



MARKINSON. "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Santiago. I was William's Company Commander. I knew your son vaguely, which is to say I knew his name. In a matter of time, the trial of the two men charged with your son's death will be concluded, and seven men and two women whom you've never met will try to offer you an explanation as to why William is dead. Most likely they will offer you many explanations. For my part, I've done what I can to bring the truth to light. I've done it, not in the uniform in which I served for 21 years, but in costumes and in shadows. I was a defender. And at this moment I'm being pursued by the Naval investigative service, the federal bureau of investigation, the central intelligence agency, and the military police. And I can't possibly do this anymore. Because the truth is this: Your son is dead for only one reason. I wasn't strong enough to stop it. Always, Captain Matthew Andrew Markinson, United States Marine Corps."

(MARKINSON waits a moment before he pulls the pistol from its holster, points the gun into his mouth, and fires.)

(blackout)

(Lights up on courtroom.)

(DOWNEY is still on the stand.)

DOWNEY, KAFFEE, ROSS, RANDOLPH AND DAWSON

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DOWNEY. We were taken into custody by the military police officers and taken to the brig.

KAFFEE. Private, this is my last question for you. Why did you give Santiago a code red on the night of July 6th?

DOWNEY. The code red was ordered by the Executive Officer, Lt. Kendrick.

KAFFEE. Thank you very much. *(to ROSS)* Your witness.

(ROSS gets up.)

ROSS. Private, for the day of six July, the Switch log has you down at Post 39 until 1600, is that correct?

DOWNEY. I'm sure it is, sir, they keep that log pretty good.

ROSS. How far is it from post 39 to the Windward barracks?