

#9

76

A FEW GOOD MEN

KAFFEE
HOWARD
ROSS

→ KAFFEE. Have you ever received a Code Red?
HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. Would you describe it.

HOWARD. I dropped my weapon during a field exercise one day. We were doing seven-man assault drills and I dropped my weapon. It's just that my palms were sweaty 'cause it was over a hundred degrees and my weapon just slipped, sir.

KAFFEE. And what happened?

HOWARD. That night in my barracks, the guys in my squad threw a blanket over me and took turns punching me in the arm for five minutes. Then they poured glue on my hands.

KAFFEE. Okay, -

HOWARD. It worked too, 'cause I ain't never dropped my weapon since.

ROSS. Object.

KAFFEE. We're gonna have to strike that, Corporal, but it was a nice try. What happened after they punched you and poured glue on your hands?

HOWARD. They took me to the Post 44 and bought me a beer.

KAFFEE. They gave you a Code Red, then they bought you a beer.

HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. Corporal, were you acquainted with Private Santiago?

HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. Did you come in contact with him every day?

HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. You participated in drills together?

HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. Your squads were on the fence together?

HOWARD. Yes sir.

KAFFEE. You shared a barracks hall?

HOWARD: Yes sir.

KAFFEE: Was Private Santiago ever late for platoon meetings?

HOWARD: Yes sir.

KAFFEE: Was his barracks ever in disorder?

HOWARD: Yes -

KAFFEE: Did he ever let his appearance become sub-standard?

HOWARD: Yes -

KAFFEE: Did he ever fall back on a run?

HOWARD: All the time, sir.

KAFFEE: Did he ever, in your estimation, behave in a manner unbecoming a Marine?

HOWARD: Absolutely, sir, yes.

KAFFEE: Did he ever, prior to the night of July 6th, receive a Code Red?

HOWARD: No sir.

KAFFEE: Never? You got a Code Red 'cause your palms were sweaty, why didn't Private Santiago, this burden and embarrassment to his unit, why didn't he ever get a Code Red?

HOWARD: Corporal Dawson wouldn't allow it, sir.

KAFFEE: Corporal Dawson wouldn't allow it.

HOWARD: Hal was - Corporal Dawson, was Santiago's squad leader. He wouldn't let anyone go near him, sir. The guys talked tough about Santiago, but when it came down to it, they wouldn't touch him. They were too afraid of Corporal Dawson, sir.

ROSS: Object. The witness is characterizing.

KAFFEE: I'll re-phrase. Corporal Howard, did you ever want to give Santiago a Code Red?

HOWARD: Yes sir.

KAFFEE: Why didn't you.

HOWARD: 'Cause Dawson'd kick my butt, sir.