

WE HAPPY FEW

Written by

Christian A. Brunetti

632 Garden Hills Dr
Florence, SC 29505
Cbrunetti2009@yahoo.com
843-693-4546

INT. THOMAS HOME - AFTERNOON

ANDREW THOMAS, 28, unshaven and disheveled, sits on a couch. The room is in disorder. Andrew is taking photos out of a fireproof box and placing them on the table. They are photos of a young soldier and his family, Andrew in earlier years.

He sets the pictures in order, removing a bronze star, then his dog tags and lays them on the table. Finally, he draws out a pistol and sets it on the table. Finally, he pulls out a piece of paper and pen. He begins to write.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

MIKEY ANDERSON, 24, clean shaven but unkempt, is arguing with an unseen figure on the other side of his front door. The apartment is littered with beer bottles and is dirty. A Marine Corps flag adorns one wall.

MIKEY

I will get you your money!

D

I heard this song before, son. I didn't come here to listen to you sing, I came for my money or my product.

MIKEY

How the hell did you find my place?

D

Open the damn door.

MIKEY peers through the eye hole and curses to himself. He then pulls out his phone and begins texting frantically.

MIKEY

I'll get your damn mon-

Suddenly, D begins to slam his shoulder against the door. The door buckles and suddenly Mikey and D are struggling until D pulls out a gun and pistol whips Mikey.

D

It's time to pay the fucking piper.

INT. PATROL CAR - AFTERNOON

OFFICER TREVOR DEXTER, 29, sits in his patrol car. He is in the middle of his shift. DISPATCH comes over the net.

DISPATCH

CODE 1. We have an armed assault in progress at 4-2-2 Garden Hills Apartments. Caller reports a single black male with a handgun is threatening another occupant inside the apartment. Any available unit, please respond.

TREVOR

Dispatch, this is Frank223. I am in route.

Trevor flips on his lights and pulls off. He is on edge as he pulls up to the apartment complex. He heads inside.

INT. THOMAS HOME - AFTERNOON

Andrew completes his letter. He folds it up and places it on the table. He removes his wedding ring and places it next to his dog tags on the table. He picks up his pistol.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Trevor approaches the apartment and draws his sidearm when he sees the broken door.

TREVOR

This is the Houston PD.!

Trevor hears one of the occupants of the apartment curse. He pushes open the door with his non-firing hand. He sees D standing over Mikey's body. D is pointing his gun at Mikey.

The screen cuts to black over the sound of gunshots and screaming. The sound of gunshots then transforms into the heavy sound of AK 47 fire and the screaming is now men shooting over the noise of combat.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - EVENING (3 YEARS PRIOR)

Andrew, younger, self assured with a long beard, commands his fire team. They are defending their compound from a Taliban attack. He and Trevor are engaging targets rapidly on a m-240b, a squad operated machine gun.

TREVOR

Of all the people to have to die next to, I really was hoping it would be some one prettier than you.

ANDREW

Shut up and keep shooting, dick. I really don't plan on dying today.

Rounds impact around them as they duck behind cover. They wait for a lull in the fire to pop back up to return fire. Mortar fire begins to impact around the compound.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

32, this is tower 1, we have eyes on that mortar tube. Request fires on...

In the middle of the transmission, a round lands and takes out a portion of the hesco barriers making up the compound. In the confusion, Taliban fighters begin breaching the compound. Andrew is completely disoriented.

TREVOR

Andy! Andy! Come on brother!

Trevor is engaging the enemy with accurate fire in between shaking Andrew with his non-firing arm. The M-240 was knocked out of commission by the mortar fire.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Andrew!

Andrew is trying to gain his bearing. He is unable to hear or focus completely.

ANDREW

Trevor-I'm...help...oh god.

Andrew is bleeding from one ear and his nose. He is trying to breathe.

TREVOR

Andy! I need you to get back into this, man.

Trevor continues to lay accurate fires down against the assault. Andrew is starting to come back to his senses. Mortar rounds continue to fall and the assault continues.

ANDREW

I can't die like this. I can't die here. Trevor. I...

TREVOR

Andrew! Snap the fuck out of it! I need you here. Right now-or else we are both screwed.

A Taliban fighter has made it through the hole in the compound and is aims at Andrew. Trevor turns and fires, dropping the enemy at the same time Andrew fires from his position. He is covered in blood, but back in the fight.

US forces are able to retake control of the compound after a brief but intense fight. Andrew and Trevor, along with members of the rest of the men, are bloodied but alive.

The rebuilding of the compound begins, with men pulling security, being treated by medics, reloading ammo, the normal routine of what should never be routine.

INT REC TENT - MORNING

ANDREW

Hannah?

HANNAH (O.S.)

Andy! How is it going!

ANDREW

Great. Another day closer to getting back to you and the kids. How are things?

ANDREW listens to Hannah recount the past couple days as he continues cleaning and refitting his gear. He is looking around at the destruction, trying to connect to the struggles his wife is experiencing.

HANNAH (O.S.)

The kids miss you! Do you want to talk to them?

ANDREW

Of course. Put them on!

Andrew brightens as the kids get on the phone.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Dad, we miss you! Are you still keeping people safe over there?

Andrew looks around at the weariness in the men around him. He absently notices blood on his boots and begins to wipe them off.

ANDREW

I am doing what I can, Hun. Are you keeping your mother sane over there? How is Joey doing?

JOSEPH

I'm here Dad! I've been so good you would be proud! When are you coming home?

ANDREW

Soon, son. Soon.

Andrew continues to talk with his children as he cleans the blood of his boots and gear. As they say goodbye, Andrew tearfully hangs up. He then devolves into sobs.

INT. TEAM HOOCH - LATER

Andrew is in ranger panties and a tan T-shirt, laying in bed. He should be sleeping. Trevor walks up and smacks Andrews feet, prompting him to create space for Trevor to sit.

TREVOR

I'm done. Rachel finally got a job as a nurse in Houston. I put my application in at the Police Academy. I just can't do this anymore.

ANDREW

I am proud of you, man. You and Rachel really are going to do this.

TREVOR

Thanks. What about you? You can't spend the rest of your life getting shot at. You have to much going for you.

ANDREW

I'm done, too. I just don't know what Ill do career-wise. I just don't know. I can't keep raising my kids over the phone.

TREVOR

You okay? That was an awful close call. I was worried about you.

ANDREW

I'm good man. I owe you everything. I'm sorry.

TREVOR

About what?

ANDREW

I let you down. I froze up.

TREVOR

Shut that shit up. We survived.
We are still here. Fuck them.

ANDREW (LAUGHS)

Fuck them.

The men share a laugh, grateful to be able to still smile despite what was happening. One of their squad mates, PFC Ciano, comes in the team hooch.

PFC CIANO

Smile for the ladies!

He takes a quick picture before running off. This is one of the pictures seen in the opening scene.

EXT. FLIGHT LINE - MORNING

HANNAH, 25, attractive, and SARAH ELIZABETH, 6 and JOSEPH, 4. TREVOR are waiting with Trevor's wife, RACHEL, 24. The entire crowd is anxious. After a brief ceremony, the men are dismissed and reunited with their families.

RACHEL

I love you so much baby. Oh my
god, it's over! We are done. No
more!

Rachel and Trevor hug and the Thomas family all congratulate them. They are all celebrating together.

INT. ALPHA COMPANY CLASSROOM - DAY (6 MONTHS PRIOR)

At the front of the classroom, Andy, dressed in ACUS, is flanked by his wife and kids, standing at ease. CPT DAY is addressing the soldiers of ALPHA COMPANY, his FIRST SERGEANT standing by his side. The soldiers of Alpha company are standing at the position of at ease, behind their tables.

CPT DAY

After eight years of dedicated
service, it is time for one of our
brothers, SSG Andrew Thomas, to
return to the real world. Having
served as his company commander, I
am well aware of the type of man we
are losing as we bid him good luck
in his future endeavors.

(MORE)

CPT DAY (CONT'D)

SSG Thomas, I want to be the first to say- you will be missed and it was a pleasure having served with you.

CPT DAY turns and shakes hands with SSG THOMAS

CPT DAY (CONT'D)

Hannah, Joseph, and Sarah-your many years of hard work and sacrifice have finally paid off. I made you a promise many months ago that I would do my best to bring your dad and husband back to you in one piece. So I turn over my responsibility of his care over to you. Are you guys sure you can handle such an awesome responsibility?

SARAH ELIZABETH

Yes, Sir!

JOSEPH

I don't know. Mommy says Dad is nothing but trouble!

His response draws laughter from the crowd and blushes from HANNAH THOMAS, the otherwise picture of perfection.

CPT DAY

Well, son, that's something all mommies says about all daddies! But I'm sure you'll be up to the task of keeping him straight!

JOSEPH

YES SIR!

JOSEPH snaps a well practiced salute but slightly exaggerated salute, which also draws snickers from the crowd.

CPT DAY

And dear Hannah. After all this time, I want to thank you for your tireless support of your husband. It has not been an easy task and the Army truly asks more of the wives we leave behind than we do of the soldiers we send to war. Few have handled it with such grace. I hope you two nothing but the best.

HANNAH

Thank you, CPT DAY. And thank you,
everybody, for all the support you
have shown us.

CPT DAY

Well, without much further ado.
COMPANY! ATTENTION!

The men snap smartly to attention were they stand.

CPT DAY (CONT'D)

Fallout and make sure you give SSG
THOMAS one last handshake before he
leaves us for bigger and better
things. FALLOUT!

The men step back from where they stand as they fallout and
gather to congratulate Andrew.

EXT. ALPHA COMPANY CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Andrew steps outside and dons his beret for the final time.
He waits a moment, allowing the moment to sink in as his wife
and kids take his hand. The kids race ahead to the car as he
and Hannah walk hand in hand.

ANDREW

I can't believe it's finally over.

HANNAH

Me either. Me either.

The two walk to the car and get in.

EXT. THOMAS MILITARY HOME - MORNING

They kids play and race through the house as Andrew and
Hannah pack the house. They flirt playfully, laughing at
pictures and letters they find as they pack up personal
affects.

The scene continues, as the family packs up and heads out,
waving into their hand held cameras and smiling for pictures.
Many of the pictures taken, as well as pictures that are
packed up, are the same pictures seen the opening scene.

INT. CAR - EVENING

Andrew is in civilian clothes. The kids are sleeping in the back of the car. The car is loaded with suitcases and whatever they need for the first few months of their new lives.

HANNAH

Are you sure your ready to be a full time dad and husband? No more long vacations in the desert?

ANDREW

If I never here the word desert again it will be two soon. No more deployments, no more TDY, no more goddamn IEDS or being shot at-

The kids suddenly call out from the back seat.

BOTH KIDS

Dad! Bad word-you owe use both a quarter! Jynx-you owe me a coke!

The car dissolves into laughter. They continue driving through the night.

EXT. THOMAS' PARENTS HOME - NIGHT

The family arrives at Andrew's parents home. It is a modest home, a tight fit, and an obvious down grade from their last residence. They share hugs with ANDREW's parents as they move into their new "home", two cramped spare bedrooms.

INT. THOMAS' PARENTS HOME - NIGHT

Andrew and Hannah tuck the kids into bed and kiss them good night before laying down to sleep.

HANNAH

Our first night together after we leave the army and we are right back were we started, in your old bedroom. Look at how far we have come.

ANDREW

You know the best part?

HANNAH

What's that?

ANDREW
Acting like we did the first time
we slept in this room.

They share smile as Andrew moves in for a kiss.

INT THOMAS HOME - MORNING (SEVERAL WEEKS LATER)

This is the home from the opening scene. It is smaller and in an older neighborhood than the home they lived in while in the military. Hannah is completely unimpressed.

HANNAH
Andrew. Look at this place. It is a
dump.

ANDREW
Hannah. We have to start
somewhere. My mom is driving you
nuts, this is the only place we can
afford right now.

HANNAH
I just don't understand why we had
to move in with your parents at
all.

ANDREW
We just got out of the Army,
Hannah. It's only been a couple
weeks. Please, just give me
sometime. This is just for now.

HANNAH
And I won't have to live with your
parents any more.

ANDREW
You won't. I promised I would get
us a place as fast as I could. And
I'll let you decorate however you
want.

Hannah continues to walk through the house, looking slightly
disgusted.

HANNAH
I don't know, Andy. But if you say
it's all we can afford-I guess we
can make it work.

INT CAR DAY

Andrew is dressed for work at a local gym. Hannah is riding with him, dressed slightly revealingly.

ANDREW

I really don't like the idea of you working at this gym, Hannah.

HANNAH

Are you afraid I'll mess up your game with all the girls you are hitting on?

ANDREW

It's not like that. Not anymore. And it's the only job I could get right now.

HANNAH

I'm just picking on you, Andrew. Come on. And two incomes are better than one.

They arrive at the gym. It is a generic chain gym, the kind found in any town in America.

INT. GYM DAY

Andrew introduces Hannah to TED, the gym manager. He is muscular, attractive, and a total ladies man. Andrew introduces them before heading to work with a client.

TED

Andrew says you are looking for work?

HANNAH

Yeah.

TED

What kind of work do you do?

HANNAH

I actually haven't worked in a couple years. I hope that won't be a problem.

TED

I think we can find a place for some one like you.

He smiles at her, a slight hint of flirting in his voice. Hannah blushes a bit.

HANNAH

I...

TED

We sell gym memberships. Pretty women do well-guys want to impress them so they buy memberships, women don't feel as threatened by them, so they are more likely to buy. It's a win-win. Its a salary plus commission and you would be working one-on-one with me for the first couple weeks.

HANNAH

I think I could handle that.

She smiles coyly at him. The attraction is obvious. They continue to make small talk and flirt as he pulls out the paperwork to begin the hiring process.

INT THOMAS HOME - EVENING

Andrew is pouring over bills. The kids are playing in the background. There is a stark contrast in the mood from a few weeks ago. The excitement of getting out has faded as reality set in. Hannah walks up behind Andrew and hugs him.

HANNAH

How is it looking?

ANDREW

Well, we are making it another month.

HANNAH

Any word from the Veterans Affairs?

ANDREW

Nope. I called and they say it could be another 18 months. Just a waiting game.

HANNAH

You look exhausted, Andy.

ANDREW

I'm alright. It just has been a tough couple weeks.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

We will get there-it's just taking a lot more time that I hoped.

HANNAH

I know, Andy. And I know how hard you are trying, I really do. I am so proud of you. You have been juggling so much and I know I don't tell you enough how much it means to me.

ANDREW

I can't tell you how much that means, Hun. This is supposed to be our time, you know? No more deployments, no more months away from the kids, I can finally go to school and finally get us where we always wanted to be. I hate that it has been so hard on you.

HANNAH

Well, I have a surprise for you. I will take the kids over to your parents and I have saved some money up for you to go out, get drunk, be obnoxious, flirt with some pretty girl that you swear you were just trying to be polite to, spend to much money buying total strangers drinks, and then come home and relax. We will meet up for brunch in the morning so you can sleep in and we can do nothing but relax all weekend.

ANDREW

Hannah. You cant be serious. You have got to be wiped out. Your working just as hard as I am.

HANNAH

And I will totally use this against you in the future! But for right now go enjoy yourself!

Andrew looks at the kids.

ANDREW

Hey guys! Do you want to go to Grandma's house tonight?

SARAH ELIZABETH

Yes!

JOSEPH
Can we stay up late?

ANDREW
Of course, buddy.

BOTH KIDS
Yay!

Both kids take off running to their room to get ready. Their response makes both parents laugh.

ANDREW
I guess it's my turn to go get ready. Are you sure?

HANNAH
Andy, go get drunk, relax and I don't want to see you until it is tomorrow and you are hung over. I even got a cab on order for you so you don't have to worry about anything. I love you.

ANDREW
What did I do to deserve you?

HANNAH
I ask myself that same question every day. Now go!

EXT. LONGHORNS BAR - NIGHT

Longhorns is a two story country bar. It has a festive, welcoming atmosphere. Patrons are smoking, drinking, and carrying on.

INT LONGHORNS BAR - NIGHT

Andrew walks in, feeling a little out of place. He looks around until he finally settles on an empty seat at the bar. The BARTENDER is an attractive 20=something blonde with a cowboy hat and a low cut shirt.

BARTENDER
What are you having tonight, sweetheart?

ANDREW
Jack and coke.

He hands her his debit card.

BARTENDER
Close it or?

ANDREW
Leave it open.

BARTENDER
Sure thing, handsome. You need
anything you let me know.

As Andrew sits and drinks, JARED and MADISON, his young, attractive girlfriend come busting in the door. He is already drunk but having a good time. He stumbles up to the bar with his girl.

JARED
I need something strong, and
something now. We are celebrating!
Fuck yeah!

BARTENDER
What are we celebrating, Hun? And
what can I get you?

JARED
Captain and Coke, heavy on the
Captain. It's my boys favorite
drink! And something with umbrellas
for my girl here!

BARTENDER
So two Captains and one umbrella
drink, coming right up.

Jared leans against the bar as he waits. Andrew catches a glimpse of a tattoo. He leans over.

ANDREW
What battalion were you in?

JARED
2nd Batt. Rangers Lead the mother
Fucking Way. Were you a ranger?

ANDREW
No, man. I was in the 82nd and then
did some work in the Special
Operations community. You?

JARED
Iraq twice and Afghanistan twice.
Fucking only difference is the
amount of sand and how bad the
people smell.

ANDREW

I hear that, man. What's the special occasion.

JARED

My buddy SSG Eric Williams was killed today, six years ago. Fuck, man. I forgot. This is my girl, Madison.

ANDREW

Nice to meet you, Hun.

MADISON

You should join us! No one should drink alone on a night like tonight!

JARED

Hell yeah, man. Come on. Ill buy, you get drunk, and will bore her to death talking about Army shit.

MADISON

I should warn you-He gets a little gay when he drinks. I swear, sober he loves me. Drunk? He is going to hug you and tell you how much he loves you. Fair warning.

ANDREW

Well, at least I know one of us is getting lucky tonight.

A local DRUNK PATRON staggers to the bar to order a drink.

DRUNK PATRON

Hey there, sweetheart? You looking for a real man tonight?

JARED

Hey man, she's with me. Get your drink and fuck off. Go bother some one else.

Madison kisses JARED on the cheek.

MADISON

I love it when you get protective, my big strong Ranger! Now invite our new friend over and lets drink.

They move to the table, drinks in hand.

JARED

So dude, what brings you to this little circle of hell?

ANDREW

Fuck man, I'm a vet. You know what they say—you aren't really a veteran until you have a DD 214, a divorce and shitty credit and are an alcoholic. Well, I got two of them, I'm working on the third, so I figured why fight the stereotype? I decided I'm going to be a practicing alcoholic till I can figure it out.

JARED

I'll drink to that!

The night continues, they group grows to include others. Everyone is having a good time. As the night progresses, people are getting progressively drunker. Jared and Andrew step out for a smoke, leaving Madison momentarily by herself.

The Drunk Patron returns.

DRUNK PATRON

Hey baby, you make your mind up yet? You want to try and ride a real cowboy?

Madison tries to push him away.

MADISON

Fuck off, man. I'm not interested.

DRUNK PATRON

Come on, baby. I'm just looking for a little fun.

The Drunk grabs Madison and pulls her toward him as she tries to turn away. He has his hands on her ass and is pressing her close as she pushes him away. Jared and Andrew come through the front door. Jared immediately spots Madison in trouble.

JARED

What the hell?

Jared shoves the Drunk Patron back with one hand. The Drunk Patron becomes belligerent and Jared smashes his whiskey glass on the guys face. The ensuing brawl results with Jared mounted on top of the Drunk Patron, beating him mercilessly.

ANDREW
Madison, help me!

Andrew dives on Jared, trying to stop the fight.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Madison!

She is standing silent, in shock. Andrew loses his grip on Jared, who then delivers a soccer kick to the Drunk Patron's head as he is on all fours. Madison finally recovers and she and Andrew drag Jared out of the bar.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Madison, did you drive or did he?
Madison! Madison! I need you to
focus.

MADISON
Holy shit. Holy shit holy shit holy
shit.

ANDREW
Madison- I need you to focus!

JARED
My fucking hand. Oh man-I think
it's broken.

Jared holds up his hand, which is pouring blood. The whiskey glass cut into his hand and wrist when he hit the Drunk Patron with it, severing a vein.

ANDREW
Madison, I need your help. I need
you to calm down, right now. I am
going to wrap his shirt around his
wrist and tie it tight, and I need
you to hold on to it as tight as
you can alright? And I need you to
try and keep it elevated, just like
this. Okay? He is losing a lot of
blood and we need to get him to the
hospital.

MADISON
I can't, Andrew, oh god, I cant. He
is bleeding everywhere! Holy shit!
I cant do this. I cant.

Madison continues to panic as they move toward the cars. Jared is starting to go pale, Andrew is helping him walk and covered in blood. He opens the rear passenger side door and sets JARED down.

ANDREW

Madison, you have to help me. God damn it!

MADISON

Some one called the cops, I know it. Oh God, Andrew I'm sorry! Jared, baby, stay strong. I love you, oh please...

Madison backs off helplessly and heads to her car. Andrew helps Jared to the front passenger seat. He searches for something to help stop the bleeding, but finds nothing. He rips off part of Jared's shirt to make a tourniquet.

ANDREW

Jared, buddy, you need to try and stay with me. Keep pressure on that thing man. I'm getting you to the hospital, you just have to stay awake till we get there.

Andrew continues to talk to Jared as he drives toward the hospital. He flies past a cop. The cop pulls out, flips on his lights and pulls behind him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Andrew looks over at Jared and decides to just keep going. He puts on his flashers and signals for the cop to follow. He keeps shaking Jared to keep him awake. Several police cars join the pursuit.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Andrew pulls into the ER department of the hospital, blaring his horn. He gets out of the car, hands in the air, as the police officers pull in behind him. OFFICER CALLAHAN gets out, gun drawn.

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Get your hands on the hood of your car and don't move!

ANDREW

Officer, all due respect, my friend is bleeding out.
(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

He had an accident and he is bleeding badly. Please, just let me get in-

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Get your hands on the hood of your car now!

ANDREW

He is fucking bleeding out! I'm not going anywhere, help him!

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Son, this is the last time I'm telling you.

Andrew complies as a member of HOSPITAL SECURITY comes out to investigate. Officer Callahan steps forward and peers in the vehicle. Jared is slumped over, pale and unconscious. The tourniquet has slowed the bleeding but not stopped it.

OFFICER CALLAHAN (CONT'D)

Sir, I need you to get inside and get a doctor to come help this guy out.

HOSPITAL SECURITY

They are on their way, Officer.

Officer Callahan moves to the passenger side of the car, opens the door and addresses Jared.

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Listen-(calls out to ANDREW) what's his name?

ANDREW

Jared. His name is Jared.

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Jared, I need you to try and stay with me. You're at the hospital and help is on the way. Come on, Jared.

Medical staff arrive and immediately start treating Jared.. Officer Callahan stands on the car opposite Andrew. He finally goes over to ANDREW and starts to cuff him. Two other officers move toward Officer Callahan.

OFFICER CALLAHAN (CONT'D)

Before you think of saying anything, I would advise you to shut your mouth and listen.

(MORE)

OFFICER CALLAHAN (CONT'D)

This is going to go one of two ways- I am going to search your car and if I find one thing I don't like, you are going directly to jail. Do not pass go, do not collect two hundred dollars. I don't care if Mother Theresa is giving birth to a baby in your back seat while the Easter Bunny rides shotgun, you do not run from the cops. Do you understand me? Now, sit your ass on this curb. I made sure your buddy got help and I understand you are worried about him, but I swear to God you give me anymore trouble tonight I swear I will charge you with so many traffic violations you will be shitting tickets till kingdom come. Do you understand me?

ANDREW

You got to be kidding me! You saw how bad-

Officer Callahan slams Andrew against the hood of his car.

OFFICER CALLAHAN

You have the right to remain silent and I highly advice you exercise that right before you get yourself into anymore trouble tonight.

Officer Callahan moves over to the newly arrived officers and they search Andrew's vehicle. They determine the vehicle is clean.

OFFICER CALLAHAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to do you a favor. I'm impounding your car. I could give you a field sobriety test, which you would probably fail. But if you can get some one to come pick you up, Ill do you a favor and not charge you with DUI. You're damn lucky. You have ten minutes to get some one here before I change my mind.

ANDREW

Thank you.

He is uncuffed and pulls a cell phone out of his pocket. He dials up Hannah.

INT BEDROOM - NIGHT

A phone rings on an end table. It is setting next to a set of keys and wedding ring set. A woman's hand grabs the phone.

HANNAH

Hello? Andrew? Slow down. What? Are you? Are you serious? Fine, yeah. No. Its okay. Let me find someone to watch the kids. No, Ill be right there. Yeah, give me ten minutes.

Hannah hangs up the phone. She sits angrily for a moment. Ted wakes up next to her. Both are naked.

TED

What is it?

HANNAH

Nothing. Go back to sleep. I have to go.

TED

I thought you had a sitter until morning?

HANNAH

I did but only for my kids. Apparently Andy can't last an entire night without getting in trouble.

TED

Oh come on.

Ted starts kissing her neck and running his hands over her body. She reluctantly stops him.

HANNAH

Ted, I've got to go. I'll call you tomorrow. I'm going to go pick up Andy, so don't text me. You know he already thinks something is going on between us.

TED

I didn't think he was that smart.

HANNAH

I'm serious! Stop. I'll text you when we are done.

TED

Hurry. I already miss you.

HANNAH
Thanks, Hun.

Hannah gets up to get dressed, leaving Ted to fall back asleep.

EXT HOSPITAL - LATER

Hannah pulls up, clearly angry. She gets out of the car and walks toward Andrew. Officer Callahan approaches.

OFFICER CALLAHAN
Ma'am, are you Hannah Thomas?

HANNAH
Yes sir.

OFFICER CALLAHAN
Ma'am, I am cutting your husband a huge break. He was speeding and refused to yield when I attempted to pull him over. He tied up several officers tonight and scared the hell out of us, Ma'am. If not for his friend bleeding in the passenger seat, he would be going to jail for a long time. I will have to impound the vehicle and I believe the gentlemen he brought in is wanted in connection with a felony assault so I will definitely be contacting your husband in the next couple of days to get a more detailed statement. As it is, you need to get him home before he gets himself into anymore trouble.

HANNAH
Wait, he what? What friend? What the hell is going on?

OFFICER CALLAHAN
Ma'am, your husband brought a man to the hospital tonight he claims he is friends with. The man, first name Jared, we are still waiting to get a solid id on him, has serious cuts to his right hand and wrist. He nearly bled to death in your husband's car.

Andrew is let out of the back of a cop car he had been placed in. He rushes over to Hannah and hugs her. She is stiff and unwieldy.

ANDREW

Oh thank god you got here. Hun this has been the craziest night...

HANNAH

Andrew, I let you out for one night, one! And you manage to get yourself arrested-

ANDREW

I didn't get arrested, they are letting me go.

HANNAH

Andy-don't. Just don't.

Silently, they both get in the car. Hannah is seething.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Jared's arm has been sutured, his hand and wrist are a spider web of stitches. He holds his arm close to his body as DOCTOR WRIGHT briefs him on wound care.

DOCTOR WRIGHT

You're going to want to take it easy for a couple of weeks. You have both internal and external sutures holding the wound closed. The internal sutures will dissolve automatically and I want to see you again in about six weeks time to take a look at the rest. Keep your arm elevated as much as possible, the NSAIDS will help keep the swelling to a minimum. I gave you enough Percocet to last about a week, the majority of the pain should subside by then. Keep an eye out for obvious signs of infection, if the wounds become swollen and tender, present streaks of white radiating out from the wound, or there is type of pussy discharge, you need to come in immediately. There may be some clear liquid or blood seeping out of the wound, that is normal.

(MORE)

DOCTOR WRIGHT (CONT'D)

You also need to lay off the alcohol for a while, especially while taking the pain relievers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our help line. Do you have any questions?

Jared is only halfheartedly listening.

JARED

No, that's great Doc.

JARED walks out of the hospital, pulls out his cell phone and a pack of cigarettes, lighting up as he makes a call. Whoever he is calling does not answer, he tries a second number. And a third. Cursing, he finally calls a cab.

EXT HOSPITAL - MORNING

A cab pulls up. Jared extinguishes his cigarette as he gets in.

EXT. LONGHORNS BAR - LATER

The cab pulls up, Jared gets out. He is walking to his car when the bar owner, WADE, walks out.

WADE

Hey asshole! I know you're the guy who trashed my bar last night!

Jared ignores him as he works to get his car unlocked.

WADE (CONT'D)

Hey, dip shit? I'm fucking talking to you! Yeah, retard, you left your debit card at the bar, Jared M fucking Robert! I called the cops you piece of shit. You are going to pay for all the damage you did to my bar!

Jared gets in his car without responding. He pulls away as Wade runs behind his car yelling at him.

EXT. JAREDS HOME - MORNING

Jared pulls in, gets out of his car and heads into his house, which is empty. He pulls out his cell phone and dials a number again.

INT. JAREDS HOME - MORNING

Jared is listening to the phone as he grabs a beer from the fridge. His house is sparse but surprisingly well kept. He has few photos or decorations, except for a few pictures of him and fellow Rangers on deployment.

MADISON (O.S.)

Hey, y'all. Its Mady! I'm not here right now, you know what to do! Leave a message or send a text!

JARED

Fuck.

Jared sits on the couch drinking. The lights are off. He gets up to get a second beer. While up, he opens the Percocet bottle with one hand and dry swallows a couple pills.

When he returns to the couch, he sees SSG ERIC Williams, who was killed in action during the firefight that JARED received his Bronze Star for.

SSG WILLIAMS

Jesus H Christ. What the fuck did you get yourself into now, buck sergeant?

JARED

What are you doing here, asshole? You do know you're supposed to be dead, right?

Jared offers SSG Williams a beer. He accepts.

SSG WILLIAMS

Just because I'm dead doesn't mean I don't get to keep your ass in line, Ranger.

JARED

I miss you, man.

SSG WILLIAMS

Me, too. It's been awhile.

JARED

Almost two years.

They sit in silence for a moment, drinking. SSG WILLIAMS waits.

JARED (CONT'D)

It just hasn't been the same since you left. Nothing makes sense anymore, man. You were invincible, dude. Fuck, you remember that time in Tikrit-

SSG WILLIAMS

Oh, lord not that again. When they hit our compound with a VBIED and I was in the gym?

JARED

Yeah man, that was fucking classic. There we are, smoke billowing, gunfire going off and all you could say is-

SSG WILLIAMS

I got one more rep, man! This is bullshit!

They both laugh at the memory.

JARED

Those were good times.

SSG WILLIAMS

I still cant believe they tried blowing up our gym, of all things. Fucking assholes.

JARED

Yeah.

The silence returns.

SSG WILLIAMS

You know it wasn't your fault, Jared. You handled yourself well. You did yourself, you did all of us, proud.

Jared sits, struggling.

SSG WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

I always wanted to thank you for what you did that day. And not just that, but for my family. You did a great job at the funeral. I almost cried. Almost. Fortunately I'm not a pussy like you.

JARED

It was incredible, man. Everyone showed up, we were all dressed in our blues. You were a hero going home. And after you were killed, man we turned that place upside down. They learned not to fuck with us. We did raids every night for two weeks, scooping up anyone and everyone until we caught the guy who masterminded the whole thing.

SSG WILLIAMS

It's over, Jared. It's done.

JARED

I know, I just don't get it. I don't. People don't give a shit. I watched you bleed out on some godforsaken street in the middle of fucking nowhere, and for what? The war is over, people just want to forget, to move on. They don't care what happens to us, to our families. People see my tattoos and treat me like a goddamn criminal. Like I'm some kind of animal. I used to be somebody, used to stand for something. And this is it, this is all that's left. Memories I don't want and a life I can't stand. I tried college, but that shit is pointless. Fucking 18 year old kids who don't know anything talking about how hard life is and how they are struggling. Go fuck yourself, struggling! They don't know anything about it, not one damn thing. I am so sorry.

Jared breaks down crying. SSG Williams comforts him.

SSG WILLIAMS

I'm proud of you, Jared. I am. You can't let this shit get to you. You need to ranger the fuck up, man. Drive the fuck on.

JARED

For what?

SSG WILLIAMS

When I chased that guy into the building, I knew something was up.
(MORE)

SSG WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

I knew he rabbitied for a reason. It just didn't make sense. Why run? He didn't have anything on him, no weapons, nothing. But I just reacted. I'm chasing this guy down a back alley, you guys trailing behind me, and he dips into an open door. Everything inside me was screaming to stop but I didn't. I just kept going. I wanted to know what he was hiding, why he was running. I was tired and angry and just couldn't take one more day of getting shot at from everywhere and having nothing to shoot back at. So I chased him. And as soon as I hit the inside of the building, I was toast. Basic day one shit. I didn't even think about clearing my sector or engaging a threat, all I could think was--this guy is going to pay for every raghead that has shot at me. It was stupid bravado. That's what got me killed. I never even saw the guy hiding in the corner, I just heard the first gunshot and felt pain. And then there you guys were, fucking Rangers all the way owning the battle space and dealing death. I could not have been prouder.

JARED

I didn't know what to do. I didn't even have time to process, we were just moving. I heard the first shot and I knew you had gone down. That was the last ambush any of those fuckers conducted, I promise you that. You know they gave me a bronze star for that shit? You get killed and I get a medal. It doesn't make any sense.

SSG WILLIAMS

If it was up to me, I would have given you a Silver Star. You did good, Jared. You kept your head and saved our guys. No bullshit, man. You got it down. Not bad, for a douchebag from Cali.

Jared continues to struggle.

JARED

I just don't know where to go from here. After you died, nothing made sense. It still doesn't.

SSG WILLIAMS

You know what you do? You live. You move on. You pick yourself up and drive on. You have to. Your not doing anything for anyone just sitting here feeling sorry for yourself. You owe me more than that. Fuck, man.

JARED

I know.

SSG WILLIAMS

God, I miss beer. And women. And beer. Did I mention beer? Guys always want pussy, but I'd rather be drunk then get laid. I never regret talking a cheap six pack home and good Lord I have woken up next to some ugly women. (Pauses) You need to stop. Let this go.

JARED

Come on, man. Lay off.

SSG WILLIAMS

Jared, shut the fuck up and listen. You can't keep holding on to this. I died. Big deal, get out it. I did and I'm the one who got shot! If it was your ass that got lit up I sure as shit wouldn't pull this BS.

JARED

You don't understand, man. You were everything to me. I looked up to you.

SSG WILLIAMS

You're short, Jared. You look up to everyone.

JARED

Fuck you, Dude.

SSG WILLIAMS

I'm serious. You are worst than a rangerette on pay day.

Jared laughs.

SSG WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

You know when I got hit, I knew we were in trouble. I had chased this guy down an alley into a building, we had no overwatch, I was bleeding out and our backs were against a wall. I could have gotten you all killed. I was lucky you were there.

JARED

You died. How is that lucky?

SSG WILLIAMS

Because it was me that got killed and not you or any of the other guys. It was my fault, running shit hot after that guy for no damn reason. Then I go down and get you guys all almost killed. You-you stepped up. You fought like a demon, like a mother fucking Ranger. I was proud of you. But this? Drinking, feeling sorry for yourself, you are so much better than this. When do you stop being a Ranger? You think just because you don't wear the uniform anymore you get a free pass? You still represent me, you represent us all. You want to honor me? Grow the fuck up, ruck up and Charlie Mike. Live your life. Get some girl pregnant and be miserable mowing grass for the next forty years. And for the love of God, let me rest in peace.

JARED

Where do I even start?

SSG WILLIAMS

You'll figure it out. You have to. Its your turn to lead. Rangers lead the way.

JARED

All the way.

Jared finishes his beer, sitting alone again. A second can of beer sits on the table, in front of the now empty seat.

INT POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Officer Callahan is filing his paperwork on the DUI. He is making small talk with another officer when Trevor Dexter, now a Houston police officer walks up to him.

TREVOR

I was just going over the dailies for today- you said you pulled a guy by the name of Andrew Thomas over?

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Yeah. Well, I tried to pull him over. He had another male in the car with him, the guy was bleeding pretty bad. I impounded his car and sent him on his way. Why?

TREVOR

You said he called his wife?

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Yeah.

TREVOR

What was her name?

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Heather? I don't remember. It started with an "H". It should be in my report if you need it.

TREVOR

Hannah. Was it Hannah?

OFFICER CALLAHAN

That's it.

TREVOR

I'll be damned. Yeah- get me a copy of that report.

INT. THOMAS HOME - NIGHT

HANNAH

I have to go. I'm sorry I tried getting out of it but it's a work function. You sure you'll be okay with the kids?

ANDREW

You look awfully good for a "work function". Trying to impress the new boss?

HANNAH (DEFENSIVELY)

His name is Ted. And we both work for him. I told you before—you have nothing to worry about. He has been helping me out all at work. That's all. Maybe if you focused on finding a better paying job and getting us out of this slum—

ANDREW

I was joking. Seriously, you look incredible. I'm sorry. I love you and I know how hard this has been on you. I promise it won't be like this forever.

Hannah continues to get ready.

HANNAH

That is always the problem. It's always you saying it will get better. First it was the endless deployments and the moving from place to place. I just thought you would be a little more prepared than you were.

ANDREW

I am killing myself working full time and trying to balance school with you and the kids. I am doing everything

HANNAH

Everything you can. I know Andy. That's all I ever here. Tell the kids I said good night.

Hannah walks out without kissing him good night.

JOSEPH
Dad are you in trouble again?

ANDREW
I always am, buddy.

They both laugh.

SARAH ELIZABETH
You boys are all the same. Joey is
always getting in trouble at
school.

ANDREW
Isn't that the truth. Let's do
movie and a popcorn. What do you
guys think?

JOSEPH
I'll get the popcorn!

SARAH ELIZABETH
Can I pick the movie?

JOSEPH
I want to pick it!

SARAH ELIZABETH
You're getting the popcorn.

JOSEPH
Then you get the popcorn!

SARAH ELIZABETH
Dad!

ANDREW
I'm picking the movie. Now both of
you calm down.

EXT GYM NIGHT

Hannah pulls in to see Ted leaning against his war, smiling
roguishly.

TED
You ready?

They embrace in a deep kiss.

HANNAH
 I can't tell you how much I need
 this, Ted. Thank you. For
 everything.

They get in the car and drive off.

INT THOMAS HOME - NIGHT

Andrew is sitting on the couch, both kids laying on him, fast asleep. There is popcorn strewn about. He gently stands up and put the kids to bed, kissing each gently. He is cleaning up when his phone rings. He doesn't recognize the number.

ANDREW
 Hello?

TREVOR (O.S.)
 Is this Specialist Andrew Thomas?

ANDREW
 Excuse me?

TREVOR
 Specialist Andrew Thomas, 82nd
 Airborne Division?

Andrew finally recognizes the voice on the line.

ANDREW
 It's Staff Sergeant to you,
 Specialist Dexter. Now elevate your
 feet.

TREVOR
 Staff Sergeant? Oh lord, they
 really lowered the standard didn't
 they?

ANDREW
 Fuck you. Oh man- Trevor. How the
 hell are you? How did you get my
 number?

TREVOR
 One of my officers pulled you over
 a couple nights ago.

ANDREW
 Holy cow. Are you kidding me? You
 became a cop?

TREVOR

I sure did. Rachel is nursing, thinking about going for her masters. I got a slot in the Academy a couple months after getting out. How are you?

Andrew is smiling as he continues to clean.

ANDREW

Great, man. The kids are growing like weeds.

TREVOR

How old are they now? Sarah has to be almost 10?

ANDREW

She is 9. Joey is 7.

TREVOR

That is awesome, brother. I just wanted to touch base with you, I know it's late. Call me this weekend, we will get together. Bring Hannah.

ANDREW

I will, man. Give Rachel my love.

He hangs up and finishes cleaning. He sends Hannah a brief text to tell her he loves her and to be safe. He lays down to sleep.

EXT THOMAS HOME - LATER

Hannah stumbles to the door and fumbles for her keys. She receives a text which she reads and giggles. She texts back, leaning against the house for support. She finally opens the door.

INT. THOMAS HOME

Hannah drops hers keys and purse and carelessly discards her shoes as she moves down the hall. She steadies herself and tries to act somber as she walks into the bedroom. Andrew stirs.

ANDREW

Hannah? Is that you?

HANNAH

I'm fine Andy. I'm here. Go back to bed.

ANDREW

I tried calling around 1. You didn't pick up.

HANNAH (DEFENSIVELY)

I am fine, Andy. I was at the work party. It ran late. I didn't have time to check my phone every two seconds.

ANDREW

I was just worried is all. You have fun?

HANNAH

It was fine.

ANDREW

Just fine?

HANNAH

For Christ Sake! I am tired, my feet hurt and I just want to sleep. Can we play this fucking game in the morning?

Hannah curls up and closes her eyes. Andrew remains sitting up, unsure what to do. Her phone begins to vibrate, signaling a text message. It goes off a second time moments later. Andrew picks up the phone and reads the screen.

HANNAH (TEXT) (CONT'D)

When can I see again?

TED (TEXT)

You better remember to delete this before you get home!

HANNAH (TEXT)

I will! Tonight was perfect

TED (TEXT)

It was.

TED (TEXT) (CONT'D)

ARE YOU STILL UP?

TED (TEXT) (CONT'D)

HANNAH?

Andrew is frozen in rage. He wakes Hannah.

ANDREW
What the fuck is this, Hannah?

HANNAH
What are you doing with me phone?

She reaches for it. He pulls it away.

ANDREW
What is this?

HANNAH
Andrew. Come to bed.

ANDREW
Hannah- What the fuck is this>

HANNAH
Stop being dramatic. It is a text from my boss. We can talk about it in the morning.

ANDREW
Why is he texting you at 3 in the morning? What did you guys do tonight that you had to delete texts?

HANNAH
It was a work function! It ran late. You are being stupid. Come to bed.

ANDREW
I want the truth Hannah. What is this?

HANNAH
Oh my god, Andy. Are you serious? After all that crap you put me through, you are accusing me of being dishonest? Nothing is going on. Ted is my boss, and he has been nothing but supportive. He is just a friend. Stop worrying and come to bed.

ANDREW
And I am supposed to believe that?

HANNAH
I don't care what you believe. Just
come to bed.

Hannah goes back to sleep. Andrew stands, fuming. The phone
buzzes. And buzzes again. And again. He looks at it.

TED (TEXT)
Thinking of you.

Andrew looks at the phone, rage boiling. He closes his eyes
for a moment, unsure. Finally he looks down at the phone. He
types a simple message:

ANDREW (TEXT)
What are you thinking about?

TED (TEXT)
You asking if you can put your head
in my lap and then two hours later
us melting until we are tangled
together on the couch.

Andrew exhales violently then tosses the phone onto the bed.

ANDREW
Wake up! Hannah!

HANNAH
What?

ANDREW
Get the fuck out. Now.

HANNAH
Excuse me?

ANDREW
I didn't stutter. I know what is
going on with you and Ted. Get. The
Fuck. OUT!

HANNAH
Andrew nothing is going on. You re
being crazy!

ANDREW
He just said you to ended up
kissing and on a couch together.

HANNAH
When did he say that?

ANDREW

He sent you a text saying he was thinking of you. And I asked what he was thinking about- and he said you kissed and ended up wrapped up on the couch together.

HANNAH

What are you doing reading my texts? You are crazy. There is nothi-

ANDREW

STOP LYING TO ME!

HANNAH

I am going to sleep in the kid's room. We will talk in the morning. You are being ridiculous.

Hannah shows Andrew out of the way. He reacts angrily, slamming her against the wall.

ANDREW

Why can't you just tell me? I already know, the proof is on the phone and you still can't be honest!

Sarah Elizabeth enters and immediately starts yelling at her dad.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Dad! Stop it! You are scaring Mommy! Breathe, Dad!

ANDREW

Why can't you tell me!

Sarah Elizabeth runs down the hall to get her brother.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Joey! Joey come quick!

Joey walks up and runs down the hall after his sister.

BOTH KIDS

Dad! Stop! You are scaring mommy! Calm down! Daddy!

Andrew finally looks down at this kids, then back his wife, then at his kids. He releases his hold of her arms and steps back. Hannah collapses in sobs and both children run to her.

ANDREW
Oh God. I... Oh god.

Andrew grabs his keys and leaves.

EXT. THOMAS NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew is walking barefoot down the street. He dials Trevor's number.

ANDREW
Trevor? I need help. Can you come
get me? Yeah. Now.

INT DEXTER HOME - MORNING

Trevor sit at a table drinking coffee. Rachel walks in, carrying the coffee pot to refill their cups.

RACHEL
Andy, it is OK. Just tell us what
is going on.

ANDREW
I don't know what to do. I just, I
just snapped. I can't believe-I
know things have been tough but I
thought they were getting better. I
have been killing myself trying to
make things better, just trying to
help her and the kids adjust. And
she just kept saying it was
nothing, nothing, I was being
ridiculous, they were just
friends...(slams hand on table,
breaking down)

Rachel and Trevor exchange looks, heartbroken for their friend. Rachel puts her hand on Andrew's arm.

RACHEL
Andy, I know this is hard. I know
it is. When Trevor and I first got
out, you know how hard it was for
us. It took us years to get back on
our feet. We lived with his
grandmother for two years.
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

He couldn't find steady work, the police force wouldn't hire him at first, I was trying to finish up my nursing degree, it seemed like nothing would get better. You guys are doing great.

ANDREW

She is cheating on me, Rach, I know it.

RACHEL

Andy, right now you need to not even worry about that. You can't control what she is or isn't doing. You need help. You need to figure you out, get stable, and get yourself settled. Give it a couple hours, let yourself settle down. Ill call her. You know Hannah and I always got along. We love you, we love Hannah, and we love the kids. You cant stay here till things settle down and we will do whatever we can to help out.

ANDREW

Rachel- I don't even know to say or think...

TREVOR

Andy, relax man. You are freaking out about stuff that you can't anything about right now. Stay here, let us take care of thing. Rachel will handle Hannah, let me take care of you. I know this really good group that helps people with all sorts of stuff. I'm used to baby-sitting you anyway, right?

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAYS LATER

Sarah Elizabeth and Joseph are on the playground and run to Andrew when they see him walking toward them.

BOTH KIDS

Daddy!

SARAH ELIZABETH

Daddy! We miss you so much!

JOSEPH

When are you coming home? We miss you!

Joseph gives his Dad an extra long hug.

ANDREW

Hey buddy, why don't you go show me how fast you can run now?

Joseph races off, excited.

HANNAH

I'll be back in about two hours. If you guys go anywhere else please text me.

ANDREW

Thank you, Hannah.

Hannah leaves.

SARAH ELIZABETH

You scared me, Daddy. You made mommy cry. I think you scared her too.

ANDREW

I know, honey. I know. I wanted to talk to you about that. Want to walk with me?

SARAH ELIZABETH

You really scared me, Daddy. I was screaming at you to stop and you wouldn't listen.

ANDREW

I know honey, I know. You understand that what Daddy did was wrong? No matter what happens, no matter what Mommy ever did or does, she should never be treated that way?

SARAH ELIZABETH

I know, Daddy. You were just upset.

ANDREW

No, Sarah, that doesn't matter. It is important you understand how wrong it was for me to act like that. What is it I always tell you guys all the time?

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Its okay to get angry but not to let it control you? Your mother, and you, and Joey should always feel safe and loved and protected around me. And I was not doing that at all.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Daddy, its okay.

ANDREW

No, baby, its not. It really isn't. And I am telling you this so you know-I was wrong. In every way. And I want you to know, it took a lot of courage for you and Joey to stand up for Mommy like you did. I'm proud of you.

SARAH ELIZABETH

You do the same for us all the time, Daddy.

ANDREW

I want you to understand, we hold each other to the same standard. And even Daddy messes up. So Ill be staying with Uncle Dexter for a while. And I'm going to work at fixing this. I want you to know how serious I am. You, Mommy, Joey, you all deserved better. And what do we always say? Succeed as a family...

SARAH ELIZABETH

Fail as a family, but we are always family. I know. I love you! Lets go play.

They both race off to catch up with Joseph.

EXT. THOMAS HOME - EVENING

Andrew pulls up and honks the horn as the kids get out. They both hug their dad.

JOSEPH

Can't you stay with us just for a little while?

ANDREW

Not tonight, Joey. You guys have to get baths and ready for school. Be good for Mommy.

JOSEPH

I love you Dad.

ANDREW

I love you, too.

Hannah opens the front door.

HANNAH

Hey guys! Did you have fun with Dad?

BOTH KIDS

Yes!!!!

HANNAH

Get inside and wash up. It's almost bed time.

The hug their Dad one more time.

ANDREW

Hannah...

Hannah turns away.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Please talk to me.

HANNAH

Or else what, Andrew? Are you going to yell at me again? Check my phone for texts from my boss? My boss, Andrew. That's it. My co-worker. Not my boyfriend, not some guy I'm sleeping with, my boss.

ANDREW

I know, Hannah. I know. I am sorry.

HANNAH

You cant do that, Andrew! You cant just go off like that and say your sorry and expect everything to be aright.

ANDREW

Hannah, I am trying. And you are right. 100 percent.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I never should have lost my temper, I should have trusted you, and you don't ever deserve to be treated that way, ever. I was wrong. And I had to tell our little girl that if I ever act like that again to call 911. Do you understand how humiliating that is? But you deserve to be safe and secure and protected, and I am supposed to do that for you...even if it means I have to protect you from me. I just wanted you to know how sorry I really am. And I started this new recovery this-I am committed to fixing this, to fixing me, to never allowing this to happen again.

HANNAH

That's great, Andy. I'm really happy for you. But that doesn't change anything.

ANDREW

Give me one month. That's all I'm asking. One month. Let me prove to you how serious I am.

HANNAH stands, indecisive. Finally-

HANNAH

Okay. Now get going, I have to get the kids in bed.

She closes the door and Andrew smiles at the small victory.

EXT JAREDS HOME - THE NEXT DAY

Jared is getting dressed, his arm still bandage and heavily damaged. Andrew is there, helping him out.

JARED

Thanks for helping me out, man. The judge says as long as I keep going to these meeting and pay for the guys medical bills, they will suspend the kail time and give me a reduced sentence.

ANDREW

No problem, man. Just try not to bleed all over my car again. I just got it cleaned out finally.

JARED
No problem, man.

They both laugh.

JARED (CONT'D)
How are things with you and the wife?

ANDREW
I don't know man. I snapped the other day. I lost it.

JARED
Why?

ANDREW
She came home drunk and she was acting strange. I found some texts from her boss and just lost it.

JARED
Dude, I don't know your woman that well, but I know you. You're a good dude, and I'm telling you this as your brother-she is playing you.

ANDREW
Thanks, brother.

Jared finishes getting ready.

INT CHURCH - NIGHT

The church is set up like a standard recovery meeting- there is coffee and snacks, a circle of chairs, and sparse decorations. Everyone involved is a veteran. The leader of the recovery group, TOM stands in the middle of the circle of chairs.

TOM
Id like to welcome all our new members, and I just want to remind you all, sharing is voluntary. This is a safe place, anything you say will be kept in confidence.

Mikey, a young, disgruntled former Marine, is the first up.

MIKEY
So, I just want to say this is bullshit.
(MORE)

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I'm here because of a court order and they say its either this or jail. So I'm here.

The group laughs.

TOM

Welcome.

MIKEY

Yeah, right. Anyway, I drank to much one night and accidentally through a bar stool through a bar window. And that's my story. Thanks for letting me share.

ALL

Thanks for sharing.

The men in the circle all share, some laughs, some tears, but very similar stories. Most are surprisingly young.

ANDREW

Well, I'm Andy and I don't have a drinking.

Everyone laughs

ANDREW (CONT'D)

No, seriously. I am here to support a friend.

TOM

And does your "friend have a drinking problem?

The men laugh.

ANDREW

Of course, he is sitting right here.

Andrew motions toward Jared, still a little confused by the laughter. After a moment he finally gets the joke and laughs himself.

TOM

Well, this group isn't just about addictions. It is designed specifically to help veterans who are struggling with adjusting to the "outside world", so to speak. You sure there is nothing you need help with?

ANDREW
Besides his drinking problem?

He wryly points at Jared, drawing laughs again.

JARED
Fuck you, man! (Jokingly)

TOM
Yes. It's a safe place to share.

ANDREW
My wife kicked me out of the house for a night, I met him, then the next thing you know I'm driving him to the hospital, he's bleeding to death and the cops are arresting me. It was an interesting night.

MIKEY
Remind me never to go drinking with him.

TOM
Or at all. Since this is a recovery program.

Several men chuckle.

ANDREW
Well, since then, my car got impounded, I got into a fight with my wife because I thought she was cheating on me, scared the hell out of my kids, got kicked out of the house and now live with one of my only friend. So there's that. Thanks for letting me share, I guess.

TOM
Thanks for sharing. On that note we will take a short 15 minute break.

INT CHURCH - BREAK TIME

Everyone is gathered around the coffee and snacks. JENNY , a cute 28 year old therapist, is mingling and talking with the various group members. She is very empathetic, attentive, very astute. She approaches Andrew.

JENNY
I'm Jenny.

ANDREW

Really?

JENNY

Yes. Why is that funny?

ANDREW

A cute blonde named Jenny? From the south?

Jenny looks at him, confused.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(Imitating Tom Hanks from Forest Gump) "Why don't you love me, Jenny? I'm not a smart man but I know what love is."

JENNY

Well that confirms it.

ANDREW

Confirms what?

JENNY

You are unoriginal and an asshole.

They both laugh.

ANDREW

It's my forte.

JENNY

So you are an unoriginal, unfunny, non-addict who comes to recovery meetings?

ANDREW

I like free coffee and stale donuts.

JENNY

You could've become a cop.

ANDREW

There's always that.

JENNY

Just an observation. (She smiles)
So what are you doing here.

ANDREW

Like I said-I met Jared at a bar, he got into a bar fight, cut his hand open and I was really his only option to get to the hospital. If I knew he was going to bleed all over the upholstery I may have let him just lie there.

JENNY

Are you guys friends?

ANDREW

No. We actually just met that night. We're both vets and kind of became friends. And now I sort of feel responsible for him. He is a great guy who has been through a lot.

JENNY

And you?

ANDREW

What about me?

JENNY

Who baby-sits you?

ANDREW

Who baby-sits me?

JENNY

Yes.

ANDREW

(Laughs) Well, my 9 year old does a pretty good job. She is pretty much older than me. Which is good because between me and my 7 year old son, she has her hands full.

JENNY

You really love your kids, I can tell.

ANDREW

It's why I am here. I mean, besides Jared.

JENNY

How so?

ANDREW

It's a long story.

JENNY

So I heard. Well, Andrew, I am always here if you need me. Part of my job is to assist veterans in overcoming addictions, as well as personal problems. Let me give you my business card.

She pulls out a business card and hands it to him. He regards it for a minute before putting it in his wallet.

ANDREW

Thanks, Doc. I'll keep that in mind.

They finish their drinks and head back to the meeting.

EXT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Andrew sits nervously at a table, dressed in a sport coat and khakis his hair done and facial hair neatly trimmed. He checks his watch and taps nervously on the table.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Hannah sits in her car, talking on the phone.

HANNAH

I just felt bad for him. I had to say yes... I know, I know. Look, I will call you when I get done. And don't text me! You know how crazy he gets. I just have to play nice until I get everything worked out with the lawyers... I miss you, too. And I promise, this weekend, your cabin, no interruptions. NO! I have to go!

HANNAH hangs up the phone, then makes sure to delete her call log. She gets out of the car and steadies herself. She walks toward the restaurant where Andrew is waiting. She sighs, puts on a smile, and walks toward him. He sees her, clearly taken by her beauty.

ANDREW

I don't know how you do it. Ten years later, and you still take my breath away.

HANNAH

Thank you!

He hugs her deeply. They sit through dinner, Hannah playing the part of the loving wife. They laugh and joke. The waiter comes up to take their order.

WAITER

Welcome to Tulsa's. My name is William, I'll be taking care of you tonight. Can I get you started with something to drink?

ANDREW

I'll just take some water.

HANNAH

I'll take a glass of red wine.

WAITER

I'll go get those drinks for you.

ANDREW

Man, I miss this. You remember the first time we came here? Back when it was an old Irish pub? What was that, 12 years ago?

HANNAH

How could I forget? You were so handsome, such a charmer.

ANDREW

I had to be! Lets not forget somebody had a boyfriend at the time. She just forgot to tell me.

HANNAH

You knew I had a boyfriend! His picture was on my dashboard!

ANDREW

Um, you told me you had a boyfriend after I was already back at your house and drunk. And remember when you kissed me? You got so embarrassed you covered your mouth and ran away giggling?

HANNAH

I remember. You were so handsome and yet so unsure of yourself. It was cute. God, we were young.

ANDREW

Yeah.

The WAITER arrives with their drinks.

WAITER

Ill be back shortly to take your order

ANDREW

No problem.

HANNAH

I feel kind of awkward. I feel like I should be wearing mine (reaches across the table and touches Andy's wedding ring) People probably think I'm your mistress. I hope its more fun than being your wife.

ANDREW

At least you know the sex will be good.

HANNAH

And you think you will be getting some tonight?

ANDREW

Red wine? A night a way from the kids? I don't know...(smiles)

They both laugh despite themselves. The date night continues, they walk hand in hand, sharing memories and laughter, the picture of a couple in love.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

Hannah and Andrew walk toward her car, hand in hand. As Andrew hugs Hannah good night, she kisses him impulsively. She opens the door to the back seat and they both lay down inside. Andrew pauses for a moment.

ANDREW

Are you sure about this?

She kisses him in response.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I love you. I really do.

INT CAR - LATER

They are laying in the backseat, both out of breath. He kisses her sweetly on the cheek.

ANDREW

I know this doesn't change what happened. But I love you, Hannah. And I will continue to do everything I can to fix this. I love you.

HANNAH

I love you, too.

They kiss again as they both collect themselves.

ANDREW

Are you sure I can't come home?

HANNAH

Not tonight. Not yet, Andy. Let's take this slow.

They both get out, Hannah kisses his cheek and Andrew heads to his car. Hannah gets in her car and sits silently for several moments. Finally she pulls out her phone and starts texting.

EXT. DEXTER HOME - NIGHT

Andrew is talking to Trevor, energized by his night.

ANDREW

It was amazing, Dex. It was so incredible. She looked so beautiful. It was just like old times and she just lit up. This has been such an incredible journey. I really think things are starting to turn. I cannot wait to see her again. I feel like we are dating again. She laughed and we held hands and walked around smiling and just being in love.

TREVOR

I'm excited for you I really am. I'm proud of the way you have stepped up and really taken this on. Everyone knows how much you love her and those kids.

(MORE)

TREVOR (CONT'D)

You have to understand that not everyone gets a second chance like this and you have to be patient. Keep working the program and taking it one day at a time. She has got to know that this is a long term commitment for you.

ANDREW

I don't know how to explain it. I feel such freedom from my past, like I know I don't have to be tied down by the mistakes. Like I finally have a chance to step away from all the hurt and brokenness I've caused and really be the man I always should have been. To love her and treat her the way she always deserved. To be that father and husband I always know I could be and should have been.

TREVOR

Andy, you are doing a really great job. You have made such progress in such a short time. Just keep working it a little at a time.

Rachel walks in the front door in her nursing scrubs.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Hey babe!

They kiss.

RACHEL

What are my two favorite men doing up so late? How was the date?

TREVOR

Our little boy is growing up so fast!

ANDREW

It was amazing Rachel. It was just quiet and she was laughing and seemed so happy.

RACHEL

I'm so proud of you, Andy! I told you things would get better for you. Not you both need to get to sleep!

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You, mister (pointing at Trevor)
have work in the morning and Andy
is supposed to be spending the
weekend with two very excited kids!

Everyone heads to bed. Andrew is getting undressed when his
phone rings. He is surprised by it and answers it hopefully.

ANDREW

Hannah?

JARED (O.S.)

Who? No, bro. It's Jared.

ANDREW

Sorry. What's up?

JARED

Bro., We need your help. Mikey
called me, he is having a bad trip
or something. I still can't really
fucking drive. Can you come get me?
I think he is really in trouble.

ANDREW

I'll be there in ten mikes.

Andrew hangs up the keys and hurriedly gets re-dressed.

EXT. JAREDS HOME - NIGHT

Andrew pulls up and honks his horn. Jared comes out of the
house quickly.

ANDREW

What is going on, man?

JARED

I don't know, Mikey called me and
he was just rambling, he sounded
all fucked up. I couldn't
understand him. He kept mumbling
"too much, too much" or some shit
like that. I think he is at his
place. It's not far.

ANDREW

Aright. Shit.

Andrew drums impatiently on the steering wheel and then pulls
out his phone.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Dex? Yeah-sorry brother. No, I'm fine. I think a friend of mine might be overdosing. Help me out, this is a little outside my wheel house. Yep. Aright. Thanks, man. Will do.

JARED

What did he say?

ANDREW

Call 911. Get him to the hospital as soon as possible, make sure we keep his airway open, keep him conscious if we can, make sure he doesn't go into cardiac arrest or shock. Fuck.

They drive on through the night.

EXT APARTMENT - NIGHT

Andrew and Jared pull up and rush out of the car. They head into the apartment.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

They are checking apartment numbers, trying to find Mikey's. Finally, they find the apartment.

JARED

Mikey? Brother?

Jared knocks a few times. No response.

ANDREW

Check the door.

Jared checks the doorknob. It is unlocked.

INT APARTMENT - LATER

Andrew and Jared enter to find MIKEY on the floor, shaking badly. He is curled in a ball. They exchange looks and immediately begin to assess him. He is burning up and skin is blotchy, he is clearly going into shock.

ANDREW

Check his...

JARED

Yeah. Got it.

Jared is already falling back on his military training, taking off Mikey's shoes, undoing his pants and loosening restrictive clothing. Andrew is on the phone.

ANDREW

Fuck, he is burning up. (Pause)
Yeah, I'm calling to report an overdose. 24 year old, unknown substance... no, he is unconscious. Labored breathing... I think he might be going into shock... one sec.. (To JARED) You know what he took?

JARED

No clue man. Let me see what I can find.

Jared searches the apartment, which is strewn with beer bottles and in disarray. He searches the bedroom, the checks the night stands, searches the bathroom, mumbling to himself. He is clearly concerned with his new friend.

He finally gets an idea and heads to the kitchen. He finds a bottle of pills next to the fridge. He calls out to Andrew.

JARED (CONT'D)

Hey- I think this is what he was taking.

Jared tosses the bottle to Andrew.

ANDREW

Mikey-Mikey! Come on man, stay with me here, brother. (Continues to talk to operator) Yeah- we think he was taking these pills, I am pretty sure he has been drinking pretty heavily. Yeah. Mikey! Come the fuck on man, stay with me!

Mikey continues to be mostly unresponsive. The paramedics arrive and immediately begin to treat and stabilize him.

JARED

Hey, this is the shit we think he was taking. Can we follow you guys to the hospital?

PARAMEDICS

Are either of you family?

JARED

No, we don't know where his family is.

PARAMEDICS

Yeah-you guys can follow us to the hospital. They'll probably have some questions once you guys get there.

Mikey is already loaded on the gurney and heading out.

PARAMEDICS (CONT'D)

Most guys like this end up dead. People get nervous when their friends OD. You guys probably saved his life.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - MORNING

Andrew and Jared are sitting in the waiting room, anxious. Tom and Jenny walk in and look for them briefly and approach swiftly once they are spotted.

TOM

Any news yet?

ANDREW

He's doing okay, I guess. They have him back there, really haven't told us much. I'm pretty sure we got there in time.

JENNY

Thank God.

JARED

Yeah-he was in a pretty bad way by the time we got there. Once again-Andy road in to save the day.

Jenny looks at him and smiles approvingly.

ANDREW

He called Jared, Jared is the one who made sure he got taken care of. I was just the chauffeur. I guess...

He stops talking as a doctor walks out and looks at Andrew and his group. He waves them over.

DOCTOR WRIGHT

Your friend is doing fine. He is stable, we are going to keep him for the next 24 hours for monitoring. It is important that he be monitored closely once he is released.

JENNY

We are set up to help in situations like this. We have a certified alcohol and narcotics counselor on site, as well as room he can stay in.

DOCTOR WRIGHT

That should work.

Doctor Wright looks at Jared.

DOCTOR WRIGHT (CONT'D)

How is your arm healing?

JARED

Good, Doc. Thanks for helping out, again.

DOCTOR WRIGHT

That's what we are here for. I have to get back to work, if you guys need anything please let me know.

EXT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Andrew and Jenny talk while Jared and Tom share a smoke.

ANDREW

You really seem to have it together, Jenny.

JENNY

A lot of this falls on Tom. He has been running for this program for a couple years. He is really capable and fortunately a great teacher as well. Still, it's a good thing you and Jared were there. He is going to need that help and support to get through this.

ANDREW

Some times it feels like this is all we do- get through things.

JENNY

It may seem that way, but you are making progress. All of you are. It just takes time.

ANDREW

What's next, Doc? You gonna tell me to take it one day at a time?

They both smile at the joke.

JENNY

Go home. Get some sleep. You have two amazing kids waiting to see you tonight.

ANDREW

Thank, Jenny.

There is a brief pause and then they exchange a warm hug.

INT. THOMAS HOME - DAY

Hannah and Andrew exchange greetings. The kids are playing outside.

HANNAH

Enjoy yourself, Andy. They are really excited that you are here. Ill be back at 8 on Sunday. Try not to get them to wound up. Bedtime has been a nightmare lately, so if you need anything call me.

ANDREW

Thank you, Hannah.

Hannah and Andrew embrace. She leaves. Sarah Elizabeth and Joseph come running, they are both screaming with excitement.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Daddy! I missed you, I missed you I missed you!

JOSEPH

Daddy, I love you so much! I couldn't wait for school to end to see you!

ANDREW

I missed you guys so much! I want to hear all about your weekend! How is school going?

JOSEPH

Daddy, why haven't you been around that much? Why don't you live here anymore?

ANDREW

Well, buddy, you know how Mommy and Daddy have been arguing a lot?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Mommy is always mad at you.

ANDREW

Well... and I already talked to Sarah about this, but I want to be honest with you. It is a grown up subject, but I think you are big enough.

JOSEPH

Dad, I am almost 7. I am not little.

ANDREW

I know, buddy. I know. It is just that... well, you mom and I love you a lot. But I made a lot of mistakes. I did a lot of things that upset your mother and didn't really take care of her the way I should have. SO for right now, I am living with your Uncle Chuck until I can figure out how to take better care of your mother. Does that make sense?

JOSEPH

Are you guys getting divorced?

ANDREW

I don't know, buddy.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Do you still love mommy, Dad?

ANDREW

A lot. Yeah, I do. Hey, do you guys want to go play at the bookstore?

BOTH KIDS

Yeah!

ANDREW

Go get dressed. Let's go have some fun.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Andrew is at the bookstore with Sarah Elizabeth and Joseph, they are playing in the kids section. The kids and Andrew are goofing off, enjoying their time together

JENNY (O.S.)

Andrew?

ANDREW turns, not quite recognizing the voice. He smiles.

ANDREW

Hi!

ANDREW laughs, slightly self conscious as he puts down the kids toys he was using to play with his kids.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Hey-sorry, you caught me off guard. Let me introduce you to my two favorite little people in the world!

ANDREW turns to his kids.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Kids, please introduce yourself to MS Jenny.

JOSEPH

My name is Joseph. It is very nice to meet you.

Joseph shakes Jenny's hand, very much a little gentlemen. Sarah Elizabeth edges in.

SARAH ELIZABETH

My name is Sarah. What is yours?

JENNY

My name is Jenny, nice to meet you sweetheart. How old are you? Are you guys twins?

Both kids begin talking over each other.

JOSEPH
My sister is older but really short-

SARAH ELIZABETH
I'm older. We get that all the
time. He is my little brother. I'm
two years older.

JOSEPH
You are not!

SARAH ELIZABETH
Almost two years!

JOSEPH
You are really pretty, MS Jenny.

SARAH ELIZABETH
That's my brother, he always flirts
with all the women.

JOSEPH
I do not!

SARAH ELIZABETH
He has a girlfriend at school. She
is older than him, too.

JENNY
Well. He certainly is a charming
young man.

ANDREW
I'm sorry, they can be a little-

JENNY
They are fine. Its fine. (Talking
to the kids) And what are you guys
doing today?

SARAH ELIZABETH
We are hanging out with my dad.

JOSEPH
He and Mom are getting divorced.

ANDREW
Joseph!

JOSEPH
What! You are!

Jenny laughs at the interaction between Andrew and his kids.

JENNY

They certainly seem to keep you on your toes.

ANDREW

You have no idea. None.

SARAH ELIZABETH

I am the only woman in the house when mom is gone. These boys...

Sarah Elizabeth rolls her eyes then giggles at her own cleverness.

SARAH ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

You should come eat lunch with us!
Can she Dad?

Andrew looks slightly panicked and caught off guard, again.

ANDREW

Honey, I don't think, I mean, MS Jenny has...

SARAH ELIZABETH

PLEASE? MS Jenny, come with us, please!

Jenny and Andrew exchange looks, both crumbling before the onslaught of cuteness.

JENNY

If it is okay with your Dad.

BOTH KIDS

Dad... please?!?!??

Andrew sighs and finally relents.

ANDREW

Aright.

Both kids cheer! Sarah Elizabeth grabs Jenny's hand and begins chatting away.

INT RESTAURANT - LATER

All four are sitting at a table, the kids continue to vie for Jenny's attention. Andrew is self-conscious but dotes on the kids and tries to remain relaxed. Jenny is attentive and sweet with the kids.

JOSEPH
You are one of the prettiest ladies
I know.

JENNY
Why thank you!

JOSEPH
You should be my girlfriend.

JENNY
Oh, yeah?? Why is that?

JOSEPH
Well, because I give warm hugs and
think you are pretty and my Dad
says I am handsome...

ANDREW
Joseph!

JENNY
Well those are all true things.

SARAH ELIZABETH
He is so embarrassing!

JOSEPH
I am not!

ANDREW
Guys!

Jenny continues to talk with the kids and gives Andrew a
reassuring smile.

JENNY
I thought you had a girlfriend.

There is a slight pause as Joseph gets a sheepish grin on his
face. Andrew smiles.

ANDREW AND JOSEPH
Her name is Anna.

JOSEPH
Dad!

ANDREW
She is older, in 3rd grade. He is a
very sharp young man.

JENNY

Well, he certainly is. He reminds me very much of his father. And what about you, MS Sarah?

SARAH ELIZABETH

I had a boyfriend but my Dad scared him off.

JENNY

That's part of what dads do. What was his name?

SARAH ELIZABETH

Trent.

JENNY

Trent?

SARAH ELIZABETH

Yep.

JENNY

And did you kiss him?

Sarah Elizabeth turns bright red.

ANDREW

SARAH ELIZABETH!

Sarah Elizabeth giggles and hides behind Jenny.

JENNY

Uh-oh!

ANDREW

You better not be kissing anyone!

They all laugh.

JOSEPH

Dad I have to go pee!

ANDREW

Aright, buddy. Sarah do you have to go to?

SARAH ELIZABETH

I don't have to go! Can I stay with Jenny?

She hugs Jenny's arm.

ANDREW

Sarah-

JENNY

She is okay. You boys go on.

Andrew and Joseph head to the bathroom.

SARAH ELIZABETH

You are really sweet.

JENNY

Thank you! You are, too.

SARAH ELIZABETH

My Dad has really been trying. He loves us very much. He always seems sad.

JENNY

What makes you say that?

SARAH ELIZABETH

My Mom won't talk to him anymore. She says really mean things about him when she is on the phone when she thinks we are sleeping. She blames him for a lot.

JENNY

That is a lot for such a little girl to deal with.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Everyone says I am very old for my age.

JENNY

That is very true.

Sarah Elizabeth blushes a little.

JENNY (CONT'D)

And how are you handling it?

SARAH ELIZABETH

I'm sad a lot. I miss my Dad. My Mom is always angry.

JENNY

I'm sure she is under a lot of stress, dealing with everything that is going on.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Can I tell you something? Can you
keep a secret?

JENNY
Of course.

SARAH ELIZABETH
I don't really like living with my
mom. She loves us, but she isn't
like Dad. I wish we could live with
him.

JENNY
That has got to be hard to deal
with.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Are you and my Dad friends?

JENNY
I like to think we are.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Good. He needs some one to look
out for him. He is such a boy.
They need us girls or else they
just go crazy.

JENNY
I guess you're right. Here come
the boys!

The boys rejoin the table and the night continues.

ANDREW
Well, I hope everyone had fun. You
guys thank Ms. Jenny for joining us
and lets get home.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Dad, can I ride home with Ms.
Jenny?

ANDREW
No, honey. It's getting late. We
need to get home.

SARAH ELIZABETH
PLEASE?

Sarah Elizabeth lays on the charm.

SARAH ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Please Ms. Jenny? I'll be good!

JENNY
Sarah, your dad said no.

SARAH ELIZABETH
But you didn't!

JENNY
It's not up to me.

SARAH ELIZABETH
If Dad says I can, can I?

Both adults look at each other. Andrew rolls his eyes.

ANDREW
If it's okay with Ms. Jenny I guess
you can.

JENNY
Of course. Let's go.

Jenny smiles as they get up to leave. Sarah Elizabeth grabs her hand as they walk off. Andrew and Joseph are trailing behind, also holding hands.

EXT THOMAS HOME - NIGHT

Both cars pull up. Andrew gets out and looks back at Jenny.

ANDREW
Joseph is passed out. He fell
asleep halfway home.

JENNY
Sarah is, too. She talked and
talked until she just fell asleep.
Do you want me to help get her
inside?

ANDREW
That would be great.

Andrew gets Joseph from the car and carries him toward the door, trailed by Jenny who is carrying Sarah Elizabeth. Andrew shifts Joseph to one side as he unlocks the door. They both enter the house.

INT. THOMAS HOME - CONTINUOUS

Andrew drops the keys on the counter as they clear the door way.

JENNY
Where is the-

ANDREW
Her bedroom is right next to
Joey's.

JENNY
Aright.

They take the kids down the hall and lay them in bed. Andrew walks into Sarah Elizabeth's bedroom and watches Jenny put her to bed and tuck her in. He smiles despite himself.

JENNY (CONT'D)
She is such a sweet kid.

ANDREW
Thank you. I'm sorry about this-
they can be a little much.

JENNY
No, it was a lot of fun.

They head down the hall the living room.

JENNY (CONT'D)
So this is your place?

ANDREW
Yep. Well, sort of. It was.
Hannah and I have been separated
for a couple months now, I have
been staying with a friend. But
yeah.

JENNY
Where is she?

ANDREW
Hannah? She had something going on
out of town this weekend, offered
to let me stay here. I usually
take them to my parents place on
weekends. Its a little cramped there.

JENNY
How have things been going?

ANDREW

I don't know. Sometimes it seems like she wants to come back and work things out, other times... it's like the scum of the universe.

JENNY

That's got to be rough.

ANDREW

It can be. It's got to be harder on her. I was not the best husband by any means.

JENNY

You really have made a lot of progress in the past couple months, Andy. I hope you know that.

ANDREW

Sometimes it does. Other times...

JENNY

You are doing great. Really.

There is a long moment between the two of them.

ANDREW

Thanks, again. For everything.

JENNY

Anytime, Andy.

Jenny gives Andrew a reassuring hug.

ANDREW

Good night.

INT THOMAS HOME - NIGHT

Andrew is home alone. The kids remain asleep. He is looking through pictures of the family, at times smiling, at times melancholy. He puts the pictures up and heads to the bedroom, yawning.

He gets ready for bed. After brushing his teeth he grabs a bottle of pills. The label reads "Take one by mouth at bedtime for PTSD". He sighs and dry swallows the medicine. He returns to bed, closes his eyes.'

INT THOMAS HOME - LATER

There is a knock on the door. Andrew's eyes snap open, concerned and confused. He deftly pulls a handgun from a safe hidden under an end table and moves silently to the front door. He peers through the peep hole.

ANDREW

Who is there.

A figure comes into view but is hard to see.

JENNY

Andrew?

ANDREW

Yeah?

JENNY

Andrew, it's Jenny. Is everything okay?

Andrew opens the door slightly, using it to shield the view of his body and his weapon. Once it is clear it is Jenny and she is alone, he opens the door, allows her in. He sets his weapon on a coffee table as she steps in.

ANDREW

I'm fine. What are you doing here?

JENNY

Andy, I should be asking you the same thing. Are you okay

ANDREW

Jenny, I'm fine. What are you doing here?

JENNY

Where are the kids?

ANDREW

They are still asleep. Just where we left them.

JENNY

It's just you here?

ANDREW

Yeah, just me and the kids.

ANDREW is clearly still confused, but her presence is clearly welcome.

JENNY

Andy...

ANDREW

Jenny.

JENNY

What is going on?

ANDREW

I wish you would tell me, Doc. Do you visit all your patients at their homes in the middle of the night?

JENNY

First off, I am not a doctor and you are not my patient. My job is to assist vets in their transition from the program out of it. Secondly, I think we are qualify as friends at this point, Andy.

He smiles, despite himself. Clearly there is the shadows of something undefined between them.

ANDREW

Is that why you showed up at my place? To confess your love for me? I am taken, Doc.

JENNY

You really don't know, do you?

There is long pause as Andrew searches his memory, clearly becoming worried that he did or said something without realizing it. She hands him her cellphone. He reads briefly is clearly thrown off. He looks ashamed and slightly pulls back from Jenny.

ANDREW

Oh man. Jenny, I am so sorry. I didn't-

JENNY

There is nothing to apologize for. Talk to me.

ANDREW

It is just something that happens. I...fuck, I am sorry. I...

JENNY

Andrew. Talk to me.

Jenny is being stern but kind. She forces Andrew to stand still and won't allow him to retreat.

ANDREW

It just... it is just something that happens. I am sorry. It won't...

She cuts him off. He is clearly unnerved.

JENNY

I am not mad. I am glad you text me. I am here for you. Talk to me.

Andrew is struggling, unsure where to begin.

JENNY (CONT'D)

How long have you been having nightmares?

ANDREW

It started after my final deployment. I came home and could tell something was just...off? I don't know how to explain it. I would have headaches and couldn't focus, I was having mood swings that really didn't make any sense, and I kept waking up drenched in sweat. I thought I was going crazy.

JENNY

You weren't.

ANDREW

I wasn't. I went to sick call after about two months of this, I just wanted something to help with the headaches and focus problems. And instead I was referred to a neuropsychologist. I was pissed. The one time I actually want the Army to give me motrin and tell me to drive on, they send me to a shrink.

JENNY

They aren't shrinks. They study how the brain processes information and how well it is functioning.

ANDREW

Right, but I didn't know that at the time. Anyway, my wife-

JENNY

Ex wife...

ANDREW

Yeah. Well, I guess its headed that way. Anyway, she happens to come with me to one of these and asks if the brain injury, could lead to nightmares. I was completely caught off guard. Turns out I was waking up soaked because I spent nights thrashing all over the place and...

Andrew stops. He is clearly uncomfortable with this topic.

JENNY

It's okay.

ANDREW

I can't.

He is losing an emotional battle, which is clear to both of them. Instead of turning away, she tenderly runs her fingers through his hair and then lifts his chin so he is looking straight at her.

JENNY

Nothing you say right now will change anything between us, Andy. You need to know- I am here for you. It is okay.

Andrew looks at his hands in defeat. After a moment of silence, he speaks.

ANDREW

I have nightmares. Not normal, like I watched a scary movie and now the bad man is chasing me nightmares. Like I am sitting on overwatch, weapon in hand, watching a fucking terrorist walk into a mosque and kill a bunch of children nightmares. I'm sitting there, you understand? Just fucking sitting there. I am one of the most lethal fuckers on the battlefield, surrounded by a bunch of other A-type door kicking bad asses, and we had our hands tied behind our back as we watched the city tear itself apart. I saw it happening.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I sat there, all this training, all this time and experience and we had no chance. All we could do is let it happen. And why? Because our operational objectives had changed. Let the Iraqis do it. Let them handle it. Let your partner force, the same assholes who were working hand-in-hand with the bad guys we were risking our lives to catch- let them handle it. And at the end of the day, it wasn't American dying, right? Let them kill each other and leave us out if so we all can just go home to our families and move on with life.

JENNY

I am so sorry. I had no idea.

ANDREW

How do you go home with that? How do I hold my own kids and tell them I did the honorable thing, how do I let people tell me what a fucking hero I am when all I did, all I was allowed to do was sit there and watch it happen? How can I look myself in the mirror when I am a grown man who has nightmares...and you know what they are about? You know what the guy you have so much respect for-you know what I have nightmares about?

JENNY

No.

ANDREW

Bloody sandals. Bloody. Kids. Sandals. That's what kept me up at night. And I would wake up, terrified and feeling ashamed and afraid, and I would reach for Hannah, and she would hold me and eventually I would get back to sleep. But how could she respect a man like that? Who could respect a man like that? I am a fucking joke.

Andy is crying.

JENNY

I can't imagine what that has been like for you.

He is worked up, embarrassed, crying. He is trying to walk away. She cuts him off, grabbing his arm and pulling him back onto the couch.

ANDREW

I am sorry. I shouldn't have called.

JENNY

Andy- I want you to listen to me, okay? You have nothing to be ashamed of. Nothing at all. I am proud of you and what you have been through-it makes who you are as a man more certain, not less. Never be ashamed. I'm glad you called me. Any time, day or night, text, call, e-mail, I am here for you. I am here.

He sits there, saying nothing.

JENNY (CONT'D)

You are a great dad, you love your kids, you are trying your hardest to give them a better life. They love you and look up to you, you are their hero. Struggling with terrible memories doesn't make you less of a man. You have nothing to be ashamed of.

They both sit silently, Jenny comforting Andrew.

INT. THOMAS HOME - MORNING

Andrew wakes up on the couch, disoriented. He fell asleep last night while talking with Jenny. She is gone. The kids are still asleep. There is a note on the table.

JENNY (O.S.)

Andy-you finally fell asleep, I didn't want to wake you. Hope you were able to get some much needed rest. Hope to see you at the meeting on Monday. PS Stop calling me "Doc".

Andrew rolls his eyes at the joke. He yells to the kids as he rubs the sleep from his eyes.

ANDREW

Sarah! Joey! Who wants pancakes!

SARAH ELIZABETH

Dad! I'm still sleeping!

Andrew laughs and heads to the kitchen.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Andrew, Jared, Tom, Jenny, and the others are seated in a circle. The meeting has been going on for a while.

ANDREW

This just gets harder. There is an old joke that veterans get out with three things: failed marriages, bad credit and a DD214. It's an old joke because its true. Man, I look around at you guys and I think...how did we get here? We were proud, capable warriors, and now we are young and broken and in a world that doesn't seem to care about the price we paid. Its just hard not to get bitter. I've been working hard and I think I am making progress, Hannah and I went on a date, and it was amazing. This has really given me a chance to reconnect with my kids, but man...I just wish things didn't have to get so bad before they started to get good again. Anyway, thanks for letting me share.

ALL

Thanks for sharing.

JARED

Man, I know use rules are no cross talk but let me tell you this. Andy, you are one hell of a guy. Dude, if I was in your position, I would tell that bitch to find a door and make sure to close it behind her, but I'm an asshole, what do I know? I just think its awesome your still trying.

TOM

Thank you for that enlightened bit of encouragement, Jared.

JARED

No problem.

MIKEY

I just don't get this shit. (Tom looks at him) Oh, yeah, I'm Mikey, I'm an addict and all that. What I don't get is I was just in fucking Afghanistan defusing bombs and killing mother fuckers, and now? I work at a fucking cookie shop in the mall. I Work with a bunch of dumb dick snot nosed kids who don't know anything about anything.

There is laughter and a lot of understanding looks from those sitting around the circle.

JARED

I know what you mean, man. I can't even get a drink with out dealing with some piece of shit who wants to hit on my girlfriend, and then when I try to defend her-it just gets turned upside down. You step out of line, you get put in your place.

JENNY

Allow me to interrupt and address some things for you guys. Tom?

TOM

Go ahead. You're more than welcome.

JENNY

I know this is difficult for you guys to adjust to, to come to terms with. It is important to have groups like this were you can come and be yourself. It is hard for you, collectively, to come to terms with the change in the structure of your lives. But you are making progress. Over the last several weeks, you have opened up, and connected, and encouraged each other.

(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)

There IS a world out there that can't and never will understand how much you have suffered, sacrificed, and been through. Don't get discouraged. This is all part of the process. And you guys are doing great.

As she talks, there are several moments where she and Andrew make eye contact. It is clear there is some unspoken respect between the two of them.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Break night.

JARED

How are you doing, Mikey?

MIKEY

Good, Man. Haven't touch a pill or bottle since I got out. I think I am done.

JARED

That's good man. You have to take this shit seriously.

MIKEY

Yeah. I was able to keep it from my work, which helped. My disability still hasn't been approved, so now I'm just scraping by.

JARED

Keep your head up, brother. You'll get there.

Jenny walks up to get coffee. Andrew is grabbing a snack.

ANDREW

Hey, Doc.

JENNY

Andrew.

ANDREW

I'm sorry. Old habits and such. I just wanted to say...I really...you. I just...

JENNY
I have never known you to have
trouble speaking.

She smiles.

ANDREW
Watch it, woman!

They both laugh.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Seriously. I just wanted to say
that you really... you have been
amazing. Thank you for last night.
And for helping out with Mikey. And
just, everything.

JENNY
Always.

They head back to the meeting.

INT JAREDS HOME - NIGHT

Jared is cleaning and prepping camera gear. There is a note
pad on the table, with an address jotted down on it. He
looks through the lens and adjusts the focus.

INT. THOMAS HOME - NIGHT

Hannah gets the kids ready to be picked up by Andrew. Andrew
comes to the door. He is smiling, happy, full of energy, the
kids run up excited to see him. They exchange hugs. Hannah
looks on, bittersweet.

HANNAH
Hey, Andrew.

ANDREW
Hi.

He hugs her. She begins to melt into his arms a little. He
senses this.

HANNAH
They are really excited to see you.
Are you still staying with Trevor
and Rachel?

ANDREW

Yeah. They love having the kids there. We all have a lot of fun. Kids-get in the car!

SARAH ELIZABETH

Race you!

JOSEPH

Wait! You always cheat!

The kids run off. Hannah is lingering close to Andrew.

ANDREW

What's wrong?

HANNAH

Andy...I miss you. I don't know if I can keep doing this. I need you. Please come home.

ANDREW

Hannah...

Andrew is unsure how to deal with this.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Hannah, I love you. And I want this to work. I miss you so much, too. Let's talk, sometime soon?

HANNAH

I would like that.

Hannah leans in and kisses Andrew. When Andrew walks away, he is noticeably more weighted down than when he arrived.

INT. THOMAS HOME - LATER

There is a knock at the door. Hannah answers. It is Ted. They embrace in the door way.

EXT. THOMAS NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Jared sits in his car, hidden. He focuses the camera on the couple and begins snapping pictures.

EXT. CARNIVAL - NIGHT

Andrew and the two kids are having fun, the kids racing about, Andrew chasing after them.

They are having fun, but it is clear Andrew is out numbered, two-to-one. They are walking sharing an elephant ear as they talk.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Dad, can I ask you something?

ANDREW
Of course, Honey.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Could you call and see if Ms. Jenny will come hang out with us?

ANDREW
I don't think that would be appropriate.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Why not?

ANDREW
Well, Mom and I are still married.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Dad, I am not asking you to date her. I just don't want to hang out with just boys!

ANDREW
Why don't we try calling Mom?

SARAH ELIZABETH
She never picks up. If she doesn't then can we call Ms. Jenny?

ANDREW
Let's call your Mom. She would want to be here.

SARAH ELIZABETH
Well then what do you have to lose?

ANDREW
Fine. It's a deal.

Andrew pulls out his phone. It rings, he looks down at Sarah Elizabeth, smiling. The phone continues to ring, unanswered.

SARAH ELIZABETH
She isn't picking up, is she.

ANDREW
Let me try again.

SARAH ELIZABETH
She won't answer. She never does.

ANDREW
And you think Jenny will?

SARAH ELIZABETH
Duh! I wouldn't make a bet I
couldn't win.

They both laugh.

SARAH ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Come on, Dad. A deal is a deal.

ANDREW
Fine.

Andrew scrolls through his contacts, selects Jenny, shows Sarah Elizabeth he is calling her, puts the phone to his ear.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
She won't pick up, I am telling
you. (Pause) Jenny? Hey, um, its
Andy. Yeah, sorry. So, I took the
kids to the fair- yeah- uh huh.
Really? Well, Sarah Elizabeth made
a deal with me, and I lost
so...what are you doing tonight?

Sarah Elizabeth looks on hopefully. She starts jumping up and down when Andrew cracks a smile. He hangs up.

SARAH ELIZABETH
She said yes didn't she! She said
yes!

ANDREW
She said yes.

Andrew and the kids head to the park entrance to meet up with her. Sarah Elizabeth and Joseph are both excited and make a game of trying to pick out her car as cars pull in. She finally arrives, Sarah Elizabeth runs up to her and hugs her.

SARAH ELIZABETH
MS Jenny! Thank you for coming! I
was stuck with this boys!

JENNY
Thank you for inviting me.

JOSEPH

Dad, we need to have boy time. Let those silly girls go play.

ANDREW

Whoa, slow down. Can I at least say hello first?

Sarah Elizabeth rolls her eyes.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Dad, come on!

JENNY

I think it would be a lot of fun. Let's have some girl time!

The girls head off, hand in hand. Andrew and Joseph, equally excited, head off in a separate direction.

The girls are on a roller coaster, laughing.

The boys play a shooting gallery game, Andrew teaches Joseph how to adjust his aim.

The girls play games and win a stuffed animal. They eat elephant ears and Sarah Elizabeth gets her face painted.

The boys run through a mirror maze, bumping into mirrors and having a blast.

The four reunite and ride on the Ferris wheel, the kids sitting in between the adults. It has been a good night. The kids are exhausted and end up being carried to the car by the adults. Sarah Elizabeth wakes up.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Can I ride home with Ms. Jenny?

ANDREW

Honey.

SARAH ELIZABETH

Please?

JENNY

It's fine with me.

Andrew relents.

ANDREW

You'll have to follow me. I am staying at a friend's house.

EXT. DEXTER HOME - NIGHT

Both cars pull up. Rachel and Trevor are waiting at the door to help with the kids.

RACHEL
Andrew, who is this beautiful woman
you are bringing home!

Andrew blushes slightly.

ANDREW
Rachel, this is Jenny. Jenny,
Rachel. Jenny is one of the
counselors I told you about.

RACHEL
You didn't say she was so
beautiful! Here, give me that
little girl...

Rachel takes Sarah Elizabeth from Jenny's arms and goes inside. Trevor, Andrew, and Jenny follow.

INT. DEXTER HOME - CONTINUOUS

As they enter the house, Andrew takes Joseph to his bedroom.

TREVOR
You want some coffee?

JENNY
That would be great.

TREVOR
Sit down. Shit, you're making me
nervous.

Jenny sits.

JENNY
This is a beautiful home.

TREVOR
Thanks. Rachel picked it out,
decorated it, the whole nine. IF
it was left up to me, I would
probably be living in a shack.

JENNY
She seems very sweet.

TREVOR

She is. She is my life. That woman has been with me through it all, since we were 18.

JENNY

You guys married young.

TREVOR

We did. Sometimes I think with all the stuff we have been through, maybe we were too young. I see 18 year old now and I think, man they are just kids. But we made it work.

JENNY

How do you know Andrew?

TREVOR

Andy? He and I served together. Back in the Army.

JENNY

He doesn't talk about that much.

TREVOR

Well, wait till they get back. I have some stories for you.

Trevor smiles and finishes making coffee as Rachel and Andrew return.

RACHEL

They are growing up so fast.

ANDREW

I know.

RACHEL

You have to tell me more about you and-

There is a pause.

JENNY

Jenny.

RACHEL

I am so sorry, it's late! Jenny-how your night went.

ANDREW

It was so much fun. Joey and I played that one game with the machine gun where you shoot the star probably 10 times.

JENNY

And Sarah Elizabeth made me ride every roller coaster at least twice. Every time she would tell people "don't be scared, this is fun!"

ANDREW

It was a lot of fun.

RACHEL

I see she even got you to paint your face?

Jenny laughs.

JENNY

I totally forgot. She is a very persuasive little girl.

ANDREW

Originally Jenny wasn't supposed to go with us but-

JENNY

Oh, she told me all about this-

ANDREW

She bet me that if I called and asked Hannah to go and she didn't pick up I would have to call Jenny.

JENNY

She was so proud of herself. She said "I told my Dad but he never listens."

ANDREW

She was right. So I called Jenny and she came out. It worked out perfectly.

TREVOR

What does she do on weekends when you have the kids?

ANDREW

No idea.

RACHEL

Tell me more about you!

JENNY

Well, there's not much to tell. I am working on my doctorate, I want to focus on helping military veterans who are struggling to adjust to civilian life. I live alone except for my cat. Pretty simple.

RACHEL

Why veterans?

JENNY

My dad was a soldier. He was involved in Operation Just Cause in the late 80s and was injured pretty badly. He suffered what would now be classified as a TBI, but back then they really didn't have any such diagnosis. He left the Army and was later killed in a shoot out with the police. My mom would always talk about how different he was after Panama and how she could never figure out how to help him. I guess this is my way of trying to make sure it doesn't happen to others.

TREVOR

That's quite the story. I'm sorry.

JENNY

It's okay, I mean it was almost 20 years ago that he died. I never will forget him, but time makes the pain easier to deal with.

TREVOR

How did you end up with this idiot?

Trevor points at Andrew.

ANDREW

We aren't together. She is one of the counselors at the program I am in.

TREVOR

You mean the one I got you in so you didn't get in trouble for driving drunk?

ANDREW

Yep.

Every one laughs.

TREVOR

I have been keeping this kid out of trouble since we met. When he first got to the unit he had all these ideas about how he was going to change the Army and drove all of us nuts. I swear his nickname was

BOTH MEN

"Fucking Thomas!"

TREVOR

Because he was constantly getting yelled at. I got smoked so many times for him, he was my little brother.

ANDREW

We were moving from a building to our exfil vehicle one time and I had no idea how it worked. Trevor is in the street providing cover for me. I was supposed to run up and replace him so he could get in, and then I would get in, but I didn't know that so-

TREVOR

He runs up and gets in the HUMVEE leaving me all by my lonesome, Fucking Thomas.

ANDREW

It was a learning experience.

TREVOR

In the end, there is no one else I would have fought beside. I couldn't believe it when his name came up in one of our police reports. I guess it's still my job to look out for him.

ANDREW
Some one has to.

More laughter as the group continues talking. It quickly grows late. They say there good-byes as Jenny heads out.

RACHEL
She is cute! And smart. Andy...

ANDREW
Oh Lord, don't start! I'm going to bed. I love you guys.

TREVOR
Love you, too Brother. It's good to see you smile again. Get some sleep.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Jared, Mikey, Tom, Jenny, Andrew, and the usual group are in attendance.

TOM
I want to take tonight to recognize a couple of huge milestones for two of our brothers. First- Jared would you stand up?

Jared stands up a bit self-consciously.

TOM (CONT'D)
When Jared first came to us, he was in trouble with the law and with the bottle. After several months of hard work, determination, and patience, he is clean, sober, and the DA has agreed to suspend his sentencing barring any future incidents!

The group applauds and answers with catcalls, whistles, and good natured cheers. Jared waves a hand of thanks and sits down.

TOM (CONT'D)
Mikey?

MIKEY
Oh, Jesus.

Laughter.

TOM

Mikey, since you're incident you have really stepped up. You are working full time, getting clean and well on your way to recovery. This program is all about taking life one day at a time and celebrating the little victories, and we want to celebrate with you.

MIKEY

Thanks.

More laughter and good natured catcalling.

TOM

That's all I have for you guys tonight. Keep coming back, and remember you only get out what you put in.

As the crowd disperses Andrew walks up and congratulates both Mikey and Jared.

ANDREW

I'm proud of yall.

MIKEY

Thanks man.

ANDREW

No problem.

They hug and Mikey heads out. Jared pulls an envelope from his back pocket and hands it to Andrew.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

What's this?

JARED

I need you to trust me and don't open it until you have some time. Call me when you do.

ANDREW

Aright.

Andrew is puzzled by the cryptic package and hand off.

JARED

I mean it. Take it easy, Andy.

ANDREW

You, too man.

As Jared leaves Andrew notices Jenny getting ready to leave as the rest of the crowd clears out.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Thank you. Again. You didn't have to come but the kids both really appreciate it.

JENNY

No problem. They are amazing kids.

ANDREW

I think Joseph might have a little crush on you. I can't believe he offered to hold your hand so you wouldn't be scared on the Ferris Wheel.

JENNY

Do you know he told me he will make a great boyfriend?

ANDREW

Really?

JENNY

Well, I asked him why he thought that and he said...in the sweetest little voice..."because I give warm hugs". I just about melted.

ANDREW

He is a little charmer.

JENNY

I can tell where he gets it from.

They share a smile. There is a quiet moment between the two of them.

ANDREW

Can I ask you something?

JENNY

Of course.

ANDREW

Why are you here? I mean-How do I ask this? Um, you are...I just mean you are absolutely incredible and you seem to be one of the most outgoing, supportive people I have ever met.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

And I am a train wreck, with a marriage that is falling apart, two kids, and barely getting by. Yet time and again, anytime I need you, you are there.

JENNY

You really don't get it, do you?

ANDREW

Get what?

JENNY

You are not nearly the train wreck you think you are. You are a loving father, you can tell that by the way the kids talk about you. Every moment of your life is spent trying to become a better man, a better father, and you reach out to anyone in need, no matter what. I just think maybe you could use someone who put you first for a change.

ANDREW

I'm married.

JENNY

I know that.

ANDREW

And I can't...

JENNY

I'm not asking you to. I just want to be your friend. That's all.

ANDREW

Except I find myself not wanting you to be just a friend. You have been there for me, completely unselfishly, unpretentiously, no strings attached. You have asked nothing from me, or of me, and yet every time you come into my life, I am better for it.

JENNY

Wow. I don't know what to say.

ANDREW

But I can't. I can't do this. I thought I could, but I can't.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I have to be a better man, I have to be the husband and father the kids and Hannah deserve. And I don't know if I can do that with you in my life.

JENNY

Andy.

ANDREW

I...I just can't.

JENNY

I'm not asking you to. I'm not. I would never come between you and your marriage, or make life difficult for you and the kids. Just please, not for me, but for you... please try and take a step back and look at your relationship with Hannah. She is using you, Andy. She isn't the woman you think she is.

ANDREW

That seems to be a reoccurring theme among my friends on this issue.

JENNY

That's because you have friends who care about you and love you, Andy. I respect you, I respect what you are trying to do, just please be careful. And I am here if you need me. Anytime, no questions asked.

Jenny and Andrew hug, a long intimate thing. As they are pulling away, they both hesitate. They kiss, a sweet, yet passionate kiss. They open their eyes and Jenny slowly pulls away then walks out, leaving Andrew alone.

EXT. THOMAS HOME - THE NEXT DAY

Andrew pulls up. He is struggling with his decision, heartbroken over leaving Jenny, over making another mistake, and having to confess it to Hannah. The envelope Jared gave him is unopened in the passenger seat.

Hannah is walking out, heading towards the mailbox. Andrew pulls before she notices. She is checking the mail when one of the kids run out and hug her. They are talking and joking as they walk back toward the house. He calls Hannah.

ANDREW

Hannah? Hey, yeah. Everything is okay. Yep. I was just wondering could we maybe get together, without Sarah and Joey?

Andrew watches Hannah in his rearview mirror as they talk.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I...I miss you. And I just want to talk. Thanks. I am sorry. About everything. And thank you-for working with me on this.

He hangs up the phone and watches as she turns and walks back inside. He drives off.

INT. DEXTER HOME - LATER

Andrew talks to Trevor as Trevor gets ready for work.

TREVOR

I don't get it. You seemed happy.

ANDREW

I was man. I just can't keep doing this. Jenny, she is amazing. She is very supportive and caring, and the kids love her, but I am married.

TREVOR

Andy, you don't need to beat yourself up on this one. Hannah kicked you out, you guys have been falling apart for awhile.

ANDREW

Things between her and I have gotten so much better. We went on a couple dates, she has been great about helping out with the kids...

TREVOR

So why not work on that? Andy, you guys have tried, it doesn't work. Let it go.

ANDREW

I can't! I have hurt her so badly, for so long...she deserves the right to be happy.

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

She deserves to have some one be there for her and love her and take care of her.

TREVOR

And what about you? What do you deserve? You have been killing yourself for months, bending over backwards, trying to make things work, helping her at every turn. You have done so much more than any one...

ANDREW

It hasn't nearly been enough...

TREVOR

You have grown so much, man. I am proud of you. But you have to let her go. You need to move on.

ANDREW

I can't. I have to fix this. I have to.

TREVOR

I love you brother, but I think you're making a mistake.

Trevor holsters his sidearm and heads to work.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Andrew is driving around, heading toward HANNAH's house. He is worn, looking emotionally and physically exhausted. His phone rings. It is Jenny. He answers the phone silently.

JENNY

Hello?

He opens his mouth but can't bring himself to say anything.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Andy? Can you hear me?

ANDREW

Yeah. I'm here.

JENNY

I wasn't sure you would pick up.

ANDREW

I wasn't sure if I should.

JENNY

Well, thank you. I won't take up a lot of your time. I just had to tell you something.

Andrew takes a deep breath.

ANDREW

Go ahead.

JENNY

I wanted to tell you how sorry I am.

Andrew is thrown off guard.

ANDREW

For what? Shouldn't I be the one apologizing?

JENNY

No, you were right. About everything. I should have been more understanding. I should have respected your boundaries. I want you to be successful and have a happy marriage, you deserve it. You deserve a woman that loves and appreciates the man you are.

ANDREW

I don't understand. You should hate me right now.

JENNY

For what? For loving your family? For trying to do what's right? For trying to be a better man? Do you have any idea how much people look up to you? How much the guys in the group talk about you when your not there? They talk about you like a saint, despite your flaws or shortcomings. Your not perfect and we all know that, but you are an amazing man. Your kids love you, your friends and family would do anything for you, and it kills me to see you love a woman who doesn't deserve you. I love you, Andy. I wish I could figure out how to do it in a way you understand, or could accept, but I can't. But I wanted you to know.

(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)

And that I want the best for you.
 And I am sorry if I hurt you or
 distract you in anyway. It was not
 my intent. I started out wanting to
 help...and somewhere along the way,
 I fell in love with the man you
 are. I just want you to know...I
 am here for you. I won't pursue or
 push it, but I will be here,
 rooting for you. And if it doesn't
 work out the way you plan...I will
 still be waiting for you, loving
 you and praying you finally find
 the peace and love you deserve.
 And I couldn't let you walk away
 with out knowing that.

Andrew sits and listens, slowly falling apart. What he feels
 he can't say, the one truth that he can't accept...he loves
 her, too. Instead he remains silent as tears fall.

ANDREW

I...I have to go.

Andrew hangs up abruptly. Strained and broken, he continues
 to drive toward Hannah's.

INT. THOMAS HOME - MORNING

Hannah is inside cleaning up. There is a knock at the door.
 It is Ted.

TED

Hey.

HANNAH

Hi.

Ted moves in for a kiss, which Hannah avoids. Ted settles
 for a kiss on the cheek.

TED

Everything okay?

HANNAH

It's fine.

TED

It certainly is.

Ted kisses Hannah up the neck. Hannah pushes him back,

HANNAH
Slow down, tiger. We need to talk.

TED
We have always been better with
body language.

Hannah pulls away.

HANNAH
I'm serious!

Ted laughs at her attempts to be stern.

TED
Hannah.

HANNAH
Ted.

TED
What?

HANNAH
Ted, we have got to stop. I am too
old for this, I have kids and
responsibilities.

TED
This was never anything more than
what you wanted, Hannah. You asked
for this, not me.

HANNAH
And I am asking for it to stop.

TED
You do this every time you have to
see Andy. Can we just stop
playing? You and I both know you
will change your mind the next time
you are lonely.

HANNAH
You need to leave. And we need to
end this.

TED
Okay. I'll leave. But you and I
also know you will be calling me
before too long. You are a single
mom with two kids- I'm the best you
can hope for right now.

HANNAH

Fuck you.

Ted relents and heads to the door. He opens the door to find Andrew standing there. There is an awkward and heavy pause.

EXT. THOMAS HOME - CONTINUOUS

Andrew stands deadly silent for a moment.

TED

Hey, man. I don't want any problems. She said it was over between you two. This isn't my fault.

There is another long pause as Hannah looks past Ted and sees Andrew, who continues to remain silent.

HANNAH

Andy?

TED

I'm just going to let you two work this out.

Ted gives a smirk and attempts to step past Andrew. He puts a hand on Andrew's shoulder, Andrew brushes it away.

HANNAH

I can explain.

ANDREW

There is nothing left to say.

HANNAH

This isn't what it looks like. I swear.

ANDREW

We both know that's a lie.

Andrew turns and begins walking away.

HANNAH

Andy, talk to me!

He continues walking. Ted grabs Andrew's arm.

TED

She was talking to you, man.

Andrew deals with Ted calmly, a deadly detachment on his face. He flattens Ted with a single punch. Ted charges Andrew, who then drives a knee into his chest, then transitions to an arm lock, drags TED to the ground.

ANDREW

One of two things is about to happen. I can let you up, you can walk away from this peacefully and we can go our separate ways. Or you can keep pushing it and I will make sure you won't be able to use this arm for a long, long time. Do you understand me?

Ted whimpers on the ground in compliance. Hannah remains frozen and shocked. Andrew relents, leaving Ted licking his wounds.

HANNAH

Andrew, please don't go. I'm sorry-please.

ANDREW

I am, too.

Andrew gets in his cars and speeds away.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Mikey is laying on the couch, strung out. There is a mostly empty bag of pills on the table, next to several prescription bottles of pills. He has been drinking heavily. His phone begins to ring.

MIKEY

'Ello?

D

Mikey?

MIKEY

Who the fuck is this?

D

Who the fuck is this? Man, you were supposed to meet me hours ago. You owe me money for that product you sold.

MIKEY

Oh, man. I'm sorry.

D
Are you high right now?

MIKEY
What? No.

D
Mother fucker. Are you serious?

MIKEY
Bro., I got your money. I was
just...I just forgot.

D
Well, that's all good, baby. I know
where you live.

MIKEY
Come on, man. I got your money I'll
meet you tomorrow. You'll get your
money. You don't have to come over
here.

D
You right about one thing. I'm
gonna get me money.

The line goes dead. Mikey sits in silence, panicking.

MIKEY
Shit.

INT. CAR - DAY

Andrew dials a number and waits. The caller picks up.

ANDREW
Look, Hannah. I already found a
place. I just want to come over
and get my stuff. I won't take
anything except my clothes and the
futon in the back room.

HANNAH
That's fine.

ANDREW
I would rather you not be there.

HANNAH
OK. I'll keep the kids with me. We
will head up to my parents.
(MORE)

HANNAH (CONT'D)

You can stay there for the weekend
if you want.

ANDREW

I won't be there long. Thanks.

Andrew hangs up.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Officer Trevor Dexter gets ready to head on patrol.

OFFICER CALLAHAN

Stay safe out there.

TREVOR

Always do.

EXT. THOMAS HOME - DAY

Andrew pulls up. The folder Jared gave him is still on the
seat. He heads in.

INT. THOMAS HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew walks in and stops in the doorway. He pauses for a
moment, rage and anguish filling his face. He suddenly
lashes out, knocking pictures of the wall. He heads to the
bedroom and comes back with a fireproof box.

He takes photos out of the box and places them on the table.
They are photos of a young soldier and his family, Andrew in
earlier years.

He sets the pictures in order, removing a bronze star, then
his dog tags and lays them on the table. Finally, he draws
out a pistol and sets it on the table. Finally, he pulls out
a piece of paper and pen. He begins to write.

He finishes writing, tears streaming down his face. He picks
up the pistol, closes his eyes. The screen goes black and the
only sounds are breathing and the sound of the hammer on the
gun pulling back.

The phone beeps, singling a text message. Andrew opens his
eyes, the scene comes back into view. He reads the text.

MIKEY

I need help, bro. Some dude is
coming over I think he is going to
kill me. I'm in deep.

Andrew shakes his head, holsters his weapon and slides the holster into his waistband. He dials 911.

ANDREW

Hey, I am calling to report a crime-in-progress...

Andrew heads out.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

MIKEY ANDERSON, 24, clean shaven but unkempt, is arguing with an unseen figure on the other side of his front door. The apartment is littered with beer bottles and is dirty. A Marine Corps flag adorns one wall.

MIKEY

I will get you your money!

D

I heard this song before, son. I didn't come here to listen to you sing, I came for my money or my product.

MIKEY

How the hell did you find my place?

D

Open the damn door.

MIKEY peers through the eye hole and curses to himself. He then pulls out his phone and begins texting frantically.

MIKEY

I'll get your damn mon-

Suddenly, D begins to slam his shoulder against the door. The door buckles and suddenly Mikey and D are struggling until D pulls out a gun and pistol whips Mikey.

D

It's time to pay the fucking piper.

INT. PATROL CAR - AFTERNOON

OFFICER TREVOR DEXTER, 29, sits in his patrol car. He is in the middle of his shift. DISPATCH comes over the net.

DISPATCH

CODE 1. We have an armed assault in progress at 4-2-2 Garden Hills Apartments. Caller reports a single black male with a handgun is threatening another occupant inside the apartment. Any available unit, please respond.

TREVOR

Dispatch, this is Frank223. I am in route.

Trevor flips on his lights and pulls off. He is on edge as he pulls up to the apartment complex. He heads inside.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Trevor approaches the apartment and draws his sidearm when he sees the broken door.

TREVOR

This is the Houston PD!

Trevor hears one of the occupants of the apartment curse. He pushes open the door with his non-firing hand. He sees D standing over Mikey's body. D is pointing his gun at Mikey.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Drop the-

D turns and raises his pistol at Trevor. They fire at the same moment, D hits Trevor three times before Trevor drops to the ground. He fires up and hits D in the head, killing him instantly. Trevor is seriously injured.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Dispatch, this-suspect is down.
Shots fired. I've been hit...

We see from his point of view, He looks left and right, shakes his head, fights to maintain consciousness. He sees a second person running toward him with a gun. He tries to lift his arm to point his weapon, but his arm is barely working.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Police-stop.

An unrecognizable figure (from Trevor's POV) approaches and pushes the gun down. The face slowly comes into focus. It is Andrew.

ANDREW

Trevor? What the hell is going on?

Trevor is bleeding heavily and begins motioning to the pant leg pocket of his tactical pants.

TREVOR

Tourniquet.

ANDREW quickly starts treating Trevor's wounds, using a tourniquet to treat the arm wound, and trying to use pressure to slow the bleeding from the neck wound.

ANDREW

What the hell man? 4 years in the Army with me and you end up getting shot in some run down shithole in Texas? Come on. Stay with me.

Trevor is starting to loose consciousness.

TREVOR

I'm hurting. Tell Rachel....

ANDREW

Stop that. You got this man. You are okay. Stay with me. Stay-

Andrew's head disappears in a pink mist. Trevor sits up in surprise, looking down the hall to see police officers rushing toward him, weapons drawn. He know sees Andrew's pistol.

TREVOR

Nonononono...

The officers are followed by paramedics and try and calm Trevor, not realizing they have just killed his best friend. Trevor is carried to the ambulance as he finally passes out.

INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

Trevor slowly opens his eyes. He is drowsy and a bit disoriented. He looks around, he is in a hospital room. Rachel is sleeping next to him. His arm and neck are both stitched up. Rachel stirs.

RACHEL

Trevor?

TREVOR

Rachel...

Trevor raises his good arm and pulls her close, desperately.

RACHEL
It's okay, baby. I'm here.

Trevor struggles to speak and winces in pain.

TREVOR
Rachel...

Rachel kisses him and consoles him.

RACHEL
It's okay. You're safe.

TREVOR
No, not that. It's Andy.

RACHEL
I'm sure he is fine. I tried
calling him when I heard you were
shot but his phone was off.

TREVOR
He's dead, Rachel. They shot him.
They thought he was...he was trying
to...he was talking to me and they
fucking shot him.

RACHEL
What?

TREVOR
Andy tried to save me. Some how he
knew what was happening and he was
trying to help me and they shot
him.

RACHEL
Are you sure?

TREVOR
He's dead.

Rachel is in shock.

INT. HOSPITAL/MIKEY'S ROOM - SAME DAY

Mikey lies in a hospital bed. His face is cut and swollen from the beating he took. Jared and Tom are both in the room.

JARED
How are you feeling?

MIKEY
Like shit.

JARED
You look like it.

There is a pause. Mikey goes to rub his temples and realizes he is handcuffed to the hospital bed for the first time. His confusion is apparent.

MIKEY
What the hell?

TOM
Mike, we have some bad news for you. We asked they let us be the ones to tell you. What exactly do you remember?

MIKEY
Nothing. I remember some one kicking in my door and then nothing.

TOM
And nothing else?

MIKEY
Nothing.

As they talk, it is clear that Jared is becoming increasingly agitated.

JARED
Do you remember contacting Andy, you piece of shit?

Jared grabs Mikey and shakes him violently, Tom pulls him off.

MIKEY
What happened?

There is a longer pause then before. Tom finally speaks.

TOM
When you...The cops received an anonymous tip that there was someone in your apartment with a gun.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

The police believe it may have been Andrew that called it in, but they aren't sure. Anyway, that's how the cops ended up at your apartment.

MIKEY

Oh shit.

TOM

When...the officer arrived and heard fighting inside. He ended up getting into a shoot out with whoever was in your apartment.

Mikey remains silent.

JARED

The cop saved your life.

TOM

He came not long after you were beaten. He killed your attacker but took a couple rounds to the chest.

MIKEY

Is he?

JARED

He is pretty fucked up, but they say he'll survive.

TOM

Andy showed up with a gun. There is some confusion about what happened exactly, but he ended up being shot and killed by cops responding to the call.

MIKEY

Fuck you. No, fuck you man. No. No no no.

JARED

Your apartment was littered with drugs. They are charging you with violating your probation. Hope it was worth it, you son of a bitch.

Jared hits Mikey with his injured hand, both men curse as Tom pulls Jared out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

Trevor is checking out of the hospital. His arm is bandaged, Rachel is walking with him, they are hand-in-hand.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

They exit the hospital.

TREVOR

Can we go by some where before we head home?

RACHEL

Yeah. Of course.

TREVOR

Any word from Hannah?

RACHEL

No one can get a hold of her. Andy said she was supposed to be coming back tonight.

They fall silent, driving away in solemn silence. They eventually reach the apartment complex where Trevor was shot. Trevor quickly finds what he is looking for- Andrew's car.

Rachel parks next to it, Trevor gets out. It is parked illegally, Trevor removes a parking ticket and tosses it on the ground. He looks inside the car and notices Andrew's phone sitting on top of an envelope.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

TREVOR

I wanted to grab his phone.

Trevor picks up the envelope.

RACHEL

What's that?

TREVOR

I don't know. Let's go home.

They return to the vehicle, Trevor giving the building one last look.

INT. DEXTER HOME - EVENING

Trevor has Andrew's old phone in one hand, his phone in the other. He punches in a number into his own phone but hesitates before making the call. He takes a deep breath and hits "call".

TREVOR

Hannah? Hey, it's Trevor. I know you are out of town and supposed to be coming back soon, I need you to do me a favor. Call me as soon as you get this and please, whatever you do, don't go home. I need you to come over here. It's about Andy. Bye.

Trevor hangs up the phone, his job done.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Tom paces, he is anxious and glances toward the door. After a few tense moments, Jenny comes in, looking hurried. She listens as Tom speaks, she responds. He speaks again and as his words sink in, Jenny dissolves into sobs. Tom hugs her as she screams in anguish.

EXT. DEXTER HOME - NIGHT

Hannah pulls up. She checks the address to make sure she is in the right place. She walks up to the door and rings the bell. Trevor answers, looking oddly upset. Rachel is with him.

HANNAH

I came as soon as you called.

TREVOR

Where are the kids?

HANNAH

I left them at my parents house. I was worried. Oh, God Trevor! What happened to you?

TREVOR

I have some bad news, Hannah. I pulled a few strings so I could be the one to tell you.

HANNAH

What is it? What's wrong?

TREVOR

I was responding to a call at an apartment complex. An anonymous tip of an assault in progress. I got there and there was a suspect with a gun, we exchanged shots and I was hit.

HANNAH

Okay,

Trevor tries to continue but struggles.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

What happened?

RACHEL

Some how Andy found Trevor. He was trying to help him, he saved his life. But the officer's responding to Trevor's call they thought-They thought Andy was the suspect. They shot him, Hannah.

Hannah breaks down as the Dexter's bring her inside.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Mickey is being discharged. He is met at the hospital by Jared and Tom. They load in a car and head to Tom's house. They are in complete and painful silence. Mikey is smoking.

INT. DEXTER HOME - DAY

Trevor is solemnly dressing in his dress blue police uniform. He is meticulous in his preparation, his face drawn and tight. He picks up his dog tags and pauses before putting them on, closing his eyes tightly against the memories these bring.

Rachel enters, dressed in a simple black dress. She watches Trevor as he is lost in thought, unsure how to help. She notices him wincing in pain from his injuries.

She walks over, talks the dog tags from his hands. He is slightly embarrassed by needing her help, by being emotionally exposed, by the weight of all of what has happened.

She places his dog tags over his head, and then wraps her arms around him. He maintains his composure for a moment before becoming completely broken.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Jenny and several other members from the Veteran's Recovery Group get ready for the funeral.

INT. TOMS HOME - DAY

Jared, Tom, and Mikey arrive. Tom and Jared are dressed for the funeral. Mikey heads upstairs to get changed. The men sit in silence.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Mourners are showing up from all over, greeting Andrew's family and offering condolences. There are several members of both the police force and military present. A military Honor Guard is in the background.

Tom stands near the minister. They are by a podium which stands next to Andrew's flag draped coffin. People begin to find their seats as the minister makes his opening remarks and invites Tom up to speak.

TOM

I feel a bit out place speaking here and feel like I have so little to add after the beautiful stories so many of you have shared. In the short time I knew Andy, there are certain things about him that will always stand out in my mind. First and foremost, to his children, headstrong little Joey and sweet, sweet Sarah. Your father spoke highly of you, talked of how much he loved you and how you were his heroes. For a man in service to others, he looked up to the man and woman he always knew you would one day grow into. Hannah, beautiful Hannah. Andy and I spoke frequently of his relationship with you, and he was crushed by his failures and shortcomings as a husband. Up until the day his life was cut short, he believed in you.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

He loved you and spent his every moment trying to be the man he believed you deserved. It never ceased to amaze me how in love he was with you. And finally, Andy. You died as you lived, in service to others. You were a man I was proud to know. A man who refused to be defined by your failures and shortcomings, and, most tragically, a man painfully unaware of how much you inspired those who loved you. My final hope is that you finally find the peace in death that alluded you in life.

Tom steps back, tears spilling quietly down his face.

HONOR GUARD
PRESENT. ARMS! READY. AIM. FIRE.

The HONOR GUARD continues, firing three volleys, the mourners jumping with the discharge of the weapons.

HONOR GUARD (CONT'D)
READY. AIM. FIRE. READY. AIM. FIRE.
ORDER. ARMS.

The Honor Guard returns to the position of attention. Two members step forward and continue the process of removing the flag and folding it smartly. The Honor Guard leader moves toward Hannah with the now-folded flag.

HONOR GUARD (CONT'D)
MA'AM, on behalf of a grateful
nation.

Hannah receives the flag as the Honor Guard crisply salute. Dexter turns his back as the crowd disperses. Hannah rushes to meet up with him.

HANNAH
I know it's a lot to ask, but I was wondering if you could help clean out our house. I haven't been back since Andy was killed. I just-I just can't.

TREVOR
Of course.

Trevor is very guarded and stiff.

HANNAH

It's just every time I drive by all I can think about is Andy and how much I miss him.

Trevor inhales sharply, his jaw clenched.

TREVOR

Hannah, I know.

Hannah doesn't realize that Trevor is talking about something besides the tragedy.

HANNAH

It doesn't make any sense.

TREVOR

Hannah, stop.

HANNAH

Excuse me?

TREVOR

I found this in Andrew's car. It was in his passenger seat the day he died. The day he went to your house to move out all his stuff.

Trevor hands her the envelope. She pulls out the pictures, mortified.

HANNAH

Please, let me explain!

TREVOR

Explain what? How you were sleeping around while Andy was killing himself trying to make things work? How you lied to him, betrayed him, made him feel like he was the bad guy? Do you understand he died blaming himself for not being able to fix things? Do you have any fucking idea?

HANNAH

Trevor, you don't understand! You don't know what it was like...

Rachel steps forward and slaps Hannah.

RACHEL

Don't you dare try and blame this on Andy.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

He owned his mistakes, and he paid
for them in full. Don't you dare.

Hannah stands in silence as the Dexter's walk away.

INT. THOMAS HOME - DAYS LATER

Trevor walks in. The room is just as it was when we last saw it, The pictures of happier times, laid out on the table. Andrew's wedding ring, his dog tags, and the handwritten letters are evidenced.

Curious, Trevor picks up the letter and begins to read.

ANDREW (O.S.)

To My Dearest Son...I am writing
this to you in the hopes you will
one day understand everything that
has happened between your mother
and I. My hope, my sincerest hope,
is that one day you will grow
beyond the hurt that we have caused
each other and know that in the
end, we shared a love that survived
the worst this world had to offer.
It survived harsh desert winds and
distance, it survived bombs and
brokenness. The very best parts of
everything we were, we gave t you
and your sister. When I think of
you, I will always think of happier
times, those moments unspoiled by
time or war or age. When I see your
sister's smile, or hear your laugh,
I see your mother as she once
was...so full of life and love. You
are the greatest legacy a man could
ever have. Of all the things I
could achieve in this life, nothing
will ever surpass being your
father. I love you and hope you
will always take comfort in that.
Always and Forever...Your Dad.

THE END