

Resistance
SHOOTING SCRIPT
BLUE DRAFT

By

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2010 Salina Conlan
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1A. IN BLACK:

FAMILY
(sung, V.O.)
Happy Birthday to you-

1B. CUT TO:

Two passports move over a counter. A second later a pair of badges marked PRESS ACCESS are handed back.

1A. CUT TO:

JOE HODGES(27) hangs back, texting on his phone as his family are gathered around a big wood dining table. At the head is POP (Phillip), 60, with a candle-covered cake in front of him. This is intercut with the opening credits.

FAMILY
Happy Birthday to you.

1C. CUT TO:

Joe shakes hands with LIEUTENANT DANIEL BURKE, 27. Then VIKI MATTHEWS, 30, Joe's camera operator does the same. They pile into a military vehicle.

FAMILY
(V.O.)
Happy birthday-

1A. CUT TO:

Back in the household, Joe is distracted, ignoring his family.

FAMILY
(Cont'd)
Dear Pop (-Phillip).

1D. CUT TO:

The military vehicle holding Joe drives past a road sign that says "Baghdad" in English and Arabic.

FAMILY
(V.O.)
Happy Birthday

1A. CUT TO:

Back in the home a cake is set on the table in front of Pop.

(CONTINUED)

FAMILY

-to you!

Pop blows out the candles. His wife, CATHY(53) and daughter ELIZABETH (20) smile and laugh. Joe is still texting.

CUT TO:

Everyone is milling around eating cake. Joe is still checking his phone. Credits have ended by now. Elizabeth comes up to Joe and takes the phone out of his hand.

JOE

Hey!

ELIZABETH

Nuh-uh.

Joe reaches for his phone, Elizabeth doesn't give it up yet. She offers him a plate of cake instead.

JOE

I've got a trip.

ELIZABETH

You just want your phone back.

She insists on the cake and Joe takes it. He pauses and looks over at pop. Elizabeth notices.

ELIZABETH

Have you told him?

JOE

I- not yet.

Elizabeth hands Joe his phone back. He takes it and walks over to Pop.

POP

Hey, Joey. (Pause) Lost your phone?

Pop smiles, but then he realizes that this is serious.

2

INT. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT.

2

Pop and Joe are facing each other.

POP

Iraq?

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Tomorrow.

Pop processes this.

POP

You want to get yourself killed for that stupid TV show?

JOE

I won't get killed. Besides, this isn't for Star Scene. This is bigger.

Pop doesn't look convinced.

JOE

I'm finally covering some real news. A story that means something to me.

POP

What story is that?

JOE

It's about the Don't Ask Don't Tell repeal.

POP

What does that mean to you?

JOE

You really don't know?

Pop shakes his head, but he may just suspect-

JOE

I'm gay, Pop.

POP

Joey-

JOE

That's why I wanted to do this story.

POP

(Pause, then-)

That's a hell of a thing to tell me and then run off.

JOE
That's what you have to say to me?

POP
What should I say?

JOE
You know what, I should go. I have
an early flight.

He walks out quickly, leaving Pop frustrated and confused.

3

EXT. CAMP. DAY.

3

Joe, Viki and Daniel are walking along toward the camp.

JOE
What's our first interview?

VIKI
(For the 10th time)
Captain James. 10 am tomorrow.

JOE
Okay. Got it.

Viki doesn't believe him.

JOE
(Cont'd)
No, really, I've got it.

Joe trots ahead to catch up with Daniel.

JOE
Hey, Daniel- You don't mind if I
call you Daniel?

DANIEL
Honestly, I prefer you didn't, sir.

JOE
Ok then, Danny-

Daniel scowls.

JOE
-Daniel. Did you know Sergeant
Lewis?

DANIEL

Staff Sergeant- and with all due respect, I'm not interested in getting involved with your work. I'm just following orders.

JOE

Right. Okay. (Pause) Well then, could you at least point me to the nearest coffee shop?

Daniel stops and looks over at Joe in confusion. Finally Joe cracks a smile, then laughs. It gets Daniel to smile.

DANIEL

Yes, sir; it's right beside the steak house.

JOE

Fantastic.

DANIEL

Wait here. I'm going to grab the second waiver for you.

VIKI

Great. Thank you.

3A.

Joe looks over to where a trio of soldiers are playing basketball with a cut open bucket nailed to something sturdy; ZIPLINE, 24- and a woman, WHISKEY, 20- but massive, and STRIKER, 22. Whiskey looks over at Viki and whistles just quiet enough that she can't hear.

WHISKEY

Shit, if I knew a lady was coming I'd have shaved my balls.

Zipline throws the basketball at Whiskey's head. He swats it away.

ZIPLINE

Shaving your balls wouldn't make you any less ugly.

Striker notices Joe.

STRIKER

Hey, aren't you the guy from "Star Scene?"

(CONTINUED)

JOE

You get that out here?

STRIKER

Internet, man. I want to know what Olivia Wilde is up to, you know?

Joe grins, eating up the attention. Daniel reemerges from the tent with some papers. He hands them off to Viki.

4

INT. TENT. DAY.

4

CAPTAIN JAMES, a stern military man with an imposing air, is sitting in his tent in front of a tactical map. Joe is at his side. Viki is across from them looking at the viewfinder on the camera. She's recording. The perspective changes back and forth from the normal shots to looking through Viki's camera.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Staff Sergeant Lewis never should have enlisted.

JOE

He enlisted for the same reason you did, he just wanted to serve his country.

CAPTAIN JAMES

It was a good intention. Good intentions don't win wars.

JOE

Good soldiers do. Wasn't recruitment dangerously low recently?

CAPTAIN JAMES

We need honest soldiers, or we might as well not have any soldiers at all.

JOE

Sergent Lewis only lied because he had to.

CAPTAIN JAMES

No one *has* to lie. Ever. Every aspect of military training is a test. Not only of skill, but of character. I won't be around folks I can't trust, nor would I expect that of my men.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

The policy wasn't a test. It was-

CAPTAIN JAMES

In the matter of Staff Sergeant Lewis' dismissal, it doesn't matter what the policy was, what matters is what he did. He enlisted in the face of that policy and he chose to abide it. You tell me what that says about his character.

JOE

That isn't right.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Because he's gay? Should he be treated differently than any other soldier?

Joe is baffled.

CAPTAIN JAMES

He broke the rules, and like any soldier who breaks the rules, he was dealt with appropriately.

Joe looks flustered.

5

INT. MESS HALL. DAY.

5

Striker, Whiskey and some other soldiers are sitting in the mess, eating. Daniel is at a table with, but away from Joe and Viki who in the middle of a discussion/argument.

VIKI

What did you expect? For him to be nice to you?

During that exchange, Zipline comes over and sits down between Joe and Striker. Joe smiles at her, she smiles back.

JOE

Someone's in a good mood.

ZIPLINE

Yes, sir. A bit a privacy will do that for you out here.

Joe looks a little confused. Zipline looks at him and makes a lewd gesture with her fingers.

(CONTINUED)

WHISKEY

Why *do* women masturbate? It's a fucking waste. Got a horny pussy? I'm here to lick the fuck out of it.

ZIPLINE

(quietly)

I'd rather let a dog lick my cunt.

STRIKER

Hey, Star Scene, you bring any pornos with you?

JOE

Um, no, but if I had I don't think you'd want them.

STRIKER

Why not?

JOE

Cause they'd be full of men.

STRIKER

Oh! (Laughs)-

While Striker responds, Whiskey drops his fork with a loud "CLANK".

WHISKEY

Shit.

Daniel tenses. Everyone else looks over at Whiskey. He is looking down.

JOE

Is there a problem?

Whiskey turns slowly and looks at Joe.

WHISKEY

Lost my appetite.

Whiskey takes his tray and leaves the table.

6

INT. TENT. EVENING.

6

The next interview is Zipline. She's seated comfortably with her helmet in her lap. Her head is down as she thinks.

(CONTINUED)

ZIPLINE

Staff Sergeant Lewis gave years to the military. He risked his life countless times. I trusted him completely- I still would.

JOE

Do you think his orientation compromised his affectiveness as a soldier?

ZIPLINE

It didn't make a damn bit of difference as far as I know. Hell, I'm attracted to men and it's not a problem for me.

JOE

Thank you, Specialist Ryley.

Viki stops recording. Zipline takes a deep breath.

ZIPLINE

Off the record; I think the whole fucking mess is a disgrace.

7

EXT. CAMP. DAY.

7

Joe has his laptop open. His wireless modem is plugged in and he's trying to connect. Whiskey walks by and glares menacingly at Joe. The Skype connect sound comes through the computer, startling him.

JOE

Finally.

7A. The call connects and Elizabeth is on the computer screen. She smiles.

JOE

Hey, little sis.

ELIZABETH

Joey! Hey! How is it?

JOE

Hot, sandy. Like you'd expect a desert to be. How's everyone at home?

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

We're good. Worried. We miss you.

JOE

No need to worry. It's totally safe out here. Hey, ah, how's Pop?

ELIZABETH

Fine.

JOE

He say anything to you?

ELIZABETH

Not yet. Joey, you shouldn't have waited so long-

Daniel approaches. Joe waves him over and cuts Elizabeth off.

JOE

Hey, Ellie, this is my military escort, Daniel. Daniel, this is my sister, Ellie. Say hi.

DANIEL

Ma'am.

ELIZABETH

Ooh, wow. Hello.

JOE

Yeah, he's hot, right?

Daniel is startled by that, but Joe ignores him.

JOE

Anyway, I should go, but tell everyone I'll be fine and I do love you guys.

ELIZABETH

Ok, Joey, be safe.

JOE

I will.

Joe closes the laptop and turns to Daniel.

JOE

Yessir.

Daniel can't help but smile at Joe.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Tomorrow at 0800 we're going on a run. Just delivering food, but it's something away from the camp if you're interested.

JOE

Yeah, ok. I'm in.

Daniel starts to walk off.

DANIEL

Don't be late.

JOE

I won't.

DANIEL

You sleep in; we'll leave you.

Joe smiles and packs up his laptop.

8

INT. TENT. DAY.

8

KIMBERLY KERR, 26, all professionalism and military posture addresses the camera.

JOE

Do you believe that a gay soldier can't have good morals?

KERR

I think his morals are strained if that's the lifestyle he's pursuing.

JOE

Did Sergeant Lewis engage in any inappropriate conduct while he was here?

KERR

No. Not to my knowledge.

JOE

So what did his orientation matter?

KERR

I- I truly couldn't answer that.

9

INT. TENT. EVENING.

9

THROUGH THE CAMERA:

PRIVATE COLLINS, 19, looks into the camera, then.

COLLINS

I haven't been here long, but you get close to people fast. I felt like I knew Staff Sergeant Lewis- that I knew who he was. Finding out- I mean, I don't have a problem with gay people- But to not know? That was- It's uncomfortable to say the least.

10

EXT. SMALL VILLIAGE. DAY.

10

Joe is sitting on a pallet with his sunglasses and his helmet and vest on. He looks like he could be napping. Soldiers distribute rations to a line of Iraqi women near by. Viki- also in helmet and vest- is getting footage. Finally Joe, stretches and starts to wander around. Off to the side there is a CHILD, 4-12. The child's MOTHER, is calling to him in Arabic, but the kid is having fun. Joe walks closer and waves at the child. The child waves back and then runs to the other side of a wall as if playing hide and seek. Joe smirks and just makes it to the edge of the wall, then-

BANG!

With a flash of light and the deafening sound, everything goes white.

Joe is on the ground, sprayed with dirt and debris. His helmet has tumbled off and as he rolls over, his sunglasses do the same. Smoke rises from the other side of the wall, where the child had been. Joe's ears are ringing from the blast. He rolls onto his side and sees Daniel holding on to the boy's mother as she struggles to break free.

DANIEL

(Unheard)

Ma'am! Ma'am stop- you can't.
Ryley! Tell this woman she can't go after him.

Zipline(Amber) is already there- she speaks to the woman in Arabic. The woman is yelling and shaking her head. She still struggles to break free. Zipline continues to try and calm her down. Viki is on one knee getting coverage of all this.

(CONTINUED)

Joe stumbles to his feet and staggers toward the gap in the wall. He shakes his head and his hearing suddenly returns.

DANIEL
Joe! Get the fuck back!

JOE
I'm going to get him out.

DANIEL
That's not your job!

Joe stops advancing, but he is looking at where the child is laying.

JOE
Shit.

Joe takes a moment.

WHISKEY
A shot to the leg will stop him
from going out there.

DANIEL
(To Whiskey)
Shut your mouth. (To Joe) Joe. Get
back or so help me I will make you
move.

Joe stands there a moment, debating on what he should do. Finally he turns and staggers along the wall. He leans heavily against the wall and slides down. In the background, Daniel is managing the situation, the mother wails in Zipline's arms, Striker is on the radio. Whiskey and two other SOLDIERS manage the crowd. Viki alternates between looking through her camera and looking over at Joe. Joe doesn't look at any of them. He stares off.

11 EXT. CAMP. DAY.

11

Joe is washing his shirt in a bucket washer outside his tent. Whiskey approaches him. He looms over Joe and spits some chew to the side. Joe looks up at him.

JOE
Can I help you?

Whiskey stays there. Silent. Joe goes back to his laundry, but after a moment he looks up again. Whiskey looks back, then spits in the laundry bucket. Joe looks at the amber spit floating on the suds.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
You're not so happy with me.

Silence.

JOE
Yeah? Take it up with the Captain.
He agreed to bring me out here.

Whiskey steps closer and kicks over the bucket. Joe stands abruptly to avoid the spill.

JOE
Jesus!

Joe lunges at Whiskey. Whiskey pushes him back, then grabs Joe by the shirt and gets in his face.

WHISKEY
You want to tell me how to do my
fucking job? We've risked our
LIVES. You understand what that
means?

While this is happening, Daniel- who has heard the scuffle, rushes out and separates the two.

DANIEL
Hey, back the fuck off! What is
your problem, Barrett?

WHISKEY
Sir, I do not like this faggot in
our camp.

DANIEL
You watch your damn mouth when you
speak to me.

WHISKEY
He's been in our way, Lieutenant.
(At Joe) He's here to make us look
like assholes.

JOE
Maybe you are an asshole.

Whiskey lunges at Joe threateningly, Daniel pushes him back.

DANIEL
Hey! Hey! (To Whiskey) Go take a
walk. Cool off.

Whiskey stares down Joe. Then looks at Daniel.

(CONTINUED)

WHISKEY

Yes, sir.

Whiskey takes a breath to compose himself and walks off.
Daniel taps Joe on the arm.

DANIEL

(To Joe)

You alright?

Joe nods. He reaches down and rights the bucket, then plops his now dust-encrusted shirt in the bottom.

JOE

He make it?

DANIEL

(Hesitates)

The child? He was breathing when we loaded him in.

Joe rubs the heels of his hands against his eyes.

JOE

I was trying to help him.

DANIEL

You could have gotten blown up ass to eyeballs. You were being a fucking idiot.

Joe picks up the bucket.

JOE

I have to get some more water.

He start to walk off, but Daniel takes a hold of Joe's arm. Joe freezes in place. He looks Daniel in the eye.

DANIEL

I'm not your enemy. We have more in common than you think.

Joe is about to shrug that off, but Daniel means it. The realization comes to Joe and he looks at where Daniel is holding onto his arm. Instantly Daniel pulls his hand away.

DANIEL

That's not what I meant.

JOE

Tell me I'm wrong. Lie to me.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

I'm a soldier out here; nothing more or less.

JOE

When you go home?

DANIEL

I'll be happy to be alive.

JOE

You'll be alone. All your training better prepare you for that.

That hits Daniel hard. He takes a second, then shrugs it off.

DANIEL

It's better no one knows. We all make sacrifices for bigger things. Right?

Joe considers this, but doesn't know if he agrees.

12

INT. TENT. EVENING.

12

THROUGH THE CAMERA we see Whiskey. He speaks carefully, and controlled.

WHISKEY

I don't like gays. I don't trust them.

He takes a breath and cracks his neck. He doesn't look at the camera when he says:

WHISKEY

(Cont'd)

The policy shouldn't have been "don't ask don't tell", it should be "find out and get them the fuck away from us."

Joe and Whiskey glare at each other.

JOE

Does it affect the combat?

Though he doesn't get any louder, Whiskey loses some of the control over the emotion in his voice. This is his chance to explain- to convince America why this is such a bad idea...

(CONTINUED)

WHISKEY

Of course it does. It affects everything they do. You think I want a defective soldier watching my back?

JOE

Did you say defective?

WHISKEY

Something is wrong in your heads. They shouldn't be allowed to serve.

Outside of the interview camera we see that Daniel has been off to the side, watching Joe get this interview. His face hardly gives anything away as he pulls on his hat and walks out.

13 INT. TENT. DAY.

13

STRIKER

Shit man, I don't care where he sticks his junk as long as he can shoot straight.

14 INT. TENT. EVENING.

14

Joe is laying on his cot, fully dressed with his arm slung across his eyes. Viki enters with her camera bag.

VIKI

You're not going to sleep like that are you?

She sets the bag on her cot.

JOE

Not if I don't sleep.

She sits on her cot.

VIKI

You know I went home early last time I was here...

Joe moves his arm from his face and looks over at her.

JOE

I've heard that, yeah.

(CONTINUED)

VIKI

What you don't hear is that it's because a car bomb went off when Thomas and I were in Baghdad. He took a piece of shrapnel to the leg.

JOE

That supposed to make me feel better?

VIKI

Count your blessings when you have them. It could have been you on that landmine.

Joe lets that thought sink in. He sits up.

JOE

Jesus, Viki, what am I doing here?

VIKI

You tell me.

JOE

I- I don't even know anymore.

VIKI

We can't save everyone, we can only show people the truth.

JOE

But what if we can't? What if the truth is right there but it just won't let itself be told?

Viki considers this and doesn't have an answer for him.

VIKI

You should get some sleep.

She gets up and walks behind a half-assed privacy curtain to change into her sleeping clothes. Joe takes a moment, then flops over on the cot, tucking his arms beneath his pillow. When he does, he notices a slip of paper that had been put under the pillow. He sits up as he pulls the note out and glances over to the privacy curtain. Viki is still behind it. Joe reads the note.

On the paper: Latrine at 0030. Come alone.

Joe checks his watch and shoves the note in his pocket.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

You know, you're right, Viki. I think I'm going to get some sleep.

VIKI

Good. You'll feel a world better in the morning.

Joe looks over at the camera bag.

15

EXT. LATRINE. NIGHT.

15

Through the camera, we see the latrine on night vision. Joe is alone with the gear strapped onto him. No one is around. Joe turns off the camera and looks around. He puts the camera back in the bag. Maybe this isn't a professional call...

JOE

(whispered)

Daniel?

Suddenly someone tackles him from behind, pulling a t-shirt over his head.

WHISKEY

You're out late.

Whiskey punches Joe in the kidney and he goes down. The camera bag falls off Joe's shoulder and Whiskey kicks it past the latrines, then descends on Joe with a knee in his back.

WHISKEY

You want to tell me how to fight my war, faggot?

Whiskey straddles the back of Joe's neck and humps the back of his head, crushing his face into the dirt. The t-shirt slips off of Joe's head. Joe struggles.

WHISKEY

This what you were looking for?
Huh? Like it?

He gets off Joe and turns him onto his side with his boot. Joe spits dirt. Whiskey kicks him in the gut and Joe doubles over in pain.

WHISKEY

You don't belong out here. Stick around any longer-

(CONTINUED)

Whiskey rests his boot on the top of Joe's head.

WHISKEY

And next time you won't walk away.

He walks off as Joe rolls on the floor in pain.

16

INT. TENT. DAY.

16

CAPTAIN JAMES

You have my assurance, we will find out who did this and see to it that he's punished.

JOE

I know who did it.

CAPTAIN JAMES

It's pitch black out there at night. No star of Bethlehem in this place. You telling me if I lined up all my soldiers and had each one of them whisper in you ear, "hey, pretty boy, take your faggot ass and go home", you could tell me whose whisper you heard before your bell got rung?

JOE

It's the same guy that's been harassing me since I got here.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Anyone else being harassed? A soldier maybe? You're paid to be an observant fellow, willing to say you observed anything like that?

JOE

What are you getting at?

CAPTAIN JAMES

Where was Lieutenant Burke when you had your "alleged incident of bias"?

JOE

No idea. In his bunk I'd guess.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Not with you?

(CONTINUED)

JOE

What the hell is *that* supposed to mean?

CAPTAIN JAMES

He's supposed to look after you.

JOE

You told him to.

CAPTAIN JAMES

I thought you two would get along.

The realization sinks in.

JOE

You son of a bitch. You set him up and now you want me to sell him out.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Think very carefully about the next thing you tell me. Particularly if it's something I don't already know in an official way.

JOE

I don't know anything that you don't know.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Then it sounds like you've had exactly enough time here to get your story, doesn't it?

JOE

What was that? A threat?

CAPTAIN JAMES

I'm looking out for your safety.

JOE

Lieutenant Burke is one of your best soldiers.

James is silent. He stares Joe down.

JOE

And he's straight. Ok?

James continues to stare Joe down.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

For a fact. So back off.

James nods.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Thank you, Mr. Hodges. I appreciate your assessment. (pause) Have a safe trip back to the states.

Joe gets up and walks out of the tent.

17

EXT. CAMP. EVENING.

17

Joe is sitting off by himself nursing his wounds. Daniel approaches him. Joe looks over and Daniel sees the bruising of Joe's face. They are quiet for a moment, then:

DANIEL

I remember going fishing with my dad. (Daniel sits near Joe) It was just after my mom ran off so he and I didn't talk much. I remember him saying that I was the most important thing in his life. He believed I could be anything.

Joe looks over at Daniel, but says nothing.

DANIEL

My college money ended up in a vodka bottle. Sometimes it payed the rent. Anyway, it was gone by the time I graduated high school.

JOE

Why are you telling me this?

DANIEL

I want you to understand why I'm out here. Because doing this was better than giving up.

JOE

I'm leaving.

DANIEL

What?

JOE

Captain James wants me out. I'm guessing that in a few minutes

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOE (cont'd)
you're going to get orders to drive
Viki and me back to Baghdad.

DANIEL
Shit. Joe, I'm sorry.

JOE
Just- Save it, okay?

Daniel glances around, then hesitantly reaches out to Joe who shrugs him off.

JOE
Back off! Just leave me alone.

Daniel gets to his feet, looks Joe over, then finally walks off. Joe puts his head in his hands.

18 INT. HOTEL. EVENING.

18

Joe is sitting at the desk in his hotel room, literally staring at the clock. His bags are scattered around- he's just gotten to the hotel. The minute changes and Joe's head drops. There's a knock at his door.

JOE
Coming.

He's expecting Viki, but it turns out to be Daniel.

JOE
Didn't you leave?

DANIEL
I almost did.

JOE
Come in.

He steps aside and Daniel walks in. When he settles, he takes one look at Joe and then-

DANIEL
You know what, forget it.

He heads for the door, but Joe gets in the way.

JOE
Wait. Talk to me.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL
I'm not coming out.

JOE
Daniel-

DANIEL
But you were right; I won't be in
combat forever-

JOE
Captain James knows.

Daniel is blindsided by that.

DANIEL
What?

JOE
He wanted me to confirm it. That's
why he picked you to look after me.
He set you up.

DANIEL
There's no way. I'm careful. I've
worked hard to keep this quiet-

JOE
Hey, hey, hey; don't worry.

He takes Daniel by the arms.

JOE
(Cont'd)
Don't worry. I told him you were
straight.

DANIEL
What-? You-? Why would you do that?

JOE
I guess I made a sacrifice for
something bigger.

DANIEL
Everything- Every single choice
I've ever made...

JOE
Has been for someone else?

Daniel nods. Joe puts his hands on Daniel's neck. Daniel instinctively starts to shy away from the contact- but he doesn't pull back. Joe leans in close to him.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
Change that.

Daniel is tempted- so tempted, but also terrified.

JOE
(Cont'd)
You can change that. (Joe moves
even closer- tempting.) Right
now...

Joe waits. He makes Daniel choose to close the distance between them and initiate the kiss. The initial contact is hesitant, but everything feels so right that it changes into passion.

FADE OUT.

19 EXT. HODGES FAMILY HOME. AFTERNOON.

19

FADE IN.

Joe is on his phone, walking up to the front door.

JOE
Thanks, Cindy. Merry Christmas.

Daniel is walking with him. Joe hangs up.

DANIEL
So?

JOE
So Staff Sergeant "Whiskey" Barrett
has just received his dishonorable
discharge.

DANIEL
And Captain James?

JOE
They can't touch him right now.
There's no proof of his bias.

DANIEL
I'm *in* the military and I don't get
that much information.

JOE
Maybe you just don't ask.

Joe smirks. Daniel rolls his eyes. Joe has stopped by the door- he's stalling. Daniel knocks for him.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL
Hey, don't worry.

Daniel reaches over and take's Joe's hand just as Elizabeth opens the door. They jump, letting go of each others' hands.

ELIZABETH
Hey!

JOE
Hi.

She hugs Joe, then looks at Daniel.

ELIZABETH
Hey! Daniel. It's so good to finally meet you.

Daniel offers his hand- Elizabeth hugs him instead.

DANIEL
You too.

ELIZABETH
Well, come on in. Dinner is almost ready.

They enter the house.

20 INT. HODGES FAMILY HOME. EVENING.

20

Joe and Daniel walk in and go to the dining room. Everyone pauses and looks over at the new couple. Pop takes a moment to get used to it. Father and son face off silently. Then, finally Pop smiles.

END.