

Happy New Year

Jerome #1
15.

~~INT. NURSE'S STATION - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~Martinez enters.~~

~~RITA
How's the new guy?~~

~~MARTINEZ
Just what I need - another holier
than thou pain in my ass.~~

~~FLASHBACK - EXT. MOSUL, IRAQ - DAY~~

~~A friendly Iraqi village in Mosul Iraq. Townspeople go about
their daily chores.~~

~~Lewis stands in Army fatigues joking with 2 other soldiers in
the middle of the village.~~

~~A YOUNG ARABIC BOY approaches, speaking Arabic. He smiles at
Lewis. Lewis smiles back.~~

INT. LEWIS' HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Start

Lewis awakes from his nightmare. Jerome stands over him.

JEROME
Hey, you OK?

LEWIS
Get the fuck off me!

Jerome steps back.

JEROME
Sorry. You were having a bad dream.

Jerome sits on his bed and stares at Lewis.

JEROME (CONT'D)
You need anything? Some water or
something?

LEWIS
No. Thanks.

JEROME
You sure? I don't mind.

LEWIS
I'm fine.

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1/3

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16.

JEROME

You hungry? I could run down to the vending machine, if you want -

LEWIS

Dude, I said I was fine. Relax.

JEROME

Sometimes when I have really bad dreams and can't sleep, I just get down on my knees and pray, ask God to help me. A lot of times that works.

LEWIS

(under his breath)
Great. A Jesus freak.

JEROME

What was your dream about? You want to talk about it?

LEWIS

No, I don't. Look, dude, we're not friends, OK? We're just roommates. For the short time I'm here. You stay on your side of the room, and I'll stay on mine. Got it.

Jerome nods. Suddenly, a mouse runs across the floor. Lewis freaks.

LEWIS

What the fuck?!

Jerome quickly reaches under his pillow and pulls out a pistol.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?!

JEROME

SSSH! It's just a BB gun. You need'em for these guys.

Jerome aims and fires, missing the mouse.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Damn! Missed. I'll get him, though. He'll be back. They're everywhere.

LEWIS

(to himself)
Jesus Christ.

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2/3

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JEROME

Don't worry. They're afraid of you, too.

(placing the gun on Lewis' nightstand)

Here. You can have this. I've got two. Just don't let Martinez see.

Lewis looks at him with great bewilderment.

JEROME (CONT'D)

You know, tonight's movie night. They're showing *Shrek*. You wanna go? It'd be a good chance for you to meet everybody.

LEWIS

No. I'm good here.

JEROME

OK. See you later.

He exits. Lewis picks up the gun and inspects it.

End

~~EXT. MEADOWBROOK VETERANS HOSPITAL - NIGHT~~

~~We see an exterior shot of the hospital from afar. It has the eerie look of an abandoned house on a hill.~~

~~INT. DAYROOM - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~We see various patients sitting engrossed in the movie on the television screen.~~

~~INT. LEWIS' HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~Lewis looks at the clock, then at the wheelchair at his bedside, then at the nurse's button, then back at the wheelchair. He attempts, with much struggle, to lift himself into the wheelchair.~~

~~INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~Lewis, wearing his jacket and with a small bag and "Timmy" in hand, quietly wheels himself out into the hallway.~~

~~Through various shots, we see him make his way through the hospital, careful that no one sees him.~~

~~When he nears the dayroom, he slows his pace and waits for the perfect moment to zoom past the room to the mechanical doors leading to the outside.~~

Adrienne Stern Casting

3/3