

SCENE I

INT. JARED'S BEDROOM - DAY

A stark black room slowly gives way to reveal a PSYCHOTIC SMILE.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Will you walk into my parlor, said
the spider to the fly. Tis the
prettiest little parlor that ever
you did spy.

JARED, 26, with a crazed look, stares at himself in the MIRROR. His shaved head and large, GLARING EYES penetrate through the darkness. He remains fixated on his REFLECTION for an unusually long period of time.

(THIS IS A NON-VERBAL SCENE. PLEASE ACT IT OUT.)

SCENE II

I/E. GMC CARGO VAN - DAY - MOVING

Jared drives past a few HIGH-POWERED, LATTICE TOWERS. He HUMS the "Star Spangled Banner".

(THIS IS A NON-VERBAL SCENE. PLEASE ACT IT OUT.)

SCENE III

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Jared spots an open WALLET on the ground.

The Assembly ROARS! Jared picks up the wallet.

VETERAN
Hey, that's my wallet.

JARED
I know. You dropped it.

The Veteran takes his wallet; revealing a SCAR on his arm.

VETERAN
Thank you.

JARED
What happened to your arm?

The Veteran puts his wallet away.

VETERAN
I got shot.

JARED
In the line of duty?

VETERAN
In the line of fire.

JARED
Wrong place; wrong time?

VETERAN
No, right place; right time.

JARED
Personally, I'd rather be right
than happy.

The Veteran takes a LONG DRAG.

VETERAN
You can't put a price on freedom.

JARED
No, you cannot. Unless you've been
"sold" into slavery.

VETERAN

We are forever enamored by the blessings of freedom, no more than we are forever enslaved to the laws of the universe.

JARED

Sounds like you're quite the poet.

VETERAN

I was drafted in sixty-six. I thought the experience would make me tough. It ended up making me smart.

JARED

It looks like you made it out okay.

VETERAN

It feels like I never left. Welcome to the jungle baby. Every day, I was prepared to die, but in the face of death... I never felt more alive. It was liberating.

The Veteran hits his cigarette again.

JARED

People who never take chances create their own prisons.

VETERAN

A few months into my tour I received a letter. My newborn daughter was killed in a car accident. I thought to myself... of all the places for someone to die, shouldn't it be in a place of war?

The Veteran flicks his ashes.

VETERAN

It was at that very moment I learned the world as it is. Nothing in life is sacred. It's just a balance of order in chaos.

JARED

The condition of society is absolute. And here we are. It's such a nice day.