

"Life After War"

Shooting script

Version: First Draft

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Characters:

DEAN CAGE: A shy young man that leaves for the military after high school and returns to his home town six years later as a well built, muscular man. The winner of multiple medals and honors, clearly a great soldier. He is scared over his left eye and all the way from his right shoulder to the middle of his chest. He is bold with a Special Forces tattoo on his right arm.

ALEXIA (LEXIE) BELLAMY: A girl with straight long blond hair and a slim model like shaped body. No scars or beauty marks and she has natural beauty. She works at an apartment store and is very popular among the whole town. She is also the high school prom queen. She's has a lot of friends but are best friends with Joline Harrison.

JAKE LIVINGSTON: A High school badass that never grew up after high school and is looking to get Lexie's attention. He is tall with spiked blond hair. He can't stand Dean and Dean can't stand him.

LEON HARRISON: Dean's best friend since primary school and is married to Joline. He has short brown hair and a beard. Works at the local bank and is pretty good at his job.

JOLINE HARRISON: Married to Leon and works at a beauty spa in town. She has long curly brown hair with pink highlights. She is Lexie's best friend.

A troubled war hero returns to his home town in a search for life outside of the military. He ends up having trouble adapting to a civilized life after war. Even after he gains the trust of his friends and as he experience the unfamiliar feeling of love and closeness he still isn't able to leave his past behind for a new life.

FADE IN:

INT - CLASS ROOM - MIDDAY

It's a rainy day at the local high school. Dean Cage, a boy of eighteen with short dark brown hair and blue eyes, stares at Alexia Bellamy, also known as Lexie around everyone, a girl of eighteen with long blond hair and innocent eyes, sitting across class.

Mr. Becklan, the teacher, is talking about their time in his class.

MR. BECKLAN

I know you don't want to still sit in class at this time of the year but at least you're almost done. And thankfully I don't have to sit with you group another year.

Everyone has a short laugh.

DEXTER

I know you're going to miss us Teach.

MR. BECKLAN

Miss you... I'm a man of 45 Dexter, I like to go to bed early and like to keep a calm life. But the minute you leave this school I'm having a huge party with all the teachers you terrorized over the years.

Dean isn't paying much attention as he can't seem to stop staring at Lexie. Then Jake Livingston, a tall boy with spiked blond hair, throws a paper at Dean and laughs behind his hand.

JAKE

What are you going to do?

Dean looks down at his desk and then out the window as he takes a deep breath showing no emotion.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Just as I thought, nothing.

MR. BECKLAN

Mr. Livingston, I see that you just can't give any teacher a bit of peace. You have to make sure you push it to the end.

JAKE

Sorry sir I was just telling Max what a great teacher you were over the years and how much I'm going to miss you.

MR. BECKLAN

Of course you were Jake, you and your bandits will be the biggest reason for that gathering I'll hold.

EXT - OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - MIDDAY

The rain falls and all the learners are changing classes and talking on their way. Leon, a chubby boy with short brown hair waits for Dean outside class. As Dean comes out of class he takes one more look at Lexie walking passed him.

LEON

Time is almost up you know, if you're ever going to ask her out, now would be the time. And when are you going to do something about Jake? I can promise you, once Jake is out of the picture, Lexie's yours.

DEAN

No it's complicated, and Jake is captain of the football team, you'd have to be stupid to try and take him on. Besides, she probably doesn't even know I exist.

LEON

Look, I'm pretty sure she isn't some mystical monster trying to kill whoever gets close, so if you actually talk to her she might just talk back. Justin tells me she asked about you a few times now. Last week she even asked me where you were when you weren't here, come on man.

DEAN

What, did she have to hand out something and couldn't find someone that matches my name? And Justin doesn't know what the hell he's talking about, the guy has a stick up his ass the size of a pineapple. Just because he lives across the street from me doesn't mean he knows me. How would he know if she ever talked about me, the guy's only friend lives in a mirror. So let it go.

LEON

Actually she had to take register on who's there and who not, but still.

DEAN

O yea, that assures me she knows who I am.

LEON

Ok now let me ask you this, for how long have you been in love with her? Grow a pair and just talk to her.

DEAN

Look, Have you ever known me to do the whole "in love" thing? I never said I was in love with her. I'm not relationship material type of guy. I have no clue on how to do this type of thing. And I have different plans, it's just better that way.

LEON

First of all, I've never known you to do anything when it comes to the ladies. And second, you are one of the dumbest people I know, yet you're pretty smart. Sometimes I don't get your stubborn ass you know that.

DEAN

Yea I know, let's go.

INT - CLASSROOM - MIDDAY

An announcement comes through saying that all the learners need to remember that prom will be the night after graduation. The people start talking and discussing their plans. Dean moves his eyes up at the intercom and just shakes his head, he then continues to stare out the window as the teacher, Miss Colebrook, waits for everyone to quiet down and she puts down some papers in front of the pupils. Dean looks at them and takes a deep breath again.

EXT - STREETS - MIDDAY

Dean walks home as Jake drives by slowly and stops on the other side of the street.

JAKE

Found a date for prom yet dipshit? I know this one guy who would love to go with you.

Dean stops, looks up at the car and then at the tree next to him before walking off

JAKE

I'm sorry, did I just offend you? Look all I'm saying is that if you really want to go to the prom you'll have to settle gay. I mean have you looked in a mirror, your ugly as shit. What girl would possibly want to be seen with you on an occasion like that.

Jake laughs as he drives off. Dean gets a smile that barely shows, showing he doesn't really care about what was just said to him as he continues walking.

INT - DEAN'S ROOM - MIDDAY

Dean enters his room with a glass of water and a bag of chips he puts down his backpack and the chips on the table. He then finds a letter on his bed.

He opens it and begins to read it silently to himself. He looks at the mirror on his open closet door and stares for a second before going on with the letter in his hand

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT - SCHOOLGROUND GRADUATION DAY - MORNING

Everybody is walking out to the front of the school after the ceremony smiling and laughing while some are cheering.

LEON

Guess what man, I just found out that Lexie and Jake isn't going to prom together anymore. That means she doesn't have a date for the prom, but is actually going. It's a last minute thing but you should ask her, put her on the spot.

DEAN

No I'm just going to let it go. I'm not planning on making it a long night anyway.

LEON

Its prom dude. Come on, this is your one shot!

DEAN

Look I'll see, ok?

LEON

Good, thank you. So I guess I'll see you tomorrow then?

DEAN

Yea I'll see you then.

Dean walks off.

LEON (Distant)

And ask her.

All of the seniors are standing in front of the school for n goodbye look but Dean is walking away without looking back, Lexie looks down the road to see him walking away.

Leon also looks as Dean turns the corner, he then gets a sad but satisfied smile on his face.

INT - DEAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dean goes lying on his bed as his father comes into the room.

DAVID

Everything ok son? You look a little down.

DEAN

Yea everything's good, thanks dad?

DAVID

Have you decided yet? I mean this is the biggest decision of your life and I don't want to see you regret it in a few years time. I also don't want you to feel like I'm pushing you or anything but you have to decide soon. Time is running out son.



DEAN

I understand that dad, and as a matter of fact I have. I didn't really know how to tell you last night but I... I knew from the beginning what I was going to do.

Dean takes a deep breath.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to do it dad, I'm going.

DAVID

Somehow I knew, deep down somewhere I knew you were going to go. It's who you are, it's who you were always meant to be. But I want you to know that no matter what I'll always be there for you. I love you son. If you ever need help with anything or you just need to talk you know where to come. I might not be able to help but I can listen and sometimes that helps.

DEAN

I know, and I appreciate it. Thanks dad. I love you too.

DAVID

Do you know when you are leaving yet?

DEAN

No not yet but as soon as I know I'll let you know dad.

They hug and hold each other for a few seconds as both of them just stare out in front of them. From the expression on Dean's face it's clear he just lied to his dad.

INT - DEAN'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

There is an alarm clock on the bedside table that reads ten minutes to three. Dean is dressed and takes a packed bag that is laying in wait right besides his door.

He leaves his room all neatly and goes into his dad's room but only stands in the door way, he puts a letter on the table to his left and looks at his father sleeping, with tears in his eyes but not crying he walks out the room and out of the house into the cold darkness of the early morning where a few lone street lamps are on the side of the road.

INT - DAVID'S ROOM - MORNING

David wakes up and drinks a bit of water that stood beside his bed when he puts the glass down he sees Dean's letter. David looks down and closes his eyes before getting up.

He then takes the letter that is marked "DAD" and begins to read it, it reads:

DEAR DAD

Dad, I know that I told you I don't know when I'll be leaving but the time has come for me to go and live a life, to do what I always needed to do. I wanted to say goodbye to you in person so much but this is making things so much easier, it's better this way tough. I'm not sure if you would have tried and stop me but I knew doing it this way will be easier, not necessarily the right thing, but I had to. I am so sorry dad. In the past 18 years of my life you were the only person that ever cared in every way, you never left me and you never turned your back on me no matter how tough things were. Thank you for everything you have done for me dad, I am eternally grateful. I hope that one day I would be able to stand before you a man that you can be proud of just like you stood in front of me every day. It's like you said, this is who I am and it was always meant to be like this. I hope that I made you proud so far dad, I really hope I did. There isn't much more to say except once more, thank you. I would really appreciate it if you didn't tell anybody where I am or what I'm off to do. If needed, tell everyone I went away for some type of work. Thank you dad.

I LOVE YOU!

David wipes the tears from his eyes and goes into Dean's room. As soon as he enters he freezes and looks at the room for a while. He walks over to his bed and sit's there while wiping his hands on the bed.

INT - PROM HALL - EVENING

LEXIE

Where is your friend tonight? I haven't seen him yet, he looked a bit worried yesterday.

LEON

I really wish I knew. I haven't seen him all day either. He was supposed to meet me at my place and his phone is off so I really have no idea. His father also doesn't know, he thought Dean was with me. I figured he'll meet me here or something.

Leon and Lexie look about the crowd but can't see him.

FADE OUT:

6 YEARS LATER....

FADE IN:

EXT - IRAQ WAR ZONE - MIDNIGHT

Dean, now with a strong muscled body, is fighting in war as a Colonel along with his team. He is bald and has a scar over his left eye, he is shooting and shouting orders.

GENERAL

(Over a radio)

Hitman one, hitman one, this is gold star do you copy?

DEAN

Gold star, this is hitman one, what the fuck is going on?

GENERAL

(V.O)

Colonel you are ordered to return to the LZ immediately with the package.

DEAN

Sir we have men two clicks north of our current position pinned down and taking heavy enemy fire from multiple sides.

GENERAL

(V.O)

You can't do anything about that Colonel, get to the LZ. That girl is your primary objective. Get her to that LZ safe. Nothing is to happen to her. I repeat, nothing.

A small silence airs around Dean as he puts the radio down. He stares at the radio for a few seconds before snapping back to reality.

DEAN

(Shouting)

Get your ass on that 50cal and give some suppressing fire. Mike, O.P up, building 30 yards. Drew, get her into that building and make sure she is safe. Move your asses, let's go, go, go!

MIKE

We're not leaving?

DEAN

(Shouting)

It's our men out there, we go back for them. This is a direct order from me. I accept full responsibility for whatever happens, everyone hear that.

Nobody doubts Dean as they move immediately. Just as Drew takes the little girl, about ten years old with long brown hair and an inexpensive dress, he gets shot in the back by an enemy sniper.

The little girl runs to the building and takes cover behind a sack bunker and it's clear she is feeling safer with Dean and his team than with her own people.

DEAN (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

DREW!!!

Dean runs to where Drew has fallen to the ground and grabs him by the shirt, he then drags him to the bunker where the little girl is taking cover.

He tries to keep pressure on the wound in front where the bullet went out but the blood keeps pouring from the wound.

DREW  
(Choking)  
Dean, I'm dying man.

DEAN  
No you're not, come on it's nothing, you're going to make it, everything is fine. Just hold on, extraction is on the way. Please just hold on. I'm going to get you to the LZ while they push on to get our boys out, ok man.

DREW  
(Choking)  
Its okay, at least I got to go with pride, honor (cough) and the love of my country. You go get them out, we both know I'm not going to make it to that LZ alive (cough). Just promise me one thing Dean.

Dean knows it's true as he lowers his head and closes his eyes.

DEAN  
Of course man, what do you need?

DREW  
You go and you find... (Cough) Find happiness, wherever that may wait. No matter how far you need to go. You find it. You deserve it.

DEAN  
I promise, I'll try my best. But you're going to be there to help me. Don't you dare die on me.

Drew's eyes slowly close.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
(Shouting)  
Noooooo!!!

Drew then dies while Dean still holds his hand. He removes his other hand from the wound and looks at it covered in blood before picking back up his weapon and stands up as silence surrounds him thru the battle going on.

EXT - CEMETARY - MORNING

The 21 gun salute fires and the military priest talks about Drew. Dean is standing looking at the coffin as it is lowered into the ground, they give the folded up flag to Drew's mother who is sitting next to the grave crying.

Dean then salutes right in front of the grave and walks away.

INT - GENERAL'S OFFICE - MIDDAY

GENERAL

Well Colonel you got your men out. We are all truly sorry about Drew, he was a good soldier and will be missed dearly. I know he was your friend but he was also a friend to everyone in this country. This is why it is so hard for me to talk to you on a day like today. Now this is nothing personal.

DEAN

Yes sir.

GENERAL

The military and me including is forever thankful for all the services you conducted for us in this country and any other. Truly one of the greatest soldiers I ever knew and I know a lot who would agree. But you know what you did can't be ignored, you disobeyed direct orders.

DEAN

Yes Sir.

GENERAL

Then you would also know what this is right?

The General gives Dean an envelope.

DEAN

Sir, the military is my life. It's who I am. Isn't there some other way?

GENERAL

I'm sorry Colonel but like I said, this isn't up to me. Your war is over soldier, you can sit back with pride and honor.

Dean takes a deep breath.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

Start over kid, you have the rest of your life ahead of you. Make the best of every moment you have. Dean if I can give you one last order, follow my advice.

DEAN

Yes Sir.

GENERAL

You're dismissed

Dean gets up and walks out of the office with no disrespect and with pride in him.

INT - APARTMENT STORE - NIGHT

Lexie, still just as beautiful as always, sits behind the counter of the apartment store she works at helping the last of the customers.

EXT - APARTMENT STORE - NIGHT

Lexie gets in a car to take a ride home with her friend Lita, mid twenties short dark hair.



EXT - MILITARY BASE - DAWN

Dean packs some of his stuff in a duffel bag out of his locker and then takes a picture off the locker door of him and Leon together back in school. He stares at it for a second and then walks out.

INT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lexie listens for her messages but finds that she has none.

LEXIE (TO HERSELF)  
Third day in a row. What, did the world forget about me or did everyone just lose my number...

Lexie enters her bathroom and readies a steamy bubble bath.

EXT - MILITARY BASE - DAWN

Dean gets in a Ford Mustang after loading a couple of things in. Just before he drives away he looks back at the base in the rear mirror the way he didn't look back at his high school that day.

After his regular deep breath and an all too familiar face he drives off calmly.

EXT - THE HARRISON HOUSE - DUSK

Dean arrives in front of Leon's house, he doesn't get out and instead just sits and looks at it. Joline arrives home from work just a few seconds later.

She, an attractive woman in her early twenties, steps out of the car, she is tallish and has long curly brown hair with pink highlights.

Dean gets out of the car and walks toward the house where Joline is carrying some groceries.

JOLINE  
Can I help you?

DEAN

Afternoon ma'am, is this the Harrison residence?

JOLINE

Yes, yes it is. Are you looking for someone?

DEAN

Umm. I'm looking for Leon is he here? I was told I'll find him here around this time.

JOLINE

No I'm afraid not yet, is he in some sort of trouble or something, can I maybe help or be of service or take a message?

DEAN

No ma'am, he isn't in any kind of trouble at all. Can you just maybe tell him that Dean Cage stopped by and that I'll be by again later, if that's ok?

JOLINE

Yes, no problem. I'll be sure to tell him. May I ask what this is in connection with?

DEAN

We knew each other years ago, just want to say hello and catch up. Thank you ma'am.

Joline smiles as Dean gets back in his car and drives away, she gets the mail and heads for the house. Just as Joline goes into the house Leon arrives home.

He has lost some weight and is looking great, he has short brown hair and a beard to fit.

INT - THE HARRISON LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Leon enters the house with the face of a man who has a long day behind him.

LEON

Hey honey, how was your day?

JOLINE

You know, same old same old. What about you?

LEON

Long and hard, the insurance guys were all over me all day long for some papers Jeff lost and since he isn't there I had to find it. If he would just pick up his phone things won't be such a hassle.

JOLINE

Why do you keep covering for him and fixing his mess anyway.

LEON

If I don't he will most likely end up causing such a mess the whole bank will go under.

JOLINE

You should just let them fire him. O yea there was this guy looking for you just now when I came home, about 5 minutes ago.

LEON

What guy?

JOLINE

Think he said his name was Dean, Dean Cage or something, big, strong, think he is in the army since he was in uniform.

Leon stops loosening his tie and turn his head towards Joline.

LEON

(Shocked)

That's imposable.

JOLINE

Well, I'm pretty sure that's what he said, why is that imposable?

LEON

Dean Cage died Six years ago.

JOLINE

Maybe it was someone else like his brother or someone trying to pull a prank or something but I'm sure he said his name was Dean Cage.

LEON

He didn't have any brothers and this isn't funny, tell me exactly what he looked like.

DEAN (O.S)

A little different but still recognizable as myself I hope.

When Leon turns around Dean stands outside the doorway in his military suit. A few seconds of silence is in the area with all three people staring at each other.

Leon's eyes are about to fall out, Joline has the look of a confused woman on her face but Dean doesn't show much emotion other than a bit of happiness.

LEON

(Stunned)

Dean? How...

DEAN

How are you Leon?

LEON

(Stunned)

You're dead, how can this... Everyone thought you were dead.

DEAN

No, I won't exactly say dead but I came close a few times though.

The two stands in a moment of awkwardness not knowing how to greet after all the years, they shake hands then hug.

LEON

Where have you been all this time, the army or what? Last time we heard your dad said you left for work but never said where or what work. And then the death story...

DEAN

No, since I left that night I've been part of the military, sorry I didn't have time to say goodbye or anything but things were complicated. I saw an opportunity and took it.

LEON

Everybody that was left after high school thought you were dead. You left in the middle of the night without even telling anyone. That wasn't like you. When after a year nobody heard from you, rumor that you died started traveling. Everyone had a different theory but everyone was sure you really were dead.

DEAN

I didn't really have much of a choice Leon, I had to get away from this place or I would have gone mad. I mean back then things were too complicated and I just decided to do what I felt was right. There wasn't a day that went by without me wishing I could have said goodbye. But they were pushing me to leave and after I left I never had contact with anyone here, so yea.

LEON

I'm not sure if you know or heard but uhmm... Your father...

DEAN

I heard, I got message two days later but they didn't want to let me out of training so I missed the funeral and stuff. I was just told that all of his belongings were picked up by my uncle.

LEON

I'm sorry I guess it's not really the time to have brought it up.

DEAN

Nah it's no problem, I heard they caught the guy that shot him but he escaped. I just hope they catch him again.

Leon realizes the subject is starting to get difficult and tries to change the subject.

LEON

So for how long are you back?

DEAN

I'm back for a while. Taking some time to figure out my next move and so on.

LEON

You're done with the military?

DEAN

Yea I decided to maybe get out while there is still some time and try something different before it's too late.

LEON

Have anything in mind yet?

DEAN

No not yet, I'm still looking around and exploring my options.

LEON

Well good luck with that, but what's been going on over the past six years you must have a few stories.

DEAN

I'll tell you over a drink, you interested?

LEON

Honey, I'd like you to meet Dean, back from the dead. We go way back all the way to pre-school. Dean this is my wife Joline.

DEAN

Please to meet you ma'am.

JOLINE

Please, call me Joline. It's a pleasure meeting you.

DEAN

Likewise.

LEON

Will you be ok? We are going out for a few drinks, is that good?

JOLINE

Yea sure you go ahead, I'm sure you got a lot to talk about.

LEON

Thanks honey, I won't be back late.

Leon turns to Dean.

LEON (CONT'D)

Let me just put this away.

Leon runs up the stairs. With his briefcase and tie he took off his shirt.

EXT - THE HARRISON HOUSE - DUSK

Leon puts on his jacket and closes the door.

LEON

I can see the military has been good to you.

Dean's Mustang stands parked in by the sidewalk.

DEAN

Yea well I always talked about it so I decided to take the opportunity when it presented itself. Got it for a bargain, so I'm not complaining.

LEON

It really is thing of beauty man, but you know that means we're driving with that rite.

They laugh and get in the car.

INT - BAR - NIGHT

Leon and Dean sit at the end of the bar and order two beers.

DEAN

I can't believe this place is still here, I remember stealing the beer from the delivery van on Thursdays and going to the lake to finish them before anyone got home.

LEON

Yea those were the good old days.

They take a sip of beer as if wondering what to say.

LEON (CONT'D)

But tell me what happened, what happened for you to take off six years ago without even a goodbye?



DEAN

(Deep Breath)

I applied to the military earlier that year but never hear from them until a few days before graduation. I got a letter from them saying that me and a few others we selected to go and take part in a special experimental training program. But I wasn't allowed to tell anybody what we were leaving for and such stuff. None of us even knew where we were when the chopper dropped us blind folded at a military base. Anyway, I saw that as my way out of this shithole, my new beginning. And ultimately my new life completely.

LEON

And these past six years, where were you...why no contact, a visit or just a letter or something?

DEAN

I tried writing and calling once the time was right, never got through. I found out later you moved. The training I underwent was on a remote island in the middle of nowhere. I was deployed for my first mission in Iraq as a Corporal and after that I was given a team, I trained them and together we were sent all over, Vietnam, Africa, Middle Eastern countries and a lot of other places. I was really busy and I didn't see a reason to come back since my dad isn't here anymore and you were gone. I didn't even know if any of the people I knew were still here. Don't get me wrong I wanted to look you up, but wasn't really sure what to say or if you'd even want see me with how I left things. And I really didn't want to come back here to nothing, so I rather stayed away. Thought it might be for the best.

LEON

I guess you had your reasons but you knew you could trust me. We were like brothers. Getting in contact wouldn't have been the worst thing to do. Knowing your best friend is alive and at least doing well for himself would have been great news.

DEAN

If I know what I do now I would have at least said goodbye to you and my dad in person that night and I would have made that phone call just to know how things were. But yea, I can't redo what I've wronged but I can try and make that right somehow and... Well be happy I guess.

LEON

You came to the right place, as they say, no place like home rite. As long as you say goodbye this time round if you decide to leave again.

DEAN

Let's hope you're right and this time I'll make sure to say goodbye, that's if I even leave.

LEON

Let's hope you don't.

They finish their beers and signal for two more.

LEON

Where did that happen?

Leon points out the scar over the left eye of Dean.

DEAN

Vietnam, five years ago, prison camp.

LEON

You were a POW or whatever it is they call it?

DEAN

Yea POW, for about a month before I escaped.

LEON

So it's not really all fun and games as many movies make it look. Must have been hell then?

DEAN

No. The military was my life and home. I went out there and I gave a hundred and ten percent every day of my life no matter what. I gave it everything and I don't regret anything.

LEON

Then what happened? Why did you decide to leave now?

The waitress puts two more beers on the table in front of them and walks off.

DEAN

I was leading a nine man team, ten including myself, been in my command for five years since after my first mission. We specialized in taking out high priority targets, delivering and finding top secret packages. A little over a week ago we got an order to take out a target and retrieve a package. We went in, kept our cover and went on our normal routine. But things went wrong and our position was compromised. Even thru it we took out the target and got the package, it's was a twelve year old girl. Half of my men stayed at a halfway point to give possible flanking fire while the rest of us made our way back with the package. Well long story short the men at the halfway point got pinned down and I was given the order to leave them and get to the landing zone with the package. Instead I stayed and planned on getting my men. I got my men, lost one and brought the package back. The soldier that was killed was one of my very good friends. Saved my life and he died for nothing, so I just had to get away and clear my head. Try starting a new life once more.

LEON

I'm sorry to hear that, I kind of know the feeling of a good friend dying and you can't even help him. Kind of what I felt back then when you disappeared.

DEAN

Yea well. But what in the hell have you been up to in the past few years. You look good.

LEON

Thanks... Well after you left I didn't really have much going on. Between jobs for about a year before getting my life in order. I went to College, met Joline and after I finished college I came back here. Started working at the bank. I married Joline and well here I am today. Still married to Joline and still working at that same bank.

DEAN

O yea congratulations on the marriage man and on collage and... well just everything you accomplished I wasn't around for.

LEON

Well it's not a war hero but it's something worth living for.

DEAN

I'm no hero, but I sure as hell knew a few. But I'm glad and happy for you man, Joline seems great.

LEON

Thank you. What about you, anyone special?

DEAN

No, nothing like that. I was far too busy for that.

LEON

Six years and still no girl.

DEAN

When you're out of the country at least half of the time, you don't really have much time for anything. Like I said my job was my life and I just wasn't ready to put a girl before it.

Lexie walks into the bar to pick up her sister who works at the bar but whose shift just ended. Leon points in her direction but just as Dean Looks, a tall guy with spiked blond hair stands in front of him blocking the view.

JAKE

Cage? Dean Cage?

DEAN

(Nods)

Jake...

JAKE

Wholly shit man I heard you like died and shit.

DEAN

Well you know what they say, you can't believe everything you hear.

JAKE

Well I'll be damned, look I got to go dude, have some friends waiting for me. But we should like do some shots some time man.

Dean shakes his head with thumbs up.

Just as Jake moves, Lexie walks out the door and Dean misses her. Jake walks into a guy at the pool tables and threatens him.

DEAN

Six years and by the looks of it some people didn't really change at all.

LEON

Right on the money there. He is pretty much the same asshole he was back in school. Just a bit more money now.

DEAN

What's he been doing?

LEON

He use to work at some company as a driver but he screwed that up by showing up late or just not showing up at all. His mother died a few years ago and left him a good sum of money. Since then he has been staying with his father using the excuse he is looking after the old man. All he does all day is hang out with his asshole crew making trouble as usual. As far as I can tell his mom left both him and his father a sum but he is taking from his father's account before he touches his. Worst of all is the old man can't even think for himself not to mention stop his son. Real old piece of shit.

Dean and Leon cheers and drink their beer further.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT - APARTMENT STORE - MIDDAY

Dean walks into the store, still in his military suit and looks at some clothes when Lexie approaches him.

LEXIE

Is there something I can help you with sir?

DEAN

No thank youuuu...

LEXIE

(Surprised)

O my God. You're...

DEAN

Alexia, wow you umm, hey.

LEXIE

I can't believe it. Dean.

DEAN

Yea, it's good to see you.

LEXIE  
You too. I thought you were...

DEAN  
No, I heard the rumor too but I can assure you that I'm not.

LEXIA  
Sorry I didn't mean to...

DEAN  
It's ok, it's no problem. Do you work here?

LEXIE  
Yea I... I do.

DEAN  
O, ok. How have you been? You look good.

LEXIE  
Well thank you, I'm doing ok thanks how about you?

DEAN  
Can't complain.

INTERCOM  
Alexia to managers' office please, Alexia.

LEXIE  
I should get going, if you don't need me. But we should get together some time and catch up on lost time?

DEAN  
Yea sure, definitely. That'll be great.

LEXIE  
You're probably busy tonight?

DEAN  
No I'm not doing anything, are you interested?

LEXIE



I'm free. So we can make it tonight then.

Lexie realizes she is being very direct folds her hands over her face.

LEXIE (CONT'D)

(Embarrassed)

God I'm sorry I didn't mean to put you on a spot like that. You probably have a million things to do now that you're back so we don't have to like do it tonight we can...

Dean doesn't think twice about making sure he sees her tonight.

DEAN

No, tonight will be great. I can pick you up if you want?

LEXIA

Sure, why not. I get off at eight.

DEAN

I'll see you then. I just really need to get something to wear first. This is about the only type of clothing I have right now.

LEXIA

I can get you somebody to come help you if you want?

INTERCOM

Alexia, manager is waiting, Alexia.

DEAN

No it's fine I'll be able to manage but thank you, I'll see you later.

LEXIE

Ok bye, see you later then.

EXT - GRAVEYARD - AFTERNOON

Dean is standing by his father's grave.

DEAN

Hello dad, I know I failed. I said that I'll stand in front of you as a man that you can be proud of, but I couldn't. I wasn't there when you needed me most. I failed. I'm so sorry, I wish I could change the way I said goodbye, I wish I stayed and have been there that night. I wish you were still here, to give me advice and tell me what to do now. I'm going thru this point in time with no idea of what to do.

He gets a sad look as he looks away for a few seconds.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I need you dad.

INT - DEANS BEDROOM - DUSK

Dean arrives home and looks at his watch, he puts the bag with clothes on his bed and go sits at the window.

He sits for a few seconds before looking at his watch again and then presses the timer mark and one second after he presses it the street lights go on. He shakes his head in satisfaction before heading to the shower.

INT - DEANS BATHROOM - DUSK

Dean rubs some more shaving cream on his face and while shaving the last bit accidently cuts himself.

He looks in the mirror as the blood starts to drip from the cut and he gets a flashback from his time in Vietnam.

FLASHBACK STARTS

Dean is shirtless and beaten while tied to a tree branch with his hands above his head in a Vietnam War camp.

Its' all dirty around him and the ground is covered with blood, it's obvious someone was killed or tortured here not long ago. A rebel approaches him with a rusty knife in hand.

He slaps Dean to get him out of the stroke he is in and get Dean to look at him.

REBEL  
(In Vietnamese)  
Where are our weapons?

DEAN  
Ask your fucking mother!!!

The rebel cuts Dean with the rusty knife over the left eye of his face showing how he got that scar.

REBEL  
(In Vietnamese)  
You will talk or you will die.

He then lowers the knife to Dean's chest and as he starts to cut Dean snaps out of it.

FLASHBACK ENDS

Dean still staring in the mirror quickly turns when he hears something at the front door. He puts on some pants and a half wet shirt on before he opens the door.

DEAN  
Alexia? Hello.

LEXIE  
Hey, is this a bad time?

DEAN  
No not at all, come on in. Am I late?

LEXIE  
No I got off earlier. Leon told me where you live. I hope it's ok, I just didn't want you to show up at the store and I'm not there or something?

DEAN

It's no problem, make yourself at home. I'll be with you in just a second. Sorry for the mess I rented the place with everything inside but haven't really had time to finish putting and moving everything the way I want yet.

LEXIE

Thanks. It's really not a problem.

Lexie looks around the room at the stuff but the only things she can see that can possibly be Dean's is a military chest in the corner.

She then looks at a bunch of photos on the shelf of Dean in the army. She picks up a photo of Dean and Drew together where they are walking out of a bar and Dean holding a beer in the air. Another where they stand side by side in the desert. She looks at it for a while.

DEAN (O.S)

His name was Drew, he died a while back on our last mission.

Lexie turns around and sees Dean standing in the doorway putting on a dry shirt. She then sees Dean's scar on his chest.

LEXIE

I'm sorry to hear that. You must have been close friends.

DEAN

Yea we were, he was a good soldier. One of the best I ever knew.

LEXIE

How did it happen?

DEAN

He died saving a little girl we had to retrieve. I gave the order to take her inside and he got shot following it.

LEXIE

It wasn't your fault, I mean you probably did what you had to.

Dean nods and just smiles trying to avoid talking about it any further.

DEAN

So you ready to go?

INT - GENERAL'S OFFICE - DUSK

The general is busy looking thru some documents when someone knocks on the door.

GENERAL

Come on in.

SARGENT

Sir there is a Lieutenant by the name of Kelly Morrison here to see you. She said she has an official appointment with you Sir.

GENERAL  
Let her in.

SARGENT  
Yes Sir.

Lieutenant Kelly enters.

KELLY  
Sir, I was informed by my commanding officer that I was to report to you directly as soon as possible?

GENERAL  
Have a seat Lieutenant, I need to have a word with you.

KELLY  
Yes Sir.

GENERAL  
What I am about to tell you is classified above top secret. If you mention anything said in this meeting outside this office or to anybody other than who we tell you to, you are in violation of your code of honor and will face severe consequences. Do you understand me Lieutenant?

KELLY  
Yes sir, I understand.

GENERAL

Thirty six hours ago three nuclear missiles was stolen from a top secret military base out of the desert. Intel we received along with satellite imaging proves what we already thought. We believed a Russian group known as Westorn 66 was involved, and as proved we were right. Now only a hand full of men knows where this base is and fewer know how to disarm those nukes. Meaning somebody had to tip them on where it is, we also have info on who it was and they will be dealt with. Meanwhile those nukes were taken to an island a few miles from where our base, Karana, was blow up six months ago. If those nukes hit, the world will look to the United States for answers that's if we aren't one of the targets.

KELLY

Where do I come in sir?

GENERAL

You'll be the mission coordinator and because of the size of the island, type of terrain and people we are dealing with, we need someone who is good enough and has been there before. Now only a few people knows that terrain but there is only one person who has been there before, has the highest possibility of having a successful outcome and knows how to disarm those nukes. We need you to go get him. There shouldn't be any problems in getting him here, but just for in case you may need to be ready to improvise. Do whatever you need to but get him here.

He puts a file in front of her and she pages thru it.

KELLY

I doubt that it'll be a problem. I'm sure I'll be able to handle this sir.

GENERAL

You were handpicked by the president himself Lieutenant. Try not to disappoint him.

KELLY

I'll try my best sir.

GENERAL

Welcome aboard Lieutenant.

INT - LOCAL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's a busy night as the waitress leaves the table where Dean and Lexie sit at the local restaurant.

DEAN

Thank you for coming out with me.

LEXIE

It's a pleasure, well I didn't really give you a choice in not coming here I sort of just booked it. Sorry about that.

DEAN

No, nothing to be sorry about,

LEXIE

So are back for good now or just visiting?

DEAN

Well I'm not really sure yet, I guess I'll see how things work out and then make my decision.

LEXIE

Aren't you going back to the army?

DEAN

No I doubt that.

LEXIE

O ok, so why did you leave and join the army back then anyway? Why not something closer and safer?



DEAN

It's all a long story. I actually wanted to become a soldier ever since I can remember but a lot of things led to it in the end.

LEXIE

O, well at least you're still alive. That's a good thing. Even thou we all thought you weren't.

DEAN

Yea, rumors spread fast. So what have you been doing all this time?

LEXIE

Well I always wanted to try and help those in need, it was sort of a dream. After high school I started looking into how I can get involved and I told myself that I'll take the year and prepare, look at the best options and just relax for a while. But before I knew it the year was over. It became two years and I still wasn't even close to any leaving opportunity or a real future. So I decided to get a part time job at the store and later started studying before it's too late.

DEAN

Well it's never really too late to go after your dreams. Sometimes it takes a while but if you really want something never stop at trying to go for it

LEXIE

Sometimes things just aren't meant to happen and then you just have to adapt and make the best of it.

DEAN

That's also true I suppose, so what are you studying?

LEXIE

Well I'm studying law. I decided to help people that way.

DEAN

Wow, really impressive, I kind of feel stupid being around all you smart people all the sudden.

LEXIE

You're a soldier, you save lives. I am the one who feels stupid, I sit here not really doing much with my life yet and here you are a great soldier and savior and all. God, if somebody told me six years ago that I'd sit here with Dean Cage having dinner, I would have called them crazy. Everybody thought you were dead, everybody had a different story of how you died and after what happened with your father it just got more and more. It was a messed up situation.

DEAN

I'm no better nor greater than anyone else in this place, I just did my part. But yea I had to start my own thing and stuff.

LEXIE

I guess everyone needs to do that somewhere along the line. You were at least smarter than us to go and do it on a different place, getting out of this place.

DEAN

In some people's eyes, I guess so.

LEXIE

You know what's funny, I'm probably going to sound pathetic right now but I had kind of a little crush on you back in high school.

Dean chokes on his beer he is drinking.

DEAN

Sorry, ok I didn't expect that, at all.

LEXIE

Why, you had one on me but I couldn't have one on you?

DEAN

It's not that it's just... Wait, what? You knew?

LEXIE

No not back then no, Leon kind of told me.

DEAN

I'm going to hurt that guy.

LEXIE

Why do you want to do that?

DEAN

He talks too darn much. When did he tell you?

Lexie laughs at Dean's comment.

LEXIE

No don't hurt him. Well umm, it was about a month after your father's death. Everyone thought that since you and your father were so close that if you were still alive that you'll be there for your father's funeral, but you weren't. That was like a conformation on the rumor. He figured since you won't be able to tell me, he should be the one to tell me.

DEAN

I didn't think you'll ever find that out.

LEXIE

How come you never talked to me?

DEAN

Are you kidding? I didn't know what to say and I figured you didn't even know I existed. I wasn't exactly part of the popular groups.

LEXIE

We sat right besides each other in math and we were in a lot of other classes together.

DEAN

I know but I didn't know you know that.

LEXIE

Well I believe you'll be surprised on how much I do know about you.

DEAN

I'm not so sure that that is necessarily be a good thing.

LEXIE

No it is, you don't have to worry about that. Over the years Leon and I became better friends since he did marry my best friend. He talks a lot about you and the stuff you used to do back then.

DEAN

Like I said, that guy talks too much.

LEXIE

So if you do decide to stay, what's your next plan? Is there anything you really want to do?

DEAN

No, I guess I'll just look around and see how things go. But no real plans yet. For the first time I'm not actually working to or with any plan.

LEXIE

What about a girl or someone special? Anyone you plan on bringing here once you're settled?

DEAN

No nothing like that. I didn't take any real interest in things like that. Was a little busy.

Dean looks to see if he can spot the waitress.

DEAN (CONT'D)

What about you? Do I need to be on the lookout for a guy coming in here and break my neck for sitting here with you?

LEXIE

By the looks of things I don't think he'll be able to touch you.

Lexie gives a smile with a little laugh.

LEXIE (CONT'D)

No I've been in and out of a few relationships but never anything serious. Right now I just want to keep my head straight and focus on my studies.

DEAN

That's the better way, over there I kept my mind clear and ready. Since I arrived there I decided that I was going to give everything I had and no less. Cut out any possible outside distractions and just look forward.

LEXIE

That's true. And by the look of things I'd say that worked out pretty well for you.

Dean nods with a smile and takes a sip of beer that just got delivered by the waitress.

DISTANCE

FADE OUT

EXT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

LEXIE

Thank you so much for tonight, I really had fun.

DEAN

No problem, we should do it again sometime if you want.

LEXIE

Yea, sure any time. Just ring me up or drop by the store or here would do as well.

DEAN

Ok well if you maybe want to go somewhere to get a few drinks or do something on Saturday?

LEXIE

Sure, I'd like that.

DEAN

Unless you have other plans or anything..

LEXIE  
No I'm free. It sounds like fun.

DEAN  
Ok then, goodnight Alexia.

LEXIE  
You can call me Lexie you know.

DEAN  
Goodnight then Lexie Bellamy.

LEXIE  
Goodnight Dean Cage.

Dean wait's for Lexie to go into the apartment before walking down the stairs.

INT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

Lexie leans with her back against the door and smiles, she walks to the table and puts down her purse. She hears the knock on the door and rushes to open it.

LEXIE  
Hey...

Lexie then realize it's not Dean.

LEXIE (CONT'D)  
(Half surprised)  
What are you doing here?

JAKE  
Did you have fun?

LEXIE  
Not that it's any of your business but yes I did. Why are you here?

JAKE  
Can I come in?

LEXIE  
Jake look at the time, it's past twelve.

JAKE

You didn't seem to worry about time when you were out with soldier boy at the restaurant all night.

LEXIE

Wait a second, you followed us!

JAKE

I had to, it was for your own safety. I don't trust that creep. He isn't even really a friend, how long has he been back, a few days. He is going to hurt you.

LEXIE

That so called creep just so happens to be someone who listens to me and respects me and actually wants to be my friend. Someone who did something with his life., which is more than I can say for you. Now can you please leave so I can go to sleep?

JAKE

He doesn't care about you, he's just trying to get in your pants and what about us Lexie?

LEXIE

First of all, what us? You asked for a chance and when you got it you fucked it up by fucking anyone who opens her legs for you just because I wouldn't. You said you changed since high school so I give you one more shot but nothing changed. Second of all, who knows I might just even let him in my pants.

JAKE

You don't mean that. This is just something you're going thru. You can't possibly like that loser. You're not thinking strait, you're better than that.



LEXIE

Jake the only one in here that's not thinking strait is you. Now get your drunken ass out of my front door. Good night.

Lexie slams the door closed and locks it. She looks thru the keyhole to see Jake leaving. She holds the keys in both hands close to her chest, she takes a long breath walking into the bedroom and turning on the light.

EXT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT PARKING - MIDNIGHT

Jake struggles to get to his truck, leaning against a railing trying to find his keys. When he finds them he walks over to his truck and gets in.

Dean, who never left, stands on Lexie's floor stairs in the window obviously making sure Jake doesn't make trouble with Lexie. He looks as Jake drives away and then to glances to Lexie's hall before heading down the stairs making his way out.

INT - GYM - DAY

Dean and Leon are busy hitting some boxing bags but Dean nearly hit's the thing of the hook. Anger is in every punch he throws.

LEON

How did your date go last night?

DEAN

It wasn't a date and it all went ok. Except when I found out that you started talking and telling her all about me and the things I use to do. One part in particular caught my attention.

LEON

I take it you found out I told her about how you felt back in high school?

DEAN

Yes, that part. Asshole.

LEON

Look I didn't think you were ever going to be able to tell her yourself.

They step back from the bags and sit down on the bench. Leon is tired and half out of breath as Dean looks to be as good as before the session.

DEAN

I almost didn't know what to say. I'm going to get you back for that.

LEON

Don't feel so alone, she told me herself that she liked you too.

DEAN

She told me last night that she liked me "a little". That was sympathy just so I wouldn't feel bad. Like it was supposed to make me feel better. All that did was make me more uncomfortable.

LEON

Aren't you supposed to be comfortable around any situation being a soldier and all?

DEAN

Like we got trained to sit and have dinner with a girl or how to talk to women or anything like that. I swear to God that over the years I just got worse with women.

LEON

Women are like mechanics, you just need to understand them.

DEAN

That's the part I'll never get, understanding them. They are hard to see thru and the games they play around us. Not exactly my specialty.

LEON

It takes practice. But in the end it's all worth it.

DEAN

Whatever you say man, anyway, look I got to go get some supplies and stuff. We still good for Friday?

LEON

Yea we're good bro.

INT - HARRISON HOUSE - NIGHT

LEON

Hey honey, how was your day?

JOLINE

Good thanks and how was the day off with Dean?

LEON

It was great, it's like he never left, we can talk about anything as if high school was just yesterday

JOLINE

That's great, I was afraid you both might have changed too much.

LEON

No nothing like that, as a matter of fact he invited us to a barbeque on Friday?

JOLINE

Ok, should I make or take anything?

LEON

Yea maybe a salad, last time I remember he wasn't much of a cook. I know he can grill but the only other thing he can make is an egg, God knows he lived of the things whenever he had to make himself food. Maybe he got better but let's not take any chances.

JOLINE

Fair enough, we can do with a little fun.  
We don't really do anything anymore.

LEON

What do you mean? We have fun a lot, we  
had fun last night.

JOLINE

No, maybe you had fun, I had a few minutes  
of acting again.

LEON

That's just wrong, that's mean, there goes  
my confidence. But allow me to set that  
right.

JOLINE

You mean I should give you a chance to  
listen to my wonderful acting again.

LEON

Is that right?

Leon grabs, picks up Joline and carries her up the  
stairs both laughing.

INT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

JOLINE

Hey girl, how are you?

LEXIE

I'm great thanks. You look like you have a  
hanger in your mouth with that smile?

JOLINE

It's just a good day to smile, I heard the  
date went well, I want details.

LEXIE

It wasn't a date but yes it was great and  
no there isn't any details. Leon was  
right, we have a lot in common.

JOLINE

Hold on a second, do you smell that?.

LEXIE

No, what?

JOLINE

I believe its love on the way.

LEXIE

Now you're over reacting.

JOLINE

Ok, we'll see. Are you going to the barbeque Friday?

LEXIE

He asked me to go but I couldn't get off. So I talked to Lita and she will stand in for me. But I still need to let him know.

JOLINE

Great, you can let him know and then you can drive with us if you want?

LEXIE

Ok, just let me know what time and so on. Do you know if we should take anything?

JOLINE

I'm just taking a salad and I'm also not sure yet about the time but I'll let you know.

LEXIE

Thanks. I think I'll also take a salad and maybe some whine?

JOLINE

Sounds great. So tell me about your date.

LEXIE

Dinner, it was a dinner not a date and NO!

Leon enters and walks up to them.

LEON

I heard your date was fun.

LEXIE

It was a dinner! If one more person tells me it was a date I'm going to strangle them.

JOLINE

If you say so.

Joline turns to Leon.

JOLINE (CONT'D)

Guess who will be attending Friday's barbeque?

LEON

Great, so it can be like your second date.

JOLINE

Yea we Promise we won't interfere with you guys too much.

LEXIE

You guys are really pushing your luck here and the boundaries of our friendship.

EXT - STREETS - DUSK

Jake and a few buddies is smoking weed in an ally next to run down building full of spray paint.

TOM

Jake my sister told me that that Cage guy is having a barbeque Friday and she has to stand in for Lexie who is going there.

JAKE

So we'll be sure to swing by and say hello.

TOM

What?

JAKE

Come Friday we go make a little war of our own. See what that so called hero is going to try and do.

INT - DEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dean gets out of the shower and walks into the bedroom. He lies on the bed and brushes his hands over his balled head.

Dean's front door goes open slowly. Three men enter the bedroom slowly but Dean is no longer on the bed. When they turn around he stands behind them. They aim to kill him but he beats down two of them and kills them.

The last one is lying on the floor still alive. Dean puts a gun in his face and pulls the trigger. Just as the shot goes off Dean wakes up and realize it was all just a dream. He fell asleep after laying on the bed.

EXT - DEAN'S HOUSE - MIDDAY

Dean has the music on when everybody arrives for the barbeque. Joline and Lexie have bowls with salad in.

Dean greets everybody and tells them that there is more than enough drinks in the fridge for the day and that they should help themselves.

JOLINE

We brought some salad, I hope it's ok.

DEAN

Thanks, now we can at least have some salad with the meat and beer dinner. I was planning on buying some but I didn't know where the freshest is or what you guys like.

LEON

Why didn't you just make some yourself?

DEAN

If you want to die from a type of food poisoning, you should eat the stuff that comes out whenever I cook.

LEXIE

It can't be that bad. Can it?

DEAN

You don't want to know.

LEXIE

I'd take that as a warning.

JOLINE

So let me get this strait, you expect your future wife to do all the cooking?

DEAN

I'm not planning on marrying, so I guess canned food will have to do. It's worked for me in the past.

LEON

Six years and no difference.

LEXIE

You don't want to get married?

DEAN

Well I haven't ever really thought about it. Besides in order for me to marry I would have to find a girl crazy enough that likes me for me.

LEXIE

What if you already found her?

DEAN

Well then I'd say she would have to like cooking or she should have to like canned food. Either that or marriage just isn't the way to go.

LEON

Like I said, no difference.



JOLINE  
Unbelievable. And they say girls have  
issues.

Everybody laughs and they carry on with the party.

EXT - DEAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

The barbeque is going as Dean and Leon drinks a beer  
standing next to it. Lexie and Joline are sitting a  
few feet away from the fire looking on.

LEXIE  
Do you really think he doesn't want a  
serious relationship like marriage?

JOLINE  
I knew it, you fell for him. Again. Didn't  
you?

LEXIE  
No, I was just... Ok fine I may be liking  
him a little. Again.

JOLINE  
Well he totally has it on for you too.

LEXIE  
I just don't want to hope for something  
and one day just wakes up and realizes  
it's gone. I don't want to get hurt again.  
Every time I start to really like someone  
they turn out to be a complete ass. You  
know what, just forget it, forget I ever  
said anything.

JOLINE  
Look it's obvious he's back for good and  
you two would make a great couple. Now as  
soon as both of you tell each other how  
you feel the sooner you can both be happy.  
Just because other guys are like that  
doesn't mean he will be as well.

LEXIE

I don't even know for sure if he still even likes me. Six years is a long time. Plus he won't have a problem getting an even prettier girl. He has the body and the car and everything now.

JOLINE

Well no doubt that he has the body and car and so on. The face could maybe be that of a different one to fit the body. But anyone who pays attention can see he is crazy about you. And other girls won't stand a chance.

LEXIE

I think he is very good looking. But if he likes those other girls more I wish them a life time of happiness.

JOLINE

What am I going to do with you? You need to just tell him you like him.

LEXIE

That'll sound pathetic and desperate.

LEXIE

I'm telling you, do it.

Dean turns the meat and Leon hands him another beer.

LEON

So how are things between you two, seriously now?

DEAN

We're good

LEON

That's it? Just good? Come on Dean.

DEAN

I just don't want to mess up a good friendship. I waited over ten years just to talk to her, now I have more than I ever thought I'd have. Trying to get more is just going to screw things up. I'm happy the way things are now and I don't want to compromise that.

LEON

You told me once that you'd never know unless you try. I tried and today I don't regret a single thing about that try.

DEAN

Look, I know I can't make her half as happy as she deserves. My passed will never die, I will always have one more left in me. My passed will come back to haunt me at some time and when it does I don't want her to be in the middle of it.

LEON

But what if it's meant to be? When she found out you died six years ago she was as upset and sad as can be. She at one point told me that she regretted being so high class and influenced back in high school. That she wished she at least said hello from time to time. I don't want you to feel the same way some day.

Dean shakes his head slowly and gets some of drew's death scene sounds in his head.

EXT - STEETS - DUSK

JAKE

Ok guys, let's get ready to go kick some soldier ass.

STEVE

I'm not so sure man, I have a bad feeling about this.

TOM

Yea me too man, let's just forget about this.

JAKE

Are you guys fucking kidding me, ok stay if you are too much of wimps. I'll go take care of this myself and get my girl.

The guys look at each other and then go after Jake.

INT - DEAN'S HOUSE - DUSK

Dean gets some plates from the kitchen when Lexie joins him to get two more margaritas for her and Joline.

LEXIE

Hey you.

DEAN

Hey, everything ok?

LEXIE

Yea, everything is great. Thank you so much, I'm really having a lot of fun.

DEAN

Well I'm glad to hear that. Are we still on for tomorrow?

LEXIE

Yes absolutely, without a doubt.

DEAN

Great.

EXT - DEAN'S HOUSE - DUSK

Dean and Lexie come out of the house together and Leon and Joline is smiling at each other when they see it. Everybody sits down and starts to eat.

JOLINE

So Dean, what exactly did you do in the army? Did you like kill people?

LEON  
Honey!

DEAN  
It's ok. Well I did my job and sometimes my job was to, kill, sometimes it was to protect and other times to retrieve. But in the end it comes down to the fact that I followed orders. Never mind what they were. If I was told to do something for the military I did everything within my power to get it done.

JOLINE  
So you were like an assassin?

DEAN  
I wouldn't call it assassin but on some level I suppose.

JOLINE  
That's so awesome, you must have had some great training then?

DEAN  
Well it's actually...

Jake and his guys arrive in Dean's yard interrupting Dean.

LEXIE  
Jake. I didn't know you were invited.

JAKE  
O, no. I wasn't, I actually just came to get you.

LEXIE  
What?

DEAN  
You need to go?

LEXIE  
No, I'm not going anywhere.

JAKE

I don't think you really have a choice in all of this babe.

LEXIE

Babe, ok first of all, I'm not your babe. I haven't been for a while now and I never will be again. Second of all, I'm not going with you and your trailer trash buddies.

DEAN

Jake I think it's a good idea if you guys leave now, please.

JAKE

Shut it Rambo, before you get hurt.

DEAN

If she wants to go, I'm not going to stand in her way but if she wants to stay, you're not touching her nor taking her out of here.

JAKE

Is that right, boy? Did you hear that guys, General Dick here thinks he's good enough to beat us down at a good old fashion game of fucking each other up?

Jake and his guys laugh as Jake takes a step forward and push Dean out of the way.

DEAN

If you just as much as touch her Jake I swear, you're going to get hurt.

JAKE

Really, is that right?

Jake grabs Lexie's arm and Dean steps forward very seriously. Tom and Steve run and try to stop Dean from getting to Jake.

They push Dean hard making him step n few steps back, he moves forward more seriously straight to them. After not much trouble both of them are down with bloody faces. Jake gets out a knife and releases Lexie. Dean then turns his attention to him and starts moving forward to him.

LEON

Jake what are you doing!

LEXIE

Dean watch out!!! Stop it Jake please.

Dean still walking fearlessly towards Jake makes a fist as veins start to rise up from his arms.

DEAN

Come on, let's go! Come on!

LEXIE (CRYING OUT)

Dean!

Dean uses his military skills and grabs the knife when Jake swings for him. He hits Jake before throwing him against a tree and then to the ground. He picks him back up and pushes him up against the wall of the house.

He pulls his arm back with the knife ready to stab it into jakes face. His arm is stiff and every muscle stands out covered in veins and sweat. A soft hand touches his arm and that causes him to take his eyes of Jake for the first time. Lexie is standing there with her hand on his arm looking him in the eye.

LEXIE (CONT')

Please.

Dean releases Jake causing him to drop to the ground. Dean looks down and up again, he picks up the other two he drags them and throws them into the truck they arrived in.

As Dean turns around he has a sick look in his eyes and he is biting down on his teeth. He walks over to Jake. Leon, Lexie and Joline stare from the corner with a scared look in their eyes.

DEAN

Jake I told you to fucking leave, I told you not to touch her. I'm going to give you one more chance to leave and if you don't take it this time I swear to God I going to kill you.

Dean picks him up and throws him to the truck. Dean turns around and heads into the house.

INT - DEAN'S BATHROOM - DUSK

Dean storms into the bathroom and washes his face as he gets war flashes in front of him when Leon comes into the bathroom.

LEON

Dean, you ok man?

DEAN

Are they gone?

LEON

They left yea.

DEAN

Look I'm sorry man, I didn't mean to go on like that. I just couldn't help it, it's just...it's just...

LEON

It's not your fault man, he got what he needed. Everybody is too scared to say anything to him, but you really smacked some sense into him out here.

DEAN

Are Lexie and Joline ok outside? Did I upset them?

LEON

They're just fine, now let's go grab a beer and have a great time.



EXT - DEAN'S HOUSE - DUSK

Joline walks over to Lexie who looks at the fire.

JOLINE

Ok, if you don't take him, I'm divorcing Leon and marrying him.

LEXIE

Are you crazy? He just did all that because of me, do you think he's mad at me now or something?

JOLINE

Are you listening to yourself, he just did that, all of that because of you. The guy is head over heels in love with you. What guy would do that for a girl he doesn't like?

LEXIE

He doesn't think of me any more than a friend. He would have done all that for you too.

JOLINE

Girl, I'm a psychiatrist. I know guys, now I have absolutely no idea what is going on in Dean's head because he's as closed as a book. But it's bright as daylight he wants you. He isn't sure of what to do or how to do it so he won't try anything, he is too scared of messing up. He might not be afraid of anything but let me tell you, he is scared shitless of losing you since he just got you in his life. Now some girls like money and muscles, and Dean has both. So it's like you said, he won't have a problem finding someone else. But he is still here with you.

LEXIE

It's obvious you won't be able to read his mind, he's been trained not to show that stuff. But anyway we're spending tomorrow together, I'll see how it goes.

Leon and Dean come out and they go sit down again.

DEAN  
Look I'm sorry guys, I apologize.

JOLINE  
Just remind me to never piss you off.

LEXIE  
Definitely not.

They laugh and Dean opens a beer.

INT - BAR - NIGHT

After the barbeque Dean sits at the bar. He is drunk and still drinking. He and a few other people sitting a few feet away are in the bar Lexie also comes in.

LEXIE  
Dean.

DEAN  
Lexie, what are you doing here?

LEXIE  
What, I'm not allowed to go to a bar?

DEAN  
No of course you can, I didn't mean it like that.

LEXIE  
Relax, I'm messing with you. Besides, my sister works here remember?

DEAN  
O yea. Sorry. Can I get you something to drink?

LEXIE  
Yea sure, why not. By the looks of things you're still going to be here a while.

LEXIE'S SISTER  
What can I get you sis?

LEXIE  
Just a coffee thanks.

LEXIE'S SISTER  
And you sir?

DEAN  
I'll take another beer, thanks.

LEXIE'S SISTER  
No problem, coming right up.

Lexie stares at Dean for a while.

LEXIE  
Are you ok?

DEAN  
Yea. I couldn't just sit at home so I decided to come here for a while. House was killing me. I wanted to ask Leon but he said he has some stuff to go do and you said you were tired so I decided to come alone I didn't want to bother.

LEXIE  
You wouldn't have, I took a nap for a while but I would much rather have come with you.

DEAN  
I'll keep that in mind next time.

LEXIE  
You do that.

Lexie smiles at Dean and he smiles back. Lexie's sister brings the coffee and beer.

LEXIE (CONT)  
You didn't forget about tomorrow did you?

DEAN  
No chance, I still remember.

LEXIE

Great.

DEAN

Lexie, about earlier with Jake. I didn't mean to, well do what I did. I didn't think clearly.

LEXIE

Well, the fighting scared me, I really thought you were going to kill him. But he did come looking for trouble and he deserved what he got on some level I guess.

DEAN

Like I said, it was instinct, when things like that happen I lose mind in what's around me and think of one thing only and that's to hurt them, or worse. Training kicks in. It's no secret that me and Jake never did sit around the same camp and today felt like I could get him back for everything.

LEXIE

And I completely understand that, but how about we try no more even thinking of killing or fighting ok? It's dangerous.

DEAN

Well I'll try not to, thanks for understanding.

LEXIE

No problem, but promise me you will at least try not to, I know things happen but you can try. You are either going to get hurt or you're going to get in trouble and I don't want either one.

DEAN

Well I'll do my best, I promise.

They shake hands and smile.

LEXIE

I never even got the time to thank you for helping me.

DEAN

Any time. If you ever need anything just ask.

INT - HARRISON HOUSE - NIGHT

Leon and Joline are lying in bed and Joline is reading a book.

JOLINE

Dean can really fight huh? I wouldn't want to get on his bad side.

LEON

Yea but that's what you can expect from a guy like him I guess.

JOLINE

Guy like him?

LEON

Yea, the soldier him. He told me about purple hearts, silver stars and even the Congressional Medal of Honor along with a lot more he received. Like those soldiers you normally see in movies, I guess he is one in real life. He is a one hundred percent war machine. He has been ever since we were young, he always knew everything about everything there was to know about war, weapons and stuff like that and he was only 18 when he left. Some would think he was weird but it brought him to where he is today. You should have seen his room, guns, tanks and war books and posters everywhere.

JOLINE

So he has always been like this?

LEON

Well deep down I guess so yea, but back in high school he wasn't like this. He didn't really fight, if someone pissed him off he would just walk away. He was heavy into military stuff but the military made him, well that you saw out there today.

JOLINE

Why do you think he left back then?

LEON

My best guess is he was looking for a way to get rid of his emotions. He never talked about what he was feeling with me or his dad. And he and his father were close. So I guess to maybe find himself. Start over, I don't know.

JOLINE

Well I think he is sweet. So I think whatever he wanted there he got.

LEON

He has a good hart and wants only the best for his friends but don't ever underestimate him.

JOLINE

You really think he will hurt any of his friends?

LEON

Well no, but all I'm saying is he has that one side that makes him be like he was out there today. But he will never harm his friends, thou he will fight for them. He obviously has a dark passed he doesn't like to talk about. This is why I told you not to bring up the part about him killing people.

JOLINE

He talks a lot about the army, obvious it's where his life was up till now. But he never gives many details on what went on over there, he hides it behind different words.

LEON

Do you blame him?

EXT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Dean arrives at Lexie's apartment and she comes out dressed very neatly. She greets him with a hug and they get in the car.

INT - DINER - MORNING

Dean and Lexie eat breakfast. They both just sit there not saying anything but smiling.

EXT - LAKE - MORNING

Dean and Lexie eats some ice-cream when a bird flies up in front of Lexie and she almost trips but Dean saves her and her ice-cream in time.

DEAN

You ok?

LEXIE

Yea, I am now. You're fast. Thanks.

Dean realizes his hand is on her butt and quickly helps her completely on her feet and let go. He starts walking again as Lexie gets a little smile as she also noticed it.

INT - DEAN'S CAR - MIDDAY

The music plays on the radio and Lexie tries to get Dean to sing along with her but he doesn't want to he just laughs and shakes his head.

INT - FAST FOODS - MIDDAY

Lexie and Dean both eats a hamburger as they both talk and laugh.

INT - DEAN'S CAR - EVENING

Lexie and Dean dives along a forest and mountain as Dean point and shows her some trees and flowers telling her about them.

EXT - LAKESIDE- NIGHT

Dean and Lexie sit on the point of the hood of the car looking at the lake as the moonlight bounces of the water.

LEXIE

It's so beautiful.

DEAN

Yes, yes it is.

LEXIE

Did you ever miss things like this when you were on the other side of the world or wherever?

DEAN

What do you mean?

LEXIE

Something like this view, you know something beautiful.

DEAN

Yea a lot, but sometimes we see stuff just as beautiful on other places we went. We never really got a chance to enjoy it, and sometimes we even had to destroy stuff like this cause one man wanted us to. I saw and did a lot of stuff, some good, others bad.

LEXIE

That's kind of sad.



DEAN

Yea it's not always as easy there as people may think. Some things are harder than it looks or sounds. I'm not necessarily talking about this type of stuff, but you know, it gets bad.

LEXIE

Can I ask you a question? If you don't want to answer it I completely understand.

DEAN

Sure.

LEXIE

What's it like? All of it.

DEAN

Well it's different, different than anything you've ever seen. Plans almost never work out. If you only have one way you will fail. You never know exactly where an ambush might await or whether the person you need to complete the mission is going to make it or not. You can't let personal feelings get involved, ever. You've got to have the right mindset or you will lose your mind. Everyone will need a break. Things will catch up to you somewhere along the line. How you deal with it is what makes you who you are. Some of the things you do can break you down so bad you might never get back up.

LEXIE

Were you ever scared?

DEAN

Ever? No, I was always scared. But I was happy. I was home.

LEXIE

Can I ask you another question?

DEAN

Sure, go for it.

LEXIE

Were you like those guys on TV that kill woman and children over there?

DEAN

I was there to protect the innocent, not kill them. Everything I did I had reason to do.

LEXIE

I'm sorry, I shouldn't be so nosy.

DEAN

No it's ok, I don't mind answering and to give you an even more straight answer, no, I didn't.

Lexie knows he is getting uncomfortable but can't help in going on.

LEXIE

Why did you really leave here?

DEAN

There was nothing left for me here, I was sick and tired of falling second. I wanted to just run away and never see the light of day again. When the military gave me the opportunity I just took it. It was a dream and a wish come true at once, I get to join the military and get away at the same time. I was just tired.

LEXIE

I didn't know you felt that way. You never really seemed to be troubled or anything. But I know what you were feeling, I have that now. Everything seems to be just right and the next moment everything is anything but fine.

DEAN

Feels like you can just walk away and never look back. But hold on, something will come along. It's never as bad as you think.

Dean stares out in front of him and takes that same old deep breath. Lexie takes Dean's hand. He then looks at their hands and then at her. They go in for the kiss and their lips finally touch. The long awaited kiss finally lands.

Dean is clearly scared and unsure of what to do in that situation. He is afraid of messing up, when they finally part lips after a long kiss he can't even think clearly.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Umm, we should probably, we should maybe, you probably want to get home..

LEXIE

I'm sorry I didn't mean to..

DEAN

No, I shouldn't have.

Dean gets off the hood and walks to the car door. He walks to the edge of the lake when Lexie starts giggling and Dean joins in with a confused laugh.

DEAN (CONT'D)

That bad huh?

LEXIE

No it's not that at all, I just never thought that'll happen.

DEAN

That definitely makes two of us.

LEXIE

What do we do now?

DEAN

I don't know, probably just carry on and act like this didn't happen would be best.

LEXIE

yea, probably.

Lexie gets a half disappointing smile.

INT - DEAN'S HOUSE - MIDNIGHT

Dean comes in and throws his keys on a table knocking over a lamp breaking it on the ground. He flows his hand over his face but stops halfway.

DEAN

What are you doing here?

Lieutenant Kelly comes out of the darkness of the corner.

KELLY

Colonel, you look good.

DEAN

You too and I'm no longer a Colonel. Now what are you doing here?

KELLY

Glad to see you haven't changed since we last met. I'm here to talk to you.

DEAN

Not interested.

KELLY

You didn't even hear me out.

DEAN

Since you are here, standing in my living room in full uniform with that file, the military sent you to come to me for some sort of help. That's my guess.

KELLY

It's not just any type of help. It's a chance at your life back.

DEAN

A chance at my life back, for six fucking years of my life I went out there and put my ass on the line, I went out there and gave it everything I had. I sacrificed everything for this country and its people. I took shots meant for this country more than once and I did it with pride and without any doubts. I turned a blind eye to the shit I did and what this country did, I turned a blind eye to the shit that would have sunken this country. But then I turn to them just once to turn a blind eye and in the end they didn't. After all the missions, successful missions, after all the lying, killing, saving and torturing, I get honorably discharged. That's just a nice way of getting your ass kicked out. I never said no, when something needed to be done, no matter how sick and twisted or how hard, I did it. If something needed to be done, they turned to me. They left me for dead more than once, and every time I got out of those camps and made it back bleeding and half dead but still I didn't ask for shit. But the one time I do ask for something they turn me down. And now they want me to do more work for them. I'm sorry but I'm out.

KELLY

Yes, what happened to you wasn't fair, I agree. Dean, you're a good guy but you need to remember who you are. Do you really think you are made for this shit. Do you really think that she will stand by you when you have a problem? But more importantly, do you really think you have what it takes to keep her happy. You are who you are and trust me you are not boyfriend or family material not to mention husband. If you want love, then go look for it with a girl like yourself or even at a place that can handle you. Sooner or later she will realize who you really are and then what are you going to do? She won't be there for you, your friends won't be there for you, and then you'll realize, we are the ones that care about you. You just aren't good enough for this Dean. You are a killer but worse than that you're an all out nothing here. You'll fail here just like you failed here before.

Dean shakes his head in disagree, he walks into the kitchen and gets a beer. When he comes out he sees Kelly in the doorway.

KELLY (CONT')

You have been and always will be a soldier Dean. A damn good one. You just remember, everything happens for a reason.

Dean takes a sip of beer as Kelly walks away. He walks over to the door and slams it closed. He hit's a photo of him in his military clothes with his fist and breaks the glass. He falls to his knees and sit's against the wall with a bad look in his eyes.

INT - COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

JOLINE

What's been going on with you and lover boy lately? Any new progress?

LEXIE  
Nope, noting.

Joline gives Lexie an unsatisfied look.

LEXIE (CONT'D)  
Well we sort of had a moment.

JOLINE  
Now we're getting somewhere, do tell?

LEXIE  
We were out by the lake and we were just talking. Anyway somehow we ended up kissing, but it was just one kiss and I think he hated it.

JOLINE  
When did this happen?

LEXIE  
Saturday, but he hasn't called or text me since. He drove passed the store earlier this week but he didn't even come in to say hello. It's been five days.

JOLINE  
Maybe he is scared or doesn't know how to handle this. What did he say after that?

LEXIE  
I seriously doubt that. All he said was that we should act like it never happened.

JOLINE  
I've seen that before in men. They are afraid of the moment and then want to get in a comfort zone again.

LEXIE  
You know that isn't like him.

JOLINE  
What did you think about it?

LEXIE  
I never wanted it to end.

They both start to giggle a little.

INT - BAR - NIGHT

Lexie and Joline sit's at a table while Dean and Leon is at the bar getting drinks

JOLINE

Ok, now when I distract Leon and you and Dean are alone you make your move and tell him how you felt about that night.

LEXIE

What, are you crazy! He looks pissed tonight, I think its cause of that. I mean he just has that look in his eyes. Do you think that maybe we went too far?

JOLINE

Too far, what are you talking about? You kissed and that's it, how can that be too far? No, trust me. If he is mad it's not cause of that or you. You're just imagining yourself.

LEXIE

I don't know. Something isn't rite. This is the first time I've seen him since then and all he said was hello.

Leon looks at Dean.

LEON

Hey man, you ok? You look a little tense tonight.

DEAN

Yea I'm good man. Just thirsty.

LEON

If you say so.

DEAN

No worries man.



LEON

If you ever need to talk or if you need anything, just call man. I'm here for you.

DEAN

Thanks, but I'm good, really. Now let's get drinking shall we.

LEON

Ok, but you know where to find me.

DEAN

Yea I know and I appreciate it, thanks.

JOLINE

Well you're going to have to talk about this some time. You can't keep looking at each other every few seconds and not talk to each other for ever.

EXT - BAR - NIGHT

Dean, Lexie, Leon and Joline come walking out of the bar. They say goodbye and Lexie gets in Deans car, Joline and Leon drives of left and Dean drives of right to go drop off Lexie.

INT - DEAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Dean drives on a road with woods on both sides.

LEXIE

Can I ask you something?

DEAN

Yea, of course.

LEXIE

Are you mad cause of what happened the other night? You know, between us.

DEAN

No, not at all. I won't be mad because of something like that. Why do you ask?

LEXIE

You seem troubled or mad or something. So I just thought..

DEAN

No I just have a small problem but it's really not that. That made my weekend.

He gives her a small smile as he turns a little red.

LEXIE

Really? I mean we are still friends right? Something didn't change did it?

DEAN

What are you kidding me, no, of course we're still friends. I'm just glad you're not mad.

LEXIE

So what's this problem you have?

DEAN

It's nothing, don't worry about it.

LEXIE

Well if you ever need someone to just talk to or to just hang out, you know I'm here for you. Whenever wherever, you know how to find me.

DEAN

Thank you, I appreciate it. I really do.

EXT - DEAN'S CAR - MIDNIGHT

LEXIE

Thank you for the ride and everything.

DEAN

It's no problem, I guess I'll be seeing you.

DEAN

Yea... Unless you maybe want to come in for a while to get a drink or something?

DEAN  
Thanks, but rather not.

Dean turns around and walks towards the car.

LEXIE  
Maybe another time then. Goodnight.

DEAN  
Goodnight.

Dean continues makes his way back to the car.

LEXIE  
Dean! If you need to talk, I told you I'm  
here for you.

Dean nods, smiles and continue walking. Dean waits  
till she goes in safe before driving off.

INT - DEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dean is laying on his bed asleep.

DIFFERENT SCREAMS (O.S)  
No! Please don't do this. Not my son,  
please. Help us. No!

A gunshot goes off and Dean sits up from his sleep  
sweating a lot. Veins standing out like river rapids  
and fury in his eyes. He folds his head into his hands  
and then just stares out in front of him. He gets out  
of bed and heads toward the kitchen.

INT - GENERALS OFFICE - MORNING

GENERAL  
Tell me what's happening Lieutenant. Tell  
me you have good news for me.

KELLY  
(V.O)  
He isn't interested sir. I tried but he  
didn't budge.

GENERAL

Well we are going to have to try and convince him somehow.

KELLY

(V.O)

Isn't there anybody else? Does it have to be him?

GENERAL

You know just as well as I do that he is the best there is, if anyone can complete this mission, it's him. He is the only one Lieutenant.

KELLY

(V.O)

Sir, permission to speak freely?

GENERAL

Say your say Lieutenant.

KELLY

(V.O)

I know he is the best but he doesn't want to. We are wasting time, time we don't have. We need to move before it's too late. If Dean isn't doing this we need to send someone else and we need to do it as soon as possible.

The general nods and looks into the table beneath him.

KELLY (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Life after war is getting to him General, I can see it in his eyes. He is a liability to this mission then anyway.

GENERAL

No, if there is one thing about Dean it's that he won't crack. He can handle any type of pressure or stress in any place at any time and under any circumstances. Trust me he's fine he's just having trouble adjusting to the world outside the military. He's fine.

KELLY

(V.O)

It still doesn't change the fact that he doesn't want to do it.

GENERAL

I know, I know. That just means we have to move to better ways of going about this.

EXT - GUNRANGE - MORNING

Dean stands in the booth of the range looking at the weapons in front of him while the instructor, a grey oldish man stands behind him.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR

Do you have any experience around weapons?

DEAN

Yea I've pulled the trigger a few times.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR

Well than the range is yours. Weapons free.

Dean locks and loads the rifle and handgun. He fires and hits the targets with an unbelievable combination of speed and accuracy. The instructor stares on in disbelief as his grouping is perfect.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR

(CONT'D)

That's so good it's almost scary. Where did you learn to shoot like that?

DEAN

Military Sir.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
How long did you serve?

DEAN  
Six years.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
Marines?

DEAN  
No Sir, Spec Ops.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
Special Forces, makes sense. Former marine  
myself back in the day.

DEAN  
Bravo Company in 31ste?

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
Yea, how did you know?

DEAN  
I saw the Silver Star and the honor when I  
came in Sir.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
Gunnery Sergeant William Straw, Marine  
Core Bravo Company, 71 to 74.

He holds out his hand to Dean to shake introducing  
himself.

DEAN  
Colonel Dean Cage, Special Operations  
Forces, Reaper Squad, 011 to lately.

GUNRANGE INSTRUCTOR  
Honor meeting you Sir.

DEAN  
It's just Dean Sir, and the honor is mine.

INT - HARRISON HOUSE - NIGHT

JOLINE

So what's the story between you and Dean?  
What's going on between you two, did you  
talk?

LEXIE

I don't know. He lives in his own world. I  
never know what he wants, needs or thinks.  
He just hasn't been himself lately. He's  
different.

JOLINE

I don't know him that well, so I won't be  
able to tell when something is wrong. I  
work with people every day but he is  
closed as a book like I said before. He is  
as mentally tough as fiscally.

LEXIE

He is just different, he has changed since  
he came back and after that night he  
changed again, now... I doubt he even feels  
the same way about me than I do about him.

JOLINE

So why don't you make him feel the same?

LEXIE

And how the hell am I going to be able to  
do that? I'm kind of desperate by now.

JOLINE

It's easy, seduce him. You have all the  
tools at your disposal. You just need to  
take them out and use them.

LEXIE

Keep talking, I'm listening.

Justine smiles and moves closer to Lexie.

INT - BAR - NIGHT

LEON

Why so tense man? Anything wrong? You've  
been like this for a while now.

DEAN

No everything is ok. I just got a headache. I'm good.

Leon knows that Dean is lying but decides to leave it at that.

LEON

Ok, cool man. So I take it that mark is a gunshot?

Leon points to a roundish mark on Dean's right arm.

DEAN

Yea.

LEON

How many times were you shot from the time you left to now?

DEAN

Four.

LEON

What? Are you serious?

DEAN

Yea, once in my right shoulder, once in my right arm, once in my left leg and once in the stomach.

LEON

How the... How did you survive that?

DEAN

It missed all major organs. I got lucky I guess.

LEON

That's rough man, and I assume some of them weren't even meant for you?



DEAN

Yea, three of them. The one in the arm and stomach was meant for a fellow soldier while the one in the shoulder was meant for a guy we were sent in to retrieve and bring back alive.

Two guys enter the bar and looks around. Dean looks at them.

LEON

Wow you were unlucky but lucky at it, and even thru all that you never failed a mission?

DEAN

No, I served with some of the best men you can find. So it wasn't just me it was as a team.

LEON

But you led them, didn't you?

DEAN

Yea.

LEON

Man that's good.

DEAN

You see the two by the table at the door, black hat, brown jacket?

LEON

Yea, you know them?

DEAN

No, and I don't think they're here for the beer. And unless that's a stick under his jacket I'd say this bar is about to get robbed.

LEON

Are you serious? Shit, what are we... We have to do something?

DEAN

Just stay calm and hand me that knife on the table next to you. Act normal.

LEON

Why? What are you planning?

Leon takes the knife and hands it to Dean who slides it into his right hand sleeve. A few seconds later one of the guys takes out a shotgun.

ROBBER 1

Nobody moves, unless you...

Dean jumps up, swings around and throws the knife clean thru the robbers shoulder making him drop the shotgun.

ROBBER 2

What the...

Dean runs to him, swings and drops the robber with a big right hand to the temple before he could finish talking. Another one enters wearing a ski mask.

SKEE MASK ROBBER

What's going on?

Dean spots him and jumps across the table flipping it as the gun goes off blasting a hole in the table. The robber looks around but can't see Dean, suddenly Dean stands up slow behind him. He starts to choke him and grabs the gun.

Dean releases him and hits the other robber standing up. He throws the gun down and get ready for a fight. The robber comes running at Dean and they fight. After the masked robber is down the other one gets up again. Dean puts him down again and removes the mask of the third man while the crowd cheers.

Jake is the man behind the mask. Tom and Steve also come running in carrying hand guns, Dean rolls as gunshots goes off and two civilians are hit. The crowd goes mad trying to get out. Tom and Steve look over the tables seeing if they can see him when a pipe hits Tom against the head and Steve gets a boot to the side of the head.

Jake cocks a gun dropped by the first robber when Dean swings around and plants a nine millimeter round right between Jakes eyes. He stares down looking at the corpse of Jake. He lowers the gun and closes his eyes.

INT - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

POLICE CAPITAIN

You did what you had to Dean, like I told you earlier, we've been looking for these men for some time now. They've robbed the wrong bar tonight. I'm sorry you had to do what you did but at least we now know you did it in self defense and protection, video confirmed. You're free to go. We'll be in touch, have a great night.

DEAN

No problem, just glad I could help.  
Goodnight.

POLICE CAPITAIN

Your Father would have been proud Dean.

Dean gives him a smile and nods. Leon comes walking from car in the parking lot.

LEON

Do you ever have a normal day?

DEAN

Yea, today.

LEON

You call this normal? This is so far from normal it's almost not even funny.

DEAN

Feels pretty normal to me.

LEON

Yea, look Joline just told me she is heading home and it's getting late.

He turns around and heads for his car.

LEON

Don't worry about it buddy. I talked to Joline, she told Lexie. Just know that not me or them blame you for this. Jake brought this on himself.

Dean shakes his head and turns around.

EXT - DEAN'S CAR - MIDNIGHT

Dean drives on the road with all the trees like its grabbing the road, increasing his speed very fast. He reaches an intense speed when he sees a guy next to the road.

He takes a good look at the guy and sees it's Drew. He loses control of the car but comes to a still stand right before he hits a tree. He gets out looking if he hit the tree, he looks back at the road and realizes that Drew was only his imagination.

He gets back in the car and speeds away.

INT - LEXIE'S APPARTMANT- NIGHT

Joline hugs Lexie goodbye and she closes the door. Lexie heads to her bathroom. She opens the shower and heads for her kitchen where she has an open bottle of wine she and Joline drank.

She pours herself a glass and heads back to the bathroom where she starts undressing for the shower when a knock on the door rings through the apartment.

She puts on her robe and turns of the water before heading toward the door.

LEXIE

Did you forget something?

She opens the door but instead of finding Joline, Cage stands in her doorway looking like he saw a ghost.

LEXIE (CONT')

Hey...

Dean stands there looking at her not saying anything. He swallows and she then wraps her arms around him like tree roots giving him a hug.

LEXIE (CONT')

Do you want to talk about it?

DEAN

Not really.

She lets go of the embrace and looks him in the eye.

LEXIE

Are you ok?

DEAN

Yea. You know, my whole life I always did what was best. Analyzed every situation and went with the option that was most clear. Always did everything that left the least chance failing. Never took risks that could benefit me. I walked away whenever it came to something that could make me happy outside of the military. Because I was scared, because I didn't know how to do it.

LEXIE

Do you want to walk away again?

DEAN

No.

LEXIE

Then don't, for a change, do what you want to do.

Dean looks up, steps forward and starts kissing Lexie. She folds her arms around him kissing him back and he closes the door behind him.

He lightly pushes her up against the wall knocking over a vase. She takes off his shirt revealing more scars on his back as he takes down her robe.

He picks her up and with her legs around his waist he carries her to the bedroom.

EXT - DEAN'S CAR - MIDNIGHT

Dean again drives on the stretch of road where he saw Drew but this time he has an unfamiliar happy smile on his face.

INT - LEXIE'S APPARTMANT - MORNING

Lexie is busy cleaning the apartment with music in the background also happier than before. She hears a knock on the door and when she opens it Kelly is in the doorway with Joline and Leon.

LEXIE

Joline what wrong, who is this?

KELLY

Miss Bellamy, my name is Lieutenant Kelly, I'm here about a friend of yours, Dean Cage.

LEXIE

What's this about?

Kelly walks in as Joline and Leon follows signaling they don't know either.

KELLY

I asked you all here because was sent here because you all are close with Dean. Some of you obviously closer than other.

She nods to Dean's watch laying on the floor. Joline gets a smile on her face and looks to Lexie who is blushing and smiling as well.

LEON

Ok so we are friends with him. What about it?

KELLY

I'm here to warn you.

LEXIE

What do you mean warn us, from what?

KELLY

How well do you think you know Mr. Cage

LEON

Dean? You came to warn us from Dean.  
There must be some mistake.

KELLY

I knew you weren't going to believe what  
I'm about to tell you so I brought proof.

Kelly puts a folder with photographs and files on the  
table in front of them.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Dean Cage use to be a special type of  
soldier. We sent him in to do the work  
nobody else wants, that was until we  
found out that he is a liability due to  
combat induced stress known as PTSD. He  
started doing things that wasn't really  
good for thought. Things like killing the  
innocent and having fun doing it. That's  
why he was fired. Now I know this might  
just sound like a load of garbage but  
that's where this comes in. His behavior  
is already a part of him and can't be  
turned around.

She opens the file and shows them pictures. One where  
Dean stands with half a body and laughing and making  
funny signs.

One where he and other soldiers whose faces are  
blacked out are standing next to a small boy hanging  
from a tree and the next where he acts as if it is a  
boxing bag laughing.

Lexie turns her head as she realizes what this means.  
Leon picks up a picture and looks at it with a grin.

KELLY

About a year ago Dean busted Jeremy Wilson out of a federal penitentiary. The man who killed his father. We found his body five weeks later. Well to be more clear, this is what we found.

She puts more photographs in front of them of limbs torn from each other. All the skin peeled from the head and the bloody scull put on a stick.

KELLY (CONT')

Every limb was torn and broken off while he was still alive. The skin pulled off the same way. Dean kept Jeremy Wilson alive just for over a month. Believe me when I tell you, he felt every single thing Dean did to him. He Suffered more than any human should.

JOLINE

O my God.

KELLY

I know this must come as a shock to you but I believe that after the incident at the bar last night and this information brought to your attention will make it easier to prove this. I'm sorry it had to be like this but I'm afraid it is the job of the United States Military to protect civilian life at all cost. We are trying to get him help but he won't do it without your support.

Lexie starts crying and Joline comforts her.

LEXIE

Don't feel bad, he is a master manipulator. Trust me, I've been through it.

She puts a photo of her and Dean next to each other on their wedding day. Dean holding his hand in the air waiving smiling while walking out of a church.

INT - DEAN'S LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON



Dean is busy unpacking some boxes when Lexie rushes in.

LEXIE  
Is it true?

DEAN  
Is what true?

Lexie throws a report saying Dean was fired and a gruesome picture in front of Dean. He realizes what is going on and keeps quiet.

LEXIE  
(CRYING)  
You fucking lied to me, you lied to all of us. You promised me and I fell for it. You lied to your best friend, what else was a lie? O yes, how about your ex wife. I don't know if anything you told me ever was true. I can't believe I ever thought of liking you or even maybe love you.

DEAN  
Let me explain.

LEXIE  
Explain what? That you're a sick monster, a maniac. That you lied to get into my pants? How can you live with yourself? And using us to make you feel better about yourself, or were you planning on making us your next targets.

DEAN  
I would never do anything to hurt you, I admit it, I use to be this guy, but not anymore. So yes, it's true, all except for this.

He picks up the photo of him and Kelly.

LEXIE  
I swear, I have changed. Ever since I can remember I felt empty, The military made

me feel something more. But then you entered my life and you made me feel better than they ever did. And for the first time ever I didn't want to be a soldier any more.

LEXIE

What's that, another lie? One after the other. I never want to see you again. For all I care you can rot in hell.

She storms out of the house slamming the door shut. Dean then gets a mad look on his face before throwing over the table next to him in rage.

INT - LEXIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lexie lays on the couch with an open bottle of wine but no glass. She is thinking back on her time with Dean.

DEAN (O.S)

Alexia, wow you umm, hey.

LEXIE (O.S)

I can't believe it. Dean.

LEXIE (O.S)

You know what's funny, I'm probably going to sound pathetic right now but I had kind of a little crush on you back in high school.

DEAN (O.S)

Ok I didn't expect that, at all.

LEXIE (O.S)

Why, you had one on me but I couldn't have one on you.

DEAN (O.S)

Lexie, what are you doing here?

LEXIE (O.S)

What, I'm not allowed to go to a bar?

DEAN (O.S)

No of course you can, I didn't mean it like that.

LEXIE (O.S)

No it's not that at all, I just never thought that'll happen.

DEAN (O.S)

That definitely makes two of us.

DEAN (O.S)

His name was Drew, he died a while back on our last mission.

She suddenly jumps up and heads for the door.

INT - DEANS HOUSE - LATER

Lexie storms in to Dean's house.

LEXIE

Dean!!!

She yells to no answer and continues to look around before heading toward the shelf where Dean's photos are sanding.

She takes out the photo Kelly gave her of their wedding and she also takes the photo of Dean and Drew. She compares the two photos and notice that it is identical. Dean with his hand in the air but instead of holding a beer he is waving and Drew is replaced with Kelly.

She realizes the wedding photo is a fake and dials a number on the phone before heading out.

EXT - OPEN ROAD - MIDNIGHT

Dean sits on the tip of the hood of the car drinking and already drunk. He looks down at the strait drop right below him. He looks on for a while before he takes out Drew's Dog tags and a picture of him and his father.

DEAN

What do I do now guys? I need help, I failed you guys again. I'm so sorry.

The phone rings and Dean looks down at the phone. He takes the last sip of beer, drops the bottle of the rocks in front of him and gets in the car.

INT - LEXIE'S APPARTMANT - MIDNIGHT

There is a knock on the door, Lexie comes walking out the bedroom in a hurry and opens the door. Joline stands there with tears in her eyes.

LEXIE

What's wrong what happened? Where is Leon? What's going on?

EXT - WOODS - MIDNIGHT

Joline and Lexie pulls up right next to Leon who is standing and looking at the wreck of what use to be Dean's mustang. Lexie jumps out and rushes to Leon.

LEON

They say he was on his way from somewhere where he apparently had a bit too much to drink, lost control on the wet road going too fast and went into the side. I believe he was on his way to you.

LEXIE

Where is he, is he ok?

Leon wipes his eyes and takes a big breath.

LEON (CONT'D)

He didn't make it Lexie.

Tears drip from their eyes and Lexie falls to the ground crying, it's not long before the body comes passing by in a body bag.

FADE OUT

EXT - GRAVEYEARD - MORNING

It's a rainy day as the twenty one gun salute fires. The grave is surrounded by everyone and a lot of military personnel.

MINISTER

Today we say goodbye to Dean Cage. Dean was a friend, he was a soldier, but more than that he was a brother to everyone. He believed in what's right and he spent his life trying to make right for everyone. He would be there for anyone during any time no matter how bad or how good of times

Lexie, Leon and Joline sit beside the grave under umbrellas. Leon and Joline stared into the grave while Lexie is crying.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

In his final few days he was in his home town, but it is only now that we can say he is really home. He spent his remaining days among friends and loved ones and we can only believe that it was grace from the good Lord that allowed him to reunite with them before he was taken. We are sad but we need to remember that the Lord came to get him for his presence was needed with Him.

EXT - GRAVEYARD - LATER

Lexie stands in the rain looking at the coffin.

LEON

Are you ok?

LEXIE

I just don't get why it had to be him Leon.

LEON

It was his time, that's all.

LEXIE

But why now, maybe he did change? What he was doesn't even matter to me now. I had so much to tell him, so much to share with him. I was so mean to him, I said some horrible things to him when I could have told him that I, that I...

She starts crying again.

LEXIE (CONT'D)

Now I will never get that chance.

LEON

He knows that now Lexie, and you have to know that he felt the same way.

LEXIE

I hear, but I wanted to hear that from him. It's not fair. If I can just hear his voice and see him one last time. His smile and the look in his eyes. Why him Leon, why now?

LEON

I don't know Lexie, I really don't know.

Leon hugs Lexie as they both cry in the rain.

INT - MILITARY BASE - MORNING

The General is walking in the hallway as Lieutenant Kelly comes running to catch up to him.

KELLY

Sir.

GENERAL

What is it?

She hands him the paper.

KELLY

It was in the paper this morning sir.

He opens the paper and the headline reads: WAR HERO GETS HOUNERD BURIEL.

GENERAL

Ironic, he spends his life on the battlefield and ends it in a car.

The general enters a room and throws the paper on the desk in front of a soldier.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

How does it feel to be dead and buried?

The soldier turns around showing his face.

DEAN

Dean Cage died a long time ago, he just didn't know it till now.

Dean gets a smile on his face...

FADE OUT

Leon and Joline got divorced six months later when Leon adapted an alcohol problem. Leon left town for Miami after selling everything he owned. Joline now still lives in the same town and is married again. Leon regained control of his life and restarted in Miami

Lexie left for Africa after finishing Law School to start a shelter organization all over for women and children. She dedicated her life to the people of Northern Africa in the memory of Dean. She provided food shelter and security from rebels. She became known as the Savior of Africa before returning home at the age of thirty five and opening a law firm.

Dean's death was never revealed as a fake and to this day everybody believes he died in that tragic car accident. He never went back to the military officially but continued to do work for them after he successfully completed the mission and retrieved the nukes. He died twenty one years later at the age of forty five when he collapsed of a heart attack on the battlefield in Iraq and an enemy sniper shot him. His body was buried in the middle of the ocean to keep the cover of his fake death.