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SLACKJAW

## VIDEO SCREEN

World War II online video-game. A video-soldier, "Ayres" stealthily searches a French village. Other players' voices heard thru headsets/static seen in the distance. Tense.

Another video-soldier, "Chili", suddenly appears in a puffy 1600's uniform: pointy shoes, big goofy hat, bow and arrows.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
Jesus Christ!! You scared the hell  
out of me!

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
Sorry, first-time player.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
(sarcastic)  
Oh thank God they finally decided  
to send us some archers.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
What the...? OK was I the only one  
that found the uniform set-up  
confusing?

Chili's Soldier makes a series of spastic moves, squats repeatedly, walks face-first into a wall, keeps on striding.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
This game is awesome though. Hey  
does my voice sound weird to you at  
all? Echo. Echo. (Nicholson  
imitation) You WANT me on that  
wall, you NEED me on that wall.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
Could you stop that, you're  
inviting sniper fire.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
OK. Hey what are you doing? I  
thought our orders were to blow the  
bridge?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
Screw our orders. I'm looking for  
stolen Nazi gold. It's a *cheat*  
straight to the 12th level.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
What is that like a shortcut?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Yeah.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

*In life there are no shortcuts to  
anyplace worth going.*

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Wrong. Level 12 is supposed to be  
awesome.

Background noise in a headset we hear a 'ding'. A toaster.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

That's my cheese-toast. Cover me  
for a sec will ya?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

No I will not cover you.

Chili's unmanned soldier blocks Ayres' soldier in the corner.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Hey man, hey...you can't just drop  
your controller like that! Hello?!

Now a phone rings in the background. Chili's boss.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Hello? Hey Mr. Manning. Yes sir.  
I'm in the car as we speak, about  
to stop in at that very account.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Dude. Hang up the phone!

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

OK, yes sir, I know my numbers are  
down and...OK way down...Yes sir.  
Today....Got it. 10-4 on that....  
Thank you sir.

Chili rejoins the game as Video-Soldier#1 appears suddenly.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE  
(CONT'D)

Sorry that was my boss who is  
a colossal...Whoa!!

VIDEO SOLDIER #1 VOICE

OK how 'bout you two a-holes  
get down to the bridge on the  
double and do your...!

Chili reflexively shoots his arrow! Video-Soldier #1 falls  
dead. Arrow sticking straight up.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Oops.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Wow, look at his Prestige Ranking.  
I'd get out of here before he re-  
spawns.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

It was an accident.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Yeah well that's definitely gonna  
drain your Fitness Level.

On cue Chili's soldier feints flat on his back.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

See.

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

(flat on his back)

Hey, you seem to know your way  
around a little, you wouldn't  
happen to have a driver's license  
would ya?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

A what?

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Or even a learner's permit?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Yeah I have a driver's license, why  
do you...

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

You want a job?

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

What?

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

I'm offering you a job, starting  
immediately.

AYRES VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Well I guess I could use the...

CHILI'S VIDEO SOLDIER'S VOICE

Done. Welcome aboard.

ROLL OPENING CREDITS

EXT. SUBURBAN FLORIDA HIGHWAY, PRESENT DAY- NEXT AFTERNOON

A beat-up car motors down the road. The car gradually veers off the road, barrels along the shoulder.

INT. CAR-CONTINUOUS

Inside the car both the Passenger ("CHILI" BEAN, late 30's, bed-head, flip-flops) and the Driver (JOHN AYRES ("AYRES"), 20, shaggy-hair) are sound asleep as the car hurtles along.

The driver, Ayres, wakes up in time to see the car mow down a speed-limit sign. Swerves back on the road and notices a cop car go past in the opposite direction. In the rear-view he sees the cop car U-turn across the median to pursue them.

AYRES

Oh shit.

Ayres, checking to make Chili keeps sleeping, rolls his window down and throws a baggie of pot and paraphernalia out the window. Chili wakes up, oblivious.

CHILI

I like the way you're keeping it at 10-and-2 there. Nice technique.

In the rearview, the cop car dips briefly out of view below a rise in the road, giving Ayres his chance.

AYRES

Is this our exit?!

CHILI

Exit 57? No.

Ayres swerves and exits anyway, barrels down the exit ramp and tucks in behind a truck. A beat later the cop car, siren on, blows past them disappearing over the overpass.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Wait, Exit 57? Yeah actually this *is* our exit.

Chili turns on a "Learn Spanish" tape and starts doing exercises with a big rubber band.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
Resistance training. I'm on a  
personal development program at the  
moment. Trying to utilize any dead-  
time in my day.

Chili repeats after the Spanish tape.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
Tienes hambre? Si yo tengo hambre?

Ayres pulls out a cigarette.

AYRES  
Mind if I smoke?

CHILI  
Smoky treat huh? The old coffin-  
nail.

AYRES  
So 'no' then?

CHILI  
Well if you really need the crutch.  
Me I quit 'em cold.

Ayres lights up. Chili leans into the smoke.

AYRES  
Want me to roll my window down  
more?

CHILI  
Actually why don't you go ahead and  
roll it up.

AYRES  
Up? More?

CHILI  
All the way up. There you go.

Ayres closes the window. Chili enjoys the 2nd-hand smoke.

AYRES  
Hey so can I ask how you got your  
license suspended? I mean I don't  
want to get into your personal  
business or anything...

CHILI

Not much of a story really. Had a few blender drinks down in the courtyard at my complex. Then everybody was like 'hey go get a roll of those slice-and-bakes'.

AYRES

The Tollhouse or the Sugar cookies?

CHILI

Well I usually get one of each. I should've just walked it, the store is like 50 yards away, but the oven was already pre-heating and people were starting to be like "let's just make pancakes instead" so then I decide to drive it because screw that. OK, there it is on the right. Just pull in right there.

Over his t-shirt Chili puts on a shirt and pre-tied tie. Grabs a feather-duster. Pops in some gum. Chews aggressively.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Confidence is half the battle in Sales. Gum makes me cocky.

CUT TO:

INT. LIQUOR-MOMENT LATER

Chili, sneaks into the store with a dolly of jug wine, as the owner, MR. SETHPORNPNONG, is waving him off.

CHILI

Afternoon to you Mr. Sethpornpong.

MR. SETHPORNPNONG

No, no more orders from you.

CHILI

(cheerily ignoring him)  
Same order as last time sir?  
Terrific. How are Mrs. Sethpornpong and the little Sethpornpongs...

Chili pauses, reads the names on his clipboard.

CHILI (CONT'D)

...Apichart and Ngam-Chit?

Chili goes to stock the shelves anyway, dusts the bottles.

MR. SETHPORN PONG  
 No more orders from you. Never  
 call, never here. We got a new  
 vendor. I'm calling your boss.

CHILI  
 (under his breath)  
 Shit.

Plan B. Chili reads from a script. Sethpornpong dials phone.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 (reading)  
*"Mr. Sethpornpong, we at Manning  
 Liquor strive to consistently...*

MR. SETHPORN PONG  
 (on phone)  
 Speak to Mr. Manning please.

CHILI  
 Mr. Sethpornpong there's really no  
 need to (back to reading), "...  
*deliver professional service to you  
 our valued customer and I would  
 like to state that on this occasion  
 the level...*

MR. SETHPORN PONG  
 We thought you were maybe dead.

CHILI  
 No sir, I'm very much alive sir,  
 and the truth is, and I'm now  
 opening myself up to you here Mr.  
 Sethpornpong, the truth is that I  
 had my license temporarily  
 suspended last month...I was  
 actually just explaining this very  
 thing to my assistant...

MR. SETHPORN PONG  
 New vendor now.

CHILI  
 ...did I mention tomorrow's my 36th  
 birthday sir? I'm not suggesting  
 you owe me anything of course but  
 it would certainly be a nice  
 gesture on your part if...

MR. SETHPORN PONG  
 (on phone)  
 Hello Mr. Manning. No more orders  
 from this stupid man.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIQUOR-MOMENT LATER

Chili wheels his dolly to the car. Spits out gum angrily.

CHILI  
 Gum didn't work at all.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR- A MOMENT LATER

Ayres driving. Chili on the phone being yelled at.

CHILI  
 (on phone)  
 Mr. Manning I can assure you that  
 I...OK, yes sir.

Chili is hung up on.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 OK we gotta dig up a cold call to  
 replace the Beer Barn account. You  
 wouldn't happen to know any stores  
 around that a lot of alcoholics  
 might patronize would you?  
 Specifically like wino  
 neighborhoods?

AYRES  
 Not really, no.

CHILI  
 OK, well let's keep our eyes peeled  
 for convenience stores, preferably  
 sort of the more depressing looking  
 ones.

Chili tries to gin up some enthusiasm, camaraderie.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 Alright here we go. Let's just keep  
 those eyes peeled. You got 'em  
 peeled?

AYRES  
Peeled.

CHILI  
Alright.

AYRES  
Hey how about that Quickie Stop?

CHILI  
OK yeah, that's good. Pull in there.

A group of punky looking teens hangs out in parking lot.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
Don't run over the delinquents.

They park. Chili changes into shirt and tie. Pops in gum.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
You want something?

AYRES  
Nah I'm alright.

CHILI  
C'mon, you sourced this lead. How about an ice cream? You like ice cream?

AYRES  
Alright.

CHILI  
What kind do you like?

AYRES  
I don't know, maybe a Dove bar?

CHILI  
A Dove bar? Those are like \$4 man.

AYRES  
Or whatever, I don't really...

CHILI  
No, no, Dove bar it is. It's a nice lead. Dark chocolate or milk?

AYRES  
Milk.

CHILI  
Done.

Chili exits. Ayres plays with Chili's exercise rubber-band.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE- MOMENT LATER

Chili enters, reprimands a teenager buying cigarettes.

CHILI  
You know there's like 4000  
chemicals in a single cigarette?

Teenager looking warily at Chili, exits.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
(to the clerk)  
'Scuse me is the manager in at the  
moment?

MANAGER  
I am the manager. No solicitors.

CHILI  
Terrific, thanks. What an  
exclusive, premium looking store  
you have here.

MANAGER  
No cold calls. Please make a  
purchase or exit the store.

CHILI  
Are you interested in saving, 10,  
20 even 30% to stock some of the...

MANAGER  
Sir. Please stop.

Chili stays on script, half-heartedly now.

CHILI  
...premium value-focussed wines on  
the market today?

MANAGER  
Sir.

Chili defeated.

CHILI  
You sell Dove Bars?

MANAGER  
Dark chocolate or milk?

CHILI  
Milk.

Manager nods to freezer case below counter.

MANAGER  
Will that be all?

CHILI  
(mutters to himself)  
Just stay strong Chili honey.

MANAGER  
Sir, will there be anything else?

CHILI  
(to himself)  
Just pay for the ice cream and walk out.

MANAGER  
Sir?

Chili caves, starts loading up the counter.

CHILI  
OK gimme a pack of "Back Woods"  
smokes, six Slim Jims, a jumbo-dog,  
two "Money for Nuttin'" scratch-  
offs, a tin of Skoal bandits and a  
Heath bar, make that two Heath  
bars, and a cherry mini-pie. And a  
5-Hour energy drink.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAME CONVENIENCE STORE- CONTINUOUS

Teen "delinquents" hanging out. Chili walks to the car. Hears his name called by one of the delinquents, FAYE BEAN, 14.

FAYE  
Chili.

CHILI  
Hey hey sugar.

FAYE  
Hi Daddy. What are you doing here?

CHILI  
Working baby.

FAYE  
You're coming by tonight, don't  
forget.

CHILI  
8:00.

Chili has written it on his hand. Shows her. Chili  
suspiciously scans the group of teens nearby.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
That your...posse?

FAYE  
Dad.

CHILI  
What is that the Chess Club?

FAYE  
Dad.

CHILI  
I'm just sayin', learn from my  
mistakes. Apparently that's what I  
was put on this earth for. Your Mom  
know you're here?

FAYE  
She never knows where I am. I gotta  
go. Don't be late tonight. I have a  
birthday present for you.

CHILI  
Well why else would I be coming?

FAYE  
Bye Dad.

CHILI  
Later.

Chili, concerned, watches Faye leave on a moped with  
shirtless 15 year old stud.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR- LATE AFTERNOON SAME DAY

Ayres, now driving a girly car, waits in a community college parking lot smoking a joint. Turns on stereo.

V.O. GODDESS CD IN STEREO

*"Release all indecisiveness and  
move on with your life. You are a  
Goddess and as such you know that  
your goals are attainable and that  
you can realize your visions..."*

Ayres, annoyed, turns the stereo off. Two Marine Recruiters walk among the cars, putting pamphlets on windshields. Ayres slumps down, frantically waves out smoke.

AYRES

(to himself)

Marines can't arrest people right?

Marine pamphlet appears under Ayres' wipers. Marines peer down through the glass at Ayres slumped down hiding, busted.

AYRES (CONT'D)

How's it goin'?

Marines nod, exit. Ayres takes the flyer off the windshield.

AYRES (CONT'D)

Propaganda.

Crumples up flyer. Ayres' girlfriend, KACEY, 20, approaches.

AYRES (CONT'D)

There's my girl.

But PROFESSOR, 30, walks with her. Ayres doesn't like that. Kacey splits off, gets in, kisses Ayres well. They drive off.

KACEY

Hey sweetie.

AYRES

Hey. Who was that dude?

KACEY

Oh, just one of my Professors.

AYRES

Aren't professors supposed to be,  
like, older or something?

He offers her one of her own girly cigarettes.

KACEY

Nope. I'm done with 'em this time.

Ayres lights girly cigarette. Kacey puts on waitress outfit.

KACEY (CONT'D)

OK so can I just tell you, going back to school is amazing! I sit in the front row now. All scholarly.

As Ayres watches her change clothes he swerves, rumbles loudly onto the shoulder of the road (again). Cuts off another car.

KACEY (CONT'D)

Oh I'm sorry, I'm not distracting you over here am I?

AYRES

OK no, you're not. You'll recall I'm a professional driver now.

KACEY

Well who could blame you, I've barely seen you since I got back from the Goddess retreat. Which, by the way, was amazing. God, I feel so serene, you know?

The female driver Ayres just cut off passes and flips them off. Kacey flips her off back very "un-serenely".

KACEY (CONT'D)

Hey up yours Sunshine! (then to Ayres) So not a Goddess. Did I tell you I was the only one who made Level 1 by the end of the retreat?

AYRES

Sweet. Level One down. Done.

KACEY

I'm freaking so excited! I feel like I'm getting a total Do-Over you know!? Oh! They have 'em for Gods too! Did I tell you that?

AYRES

No, no you did not mention that.

KACEY

Isn't that cool?!

AYRES  
 (lying)  
 So cool.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- SAME EVENING

Chili at his apartment door. Party going on in the courtyard.  
 Chili enters, goes through mail, listens to voice-mail.

ANSWERING MACHINE MESSAGE  
 Beep. Chili Bean this is "Ace Glass  
 and Window" again, our final call.  
 Either come down and pay your  
 outstanding window-repair bill at  
 our offices by 5:00 today or don't  
 bother coming at all.

Chili checks the clock. It's after 5:00.

CHILI  
 OK well I guess I won't then.

We then hear Chili's back window breaking and a rock rolling  
 through it. Through the window an Ace Glass van speeds away.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 Son of a bitch.

Flips through his mail, stopping at one he likes.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 (reading)  
 "Chili Bean, you are Pre-approved".

Voice message from Mr. Manning.

MR. MANNING MESSAGE  
 Chili, this is Jeff Manning  
 calling. It's 6:15 on Tuesday  
 evening. We've thought about it a  
 bit more and I just wanted to let  
 you know that unfortunately we've  
 decided to terminate you effective  
 immediately. I'm gonna need you to  
 drop off any wine stock you may  
 still have in your possession,  
 along with the hand-truck and  
 feather-duster at your earliest  
 convenience. You have a nice day.

Manning laughs with co-workers, thinks speaker-phone is off.

MR. MANNING MESSAGE (CONT'D)

"Hit the bricks" Chili. If you cant sell shit you are shit. Guy was 100% worthless am I right? Oh shit is the speakerphone still...BEEP.

CHILI

Terminated? I'm terminated? I've only been there, what, 11 months? That's well within the standard grace period. You guys ever hear of a grace period? No? Not supposed to fire a guy during the grace period. Dangit. OK, alright, Chili this is just a minor setback. That's all this is. Let's just, let's just work the problem. First, quick workout. Everything always seems more manageable after a workout. This is where the old personal discipline kicks into high gear.

Then, like a siren's song, we hear a blender mixing drinks at the party downstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. AYRES'S AND KACEY'S APARTMENT- LATER SAME EVENING

Kacey and Ayres alone in her apartment.

KACEY

Terminated!? And you were doing so well too. You sourced that lead and everything.

AYRES

I know.

KACEY

Well that sucks. No, no, "the difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is how you use them". And on that note, I want to show you something that just might get you majorly fired-up again.

Kacey slaps a document on the table.

AYRES

It looks like a contract.

KACEY

It is. That's exactly what it is, it's a contract...*with yourself*. Its actually a God and Goddess contract. We're both supposed to sign it.

AYRES

We are?

KACEY

We are. And that's an excellent question, I can tell you're already curious about this. See, if I'm committing myself to this new path, which I am, then as my significant other you pretty much need to be on the path with me. See?

AYRES

Sounds sort of cool I guess. Wait, do I have to *do* something?

KACEY

You have to...yes you have to do something, you have start your own journey, *John's Personal Journey*. Step 1 is the men's beginner's workshop weekend.

She slides him a pamphlet.

AYRES

No thank you.

KACEY

C'mon John at least read the pamphlet. Might want to take a look at the section on Achieving Maximum Spiritual and Physical Intimacy. It's about how we need to be simultaneously "present" and "giving" to each other.

AYRES

What is that, what you mean like "69"?

KACEY

OK, no. Better, it means we can make love spiritually, with our minds. Like Sting.

AYRES

With our minds? Kacey you know how ADD I am, I could never, it's like a three ring circus in there. You know what though, actually I *will* sign it 'cause I know you, you'll crack first on the sex part.

KACEY

No, you have to mean it. I need you to be fully committed to this.

AYRES

I'm committed to *you*. OK. You're the only girl I've ever slept with, which is still, you know, not for public consumption, like we talked about. Fully committed to you, OK, but not to spending a weekend in the woods with a bunch of hard-up dudes and then coming home to a snuggle. You could say I'm fully uncommitted to that.

KACEY

John if you don't sign this then you're just, sort of technically in the way of my Do-Over.

AYRES

Oh am I? Why is the answer always that the guys are in the way? Is that what you ladies came up with out there? "*Oh I know, it's the guys, they're in the way again, it's a break-through!*"

KACEY

No we were out there getting *unstuck* that's what, which is exactly what you need to be doing too, like in a big way!

AYRES

OK, right now, the way you're acting, I'm not altogether sure I want to be on the same path with you, at all!

KACEY

Oh is that right?

AYRES

Yes I think maybe so.

KACEY

Then I think maybe I need some 'me time'!

AYRES

Fine! I'm going to meet Brit anyway. And for all I care you can just sit around here and work on your "Make-Over" all by yourself?!

KACEY

"Do-Over"! And fine! Go!

AYRES

Whatever! I will!

Ayres starts to exit. Then stops, turns back sheepishly.

AYRES (CONT'D)

Umm, you wouldn't happen to have like five bucks I could borrow would you? I'm totally on "E"?

Kacey slams the door on him.

CUT TO:

APARTMENT COMPLEX COURTYARD- CONTINUOUS

Chili at the party, drunk, sweaty, talking loudly with JUDINAY, 25, male grad student.

CHILI

Drink up everybody, the wine tonight was provided courtesy of our good friends down at Manning Liquor! 100% worthless? OK that's a BS assessment right there, I'm definitely like a way lower percentage worthless than that.

JUDINAY

Definitely.

CHILI

OK, what I *should* have said maybe was how 'bout I come down there and kick 100% of your ass..Jeff. And they can kiss their hand-truck goodbye too. The feather-duster is mine, I bought that with my own money.

Chili attempts to light the filter of his backward cigarette.

CHILI (CONT'D)

(re: cigarette)

I think this thing is wet or something. Judinay, I'm not gonna lie to you, I had a shit day today but I tell you what, I'm turning over a new leaf starting right now...first thing tomorrow. I got it figured out this time. All I need to do is cut out these two little moves. Just these two moves right here...

Chili demonstrates "the moves": 1) lifts his arm to drink and 2) lifts his arm to smoke (first cigarette then weed).

CHILI (CONT'D)

Just keep it real simple. Break it down into those two little moves, you know?

Judinay's wristwatch suddenly says the time of day.

ROBOTIC WRISTWATCH VOICE

"8:30 PM".

CHILI

Is it really 8:30?

JUDINAY

Yes this is an atomic watch, it's automatically set to the nuclear clock in Greenwich, Engla...

Chili exits running.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE- SAME NIGHT

Ayres searches through the grass alongside the highway while BRIT (skateboarder, 20), who wears a shirt that says "Show Us Your Tits", helps him search.

BRIT

What is that, like "69"?

AYRES

...no but that's the first thing I asked too. The sign said Exit 57 right? Found it!

Ayres retrieves from the grass the joint and baggie he threw out of Chili's car earlier today.

CUT TO:

INT. AYRES'S CAR- MOMENT LATER

Ayres and Brit driving. Brit rolls a joint.

BRIT

Hey man you better watch all that  
"Do-Over" shit. She just might  
decide to "do you over" too man.

Ayres scoffs, then seems unsure. Windows down, windy.  
Temporary license plate inside back windshield blows off.

AYRES

Tape that back on will ya'?

Brit climbs in the backseat to re-tape the license plate.

BRIT

Hey this is like 8 months expired.

Brit tapes it up but stays in backseat.

BRIT (CONT'D)

I'd like to have a do-over. I'd  
start taking guitar lessons when I  
was 2 like those little Asian kids  
do with the violin.

Brit air-guitars to the song. Stays in backseat.

AYRES

You can't stay back there.

BRIT

Why not?

AYRES

'Cause it's unnatural.

BRIT

Hey look man, hookers.

A few hookers (maybe dudes in drag) clustered on the corner.

BRIT (CONT'D)

Roll your window down.

AYRES  
Forget it.

BRIT  
Hookers don't make you sign a  
contract.

Ayres stops at the red-light. Brit yells out the window.

BRIT (CONT'D)  
Hey, tomorrow's my buddies  
birthday, you ladies sell gift  
certificates?

AYRES  
Shit they're coming over.

Three hookers lean in the window. Start to feel up Ayres. He is ticklish, tries to push them away while laughing.

HOOKER 1  
He fine. I'll blow out his candle  
right now.

HOOKER 2  
C'mon baby. Momma has a present for  
you.

Ayres then sees a hooker backing away with his wallet.

AYRES  
Hey that's my wallet!

HOOKER 2  
Not anymore it's not.

Ayres gets out. Hooker 1 maces him. Hooker 2 punches him. Blinded, Ayres stumbles around. Hookers run off. Cops arrive.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE FAYE'S HOUSE- SAME NIGHT

Chili, sweaty, pedals his bike, his shoelace torques into the sprocket. Tumbles into Faye's yard. Chili's ex CATHY and her cheesy boyfriend RON back out. Dolled up slutty, half drunk.

RON  
You OK there chief?

CATHY  
Faye already left.

CHILI

Damnit. You know where she went?

CATHY

I never know where the hell she goes anymore Chili. Somewhere with that punky little boyfriend of her's. She's going to be 18 soon though, so it'll all be out of my hands soon enough.

CHILI

Well yeah in *four* more years.

CATHY

God childhood just flies by doesn't it? Blink and you'll miss it. Oh she asked me to give you this.

Faye's gift is a birthday collage made of magazine clippings.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Chili, Faye needs braces. I was thinking that since you're working now, maybe you could pay for them? Would be a way for you to, you know, *catch up*.

RON

Babe like I told you, just say the word and I can cut you a check for that. Not a problem.

CHILI

I got it. Braces. Done. No problem. I can just *stroke* a check for that.

RON

C'mon Cath, we gots to 'vamoos'. Happy Hour's over in 50 'minutos'.

Ron starts to back out. Chili tugs at his stuck shoe.

RON (CONT'D)

Looks like you got a little problemo there sport.

Chili straining but unable to pull the shoe out.

CHILI

Nope, no *problemo*. I think I can just...if I could maybe...damnit, I just bought those.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION- LATER SAME NIGHT

Ayres on the pay phone, handcuffed. Cop standing next to him.  
INTERCUT with Kacey's apartment. Kacey on the phone.

KACEY

I can't come get you.

AYRES

Why not?

KACEY

Because this would be the 6th time I've bailed you out in 4 years and because people only change when they hit rock bottom.

AYRES

Funny you would say that 'cause I'm actually standing on rock-bottom as we speak.

KACEY

Don't you see, this could actually be the beginning of your own Do-Over. Maybe it could help with your, you know, with your "quitting things" problem.

AYRES

OK I don't have a quitting things problem. We talked about this, I have a "too many aptitudes problem" which makes it hard to zero in on the best thing for me is all. You never had a problem with the old me until that stupid retreat.

KACEY

Sweetie I love the old you. I've loved the old you since we were 16.

AYRES

Then come get me! They said I could get 6 months in here, maybe more.

KACEY

John "all you get from sitting on the Pity Pot is a big red ring around your butt."

AYRES

Kacey!

COP

OK, time's up.

AYRES

Kacey? Are you coming or not? If you don't come down here then we're broken up! For good, I mean it. I'm taking off our ring right now, here I go, OK well, it's stuck but...

COP

Time's up. Let's go. Now.

As the Cop hangs up the phone, we still hear Kacey's voice.

KACEY

"Today is a gift" baby, "that's why they call it the present."

CUT TO:

EXT. RON'S TRUCK- SAME EVENING

Chili and his bike in the bed of Ron's truck. Ron jerks the wheel back and forth to mess with Chili. They drive past Faye and friends at Quickie Stop. Faye watches them pass.

TEENAGE GIRL

Hey isn't that your Dad?

TEENAGE BOY SKATEBOARDER

It's a shame to throw away a perfectly good Dad like that.

He laughs at his own stupid joke.

FAYE

Shut up dickhead!

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM IN POLICE STATION

Ayres sitting in the benches with lawyer, waiting his turn.

LAWYER

Goddess Retreat huh? Yeah I've been seeing a lot of that lately. Well maybe your buddy will come get you out? They already let him go.

AYRES

They did!?

LAWYER

Wasn't sitting in the front seat according to the report. So technically he's not complicit in any of this. Hey I bet he's halfway to getting you out already.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. ROCK CONCERT- SAME MOMENT

Brit at a concert. Stands on a chair. Pulls up his "Show Us Your Tits" t-shirt to show his to the band then pukes all over 3 guys in front of him who turn and start to pummel him.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM IN POLICE STATION- MINUTES LATER

Judge studies Ayres' paperwork disdainfully.

JUDGE

Let's see what we've got here; John Ayres, yes of course, we meet again. OK well half this stuff appears to be the same violations as before. Possession of marijuana. Driving an unregistered vehicle. Driving an uninsured vehicle. Expired license plate. \$3K in outstanding traffic tickets. No, wait, solicitation of a prostitute is a fun new wrinkle. That's just grand. This is your 1, 2, 3...6th time in front of me in the last 4 years. Right, so we're going to try a little something new this go-round OK? Here are your options Mr. Ayres. Option 1: A minimum of 6 months in the Apalachee State Correctional Facility in Sneads, Florida.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Option 2: As of tomorrow morning, you enlist in the United States Marine Corps and go through basic training at the Parris Island Recruit Depot, South Carolina. I will be notified if you wash out of that program and you will be arrested and prosecuted for the crimes listed herein. Before you decide, you can spend the night in jail upstairs to see how 6 months would suit you. Now get the hell out of here. Bailiff, bring in the next one.

CUT TO:

INT. CHILI'S APARTMENT- LATE SAME NIGHT

Chili sleepily drops frozen corn-dogs into a vat of hot oil. Selects a self-help book from an extensive collection and goes over and lies down on his couch. Reads drowsily.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ayres in jail. An old African-American man is drunk, yelling.

DRUNK CELLMATE

Occifer! Occifer!

Twins argue in Spanish. Half-eaten jail-food attracts flies. Ayres's gut makes a hideous gurgling. Cell-mates look at him, then at the exposed toilet, then back at Ayres, miserable.

CUT TO:

INT. CHILI'S APARTMENT- LATER SAME NIGHT

Chili asleep on couch. Two fires start: 1) Rain blows thru newly broken window on stereo. 2) Pot of oil/corn-dogs plumes flames! Chili sits up, invisible from his waist up in smoke.

CHILI

What the...

CUT TO:

EXT. CHILI'S APARTMENT- LATER

From the parking lot Chili and Judinay stare at the burning apartment. Chili clutches his birthday collage.

ROBOTIC WRISTWATCH VOICE  
"12 midnight".

JUDINAY  
Happy birthday Chili.

Chili, miserable, reaches over and grabs a Marine recruiting pamphlet off a car windshield, studies it.

CUT TO:

INT. BIG BLACK SUV- EARLY MORNING DAYS LATER

DONNIE KUBIAK, 20's, buzz-cut, KUBIAK'S DAD, KUBIAK'S GRANDFATHER in black SUV. All three are big men. Little rat dog ("CHUCK NORRIS") in the backseat with Kubiak.

KUBIAK'S DAD  
The Corps was harder back in our day son. For one thing, the drill instructors today can't come up and just punch you right in the face.

KUBIAK'S GRANDFATHER  
No?

KUBIAK'S DAD  
I for one think that's horse-shit.

KUBIAK'S GRANDFATHER  
(indignant)  
Well it is horse-shit.

Driver of the car in front of them is slow to turn (it's coincidentally Mr. Sethpornpong). Kubiak's Dad yells at him.

KUBIAK'S DAD  
Today Wang!

Sethpornpong flips them off.

KUBIAK'S GRANDFATHER  
(re: the driver)  
You gotta watch the Japs, they're sneaky little bastards.

KUBIAK'S DAD  
(quizzing Kubiak)  
Section 2, Paragraph 16 of Uniform  
Regulation Manual??! Go!!

Kubiak's Dad and Granddad yell and pressure Kubiak while he recites Marine manual, intentionally trying to rattle him.

KUBIAK

Section 2, paragraph 16 states that all Marine recruits must adhere to posted standards of appearance and hygiene at all times during the basic training period Sir!

KUBIAK'S DAD & GRANDDAD

Do it!! Do it! You're under duress!!! Dat dat dat is that an AK-47?! What the hell's going on!! Gooks in the wire!!

KUBIAK'S DAD (CONT'D)

Good.

Kubiak's Dad then speaks over his shoulder to the little rat dog standing on the backseat next to Kubiak.

KUBIAK'S DAD (CONT'D)

"Chuck Norris", would you rather be in the Army or be dead?

Dog rolls over and "plays dead".

ALL THREE KUBIAKS

Hoo-rah!!

CUT TO:

INT. AYRES'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

Ayres and Brit in parked car. Marine bus there. The Kubiaks' car parks, with bumper sticker: "How About a Nice Hot Mug of Shut the Hell Up". Ayres scans the parking lot.

BRIT

You should've called her if you wanted her to be here man.

AYRES

We're broken up.

BRIT

Seriously? For good?

AYRES

Yes man, for good.

BRIT  
You mind if I give it a shot then?

AYRES  
Yes I freakin' mind!

BRIT  
OK OK. Can't blame you I guess.  
She's definitely the best you're  
ever gonna get, that's for damn  
sure. Everybody always knew she was  
way out of your league.

AYRES  
They did?

BRIT  
Way out. So what do want me to do  
with your car?

AYRES  
Just park it at your place.

BRIT  
Can I have the stereo?

AYRES  
No you cannot have the stereo. It's  
not like I'm dying or anything.

BRIT  
Well you know actually, you might.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAME PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

Chili pedals up on his bike with luggage and pillow. Not sure  
what to do with his bike. Homeless guy is nearby.

CHILI  
Hey man, you want a bike?

HOMELESS GUY  
You steal it?

CHILI  
No. I didn't steal it.

HOMELESS GUY  
Were you just gonna ditch it then?

CHILI

I guess I didn't really think this whole drop-off thing through. Look I was just trying to make a nice gesture.

HOMELESS GUY

You had any trouble with it?

CHILI

Never mind.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS- FEW MINUTES LATER

Marine Bus pulls out. Kubiak's Dad's car-horn plays "Marine Hymn" ("from the halls of Montezuma..."). Chili, carrying a bed-pillow/luggage, struggles down the aisle. Ayres sees him.

AYRES

Chili?

CHILI

Ayres? What the hell are you doing here? Jesus man this isn't 'cause I fired you is it?

AYRES

Not even close.

CHILI

Good, 'cause I'm sure that must have been a blow.

We hear a horn beeping. Out the window Chili sees Faye riding on a moped with the same shirtless punk 15 year old driving. They pass the homeless guy pedaling wobbly on Chili's bike.

CHILI (CONT'D)

That's my daughter!

Chili runs to an open window toward the back of the bus.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey sweetheart! Tell your Mom they said I can put you on the Marine dental plan OK?

FAYE

OK!

Faye holds the driver by his naked waist. Chili disapproves.

CHILI

Isn't there somewhere else...some other way you can hold on there?

FAYE

What?

CHILI

Never mind. Just put on a helmet.

FAYE

I will. Bye Dad!

CHILI

I'll see you in 91 days!

Faye salutes. Chili salutes back, heads to seat muttering.

CHILI (CONT'D)

(re: shirtless kid)

Does that kid not own a shirt?

Kubiak whistles, cat calls as the moped recedes.

KUBIAK

Damn, not bad old man. (re: Faye)

Who's your Daddy?

Kubiak looks for validation. STUPID RECRUIT chimes in.

STUPID RECRUIT

(earnestly re: Chili)

She just said he was.

KUBIAK

You're about a retard aren't you?

AYRES

Why don't you lighten up a little man. It's the guy's kid.

KUBIAK

How 'bout a nice hot mug of shut the hell up?!

AYRES

Isn't that what your bumper sticker says?

Kubiak stumped, pissed.

KUBIAK

Hippie.

Ayres slumps in his seat. Chili sits back down.

CHILI

Damn Ayres I cannot believe this.

Chili offers Ayres a snack.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Powdered mini-donut? They're super-fresh. The guy was actually stocking the shelf when I got these.

Ayres takes one. Looks miserable.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Hey man, cheer up, this is the first day of the rest of your life right here. Welcome to the beginning of your personal journey.

AYRES

That's exactly what Kacey... Chili I have to ask? Why on earth would you join the Marines exactly? I mean, this is going to suck, really bad, and not to be rude or whatever but you're kind of on the old side for this aren't you?

CHILI

Probably hard for you to believe since you only know me from a professional setting but I've been an industrial-strength screw-up pretty much my entire life. But how, uh, exactly how bad *is* this gonna suck do you figure?

AYRES

So you just joined voluntarily?

CHILI

Yeah. I mean it kind of seemed like a better idea at the time, but I got a 15 year old daughter who could use at least one actual parent about now...wait, what do you mean did I join voluntarily...didn't you?

AYRES

Uhh no, was either this or six months in jail.

CHILI

What? They still do that? Well what the hell did you do?

AYRES

Did it all man, well the minor infractions anyway. But I did 'em a lot.

CHILI

You failed to mention that in your job interview. But you're lucky, maybe the Marine Corps can nip your shit in the bud, while you're young.

AYRES

I just want my old life back.

CHILI

Yeah well I just want my old life gone.

Ayres miserable. Chili looking queasy too now. Kubiak pumped up, "King of the Bus", does push-ups in the aisle.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS- MUCH LATER, 2:00 AM

Clock reads 2:00 AM. Recruits asleep. Chili awake.

CHILI

(whispering to himself)  
What the hell were you thinking?  
The Coast Guard would've been...  
would've *totally* done the trick.

Bus parked. Driver re-boards with coffee from a store with huge neon sign: *a fisherman catching a fish.*

BUS DRIVER

We're 5 minutes out boys so smoke 'em if you got 'em. Last chance for 3 months.

Recruits rapidly consume tobacco products. Bus crosses a causeway. Lights of base ahead. Bus finally hisses to a stop.

CHILI

Oh *man*.

Deathly quiet. Chili pops in gum. Doors fly open. Jr. Drill Instructor GERALD BECKETT, 30, black, explodes onto the bus.

BECKETT

Now! Now! Right God-damned now!

Recruits confused. Beckett throws luggage/recruits off bus.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS IN FRONT OF MARINE PROCESSING BUILDING- CONTINUOUS

Recruits see a formation of painted yellow footprints.

BECKETT

Form up on the footprints! Now!

No personal space, ass-to-crotch with the guy in front of them. Ayres behind Chili. Stupid Recruit behind Kubiak.

KUBIAK

(to Stupid Recruit)

Hey Gomer would you mind moving  
your crotch the hell away from my  
ass-area please.

Stupid Recruit angles his pelvis toward the guy behind him setting off a chain reaction bending through the ranks. Chili chews gum like a maniac, hoping to get cocky.

BECKETT

If you have anything in your mouths  
swallow it now!

Chili chokes down gum. In front of recruits stands ED WALLS ("DI"), Drill Instructor, 40, bantam-weight, iron-tough. Platoon mascot, a bulldog, "CORPORAL WINSTON" by his side.

WALLS

You are now aboard the Marine Corps  
Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South  
Carolina! For the next 13 weeks you  
people are at attention! Until now  
your lives have been slumped, slack  
and completely useless. But you  
will now live at attention!!  
Standing at attention means heels  
are touching, feet at 45', thumbs  
along the trouser seam, palms  
rolled inboard, fingers in their  
natural curl, head up, eyes open,  
mouth shut and mind focussed.

Beckett startles a recruit taking his own photo with cam-  
phone, who fumbles camera onto the asphalt.

BECKETT

You're not in high-school anymore  
turd but if you were I'd be voted  
Most Likely to Kick Your Ass!

WALLS

As of this minute the old you is  
dead. He no longer exists. Your  
platoon number is 1934 which is now  
more important than your name. We  
do not use the word "I" on this  
island, we do not use the word "Me"  
on this island. For the next 13  
weeks you will refer to yourself as  
"Recruit". You will refer to your  
Drill Instructor as "Sir". For  
example: "Sir this Recruit believes  
he sees the entire Chinese army  
pouring over the causeway Sir!"  
There is only one way off my  
island, the causeway. Do not try to  
swim it. There are sharks and tides  
and you will die and since you are  
now government property that would  
be stealing. We will make every  
effort to train you even after you  
have given up on yourselves which  
you will all do many times during  
the next 13 weeks. You are  
recruits, not Marines. That title  
is earned, not given.

Walls notices Chili is holding his pillow.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Recruit what the hell is that?

CHILI

It's my pillow from home sir.  
Sorry, I mean "Sir this Recruit has  
a hard time getting comfortable and  
for some reason this particular  
pillow is perfect for...

WALLS

Shut it Recruit! Those of you who  
are too weak, too fat or too salty  
will be gone. We have a Pork Chop  
Platoon for all you fat asses and a  
Motivation Platoon for any bad-  
asses. Everything you've done in  
your life up to now has been wrong.

(MORE)

WALLS (CONT'D)  
 So as of right now, we're starting  
 over. From scratch. Do you  
 understand?!

PLATOON  
 Sir yes sir!!

WALLS  
 In times of adversity we are  
 introduced to ourselves. Let's go  
 say hello.

BECKETT  
 Inside! Now! Go, go go!

Platoon scrambles inside.

CUT TO:

INT. PROCESSING BUILDING- MOMENTS LATER

In civilian clothes, recruits herd through processing, in two  
 parallel lines. Ayres and Chili side-by-side.

WALLS  
 You will now have one last chance  
 to unburden yourselves of any  
 wrongdoing that you may have failed  
 to disclose to your Recruit  
 Officer. These are Navy chaplains  
 in here, so they may treat you like  
 human beings, but lie to them and  
 you will serve non-trivial time in  
 the brig. Remember, God may have  
 your soul, but your ass belongs to  
 me. Before you go in you will purge  
 any and all contraband from your  
 person. Tobacco, pornography,  
 drugs, pills, rubbers, No-Doze,  
 gum, candy, lottery tickets,  
 matches, lighters, subversive  
 material of any kind. You no longer  
 have a need for any of that trash!

Into the bins, Ayres and Chili drop cigarettes, snacks, etc.  
 Both look longingly at all the contraband inside.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE CONFESSION ROOM- MOMENT LATER

Sequence of INTERCUTS with several interviewees.

Navy chaplain sits at a table. Chili seated across from him.

CHILI  
OK, wow, where to begin.

Shot of Stupid Recruit at the table, answering Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN  
Nationality?

STUPID RECRUIT  
Sir "Caucasian" sir.

INTERVIEWER  
No, your nationality Recruit,  
you're not from "Caucasia".

Shot of Chili at the table.

CHILI  
Should I have returned it? Yes.  
What do I really need a hand-truck  
for anyway? But to be honest my  
feelings had been hurt and I have a  
tendency to...

Shot of Kubiak.

KUBIAK  
So I had a fake ID made up, to  
enlist early you know, to get in  
*the shit*. But then my Dad was like  
"the Corps isn't going anywhere  
Jarhead, might ought to wait 'til  
you're legal." That's kind of his  
pet name for me, "Jarhead". He was  
always like, "come here you little  
"Jarhead".

Shot of ACEVEDO, tiny Latino with big gold front-tooth.

ACEVEDO  
My nationality? Sir *Proud Latino*  
*Man* sir.

CHAPLAIN  
No your country, where you're a  
citizen...nevermind. You're gonna  
want to keep that gold tooth out of  
sight where possible OK?

Shot of Ayres, just shrugging, nothing to say.

Shot of Stupid Recruit

STUPID RECRUIT

I don't really know what to...is this supposed to be like a confession booth sort of? 'Cause I guess, like, I've touched myself in an unclean manner or whatever.

Shot of Ayres.

AYRES

Why did I join the Marines?

Shot of Chili.

CHILI

Why did I join the Marines?

Shot of Ayres.

AYRES

Because I had to.

Shot of Chili.

CHILI

Because I had to, you know? Oh and also sorta for the dental plan.

CUT TO:

INT. PROCESSING BUILDING- MOMENTS LATER

Ayres and Chili in parallel lines move as "mirror images" through processing. Heads shaved. Wearing only underwear. Chili sees Stupid Recruit with a very large and odd tattoo.

CHILI

Nice tatoo.

STUPID RECRUIT

They got a three tattoo limit so I had to get these two connected.

CHILI

Smart.

The lines approach two doctors.

WALLS

When the Doc grabs your wedding tackle turn to the left and cough.

KUBIAK  
 (quietly to Ayres)  
 Don't Ask Don't Tell.

AYRES  
 What? Screw you man I'm not...

KUBIAK  
 (plugs his ears, smirking)  
 ...don't tell, don't tell.

WALLS  
 Let's go turd nobody's looking at  
 your bony ass!

Ayres/Chili turn their heads, cough in sync. Next, eye-test.

EYE DOCTOR 1  
 Ayres 20-20

EYE DOCTOR 2  
 Bean 20-40.

Chili gets hideous Marine glasses. Amazed how well he sees.

CHILI  
 Wow!!

Then sees (clearly) his own naked body in a mirror, repulsed.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 Wow.

Chili and Ayres' waists measured.

MARINE 1  
 Bean. 38.

MARINE 2  
 Ayres. 30.

KUBIAK  
 That your waist size or your age  
 Granddad?

Kubiak looks around for laughs, validation.

WALLS  
 Shut your mouth Turd! Assume the  
 position!

KUBIAK  
 Sir yes sir!

Kubiak panics, spread eagles on the wall like a criminal.

WALLS

I am not a Cop dummy! Don't spread eagle. Jesus Christ what did they send me a bunch of God damn criminals?! Push up position Recruit! I want push ups now!

Kubiak is furious with himself for flubbing that.

KUBIAK

Sir yes sir!

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE- LATER SAME NIGHT

Platoon, with new gear, moves in the darkness toward lit barracks. Corporal Winston chases a raccoon into the dark.

WALLS

(quietly to Beckett)  
These guys just got picked clean. It's already 0300 so can you take Firewatch duty tonight please? Tomorrow night we'll start putting the recruits on Firewatch detail.

BECKETT

Yes sir.

WALLS

Any nervous breakdowns or freak-outs just come and get me?

BECKETT

Yes sir. OK, let's go. One turd to a rack. We're up at sparrow-fart tomorrow so get your racks squared away. Move!

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ayres, on bottom bunk, stares up at the top-bunk springs bulging as Chili tosses and turns above. Chili peers down.

CHILI

You awake?

AYRES

More than I've ever been in my entire life.

CHILI

Sorry man. Well they took my good pillow.

AYRES

Try to get some sleep.

CHILI

It feels like I'm having some palpitations or something. Which is probably normal wouldn't you think, what with the circumstances and all?

Chili tries to get comfy but then his head reappears.

CHILI (CONT'D)

My problem is I get all fired up you know, all signed up and rarin' to go. Then the old follow-through sort of just...

AYRES

Look I don't know what time sparrow-fart is but I'm gonna guess it's kind of early.

CHILI

Yeah, OK.

Chili disappears and then reappears again.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Starting to think maybe this wasn't the best idea...If you had to guess how hard, physically I mean, would you say this is gonna be exac...

Then Walls and Beckett suddenly blast into the squadbay!

WALLS

Let's go! Rise and shine! Another day to serve my Marine Corps! That's too slow! If this were combat you'd all be dead already!

Recruits scramble, line up. Walls inspects ACEVEDO's nostrils.

WALLS (CONT'D)  
 (re: Acevedo's nose)  
 Unacceptable Acevedo! I want that  
 mowed out in there!

ACEVEDO  
 Sir yes sir!

WALLS  
 Let's see who memorized their  
 Marine knowledge before arriving at  
 basic! Recruit Bean, can you state  
 the acronym for the five most  
 common types of field-wounds?

Chili gets nervous, blank with stage-fright.

CHILI  
 Sir I can't believe this but I've  
 temporarily forgotten what an  
 acronym is sir?

WALLS  
 Jesus Christ Recruit! MIA? DOA? No?  
 Nothing? How about a BLT maybe, or  
 some KFC perhaps? Push ups now!

Chili does pushups. Remembers while he does push-ups.

CHILI  
 Sir I actually totally know what  
 you're talking about now Sir!

WALLS  
 Shut it Bean! You people have 30  
 minutes to shit, shower and shave!  
 All shitting will happen between  
 the hours of 0500 and 0530 every  
 morning so get yourselves regulated  
 to that schedule. Since many of you  
 have been living like animals up to  
 now, you don't even know how to  
 hygiene properly. You will shower  
 everyday, especially your ass and  
 wedding tackle to avoid swamp-crack  
 and monkey-dick. You will wash your  
 hands after every head call even if  
 you do not piss or shit directly  
 onto them. The Corps owns you now  
 so any deviation from these rules  
 will be considered defacement of  
 government property!

Walls walks out but calls to Beckett as he does.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Roll call please Sergeant Beckett.  
Make sure no one tried to become a  
civilian overnight.

Chili suppresses a laugh. Ayres tries to figure out why.

AYRES

"Swamp crack"?

Chili shakes his head, trying not to laugh.

CHILI

"Monkey dick".

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR EXERCISE AREA- 30 MINUTES LATER

Platoon 1934 at exercise area. Chili and Ayres doing chin  
ups. Chili dying, Ayres cranks. Walls monitors.

WALLS

Pull! Jesus Christ you are a shot-  
rig Bean!! Any recruit who is not  
able to meet the minimum physical  
requirements will either be washed  
out or sent to limbo in the Pork  
Chop Platoon.

Chili drops. Ayres keeps going easily.

WALLS (CONT'D)

That was pathetic Bean! What do you  
have to say for yourself?!

CHILI

Sir I have a bad strength to weight  
ratio sir!

WALLS

You've got a big fat ass is what  
you've got Bean! Next two!

Acevedo and another tiny recruit are next.

WALLS (CONT'D)

How did you two pass the height  
requirement? What do you have to be  
now, 5 feet?! Jesus Christ somebody  
lift 'em up there!

Struggling, Acevedo grimaces and shows his gold tooth.

BECKETT

Stow that gold tooth Acevedo! It's  
an affront to the Corps!

ACEVEDO

(lips over tooth)  
Sir yes sir!

CUT TO:

MOMENT LATER

Chili and Ayres doing pushups. Chili straining. Ayres fine.

WALLS

Oh get your knees off the damn deck  
Bean! We don't do 'em like the  
girls!

CHILI

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

What the...*Jesus* Bean did you just  
break wind!?

CHILI

Sir this recruit was over-straining  
sir and...yes accidentally sir!

WALLS

Well mix in a salad next time Bean!  
Next two!

Kubiak runs up eagerly starts pushups.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Aww Christ what now, do you got a  
hard-on Kubiak?!

KUBIAK

Sir this recruit did not budget his  
time properly to allow for a  
urination this morning sir!

WALLS

Well pound it into the asphalt! I  
want it gone!

KUBIAK

Sir yes sir!

Kubiak pounds pushups into the ground.

EXT. BASE- LATER SAME DAY

Platoon runs through woods, backpacks on. Chili struggling, getting passed by Ayres, Kubiak and others.

KUBIAK

C'mon you bastards! You wanna live forever.

CHILI

(off Kubiak)

Umm, isn't this just a drill?

AYRES

You doing alright Chili?

CHILI

Peachy. Go ahead, pass me.

AYRES

For the next 13 weeks I'm gonna lay low, slide by and get the hell back to the real world.

KUBIAK

Oh that's the attitude Ayres. I know one thing, I wouldn't want you as my wing-man.

STUPID RECRUIT

Isn't 'wing-man' Air Force?

KUBIAK

OK, I wouldn't want him in my foxhole then.

STUPID RECRUIT

Walls said foxholes are for pussies remember? He said Marines call 'em "fighting holes".

KUBIAK

Whatever asshole.

STUPID RECRUIT

Well that's what he said.

Walls comes alongside, the finish line still 100 yards off.

WALLS

Let's go! Terrorists are living in caves right now eating bugs and sticks while you've been eating pizza with "cheese baked right into the crust"! Those guys are tougher than you and they're gonna come over here and mate with your women and screw your generation right out of existence!!

CHILI

Sir this Recruit believes he may be experiencing a small stroke-like attack or possibly a low blood-sugar type situation sir.

WALLS

Try and act like you got a pair Bean! You'll pass out long before you die. Drink water now.

Walls grabs Chili's canteen for him. Chili drinks.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Let's go Platoon! Max effort! I want to see who the fastest man in 1934 is! Show me!

Kubiak takes off sprinting. Then Ayres takes off.

AYRES

Screw that.

Ayres flies past Kubiak, wins easily.

WALLS

Congratulations Ayres. You just got tapped as "Hatch Body" for 1934. As such you will sprint ahead of the platoon in every hump, hike and march we take in order to secure the squadbay or field-camp in advance of the platoon's arrival. Are we clear?

AYRES

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

The "Hatch Body" is the most visible man in the platoon Ayres!

AYRES  
Sir yes sir!

WALLS  
Recruit Bean!

CHILI  
Sir yes sir!

WALLS  
Bean I honestly do not see you surviving Basic Training. You avoided making Pork Chop Platoon but you have most definitely earned yourself a "Fat Tray" at every chow. And if you don't start getting into warrior-shape right quick I'll bounce your ass the hell out of this program.

CHILI  
Sir Yes Sir!

Marine starts handing out meal trays off back of truck.

WALLS  
Drop your packs. 10 minutes to eat.

Chili reaches for his tray.

WALLS (CONT'D)  
"Fat Tray" for Bean.

Chili gets a meager "Fat Tray". He eyes Ayres's tray.

CHILI  
What's that in the little cup there, what is that, pudding?

AYRES  
Mashed potatoes, you want it?

Chili struggles, fights off the urge.

CHILI  
No. Not warrior food. Hey man what'd you win that race for? I thought you wee gonna lay low and slide by?

AYRES  
Yeah I don't know what that was.

Then Chili snatches a ketchup packet off Ayres' tray.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
That's a ketchup packet.

CHILI  
I know what the hell it is.

Chili gulps it quickly.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- EVENING DAYS LATER

Mail Call. Platoon on their bunks writing letters.

WALLS  
Bean, Acevedo, Jackson.

Chili, exhausted, limps to his bunk with a letter. Attempts to climb to top bunk, can't. Eyes Ayres on bottom bunk.

CHILI  
OK either we swap bunks or we break the one-turd-to-a-rack rule because no way I'm making it up there.

AYRES  
One-turd-to-a-rack is the only sensible rule in this place.

CHILI  
Writing to my daughter. Trying to write her everyday I'm here. Gonna freak her out. You need some paper?

AYRES  
Sure don't.

CHILI  
Oh will you just write to your girlfriend already man.

AYRES  
Don't have a girlfriend.

CHILI  
Oh you don't huh?

AYRES  
Not anymore I don't.

Chili hears Acevedo crying quietly, reading a letter.

CHILI

Hey what's the matter big man?

ACEVEDO

My girlfriend has left me, for my  
cousin Anselmo. I knew it.

Chili looks at Ayres who notices this "Dear John" situation.

CHILI

Hey man, she's making a big mistake  
alright? It'll be OK though little  
buddy.

ACEVEDO

No, I am leaving, tonight. I must  
go to her. And then I will shoot my  
cousin in the face.

CHILI

See now that's a bad decision. You  
want to know why?

ACEVEDO

Why?

CHILI

'Cause you get caught going AWOL  
and you're done, OK? Washed out.  
But if you graduate, every woman  
who sees you in those dress greens  
is gonna want to hit the rack with  
you, right then and there.

ACEVEDO

Really?

CHILI

Yes man.

ACEVEDO

You think so?

CHILI

I know so.

ACEVEDO

Catholic girls as well?

CHILI

*Epecially* Catholic girls.

ACEVEDO

OK. I will stay. Thank you Chili. I owe you a debt of gratitude.

CHILI

Let's just hang in there OK. (to Ayres) You gettin' all this Romeo?

AYRES

Doesn't apply to me.

CHILI

Oh will you please just stop it.

AYRES

She left me to rot in jail Chili.

CHILI

Sounds like a keeper to me.

AYRES

Did I mention that I shared a commode with Pedrito, Pepito and Cornell all night!? Then I get sent to this hell hole.

CHILI

I wish I'd had a girlfriend who loved me enough to do that. 'Cause look at me now. The oldest recruit in the history of the Marine Corps eating a Fat Tray three times a day with a daughter I don't get to see except Wednesdays and every other weekend.

Walls still calling out Mail Call.

WALLS

Kubiak, Eckelman, Truett.

Walls reads something on the outside of Kubiak's letter.

WALLS (CONT'D)

"Be All That You Can Be". Well, now that would be the Army's slogan Kubiak. Looks like someone out there is either a high-grade moron or just wants to make sure you're getting plenty of extra exercise.

KUBIAK

Sir I don't have any idea who...

CUT to Kubiak's Dad/Grandfather writing letters, giggling.

KUBIAK'S GRANDFATHER

Wait, wait, I got one, I got one.  
*"Is that drill instructor of yours  
 really as big a pussy as you say?"*

They both burst out laughing. Rat dog "Chuck Norris" barks.

QUICK CUT back to Mail Call.

WALLS

Push ups Kubiak.

KUBIAK

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

One minute! Every recruit will  
 produce a letter. That means you  
 Ayres!

Ayres starts to write quickly. Walls exits.

CHILI

And don't be an idiot, write it to  
 your woman, before some other joker  
 steps in.

AYRES

"Dear Brit, How are you, this place  
 sucks..."

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSROOM- EVENING

PROFESSOR

Times up. Pencils down.

Class exits. Professor singles out Kacey with a question.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

So how'd we do? Too hard, too easy?  
 I appreciate any and all feedback.

KACEY

It was fine. I think I did OK.

PROFESSOR  
Terrific. Well, I should mention,  
I'm putting together a little  
evening study group at my house if  
you're interested.

KACEY  
Well I work most nights.

PROFESSOR  
Working your way through school.  
That's fabulous.

KACEY  
Actually it pretty much sucks. No,  
no, "the difference between  
stumbling blocks and stepping  
stones is how you use them".

PROFESSOR  
Great quote. Who said that? What is  
that, Proust?

KACEY  
Oh, no I'm on this Goddess path  
right now which, oh whatever, I'm  
kind of driving everyone nuts with  
it I think. My boyfriend sort of  
got the worst of...

PROFESSOR  
Boyfriend?

KACEY  
Oh. Yeah, well actually "ex" I  
guess, I don't really know  
what's...haven't talked to him  
in...

PROFESSOR  
Fascinating. You know what, would  
you like to have coffee with me  
sometime? I would love to hear your  
thoughts on the course thus far.  
Heck we could talk about your  
Goddess thing...

KACEY  
"Path".

PROFESSOR  
Right.

KACEY

OK, well I guess we could meet  
where I work if you want.

PROFESSOR

Fantastic. Got your number right  
here in the class list.

KACEY

Yeah, OK. I better get going.

PROFESSOR

OK, see ya later.

She exits. Professor snaps a cam-phone photo of her ass.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ayres gets down from his bunk, middle of the night.

CHILI

Where you going?

AYRES

To the head.

CHILI

It's off limits right now.

AYRES

Thank you, yes I know that but I  
can't really do the big-job in  
front of other people.

Barracks are dark. Ayres walks to the toilets, sits.

AYRES (CONT'D)

(quietly mimicking Walls)

*"All shitting will happen between  
the hours of 0500 and 0530 every  
morning so get yourselves regulated  
to..."* yeah OK whatever.

At that moment Corporal Winston (dog) scuffles in, startling  
Ayres. Corporal Winston stares at him. Ayres stares back.

AYRES (CONT'D)

OK now, no bark Corporal Winston.  
No bark. OK? Be a good boy.

Cpl. Winston, curious, puts his paws on the toilet, tries to peer in. Ayres pushes him off. Cpl. Winston is nipping him.

AYRES (CONT'D)

Stop that Corporal Winston. Down.  
Bad dog. Seriously, that's gross.

Corporal Winston, stares at Ayres, pissed, then BARKS!! Ayres panics, lights instantly go on. Kubiak is there, loves this.

KUBIAK

Oh this is awesome.

AYRES

Hey man, just be cool, there's no need to be a dick here.

KUBIAK

Somebody get the DI!

Others arrive. Ayres scrambles to pull himself together. Cpl. Winston still peering in the commode. Walls arrives.

WALLS

What in the hell is going on in here!?!

CUT TO:

EXT. EXERCISE SAND PIT- DAWN

Ayres, exercising solo, covered in sweat and sand. Walls is there with Corporal Winston by his side.

AYRES

Sir I am a shitbird and my heart pumps pink wine cooler Sir. Sir I am a shitbird and my heart pumps pink wine cooler....."

WALLS

There's 150 years of sweat, blood and puke in that box from jokers like you Ayres! You will either do it the right way or you'll be gone! You just made my personal shit list and that is a very bad place to be!! Are we clear??

AYRES

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

And if you ever leave an unauthorized money-tail in my latrine again I will personally put it back where it came from!

CUT TO:

EXT. RIFLE RANGE- LATER SAME DAY

Walls lectures Platoon at the rifle range.

WALLS

The Marine rifleman leads from the front, behind him lies the vast array of the US armed forces. In front of him lies only the enemy. Now, a few things to remember. First, never point your weapon at anything you don't intend to kill. Second, 90% of marksmanship is just learning to breath and relax.

Kubiak raises his hand from his mat.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Recruit Kubiak?

KUBIAK

Sir, what's the other 10% sir?

WALLS

The other 10% of what Kubiak?

KUBIAK

Sir if 90% of marksmanship is learning to relax what's the other 10% and how can this recruit make sure and learn it sir?

STUPID RECRUIT

(earnestly to Kubiak)

Good question.

WALLS

The other 10 perc...? It's good training you idiot. The other 10 percent is good training which the entire platoon would be getting right now if you'd shut your damn crumb catcher!

KUBIAK  
Sir yes sir!

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

Platoon shooting. Ayres misses. A red flag raised down range.

WALLS  
Ayres! More recruits wash out right here on this range than anywhere else on the island. So either learn how to hit a pancake-sized target at 1/4 mile, or you're done. End of story.

AYRES  
Sir yes sir.

Chili, nearby, winks at Ayres, then fires, green flag (hit).

WALLS  
Good job Recruit Bean. Excellent.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIFLE RANGE- LATER SAME AFTERNOON

Recruits wait in line to "check out" of the rifle range.

STUPID RECRUIT  
Walls says I'm gonna wash out if I can't memorize my Marine Knowledge.

CHILI  
You're using your acronyms right?

STUPID RECRUIT  
My what? Oh like, with the KFC and that?

CHILI  
Yeah, OK so what are you trying to remember?

STUPID RECRUIT  
Vulnerable Parts of the Body.

KUBIAK

(interrupting)

Easy: Groin, Temple, Eyes, Throat,  
Ears, Knees, Nose.

CHILI

So, just make a word out of the  
first letters. That'd be,  
what...GTETEK?

STUPID RECRUIT

GTE...um, GTKE, I'll get it. Thanks  
Chili.

CHILI

You'll get it.

AYRES

OK how the hell are you shooting  
like that?

CHILI

'Cause I already know all about  
deep breathing and slowing down my  
heart rate.

AYRES

OK and how do you know that?

CHILI

Because activities requiring slow  
breathing and lying down are like a  
personal specialty of mine. And  
because I own every self-help book  
ever published.

AYRES

So that's it then? Just the  
breathing and the relaxing?

CHILI

Yeah, well...not for you probably.

AYRES

What do you mean not for me?

CHILI

You wouldn't understand. "When the  
student is ready the teacher will  
appear." Buddha.

AYRES

Look man, I didn't hit a single  
target.

(MORE)

AYRES (CONT'D)

I can't afford to wash out OK?  
Seriously, even this place is  
better than 6 months in jail.

CHILI

Alright then. It's cause you're all  
out of sync and you don't even know  
it. You're a screw up. Face facts.  
This is where you need to be. Your  
gears are grinding against each  
other and you know what, it's not  
healthy to walk around like that.  
You're gonna grow a tumor. Watch.

AYRES

OK whatever.

CHILI

Fine. Ignore Chili at your own  
peril. But trust me, I'm 15 years  
ahead of you down this road.

WALLS

(to platoon)

Listen up! If you did not need all  
15 rounds you were issued today in  
order to make your targets you will  
return them now. I cannot stress  
this more strongly! No brass leaves  
this range, ever! You must make  
your required targets with the  
exact same amount of rounds  
allotted to each individual Marine.

KUBIAK

(under his breath)

Section 4, Paragraph 19a, uniform  
military code of ethics.

AYRES

You memorized the whole manual?

KUBIAK

Damn straight. You're looking at  
the real deal. Not like you two  
jokers. Definitely not fit to be in  
my Marine Corps.

CHILI

His Marine Corps? I thought it was  
Walls' Marine Corps?

Kubiak steps up to the check-out table.

KUBIAK

"Sir this recruit has no brass,  
trash or saved rounds to report at  
this time, SIR!"

Chili then steps up.

CHILI

"Sir this recruit did not need all  
his rounds to make his required  
targets, SIR!"

Chili puts excess rounds on table, gives Ayres a superior look.

CUT TO:

INT. DRUGSTORE- LATE AFTERNOON

Brit at a magazine rack looking at magazines.

STORE MANAGER

Are you going to buy one or just  
crinkle them all up so that no one  
else will?

BRIT

I'm making up my mind.

Kacey enters, heads to "Family Planning" aisle. Brit spies on  
her, then skateboards over to her.

BRIT (CONT'D)

Hello Kacey.

KACEY

Oh Jesus Christ Brit!! What the  
hell!?

BRIT

Oh I'm sorry did I startle you?

KACEY

I freaking hate being startled!

BRIT

What brings you here? 'Family  
Planning'?

KACEY

Nothing. Just girl stuff. I'd  
really love to stay and chat but  
I'm late, so...gotta go.

BRIT  
 Heard from our boy at all?

KACEY  
 No, nothing. Wait, have you?

BRIT  
 Got a couple letters from him.

KACEY  
 You did? Really?

BRIT  
 Yep.

KACEY  
 Well, how is he? I mean, how did he seem?

BRIT  
 Seemed pretty much miserable.

KACEY  
 Oh, yeah, OK. Well I gotta go. Bye.

Kacey turns to go. But then turns back.

KACEY (CONT'D)  
 Brit..actually never mind. See ya'.

Kacey exits. Brit scans where she was shopping: "Family Planning"; rubbers, pregnancy tests. Odd. Then Brit sees her meet at Professor's car. Shocked, chooses bikini postcard.

BRIT  
 I'd like to buy this please. Um, you got a pen I can borrow?

Brit quickly writes a letter on the postcard.

CUT TO:

INT. PX (BASE PHARMACY/STORE)- LATER SAME DAY

Platoon walks toward the base's PX/pharmacy.

STUPID RECRUIT  
 (quietly to Kubiak)  
 Well how 'bout mine could be  
 "Goose" and yours could be  
 "Iceman"?

KUBIAK

No, I don't know...OK maybe.

WALLS

Hygiene supplies. Got 5 minutes.

Platoon enters the store. Walls stays behind.

CHILI

5 minutes? I have no concept of time anymore. There's not a clock on the entire island, it's like a casino. Seriously, does anyone have any idea what day this even is?

AYRES

Feels like I've been here my whole life.

KUBIAK

Alls I know is after I graduate I'm gonna get drunk and get laid, and not necessarily in that order.

CHILI

More like *exactly* in that order.

They arrive at the toothpaste aisle. Chili stares.

CHILI (CONT'D)

Here it is boys. The only sugar on the island. Mint, Citrus. Oh Lemon Ice! OK I'm done.

Chili checks out. Stupid Recruit pays next.

STUPID RECRUIT

I think you gave me extra change?

CASHIER

So I did.

Chili, nearby. Ayres approaches the counter. Checks out.

AYRES

You gave me too much change.

CASHIER

So I did.

Chili takes note of this wrong-change happening twice. Then sees Beckett, out of the way, watching. Kubiak walks by.

KUBIAK

Damn! I thought they'd at least get Ayres with that one.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- MIDDLE OF THE SAME NIGHT

Chili, dressed for FireWatch wakes up Ayres, not easily.

CHILI

C'mon man. Firewatch. Gotta get up.

MOMENT LATER

Ayres on Firewatch walks through squadbay. A recruit is completely hidden under his blanket obviously jacking off.

AYRES

You do realize that everyone in here can hear you doin' that?

The blankets simply stop moving. Motionless. Then we hear Kubiak's muffled voice from under the blanket.

KUBIAK

Hippie.

Ayres exits the barracks.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE GROUNDS- CONTINUOUS

Camp is quiet. A lit window. Inside Ayres sees Walls working. Walls pours water from his glass into a small plant, the only non-essential item in the room. Ayres walks on.

Cpl. Winston joins Ayres, then chases a raccoon in the garbage area. Ayres sees torn open trash bag revealing all manner of "contraband" from an earlier recruit processing.

AYRES

Oh man.

Ayres grabs cigarettes, then grabs entire bag. Finds a secluded spot near the water, hides, lights cigarette. Smokes, ecstasy. Full moon shines on a sandbar stretching across the water toward town. Ayres ponders it. Then thinks he's having a "moment" with Cpl. Winston.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
 Who found me a pack of cigarettes?  
 Who did that? You're a good boy.

Reaches down to pet him, Cpl. Winston bites him.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
 Ow! God damnit!

CHILI'S POV- SAME TIME

Chili, sees Ayres at a distance smoking and being bitten.  
 Approaches. Shines his flashlight on him. Ayres startled.

AYRES  
 Jesus Christ Chili!!! I freaking  
 hate being startled.

CHILI  
 Where the hell did you get that?!

AYRES  
 In the garbage. Corporal Winston  
 found 'em.

CHILI  
 Man put that out right now. Walls  
 is gonna bust you. You can see that  
 ember like a mile off. You know  
 there's over 4000 chemicals in a  
 single cigarette? They're more  
 addictive than heroin.

AYRES  
 I can quit anytime I want. I been  
 quittin' things all my life.

CHILI  
 Yeah well school and like sports  
 and jobs don't really count.

AYRES  
 OK I set you up for that 'cause I  
 accidentally worded it funny.

Ayres takes a long drag, lowers his voice down to a whisper.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
 And screw Walls anyway. *The hell  
 with him.*

CHILI

Walls is not the problem. Maybe it's the man in the mirror. Might want to start with him. Ask him to change his ways.

AYRES

What?

CHILI

You never heard that? It's an expression. It's you, you're the man in the mirr...

AYRES

...I know what it *means*. It's just annoying is all.

Ayres pulls out/eats some round mini-cracker sandwiches.

AYRES (CONT'D)

Hungry?

CHILI

Nope, sure am not, OK? At all.

AYRES

Suit yourself.

CHILI

Are those the peanut butter or the cheese kind?

AYRES

Peanut butter.

CHILI

What's the "Sell By" Date on there?

Ayres smells Chili's weakness now.

AYRES

They're super-fresh.

CHILI

Good for you then.

AYRES

Yeah. I think I might have seen a mini-pie in there too.

Chili, defenseless, on the very edge of cracking.

CHILI  
 (weakly)  
 Was it cherry?

MOMENT LATER

Chili and Ayres having a contraband-orgy! Contents of the bag spread out like post-Halloween inventory. Chili smokes a cigar, eats, drinks soda like a locker-room celebration.

CHILI  
 The spirit is willing but the flesh  
 is so weak!

AYRES  
 One's too many and a hundred ain't  
 enough!

From out of the reeds appears Kubiak, with a flashlight.

CHILI  
 Jesus Christ Kubiak! I freaking  
 hate being startled!!

And then Walls appears from behind Kubiak.

WALLS  
 Then boo.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE GROUNDS- DAWN

Walls runs alongside Ayres and Chili, exhausted, full packs.

WALLS  
 Out in the field if the Firewatch  
 decides he's gonna screw off for  
 30 minutes, a single bad guy with  
 an AK-47 walks in and all your  
 buddies are dead in their fart  
 sacks! Last night you two made the  
 decision to quit on your platoon!!

AYRES AND CHILI  
 Sir yes sir!

WALLS  
 I've been doing this long enough to  
 know that you two jokers have been  
 rounding off corners your whole God  
 damn lives!

(MORE)

WALLS (CONT'D)

Well my job is to kill the old you dead! The world's got enough half-asses like you walking around in it already! We're all full up! I'm in the business of hero-training and right now you two are wasting my God damn time! So either start walking the line or I will break you across my bow! Are you gettin' all this?!

AYRES AND CHILI

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

And starting today you're going on sugar-free toothpaste Bean!

CHILI

Sir they have that sir?

WALLS

Hell yes they have that and I ask the questions around here!!

CHILI

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

5 miles out, and 5 miles back should start cleaning out your polluted systems! Report to my hatch immediately after you're done!

AYRES AND CHILI

Sir yes sir!

WALLS

Now move it!

Walls exits. Chili and Ayres keep running.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE GROUNDS- NOON

Sun is high, hot. Ayres is OK but Chili is exhausted. Chili vomits but keeps running.

CHILI

It's the Slim Jims, I think my body is revolting.

AYRES

It's not revolting man, you're actually looking a lot slimmer lately. Don't tear yourself down like that.

CHILI

No I mean its rebelling against the junk food. You really think I'm looking slimmer though?

Chili vomits again. Struggling badly. Disoriented.

AYRES

Seriously, are you OK man?

CHILI

Yeah. Just got the chills or something. At least we're getting some cloud cover.

Ayres looks up, clear blue sky, hot sun. Chili loopy.

AYRES

Hey man how come you're not sweating at all?

CHILI

Did Walls say you left a "monkey-tail" in the latrine? That guy sure has a way with...

Chili's eyes roll back and he collapses, hitting his head hard as he falls, unconscious.

AYRES

Jesus! Chili! Chili! Shit!

Ayres tries to rouse Chili, cannot. Panicked.

AYRES (CONT'D)

Hey! Chili! Chili can you hear me buddy!? Can anybody hear me?!

Ayres hoists Chili onto his back. Carries him up the trail.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK OF MOPED/STREET- NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

Faye, lost in thought, rides on the back of her boyfriend's moped at night, streetlights flash by. Teenage recklessness.

INT. KACEY'S CAR- SAME TIME

Through Kacey's windshield we see Faye on the moped. Kacey too, in deep thought, passes her going opposite direction.

EXT. BRIT'S APARTMENT- MOMENT LATER

Kacey knocks on Brit's door. We hear very loud music, voices. Kacey knocks again. Music is turned off, we hear people scurrying, whispering, lights go off. Kacey knocks again.

KACEY

Brit I can hear you in there.

Door opens a crack. Brit peaks out. Smoke plumes out.

BRIT

Good evening Kacey. One moment please.

Brit, re-closes the door, whispers to those inside.

BRIT (CONT'D)

It's cool, it's cool.

Door chain is undone. Brit steps outside, collects himself.

BRIT (CONT'D)

To what do I owe the pleasure?

KACEY

Sorry to come over but I tried to call and they said...

BRIT

...the phone is disconnected yes I am aware.

KACEY

So listen, I wanted to say when I saw you the other day...if you hear anything at all from John can you please just...do you know how to get in touch with him or anything?

BRIT

I had an address around here for awhile but, yeah, I'm pretty positive I will not be able to lay my hands on it again.

KACEY

Well if you find it, or if you hear anything from him will you please call me? I just, I really need to talk to him.

Brit now sees Kacey is very emotional. He's compassionate.

BRIT

Yeah, OK. Sure.

KACEY

OK well, thanks. See ya.

BRIT

You wanna come in. I have some people over but if... not sure it's your scene exactly but...

KACEY

I'm just not really...

BRIT

Nah, right, no, of course.

KACEY

OK then, g'night.

Kacey blinks away tears, quickly kisses his cheek. Exits.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- LATER THAT NIGHT

Platoon on their bunks reading mail. Chili, scuffed up, a little weak, glasses taped, is brought in by a Medic.

ACEVEDO

Hey hey Chili.

STUPID RECRUIT

Welcome back Chili. "GTETEK".

CHILI

(re: Stupid Recruit's acronym)

See there. Hey fellas.

BECKETT

Quiet down.

Chili lays down on his bunk wearily.

AYRES

How you feelin'?

CHILI  
Oh, about like I look.

AYRES  
So what'd the doctor say it was?

CHILI  
Had a heat stroke. And a  
concussion.

AYRES  
Feeling better though right?

CHILI  
Just sort of worn down I guess.

AYRES  
Look, you just need a good night's  
sleep is all. It's 'cause they took  
your good pillow is what it is, and  
those tiny little Fat Trays.

CHILI  
Yeah I don't know.

AYRES  
What?

CHILI  
The doctor said maybe I ought to  
think about going home. Thought  
maybe I should quit.

AYRES  
Well what'd you say?

CHILI  
I said no.

AYRES  
Good.

CHILI  
  
But then I started thinking maybe  
they're right, you know? Maybe I *am*  
a shot rig.

AYRES  
No you're not. Alright?

CHILI

I don't know, maybe this isn't my last shot after all, you know? Maybe I already took my last shot and I didn't even know it, and now it's too late. Maybe I'm just one of those guys.

AYRES

You're not one of those guys.

CHILI

Not so sure anymore.

AYRES

Look, without you here, I mean, it wouldn't really be...I probably would've washed out already, so...

CHILI

No you wouldn't have man.

AYRES

Chili, I would have, OK. And I'm not the only one either.

CHILI

You Fireman-Carried me two and half miles yesterday. You're the most able recruit in here right now and you don't even know it.

Ayres is clearly moved by Chili's assessment.

AYRES

What?

CHILI

Except you can't shoot straight.

AYRES

Yeah OK. Here, this came for you, we had a mail call.

Chili opens his mail. A collage from Faye. Picture of her smiling with braces, "My Hero" written on it.

INTERCUT Faye hanging out with her punk friends. Smoking. Drinking. She's a girl flirting with jeopardy.

INTERCUT Kacey in her apartment, sitting on her bed, schoolbooks all around, sad, clearly thinking about Ayres.

INTERCUT Ayres and Chili in their bunks. Taps is playing. A voice outside in the distance counts down from 5, 4,...

INTERCUT The lights of Faye's convenience store turn off for the night. Faye and her friends still hanging out.

INTERCUT Kacey turn out her bedside light as she stares out the window at the same moonlight.

INTERCUT Ayres and Chili in bunks. Chili un-sticks a candy heart from Faye's collage. Eats it. Finds a bit of resolve. The countdown ends... 2, 1...lights on the island go out.

CHILI  
G'night buddy.

AYRES  
Yeah good night.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIFLE RANGE- NEXT DAY

A hard blowing rain, ominous sky. Platoon shooting. Walls, in poncho, stands behind Ayres who gets a red flag.

WALLS  
Ayres in this weather you may be able to see the bullet's path a little. So adjust to that as needed. After today you've only got one more session to up your hit percentage to Basic Marksman level or you wash out.

AYRES  
Sir yes sir.

WALLS  
And that was an above average effort yesterday, hauling Recruit Bean in.

AYRES  
Sir thank you sir.

Walls exits. Ayres seems proud, affected by Wall's praise. Focusses intently on the targets down range. Red flag.

20 MINUTES LATER

AYRES  
 (to himself)  
 C'mon, man, last shot. Set Cross-  
 hairs to the midpoint. Then slowly  
 squeeze off your shot.

Fires. A red flag is raised down-range.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
 Damn it!

Chili, done, passes by. Drops his helmet rain-cover, kneels to get it. As Chili gets up, Ayres notices that a clip of 5 rounds have appeared on his mat, Chili subtly nods. Exits.

WALLS  
 Last shots. 1 minute!

Ayres slips the rounds under his poncho. Loads a round. Looks toward Chili as he walks off. Then relaxes, deep breath, exhales fully, evenly. Fires. Hits. Green flag.

AYRES  
 Yes.

Loads again. Fires. Misses. Red flag. Horn blows. Session over. Pockets the remaining rounds. Exits.

MOMENTS LATER

Recruits in line at firing range, checkout with Beckett.

ACEVEDO  
 Sir this recruit has no brass,  
 trash or saved rounds to report at  
 this time, sir!

BECKETT  
 Next!

CHILI  
 "Sir this recruit has no brass,  
 trash or saved rounds to report at  
 this time, sir!

BECKETT  
 Next!

AYRES

Sir this recruit has no brass,  
trash or saved rounds to report at  
this time, sir!

Kubiak steps up to the table, interrupting.

KUBIAK

Sir this Recruit counted Recruit  
Ayres firing two extra rounds today  
sir.

BECKETT

You counted the amount of rounds  
Recruit Ayres fired?

KUBIAK

Yes sir! I always do sir! And today  
he fired two more than his allotted  
rounds sir.

BECKETT

Empty your pockets Recruit Ayres.

AYRES

Sir?

BECKETT

Empty the contents of your pockets  
onto the table, now Recruit!

Walls approaches. Ayres turns white. Chili looks back,  
realizes something's gone wrong. Kubiak is thrilled.

CUT TO:

EXT. PITS- LATER SAME DAY

Instead of screaming Walls is simply talking, dead-eyed, calm  
as Ayres exercises in pits, drenched in sweat, exhausted.

WALLS

When a few bits of spare change are  
at stake you're a regular boy scout  
aren't you Ayres? But when a little  
pressure is applied, you'll cheat  
and you'll lie and then you'll  
quit. What the hell right? Walk off  
with a few extra rounds. No big  
deal, that it?

AYRES

Sir...

WALLS

Shut it! You think basic is just about making your targets? Getting through another hump, making it through another day? Think that's why we put you through all this? We do this to prepare you for when you *really* come up against it, against real adversity and pain and trial. How you'll be. When you'll quit. How early, how easy. If at all. Where'd you get the extra rounds recruit?

AYRES

Sir I've been saving them from other sessions Sir.

WALLS

Bullshit! The only reason you're not heading home right now is because we don't wash you out. You wash yourselves out. Ever wondered where your limits really are Ayres? Well we are well and truly about to find out. Report to my hatch tomorrow morning at 0400. We're gonna smoke you 'til your heart pops. And my bet is you'll quit by sun up. Now get the hell out of my sight!

AYRES

Sir yes sir!

Ayres exits running.

WALLS

God damnit!

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE GROUNDS- MINUTES LATER SAME MORNING

Beckett leading Platoon 1934 on a hump. Ayres, beyond exhausted, limps up and joins the platoon next to Chili.

CHILI

Jesus, you alright? I'm sorry buddy, I was just trying to help. Look, just tell him you got the extra rounds from me, it's OK.

AYRES  
He didn't ask.

CHILI  
Really? Doesn't sound like Walls.

AYRES  
Yeah, really.

Chili mouths "yes!". Pulls out the bikini-postcard Brit sent.

CHILI  
Here. We just had mail call. Maybe  
this isn't the best time to...

Ayres takes the postcard, reads it. Devastated.

AYRES  
You read it?

CHILI  
No. OK yes, but it's just a  
postcard what was I supposed to do?  
Plus it's a man's handwriting. Look  
buddy, I'm sure you're friend Brit  
there was mistaken.

AYRES  
You think so?

CHILI  
Yes, definitely. Well OK maybe, I  
mean....oh what am I saying, *God* no  
man! I been begging you to write  
the girl since we got here! Now  
she's in the Family Planning aisle  
buying rubbers!

Beckett yells from the front.

BECKETT  
Hatchbody!! Barracks, now!

CHILI  
(under his breath)  
Jesus give the guy a break man.

AYRES  
You know what, to hell with all  
this shit man. Just to hell with  
it.

Ayres takes off in a dead sprint toward the barracks.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRACKS- MOMENT LATER

Ayres sprints down the road, through the barracks' front door, out the back door, across the lawn to a pay-phone.

MOMENT LATER

Platoon comes down the road. Between buildings Chili sees Ayres hang up the phone and sprint back to the barracks.

INT. BARRACKS- MOMENT LATER

Walls walks into his office as he does he calls out.

WALLS

Ayres and Truett on 1st Firewatch.  
Ayres and Acevedo on 2nd! Be aware,  
we got a Cat 2 hurricane coming up  
the coast. Its still out at sea but  
I want FireWatch on alert. Lights  
out in 2 minutes!

Chili walks over to Acevedo.

CHILI

Hey big man, mind if I take your  
Fire Watch tonight?

ACEVEDO

Chili man.

CHILI

Look I'll take the heat. I wouldn't  
ask if it wasn't important.

ACEVEDO

I do still owe you a debt of  
gratitude.

CHILI

Let's just call it even then.

Taps starts playing and every one hurries to their bunks.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Chili is awakened by Truett, the earlier Firewatch.

CHILI  
You see Ayres?

TRUETT  
Maybe 30 minutes ago. Section 4.

EXT. BASE- MOMENTS LATER

Storm winds. Chili nears the shoreline. Cpl. Winston is there. Then Chili sees Ayres' helmet/gear in the bushes. Then sees the sandbar and the town-lights across the water.

CHILI  
Oh shit.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE IN TOWN- CONTINUOUS

Ayres enters. Clerk is duct-taping windows. TV on.

CLERK  
You lost there Recruit?

Ayres is surprised that he's so obviously seen as a soldier.

AYRES  
I was just wondering where the Dairy Queen is in this town?

CLERK  
Right up this road here 'bout a half-mile. But they'll be closed this time of night.

AYRES  
Yeah I know, thanks.

Ayres exits to the sound of the TV.

TV  
Hurricane Beatrice gaining strength, just within the hour it was reclassified as a Category 3, should make landfall somewhere south of Hilton Head, South Carolina by daybreak.

Ayres jogs off into the darkness. Trees blow, wind picks up.

EXT. DIARY QUEEN PARKING LOT- MOMENTS LATER

Ayres sees The Dairy Queen, Kacey leaning against her car.

KACEY

Oh my God your hair. You look...

AYRES

...like an asshole, yeah I know.

KACEY

No. You look great.

AYRES

Well, you look above average.

KACEY

OK honey look, I know you're furious with me. And I'm sorry, OK. I didn't know it would lead to all this.

AYRES

So you admit it!? Just like that?! Jesus Kacey. I'm not really sure "sorry" quite gets it then! (to himself) Can't believe Brit was actually right for once.

KACEY

OK, well, actually, I'm sorry you're miserable but to be completely honest if the situation ever comes up I'd do it again.

AYRES

You'd do it again?!

KACEY

Yeah, I would. Definitely.

AYRES

Well I guess that's it then! You didn't need to drive all the way up here to tell me that. We were already broken up anyway! So, so why don't you just go on back home!

KACEY

I will! But I still say not bailing you out was the right thing to do!

(MORE)

KACEY (CONT'D)  
And I'm not leaving 'til I say what  
I came here to say!

AYRES  
Bailing me out? Wait, you're  
talking about bailing me out?

KACEY  
Yeah, what are you talking about?

AYRES  
I'm talking about your new  
boyfriend that's what.

KACEY  
My new boyfriend?

AYRES  
Yeah, Brit wrote me. He saw you OK.

Ayres pulls out and waves the postcard.

KACEY  
He saw me?

AYRES  
Yeah, he saw you, at the pharmacy.  
That ring a bell?

KACEY  
The pharmacy? I wasn't with anyone  
at the...wait, are you talking  
about my professor?

AYRES  
The Professor!? Oooh I *knew* it!

KACEY  
You think I'm dating my... Brit  
told you I'm dating my professor?

AYRES  
Yeah, that's right. He told me.

KACEY  
He just took me to coffee, to talk  
about class. He did actually turn  
out to be sort of a pig really  
but...there's nothing going on!  
John, nothing.

AYRES  
Oh really?

KACEY

Yes, really. Is that what this was all about? Sweetheart I could never, ever be with anyone but you. OK. Never.

AYRES

So no professor?

KACEY

No. No professor. You. You're the only one. You've always been the only one. Don't you know that?

This sinks in, Ayres softens.

KACEY (CONT'D)

So that's what this was all about? Baby I'm so sorry. Although I have to admit seeing you all jealous like that, with the uniform and the hair..is like super hot actually. So you still mad at me for not bailing you out?

Ayres is faux angry now.

AYRES

Oh that. Yes I think maybe I am?

Ayres sees that Kacey has desire in her eyes now.

KACEY

Just *how* mad...exactly.

AYRES

Well, more...I guess more *miffed* really.

KACEY

You want to come in my car and talk about it?

AYRES

Yeah, that might help. Wait, we're not gonna do it with our minds are we?

KACEY

Absolutely not.

She's almost whispering in his ear now. They get in the car.

KACEY (CONT'D)  
 But we need to do it really slowly  
 though OK? Really slowly.

AYRES  
 (nodding, in a trance)  
 Slowly.

KACEY  
 Yeah, I have something to tell you,  
 but it can wait.

Then suddenly, Bam! Chili's face appears at the window. Out  
 of breath, soaking wet, covered in sand.

CHILI  
 Ayres!!

Ahhhhhhhh!

AYRES

Ahhhhhhhh!  
 KACEY

AYRES  
 Chili?! What the hell are you doing  
 here?!

CHILI  
 Well I'm sure you can imagine I  
 asked myself that same question all  
 the way over here.

KACEY  
 What's going on?!

AYRES  
 Nothing.

Chili politely turns to Kacey.

CHILI  
 Kacey right? Hey, I'm Chili Bean,  
 his former boss and current bunk-  
 mate. He's totally crazy about you  
 by the way.

Chili quickly turns back to Ayres.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
*Clearly* you two have made up, so  
 c'mon, if we go back right now we  
 might be able to slip back in  
 before anyone notices. Let's go.

KACEY

Slip back in? What about your AWOL Pass?

CHILI

His "AWOL Pass"?

KACEY

Yeah he *won* one for being voted Best Marine. So it's fine.

CHILI

*Did* he now? (to Ayres re: clarifying this lie) Why don't you take that one.

AYRES

I was gonna tell you. But I'm not planning on going back in, OK, not ever. I'm done.

CHILI

What?!

KACEY

What?!!

AYRES (CONT'D)

Walls is gonna smoke me 'til I quit anyway so...

CHILI

Wait, you were just gonna leave me in there by myself?

AYRES

Sorry.

CHILI

The MPs will catch you in a day. OK? Shit Walls will catch you himself by breakfast. You'll spend 6 months in a Marine brig, dishonorable discharge!? No dress greens!?

KACEY

Brit said that Judge was gonna put you in jail if you didn't finish.

CHILI

Oh yeah! Jesus man! Let's go!

AYRES

I'm not going back in there and I'm not going to jail either.

(MORE)

AYRES (CONT'D)

I just want to, I don't know what, maybe head out west. Maybe just get a job on a ranch or something.

CHILI

What, like a cowboy?

AYRES

I don't know, whatever, or work on a fishing boat maybe.

CHILI

No, no, a cowboy is the better plan. I had no idea you already had this thing all worked out.

AYRES

Come with me baby. It'll be awesome. Live off the grid, you know, cash only, I'll use a fake name if I have to.

CHILI

"John" is a pretty boring name actually. Should go for something cool, like Willie...or Andre.

KACEY

OK John. Look at me. You have to go back in there and finish. There's no getting out of it this time. There's not. You can't quit this one.

CHILI

Well he's good at it though. Apparently he's been "quitting things all his life".

AYRES

Hey I told you I just worded that funny.

KACEY

I wish you'd mailed me your address here. Baby there's something I have to tell you and I uhh...I...

AYRES

What? You what?

KACEY

Well that's just it, there is no more just "me".

Chili bursts in with a guess.

CHILI  
You're pregnant!

AYRES  
Don't be stupid.

Kacey gives Ayres the "yes" look.

CHILI  
I knew it! Wow you look great! How far along are you? (to Ayres) Oh! Hey, the bikini postcard...you can buy *pregnancy tests* in the Family Planning aisle too.

KACEY  
What?

CHILI  
Oh God you two, best thing that can ever happen to you. I remember when Cathy was pregnant with Faye, she looked so beautiful. Sort of peaked right there but...

AYRES  
Chili. Stop talking.

CHILI  
Sorry.

KACEY  
There's more.

CHILI  
Twins! You're having twins right??!  
Am I right?!

Kacey nods at Ayres.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
Oh man!! I hope one of them is a girl. I still have some of Faye's baby clothes around you guys can have. Are you gonna put 'em in the same crib at first? There's really two schools of thought on that. You want them to have their own identity but...

AYRES  
Chili!

CHILI

Sorry.

Kacey waits in tears. Ayres goes to her, kisses her gently.

KACEY

I didn't know what you were gonna think. I'm a little...I'm really...

AYRES

Yeah, I know.

Ayres snaps out of his reverie suddenly.

AYRES (CONT'D)

I gotta go back in there! We gotta go back in there! Chili we gotta get back in there.

CHILI

Isn't that what we've been trying to tell him?

AYRES

What time is it?

KACEY

3:15.

CHILI

Shit. We gotta go! The whole camp is gonna be awake in 45 minutes!

AYRES

Baby, I love you, but we gotta go.

KACEY

Go.

Ayres kisses Kacey. She smiles through her tears now.

CHILI

Hey it was really nice meeting you and again congratulations with everything and, my gosh what a magical journey you're about to...

AYRES

Chili!

They run but Ayres stops, calls back to Kacey.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
 Hey what about this hurricane? You shouldn't be out driving around.

KACEY  
 It's fine, going to my Mom's. Go!

They run off into the darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORT ROYAL- MOMENTS LATER

Chili and Ayres run through town.

CHILI  
 Honestly, until she said she was pregnant you had me half-sold on that cowboy idea.

AYRES  
 Are you limping?

CHILI  
 I twisted my damn ankle crossing over that sandbar. I'm starting to think maybe I'm accident prone or something.

They reach the sandbar, mostly underwater now. Storm is coming fast. They hesitate before entering the water.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 It's way deeper than when I came across it the first time.

They run across the shallows of the sandbar then quickly get up to their waists, their chests, and then they are floating.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 I can't swim it!

They swim back. Flop exhausted back onto the bank.

CHILI (CONT'D)  
 Sorry man. I have *negative buoyancy*. You know how some guys can float on their backs like that, I could never do that.

AYRES  
 Would've been crazy to try it. What now?

CHILI

I don't know.

Despondent. Then they see a neon sign; the same neon sign they saw just before entering Parris on Day 1 (a fisherman catching a fish). Pulling in and parking is the same bus from Day 1. Same driver heads in for his coffee. Chili and Ayres suddenly take off running across the field toward the bus.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS- A FEW MINUTES LATER

Driver climbs aboard. Bus moves out. Among the sleeping new recruits Ayres and Chili awake in their fatigues and shaved heads. One recruit is awake and looks at them suspiciously.

CHILI

You eyeballin' me recruit?

Recruit looks away. They giggle, steal jackets to blend in.

BUS DRIVER

5 minutes out, so smoke 'em if you got 'em. Last chance for 3 months.

Everyone wakes up. Ayres wordlessly bums a smoke from a recruit, starts to light it but Chili snatches it from him.

CHILI

Stop that. You're gonna be a father. You ever hear of second hand smoke?

The bus crosses the causeway, passes the "Welcome to Parris Island" sign. Terror in the recruits eyes. Bus pulls in. Like before, a DI (not Walls) comes exploding onto the bus.

MARINE SERGEANT

Now! Now! Right God-damned now!

Recruits hesitate. But Chili and Ayres fly out the door. Start to head to the barracks then meet a 2nd Marine.

2ND MARINE

On the yellow footprints! Now!  
Right now!!

They stand on the footprints. 2nd Marine steps onto the bus.

2ND MARINE (CONT'D)

Let's go! Leave your gear on the bus. You're not staying here long!

More recruits pour out. But Chili and Ayres are now gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK PATHS ON BASE- SECONDS LATER

Chili and Ayres run the back paths. Smiling. Success! Then a growl and scrambling startles the hell out of them.

CHILI AND AYRES  
Corporal Winston!!

Corporal Winston hustles alongside them, pissed, barking.

CHILI  
He's gonna wake up the whole camp!  
No bark, Corporal Winston, no bark!

Corporal Winston then veers off after a raccoon. Success!

AYRES  
Yes!

CHILI  
Hey I wonder why they told those  
new recruits that they're "not  
staying here long"?

They find out as they round the last curve. Instead of a sleeping camp, the entire base is alive with hurricane evacuation! Everyone sees the AWOL recruits. Including Walls.

CUT TO:

INT. MARINE BUS- FEW MINUTES LATER

Platoon 1934's crosses the Parris Island Causeway. Chili and Ayres are standing in the back. Walls is screaming at them.

WALLS  
You have got to be the two  
stupidest jarheads who ever walked  
do you know that! The entire camp  
has been churning since 0-dark-  
hundred, there's a Cat 4 hurricane  
bearing down on our position. We  
had 5 inbound phone calls from  
civilians in Port Royal reporting  
two morons with shaved heads and  
fatigues running all over town in  
the middle of the God damn night!  
Hell we pay 'em \$50 per phone call!  
(MORE)

WALLS (CONT'D)

I don't know what was more stupid, walking out of here or walking back in! Well guess what, you two all-stars are now officially under arrest!! If we weren't evacuating off the island I'd haul your asses to the brig right now. But until then you will remain under field-arrest!! Now sit the hell down!

Chili and Ayres sit, take off their stolen civilian jackets.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Hell no! Leave 'em on! You earned those nasty civilian clothes!

Walls walks to the front of the bus talking as he goes.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Until this storm blows through we're gonna bivouac a few clicks onto the mainland at Field Camp 2. Keep your heads squared and your eyes forward. I don't want to see a turd so much as look at a God damn billboard. We're not buying what they're selling! Questions of you to me?

KUBIAK AND STUPID RECRUIT

Sir no sir!!

WALLS

Don't say no sir if you don't have a question you idiots! With you two sounding off like that how the hell am I supposed to hear the one recruit who might actually have a question?! If you don't have a question just sit there and keep your dick-holsters shut!

Walls exits. Kubiak angry at himself for messing up.

STUPID RECRUIT

(to Kubiak)

That's actually a good point.

KUBIAK

Shut up.

Bus exits the Parris Island Causeway as waves crest over it.

30 MINUTES LATER

Bus travels on the mainland now. We then see road-flares ahead. Cop flags them down. A bridge is flooded, water/debris rush over it. Walls speaks to the Cop. Gets back on the bus.

WALLS

Secure the bus. 1934 we are now on foot.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN TRESTLE- 10 MINUTES LATER

The platoon is crossing a train trestle. Down river we see the bridge-from-before wash away. Platoon scurries across.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET- 30 MINUTES LATER

Rain howling. The platoon marches double-time into a small town. Civilians stack sandbags; general chaos. Water rushes over yet another bridge nearby.

CIVILIAN 1

Hey! They sent the Marines!

KUBIAK

Damn right.

Acevedo smiles proudly, his gold tooth flashes.

BECKETT

Stow that tooth Acevedo!

Up ahead Walls talks to some cops. Returns to the platoon.

WALLS

Listen up! We got a live situation here. Emergency crews are delayed up and down the seaboard. So we're going to provide assistance wherever we can. Stay sharp and follow my orders. Let's move out.

Ayres and Chili stopped by Walls.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Hell no! Not you two. You're under field-arrest. Kubiak, stand guard.

(MORE)

WALLS (CONT'D)  
And make sure that all vehicles  
stay clear of this bridge.

KUBIAK  
Sir yes sir!!

Platoon 1934 march into action. Kubiak stands guard, puffed-up with power. Chili and Ayres, miserable, rain-soaked.

AYRES  
Listen, I...

Chili cuts him off.

CHILI  
Can we just not talk about it right  
now? OK? Would that be alright?

AYRES  
OK. Yeah, alright. I was just gonna  
say I'm...

KUBIAK  
Quiet over there!

CHILI  
Shut up dick-head.

KUBIAK  
Well its your own fault for going  
AWOL. You two turds were never  
meant to be Marines anyway.

AYRES  
Who are you calling a *turd*?! You're  
not a DI you jackass!

KUBIAK  
Who are you calling a jackass  
*turd*?!

AYRES  
You know what, how about we save  
the conversation and I just go  
ahead and kick your ass!

KUBIAK  
Bring it on!

They start fighting, end up wrestling hard on the concrete. Ayres winning. Suddenly a short-bus passes them, flattens the orange cones and heads out onto the flooded bridge.

CHILI

Jesus!

The bus hisses into the rushing water, is picked up and immediately pinned against the bridge-railing. Ayres instantly sprints with "hatch-body speed" past Kubiak.

KUBIAK

You're under field-arrest!

Chili too limps (ankle) to the bridge. Kubiak alongside.

KUBIAK (CONT'D)

You're both still under field-arrest!

CHILI

The manual say anything about *this*?! C'mon man, act like a Marine for once would ya'!

This gives Kubiak pause. He looks confused.

KUBIAK

Walls said to stand my post.

CHILI

You wanna live forever?! C'mon, let's go "get in the shit".

Kubiak now completely converted, takes off after Chili.

KUBIAK

OK!

Ayres wades in, stops. Chili joins him. The water is rushing hard. This is deadly. Ayres heads in but Chili stops him.

CHILI

Forget it you got twins on the way man. I'll go.

AYRES

You got negative buoyancy remember!?

Kubiak just shakes his head, too scared.

AYRES (CONT'D)

I'll be alright. I can make it.

Ayres wades in but is immediately swept against the bridge-railing, almost flips over it, pinned. Fights along the railing, reaches the bus.

Grabs a branch from a clot of debris and bashes in a window. Climbs inside, disappears. Chili, with Kubiak, has now worked himself partly onto the bridge. A beat, then Ayres emerges from the car with an elderly black man. Ayres tries to carry the man to safety, but the rushing water is too strong now and it takes all of Ayres strength simply to keep the elderly man from washing away. Ayres stops, barely able to hold his position, unable to move. Chili and Kubiak can't reach him.

AYRES (CONT'D)

There are 3 more in there!

Suddenly Walls and the Platoon appear on the shore behind Chili and Kubiak. Walls starts to organize them.

WALLS

OK. Link arms! We're gonna form a chain to reach them. Let's go 1934! Now! Right now!

Walls wades out against the railing first, Beckett anchors the chain from the back. Each Recruit links arms to form a 43 man chain until Walls reaches Kubiak, Chili, then Ayres. Person-to-person they pass the elderly man into the shore.

AYRES

I gotta go back in!

Ayres separates from the chain to go the last 10 feet alone. Ayres reaches the bus again, climbs in. As he does, the rushing water forces the bus up onto its side, about to flip over the railing. After a long beat, a window is bashed out from inside and Ayres emerges with an elderly woman. Now cops and others have added to the human-chain so that Walls and Chili can reach all the way to the bus. Ayres passes the woman to Walls then repeatedly goes back in twice more, passing them out. Finally Ayres emerges with a cat and dog.

AYRES (CONT'D)

OK that's it!

Ayres hands the panicked cat to Chili.

CHILI

Why do I have to be the one who takes the cat?!

As the platoon slowly backs out of the water, the soaked, freaked out cat clutches, claws and scratches the hell out of Chili's head. The railing suddenly fails and the car cascades over the side of the bridge to the rushing water below. They give the man his pets as cops and paramedics now take over.

ELDERLY BLACK MAN

Thank you so much. Oh thank you all  
so much. Thank you.

Ayres, Chili, Kubiak and the Platoon are exhausted.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET- FEW MINUTES LATER

1934 marches out of town. Walls stays behind with the cops  
and fire crews now taking over.

BECKETT

Double-time! We got 15 miles to  
Camp 2. We're going all night if we  
have to!

KUBIAK

Awesome! Was that awesome or what?!

Chili gives Kubiak an "attaboy" cuff on the head. Kubiak  
clearly pleased by Chili's praise. Platoon leaves the paved  
road and heads off down a dirt fire road.

HOURS PASS

Platoon exhausted, jogs through the dark and rain. Chili's  
face still scuffed, glasses taped up, face covered in claw  
marks, limping, wearing civilian jacket from the bus.

KUBIAK

Not that it's why we did it or  
whatever but that seemed maybe sort  
of medal-worthy.

AYRES

All I care about right now is  
whether we're kicked out or not?

CHILI

I don't want to talk about it.

KUBIAK

I thought you guys...I thought you  
already knew.

AYRES

Knew what?

KUBIAK

Well, Walls has to wash you out.  
Both of you.

AYRES

What? Are you sure?

KUBIAK

Yeah. Positive. Unauthorized  
Absence during the basic training  
period...that's Section 22,  
paragraph 4, line 6...it's 6 months  
brig time and then a dishonorable  
discharge. They don't give the DIS  
any latitude with that one.

Chili and Ayres are devastated. Kubiak is sympathetic.

KUBIAK (CONT'D)

Sorry. I thought you already knew.

LATER, MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ayres and Chili, run a little behind the platoon. Chili  
limping terribly. Dark, wind/rain howling. Has to yell.

AYRES

Can I say something?

CHILI

If you're gonna apologize, just  
don't, OK?

AYRES

OK.

CHILI

You were about to apologize though  
weren't you?

AYRES

Yeah.

CHILI

OK. Look I didn't have to come get  
you, alright. It was my choice. So  
let's just leave it at that.

They run along silently for a beat.

AYRES

Chili?

CHILI

Yeah?

AYRES

Why'd you do it?

CHILI

Come get you?

AYRES

Yeah.

CHILI

Because I'm an idiot, that's why. And because you happen to be an idiot too so...I thought maybe I could save you some trouble, down the road. Plus I owed you one. Mainly I was sort of hoping I wouldn't get caught.

AYRES

How's your ankle?

CHILI

Very much like a big eggplant.

AYRES

Well I guess we could quit running now if we wanted to. No real reason to keep...we don't really have to keep going anymore.

CHILI

Yeah I guess not.

Chili slightly behind Ayres. Pitch black, can't see a thing.

AYRES

Chili? You there?

CHILI

Yeah.

AYRES

Oh. I was just checking to see if you stopped running.

CHILI

Nope.

AYRES

Why didn't you?

CHILI  
Not sure exactly.

AYRES  
Chili, I was thinking, let's just  
not stop, until they officially  
kick us out OK?

No response from Chili.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
Chili?

We hear a thump, backpack hits the ground back in the dark.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
Chili? Oh shit not again!

Ayres runs back, trips/falls over something. Feels around in  
the dark, seems to find Chili's body.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
Hey are you alright? Chili? Shit!  
Can you hear me buddy?! Chili?!

Chili appears out of the darkness/rain, scaring Ayres!

CHILI  
What the hell are you doing?

AYRES  
(startled)  
Jesus Christ man!!

CHILI  
Were you just talking to my  
backpack?

AYRES  
What are you doing!? I thought you  
had another heat stroke or  
something! Why'd you stop?

CHILI  
'Cause you said *let's stop!*

AYRES  
No, I said let's *not* stop.

CHILI  
Oh, well all I heard was "stop".  
This poncho-hood makes like a super  
loud rustling. Well do you see 'em  
anywhere?

AYRES

I can't see a thing. But they gotta be straight up ahead right?

They hustle down the fire road but instantly come to a cross-roads. No idea which way to turn. They stop. Lost.

CHILI

Well I guess we've stopped now.

AYRES

Yeah. I guess I was just thinking that until they kick us out we don't quit, you know? Just seems like maybe that'd be *something*. Know what I mean?

CHILI

Yeah, yeah I do know what you mean. I know exactly what you mean. And you know what would've have just been really swell?! If you'd had this little epiphany before you decided to go AWOL in the first place and ruin what was left of our already pathetic lives!! I don't have 15 more years to waste OK?! I don't! I already used mine up!

AYRES

I'm sorry. I didn't...

Ayres is too embarrassed and hurt to fight back. Chili sees this. Chili and Ayres sit on their backpacks. Defeated.

AYRES (CONT'D)

What now?

CHILI

I don't know. Morning can't be too far off. MPs will find us. We're probably fugitives now too. I didn't really think the whole *stopping thing* all the way through.

AYRES

So what do you think you're gonna do after they, you know, whenever you get back home?

CHILI

I don't really...I don't know. Find a place to live I guess.

(MORE)

CHILI (CONT'D)  
Buy a bike. Kubiak said  
"dishonorable discharges" didn't  
he?

AYRES  
Yeah. He did.

Ayres sees all the life go out of Chili.

AYRES (CONT'D)  
Hey if you ever need a ride or...  
over to Faye's or whatever, just,  
you know...

CHILI  
Yeah, thanks. Kacey seems real  
nice. You guys can still have that  
box of Faye's old baby clothes...  
actually I think the fire may  
have...

Chili's voice just trails off.

AYRES  
I'm gonna still be in the brig when  
the babies come.

They fall silent for awhile. Then suddenly out of the  
darkness and rain burst Kubiak, Acevedo and Stupid Recruit.

KUBIAK  
Hey what the hell are you guys  
doing?!

CHILI AND AYRES  
Jesus Christ Kubiak!!

KUBIAK  
We saw that you guys weren't back  
there anymore.

STUPID RECRUIT  
No actually I saw that you guys  
weren't back there anymore.

ACEVEDO  
Let's go back before they notice.

CHILI  
Where's the platoon?

KUBIAK  
Just resting right up here, like 50  
yards away. Let's go!

They all help Chili up. Ayres carries Chili's backpack too now. The five of them run together.

CHILI

You know what, I was gonna tell you  
I think you're right.

AYRES

About what?

CHILI

About not stopping.

AYRES

Don't you think maybe?

CHILI

Yeah. But *man* I wanted those dress  
greens so bad...I think I wouldn't  
have looked too shabby you know,  
now that I dropped a few, got an OK  
tan going. But yeah, until they  
officially kick us out we keep  
humping it. No matter what.

AYRES

No matter what. We don't quit.

CHILI

We don't quit.

AN HOUR LATER- PRE-DAWN

CHILI

Let's quit!! OK?! No, seriously.

Rain, chaos. Platoon is waist deep in a creek, miserable.  
Ayres almost carries limping Chili up the bank.

HOUR LATER- DAWN

Platoon slogs along mile after mile. They enter a clearing  
and onto a path snaking up a steep hill. Ayres carrying  
Chili's pack. Ayres and Chili trying hard, but fall behind.

BECKETT

Let's go! Get that man up this hill  
Ayres! Get him up this hill! Catch  
up to the platoon!

Ayres and Chili pick up the pace, somehow catch up and as  
soon as they do Beckett ups the stakes.

BECKETT (CONT'D)  
Now "Hatchbody"!

Ayres looks at Beckett, as in "what about Chili?".

BECKETT (CONT'D)  
I said "Hatchbody"!

Beckett, Kubiak, Acevedo and Stupid Recruit move in to support Chili. Ayres sprints up the hill. At the top Ayres stops. Sees Walls, two MPs, jeeps. The platoon arrives. Walls nods and the MPs go stand on either side of Chili and Ayres. Wind howling and dark clouds overhead as dawn breaks.

WALLS  
Platoon 1934.

PLATOON  
Sir yes sir!

WALLS  
13 weeks ago to the day, you boarded Parris Island as new Recruits and members of Platoon 1934. As of this moment, it is my privilege to announce to you all: Marines you now are, and Marines you will always be.

CHILI  
(whispering to Ayres)  
One day?! You decide to go AWOL with one day to go!?

WALLS  
A few days from now at graduation, the band will play "The Marine Hymn". You have heard it many times before, but this time it will be played for you.

Beckett has been handing Marine pins to each recruit. All except Ayres and Chili. Walls now faces them.

WALLS (CONT'D)  
Private Ayres, Private Bean, you two are to be taken immediately to the Marine Corps brig on Parris Island to be processed for unauthorized absence in direct violation of the Marine Corps' code of behavior, Section 22, paragraph 4. Do you understand what you have just heard?

CHILI AND AYRES

Yes sir.

WALLS

However, Corps regulations grant the DI complete authority and latitude in the ultimate dispensation of his recruits.

Chili and Ayres glance at Kubiak who is pissed at himself for flubbing it; shrugs "sorry".

WALLS (CONT'D)

Therefore Private Bean, you will, by my authority serve 10 days in the brig, but you will do so after graduation and as a basically trained, mentally sane Marine. Sergeant Beckett.

Beckett hands Chili the Marine pin, shakes his hand.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Moreover, and this is a first, for achieving the Corps's highest possible marksmanship ranking, for your leadership and for your embodiment of the central Marine code: No Marine Left Behind, Sergeant Beckett and I present you with the Blue Award as the recruit-most-deserving in Platoon 1934.

Chili emotional, speechless platoon silently elated.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Recruit Ayres. You will not be serving your brig time as a Marine. That title is earned, not given.

Ayres can barely nod. Chili clearly feels sick for him.

WALLS (CONT'D)

But, as you are aware, recruits wash *themselves* out. Do they not Sergeant Beckett?

BECKETT

Yes sir, they do.

WALLS

Therefore Recruit Ayres, Sergeant Beckett and myself will communicate to the Regiment CO that instead of washing out of this program, you have, in our estimation, earned the option of recycling back into basic training with a fresh 13 weeks and a new incoming platoon. My new platoon. Questions of you to me?

AYRES

No sir.

WALLS

Recruit Ayres do you accept this option as it has been offered to you?

Ayres looks at Chili. The whole platoon watches expectantly.

AYRES

Sir yes sir. Sir I just want to say..

WALLS

We do not use the word 'I' on this island Recruit. We do not use the word 'me' on this island. These words no longer exist. Good to go?

AYRES

Yes sir.

Walls reveals the slightest emotion, turns to the platoon.

WALLS

My only advice to you all is this, for as long as you are lucky enough to live, 2, 3, 60 years, stay squared away. And take care of each other. And don't embarrass me. Platoon 1934, with your gear, *and at your leisure*, you are dismissed.

Walls exits as 1934 erupts in celebration! Ayres looks over at Chili, both are misty-eyed. Chili is wiping his eyes.

CHILI

Oh try and act like you got a pair would ya'.

The rest of the platoon comes over to celebrate.

CUT TO:

PARISS ISLAND PARADE DECK- 13 WEEKS LATER

"13 Weeks Later": A cheer goes up. 43 hats go flying into the air. Then, from a distance we see an entire Marine platoon crossing the parade tarmac toward the pack of families who are also walking toward the new Marines. As the two groups approach each other we see a visibly pregnant Kacey break from the pack and run toward the Marine group at which point Ayres emerges running from out of the pack of Marines, a solitary figure moving toward her but holding up both hands imploring her to stop. She stops, holds her stomach. He keeps running until they meet. They kiss and embrace unabashedly.

PARISS ISLAND PARADE DECK BLEACHERS- SAME MOMENT

Chili, wearing his dress green uniform, holding two pink stuffed bears is standing next to Faye. She looks him over.

FAYE

Not too shabby.

They both watch Ayres and Kacey embrace. Chili is like a mother at a wedding until he sees Kacey grab Ayres' ass lustily. He looks at Faye who is delighted. Chili covers her eyes protectively. Chili then sees a teenage boy who is having a look at Faye. The boy notices that Chili, with his new Marine stature, has busted him and he immediately snaps back into facing forward. As he does, the teen's Mom (gorgeous) is revealed and she notices Chili with interest. Chili smiles and changes gears into his sexy demeanor.

CUT TO:

INSIDE THE PLATOON BARRACKS- FEW MOMENTS LATER

Families mingling with new Marines. Chili, Faye, Ayres, Kacey standing, talking. Chili pulls out a fire-charred paperback.

CHILI

Oh! I managed to dig out my old baby owner's manual. It's a little charred. I put some sticky notes on the really important parts.

Hands the book to Ayres. Ayres has two unopened beers. Nearby, Walls talks to families/recruits. An array of beers have been laid at his feet by new recruits; a tradition.

AYRES

Let's go give these to the man.

They both look nervous, still intimidated by Walls.

CHILI

OK but let's just drop 'em and run.

AYRES

C'mon man. We're all Marines now.  
Act like you got a pair.

As they walk Chili wiggles his foot and shoe.

CHILI

I've lost so much weight my shoes  
don't even fit anymore.

They walk up behind Walls who is talking with a family. Ayres walks confidently but then he quickly places his beer among the others and hurries off. Chili, slower, does too but Walls turns and sees him trying to slip away.

WALLS

Bean! Ayres!

Both of them freeze, snap to attention.

WALLS (CONT'D)

Just wanted to say congratulations  
to you both.

CHILI AND AYRES

Thank you sir.

WALLS

Two Blue Award winners. Who  
would've thought that huh?  
Outstanding.

Chili seems comfortable now, too comfortable. He reaches down and picks up the two beers they left for Walls and starts to suggest to Walls, ceremoniously, that they drink them together. Ayres wincing, shakes his head "no".

CHILI

Sir would you do me the honor of...

Walls doesn't notice Chili's request cutting him off as he turns to talk with another family that has stepped up.

WALLS

Stay squared away.

Chili falls all over himself recoiling, as Walls turns away.

CHILI

Yes sir.

EXT. PARISS GROUNDS—MOMENTS LATER

Ayres, duffel bag over his shoulder walks away from the barracks with Chili. Kacey and Faye gabbing up ahead.

CHILI

Of course I'm glad that you won it too. I'm just saying it makes the fact that I won it sort of seem like less of a big deal is all.

Beckett passes by, marching alongside a new platoon calling out cadence. He nods to them, still hard as a coffin-nail. They salute back. They look down and see that they are standing on the yellow painted footprints where they first set foot on Parris. Then they see Corporal Winston sniffing nearby. The dog comes up to Ayres, tail wagging. Ayres smiles, reaches down to pet him and... Corporal Winston bites the hell out of his hand!

AYRES

Son of a bi...

THE END

CREDITS ROLL on Kubiak and his family watching and rewinding Kubiak's graduation video. Kubiak's Dad and Granddad crying. "Chuck Norris" their dog is happily sitting in Stupid Recruit's lap who fawns all over the little dog.

Kacey at graduation in a mortarboard and gown while Ayres in his dress greens handles two identical twin girls.

Brit is on the Marine Recruit bus, wearing an "I'm Going Commando" t-shirt as the bus hisses to a stop at the yellow-footprints, Brit looking sick and terrified, stares out the window with big bug eyes. We hear the sound of the bus doors swinging open.