Smokemen

Ву

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Copyright 2011 (C) This work aaronml@iinet.net.au is the property of the author and permission to reproduce or use it in any way can only be granted by the said author. FADE IN-EXT- BUSY NEW YORK STREET-DAWN

The skyline of NYC awakes to another full day

The honking of horns, the clang of garbage collectors at work, pigeons fly from nests.

A YELLOW CAB pulls up outside the 5Th bridge firehouse in Manhattan, KYLE REED(33) steps onto the kerb slamming the door behind him, Reed leans in the open cab window.

CAB DRIVER come'on pal, move it \$ 8.50 already

Reed hands over the cash

CAB DRIVER

gee

REED LOOKS UP AT THE FRONT OF THE FIREHOUSE; "THE REBELS" INSIGNIA ADORNS THE BRICKWORK OVER THE ENTRANCE.

REED

good to be home (under his breath)

INT-FIREHOUSE-DAY

Reed walks between two gleaning RED FIRETRUCKS

Firemen are joking and cleaning equipment

Others are using the incline bench

On the wall are old photographs of former squads

REED APPROACHES ONE

A black and white photo is marked 'June 1995 the rebels" (OS) "though i might see you here"

Reed turns startled to see CAPTAIN STEVE DEERE(53)

REED SMILES just reminiscing sir, its been a while.

DEERE GLANCES AT THE PHOTO : you were top of the class that year

Deere pauses, looking at the ground, then gestures for REED to follow him.

(CONTINUED)

Walking up the stairs, the halls are full of old memorabilia and photographs.

The pair enter Deere's office

INT-DEERE'S OFFICE-DAY

DEERE take a seat kyle

Reed sits in chair opposite Deere

KYLE nice place you got here sir (chuckles)

DEERE lights a cigarette and sits down

DEERE : how you doing kyle?

REED

honestly, im OK

REED fiddles with folders on the desk

REED iv been to see someone,i got the help i needed

Reed gazes distantly out the office window overlooking central park

DEERE DANNY's death shook all of us kyle, its OK to feel burdened sometimes

REED the smoke was so thick, we could't see (pauses)..then i turned and he was totally engulfed, flailing like a rag doll...(breaks down crying) oh fuck oh god

DEERE stands and hugs Reed

DEERE that's it let it out. REED wipes his face and backs away from DEERE 2.

REED

all i know is i want to get back on the job

DEERE nods

DEERE

well, a lot has changed here since your last time, hell i got a whole new crew CARL MILLS retired last summer, CAREY went back to Cleveland, most of the guys out there are pretty green. REED looks at DEERE and grins and wipes his

eyes again

REED that's what im here for.

A Knock at the office door

DEERE

come in

A tall athletic man, BARTON BRIGGS (29) stands in the door, a cold, slightly awkward look on his face

BRIGGS

i finished last nights running sheets. (speaks in southern drawl)

He looks over at REED

DEERE kyle, this is Ayrton BRIGGS, he is captain of engine 6

You'll be sharing responsibility, so try to get along

REED extends his hand

BRIGGS i heard you were coming, fellas all raving

BRIGGS just looks at outstretched hand

BRIGGS ill put those papers in the file

BRIGGS turns and leaves

REED looks taken aback

DEERE

he's only been here a while, use to ride with "the war wagon" boys outta the Bronx...you remember E-71 right..anyway he got transferred here, he beat some arson suspect or something.

REED raises his eyebrows

Suddenly the fire alarm blares loud

Both men look at each other

INT-FIREHOUSE-DAY

Charging out the office door and downstairs, REED grabs a fire coat and helmet from the lockers and heads toward an engine

BRIGGS LETS GO LETS GO!

REED climbs into the cab of engine 6 and DEER gets behind the wheel, tosses his cigarette butt out the window and looks at REED and grins.

BRIGGS and several other firemen scramble in the back of the truck

The truck radio crackles into life

RADIO 10-25 code 3 on 5Th and Lexington any units copy

REED grabs the truck microphone as DEERE speeds out of the firehouse

INT-FIRETRUCK-DAY

REED 10-4 this is engine 6 on route eta two minutes EXT-TRAFFIC JAM-DAY

The FIRETRUCK with lights and siren weaves in and out of traffic

INT-FIRETRUCK-DAY

DEERE honks the horn

DEERE MOVE GOD DAMN IT

REED UN's in session, midtown is gonna be chocked

BRIGGS this traffic is a choked up as you were Kyle, frozen stiff (sneeringly)

Deere grimaces at the cheap remark

Reed turns round in his seat calmly

REED you might be a quality smokey, Briggs, but your an asshole

EXT-TRAFFIC JAM-DAY

ENGINE 6 BATTLES ON THROUGH THE TRAFFIC JAM AND PEDESTRIANS (SATISFACTION BY ROLLING STONES PLAYS)

REED gazes out at the people walking in the street as it zooms by

EXT-SCENE OF FIRE-DAY

Finally the crew arrive at the scene (smoke bellows from a manhole)

Firemen are connecting hoses and scrambling around

DEERE shouts at BRIGGS Cordon off the scene

REED pries open the manhole and is blinded by smoke

REED collapses backwards

FLASHBACK TO: INT-BURNING APARTMENT BUILDING-2009

The lounge is full of smoke

KYLE REED is searching a smoldering sofa

DANNY NELSON (30) is in the next room dowsing the remains of an oven

REED holds a chard photo of the resident

REED hey Danny, this looks like your mom.(Laughing)

DANNY screw you kyle, ya horny bastard

Both men laugh

REED turns to check the rest of the room when part of the roof caves in on top of DANNY

DANNY KYLE.. AHHHHH (screaming)

REED turns to see his friend fully engulfed with flames

REED is frozen unable to save his friend

REED watches in slow motion as Danny in burned alive

EXT-NY STREET-DAY

Reed awakes to the water being splashed on his face, he is sitting against the firetruck

A fire fighter NATE DAWSON(19) is speaking incoherently to him as he blacks out again

DAWSON didn't work sir (yells over his shoulder)

DEERE walks over and slaps REED on the face

DEERE HEY SNOW WHITE

REED comes to

DEERE i got it from here NATE

NATE DAWSON leaves

REED Struggles to his feet

REED man,ah, what happened

REED wipes face

DEERE you passed out when u opened the hole,we thought it was toxic ya big sleepy head

DEERE slaps REED on the arm

REED looks at his soot covered hands

Then back at DEERE

REED Steve, will you come over for dinner Friday night(pauses) i could use some company and a break from the shitty diapers.

DEERE yeah id like that, how is the little guy anyway(smiles)

REED ppppffft, little shit won't sleep; AMY is tearing her hair out

DEERE put his arm around REEDS shoulder and they walk away

INT-REED HOUSEHOLD-WINCHESTER COUNTY-NIGHT

The doorbell chimes and the porch light goes on

AMY REED answers the door

Beyond the threshold stands STEVE DEERE

DEERE hello again Amy (hands her flowers) AMY Steve (hugging), its so good to see you again come in

DEERE steps inside and removes his jacket

THE SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM IS PACKED WITH BABY CLOTHES AND EQUIPMENT

AMY sorry about the mess, TOMMY just wont sleep and we'r beside ourselves (laughs weakly)

DEERE SHAKES HIS HEAD kids are hard work i know iv got three of them

The pair proceed into the kitchen, the smell of spicy food wafts to DEERE'S nose

DEERE mmm, smells good here (sit's at counter)

REED:(OS) honey where are the baby wipes

REED enters from the stairs

DEERE TURNS AROUND

well aren't't we the domestic
goddess then (jokingly)

The men laugh and shake hands

AMY

its OK ill do it, why don't you go in back, dinner will be ready soon REED and DEERE go into the backroom

INT-REEDS BACKROOM-NIGHT

THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH SPORTING MEMORABILIA AND HAS A POOL TABLE

Reed slides the door closed behind him

REED you wanna shoot a few frames?

DEERE picks up a pool cue

DEERE ya know i used to play all the time in high school, im pretty darn good

REED

\$10 says i will beat your ass

DEERE picks up a bottle of scotch from a nearby table

DEERE mmm Loch Lomond, one of the classics

REED takes the bottle and pours two drinks

REED what should we drink too?

DEERE puts his glass to the light

DEERE how bout good health and happiness

REED shakes his head, then raises his glass

REED New york bravest ,and all those who believe in them

INT-FIREHOUSE-DAY

Reed cleans the rig of engine 6, along with Dawson

DAWSON how long you been doing this kyle?

REED almost 15 years,was out in Brooklyn for the first five,then came here

Dawson stands to fold up a hose

DAWSON you seem close with captain Deere 9.

REED(SMILES) yeah,he was my drill instructor at the rock,iv known him a longtime

Briggs enters from the street

BRIGGS you still cleaning that shit, oh man

REED stands and faces Briggs

REED whats your problem ayrton, nothing i do is good enough for you

Briggs walks over to reed, getting right in his face

BRIGGS you,reed,are chicken shit,you froze up,chocked up(begins laughing maniacally),you failed,buddy FAILED.

reed grabs an axe from the truck and swings at Briggs, narrowly missing him

other firemen rush over to see the commotion

REED everyday i see it,i live it

reed swings the axe wildly again before collapsing to his knees, sobbing.

DEERE(OS) what in the hell is going on here

Deere walks over and grabs reed by the shirt, hauling him to his feet, then turns to Briggs

DEERE get your shit and get out Briggs,i don't care about protocol your done.

Briggs looks stunned

BRIGGS he swings a fucking axe and i get fired,how does that shit even work,well don't even fucking worry cause i quit. BRIGGS snatches a sandwich from another fireman and storms out

DEERE TURNS TO REED AND DAWSON

DEERE my office NOW, the rest of you clean that truck or ill make you run to fucking Iowa and back.

INT-DEERE'S OFFICE-DAY

Deere walks into the office to see the two men standing shoulder to shoulder

DEERE what in gods name was that

REED im sorry sir,he just kept pushing my buttons

Dawson shuffles on the spot

DEERE and you Nate, why didn't you stop it?

DAWSON sorry sir,but he had an axe

DEERE(SNORTS) both of you get out, i wont report this but consider it you last warning, dismissed.

EXT-NY STREET-DAY

engine 6 speeds through the streets on rout to a call reed drives whilst Dawson rides shotgun

RADIO 10-37 code 3 injured civilian 1123 e-96Th street

DAWSON copy 10-4 eta 3 min, probably hold over.

the engine arrives at the scene, an abandoned apartment building next to a vacant alleyway.

REED OK,boys, secure the scene,Nate your with me.

INT-ABANDONED BUILDING-DAY

reed and Dawson enter the foyer of the building, as the other member tape off the scene

A LARGE WOODEN STAIRCASE COVERED IN DUST AND GRIME CONFRONTS THE MEN.

REED HELLO,its the fire department,is anyone there

creaking and groaning from upstairs and a door slams shut

reed and Dawson rush up onto the mezzanine

DAWSON who's up here, its the fire department

REED begins checking the abandoned rooms

entering one, reed sees the stove on, a pot of beans cooking gently

DAWSON(OS) Arrrgh..Arrgh

reed rushes into the next room to see Dawson clutching his leg,blood covering the floor were he lays

DAWSON kyle, its a trap

reed is struck with an old pipe from behind and knocked out

Dawson cowers in a pool of blood

DAWSON(PLEADINGLY) no,Briggs,no please

Briggs beats Dawson into a pulp

THE NYC SKYLINE WITH A BLUE SKY..A WONDERFUL DAY (OS SCREAMS AND BLUNT FORCE IS HEARD)

EXT-TRINITY CHURCH GRAVEYARD-DAY

a small group of people sit together in the cool afternoon breeze beside an open grave

a minister prepares his sermon

Amy reed walks between the headstones as Deere pushes the baby carriage he stops and turns, waiting

DEERE

you OK

kyle reed, now wheelchair bound, wheels himself up to the graveside

the headstone reads Nathaniel john Dawson 1988-2010 all gave some some gave it all.

THE SERVICE BEGINS IN THE COOL AUTUMN SUN.

FADE OUT-THE END