

Where Bad Ideas Come From.

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FADE IN:

INT. MILITARY OFFICE BUILDING - SHELBY'S OFFICE - DAY

COL SHELBY (early 50s), close cropped hair and starched uniform, sits at his desk, reviewing documents. He reaches for an orange as the phone RINGS, and grabs the receiver instead.

SHELBY
(annoyed)
Colonel Shelby!

A garbled and angry VOICE blares from the phone. There is an instant change in his demeanor.

SHELBY (CONT'D)
(voice cracking)
Yes...
(clears throat)
Yes, sir!

Sergeant-major DUHL (40s) walks in with papers. Shelby gestures frantically and pantomimes saluting. Duhl looks puzzled and salutes him back. Shelby shakes his head and makes a face.

SHELBY (CONT'D)
I know funding's in danger, sir,
but we just can't pull something
out of our fourth point of contact.

There is insistent yelling on the phone. Shelby yanks the phone away from his ear for a moment and grimaces.

SHELBY (CONT'D)
No, sir! That wasn't a dig on
you not being airborne.

The voice on the phones levels off as Duhl lays the papers on the desk. Shelby hurriedly scribbles on a piece of paper and holds it up -- there are two stars. Duhl's eyes bug out.

SHELBY (CONT'D)
Airdropping tanks is possible.
We showed...

An indistinct YELL from the phone sends Duhl scurrying to the door. Shelby nails him in the back of the head with the orange. Duhl hurries to stand in front of Shelby's desk again.

SHELBY (CONT'D)
Ye... ye... yes, sir. We'll come
up with something new.

Shelby hangs up the phone and his shoulders sag as collapses into his chair. Duhl shuffles nervously.

DUHL

What happened, sir?

Shelby glares at Duhl as he pulls antacids out of a desk drawer and pops a couple... then one more for good measure.

SHELBY

(crunching and spitting)

I just got my ass chewed by the C-G. What do you think happened?

DUHL

About what? The airdrop? It wasn't our fault it became a dirt dart. That dumbass loadmaster didn't rig it right.

SHELBY

That cow already left the pen! We have to come up with something new... and fast or we're out of jobs.

Shelby stands and paces.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

Think. Think. What ideas do we have in reserve?

DUHL

Several. New rifles. New camouflage patterns. New helmets. New...

DUHL (CONT'D)

(overlapping)

No! We have to come up with something that the Air Force, Navy, and Marines can all use or we don't get money. No money. No unit... It'll be forced retirement for us both.

DUHL (CONT'D)

What'll we do?

SHELBY

What I really need is inspiration... I wish the good idea fairy really existed.

DUHL

Sir, the good idea fairy is a
sarcastic character that pokes
fun...

SHELBY

(overlapping)

... at officers with stupid ideas.
I know! Go call someone and get
some ideas. Something. Anything!

HALLWAY - DAY

The good idea fairy (20s), dressed in a tutu and slippers,
dances and spins down the hall. She smiles at oblivious
soldiers as she twirls a club badly disguised as a wand.

INT. SHELBY'S OFFICE - DAY

The fairy enters unseen... and konks Shelby on the head. He
only shakes his head.

The fairy gets a determined look and bashes in earnest until
Shelby collapses face-down on the desk. The fairy smiles warmly
and dances out.

Shelby raises his head and gingerly touches the back of his
head. Suddenly, his face lights up and he snaps his fingers.
He grabs the phone and dials rapidly.

SOLDIER #1 (20s) stands in the doorway, hand raised to knock,
but Shelby doesn't notice him

SHELBY

(into the phone)

Sergeant-major, I have an idea!

Soldier looks startled and runs O.S.

EXT. MILITARY BUILDING - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Soldier #1 bursts out of the building. Other Soldiers react
as he tears past them. He shouts over his shoulder.

SOLDIER

He has an idea! Run!

Soldiers scatter in all directions.

SUPER: A YEAR LATER

MAJ TALBOT (30s) and MAJ BURKE (30s) stare at something O.S.

TALBOT
You think it'll float?

BURKE
(grinning)
Who cares? I wanna see someone
try to fly it.

OFFICERS' POV

A Frankenstein mix of a tank, plane, and submarine sits parked
in front of a hangar.

TALBOT (O.S.)
What does he call it?

BURKE (O.S.)
A subplank.

NEW ANGLE

... of the fairy smiling impishly as she skips along.

FADE OUT:

THE END