Above and Beyond
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INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The body of RYAN HUNTER is THROWN against a locker. ANDREW PETERSON KNEES him in the gut.

A large crowd of classmates SURROUND the fight.

Ryan PUNCHES Andrew. Andrew stumbles back with a bloody nose.

ANDREW

I'm going to kick your ass!

Andrew TACKLES Ryan to the ground.

PRINCIPAL JACKSON and two other faculty members fight through the crowd and break up fight. They hold each boy at opposite ends of the hall.

JACKSON

Shut up! The both of you!

(Refers to faculty)

Escort them to my office.

(To crowd of students)

There are still classes to go to!

Away! All of you!

Jackson storms away behind faculty. Students scurry away quickly.

INT. PRINCIPAL JACKSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Jackson walks to his desk and sits, faces Andrew and Ryan.

JACKSON

For four years, you two have never been able to get along. You graduate in 3 weeks, tell me why I shouldn't suspend you two?

RYAN

You've been rather relaxed on punishment for our whole schooling, why change now?

ANDREW

He's right sir, with all due respect.

Principal Jackson leans forward and folds his hands.

CONTINUED: 2.

JACKSON

I know. But listen to me, this pent up anger between you two and grudge holding needs to stop. Peterson, you plan on enlisting, right?

Andrew nods in agreement.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Well, I guarantee you that if you keep this behavior up; you'll earn a one-way trip to a dishonorable discharge. Save that anger for the battlefield.

ANDREW

I wouldn't hate him so much if he didn't take everything in his life for granted.

RYAN

Oh for God's sake just drop it you arrogant dumbass!

JACKSON

Both of you, shut up now!

Principal Jackson stands up and leans forward, getting as close as he can to the two boys.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I am dead serious, do not, I repeat, do not lay a finger upon each other for the rest of the school year, or neither of you will walk across that stage.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ryan walks in the front door on his cellphone.

RYAN

Babe, I just don't know how you dated him for a year. He's so full of himself.

Ryan's mother JOANNE looks at him and mouths to get off the phone.

RYAN

I gotta go Lily. I'll talk to you later, bye.

CONTINUED: 3.

Ryan hangs up his cell phone.

JOANNE

Another fight!? Jesus Christ Ryan, you graduate in 3 weeks!

RYAN

I didn't start it.

Ryan walks into the kitchen to avoid his mother. Joanne follows.

JOANNE

I don't care. Ryan, Principal Jackson called, he said he's seriously considering banning you both from the ceremony.

RYAN

Mom, he won't do it.

JOANNE

Honey, do me a favor, just please behave yourself for three more weeks.

RYAN

Mom, I'm sorry. I promise, I'll ignore him the rest of the year.

Ryan sits at the kitchen table. A small TV on the kitchen counter is on.

TELEVISON REPORTER

We interrupt this program for a special announcement from President Matthews. We now take you live to the White House.

RYAN

Mom, can you turn that up?

Joanne turns up TV.

PRESIDENT MATTHEWS

My fellow Americans, at 5:37 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Russian president, Vladamir Gorbechov, declared war on the United States of America and our Allies. Due to the low numbers in the military, we are, effective immediately, implementing a military draft for (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4.

PRESIDENT MATTHEWS (cont'd)

soldiers. All men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 who have not already registered for the draft are required to do so as soon as possible. May I remind you that it is a federal offense to dodge the draft. If your number is called, you must report. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will prevail through this tough time. I ask that during this...

Joanne turns down the TV. Looks towards Ryan, with a concerning look.

JOANNE

Oh my God. It's been a rumor for months; I didn't honestly think that Gorbechov would go through with his threat.

RYAN

Mom, what if I'm drafted?

JOANNE

Ryan, I don't worry about it. I'm sure your father can work something out.

Ryan rolls his eyes.

RYAN

(quietly to himself)

Great.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY

Andrew SITS on a couch in his SMALL living room. He talks with his mother, LIZ PETERSON.

The TV is MUTED.

ANDREW

Should report earlier? Matthews said it himself, they're low on numbers.

LIZ

Yes, in three weeks instead of six. You are not going anywhere until you get that diploma.

CONTINUED: 5.

ANDREW

(angry)

Mom! They need me, and dad didn't even finish high school!

LIZ

And I also lost your father overseas. You're all I have, Andy. Now I support your decision to serve your country and follow in the footsteps of your father and grandfathers. But I'm also going to hold onto you as long as I can.

ANDREW

I'm sorry mom, it's just... I don't like school.

LIZ

Maybe you'd enjoy it more if you made friends instead of fighting off every classmate who thinks differently then you.

ANDREW

I'm sorry, I'll stay away from him. I promise, you will see me walk across that stage before I leave.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ryan walks and holds hands with LILY, his girlfriend.

Many students HURRY past the slow walking couple. Lockers SLAM SHUT.

LILY

Ryan, I don't see why your so disgusted by the idea of serving your country.

Ryan BACKS AWAY a bit from Lily, clearly disturbed by the idea.

RYAN

Lil, I'm not Andrew and I never will be him. I don't understand why you were ever attracted to that scumbag in the first place!

CONTINUED: 6.

LILY

(annoyed)

Ryan why do we always end back on Andrew? He's my past, Ryan. My past.

They stop outside of a classroom and Lily HUGS Ryan.

LILY

Let it go, please.

School bell rings.

RYAN

Go to class, Lil. I'll see you later.

LILY

Have a good day Ry, and relax. You're dad will straighten this out.

Lily walks into a classroom. Andrew walks by Ryan. The two men GLARE at each other.

INT. LUNCHROOM - DAY

Andrew walks to a lunch table. He joins TOBY and ADAM.

TOBY

Are you heading out early now that we're in war?

ANDREW

I want to, but my mom says I can't report until I graduate. So I'm going that Monday instead of mid-June.

ADAM

How's she handling it?

ANDREW

She's freaking out. My dad died in Iraq, and I'm all she has.

TOBY

I bet. Aren't you scared at all?

ANDREW

(proudly)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 7.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I am but this my history and I'm doing it for my country. For you guys, and our future.

Andrew trails off as Lily and Ryan walk together on the other side of the crowded lunchroom. Andrew is MESMERIZED by Lily. Ryan SHOOTS him an ANGRY GLARE.

ADAM

When are you going to get over her Andrew; she left you. I wouldn't want her back if she left me for the jerk off I hated.

ANDREW

Shut up, Adam.

At the other end of the lunch room, Lily and Ryan stand by the door.

LILY

He's a nice guy. If you ever tried talking to him maybe you'd realize that.

RYAN

He's a cocky son of a bitch who doesn't know what he wants to do with his life. That's why he's going to the war.

LILY

What's your problem?

RYAN

He thinks he better then everyone else just because of his family.

LILY

Sound like anyone else you know?

RYAN

(angry)

Don't you dare talk about me like that.

LILY

I'm just saying you think you're pretty special because of your dad.

CONTINUED: 8.

RYAN

Why don't you just mind your own business, Lily.

Ryan storms off.

Lily, UPSET and HURT, SCURRIES off the opposite way. Andrew notices this fight and RUNS after Lily.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

ANDREW

Lily! Lily! What's wrong?

Andrew runs up to Lily. The hallway is empty.

LILY

(not turning back)

Nothing Andrew! Just go away!

Andrew pulls her arm and forces her to turn and face him.

ANDREW

We dated for a year, Lily, I know when your upset. Tell me, what's the matter?

LILY

(sighs)

Ryan. I don't know why you two can't just get along. Every time he sees you he always needs to make a comment and then insists on asking about me and you and how I ever dated you! It get's so annoying!

ANDREW

(frustrated)

That son of a...

Andrew stops himself. He is more CONCERNED for Lily.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Lily, I wish there was something I can do to help.

LILY

There is. Please stop antagonizing him. Let's enjoy the time we have left. Just ignore him. He's too stubborn to do anything himself.

CONTINUED: 9.

ANDREW

Okay, I promise, I'll lay off. You're right; we all need to enjoy these last few weeks.

Lily gives Andrew a SMILE.

LILY

So how's your mom doing? I'm sure the news of war didn't ease her mind about you enlisting.

ANDREW

I'm leaving right after graduation, so she's nervous. I'm worried to leave her all alone, but I've made this commitment, I can't back down. How's Ryan handling the draft news? With a scholarship at Yale, I bet he's freaking worse then my mom.

LILY

(disappointed)

His dad will probably bail him out, like always. And of course Ryan will accept it.

ANDREW

That spoiled son of a bitch! What about you? Matthews said women too.

LILY

Yeah, I'm nervous. Going to register after school today. I'm hoping if I do get drafted that they will let me be a military nurse or something.

ANDREW

That'd be nice; I'm not quite sure how the draft works though. So I couldn't tell ya.

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Students file into the hallway.

ANDREW

I gotta go grab my stuff. Talk to you later, Lily, good luck.

Andrew begins to walk away.

CONTINUED: 10.

LILY

Hey Andrew.

Andrew stops and turns around.

LILY (CONT'D)

Thanks for listening.

ANDREW

(smiling)

You're welcome.

The two walk away from one another.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ryan sits at his kitchen table and STUDIES. His father, DON HUNTER, walks in to the kitchen.

JOANNE

Welcome home honey. How was Detroit?

DON

Thanks. Detroit was fine, the presentation went well and we're hoping to hear back soon about the merger.

Don sits at the table across from Ryan.

Joanne sets food on the table.

DON (CONT'D)

(angry)

I thought you said you were done getting into fights at school? You're going Ivy League for God's sake! Grow up!

Ryan looks down, UPSET.

RYAN

It won't happen again.

DON

You're damn right it won't.

Joanne takes her seat as she sets the last dish on the table.

CONTINUED: 11.

JOANNE

Boys, how about we eat dinner and talk about something a bit more important.

(quietly to Don)
Like your son's future.

Don LOADS his plate with food.

DON

Ryan, you do not need to worry about the draft. Senator Garrison owes me for my fundraisers and donations. Hell, if it weren't for me, he wouldn't even be in Congress. I'll call him in the morning.

RYAN

Okay dad.

Ryan grabs the dish from Don.

DON

I pulled too many strings to get you into Yale. The wrong people nearly found out, that would have had devastating consequences. I'm not going to let all that heartache and risk taking go to the dumps for something I can easily fix.

RYAN

(under his breath)

I'm sure you can

JOANNE

Now, Ryan, you can truly thank your dad by behaving yourself at school and not getting into any more fights with Andrew.

DON

I don't care how arrogant or hotheaded he thinks he is. You're going places, he's not. Don't jeopardize that.

RYAN

Yes sir, I'm sorry.

EXT. GRADUATION CEREMONY - DAY

The last student RECEIVES her diploma, and the students TOSS their hats. A BEAMING Lily and Ryan catch up to each other. They EMBRACE in a happy hug.

RYAN

Congrats baby! I'm so happy for you!

LILY

Thanks Mr. Valedictorian. Nice speech. A bunch of people are going to get lunch. Let's join them!

They grab hands, Lily turns to walk with Ryan the way they came. They bump into Andrew.

ANDREW

Uh, Lily, I just wanted to say congratulations and goodbye since I'm leaving Monday.

Lily JUMPS into Andrew's arms and gives him a big hug. Ryan looks on with DISMAY.

RYAN

Okay, enough. Let's go Lily, they're waiting.

LILY

Ryan, chill! He's still my friend and he's leaving for God-knows how long.

(to Andrew)

Bye Andrew. Best of luck. I'll miss you.

ANDREW

Goodbye Lily. I'll miss you too.

Andrew and Lily hug again.

Lily begins to CRY.

ANDREW

Good luck at Yale, Ryan.

Andrew holds out his arm for a handshake.

RYAN

(Shocked)

Thanks. Good luck over seas.

CONTINUED: 13.

Ryan does not shake his hand. He puts his arms around Lily and they WALK AWAY.

Andrew stands, with a HURT look on his face.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Ryan and Lily sit at a table with 8 other students. They laugh.

Ryan's phone vibrates. He picks it up.

RYAN

Yeah mom, were still at the restaurant. I'll be home in about 45 minutes.

JOANNE (VO)

(crying)

Honey, I'm sorry.

RYAN

(concered)

Mom, what's wrong?

Everyone at the table becomes QUIET. They look at Ryan.

Don is heard in the background.

DON (VO)

Fuck Garrison. He owes me! What the hell?! I'm calling him now.

RYAN

Mom?

JOANNE (VO)

Honey. Your number's been called. You've...You've been drafted.

Joanne CRIES. Ryan hangs up his phone. He is HORRIFIED. Lily begins to rub his back gently.

LILY

Babe, what's wrong?

One friend, GEORGE, speaks up.

GEORGE

Dude, you okay? What's going on?

CONTINUED: 14.

LILY

(concerned)

Ryan...?

RYAN

I...I leave. I've been, I've been... drafted.

GEORGE

Are you serious?

RYAN

(distant)

Yes. I'm going to war.

Lily CRIES. TEARS roll down Ryan's face.

Ryan STANDS and LEAVES without saying a word. Lily FOLLOWS.

INT. RYAN'S CAR - DAY

Ryan DRIVES Lily home in an UNCOMFORTABLE, SAD silence. He pulls into Lily's driveway.

LILY

(Choking back tears)

Ryan, don't get too worked up over this, who knows. The war may end before you leave training.

RYAN

(quietly)

Lily, please be quiet. I'll call you tomorrow or something.

LILY

Yeah, okay.

Lily SLOWLY gets out of the car. Ryan HITS the steering wheel in a RAGE and SCREAMS.

EXT. LILY'S PORCH - DAY

The car speeds out of driveway and down the road. Lily takes out her phone and makes a call.

LILY

(crying)

Andrew. Andrew.

CONTINUED: 15.

ANDREW (VO)

Lil, what's wrong?

LILY

Ryan's been drafted.

Lily cries harder.

ANDREW (VO)

What?! I'm coming over.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ryan walks in the door, slowly, visibly shaken.

JOANNE

Oh honey!

Joanne RUNS and HUGS Ryan, she CRIES.

RYAN

(crying)

Mom. I don't wanna go to war.

Don stands back and watches for a moment.

DON

Son, listen to me. There's nothing we can do. I talked to Garrison. He wouldn't hear it from me. He said that they are in dire need of people.

RYAN

I'm scared.

DON

I know you are, so am I, but there's nothing we can do. You're leaving next Saturday, then you're off to Missouri for training.

Ryan walks to his room.

JOANNE

Are you sure there's nothing you can do?

DON

Jo, I tried everything I can do, pulled as many strings as I could. I don't want this as much as you do.

Joanne and Don hug.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - DAY

Lily sits on her bed. She cries in Andrew's arms.

LILY

Andrew, what am I going to do? Both of you guys are leaving. Besides the fact that Ryan acts like a child when it comes to you, there isn't a lot to complain about him. And it wouldn't be fair to you if I stayed with him. I left you because you were so amped to go off. So ready to graduate and enlist. And...

ANDREW

(cuts Lily off)

Lily, I never even gave you a chance when it came to the future. It was all about me. I was being selfish, made unimportant. I know that just because I was enlisting wasn't the only reason you broke up with me; you're too good of a girl to do something that selfish. Ryan gave you hope of a future.

LILY

I know. It's just.

Lily sighs, unable to finish

ANDREW

Lily, I'm sorry you have to go through all of this.

Lily cries and the two embrace on Lily's bed.

FADE TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK.

Andrew and Liz stand over the tombstone of "Private 1st Class Michael Peterson: Loving Father and Husband."

LIZ

Tomorrow's the big day Mike. Andy's off to training. Oh you'd be so (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 17.

LIZ (cont'd)

proud of him. I told him to get in his outfit earlier so I could get a picture of him. He looked so handsome, looked so much like you!

(cries softly)

Keep an eye on our baby from up there, will you? I just want him to be safe! I want him to come home.

Liz FALLS into Andrew's arms.

ANDREW

(crying softly)

I never got a chance to meet you, but Mom and Grandpa have told me so many stories about you.

(begins to cry harder)
Dad, I just want you to know, that
you are my hero, and I will make
you proud, I promise.

Andrew and Liz HUG and CRY together.

FADE TO:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

FIRE is in the background.

GUN SHOTS and EXPLOSIONS fire everywhere.

An entire unit of American soldiers RUN towards the fire.

A random soldier yells and motions "Come on" to the camera.

A missile FLIES towards the soldier and EXPLODES right in front of him.

CUT TO:

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan's eyes JOLT open.

He SITS UP from his nightmare. He SWEATS and BREATHS HEAVILY.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ryan walks into the Kitchen and POURS a pot of coffee.

Don sits at the table, drinks coffee and reads the newspaper.

DON

(without looking up)

What's wrong?

RYAN

Nightmare. About the war. Dad, I died in the dream.

Ryan takes a seat at the kitchen table.

Don sets the newspaper down.

DON

You don't have any control over this, so why bother worrying about it.

RYAN

(upset)

Why shouldn't I worry about it? Dad, I have no experience, no knowledge of what to do.

DON

What do you think training is for? Plus, you're a quick learner. Show an active interest in strategy and planning and maybe they'll keep you off the front lines. I have to go to work. Bye.

Don gets up and walks out.

RYAN

(shocked and upset)

Bye dad.

Ryan looks at the newspaper on the table. Headline reads "Explosion in the Pacific: Russian pilots bomb American cruisers."

JOANNE

You're father's got a point.

Ryan JUMPS at the sound of Joanne's voice.

CONTINUED: 19.

RYAN

Jesus Mom! You scared me. I didn't hear you come in.

Joanne stands in the doorway

JOANNE

I heard your conversation with Dad. Worrying won't do you good. The army is very versatile. I had a neighbor growing up who joined the military. He was very skilled with computers and the army used his knowledge to help keep track of the enemy's computer usage and hacked into their files. Ryan you'll be fine. I promise.

RYAN

Thanks Mom.

JOANNE

Have you and Lily talked yet?

RYAN

No, I planned on calling her later today.

JOANNE

Good idea. You guys need to talk about this. I have to get ready. I'll see you after work.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Andrew and Liz walk SLOWLY through O'Hare airport. Other people HUSTLE past them. Andrew wears an Air Force uniform.

ANDREW

Mom relax. I'm not being shipped for at least 8 weeks.

LIZ

(tearful)

I know, but that doesn't make this any easier.

ANDREW

I'll call you whenever I'm able too.

CONTINUED: 20.

LIZ

You better. I need to know you're okay.

ANDREW

Promise me you'll take care of yourself, Mom. It won't be healthy to worry about me 24/7.

LIZ

I promise. I've already joined a support group for military parents.

They reach the security lines and stop.

ANDREW

Good, I don't want to hear bad news from home.

LIZ

(holding back tears)
Just do your job. That's where
your focus needs to be.

ANDREW

Yes ma'am.

Liz CHUCKLES at Andrew's sarcasm. She pulls her son in for a long hug.

LIZ

(crying now)

I am so proud of you.

ANDREW

(crying as well)

Thank you for everything Mom. I know it isn't easy being a single parent.

LIZ

Thank you, for becoming such a handsome, respectful young man. You're father would be proud.

Liz and Andrew end their embrace.

ANDREW

I love you, Mom. I'll miss you.

LIZ

I love you too.

Liz pulls Andrew in for another hug. She KISSES his cheek.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 21.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Now go. You have a plane to catch.

Andrew SLOWLY backs away, his face RED from crying. He turns and begins to walk towards the security lines.

He STOPS, LOOKS BACK and WAVES at Liz one last time.

Liz CLUTCHES her necklace. Tears STREAM down her face. She RAISES one hand to WAVE BACK.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Andrew takes his seat on the airplane. Several other young MEN and WOMEN dressed in military uniforms sit around him.

Andrew REACHES into the front chest pocket of his jacket and pulls out a picture. A small picture of his father in his military uniform.

The man sitting next to him, THOMAS MICHAELS, speaks up.

THOMAS

Taking after the old man?

ANDREW

(tucking the picture away)
Yes. I come from a long line of
military men.

THOMAS

Cool. I'm Tom Michaels.

Tom reaches over for a handshake. Andrew shakes his hand.

ANDREW

Andrew Peterson. Good to meet you.

EXT. NELLIS AIRFORCE BASE - NIGHT

An airplane takes off. A long line of men and women, dressed in matching uniforms makes its way toward a bus.

EXT. MILITARY CAMP GROUND - NIGHT

The bus pulls in front of a building. The trainees step off the bus.

FADE TO BLACK:

MONTAGE: RYAN AND ANDREW'S TRAINING

INT. CABIN - DAWN

A large open room with two rows of twenty bunk beds on either side of the room. A TRUMPET wakes up the camp.

Soldiers roll out the bunk beds.

Andrew walks in the middle of a line. The line moves in robot like fashion.

EXT. BOOT CAMP - DAY

A different bus arrives at a Missouri boot camp. Ryan UNENTHUSIASTICALLY steps off a bus with other soldiers.

EXT. FIELD - DAWN

Andrew and other soldiers follow a Sergeant on a morning run. They form two LONG LINES.

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE - DAY

Ryan ARMY CRAWLS through mud underneath BARBED WIRE.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

In a small lecture hall, a military officer stands at a WHITEBOARD teaching. Andrew takes notes from the first row.

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE - DAY

Ryan STRUGGLES to climb the rope ladder. Sergeants yell at him.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Andrew lays on his bed and writes a letter to his mother. He uses a small flash light to see.

EXT. FIELD - DAWN

Ryan runs up a large hill with other soldiers. The sunrise ILLUMINATES behind them.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Andrew and five other soldiers stand around a round table. They STUDY a FLACK MAP used for flying.

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE - DAY

Ryan SUCCESSFULLY climbs the robe ladder. He then PROPELS down a wall with a rope.

INT. ANDREW'S KITCHEN - DAY

Liz reads a letter written by Andrew.

ANDREW (VO)

Dear Mom, everything is going well at camp.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Andrew flies a plane in a routine training exercise.

ANDREW (VO) (CONT'D)

I know you don't want to hear this, but we're leaving overseas in about a week.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Andrew lies down on his bed on the bottom bunk.

ANDREW (VO) (CONT'D)

I love you, Mom. I miss you. Take care, Andrew.

Andrew closes his eyes to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

A large cargo ship GLIDES across the ocean surface.

EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Ryan stands ALONE on the port side of the USS Wisconsin. He LEANS on the railing and LOOKS out to the ocean. CAPTAIN LENNY HELLER walks up and STANDS next to Ryan. He PATS Ryan's shoulder.

LENNY

You alright, soldier?

RYAN

I'm scared. What if we get sabotaged when we dock?

LENNY

Our intelligence tells us that the nearest base to that beach...

Lenny points to his right. Ryan looks and SEES land on the horizon.

LENNY (CONT'D)

...is 50 miles inland. We are confident in our ability to dock and get to where we need to go before they catch wind of us.

RYAN

(choked up)

Alright.

LENNY

Take deep breaths, kid.

Ryan takes a DEEP BREATH.

EXT. NELLIS AIRFORCE BASE - DAY

6 fighter planes are lined up on a runway. The ENGINES run.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Andrew sits in the cockpit of his plane. He's STRAPPED IN the seat, HELMET on.

He PRESSES buttons and FLIPS switches in the plane.

SERGEANT AARON COOPER speaks with the pilots through the headsets.

CONTINUED: 25.

AARON (O.S.)

Gentleman, we are cleared for take off.

Engines REV UP louder. Andrew WATCHES ONE, TWO, THREE planes shoot down the runway.

Andrew THRUSTS his accelerator FORWARD.

EXT. NELLIS AIRFORCE BASE - DAY

The fighter planes GLIDE down the runway in a single line and TAKE OFF, one by one.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

Ryan and Lenny still stand on the port side.

A DISTANT RUMBLE sound catches their attention. Lenny SCANS the skies.

LENNY

What the...?

Something in the skies, far ahead of the ship catches his attention.

Tiny BLACK specks slowly grow bigger and bigger.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

EXT./INT. RUSSIAN AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

A RUSSIAN FIGHTER PILOT speaks in his headset.

RUSSIAN PILOT

(in Russian)

That's our target. Up ahead.

He FLIES towards the American cruiser.

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

The six American fighter planes fly in a tight group formation toward the USS Wisconsin in the distance.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Andrew flies his plane behind two others.

AARON (O.S.)

Those are Russian fighters up ahead.

ANDREW

That's an American ship too sir. We need to stop them.

AARON (O.S.)

You're right Peterson. Team, let's spread out in 3, 2, 1.

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

The tight group of planes spread out as two planes veer off in either direction. The final two planes stay on course.

Several missiles come flying toward the American fighter planes.

Andrew veers left, the other plane reacts too late. A ROCKET strikes his left wing.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The PILOT attempts to unbuckle himself from his seat.

PILOT

I've been hit! I'm going down!

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

The hit plane spirals down toward the USS Wisconsin.

AARON (O.S.)

Ready your missiles...

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Andrew watches the falling plane in HORROR.

AARON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...Fire!

Andrew presses a button.

EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Ryan stands, FROZEN in FEAR, as the falling plane nose dives toward the SHIP.

CHAOS ensues around him as other SOLDIERS SCURRY around the ship.

Ryan takes his RIFLE from around his shoulder and tosses it aside. He STRIPS DOWN, taking his jacket off.

Ryan climbs on the railing of the ship and DIVES overboard.

The falling plane CRASHES into the ship.

EXPLOSION.

The ship and plane erupt into a large FIRE BALL.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Ryan SWIMS up to the surface, away from the fire.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Andrew flies his plane over the crash. He PEERS out the window at the damage.

ANDREW

Oh shit.

Andrew looks up. A missile flies right in his direction.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Oh Fuck!

Andrew turns the plane right to avoid the missile.

The missile strikes the tail of his plane.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I've been hit! My tail's been hit!

Andrew beings to unbuckle himself from his seat. Behind him, FIRE from where the missile hit the plane.

Andrew's plane NOSE DIVES toward the ocean.

AARON (O.S.)

Try to eject Andrew.

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

The four remaining American planes group together. They fire another set of missiles toward the Russian planes who are in a tight group.

The five Russian planes each fire missiles toward the American planes.

The Russian planes veer left and right. The missiles fly through the space created between the planes.

The front to American planes veer away from the missiles. The back to planes are slow to react and get HIT dead on with the missiles.

EXPLOSION.

EXT./INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Andrew struggles to eject from the plane. The sound of the explosions FRIGHTEN him.

ANDREW

Oh shit!

Andrew tears off his helmet and repeatedly presses the eject button in his plane.

The plane NOSE DIVES toward the sea.

ANDREW (CONT'D) (pressing the button) Work dammit! Work! Work!

Andrew continues to press the button. He peers up to see how close the plane is to the ocean. Closer and closer the plane DIVES.

ANDREW (CONT'D) (punching the button) Fucking work you piece of...

The plane door flies off and the hydraulics of the ejector force Andrew out of the plane.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(shouting)

...shit!

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Andrew FLIPS in a free fall and rips the cord of this parachute.

The parachute catches the wind and slows Andrew. The impact of catching wind hurts Andrew.

ANDREW

Ow!

(breaths heavy, relieved)

Thank you. Thank you.

Andrew looks behind him and sees SEVEN planes fly away from the scene.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Dammit.

He looks back to see how close he is to the ocean.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Ryan hangs onto a small piece of debris from the ruined ship. Other pieces of debris float around him, on FIRE.

Up ahead, in the distance, he sees someone (Andre) gently float down to the water.

RYAN

(yelling)

Hey! Hey!

Ryan clutches to the debris with his left arm while waving his right one.

RYAN (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Are you American?

EXT. SKIES OVER PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

As Andrew nears the surface, he sees the man waving.

The voice is barely audible.

ANDREW

(yelling down)

Hey! Swim my way.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Andrew uses his arms to motion to swim his way.

RYAN

(yelling)

Okay!

Ryan begins kicking his way towards the parachutist. He uses the piece of debris to ASSIST his swimming.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Andrew TREADS water. Ryan SWIMS up to him with the debris.

RYAN

Here, use this for support.

Ryan's voice trails off. He recognizes Andrew.

Andrew stares at Ryan, shocked, while he GRABS a hold of the debris.

The two stay still in the water. They stare at one another.

ANDREW

Are you alright, Ryan?

RYAN

(upset)

No, I thought I was going to die.

ANDREW

I know. But listen, we have to move. Shore is just a couple miles away. We need to get out of here.

Ryan Nods.

Andrew and Ryan use the piece of debris for SUPPORT while they KICK their way to shore.

INT. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY'S OFFICE - PENTAGON - DAY

U.S. ARMY GENERAL MICHAEL LEWIS sits at his desk. He speaks on the phone.

GENERAL LEWIS

No sir, we don't yet know what that distress call was about?

CONTINUED: 31.

LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY WILLIAMS barges into General Lewis' office.

LT. WILLIAMS

Sir, I need to speak with you immediately.

GENERAL LEWIS

(to phone)

One moment sir...

General Lewis covers the speaker of the phone with one hand.

GENERAL LEWIS (CONT'D)

(to Williams)

What Williams? I'm on the phone with the Secretary of Defense.

LT. WILLIAMS

It's about the Wisconsin, sir.

GENERAL LEWIS

(to phone)

I'm going to have to call you back, sir. I'm sorry.

General Lewis hangs up the phone. He looks at Lt. Williams and prompts him to speak.

LT. WILLIAMS

I just got done speaking with Air Marshall Ted Busch. He said he got a call from Sergeant Aaron Cooper from Nellis. According to Cooper, about 2 miles off the east shore of Primorsky krai, their group of six planes was ambushed by five Russian fighter planes.

GENERAL LEWIS

What does this have to do with the Wisconsin?

LT. WILLIAMS

Well, sir, Cooper says one of their planes that got hit did a nose dive, right into the Wisconsin. There was a huge explosion. We've been unable to get any radio signal from them.

General Lewis BURIES his face in his hands. He takes a DEEP BREATH.

CONTINUED: 32.

GENERAL LEWIS

Speak with Busch. Find out all you can from Cooper about the accident.

LT. WILLIAMS

Yes sir.

GENERAL LEWIS

And send out a team to investigate the crash site. We need to know if there are any survivors.

LT. WILLIAMS

Right away.

Lieutenant Williams turns and leave's the office. General Lewis picks up his office phone and begins dialing.

EXT. RUSSIAN BEACH - DAY

A wave washes a piece of debris onto a beach.

Andrew and Ryan CRAWL they're way out of the water, onto the sand.

Ryan FLOPS down on his stomach, EXHAUSTED. The tidal waves

RYAN

(catching his breath)
Oh my God. That was the scariest
moment of my life.

Andrew STRUGGLES to STAND UP. He COLLAPSES to his knees in front of Ryan.

ANDREW

Ryan, we have to move. There could be more Russians here any minute.

Ryan slowly PUSHES himself up to his knees. Andrew stands up and STEADIES himself.

Andrew grabs Ryan's arm and helps him stand up. The two men STUMBLE they're way up the beach into the nearby woods.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Andrew leads Ryan on a SPRINT through a thick wooded area.

Branches WHIP the men in the face as they RUN.

CONTINUED: 33.

Andrew ABRUPTLY stops. Ryan RUNS into him, nearly knocking him over.

Ryan steps back and leans on his knees to catch his breath.

RYAN

Do you think we're safe now?

Andrew STUDIES the area. He looks in various directions.

ANDREW

(not looking at Ryan)

Take your boots off.

RYAN

What?

ANDREW

(looking back to Ryan)

Your boots. Take them off.

Andrew FLOPS down to the ground and begins to UNTIE his boots.

Ryan leans down to untie his.

ANDREW

We've been running straight forward for the most part, right?

RYAN

I think so.

ANDREW

Alright. Then we are going to start going that way...

Andrew points in the direction to Ryan's right.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

...We need to get out of these woods.

RYAN

(nodding)

And why are we taking our boots off?

ANDREW

Lighter travel, they're heavy from the water and the mud. Plus we're probably leaving footprints. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NELLIS - DAY

SUPER: "Nellis Airforce Base"

A SHAKEN UP Sergeant Aaron Cooper sits ALONE at a table in the middle of an interrogation room. An untouched glass of water sits in front of him.

Aaron STARES blankly at the table.

LIEUTENANT STEPHEN BURKE opens the door and walks into the interrogation room.

Aaron stands and salutes him.

LT. BURKE

(approaching the table)

At ease.

Lt. Burke takes a seat opposite of Aaron at the table.

LT. BURKE

What happened?

Aaron clears his throat and takes a drink of water.

AARON

Russian fighter planes crossed us. I don't think we a hit a single plane, but 4 of ours were shot down.

LT. BURKE

And Franklin was the pilot who returned with you?

AARON

Yes sir. I know for sure that Landry, Rogers and Smith were downed.

LT. BURKE

And the fourth?

AARON

I don't know if he was able to eject from the cockpit. His name is Andrew Peterson.

LT. BURKE

We have a team ready investigate the crash site. They'll find out for sure. EXT. WOODS - RUSSIA - DUSK

Ryan and Andrew walk, BAREFOOT, through the woods. They are careful to avoid branches sticking out in the path.

ANDREW

We were headed to Yakutsk. Russia has three major military bases that they operate from. The other two are in Moscow and Tomsk. Our mission was to bomb it.

RYAN

Do you think that the Russians knew about your mission?

ANDREW

There's been hints that they have some advanced technology, but I have no idea.

RYAN

(condescending)

So Mr. GI, is this what you were expecting to do when you signed up?

The sarcasm of Ryan's tone STINGS Andrew.

ANDREW

(scared)

Not at all. I almost died today.

RYAN

We almost died today.

Andrew stops walking and gives Ryan a SCOWLING LOOK.

ANDREW

We need to get some rest tonight. Tomorrow we'll figure out a way to get back.

RYAN

What are we sleeping on?

Andrew motions to the ground.

ANDREW

We're going to dig a fox hole. We'll sleep shifts. The other person guards the area. Sorry this isn't the Ritz.

Ryan rolls his eyes.

CONTINUED: 36.

RYAN

What's your deal? We're the lone survivors of a terrible crash, and you're going to still bash my family?

ANDREW

(sarcastic)

And your G.I. comment wasn't sarcastic all, jackass!

Ryan STEPS UP into Andrew's face.

RYAN

(annoyed)

Listen! We went through the same amount of training. Don't think for one moment that just because your died dad a hero, that you're a master of the military!

ANDREW

(defensive)

I'm not! You asked me a question and I gave you my answer. If you have a better idea, by all means, share it!

The two STARE DOWN one another. Ryan does not answer the question. He SHAKES his head.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(turning away)

That's what I thought.

Andrew grabs a large stick and JABS it into the ground like a hoe. He DIGS the fox hole.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Ryan sits on the ground, Indian style, in the woods. His back is to Andrew, who sleeps in the fox hole. Ryan CLUTCHES his gun and TURNS his head to scan the area.

A twig SNAPS. Ryan WHIPS his head in the direction of the sound. His gun is at the ready.

Leaves RUSTLE behind him. He LEAPS up and points his gun in the direction of that sound.

Ryan SLOWLY walks towards that area of the woods. His body SHAKES in fear.

CONTINUED: 37.

ANDREW

Ryan?

Ryan RAPIDLY turns himself around and POINTS his gun at Andrew.

RYAN

Who's there?

Andrew STEPS back, both HANDS UP.

ANDREW

Whoa! Relax Ryan, it's me. It's Andrew.

Andrew slowly lowers his hands.

Ryan lowers his GUN and SIGHS in relief.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Get some sleep, man. I'll take post now.

Ryan hands his gun to Andrew and slowly walks to the fox hole to sleep.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - CRASH SITE - DAY

Debris, pieces of the USS Wisconsin and the downed planes, float in the northern Pacific Ocean. Small fires still RAGE from the leaked oil and gasoline.

Two helicopters HOVER over the ocean 50 yards from the debris. Two small motor boats slowly make their way from the helicopters towards the crash site. Three military members man the two boats.

CAPTAIN PATRICK STANLEY speaks to MILITARY POLICE OFFICER DRAKE HEWITT through a walkie talkie.

CAPTAIN STANLEY

Lt. Burke will arrive at our location in a hour with a Cruiser for us to load the bodies into. Until then, you're boat takes that command.

HEWITT

Roger that.

CAPTAIN DOUG GRIFFIN drives Hewitt's boat.

CONTINUED: 38.

GRIFFIN

Damn, this is a mess.

INT. GYMNASIUM - COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

A group of twenty adults sit in chairs arranged in a circle.

An older gentleman, ZACHARY BARKLEY, leads the group discussion.

ZACHARY

Thank you for sharing, Rich.

The group CLAPS. As RICH sits down, the woman to his left gently RUBS his back as he WIPES his eyes.

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

Would somebody like to share next?

MARCY, a middle aged woman, speaks up.

MARCY

(angry)

How does telling a group of complete strangers about our fears of our children overseas supposed to ease our minds?

Zachary SCANS the group. They look UNEASY

ZACHARY

Well, Marcy, sometimes sharing your feelings with other people is healthy. Keeping these feelings bottled up can lead you to make some bad decisions.

LIZ

And it's nice to know you're not alone.

Marcy looks at Liz, DEEPLY SADDENED.

Liz stands to address the group.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Hi everyone. My name is Elizabeth Peterson. My son, Andrew, he's 18. He enlisted into the Air Force, like his father did in Iraq.

Liz pauses to take a DEEP BREATH.

CONTINUED: 39.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Mike left right after college. I found out about Andy a month later. Two weeks before I was due, I get a knock on my door. A suicide bomber ran into the abandoned building where Mike's unit was hiding.

Liz FIGHTS BACK tears.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Mike's dad served in Vietnam. Andy strongly believes he comes from a family of heroes, which he does. But I fear that his perception of a soldier is misguided. He always had to be the top guy for everything.

(cries a little harder)
I just hope he understands he
doesn't need to do anything special
to be a hero. He doesn't have
prove himself to anyone. He just
has to come home. I need my baby.

Liz BREAKS DOWN. She falls back into her chair. The woman next to her hugs Liz and CONSOLES her.

EXT. WOODS - RUSSIA - DAY

Andrew and Ryan carefully walk through the woods. Up ahead of them, they see a bright light.

RYAN

(excited)

Hey, we're almost out.

ANDREW

Perfect. Once we're out, we need to find a radio, or some communication device.

RYAN

Are you sure that's a good idea?

Andrew looks at Ryan, SCEPTICALLY.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Hear me out. It'll most likely be a Russian radio. We don't know how they run their channels. There's a (MORE)

CONTINUED: 40.

RYAN (CONT'D) (cont'd) chance we could endanger another unit by trying to help ourselves.

Andrew SIGHS, loudly.

ANDREW

Is that a risk you're willing to take?

RYAN

I don't know. It seems rather...

ANDREW

(cutting Ryan off)

Shush. Listen...

Andrew holds up one finger in Ryan's face.

RYAN

What are you?

Andrew STERNLY looks at Ryan and EMPHASIZES his signal. He mouths "shut up."

Ryan looks at Andrew, ANGRY. His face then changes to an understanding, CONCERNED look.

They hear two men walking their way, speaking to one another. They speak Russian.

ANDREW

(quietly)

Duck behind this tree.

Ryan CROUCHES by a big tree at the edge of the treeline.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

When they're by my tree up there (pointing ahead)

ambush them with me. We'll disarm them.

Ryan NODS then READIES himself to jump out.

Andrew positions himself behind the tree to the right of Ryan's.

The two Russian soldiers carry rifles and march side by side. They walk past Ryan and do not notice him crouched beside the tree.

Ryan looks to Andrew for the signal to go. Andrew slightly nods his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 41.

Andrew leaps out of the woods onto the man's back closest to him. He grabs the gun.

The other Russian man, CONFUSED initially, aims his rifle at Andrew. Ryan SPEARS the man to the ground.

Andrew stands behind the man and KNEES him hard in the back. The Russian lets go of the gun in pain.

Andrew moves to stand next to Ryan. They point the rifles at the two Russian soldiers.

The soldier on the ground REACHES to his hand gun in his pocket. Ryan HITS HIM in the head with the butt of the rifle.

Andrew steps closer to the other Russian man.

ANDREW

(in Russian)

Clothes off.

The Russian man looks CONFUSED.

Andrew COCKS the rifle.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(in Russian)

Now.

The Russian quickly OBEYS and begins to STRIP.

RYAN

What are you doing?

ANDREW

Take his clothes.

(motions to knocked out man)

I have an idea.

EXT. MILITARY CRUISER - PACIFIC CRASH SITE - DAY

A wet CORPSE is gently dropped onto the deck of the ship.

Lt. Burke stands in the midst of corpses from the ship wreck.

LT. BURKE

This is the last of them, Brady.

Private JEFF BRADY, frantically EMERGES from a cabin.

CONTINUED: 42.

BRADY

That's 97 total, sir.

LT. BURKE

How many are we missing?

Brady pulls out a piece of paper from his chest pocket.

BRADY

(unfolding the paper)
According to Captain Heller's
records and Sergeant Cooper's
testimony we have four soldiers
unaccounted for.

Brady looks up from the paper and stares at Lt. Burke, worried.

LT. BURKE

Thank you, Brady. Could you please tell the ship captain to take us back?

Lt. Burke looks out to the damage in the water. He shakes his head and sighs.

Burke pulls out a Satellite phone and begins to dial a number.

EXT. RUSSIAN FIELD - DAY

RYAN

(yelling)

Are you insane?

Ryan and Andrew kneel over a large rock. Andrew FOLDS up a map. Both men wear Russian military uniforms.

ANDREW

Think about it. If we can destroy those three bases, we end the war.

RYAN

There's no way you and I can end the war by ourselves.

ANDREW

But we can take out one. While we're there, we'll study the way the Russians operate and attempt to make contact with our troops. This can work Ryan.

CONTINUED: 43.

RYAN

It's suicide.

ANDREW

Not with careful planning. We have all the information we need here.

(shakes the map)

We'll take time to study the blue prints. It'll take us about 2 days to walk to the base.

Ryan stands up and PACES back and forth to and from the rock.

RYAN

I don't like this. I think we should follow protocol. We should go back to the states and go from there.

Andrew stands up and walks up to Ryan. He grabs his arms to stop his pacing.

ANDREW

Ryan, think about it. The sooner the war ends, the sooner we're home. Back to our families, college, Lily.

Ryan becomes visibly SADDENED at the mention of Lily's name.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I don't want to be here as much as you. This is our ticket out.

RYAN

Andrew, listen to yourself. You're insane.

Ryan CHUCKLES in disbelief.

RYAN (CONT'D)

First of all, we don't even look Russian. Secondly, my Russian isn't that great. Even if we get in the base, I'm still a huge liability for this mission.

ANDREW

We won't split up.

Ryan SIGHS heavily. He sits back on the rock and rubs his face.

CONTINUED: 44.

RYAN

Promise me the moment we have an opportunity to call for back up that we do it. I will not let your desperation be my downfall.

Andrew STARES sternly. He RESISTS the urge to snap back at Ryan.

ANDREW

I promise. I want to let know home know we're okay as soon as we can.

RYAN

Good. Let's roll.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Liz drives down the road to her house. The street looks abandoned. No cars in the driveways, most houselights are dim.

As Liz reaches her driveway, she slows down to a near stop.

A strange car sits in her driveway. She slowly pulls in.

Liz GASPS loudly at the sight of two military officers, LT. GROBER and SGT. BUSH, who STAND at her front door. They turn to see Liz climb out of her car.

Liz slowly walks her way to meet the two men. She TREMBLES while she walks.

Lt. Grober walks to meet Liz on the sidewalk.

GROBER

Mrs. Peterson, my name is Lieutenant James Grober. This is Sergeant Darren Bush.

Liz stops as Grober reaches her.

LIZ

(quietly, shocked) What happened to my boy?

BUSH

(walking towards Liz)
Ma'am, please. Let's go inside and
we will tell you everything we
know.

CONTINUED: 45.

LIZ

(screaming)

No.

Bush HALTS dead in his tracks. Grober leans back, UNEASY.

LIZ (CONT'D)

(sternly, fighting back tears)

You tell me right now. What

happened to Andrew?

Grober looks at Bush, SIGHS and looks back at Liz. He takes a DEEP BREATH.

GROBER

We don't know, exactly what happened to him.

LIZ

(in disbelief)

What?

GROBER

There was an accident. His unit was flying to Russia when they were cut off by Russian fighter planes.

Liz GASPS in fear.

BUSH

Mrs. Peterson please, let's go
sit...

LIZ

(cutting him off)

Shut up.

(looks at Grober)

What happened?

GROBER

Your son's Sergeant says that Andrew was shot down and was trying to eject from his plane. But he's unsure if he was able to make it out or not.

BUSH

The planes that were hit crashed into a military cruiser that was in the ocean below them. Andrew is one of four people we haven't been able to locate yet.