

FROM HELMAND PROVINCE WITH LOVE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HALF DESTROYED GROUND FLOOR ROOM - HELMAND PROVINCE -
AFGHANISTAN - VALENTINE'S DAY

MAJOR SMITH, 40, suddenly regains consciousness and unearths himself from the rubble. He struggles to search for his automatic rifle. He takes in his surroundings through the dust and post explosion ringing in his ears.

SOLDIER (V.O. VIA SMITH'S EARPIECE)

Major Smith- come in sir!

Major Smith?

Smith cough's through the dust, finding his microphone lead severed to communicate through. He feels a gash along the top of his forehead. He sees the butt of his rifle amongst the rubble and starts to pull it out unearthing an unconscious four year old AFGHANI GIRL.

Smith looks around for her parents but the devastation is too severe. He checks for her pulse then removing the rubble from her chest he performs CPR and gives her the kiss of life- she coughs feebly.

He gently picks her up. At the door he checks for hostiles before carrying the girl into the alleyway.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Smith jogs along carrying the little girl. Gunfire explodes bullet holes in the wall behind him. He drops to his knee, shielding the child and returning fire. He sprints off using his body for cover over the girl and through the darkness at the end of the narrowing alley and into the light.

INT. ARMY BASE HOSPITAL TENTS - LATER

Smith stands at the back of the tent as a DOCTOR and a NURSE work on the little girl. Smith begins to pace, intently focused on the child's progress.

The DOCTOR turns slowly to Smith and shakes his head sadly. Smith stands stock still.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM- ARMY BASE - NIGHT

Smith enters in uniform. His gashed head has been dressed. He passes SEVERAL COMMUNICATION'S OFFICERS before stopping at a private room where he puts on his beret, adjusting the angle in the reflection of the glass to cover his wound.

INT. PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Smith sits down at a PC terminal with a large monitor screen and clicks on the mouse.

The screen comes alive to reveal SMITH'S WIFE and on her lap their 4 year old daughter, HOPE.

SMITH'S WIFE

Happy Valentines darling-
the roses were beautiful
as usual

SMITH

You're welcome sweetheart-
as usual, how's my princess?

HOPE

I made a Valentine's fairy
cake for you daddy

Smith smiles at his daughter on screen.

SMITH

That's wonderful Hope, thank
you my angel, looks delicious

SMITH'S WIFE

How's the desk-work love?
Still boring?

Smith prepares himself to lie.

SMITH

Keeps me off the street's love,
keeps you from worrying even
more

Smith's wife begins to speak but the screen freezes with satellite problems. 'CONNECTION LOST' appears on the screen.

Smith removes his beret slowly the kisses his wives lips on screen. He kisses his daughter's forehead.

Smith exits slowly leaving the image of his family on screen- innocent and protected on the other side of the world.

...FADE OUT

THE END