

THE HAMMER

by

Roy A. Gonzales

Name Roy A. Gonzales
Address 21217 Washington Ave. Walnut Ca.
Phone Number 909 815-1314

INT. U.S. ARMY CAMP - MESS-HALL - AFGANANSTAND - DAY

The large tent is filled with tables and metal chairs.
YOUNG SOLDIERS sits eating and talking.

ZACH GORDON (21), handsome, well built, short black hair,
he finishes the last bite of food from his plate. He
sits with two friends.

CASEY MARSHALL (20), fresh faced California surfer type,
sits eating.

LOUIS JACKSON (21), handsome, thin, black, he looks at
Casey.

LOUIS

Why in the hell did you sign up
for this shit?

CASEY

I wanted money to go to school. I
didn't think they would send me
out here. I scored high in my
test. I thought I would be in an
office behind a computer.

Zach sits quietly.

LOUIS

Sounds like what happen to me.
(thinks)
Hey, what where you doing before
coming here.

CASEY

I was surfing at Huntington Beach,
checking out the babes in bikinis.
(pause)
I miss that.

LOUIS

I miss going to the ballgames,
taking the subway to the Yankee
games. Sitting out in the
bleachers.

The two young men sit back thinking and day dreaming of
their other lives.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

(to Casey)
Tell me more about the girls in
bikinis?

CASEY

Oh man, once I was out with my board, and this girl was pretty far out with me, and a wave came up and took her bikini top right off.

LOUIS

What did you do?

CASEY

I tried to get her phone number.

LOUIS

What were you gonna write it on?

CASEY

(laughs)

I would have walked her back to her car.

LOUIS

She was topless.

CASEY

I had her bikini top in my pocket. I grabbed it when it went pass me.

LOUIS

Nice.

Zach sits quietly shaking his head.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Come on! What's wrong? What would you be doing?

ZACH

Nothing really. Just hanging out. You know how it is?

CASEY

Come on...

ZACH

(a moment)

I would be bowling.

Casey and Louis look at each other puzzled.

CASEY

Did you say bowling?

ZACH

That's why I didn't want to say anything.

LOUIS

You mean like bowling--bowling?

ZACH

Yes. With pins and all.

Casey and Louis break into laughter.

LOUIS

Sorry. Okay, bowling is cool. Its like a huge bar to pick up on girls.

ZACH

I was a professional.

CASEY

What?

ZACH

I was a professional bowler. The youngest one in the United States.

Casey and Louis break into laughter again.

LOUIS

There's no such thing. That's like only in the movies.

ZACH

No really. When I get home, I will have endorsements and my own bowling gear in my name. I can write my own ticket.

Casey and Louis look at each other.

LOUIS

Your messing with us.

ZACH

And you wonder why I didn't want to say anything.

Zach grabs his tray and leaves the table. Casey and Louis look at each other and break into laughter again.

LOUIS

Hey Zach, come on man! Where just playing with you.

CASEY

Yeah, come on. Come back.

Zach keeps walking out of the mess-hall into the bright sunlight.

LOUIS

Lets go get him. You don't want him mad at us when we go out on our patrol.

Casey stands.

CASEY

Yeah, that's true.

The two young men rush out after Zach.

LOUIS

(calling out)

Zach! Hey wait up! Come on!

EXT. ARMY BASE - DAY

Casey and Louis catch up with Zach and playfully push him and put their arm around him as they walk.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAM ROOM

A Solider is brought in on a gurney, he is covered in blood and black dirt. The DOCTORS quickly start to check the Solider.

The CAMERA MOVES in on the gurney, and we can now see that the Solider is Zach. He screams out in pain.

Zach's eyes are bleeding out, A NURSE covers the wounds and stops the bleeding.

ZACH

Casey! Louis! Where are they?
Guys come on!

The NURSE turns to the Doctor. The Surgeon shakes his head at the Nurse.

Zach starts to reach out in front of him, trying to grab at anything near him.

The Nurses grab his arms and ties them down to the side of the gurney.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this? Where are my friends?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Zach lays in his hospital bed, his eyes are covered. The door to the room opens and he sits up in his bed.

ZACH

Who is that? Who are you?

ARMY DOCTOR (45), short hair, all gray, thin, looks much older than he is.

ARMY DOCTOR

Zach, I wanted to ask you why you didn't want me to contact your Mother and Father?

ZACH

I don't want them to know.

ARMY DOCTOR

Why? They have to make arrangements for your home coming. Why don't want them to know?

ZACH

No...

ARMY DOCTOR

I don't know if I like this.

ZACH

The other doctor told me that my eye site could come back. Why should I worry my parents if I could get my site back.

The Army Doctor checks the clipboard and the papers attached to it. He quickly reads the third page.

ARMY DOCTOR

The chances of your site coming back are slim.

ZACH

But there is a chance?

ARMY DOCTOR

Zach, its not coming back.

ZACH

Will see...

EXT. ALTON MISSOURI - MAIN STREET - DAY

The town is putting together a parade for hometown hero Zach Gordon.

A banner hangs across the top of the street, 'Welcome Home Zach'. The towns people are waiting for Zach to drive into town.

A CAR parks away from the main street, it stops where no one can see it.

INT. CAR - DAY

JACOB HARDY (22), thin, handsome, he turns to Zach sitting in the passenger seat. He looks around making sure no one is around.

JACOB

Okay, I parked out of the way like you said. The town's planned a huge parade for you.

ZACH

A parade? Are you kidding? Why?

JACOB

Did you forget what a big deal you were before you left?

(a moment)

Did you even tell your Mom and Dad that your blind?

Jacob reaches over and slowly takes off Zach's blind man's sunglasses and slips on a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses in there place.

JACOB (CONT'D)

The town is waiting for the return of The Hammer.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Jake, I'm not The Hammer anymore. Take me home. I'm not going to go up there.

JACOB

Just stay close to me, I'll get
you through it.

Jacob helps Zach out of the car. The two walk down the sidewalk towards the other side of the street.

Out of nowhere, STACI HAUGE (21), dark hair, beautiful, she plants a huge wet kiss on Zach's lips.

She grabs Zach's hand and leads him down the street towards a waiting convertible.

Jacob keeps up walking along side the couple.

STACI

Zach? Where are you going? The
Mayor is waiting for you!

ZACH

Staci stop it! Jacob is coming
with me, stop trying to control
everything!

EXT. ALTON MAIN SQUARE - GAZEBO - DAY

Staci leads Zach up towards the podium inside the gazebo. Jacob stands on the opposite side and leans towards Zach ear.

JACOB

(whispers)

Okay, your Mom and Dad are here.
Your Mom is coming up to you.

MARY GORDON (50), and looks tired and warn.

MARY

Oh my little boy. Back from the
war. Let me look at you.

Mary steps back to look at Zach. Zach looks straight a head.

ROBERT GORDON (55), handsome, a full head of gray hair, he looks at Zach closely. Robert extends his hand out in front of him.

Jacob spots Robert's hand out, he grabs Zach's right arm and swings it up so his hand lands on Robert's hand. Robert shakes his son's hand.

ZACH

(quietly)

Thanks Jacob.

The TOWNSPEOPLE see the Zach is shaking hands, they rush towards him hoping to shake his hand.

They push and shove their way up toward him, causing his sunglasses to knock off his face.

The sunglasses fall to the ground and quickly get stepped on and broken. Zach reaches down onto the ground and tries to reach for them.

STACI

Zach, what's wrong with you?
Don't worry about the glasses,
I'll buy you a new pair.

Zach rises to his feet with his eyes closed.

MARY

Honey open your eyes.

Zach opens his eyes and Staci is the first one to see that he is blind.

Staci screams and faints. The crowd around the gazebo lets out a loud Gasp.

INT. DOCTOR OFFICE - TWO MONTHS LATER - DAY

Zach sits inside the exam room waiting.

The DOCTOR (30), enters the room, he looks like he hasn't slept in weeks. He yawns as he reads Zach's chart.

DOCTOR

The test are still reading the same. Only eight percent in both eyes.

ZACH

The Army Doctor told me the same thing. Isn't there something else you can do?

DOCTOR

Zach, your eyes could come back to at least twenty percent. Or they could come back at a hundred percent.

The Doctor makes a note on the chart.

ZACH

I just want to know if I will ever
get my eye sight back or not?

DOCTOR

Right now, it's still to early to
tell.

ZACH

It's been six months. How long is
this going to be?

DOCTOR

I really can't tell you right now.
Only time will tell.

INT. STACI'S APARTMENT - DAY

The door opens into a small but neatly kept apartment.
Staci stands in the middle of the living room with three
large bags of luggage.

Staci is hurrying, trying to close one of the larger bags
that's overflowing with clothes. Jacob and Zach stands
at the door.

JACOB

Let me know if you need to ride
tomorrow.

ZACH

Thanks man, I don't know what I
would do without you.

Jacob leans over to tell Zach what Staci has inside the
living room.

JACOB

(quietly)
Dude, she's all packed.

Jacob leaves and closes the door to the apartment.

ZACH

What is going go Staci? Are you
going somewhere?

Staci looks around the living room at all of the luggage.

STACI

How do you know I'm leaving. You can see me! The Doctor did fix you!

Zach reaches around searching for a near by chair to sit in. He finally touches one of the dinning room table chairs and sits.

ZACH

Why are you leaving me? What's wrong?

STACI (CONT'D)

I can't take care of you. You were supposed to take care of me.

ZACH

Staci I'm sorry, I didn't know this was going to happen. We'll get through this.

STACI

You don't understand, I'm to young and beautiful to be taking care of a blind person. This isn't my life.

Zach rises to his feet.

ZACH

So, you didn't love me at all. Why were you with me?

STACI

(surprised)

Because your "The Hammer" You were gonna get me out of this town. Didn't you understand that?

ZACH

I understand now...

Staci grabs one of the suitcases and opens the door to the apartment.

STACI

I'm sorry Zach. Hey, the rest is paid for two months. You used be able to find a place by then.

Staci walks out of the apartment pulling the large suitcase. Zach sits back down and covers his face with both hands.

INT. ZACH'S PARENTS HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - DAY

Robert and Zach walk into the living room. Robert heads for the hallway. Zach walks a few steps and bumps into the couch. He puts out his walking stick and knocks over a lamp.

ZACH

Crap...that wasn't there before.

Zach turns around with his stick in front of him and hits a table that is in front of the couch. The stick hits another lamp and knocks it down to the floor.

MARY

Zach!!! What are you doing to my house?!!

ZACH

Mom! You can't keep moving everything around on me, how do you expect me to get around in here?

MARY

Zach...why do I have to change my house. I like the way it was.

ZACH

I understand Mom. But how do you expect me to learn where everything is, when you keep moving it.

MARY

You can't learn to get around with what is already here.

ZACH

No Mom...it doesn't work that way. Unless you want me to keep breaking everything?

Mary looks around at all the things in the living room.

MARY

I don't know if this arrangement is going to work out.

ZACH

Are you kidding me? You really saying what I think your saying?

MARY

This is not working out.

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Zach walks into the apartment carrying his duffel bag. He puts it down next to the door. Jacob moves a few boxes out of a room and puts them into a closet.

JACOB

Just let me take a some of these boxes out of here and the room will be ready.

Zach carefully uses his walking stick to feel around the apartment. He takes on a couch near the door.

ZACH

This is only till I find my own place.

JACOB (O.S.)

How are you going to live on your own? You can stay here as long as you want.

Jacob comes back into the living room.

JACOB (CONT'D)

What did your Dad say about your Mom throwing you out?

Zach carefully makes his way around the couch and sits down.

ZACH

He didn't say to much. He wants to keep the piece between him and my Mom.

Jacob picks up Zach duffel bag and takes it to the extra room. He tosses it into the room.

JACOB

I'm sorry to tell you this. But, your Dad's a whimp.

ZACH

Yeah..I know.

Jacob goes over to the fridge and pulls out two bottles off beer. He opens them and hands one to Zach.

JACOB

So, what do you want to do tonight?

ZACH

The only place I feel at home

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - TWO MONTHS LATER - NIGHT

Zach and Jacob sit at one of the tables that over look the bowling lanes. At the table there are three empty bottles of beer in front of them.

BECKY LYNN (22), pretty, blond haired, curvy, waitress at the bowling alley. She places two more bottles of beer down for Zach and Jacob.

BECKY

Can I get your boys anything else?

ZACH

How about a new pair of eyes.

The bowling alley is a shrine to Zach.

There are awards and banners with the scores and the records broken of the state of Missouri. The word, "The Hammer" is all over the bowling alley.

JACOB

What did Staci tell you before you left?

ZACH

She said, 'I'm to young and beautiful to have to take a care of a blind man'.

JACOB

Are you kidding me. What a bitch.

Becky smiles as she finishes picking up the empty bottles from the table.

Jacob notices Becky smiling at Zach right away. She looks at Jacob and quickly leaves.

ZACH

Are you guys watching Becky walk away. I'm telling.

GRANDPA FISH

How do you do that?

ZACH

My blind magical powers.

JACOB

Yeah, your like a superhero.

ZACH

No...I could hear Grandpa Fish's pase maker shift gears.

Zach and Jacob break into laughter. Becky walks up with Zach's beer.

BECKY

What is everyone laughing at?

The three men at the table sit quietly looking guilty.

GRANDPA FISH

Zach here told us a joke.

BECKY

I want to hear it.

ZACH

Becky these two where checking you out. They were surprised that I could tell.

Becky strikes a pose like a model from a 40's pin up.

BECKY

I dress like this so I will be looked at. And it helps me with the tips.

GRANDPA FISH

I'll give you a tip right now if you do that pose again.

BECKY

Grandpa you know I don't know how to do CPR. You don't remember when I made the mistake of bending over in front of you to pick up that napkin you dropped.

JACOB

I remember that.

BECKY

All I did was pick up a piece of paper. My skirt was too short and grandpa here saw my ass. His heart stopped and they had to call for the Paramedics.

Zach starts laughing.

GRANDPA FISH

It was worth it.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - BOWLING LANES - NIGHT

JOHN BREWSTER (55), large like a lumber jack, loud, rude, and holding a bottle of beer. He is the captain of The Bomber bowling team.

John looks around the bowling alley and spots Zach and Jacob. He makes his over to the two men.

The few people inside the bowling alley know that something bad is about to happen.

Becky sees John cutting across the bowling alley straight for Zach and Jacob. She rushes out to block him.

BECKY

John, isn't your team looking for you? Why don't you go back to the lanes and I will bring you a round of beers on the house.

JOHN

Beautiful, you can still bring the beers to my guys down there. But I have business with an old friend.

Jacob spots John heading towards them.

JACOB

We have company. The kind you don't want.

JOHN

Well, well...it's 'The Hammer' Can I have your autograph? Why don't you come and bowl a few frames with us.

Zach sits calmly.

JOHN (CONT'D)

This whole place is like some kind of freaking museum to you. Do you know that?

ZACH

No, I didn't know that. Does that bother you?

Zach reaches down and grabs his walking stick and hold it like a weapon just under the table out of the sight of John.

JOHN

Yes. It does bother me. I should be the one with the shrine around here, not some washed up war vet.

ZACH

Watch it.

Becky steps in between John and Zach.

BECKY

Guys, Bruce told me to tell you, that if you start something, you won't ever be allowed back in here again.

The group turn and look towards the bar area.

BRUCE GREEN (40), ex-biker, body like a bodybuilder and the manager of the bowling alley.

JOHN

Your very lucky.

ZACH

Eat shit.

JOHN

The Hammer, what a joke.

John walks away laughing, he walks back down to the bowling lanes meeting up with his friends.

BECKY

Zach, you don't want to mess with Big John. He's been waiting for you to come back from Iraq so he can bowl against you.

ZACH

Why would he want to bowl me?

JACOB

Dude, your The Hammer.

BECKY

Your the town's hero. He's the second best bowler.

ZACH

I'm not that person anymore. I wish I was.

BECKY

I'm sorry.

Becky turns and makes her way back to the bar area.

ZACH

I shouldn't have to take shit like that.

JACOB

Don't worry about it. John will just have live with the fact that he won't get to bowl you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - A WEEK LATER - NIGHT

The bowling alley is not as busy. A few people bowl in the lanes and the music is playing loud.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - A WEEK LATER - NIGHT

The bowling alley is not as busy. A few people bowl in the lanes and the music is playing loud.

GRANDPA FISH (78), looks like one of Santa's elf's, with a white beard and glasses. He is never without a cigarette hanging from his mouth.

Grandpa Fish pulls up a chair and sits down with Zach and Jacob. He puts his hand in front of Zach's face and starts to move it up and down.

ZACH

Grandpa, stop waving your hand in front of my face.

GRANDPA FISH

How did you know I was doing that?

ZACH

I heard someone sit down first,
then I could smell the cigarettes
on your hand.

Becky walks up to the table with two bottles of beer. She puts one down in front of Jacob and starts to put on in front of Zach, except Grandpa Fish takes it.

Becky is wearing a top that shows off her large breast, she shows her flat stomach, and a short blue-jean skirt that shows off her long shapely legs.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Becky can you bring me another one
please.

BECKY

(smiling)

Sure.

GRANDPA FISH

How does he know what is going on
around him?

ZACH

I just know you that's all.

Becky smiles as she finishes picking up the empty bottles from the table. Jacob notices Becky smiling at Zach right away. She looks at Jacob and quickly leaves.

Grandpa Fish watch Becky walk away. She walks away with a wiggle to her walk.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Are you guys watching Becky
walking away again?

GRANDPA FISH

How do you do that?

HOURS LATER

Becky takes another round of empty beer bottles from the three friends.

BECKY

Are you guys done for the night?

GRANDPA FISH

Done?

BECKY

You guys have been drinking all night.

GRANDPA FISH

What are you? My mother?

ZACH

(to Grandpa Fish)

Take it easy.

(to Becky)

We'll have one more round.

JACOB

Yeah, that sounds good to me.

Big John and his team yell and cheer from the down in the bowling lanes. Zach turns his head towards the cheering.

ZACH

Sounds like Big John is having a good night.

JACOB

Don't let him get to you.

ZACH

That used to be us. It was a party all the time. And I had Staci at my side.

Becky walks up behind Jacob with their beers, hears what Zach has said and frowns. She puts the fresh beers down on the table.

BECKY

There you go boys.

Big John walks back towards Zach, followed by three friends.

JACOB

Here we go again.

ZACH

What? What's wrong?

John stands in front of the table with his friends behind him.

JOHN

Looks guys. This is, 'The Hammer'
or what's left of him. Now's he's
a drunken has has-been.

ZACH

What is your problem? Didn't you
get enough attention tonight.

JOHN

My problem is you. Having to hear
how good you are for years and
never getting the change to prove
I'm better than you.

GRANDPA FISH

You'll never, be better than Zach.

JOHN

That's the kind of shit I'm
talking about. I have to hear
that every place I go.

JACOB

Live with it.

JOHN

No, I won't. I want to bowl 'The
Hammer' and prove I'm the better
bowler.

The three friends pat John on the back and move him
forwards in getting him what he wants.

ZACH

You want to bowl me? A blind man?
A war vet?

JOHN

Yes, I want to bowl you. I want to
bowl "The Hammer".

Becky leans over into Zach's ear.

BECKY

(whispers)
Zach, don't listen to him. He's
just trying to embarrass you.

JOHN

Hey! Don't be talking about me!

BECKY

(to John)

I'm telling him that you just want
to embarrass him.

Zach reaches in front of him and grabs his bottle of
beer. He sits back in his chair and downs his beer.

ZACH

You want to bowl, The Hammer?

JOHN

Yes.

ZACH

Okay, ass-hole. I'll bowl you.

Everyone looks at each other in shock. Zach rises to his
feet.

ZACH (CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

Just point me in the right
direction. Let's get this shit
over with.

Jacob stands in front of Zach and gets right into his
face.

JACOB

Zach, you don't have to do this.

ZACH

Yes I do. Just help me by point
me in the right direction.

JOHN

Come on! Let's do this.

The group heads down into the bowling lanes area. John's
friends are chanting, "BIG JOHN" as they walk.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - BOWLING LANES

Everyone is ready, and watching what is about to happen.
A small group of people have gathered to watch.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(to Zach)

I will let you go first

ZACH

Thank you--I mean fuck you.

Jacob leads Zach towards front of bowling lane. Jacob puts a bowling ball in his hand.

JACOB

Are you sure you want to do this?

ZACH

Yes.

JACOB

Okay Hammer. Go get hem.

Jacob steps away from Zach. Zach lets the bowling ball fly. The ball flies straight and hits all the pins.

The crowd cheers at seeing a strike. John stands with a surprised look on his face.

JOHN

That's just luck.

The ball comes back up the shoot and Zach steps over and grabs it.

He steps back again to where he was standing just as the pins are lined up again by the automatic pin- setter.

Zach lets the bowling ball fly again. The ball hits the pins straight on and they all fall down.

The crowd cheer louder. John stands with a shock look on his face.

SERIES OF SCENES:

Big John bowls his game, knocking down half the pins but picking up a spare.

Zach bowls and knocks down all the pins again. He does the same again and again. He is in the middle of bowling a perfect game.

The crowd inside the bowling alley is growing with word of mouth that The Hammer is bowling a match.

Big John bowls a strike, he looks up at the score and we can see he is far behind.

Zach comes up and bowls two more strikes to the sound of loud cheers.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - BOWLING LANES

Zach sits next to Jacob looking straight ahead.

JACOB

How are you doing this?

ZACH

I don't know? Maybe I had one match left in me. Or maybe I'm just so drunk, I don't really care.

JACOB

I guess so.

John misses two pins and shows his frustration to the crowd.

JOHN

This is bull-shit!

JACOB

(to Zach)

This is the last frame.

ZACH

Okay.

Zach feels his way to the front of the bowling lane and sets himself to launch his bowling ball.

The crowd behind him begins to chat 'Hammer' Staci steps out front the crowd to watch Zach.

The bowling ball flies and strikes the pins hard, knocking them all down. The crowd give a loud cheer. Zach waits for the ball to return.

The ball flies again, and strikes the pins. All the pins are knocked down to thunderous cheer for Zach.

JOHN

(angry)

Damn you! This is bull-shit!

The crowd surround Zach, all of them patting him on the back and congratulating him.

Staci makes her way to Zach and tries to put her arms around him. Zach pushes her away.

ZACH

What are you doing?

STACI

I knew you'd come back.

ZACH

I never left. But you did.

STACI

I'm sorry. But I'm back now.

ZACH

It doesn't work that way. You can't just come back because you feel like it.

(a breath)

Excuse me.

Zach steps to the side away from her. Jacob quickly stands at Zach's side.

JACOB

Are you okay?

ZACH

I'm great.

JACOB

I think there's someone who wants to say something to you.

ZACH

Who?

Jacob leads Zach towards the waiting Becky. She stands with a wide smile on her face.

JACOB

I think she is the one for you? I just get the feeling?

ZACH

Who?

Jacob stops Zach and lifts up his arms and puts them around Becky's waist.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Whoa wait!

BECKY
Its okay.

ZACH
You?

Becky holds Zach tight in her arms.

BECKY
I should have told you sooner. I
have always been in love with you.
Since high school.

ZACH
I didn't know that.

BECKY
How could you.

ZACH
I'm sorry.

The crowd from the bowling alley pass Zach and Becky and
keep cheering.

BECKY
I know your blind. And I don't
care.
(a breath)
I love you.

ZACH
I don't have anything to offer
you.

BECKY
Yes you do. You have your heart.

Zach and Becky kiss long and passionately. Jacob and
Grandpa Fish stand to side watching with wide smiles on
their faces.

FADE OUT.

THE END

