

Fallen Warrior
by
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EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY

STEPHEN, 49, tall and powerful is dressed in his perfectly pressed, Sergeant Major uniform.

Stephen stands with a folded American flag held in both hands behind his back.

Stephen clears his throat, and with an outstretched finger rings the door bell.

MIKE, 60, short cut grey hair and pale skin answers the door, gripping onto his walking stick tightly he looks Stephen, his eyes going up and down.

MIKE

Perfectly punctual, just like how
I knew you would be.

Stephen reaches out a hand to Mike.

STEPHEN

It's an honour to meet you sir.

Mike sees the offer of a handshake but ignores it, turning his back on Stephen he moves back inside the house.

Stephen follows Mike inside.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Stephen sits reluctantly down at the table.

Stephen watches Mike at the counter, the kettle boils and Mike makes a single cup of coffee, one only for himself.

STEPHEN

It's unusual for me to get a
request like this, to come out
and make a personal family visit.

MIKE

I'm grateful you've come.

STEPHEN

Your son was a great soldier sir,
you should be very proud.

MIKE

So there isn't a chance he's
still alive somewhere out there?

Stephen shakes his head.

STEPHEN

I'm sorry sir.

MIKE

And all I've been seeing and reading about, isn't just apart of fake news?

STEPHEN

Unfortunately sir, those imagines and videos that have been released are genuine.

MIKE

You're the one who ordered him to go in?

STEPHEN

He was a member of a six man team undergoing a straight forward operation.

Mike narrows his eyes almost chocked on his words, disgusted. Mike breaks out into a coughing fit, spitting out blood.

MIKE

Straight forward?

Stephen holds out a hand to him, pleading.

STEPHEN

That had an unexpected outcome.

Mike is now wheezing, finding it hard to breathe.

MIKE

That's a funny way of saying my son was kidnapped, then got his head cut off for the whole fucking world to see.

STEPHEN

I truly am sorry for your loss sir.

MIKE

No, you're not.

STEPHEN

It was my intention to go over there and make a lasting difference.

MIKE

Bullshit.

STEPHEN

And I believe with great sacrifices from talented shoulders like your son, I was able to do that.

MIKE

You murdered him, you gave up his life and you don't even regret it.

STEPHEN

Sir, your son was always able to conduct himself with great dignity, why don't you try and do the same?

Mike breaks out into another coughing fit.

MIKE

Your son has been gone for a couple of days now hasn't he?

Stephen is taken aback, stunned.

STEPHEN

How do you know...

Mike interrupts.

MIKE

You've no idea do you?

STEPHEN

He's with his girlfriend.

Mike laughs to himself, a chuckle.

MIKE

Funny.

Mike exits.

Stephen stands up out of his chair. Stephen follows Mike.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Mike plays a video on the television, Stephen comes to an instant halt as he enters the room.

Mike turns the volume up to as high as it will go.

Mike is on screen with a large knife in his hand. Kneeling in front of him is a man but who's arms are tied back behind him, and who's head is covered with a large black hood.

Mike kicks the hooded figure.

MIKE

Go on, your dad is here.

The hooded figure cries out.

JAMES

Dad, please help me.

Stephen is stunned, his mouth hangs open and all the color leaves his face.

Mike in the video continues to taunt.

MIKE

I don't know if he heard you?

The hooded figure is in tears, pleading.

JAMES

I just want to go home.

Stephen now has tears streaming down his face too. Stephen reaches inside his jacket, takes out a gun and takes aim at the side of Mike's head.

STEPHEN

Where is he?

Mike gestures for Stephen to keep watching the television as he breaks out into yet another coughing fit.

Mike in the video approaches the hooded figure with the knife and attacks it. Cuts it head off. Fake blood sprays everywhere, but it looks real.

Stephen let's out an agony filled scream.

MIKE

Go on, do it!

Stephen pulls the trigger. Stephen shoots Mike several times in the chest and stomach, killing him. Mike collapses backwards to the floor, dead.

The video still plays. Mike takes off the hood to reveal that it's nothing more than a dummy.

Stephen gasps, utterly confused.

Mike in the video now speaks directly to the camera.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You got away with my sons murder,
but you won't get away with mine.

Stephen finds the remote and turns the television off.

Now the same voice from the video calls out from another room, but close by.

JAMES

(O.S)

Dad?!

Stephen drops his gun and sprints out.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - SPARE ROOM - DAY

Stephen drops down to his knees. JAMES, 18, blue eyes and handsome is tied up on the floor. James's legs together and his arms behind his back.

STEPHEN

I've got you.

Stephen wraps his arms around James, and hugs him tight.

JAMES

What's going on?

STEPHEN

You're not hurt are you?

JAMES

No.

STEPHEN

Everything is going to be alright, I promise.

The sound of police sirens fill the air. Stephen closes his eyes tight. Stephen's head drops and his shoulders fall, defeated.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END