

SAMPLE SCENE - WHAT WE CAME TO BE

INT. A.J.'S TENT

A.J. crawls to the AMMO BOX, struggles to open it, reaches in, pulls out MEDICAL KIT, unrolls it. A.J. is convulsing, pained. He slams his head repeatedly against the Ammo box to find some tolerable agony. He stops only when he hears Ian.

IAN (O.C.)

Mister Ackerman!? Jeez!

A.J. points at the med kit.

A.J.

Morphine!

A.J. grabs it from Ian, feeling, withdrawing liquid from the bottle with the syringe, struggling to stay in control, plunges the needle in. Overdose, head rolls.

A.J. (CONT'D)

..Uuhh overdose!..Walk me! Get me up.. gotta walk.. get me up..!

Ian helps him.

A.J. (CONT'D)

Cold water..! Cold water!..Get me walking..

They're out.

RIVER

They come out of the forest. A.J. pushes away and staggers into the river, where he falls, submerges his head into the cold water. A.J. screams under water. Thinking A.J. will drown, Ian pulls him up. A.J. flips Ian over and holds him underwater.

A.J.

LOOK OUT! DOWN!

Ian sputters to the surface, as A.J. charges through the surf, under fire. The war's raging.

A.J. (CONT'D)

STAY DOWN! DOWN!! Jesus! Move, COVER ME, KEEP SHOOTING! Now! Now! Go!

Having a hell of a time, charging, muttering incoherently.

A.J. (CONT'D)

..Don't stop! Go! Go! Over there!

Continues his run through the surf, then, onto the beach, where he collapses.

A.J. (CONT'D)

No,no, no!.. I gotcha..., gotcha..hold on..Medic!!

IAN
Mister Ackerman?!

A.J. !
...Outa the craft..! none of 'em.. can't let 'em die like.. do.. somethin..!

Ian watches him find his breath, coming back.

IAN
..You alright?!

A.J.
..Boat load of faces, memories.. surf, body on body.. My Marines!
My Marines!

A.J. now sees Ian, shakes himself.

A.J. (CONT'D)
... Oh, no way to go.. On your feet sailor! ON your feet!
Pulls himself up,..into the forest. Ian follows.

IN THE FOREST

A.J. leans on a tree, looks at the Full Moon. Ian follows the look. Half MOON. He's alone in the forest with A.J. and Half MOON rising.

A.J.
..Look at that moon staring down on all this fuss and bother..
Ian looks at the moon. He's alone in the forest with A.J.

A.J. (CONT'D)
Heard a story,once, ..man tied himself to a tree top to feel what it's like to be a tree in a wind storm, bending and groaning..

IAN
..John Muir..did that.

A.J.
He did that? Well, well, we all gotta do somethin' to know somethin.. I did that,tied myself to a big tree, wind blew so hard, the tree fell down.. me in it, ..
He laughs, coughs, falls silent, looks at Ian.

A.J. (CONT'D)
..I lived..

A.J. tumbles on ahead of Ian.

A.J.
..What's her name?

IAN
Who?

A.J.
Pretty blonde girl.

IAN
..Amy?

A.J...
She know how you feel about her?

IAN
.. No.. Dad says she can't talk to me cause I'm a Deerslayer..

A.J.
..You and her did good bringing that Cornerstone..

Ian, still unsure, follows.

INT. A.J.'S TENT

Variety of BOOKS; STEINBECK, others.. eclectic collection of records: DUKE ELLINGTON, BLUES,,.. PROMINENT PHOTO of a BEAUTIFUL DARK HAired YOUNG WOMAN.., the AMMO BOX A.J. visiting the extent of his pain and anguish, holds PHOTO of Beautiful Young Woman, cleans a blemish from the glass, rambles on to the photo..

A.J.
You're so deep in me..! Everything about you was beautiful! (to Ian) Never told her how much, how much .. I loved..her.. Oh God, never did.. Oh, please be happy..!

Effect of morphine fades, hands shake, puts Photo down. Holds his head. He's hurting.

A.J. (CONT'D)
... Bomb shrapnel in my head, can't get it out, taking away my brain..never was much there anyway,..

Chokes on a chuckle.

A.J. (CONT'D)
Don't have much time left, Ian! ..'Tween you and me! Right? Nobody needs to knows..
....Get that chimney done! I want to see it done!..Two hands .. your heart, your head, how you use 'em! That's it!.. That's a religion you can Believe, Ian.. Do your best!

IAN
..Aye sir.. My best..

END SCENE