hundred.
You're being put on report.
Dereliction of duty, Article ninety
two.

EVAN

That watch was at twenty-two
hundred.

MASON

You need to clear the deck and
return to your berthing area.

EVAN

Aye, sir.

Evan walks off. The PO watches him leave.

INT. THE BULKHEAD - NIGHT

Evan checks the Watch List. A sailor, NIXON (27) (WHITE),
walks up.

NIXON

You back again?

EVAN

Yeah, I got wrote up. This some
bull-shit. I got Article ninety-two
for missing that eight-teen hundred
hours watch. Nixon, my watch was at
twenty-two hundred hours.

NIXON

Hester, you're not going crazy. I
saw your name and time. Your watch
was twenty-two hundred hours. Man,
they're screwing with you.

EVAN

Thanks, man. Say nothing about
this.

NIXON

About what?

EVAN

Man, your parents raise you right.

NIXON

Peace, Hester.

Nixon walks away.

INT. USS HULL (DD-945) QUARTERDECK - DAY

Evan stands on the Quarterdeck for a hearing in front of CAPTAIN BOYD (35) (WHITE), XO WALLS (30) (WHITE), WARRANT OFFICER SIMMONS (38) (WHITE), and YEOMAN LARSON (22) (WHITE).

CAPTAIN BOYD

Seamen Hester, you've been charged with failure to report for Watch... An Article fifteen. You can speak.

EVAN

I read the Watch List and my watch time was twenty-two hundred, sir.

CAPTAIN BOYD

No, Hester, your watch was eighteen hundred hours. I find you have committed the offense charged and I must warn you if you're brought up before me for an Article fifteen again, you can be discharged under less than honorable conditions. The following punishment, extra duty, fourteen days restriction to the ship, and one-half pay for one month. Do you have anything to say, Hester?

EVAN

No, sir.

Evan exits the Quarterdeck.

EXT. LONG BEACH TO SAN DIEGO BUS - MOVING - DAY

Evan enters the bus.

BUS DRIVER

Ticket?

Evan hands him a ticket. He carries his seabag to the back of the bus and sits. He pulls a small green notebook and a pen from his jacket pocket. He writes in his notebook.

EXT. TELEPHONE BOOTH - DAY

Evan picks up the receiver and places it to his ear and mouth.

INT. SWEDE'S HOUSE - DAY

Evan and SWEDE (27) (BLACK), Shaved head, five feet eight inches, brown tone sit at the kitchen table. They eat cheeseburgers, fries, and drinks from Jack-in-the-box.

SWEDE

How long have you been in San Diego?

EVAN

Today, I came down from Long Beach on the bus. Swede, I got your phone number from your cousin, Glen.

SWEDE

Cool, what's he talking about?

EVAN

Nothing. How many women he's got.

SWEDE

Brother, I'm out here in these streets pushing these guns.

EVAN

Cool, would you put me on? I need to make some money. Would you let me stay here for the next three weeks?

SWEDE

I got you. Three weeks, you say, and you're going to help me sell some guns.

EVAN

Yeah, I'm AWOL. I'm turning myself in before I'm thirty days AWOL. After thirty days, that's desertion.

Swede opens the door under the kitchen sink. He retrieves 12 hand guns and places them on the table. Swede grabs 12 lunch sacks and sets them on the table by the guns. He places a gun in each sack. Swede place the sacks in a small box.

SWEDE

Let's get at it. You ready to get in these streets and make some money?

EVAN

Ready.

Evan picks up the box. The two men exit the house.

EXT. DALLAS BAR & GRILL - DAY

Evan and Swede sit in Swede's car in the parking lot. A car pulls up with three men (40's) (BLACK). The three men walk by Swede's car. Evan and Swede exit the car, then walk up to the men.

EXT. SUN FLOWER PARK - DAY

Evan exits Swede's car carrying a rucksack. Swede drives away. Evan walks to a tree, sits on its base, then places his back against the trunk. He surveys the park. Ten Men and five women are in the park.

He spots LYNN (30) (BLACK), average height with high-yellow tone and CANDY (23) (MEXICAN), cute standing on a roundabout ride. Candy wears oversize hoop earrings. Evan walks over to the two women.

EVAN

Ladies.

LYNN

Hi, I'm Lynn.

Lynn points at the other woman.

LYNN (CONT'D)

That's my friend Candy.

EVAN

Hi.

CANDY

S'up?

The women step off the ride. Evan walks up to Lynn and stands inches from her. She stands there with her hands to her sides.

EVAN

Nice park.

LYNN

I suppose.

Evan stands close, then steps back a step.

EVAN
It's a beautiful park.

Evan drops the rucksack from his shoulder. He reaches in and removes a twenty-two pistol.

EVAN (CONT'D)
It's a steal at twenty-five dollars.

He hands Lynn the pistol.

LYNN
You have bullets?

Evan opens the ruck, grabs a box of bullets, then hands her six bullets. Lynn opens the cylinder and loads the bullets. She takes aim at a soda can about 15 feet away and fires. She hits the can.

EVAN
Yes, Lynn.

CANDY
If you didn't know, now you know.

Lynn reaches in her jeans pocket and hands Evan two bills.

Evan puts the bills in his pocket.

EVAN
You want ammo?

LYNN
Not today.

Evan removes a small lunch sack from the ruck and hands it to Lynn. Lynn places the pistol in the sack.

LYNN (CONT'D)
You ready, girl?

CANDY
I'm ready.

Evan stands in front of Lynn, grabs her two hands, and holds them. They look each other in the eyes.

LYNN
Bye.

Evan releases Lynn's hands.

EVAN

Bye, Baby.

Candy nods. The two women walk to Lynn's car, enter, then sit. Lynn drives off.

INT. LAKE HILLS MALL - DAY

Lynn stands on one side of the store near a wall. Candy stands in the center of the store. Lynn picks up an oversize bag, removes the price tag, then walks around, stuffing items into the bag.

Candy picks out a jacket and puts it on. She walks around the store and stuffs items into the pockets. A Security Guard walks toward Lynn. Candy runs out the store. Lynn runs out the store behind Candy. The Security Guard runs after the women. Lynn catches up with Candy.

LYNN

Time for us to split up.

CANDY

Right, puta.

LYNN

Run, bitch.

Candy runs to the left. The Security Guard runs after Lynn.

SECURITY GUARD

Halt.

Lynn continues to run.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Stop, bitch.

Lynn runs on.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

I'm going to fuck you up.

The Guard grabs a baseball bat 15 feet from a door that Lynn goes through. He opens the door and runs, holding the bat. Lynn stops, turns, pulls her .22 pistol from her right back jeans pocket, and fires three times. She hits the Security Guard in both legs.

Lynn walks away. She walks to where she parked. Candy lies down on the back seat, out of sight.

LYNN
You good?

CANDY
What, negro?

Lynn opens the glove compartment and pulls out a wig and puts it on. She drives off with Candy laying down in the back.

LYNN
Keep your ass down until we get the hell out of this parking lot.

INT. SWEDE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Evan and Swede sit in the kitchen and watch a small black and white portable TV. DIANE (37) (BLACK), six feet, medium build with a yellow bone tone. She walks in and opens the refrigerator.

DIANE
Y'all want a beer?

SWEDE
You know I do, baby.

EVAN
Yes, Diane. Thanks.

Diane hands two beers to Evan. He passes a beer to Swede.

INT. BATHROOM

Evan enters the bathroom, strips, then steps in the shower.

EXT. SWEDE'S PORCH - NIGHT

Evan sits on the steps of the porch. Lynn drives up and parks. Evan half-jogs to the car.

EVAN
Damn, you look good.

LYNN
You like?

Evan enters the car and sits in the passenger's seat. He looks her up and down.

EVAN
Hell yeah, you fine.
Damn ya make me want...

LYNN
Fuck?

EVAN
Dance.

Lynn shakes her head from side to side.

LYNN
I know a place.

She drives off.

INT. EAST SIDE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Evan and Lynn drink at the bar. Lynn walks over to the jukebox and looks up a few songs. She drops five dimes into the jukebox and pushes five buttons. The first song plays.

Evan and Lynn dance.

Evan and Lynn slow dance.

LYNN
Am I really that much to handle?

EVAN
Fuck'n and kissing you would be like.

LYNN
Actions speak louder than words.

EVAN
If we were to fuck, you'd lose interest. So for now, baby, you and I ain't fuck'n.

LYNN
Where you from?

EVAN
Utah.

They laugh.

INT. SWEDE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Evan and Lynn exit the car. Evan meets her by the driver's door. They stand and face each other. Evan grabs Lynn's butt with both hands. They kiss. Lynn enters the car. She drives off. Evan walks to the house and enters.

EXT. FLOWER PARK - DAY

Swede drives to a parking space and parks.

SWEDE

I'll be back at two.

EVAN

Aye, aye Captain

Evan exits the car carrying a rucksack. Swede drives off. A stumbling-drunk black male walks by. A dozen people gather in the park. Some stand talking. Others sit on benches and picnic tables. One male plays music on a boombox.

EXT. JACK IN THE BOX - DAY

Lynn and Candy sit at a small table outside. They eat Jack-in-the-box burgers, fries, soda, and a shake. They finish eating their food, then sit and talk.

LYNN

We about to hit that little old store on the corner you dig?

CANDY

Neg-row please.

LYNN

We going to go in there and get that money.

CANDY

Tell me how it's go'n down.

LYNN

We walk in and get that money from the cash register first, then the safe. Walk out the back door and run like hell.

Lynn and Candy stand, walk to Lynn's car, then enter and sit. Lynn drives and parks the car around a corner from the store.

CANDY
Run like hell?

Candy shrugs her shoulders.

LYNN
We may have to run through
backyards, maybe dogs. We'll see.
You ready?

CANDY
Yeah, bitch,... eyes ready.

She bucks, her eyes wide.

EXT. JIM'S CORNER STORE - DAY

Lynn and Candy walk towards the store. They mask up, then enter the store.

INT. JIM'S CORNER STORE - DAY

Lynn walks towards the STORE CLERK (40) (Mexican), and points a .38 Revolver at his head.

LYNN
Open the register.

The clerk opens the register.

STORE CLERK
What are you doing?

LYNN
Robbing this bitch. Now walk your
ass to the back safe.

STORE CLERK
What?

CANDY
Go.

LYNN
The safe, motherfucker. Take me to
the safe.

Lynn gestures with the revolver for him to go to the back.

CANDY
Ain't nobody coming. Hurry.

The store clerk walks to the back of the store. He goes to the safe. Candy removes the money from the register.

INT. JIM'S CORNER STORE - BACK-ROOM - DAY

The clerk bends down to open the safe.

LYNN

Take a deep breath, now open the safe.

The store clerk opens the safe.

LYNN (CONT'D)

Go stand over there.

The store clerk walks to the wall and stands there nervously.

LYNN (CONT'D)

Come on back.

Candy walks to the back and removes the satchel from her shoulder. The two women fill the satchel with money, then Candy shoulders the satchel.

They walk to the back door. Candy steps through the door. Lynn takes a step and the store clerk fires a shot. The shot hits Lynn in the back of her head. She falls down, dead.

EXT. JIM'S CORNER STORE - BACK DOOR - DAY

The store clerk runs after Candy. Candy runs. She jumps a fence, runs from the backyard to the front yard, then down the street back to the car.

The store clerk runs after her. Candy enters the car, sits, then drives off. The store clerk catches up and watches her drive off.

I/E. SWEDE'S PORCH - NIGHT

Evan sits on a chair and reads a book. Swede sits on a chair and reads a book. Diane opens the door, then steps on the porch.

DIANE

Evan, I was watching the news. I'm so sorry. That girl you were seeing got shot. She's dead.

Evan sits and stares out into the distance. Swede looks between Evan and Diane.

DIANE (CONT'D)

The news said that two women robbed a store at gunpoint. One was mortally shot. The other ran from the scene.

EVAN

It's time for me to get back to the Navy. I'll be leaving now. Evan walks off.

INT. SWEDE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Swede and Diane sit in the kitchen. Evan enters the kitchen he carries his seabag.

SWEDE

(laughing)

Hate to see you leave, my brother.

Evan hugs Diane. He shakes Swede's hand.

EVAN

No, you don't, now you got the house back. You've been good to me, bye Diane.

DIANE

You be careful.

SWEDE

Later, brother.

EVAN

Later.

The two men hug. Evan exits the kitchen.

EXT. LYNN AND CANDY'S APARTMENT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Evan hides behind a dumpster. Candy enters the parking lot and parks. She exits Lynn's car and holds a pizza.

EVAN

Candy.

Candy turns.

CANDY
She's gone.

Candy cries.

EVAN
You got a get out of Diego, now.

Evan and Candy walk to the apartment and enter.

INT. LYNN AND CANDY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Evan and Candy stand in the apartment.

CANDY
I don't know what to do. I don't
want to go to jail.

EVAN
I'll drive you up to Utah. You'll
be safe there. You can stay with my
cousin, James. He's cool if you
like him or not. Hurry and pack. We
need to be out of here in twenty
minutes. Hurry. Go pack.

EXT. LYNN'S AND CANDY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Three men exit a car. They walk to the apartment. At the door in the lead five feet five slim Police Officer GARZA (38) (MEXICAN), pulls out his gun. Six feet two inches, Carlos Smith (25) (BLACK), medium build, pulls his gun. Adam Lincoln (22) (WHITE), five feet five inches medium build, bends down, takes out a tiny kit, then picks the lock. The men rush in.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Evan drives, and Candy sits in the car. Evan exits the car, then walks to the store. Evan enters.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Evan picks out a few snacks, walks to the clerk at the counter, pays for the snacks and the gas, then walks out of the store.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Evan pumps gas into the car. He enters the car, then drives off.

It's going to take ten hours to get home. All we have to do is not speed and we'll be good.

INT. LYNN'S CAR - NIGHT

Evan drives. Candy rides shotgun.

EVAN

It's going to be alright.

CANDY

You sure it's going to be alright. You know I was raised in foster care. It ain't never going to work out alright.

EVAN

I'm positive it'll work out.

Evan looks over at Candy. She sleeps soundly.

INT. TELEPHONE BOOTH - DAY

Evan talks on the telephone.

EXT. JAMES' APARTMENT - DAY

Evan and James stand by Lynn's car. Evan and James hug. Evan enters the car, then he sits. He turns his head to look at James.

EVAN

Take good care of her cousin.

JAMES

I will. Peace. See you when I see you, cuz.

James throws up the black power sign.

Evan drives off.

EXT. PANCAKE HOUSE PARKING LOT - DAY

Evan walks in the car's direction. A police car pulls up. He walks past the car. Two POLICE OFFICERS (30's) in blue (WHITE), look on.

POLICE OFFICER

Stop. Your ass better not run from me.

Evan stops.

EXT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - DAY

Building surrounds a square. Evan and another sailor, JUNE BUG (21) (PUERTO RICAN), sit in one corner.

JUNE BUG

What did you say your name was?

EVAN

Evan Hester.

JUNE BUG

They call me June Bug.

EVAN

Nice to meet you, June Bug.

JUNE BUG

Nice to meet you, too.

June Bug scratches his neck and shoulder.

JUNE BUG (CONT'D)

You know where I can score some H.

EVAN

You mean heroin?

JUNE BUG

Man, I need it bad. I don't know what I'm going to do when they lock me up.

EVAN

Do you know what's going to happen next?

JUNE BUG

Two days to process. We're going on Friday night.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - DUSK

Six men stand in the passageway.

GUARD

No talking.

Evan, June Bug, and three other sailors pick up clothes and supplies.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Line up.

The five men line up.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Forward march.

The men march off.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - BARRACKS - NIGHT

Evan lies on his rack. Men lie on racks. This section of the brig has 40 racks for inmates is full. Lights out.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - BARRACKS - LATRINE - DAY

Evan and several sailors wake. A dozen men enter the latrine. Some urinate, some to wash their faces, and others brush their teeth.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - BARRACKS - FOOD-AREA - DAY

Trays from the galley arrive. The men walk to the food cart. They stand in line and receive a tray of food and drink, then move on. They find a place to sit and eat. The men finish eating. Evan and a dozen other men watch the TV show "Soul Train."

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - BARRACKS - DAY

Two guards (20) (21) (WHITE), pick up Evan's wooden footlocker, then they dump all the contents on the deck.

GUARD 1

Hester, pick it up.

The two guards stand on both sides of Evan. Guard 2 points to the contents on the deck.

Evan takes a fighting stance. He's not wearing shoes.

EVAN
I didn't throw that shit down
there. I ain't picking it up.

GUARD 2
Come with us.

Guard 1 walks. Evans follows him. Guard 2 follows behind Evan. Guard 1 unlocks the door, and all the men walk through.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Evan follows Guard 1 past three cells.

Guard 1 unlocks the cell.

GUARD 1
Get in there, boy. Walk all the way
to the back of your cell and stand
there, facing the wall.

Evan enters the cell, he walks to the back of the cell, and faces the wall.

GUARD 1 (CONT'D)
Turn around.

Evan turns and faces the guards.

GUARD 1 (CONT'D)
Take off the belt and place it on
the deck outside your cell.

Evan takes off his belt, walks to the front of the cell, and places his belt on the deck.

The two guards stand outside the cell and watch Evan.

GUARD 1 (CONT'D)
Now that's a good boy. Boy, hand me
that belt.

Evan hands him his belt.

The guards walk away from the cell. Evan sits on two mattresses that sit on the deck. There's a sink and toilet. Evan looks down at his feet. He's not wearing shoes.

Evan sleeps on the mattress.

Book cart Trustee LEE (22) (WHITE), surfer. Blonde hair stops at Evan's cell.

LEE
You're new.

EVAN
I'm Evan. Nice to meet you.

LEE
Lee.

He extends his arm and fist. Evan pounds his fist to Lee's.

LEE (CONT'D)
I'm the book man. You want a book?

EVAN
For sure.

Lee pulls the cart next to the cell.

LEE
What you want, my man?

EVAN
That Cry Uncle, Lord Of The Flies,
and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
over there.

Evan points to the books. Lee hands him the books.

LEE
How did you end up in here?

EVAN
I went twenty-nine days A.W.O.L.

LEE
Nah, what did you do to get
solitary confinement?

EVAN
(laughing)
I don't know. One minute I'm there,
the next minute I'm here.

They laugh.

LEE
See you tomorrow.

Lee grabs the handle of the cart and pushes it down the
passageway.

EVAN
Bet that. Thanks for the books.

Evan watches him leave. Evan sits with the three books. He places two books on the mattress. He reads one book.

INT. JAG CORPS OFFICE - DAY

Evan sits still and faces forward in a passageway. A female LEGAL MAN JEPSON (27) (WHITE), five feet five inches, looks neat in her uniform walks up to Evan.

JEPSON
Hester, come this way.

Evan stands and follows her.

JEPSON (CONT'D)
Have a seat. The JAG will see you shortly.

He sits and stares straight ahead.

JEPSON (CONT'D)
Follow me.

Evan follows. When they get there, she opens the door and Evan enters the office.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

The Clerk opens the door for Evan. He enters. Lieutenant De Niro sits at her desk.

DE NIRO
Sailor carpe diem.

EVAN
Yes, ma'am.

DE NIRO
Seaman, your A-Wall charge is serious. Your arrest could land you in the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Leavenworth.

EVAN
Yes, ma'am.

DE NIRO
Seaman, how have you been?

Evan looks to the side, then back at her.

EVAN
I'm good, ma'am.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Lee pushes his cart down the passageway toward Evan's cell.
He stands in front of Evan's cell.

LEE
Hester, how's it hanging?

Evan grabs his crotch.

EVAN
I'm good.

LEE
That's what's up.

EVAN
Brother, could you get me paper and
pen? I want to write to a couple of
friends.

LEE
Tomorrow. You want a book?

EVAN
For sure.

Evan hands Lee three books through the cell bars. Lee places
the books on the cart.

LEE
I got into Giovanni's Room by James
Baldwin. You want it?

EVAN
Yeah, I like Baldwin.

Lee hands Evan the book.

LEE
Peace, my man. I'll see you
tomorrow.

EVAN
Thanks for the book. Peace.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

De Niro sits at her desk. Jepson enters the room.

JEPSON

Yes, ma'am.

DE NIRO

I want you to research Seaman Hesters military records. We need to know what the San Diego police department knows. Have the information on my desk by the end of the week.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Evan sits and reads a book. A guard HOBSON (36) (WHITE), chubby enters the cellblock. He walks up to Evan's cell and stops.

HOBSON

What are you doing?

EVAN

What? Reading.

HOBSON

Not anymore. You're not reading crap. Set the books outside the cell. Now walk to the back of the cell.

Evan sets the books outside the cell. He walks to the back of the cell. The guard bends down, then picks up the three books.

He exits the cellblock with the books. Evan walks to the mattress, then sits.

Lee enters the cellblock he pushes the book cart.

LEE

They said no more books for you. What the hell did you do?

EVAN

Nothing, I promise.

They laugh.

Lee quickly hands Evan paper and pen.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Thanks, I appreciate you.

LEE
Better be going before Hobson rolls
this way.

EVAN
So his name is Hobson. He's been
riding my ass ever since I got
here. I saw two trays on the food
cart this afternoon. There's
someone on the other side?

LEE
His name is Carter. He's in here
for punching a petty officer.
Hester, if you're sentenced for
over a year, they'll send you to
United States Disciplinary Barracks
at Leavenworth.

EVAN
Where is Leavenworth?

LEE
Kansas.

Lee pushes the book cart down the passageway. Evan lies on the mattress and faces the bulkhead. Hobson and BLOOMFIELD (22) (WHITE), six feet four inches blonde hair. They enter the cellblock, then walk to 'Evans' cell.

HOBSON
Hester, wake your sorry ass.

Evan rolls over to face the men. He sits up and looks straight ahead.

HOBSON (CONT'D)
Walk over to the bulkhead and stand
in the corner.

Evan walks to the back bulkhead. Hobson and Bloomfield enter the cell. Bloomfield walks to the back corners of the cell and carefully checks. Hobson turns over the two mattresses, and checks the deck and between the two mattresses.

HOBSON (CONT'D)
Lets go, Bloomfield.

The two men exit the cell. Evan places the mattresses back in place.

HOBSON (CONT'D)

You stay out of trouble; you hear?

The two men walk down the passageway, then exit the cellblock.

Evan stares at the ceiling. He tosses and turns, stops, then sits up on the mattress.

He clips his fingers with a nail clipper. Evan stands, then walks to the cell bars. He holds the cell bars with each hand and looks out of the cell. Evan sits on the mattresses. He lifts his shirt, pulls out a few pieces of paper. He reaches into the bottom of his sock and pulls out a pen.

EVAN

A righteous man falls seven times.

He writes on a piece of paper.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - FOOD CART - DAY

A food server pushes a cart.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Lee stands in front of Evan's cell. Evan hands him two pieces of paper. Lee looks at the papers.

EVAN

I wrote their telephone numbers and addresses on each sheet. Jill's a friend and Darlene was my girl.

LEE

Ok, I got you.

EVAN

Great, call them and let them know I'm here. If it's not too much trouble, could you mail them the letters?

LEE

No problem.

Lee looks at the papers again. He stuffs the papers in his pants pocket.

LEE (CONT'D)

Time to go. I better be getting
over to Carter. Peace.

EVAN

Thanks, man.

Lee pushes the book cart down the passageway.

INT. OFFICE PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Lee picks up a telephone, puts the receiver to his ear and
the mouthpiece to his mouth, then dials a number.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - THE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Telephone ringing.

Darlene walks over to the telephone. She picks up the
telephone and places it to her ear.

DARLENE

Hello.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

LEE

Hi, my name is Lee I'm a friend of
Evans. He's locked up in the brig.

DARLENE

Is he okay?

LEE

Yeah. He wanted you to know he's
locked up. He wrote you a letter
I'll be sending you soon.

DARLENE

Tell him I still care about him.

LEE

I will. I have to go.

Lee hangs up, she hangs up.

Lee walks down the passageway.

Darlene cries.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Sandra hands Jill the telephone.

SANDRA
Jill, it's for you.

JILL
Peace 'n' love.

INTERCUT - HARRIS HOUSE/IN THE PASSAGEWAY - DAY

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

LEE
Hi, Lee. I'm a friend of Evans. He wanted you to know he's in the brig. He wrote you a letter that I will send you.

JILL
Is he alright?

LEE
Yes, he's doing fine.

JILL
Tell him I'll come see him.

LEE
He's in solitary confinement. I'll call you when he gets out. I got to go. Bye.

JILL
Bye, Lee. Thanks.

Lee hangs up, then Jill hangs up.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

SANDRA
Who was that?

JILL
That was a friend of Evan's. Said he's locked up in the Navy brig.

SANDRA
Damn, what did his friend say?

JILL

That he wanted me to know he was locked up, and he'd be sending me a letter.

Coffee walks in the kitchen.

COFFEE

What y'all want for dinner?

JILL

I want cheeseburgers and fries.

COFFEE

San --

SANDRA

--Momma, meatloaf, with mac and cheese. That's it.

Coffee opens a kitchen drawer and pulls out a coin.

COFFEE

Jill, call it.

JILL

Tails.

Coffee flips the coin in the air, catches it, then places it on her forearm with her hand over it. She lifts her hand.

COFFEE

Heads. Sandra dice an onion. Jill cut up a bell pepper.

Sandra and Jill both walk to refrigerator. Jill opens the refrigerator door, bends down, removes an onion, and hands it to Sandra. Then she removes a bell pepper.

INT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jill sits on a sofa. Darlene sits on a chair.

JILL

Where can we get money to pay a lawyer?

DARLENE

I have a friend, Ari Hunt, who will do it at no charge.

JILL

Solid. I'll find out who's the JAG representing Evan. When was the last time you saw Evan?

DARLENE

Before he went to Vietnam. He called, but I was still hurting and mad. He asked if I was seeing anyone. I lied.

JILL

Dang, girl.

DARLENE

I can't believe I did that shit. He can't have visitors in solitary confinement.

JILL

He's going to be alright.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Hobson leads Ari into solitary confinement. He's dressed in a golf shirt, golf hat, and slacks. They walk down the passageway to Evan's cell. Hobson looks at Ari and points to a buzzer on the wall.

HOBSON

When you're done, use the buzzer.

Hobson walks over to a chair by the bulkhead, picks it up, and then walks back to the cell with it. He unlocks the cell and places it in the cell. Ari enters. Hobson exits the cell block.

ARI

Hester, I'm here to represent your stolen car case. Questions?

EVAN

Are you a public defender?

ARI

Ari laughs.

ARI (CONT'D)

No. Darlene. She's a friend. Let's get to work.

(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

I read the police report. They have you in the parking lot.

EVAN

That's right. Doesn't mean I drove that car.

ARI

Did you make a statement to the police?

EVAN

No, sir, not a word. I don't talk to the--

ARI

--Perfect. Did you know about a robbery?

EVAN

No. What robbery?

ARI

That car was used in an armed robbery. No one placed you at the robbery or in the car. One woman was killed at the scene and the other is in hiding. Did you know Lynn Bennett or a Candy Garcia?

EVAN

No, sir.

ARI

You'll be hearing from me soon. Questions?

EVAN

No, sir.

Ari exits the cell, walks to the buzzer, and pushes the button.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - BARRACKS - DAY

Hobson enters the cellblock. Evans lies on mattress sleeping. Hobson opens the cell and sees Evan's glasses lying by the mattress. He steps on them. Evan wakes. Hobson closes the cell, then exits the cellblock.

INT. SAN DIEGO POLICE STATION #11 - DAY

Ari walks down the hallway. Detective PETERSON (45) (WHITE), gray hair, tall, medium build waves to him.

PETERSON

The chief can see you now. Go on in.

Ari enters. Chief TATE, (50) (WHITE), dark hair heavy set build sits behind his desk.

TATE

Ari, have a seat. This is about the stolen car case, right?

ARI

Right. How are you going to make this case stick? There's no evidence, no facts. All we have here is a belief. You know it. Drop the charges.

TATE

He had something to do with it.

ARI

No evidence, Chief. Please don't waste the 'taxpayers' money.

TATE

The charges are dropped.

ARI

Thanks, Tate. When can I get you on the links?

TATE

You know I play tennis.

ARI

The offer is always open. You did the right thing. He's a good kid.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Evan does pushups in a corner of the cell.

Hobson leads Ari down the passageway to Evan's cell.

ARI

Could you stay? I won't be long.

HOBSON

Yes, I can stay.

Hobson stands outside the cell. Evan stands, then walks to the front of the cell. Ari hands Evan papers. Evan reads the papers.

EVAN

Thank god, they dropped those charges.

ARI

They never had a case they could win. No witnesses and you not talking. They didn't have a choice. When you get out, come by my office.

EVAN

Thank you. I appreciate all of your help. Tell Darlene I said thanks.

Evan hands the papers back to Ari. Evan extends his hand through the bars. The two men shake hands.

ARI

See you when I see you.

EVAN (CONT'D)

See you when I see you.

Ari nods.

The guard leads Ari down the passageway.

ARI (CONT'D)

(singing)

Ol' man river, That Ol' man river,
He don't say nothing, But he must
know something...

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

Evan, still not wearing glasses, sits in De Niro's office.

DE NIRO

Hester, you're dismissed.

EVAN

Yes, ma'am. Could I get a fresh pair of glasses?

He pulls his glasses from his shirt pocket and shows her they're broken.

DE NIRO

Yes. Five days to a week.

De Niro stands. Evan stands. Evan salutes. De Niro returns his salute. He exits Lieutenant De Niro's office.

INT. JAG PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Evans sits and stares at the bulkhead. Harris enters the passageway. He sees Evan.

HARRIS

Hester, what the hell you doing here?

EVAN

The cops arrested me for stealing a car.

HARRIS

What? Why? How did that happen?

EVAN

I don't know. Shit happens.

HARRIS

I must talk to Lieutenant De Niro.

LT. De Niro walks out of her office and sees the two men.

DE NIRO

We all need to talk. Come on.

HARRIS

Best I talk to you alone. Hester can wait out here.

DE NIRO

Hester, you can return to lockup.

EVAN

Yes, ma'am.

Evan salutes, and she returns the salute. Evan salutes Harris, and he returns the salute. Evan sees a pack of gum with a stick lying on the desk. He takes the stick of gum, then slides it into his dungaree pants pocket.

DE NIRO

Legal man Jepson, call for a guard to return Hester to his quarters.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

Harris enters.

DE NIRO
Have a seat, John.

He sits.

HARRIS

I want to vouch for Hester. He served under me in Nam.

DE NIRO
What was the mission?

HARRIS
Evan and his friends Lorenzo, Wonder Boy, and Little Sister enter a warehouse. They hide behind boxes. Anderson was part of the operations.

Jepson enters the office.

JEPSON
Ma'am, Captain Harris.

She hands Harris a note. He reads the note.

HARRIS
Sandra was in a car accident.

Harris turns on his heels. He speed-walks down the passageway and exits.

EXT. STREET - CAR MOVING - DAY

Harris runs to his car, then enters. He speeds away from the parking area and down the highway. Harris heads up San Marcos road, he drives over 100 miles per hour. A car comes up the road and hits a patch of gravel, loses control, then rams into Harris. Both cars go over a cliff.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - DAY

Coffee stands by Sandra's bed. Sandra lies there with a bandaged arm and bandages on her ribs.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Sandra leaves her college campus. She rides along, then stops at a light. She is rear-ended.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT DAY)

Jill enters the room, walks over to her sister, then takes her hand.

EXT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Coffee and Jill exiting the hospital, then walking through the parking lot.

COFFEE

That story I told about your dad,
him having to go to Camp
Pendleton...

JILL

I knew that was made up.

EXT. WALLY'S CANYON - NIGHT

Tire tracks show where the two automobiles left the road. Harris lies in the passenger seat, not moving.

INT. HARRIS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

JILL

We need to find Dad.

COFFEE

They have him leaving the base at
fifteen seventeen hundred hours.

JILL

He's been missing for nine hours.

The two women are packing canteens of water, beef jerky, and a first aid kit.

INT. CAR MOVING - NIGHT

Coffee and Jill drive down San Marcos Road looking for Harris's car.

COFFEE
Maybe he went over?

Jill stops breathing for a moment.

JILL
We'll find him, Mom.

COFFEE
We will find him.

They drive down the canyon. Coffee hits the loose gravel. Coffee comes out of a spin, then they travel down the road a little way.

COFFEE (CONT'D)
Hold on. I'm going back to where we hit the gravel.

EXT. WALLEY'S CANYON - NIGHT

They park on the side of the road. Jill walks over and sees two sets of tire tracks. Coffee hurries to her. They look down at a car on top of Harris's car.

Coffee runs back to her car and opens the trunk. She removes a climbing rope, a flashlight, and a pair of gloves. She hands Jill the rope and puts on the gloves. Coffee grabs the rope. Jill follows.

COFFEE
No, Tiny, I need you up here.

JILL
Yes, ma'am.

Coffee descends to where the two cars are lodged on boulders.

JILL (CONT'D)
Mom, you alright?

Coffee shines the flashlight up the cliff. She reaches 'Harris' car then enters. She checks for signs of life. He has a pulse. She sends morse-code with the flashlight to Jill. Jill reads the morse code. Jill runs to the car and enters.

Coffee climbs down to the other car. She sees a man. He's blue. She checks and finds no pulse. Coffee climbs back to 'Harris' car. She sits in the driver's seat.

EXT. WALLEY'S CANYON - DAWN

Jill waits on the road. A rescue team showing up. Five men of medium height medium build wearing orange uniforms and hard hats. Jill points to where the two cars left the road. The men descend the cliff, then return with Coffee and Harris. They place him in an ambulance. Coffee sits by his side, along with the attendant.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - WAITING AREA - DAY

Coffee, Jill, and Billie sit in the waiting area. A doctor walks up to Coffee.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Coffee, Sandra, Jill, and Billie look in on Harris. He is in a coma.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

Anderson enters De Niro's office. She sits at her desk.

DE NIRO
Have a seat, Gunny.

Anderson sits.

DE NIRO (CONT'D)
John is being cared for. We need to locate our material witness. She's the only one that can place Hester at that warehouse. How do you say..? It Em Ga?

ANDERSON
It Em Gai, That's right, Hester calls her Little Sister.

DE NIRO
Can you find her, Gunnery Sergeant?

ANDERSON
Yes, ma'am. I'll find her.

She salutes. He returns the salute. Anderson exits her office.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - NIGHT

Evan alone in his cell. He opens his cell, then walks down the passageway.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. JAG PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Evan sits and waits. He bends down and ties his shoe. He places a stick of gum in his mouth.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Evan walks through the cellblock door with Hobson following.

Evan coughs.

EVAN QUICKLY STICKS HIS HAND IN HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT A PAPER-CLIP. HE REMOVES THE GUM FROM HIS MOUTH WITH HIS LEFT HAND. AS HE ENTERS HIS CELL HE PLACES THE GUM WITH THE PAPER-CLIP INTO THE LOCK. HE LIES ON THE MATTRESS.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - NIGHT

Evan walks down the passageway to CARTER'S cell. Carter (18) (BLACK), five feet seven, medium build, big round eyes and dark tone.

EVAN
What's up, man?

CARTER
You, my brother. How you out yo cell?

EVAN
You know how we do. I jam the lock. How you making it in here?

CARTER
Okay, old guard is an asshole.

EVAN
That's sounds like Hobson. What a donkey ass. Lee's cool.

CARTER
You want a see my ant farm?

EVAN
Yeah.

Carter pulls out a small milk carton. He hands it to Evan. Evan looks in the carton and sees dirt and a dozen ants.

EVAN
Man, that's nice, really nice. Did you give them names?

They laugh.

CARTER
You funny.

Evan pulls out a folded piece of paper from his shirt pocket. He unfolds a eight and one half by eleven sheet of paper. He pulls out twelve blacked out and twelve white small circles.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Well, alright, then.

EVAN
You know you're fixing to get an ass whooping.

They laugh.

Evan hands Carter the twelve white small circles of paper. The two men play checkers.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Coffee, Sandra and Jill are at Captain Harris's bedside.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Sandra and Jill walking down a hallway, enter a room with vending machines, then buy sodas and chips.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

The girls are returning to the room with a cup of coffee for their mom.

INT. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - DAY

Lee pushes his book cart down the passageway. He stops at Evan's cell.

EVAN

Thanks for all you've done for me, man. Why did you help me Lee?

LEE

Because I could.

Evan shakes his head up and down in agreement.

LEE (CONT'D)

You need anything?

EVAN

I'm good. What about you and your girls?

LEE

You know, man, women can't make up their minds up about shit.

EVAN

Yup.

LEE

I better be getting over there to Carter.

EVAN

Alright, tell him I said what's up.

LEE

I will. See you later.

Lee pushes his book cart down the passageway.

INT. STOP SHOP STORE - DAY

It Em Gai walks down an aisle. She pays the clerk at the register. She exits the store.

EXT. STOP SHOP STORE - CONTINUOUS

Anderson walks around the corner and stops It Em Gai.

EXT. IT EM GAI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Anderson sits on the sofa. It Em Gai packs a travel bag, enters the living room with the bag. They exit her apartment.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Coffee sits in a chair and reads a magazine. Harris comes out of his coma. Coffee drops the magazine on the floor and rushes to him. Just that fast, he's back out. Coffee looks down on Harris and holds his hand.

INT. THE COFFEE HOUSE DINER - DAY

Anderson takes a seat. It Em Gai takes a seat across from him.

The waitress comes to their table. Her name tag say's "PONY." She's five feet four inches, plain looks. Anderson eats pie and drinks coffee. It Em Gai drinks a cup of tea.

De Niro enters the diner, carrying a briefcase. She stands next to Anderson. He moves over and she sits down. The two women are facing one another.

INT. OCEANSIDE HOSPITAL - DAY

Coffee, Sandra, and Jill standing in a visiting area of the hospital. Sandra and Jill jump up and down and clap their hands with joy.

INT. THE COFFEE HOUSE DINER - DAY

It Em Gai signs papers, then lays the pen on the table.

INT. JAG PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Evan sits, stares at the ceiling.

Lieutenant De Niro walks down the passageway, carrying her briefcase. She greets Evan, then gestures with her hand for him to follow her into her office.

INT. LIEUTENANT DE NIRO'S OFFICE - DAY

They enter Lieutenant De Niro's office. She sits, then gestures for Evan to sit. He sits. She opens her briefcase, then removes a paper and places it on her desk.

She hands Evan two sheets of paper. He holds the sheets. It rains outside. They look out the window.

DE NIRO
Hester, you want a cup of coffee?

EVAN
Yes, ma'am.

Lieutenant De Niro walks to her door and opens it.

DE NIRO
Gil, bring Hester a cup of coffee.

GILL
Yes, ma'am.

DE NIRO
Hester, one sheet is a witness statement and the other one is an offense sheet. I have your service record here.

Lieutenant De Niro holds up a sheet of paper. Evan has that thousand-yard stare on his face.

A gentle rain.

DE NIRO (CONT'D)

Legal man Jepson enters the office, hands Evan a cup of coffee, then exits. Evan sips the coffee, places it on the small table next to him. He places the witness statement on the table.

DE NIRO (CONT'D)
Have a seat, sailor.

Evan sits.

DE NIRO (CONT'D)
Hester, could you read the offense sheet out loud? If you have a question, stop, and I'll go over that part with you.

EVAN
Yes, ma'am.

Evan reads...

EVAN (CONT'D)

A military service member who fails to report for duty often faces serious charges. There are three related offenses that fall under this category-absence without leave (or AWOL), desertion, and missing movement-all carrying very serious penalties, up to and including the death penalty for desertion during war. Being AWOL for thirty days is considered desertion, while missing movement is charged when a service member misses the movement of a ship or aircraft intentionally or out of neglect.

DE NIRO

Do you have questions?

EVAN

No, ma'am.

DE NIRO

So, what you read was clear to you?

EVAN

Crystal, ma'am.

Raining.

DE NIRO

Good, Seaman. Through our investigation, we have a statement from Second Class Petty Officer Nixon stating you were falsely written up by Third Class Petty Officer Mason. Questions?

She places the paper on her desk. Evan picks up the statement sheet. He looks puzzled.

EVAN

What's this, ma'am?

He shakes the paper in his hand.

DE NIRO

How's that coffee?

Evan picks up the cup, then he sips the coffee.

EVAN

Good, ma'am.

DE NIRO

You were injured while in Vietnam. It was a head wound. The doctors believe the two months before your injury is lost in your memory. It Em Gai, she's eighteen now, is one of your friends from Vietnam. I heard you gave her a nickname "Little Sister".

Evan still looks puzzled.

EVAN

Oh.

DE NIRO

Not to worry, Hester. You served with honor. Captain Harris is recovering from an auto accident. He wants the team you worked with in Vietnam... him, Gunnery Sergeant Anderson and Little Sister... to come together to help you try to tie up any loose ends. Questions?

EVAN

No, ma'am.

Raining.

DE NIRO

Seamen, this is what's going to happen: thirty days in the brig and half your pay for the next two months. You're out of solitary confinement as of now. Questions, Hester?

EVAN

No, ma'am.

Evan sips his coffee.

INT. NAVAL BRIG SAN DIEGO - DAY

Evan places his gear in a footlocker. There are forty racks in the barracks. A group of men sit in chairs and watch TV. Evan walks to a cart with books. He picks out a book, walks to a chair, then sits. He opens the book and reads.

INT. NAVAL BRIG VISITORS' AREA - DAY

Evan and nine other sit and wait for their visitors to arrive. Visitors are entering the courtyard. Darlene enters the courtyard. They look into each other's eyes. Evan stands. She walks over. They embrace and kiss.

GUARD

No touching. If it happens again,
your visit will be cut short.

Evan and Darlene move quickly from one another. Evan and Darlene sit in two chairs facing each other.

DARLENE

How have you been?

EVAN

Good. I missed you.

DARLENE

Good. That's what you get for not
writing me.

EVAN

Sorry.

Evan waits to speak.

EVAN (CONT'D)

How you were?

Darlene looks at Evan sideways.

DARLENE

Are you seeing anyone?

EVAN

No, it's always been you.

DARLENE

Good. We can work things out.

EVAN

That's good. I get out of here in
thirty days.

DARLENE

Jill said she'll come Saturday.
I'll be back to see you on Sunday.

EVAN

That's what's up. I love you.

DARLENE
I love you, Evan.

Evan and Darlene sitting and talking. They stare into each other's eyes.

INT. THE LECTURE HALL - DAY

Randy sits at a desk and holds a screenplay. Students exit the class. Only Evan and Randy are in the classroom. Evan walks to Randy and sits.

EVAN
Mr. Redd, as you young people say,
what's up?

Darlene enters the classroom. She takes a seat in Evan's chair. She holds a book.

RANDY
I found this journal this morning
at the house with me and my mom
moved in a few days ago.

He hands Evan the screenplay.

RANDY (CONT'D)
There's no name.

Evan looks at the screenplay.

He laughs.

EVAN
Honey, please join us?

Darlene walks to the men.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Darlene, this is Randy. Randy, this
is the love of my life, Darlene.

DARLENE
Nice to meet you.

RANDY
Hi.

EVAN
Darlene, would you tell Randy our
old address?

DARLENE
Five-fifty North Redwood Road.

RANDY
I get it now, Professor. You wrote
it.

EVAN
I did. I didn't realize it was
missing. I'm thankful that you
found it.

RANDY
No problem. What an amazing story.

DARLENE
Look how life happens.

Randy stands and walks away.

EVAN
See you next week, Mr Redd.

Evan and Darlene walk to the front of the classroom. He lays
the screenplay on his desk, takes out a pen, then signs it.
He places his hands on Darlene's waist. They kiss. Evan takes
out his cell phone and plays music. They dance.

FADE OUT.