

#6

A FEW GOOD MEN

45
KAFFEE, DAWSON
AND DOWNEY

(The LAWYERS exit.)

JESSEP. (after a moment) "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

MARKINSON. (beat) It's Shakespeare. Colonel -

JESSEP. I hate casualties, Matthew. A Marine smothers a grenade and saves his platoon, that Marine's doing his job. There are casualties. Even in victory. The fabric of the base, the foundation of the unit, the spirit of the Corps, these are things worth fighting for. And there's no one who doesn't know that who's ever made the decision to put on the uniform. I hate casualties.

(pause)

Dawson and Downey, they're smothering a grenade.

MARKINSON. Just the same, sir, if I were you, I'd get myself a lawyer.

(blackout)

(We hear a platoon of MARINES chanting.)

MARINES: What are you gonna do when you get back?

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET BACK?

Take a shower and hit the rack!

TAKE A SHOWER AND HIT THE RACK!

Oh no

NOT ME

Oh no

NOT US

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WHEN WE GET BACK?

POLISH UP FOR A SNEAK ATTACK!

(Lights up on brig.)

DAWSON. Officer on deck, ten-hut.

(KAFFEE enters.)

KAFFEE. Why did you care that Santiago was writing a letter?

DAWSON. Sir?

KAFFEE. I want to know why you cared.

DAWSON. It was a code red, sir.

KAFFEE. Colonel Jessep thinks you're fulla shit. He doesn't think you were trying to train Santiago, he thinks you were trying to kill him.

DOWNEY. That's not true, sir -

KAFFEE. What's true? Why did you care?

DAWSON. It was a code red, sir.

KAFFEE. 4000 men on that base, none of them went into Santiago's room that night.

DAWSON. I was his squad leader, sir. It was my job.

KAFFEE. He was screwin' up every day for eight months, you never gave him a code red before that night. Why did you care that night?

DAWSON. Santiago broke the chain of -

KAFFEE. Not you. Him. Why did you care?

DOWNEY. Sir, Private Santiago broke the -

KAFFEE. No, no, I don't want to hear about your chain of command, I don't want to hear about loyalty, I don't want to hear about your bozo code of honor. Why did you give him a code red?

DOWNEY. Private Santiago broke -

KAFFEE. *Did you hear what I just said??!!*

DOWNEY. Private Santiago needed to learn how to -

KAFFEE. Why did you give him a code red?!!

DOWNEY. We have a responsibility to -

KAFFEE. Bullshit!! Why did you do it??!!!

DAWSON. *Because God was watching!!*

(silence)

KAFFEE. *(quietly)* What did Kendrick say to you?

(Lights up on KENDRICK.)