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Written by

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INT.SMITH HOUSE-KITHCHEN DAY

STEVE, late thirties, is sitting at the kitchen table playing on his cell phone.

KELLY walks into the kitchen carrying bags of groceries.

KELLY

Oh great, your here, you can help me with the rest of the groceries.

STEVE

Oh yeah...sure...give me a minute.

KELLY

I...ah...didn't think you'd be home. Work let you out early?

STEVE

I...I got fired again.

Steve stands and starts to leave the kitchen.

KELLY

Hey hold on. What happened?

STEVE

(stopping)

I don't know? Same thing that always happens...I don't get it. I used to lead troops and manage millions of dollars of equipment now... now I can't even keep some shit job.

KELLY

It's ok.... that job sucked anyway, you'll find the right job this time. Don't worry.

STEVE

Don't worry! We barely make it as is. Now...Now we won't make it! Fuck! This is all my fault.

KELLY

I know your frustrated and it hasn't been easy since you got out, but I know you. Everything will be ok. I know it.

STEVE

I know your right. I just don't feel like I fit in anywhere. Nothing is working out the way I thought it would. I feel like a loser all the time.

KELLY

Stop talking like that.

STEVE

I just don't get it. After serving my country all I seem to be qualified to do is minimum wage, shit jobs.

KELLY

I know babe..but you'll find something. You have never let us down, never.

Steve abruptly stops and turns to Kelly.

STEVE

(voice cracking)

I'm going to get the rest of the bags.

With TEARS in his eyes quickly walks out of the kitchen.

INT. SMITH HOUSE-DEN HRS LATER

Steve is sitting at his desk on the computer. There are medals and awards in shadow box frames hanging all over the walls.

We HEAR the front door open and close.

STEVE

Hey buddy is that you.

TREY(O.S.)

Yeah dad, I'm home.

STEVE

Hey come in here for a minute.

Trey, male 14, walks into the den.

TREY

What's up dad.

Steve spins around in the chair and faces Trey

STEVE

Hey, I thought I told you to take the trash out before you went to school.

TREY

Oh I forgot all about it. I was running late this morning. No biggie, I'll just do it now.

STEVE

I already did it. And it is a big deal.

TREY

Sorry, won't happen again.

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STEVE

(standing up)

Your right it won't. When I give you an order it needs to be followed.

TREY

Um...I'm not your soldier. This isn't the Army.

STEVE

Don't you talk back to me! Remember who your talking too!

TREY

I do...I have homework to do.

Trey turns and starts to walk out of the room.

STEVE

Don't you turn your back to me!

Steve lunges at Trey and drags him to the ground by his hair

INT. SMITH HOUSE-KITHCHEN MOMENTS LATER

Steve burst into the kitchen dragging Trey. Steve throws Trey into the trash can at the end of counter.

STEVE

Don't you ever disobey a direct order from me again! I will have your ass the next time! Actions like this are how soldiers whined up dead! Do you hear me private!?

Trey is covered with trash curled in a ball.

Kelly comes running into the kitchen.

KELLY

No!, no!....Stop! Leave him alone.  
He's your son! Leave him alone!

She stands between Steve and Trey.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Babe!...Babe! Snap out of  
it!...your home!

The rage slowly leaves Steve's face as he tries to catch his breath.

STEVE

Um...are you ok buddy. I didn't  
realize. Umm...

Steve tries to help Trey but he pulls away from him.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Sorry bud I'm not going to hurt  
you, I swear. I don't know what  
happened. I don't...

KELLY

Just go, you need to leave, now!

Steve leaves and Kelly starts hugging Trey

KELLY (CONT'D)

You ok. You know he didn't mean  
anything by it. Your dad loves you  
so much. He's just having a hard  
time coming home.

TREY

Whatever I'm fine.

Trey stands up and angrily breaks away from Kelly.

TREY (CONT'D)

I'm going to Jays house.

Kelly is crying as Trey charges out of the kitchen. We HEAR  
the door slam.

INT. SMITH HOUSE-GARAGE NIGHT

Steve is tinkering with different things around the garage. There's an open beer on the work bench.

The door from the house opens and Kelly stands in the doorway.

KELLY

Trey is going to stay over his friends tonight.

STEVE

That's probably best. You know I would never hurt him. I don't know what happened.

KELLY

I know you didn't mean too, but you did hurt him. You pulled a chunk of hair out of his head.

STEVE

I just don't know what happened.

KELLY

It seems to be getting worse. Especially your dreams at night. How many beers have you had anyway?

STEVE

Not that many. Why?

KELLY

You know if you drink too much it get worse.

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\*

STEVE

Just add it to the list of shit I don't do right.

KELLY

That's not what I meant. You know I'm right.

STEVE

Fuck!...Nothing is right, nothing. I don't know why your still here. I wouldn't be if I was you...Look at the hero you married.

KELLY

Stop being so hard on yourself. Things will work out, it's just going to take time. When was the last time you talked to the VA counselor? That might help.

STEVE

The VA!...what a joke. They don't give a shit.

Steve goes to the work bench and finishes his beer and grabs another one out of the fridge.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(pacing and drinking)

I get an appointment every six months. Fucking joke. Once your out nobody gives a shit, Nobody!

KELLY

I give a shit. Your not alone, you have us. You have your family. We will always be there for you.

STEVE

And all I do is let you guys down...This fucking sucks!...What's the point.

KELLY

We're the point, your family. We need you. Not for money, but for you. I can go get a job and we'll be good.

Steve finishes his beer and grabs another. The faster he paces the faster he drinks.

STEVE

Great! That makes me feel great. I'm the freak vet that can't support his family and fucks everything up. Wonderful. Feel so much better. Thank you for that.

KELLY

Maybe you can start your own business like you wanted to... We'll talk tomorrow after you cool down and we'll come up with plan. We'll come up with something, you'll see.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Did you hear me?

STEVE

Start my own business. Like that will ever happen. Just be another failure in my life.

KELLY

Your not a failure...You need to calm down. Your all worked up. Just slow down.

Kelly walks over and tries to hug Steve. He pushes her away and continues pacing and drinking.

KELLY (CONT'D)

I can't get through to you when your like this. I'm going to give you some space...If you need to talk come and get me no matter what time it is, ok...do you hear me.

(beat)

Your not alone...ever. I love you. We all do.

Kelly walks back up the stairs and starts to close the door. She watches Steve mumbling and pacing in the garage and begins to cry. She exits the garage in tears.

INT CHURCH-DAY

There's a casket on the pulpit draped in an American flag. Kelly is standing behind a podium.

Trey is sitting in the front row sobbing.

KELLY

My husband was a good man. He loved his family with everything he had. He served his country with honor. Steve sacrificed his life for the country that he loved. He never really made it home to us. We lost him in Iraq but didn't realize it until now. His family will always love him and he will live in our hearts forever. He is always going be there, looking out for us, protecting us, just as he always did. I love you forever.

Kelly walks over to the casket and lays down across it hysterically crying.

22 Veterans a day take their own lives. These men and women sacrificed everything for our country and expected nothing in return.