

WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT, OVER

Screenplay by Lee A. Miller

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FADE IN:

**INT. SMALL HOME IN RURAL EASTERN AFGHANISTAN - MORNING**

SITA GULA is a 12-year-old a member of a fundamentalist Muslim household in Afghanistan. She is not covered yet as she is still too young. She is in her bedroom with a western fashion magazine. We can assume that it was found and had been brought to Afghanistan by an American female soldier. The outside of the magazine is old and worn. SITA sits and flips through the pages. She is looking at the photos but also she is trying to read. She scans the stories and when she knows a word she awkwardly repeats it - "outfit, love, beach body, bed."

SITA's mother is dead. UMAR, SITA's father, is a Taliban fighter. He is a bit old to fight but he has a crazy glint in his eye. UMAR looks the part; he must be legit with the beard.

UMAR receives a summons from a messenger. UMAR yells at his 10-year-old son, VAFA, to get ready for school.

UMAR

(to Vafa)

Get your things ready for school. And supervise your sister today.

SITA hears the talking and hides the fashion magazine. UMAR leaves his children presumably without breakfast. VAFA looks disappointed, but dutifully gathers his books for school.

SITA

(to Vafa)

No need to supervise your sister today.

VAFA

I am the man. Father and I are responsible for you.

SITA

You have school. Father has "God" to please.

VAFA looks at SITA crossly.

**INT. GHAZNI FOB - MORNING**

The phrase "MEAT EATERS" refers to Special Forces soldiers whose mission focuses on violence, as opposed to those whose mission focuses on stability and training. They are hunters and killers. They are dangerous and volatile characters.

This is the story of a jolly group of SOLDIERS who live together at the Ghazni FOB and hunt Taliban.

Some of the MEAT EATERS, an Army Ranger squad (1st Ranger Battalion), are drinking coffee. It is a quiet morning. The Afghan Army counterparts are at a prayer service.

CLYDE

You know WAR has never solved anything.

The other soldiers look at him as if he has lost his mind. After a few tense seconds, CLYDE reveals his joke.

CLYDE

Except for ending slavery, fascism,  
nazism and communism.

The MEAT EATERS are only slightly amused. They need to know that CLYDE is reliable in combat and him joking around doesn't help.

The MEAT EATERS are CLYDE, RAYMOND, JOHN, GARY, DAVID and ETHAN. They are an elite special operations commando squad. JOHN is a "field officer" and a First Lieutenant.

A blast catches everyone off guard. The door flies open from the overpressure, and two soldiers (DAVID and ETHAN) come running and pointing out the nearby plume of white smoke.

Without much information or time to get properly dressed, they grab their good luck charms. Some soldiers have religious jewelry (crucifixes and a St. George Patron of Soldiers). Other soldiers hesitate while looking for rabbit's feet and lucky dice.

Once they find everything lucky, the MEAT EATERS throw on their gear and move out of the FOB towards the explosion.

**EXT. TINY VILLAGE IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN - DAY**

Let's take a minute to survey the village. We learn something about what it is like to live in a earthen-colored village at the end of a thread of path. There isn't even a road to this village. There is hardly even a means to scratch out an existence, nothing more.

There are terraces planted with corn, wheat, and rice, some walnut trees, a stream that spills down the mountain (except in times of drought), but only a tiny school (for boys), no clinic, no road, and no running water.

There are no young men and the old men are still inside.

We notice the women. They rise before sunrise and pray. They fetch water from the stream. They cook and clean. They do laundry. They care for their children. They typically have never known a happy day, except perhaps the day of her marriage and many times that is in doubt.

SITA and VAFA herd the goats down the street past a school. VAFA leaves SITA and the GOATS. SITA, like most other Afghani girls, is not allowed to attend school.

VAFA enters the school yard. He grins big as he greets his friends. They kick a futball around a bit and then enter the building.

SITA pauses to observe and the goats scatter a bit. She looks into the school trying to get an idea of what is going on. She is near enough to hear what is going on inside. Clearly she longs to have an education. She stands there long enough there can be no more other explanation.

The SCHOOL MASTER walks to the front of the school and scolds SITA. He motions for her to move on and closes the door. SITA gives up and moves on with the goats.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - MORNING**

There is smoke and screaming and confusion outside the gates.

The MEAT EATERS live on the base out with the Afghans and take advantage of casual Fridays. None of them are in the proper uniform - some are in fleece, one of soldiers was in

a tracksuit and two others were missing their uniform blouses (they have been digging a ditch).

AFGHAN GATE GUARD

A suicide bomber has killed some people in the city bazaar, and many are wounded.

ETHAN

Everyone is going to want reports.

**EXT. VALLEY AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS - DAY**

SITA travels toward a grazing area with the GOATS.

**EXT. GHAZNI STREET OUTSIDE OF MAYORS COMPOUND - MORNING**

What we see resembles something near urban combat as they progress carefully through the streets.

There is an endless series of ill-painted, single-story concrete compounds and half-built shop buildings.

Within minutes of the MEAT EATERS arriving nearby the Afghan police began to shoot wildly, and the whipcracks against a wall near to their heads angers them.

GARY

What the...

JOHN

Friendly fire.

DAVID

Those damn Afghan police.

They need to duck into a compound. The mayor's unlocked gate catches their eye. The gate is slightly open, only an inch or two.

Panicked crowds mass and then scatter with the gunfire. Ambulances and police trucks were tearing by, blasting their sirens and horns, and jumpy policemen are shooting right at them as they are nearing the entrance to their own mayor's compound.

The shots chunk the concrete wall behind them, the point of impact mere feet above their faces.

**EXT. INSIDE OF MAYORS COMPOUND - MORNING**

The mayor's house is more than two stories high, decorated with blue and green colored tiles and gabled roofs on each tower. An unusable (but nonetheless menacing) recoilless gun sat on a tripod atop the tower balcony.

JOHN

We can't do anything here.

JOHN delivers his report over the radio and hands it back to CLYDE, the radio operator.

Everyone else is in a hurry to make it back in order to get breakfast before the chow hall closes.

The soldiers are lined up and ready to make a run for it back to the FOB.

GARY

I'm freaking starving man!

DAVID

Chow hall closes in thirty minutes.

ETHAN

I'm a track star then.

JOHN is about to join them.

Walking out the door, CLYDE (on the radio) get his attention.

RADIO

A casualty is coming in to the mayor's compound. A kid with a head injury there ain't any space at the local hospital.

CLYDE

What do you want us to do?

RADIO  
Raymond there with you?

CLYDE  
Yes.

RADIO  
Make a determination on his condition  
at the mayor's compound before bringing  
him back to the FOB.

Thus engaged, they freeze at the gate and waited with a newly arrived Afghan police guard.

As the police have stopped firing their guns, the MEAT EATERS eventually stand in the gateway and some smoke, their sleeves rolled up, they glove their hands with blue latex.

After no more than ten minutes of nervous joking, we see the Red Crescent ambulance rolling through the serpentine of concrete barriers. Its lights were flashing but no sirens wailed.

The vehicle is a donated Pakistani ambulance van, dented and abused after years (or maybe just months) of service in a war zone.

**EXT. INSIDE THE VAN - DAY**

RAYMON opens up the back to reveal a KID laid out on a burlap stretcher, his naked body covered with a blanket. He is about fourteen or fifteen.

The ambulance is streaked with blood all over the inside. The KID's head was a distended bubble of bandages, a gauze ostrich egg. His skull seemed an unnatural shape and size. The KID has a drainage tube in his nose and IV was running right into his left hand. A PASHTUN MAN is crouching beside him, holding the blood drip in one hand and the boy's bled-white hand in the other.

JOHN asks some questions and starts to prepare an information sheet.

JOHN  
What happened?

No one answers the question.

RAYMON climbs into the van to examine the KID.

JOHN  
What is the kid's name?

PASHTUN MAN  
Jalaluddin.

JOHN  
What is his last name?

The PASHTUN MAN shakes his head.

JOHN  
He doesn't have a last name?

PASHTUN MAN  
Problem?

JOHN  
No. No problem.

The KID's eyes were half open and he follows RAYMON's finger when he wags it left and right. The KID is moaning, his body shivering. CLYDE climbs into the van and places his gloved hand on the KID's shoulder in an attempt to reassure him and to add a little warmth.

The KID has the first wisps of a beard around his chin and lip, but he had practically a child's body, an underfed Afghan child's body. His biceps were nonexistent. His arms were perfectly straight - unmuscled from shoulder to wrist - bones and little else. He couldn't have been more than five-foot-nine.

CLYDE  
(in Pashto)  
Brother, do you hear me?  
(pause)  
We're going to help you.  
(pause)  
Be still.



CLYDE cradles the boy's head as RAYMON removes the hands under his head. RAYMON, an emergency medical technician in life before his enlistment, cuts the medical tape and began to unwrap the gauze. Their faces were intimately close.

We notice the compactness of the van, the filthy, enclosed space, the shivers of his body against the approaching death, the wetness of the blood that CLYDE feels through his gloves behind his neck.

The eggshell is ruptured. The gauze comes off, and the distension is revealed to be piles of absorbent pads placed on the site of the injury. The pads are leaden with blood and streaked with reddish-pink globules of brain matter.

CLYDE and RAYMON know the KID is doomed with the removal of the last bandages. The back of his head had been sheared from its base and the innards of the back of his brain is pulverized. Blood and brain pours forth from the KID, onto our hands and onto the soggy stretcher.

RAYMON

We can't clean the wound because it is still riddled with rocks and shrapnel.

They have seen what they need to see and immediately applied new bandages and tape.

RAYMON

The local Afghan hospital didn't even attempted to treat him.

CLYDE

We have to get him out of here as quickly as possible.

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE VAN - DAY**

The ambulance driver is speaking to JOHN, who is making notes.

AMBULANCE DRIVER

The boy had been seated on a motorcycle no more than five meters from where the suicide bomber had detonated.

JOHN

He was an errant passer-by, an  
unfortunate victim of circumstance.

AMBULANCE DRIVER

The city traffic circle was packed full  
of people on a Friday, the Muslim  
Sabbath, the day of prayer, errands and  
grocery shopping.

These are variables that surely  
factored into the bomber's calculus.

JOHN

And here its sum, this now-brainless  
kid, this dying thing kid.

CLYDE calls the battalion on his Roshan phone and explains  
the situation. His hands are coated in blood and shaking.

CLYDE

We have a kid. You boy. Head wound.

MEDICAL SERGEANT

We could call a dustoff helicopter from  
Kabal, but the hospital nearby is full.

CLYDE

I have a medic here that can describe  
the injuries.

MEDICAL SERGEANT

We can't call a bird for that—they  
won't fly.

CLYDE

Why?

MEDICAL SERGEANT

Exposed brain tissue makes him  
expectant.

CLYDE

No you can help him.

MEDICAL SERGEANT

Did you shot him?

CLYDE

No, dumb-ass. There was a suicide bomber in the market. The back of his head is missing.

MEDICAL SERGEANT

Then we can't help him.

RAYMOND

(whispers to Clyde)

Look, we just need to get him looked at and stabilized.

CLYDE repeats what RAYMOND has said. Raymond knows that there isn't a solution, but at least he speaks the medical language and wants to help. The expression on RAYMOND's face is reserved and actually shows a level of hopelessness.

CLYDE

(to phone)

Look, we just need to get him looked at and stabilized.

RAYMOND

(whispers to Clyde)

If you don't do anything, he's going to fucking die right here in this van. Can we at least stabilize him somewhere?

CLYDE

(to phone)

If you don't do anything, he's going to fucking die right here in this van. Can we at least stabilize him somewhere?

MEDICAL SERGEANT

Fuck!

(pause)

Okay, look, I'll see what I can do.

CLYDE hangs up. There is nothing that can be done. Everyone knows it; even CLYDE knows. Only Clyde doesn't want to believe it. The other MEAT EATERS know nothing will be done.

CLYDE

(exiting the van)  
To give up seemed hopelessly lazy and ignorant.

GARY

A logistical impossibility means he is a lost cause.

ETHAN

In a war, he isn't worth the effort.

DAVID

We missed breakfast.

We hear a chuckling in the radio's background.

RADIO

(half laughing)  
Someone needs to tell your Sergeant that it's a war and that people die in wars.

CLYDE gets a crazed look in his eyes.

ETHAN

They aren't laughing at you, man.

CLYDE makes a move to take the radio from JOHN. ETHAN holds him back. After a short struggle, CLYDE stops wrestling.

CLYDE

I have no words to reply.

Hearing that it was a laugh to them takes the wind solidly out of CLYDE's sails.

RAYMOND

It's way too easy to be the tough guy, the flinty-cool bad-ass saying things like that when you're not watching it in front of you.

GARY

It's already a foregone conclusion to the ice-blooded distant observer.

CLYDE

I ought to take a fucking picture.

DAVID

The difference between him and the guy on the ground is that the latter still has hope.

JOHN

I'm going to type it into the mIRC and see if we don't get a different answer.

They quickly leave the mayor's compound.

**EXT. VALLEY AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS - DAY**

SITA and the GOATS arrive in a valley at the foot of the mountains. There is water and grass for the herd. SITA is bored however. She leaves the GOATS and follows a footpath that leads to the mountain. She follows cigarettes, she stops and examines them. They are western made. She follows the path through the grass until it is obscurely by rocks. Even then she follows the trail of cigarettes up the mountain. There are so many cigarette butts the trail is clear.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

The van with the dying KID drives on the base and parks out near the helipad.

Everyone sprints back to the FOB and when JOHN arrives he starts typing at a desk. CLYDE sits on the floor, an emotional wreck.

JOHN is sending it up over the secure mIRC system. He gives all the information and waits for an answer. A few questions were prompted, and the answer returned: "MEDEVAC denied as the patient expectant."

JOHN

(to Clyde)

Patient expectant.

CLYDE

What the fuck?

Exposed brain tissue means he is untreatable in that part of Afghanistan, and he is a local.

JOHN

He didn't meet the medical rules of engagement. Only a civilian can take priority if the U.S. had injured him.

A senior NCO comes by the office.

NCO

What is going on?

CLYDE

They're going to let him die.

(pause)

Fuck MEDROE, fuck this stupid fucking war, why the fuck are we even here in the first place if we're not going to help people? Fuck the Army.

DAVID

Dude, don't say, "Fuck the Army".

CLYDE

Fuck the Army!

DAVID

I swear you act like you never saw a dead body.

DAVID laughs it off and leaves the room, before there is a fistfight. CLYDE contemplates getting up to fight.

There isn't a fight in this scene because the characters know they might need each other to survive the next day.

RAYMOND

There isn't anything we could do.

(pause)

I know. You just want some dignitary for him, a ventilator and for someone to clean him up.

CLYDE

Right, I mean for his family. You know?

RAYMOND

I know where you are, man. I wish we could get that done.

CLYDE leaves the building, deciding he was going to be with him if he was going to die.

He is so mad that he feels that he needs to tire his body in some way. He starts sprinting to a gravel lot serving as a helipad, about 600 meters away.

One of our company medics working on the US compound comes out to assess the kid. When CLYDE gets to the landing zone, completely out of breath, he finds him writing all the facts out on a sheet.

CLYDE

There is no helicopter.

DRIVER

No helicopter?

CLYDE

No. No medevac.

MEDIC

(to the driver)

You might be able to get him into the U.S. hospital with this note.

The DRIVER thanks the SOLDIERS and shake their hands, but their eyes shone more of resignation and bitter defeat.

As they were driving away in the ambulance, a civilian helicopter landed neatly, a blue Sikorsky S-61 operated by Blackwater's subsidiary, Presidential Air. They were hauling KBR (Kellogg Brown & Root) workers back from vacation.

Standing on that landing zone, CLYDE watches the van drive around the tan HESCO barriers and back into Ghazni.

We realize that the kid has died while on the way back into the city because the van stops. The driver gets out and runs to the back of the van. The driver and the Afghan medical attendant seem to be mourning. Their hands slam into

their foreheads. When they get back in the van, the flashing emergency lights on the van stop.

**EXT. SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY**

Half way up the mountain the easy path disappears. SITA is determined however and continues to climb. She climbs to a point where it becomes dangerous and she nearly falls.

After almost falling, she looks down. Under her on the mountain, she spots solar panels. They aren't observable from below and she has actually climbed right past them without noticing them. They aren't in a mass but they are scattered in the rocks. Expertly camouflaged, they have escaped detection even by the spy satellites.

SITA climbs down and follows the wires from the various panels. She discovers a cave abandoned by Taliban leaders. Every item in the cave is covered with dust and obviously has been deserted for a good amount of time.

Inside the cave SITA finds radios and books on U.S. Army equipment and tactics. There is even an Xbox game machine with all the soldier games. SITA falls in love with the picture of a soldier on the cover of the Call of Duty Box. She has never been allowed to touch anything electric. But it doesn't take long until she is watching movies and playing games.

There is an illustrated book on famous battles in military history. SITA studies the book for hours.

There is a computer and "Rosetta Stone - English".

There are DVDs of CNN and C-SPAN. There are DVDs of Sesame Street. There is a VCR tape of Osama Bin Laden speaking just outside of the cave entrance.

There is also a large stash of canned food. SITA opens and eats several cans of peaches.

SITA spends most of the day in the cave, eating and learning. She watches movies (in English). She plays her first video game. She examines the weapons and explosives.



Suddenly she realizes her responsibilities and runs out of the cave. She runs back into the cave and packs up some the canned food. She hustles down off the mountain.

**EXT. BACK IN THE VALLEY - DAY**

The goats are scattered when she arrives. She runs left and right gathering them together. After a great amount effort she begins to bring them back into the village.

**INT. BACK IN THE HOME - DUSK**

The sun is almost down. UMAR has not returned. UMAR is so engrossed in the war he leaves SITA in the supervision of her 10-year-old brother, VAFA.

VAFA has discovered a stash of magazines (Playboy and Penthouse). He quickly hides them when he hears SITA return. Her brother does not actually appear to be supervising anything.

VAFA doesn't ask SITA why she has returned so late. SITA brings her brother canned peaches and pacifies him.

**EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT**

SITA, in the dark, digs a hole and buries the empty cans.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - NIGHT**

We see ETHAN and RAYMOND teaching the Afghan soldiers how to wear night vision only to watch them smoke a hash joint and then pass the night scope around, giggling the Dari equivalent of, "Dude, this is awesome!"

ETHAN and RAYMOND look at each other as if it is a lost cause. They appear to feel that are wasting their time.

**INT. HOME - NIGHT**

When UMAR arrives, VAFA does not tell him about his sister's found peaches. UMAR is suspicious of his daughter.

UMAR  
What happened today?

VAFA

Nothing.

UMAR

You watched your sister?

VAFA

Nothing to report. The goats looked fat to me.

UMAR

It could be water in their belly and not grass.

If the audience isn't aware yet, now we get the idea that UMAR is a sexist pig. He never speaks to his daughter, perhaps SITA reminds UMAR of his dead wife, but this is very hard on SITA.

VAFAR wants to sleep. SITA has the box from one of the Call of Duty games; however unrealistic she has romantic ambitions for the soldier on the cover. She looks at it in the moonlight. They all go to sleep without saying much more.

**INT/EXT. HOME AND VILLAGE - DAY**

MONTAGE

UMAR leaves each day engaged in the war. VAFAR goes to school. SITA takes the GOATS to graze and retreats into the cave.

BACK TO:

**EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

SITA's English language skills are discovered accidentally. U.S. Army soldiers come to the village. Her father hides but in listening distance. SITA isn't aware of her father's presence. SITA meets the man who she thinks is the soldier on the cover of the game box. He looks tough but in reality is relatively harmless; his unit is there to survey and test the well water.

Unsolicited, SITA (in English) speaks with SGT MUELLER. This is uncharacteristic for an afghan girl or any female

in fact, but SITA is adventurous and bit wreckless by Afghan standards.

SITA notices a ring on SGT MUELLER's left hand. It is an "U.S. Army" ring, not a West Point ring but something an enlisted man would wear.

SITA

The Taliban are in the mountains.

SITA points in the opposite direction that her father travels each day. SGT MUELLER looks puzzled. It hasn't been his job to hunt the enemy but to find and test water. But he glances up into the mountains and sees nothing.

SITA

There aren't any Taliban in the village.

This is a lie, but SITA is only protecting her father. SGT MUELLER nervously drops the map.

SGT MUELLER

I'm new to Afghanistan. Forgive me.

SGT MUELLER looks very nervous and fumbles for a map. SGT MUELLER is more afraid of the contact; he is of course she is going to blow him up with a bomb. For SITA it is her first romantic encounter. In the encounter, SITA stands very near the soldier and when he asks her to point on the map, their hands graze each other. SITA trembles. BOTH of them are trembling nervously.

SGT MUELLER speaks into the radio.

The soldiers find the well. They take a sample and they leave the village.

**EXT. GHAZNI ROAD - DAY**

We see a supply truck followed by the MEAT EATER's Hummer. An IED explodes early in front of the truck. They Taliban have mistimed the detonation. The MEAT EATERS pull up through the smoke and dust in the air.

JOHN

Every one alright.

The truck drivers look themselves over and shake their head in the affirmative.

CLYDE notices two Taliban running from a building. He takes from his jacket a piece of papers. He scans down a list of phrases in his own handwriting. CLYDE takes the microphone and flips a switch the turns on the speakers.

CLYDE  
(in Dari)  
You can run but you will only die  
tired.

The SOLDIERS look at CLYDE.

CLYDE  
I tried to tell them.

The SOLDIERS are still looking at CLYDE.

CLYDE  
What you think they were going to stop.  
Be for real.

JOHN  
Let's go.

The soldiers drive across a field to close the distance. The Taliban jump into an irrigation ditch and are out of sight. The hummer stops abruptly.

The MEAT EATERS don't know if they are moving in the ditch left or right. They might be stationary. The MEAT EATERS jump out of the Hummer. And spread out. The Taliban pop up and spray the empty Hummer with an AK-47.

The MEAT EATERS fire back but the Taliban dive back into the ditch. DAVID quickly throws a grenade, a bulls eye, directly onto the Taliban. It is a great throw, something like deep right field to home plate.

The MEAT EATERS move forward until they find two dead Taliban in the ditch.

GARY  
Whoa, excellent.

ETHAN  
One grenade and two dead guys.

GARY  
Where did you learn to do that?

DAVID  
Same place you learned.

GARY  
U.S. Army?

DAVID  
Little League Baseball.

GARY  
Dude, I can't do that. I sucked at  
baseball. You launched that thing a  
mile.

RAYMOND and CLYDE hang back from the carnage.

RAYMOND  
You speak Pashto?

CLYDE  
Yea, I've been learning.

RAYMOND  
Dude, you are freakin' Clint Eastwood.  
Bro.

JOHN returns to the hummer and the radio. He is reporting  
the incident. DAVID, ETHAN and GARY are going through the  
dead Taliban's pockets.

ETHAN  
How many virgins now?

There is a pause while DAVID does math in his head.

DAVID  
1080.

GARY  
There aren't any 1080 virgins in  
heaven. Hell there aren't 72 virgins.

ETHAN  
It's just a figure of speech.  
(pause)  
He killed 15 T men.  
(to David)  
What 15?

DAVID nods, yes.

GARY  
Oh, Okay. I see. A euphemism.

ETHAN  
A what?

GARY  
Never mind dudes. Just go on doing what  
you are doing. Pay attention. They  
might have something on them.

They complete the search of the bodies and climb out of the  
ditch.

ETHAN  
Hey I think there might be a lot of  
virgins in heaven. This girl I went to  
school with. She had a car wreck.

GARY  
Oh, yea. Was she a muslim?

ETHAN  
No.

GARY  
Then how did she get to heaven?

ETHAN doesn't have an answer. GARY walks away.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

Fourth of July lunch seems opulent, and the MEAT EATERS are eating together, a means of rendering concrete the level of intimacy and familiarity that we had as a party of six guys trying to make safe a dust-blown provincial FOB in eastern Afghanistan.

The U.S. ARMY makes certain the AFGHAN SOLDIERS enjoy the celebration.

CLYDE

I promised my parents that I would call them on Independence Day.

CLYDE walks over to a private corner of the room. It is a long shot but the other soldiers can hear half the conversation.

CYLDE

(into the phone)

Nothing happened.

(pause)

Mom!

(pause)

We drove around looking for bad guys.

(pause)

None. Really.

(pause)

This is the most boring place on earth.

(pause)

They must be off somewhere else.

(pause)

Okay mom. I'm always careful.

(pause)

Love you too. I'll be home soon.

The other soldiers look at each other, wondering how many of them also lie about the fighting to their loved ones. It makes them reflect.

David seems to be winning a hot dog eating contest over a much larger, in fact giant, Afghani policeman.

**EXT. VILLAGE HOME - DAY**

The minute the SOLDIERS disappear from the small village, UMAR smacks her in the back of the head. Instead of being happy SITA saved his life and sent the Americans on a wild

goose chase, UMAR is enraged and continually beats her for several days.

UMAR

This beating will teach you to speak English! Where did you learn such a demonic language?

SITA

Show forgiveness; Enjoin kindness; And turn away from ignorance.

UMAR takes a cane stick and whacks her over and over.

The VAFAR, the younger brother, isn't beaten but is seriously scolded.

UMAR

Shame on you! You let your sister engage in this wickedness.

UMAR threatens to beat him also and VAFAR runs away.

**EXT. REMOTE VILLAGE - HUMMER - DAY**

We see the MEAT EATERS pull into a village.

They are there to see a very old TRIBAL CHIEF. It appears to be a risky undertaking and the SOLDIERS are clearly very nervous.

CLYDE and GARY plan to bring the boxes to the chief. CLYDE and GARY present five or six solar radios to the chief.

The TRIBAL CHIEF isn't too nervous. His oldest son waves at the other soldiers to come inside his compound. They dismount the hummer and then cautiously walk inside.

At the sit-down *shura*, the TRIBAL CHIEF doesn't want to talk about security, about issues in the community, about anything. He is indignant and perhaps a bit senile.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

I have brought some Afghan police to your village.



TRIBAL CHIEF  
They are outsiders.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)  
No they are Afghani citizens.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
They are from the West.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)  
Please understand that out of a desire  
to inhibit local corruption. And limit  
the intimidation of the families of  
Afghan soldiers and policemen, the  
Afghan government's policy is to assign  
westerners to the east and vice versa.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
Kabul is a faraway land.

INTERPRETER  
(to John)  
They don't trust the police?

JOHN  
No kidding.

INTERPRETER  
(to John)  
It is true; they never see a policeman  
who isn't there to shake them down;  
mostly the police spend their time  
smoking hash.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)  
We are outsiders, non-Muslims. But  
these are your own people. I hope you  
can get along.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
They don't even speak Pashto.

INTERPRETER  
(in Dari to police)  
Do you speak Pashto?

AFGHAN POLICEMAN  
(in Dari)  
Dari, only.

All the while the POLICE are eyeing every valuable in the home. A coffee pot, a solar radio, the drinking glasses, the silverware. There is an AK-47 in the corner of the home; each home has the right to one rifle. There are some rugs that the police seem to be interested in. The TRIBAL CHIEF catches their roaming eyes.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
Tell them to stop looking at my  
valuables.

JOHN  
I can't do that.

INTERPRETER  
(in Dari to police)  
He thinks you are looking to steal?  
(pause)  
Stop. It isn't a joke.

The POLICE duck their heads and look at the floor. There is an awkward pause in the conversation.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)  
Let's talk about security.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
No.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)  
Community.

TRIBAL CHIEF  
No.

JOHN  
(through the interpreter)

What do you want to talk about?

TRIBAL CHIEF

Nothing. We've been telling you Russians the same things for years—we don't want communism.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

Sir, we're Americans. We're not Russians.

TRIBAL CHIEF

You have blond hair and blue eyes. You're a Russian. Stop lying.

JOHN is at a loss for words... he points to the American flag on his shoulder. JOHN hold out his M4. The TRIBAL CHIEF may or may not be convinced.

TRIBAL CHIEF

Stealing.

(pause)

You need to tell the Afghan police to stealing people's money and cell phones.

(pause)

You are Russian's you can tell them and force them to listen.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

They aren't stealing.

TRIBAL CHIEF

Of course not; you are patrolling with them now. Tomorrow, you will be in Russia and they will be stealing again.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

Tell him I will do my best to help. But that I'm an American.

TRIBAL CHIEF

Perhaps you are honest; perhaps not.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

You have a better link to the community than before, I'm an American. You can, if you have a problem now, visit the district center and have the chance to talk to an American leader. You come see me and there will be no problem.

TRIBAL CHIEF

If there is a wall of silence and more intimidation by the Afghan police or, worse, the district government, I will come see you.

JOHN

(through the interpreter)

We always have interpreters. Great. I guess we are done then?

**EXT. VILLAGE - DREAM SEQUENCE - DAY**

The village is empty. SITA walks quietly and carefully around the village. She finds a soldier; it is the soldier on the Call of Duty Box. She looks left and she looks right. SITA doesn't run; there will be no witnesses to the soldier's crime. The soldier takes SITA in his arms under a palm-tree; it is a teenage girls fantasy. It is unrealistically romantic and tender.

As they make love under the palm-tree, fresh ripe dates fall on them. There are no palm-trees in Afghanistan at this attitude. This is a dream.

Just as the soldier is finished, SITA's dream is disturbed.

UMAR enters the room and wakes SITA from the dream, beating her again with a stick and screaming at her.

VAFa wakes up and enters the room. He can only watch; he dares not interrupt his father. It is all very violent.

And it is loud. The neighbor, an OLD WOMAN, wakes up and seems concerned. The OLD WOMAN's lights come on. She gets out of bed and walks across the street. The OLD WOMAN doesn't want to knock, but just as he works up the nerve, the beating ends.

We hear SITA stop crying. We see SITA with a tear in her eye.

SITA  
Therein descent angels and the Spirit  
by the command of their Lord with  
Divine decree concerning every matter.

A few dogs in the village are barking.

**EXT. CITY MARKET - DAY**

Later, in town CLYDE and GARY see the tribal chief's SONS hawking at the market. CLYDE and GARY appear full of disappointment.

GARY  
You want to know what I feel when I  
kill a terrorist?

CLYDE  
Sure, tell me.

GARY  
A little recoil.

CLYDE  
Oh, I thought you were going to say  
remorse or something like that.

**EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

Several older men come to the village and they seem to be discussing SITA's fate. We can't hear them and judging from the body language they seem to be scolding UMAR.

SITA has no mother and the older men want her father to be free to fight. Obviously, the younger brother isn't able to keep an eye on or control SITA.

We don't know what they decide but it doesn't seem good for SITA.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

A building outside the walls explodes. The MEAT EATERS immediately grabbed their armor and weapons and run to the tower of the National Directorate of Security compound. JOHN and CLYDE climb to the third floor of the tower, which can only be reached by climbing rickety wooden ladders and taking hold of exposed concrete rebar. Once atop the roof, that can see the entire city stretching out in the distance. But the explosion came from a hotel directly across the street from the FOB.

The hotel stairwell facing us had collapsed and crashed through the stores beneath it. Garbage, debris and broken glass was strewn in the road in a blooming pattern from the point of detonation. All of the neighboring shop windows were shattered. Crowds of angry men were already gathering, and within a minute some had taken to sweeping up the refuse themselves.

#### **INT. THE DAMAGED HOTEL - GHAZNI**

The damaged side of the building had caved in completely, but—miraculously—no one has been killed. A few people have been seriously injured and taken to the nearby hospital.

JOHN  
Urea nitrate.

CLYDE  
No one was killed.

JOHN  
Apparently, the owner of the hotel had discovered a bomb inside a pressure cooker that had been delivered to him by a restaurant. He evacuated everyone from the block.

CLYDE are taking photos; aside from a burnt smell and the utter destruction of the stairwell, everything else is intact.

They discover the sleeping quarters of the hotel were full of stolen sleeping bags.

CLYDE  
American sleeping bags.

JOHN  
Good ones, too.

They find a canary in a cage hopped about nonchalantly, having survived the blast without his cage so much as falling.

The owner of the building arrives in a Mercedes sedan. He is a heavyset man with rhinestone cuff links and buttons on his *shalwar kameez*.

OWNER  
I'm a poor man and the U.S. needs to pay for the repairs.

JOHN  
(privately to Clyde)  
Take his photo. I look at his clothing and that car and I'm guessing that he is probably not a poor man.

**EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

While SITA is 12 she has not had her first period; she isn't covered with a berka yet. But SITA talks to a BLIND WOMAN in the neighborhood, who doesn't know this.

SITA  
Can you help me understand?  
(pause)  
How do you know if you are pregnant?

BLIND WOMAN  
Your Sita? Your mother died?

SITA  
Yes, that is me.

BLIND WOMAN  
Well, there isn't anyway your are pregnant. You are a good girl. Aren't you?

SITA  
There was an American soldier and we ...

BLIND WOMAN  
No, child you didn't.

SITA  
I think I did. Dates fell from the sky.

The BLIND WOMAN gasps.

BLIND WOMAN  
The role of mother is a very  
responsible job.

SITA  
I understand that.

Poor SITA panics and thinks SGT MUELLER is the father.

Remember, SITA doesn't have a mother and her aunts have  
told her every lie possible to keep her chaste.

FLASHBACK

AUNT  
You must not allow any man but your  
husband to touch you. You will become  
pregnant; your bloodline is very  
fertile.

The AUNT gestures to her eight children - two toddlers, one  
breastfeeding and five outside playing football.

AUNT  
Don't look at them. You must not. And  
don't even talk to them.

SITA  
Not even talking?

AUNT  
Look, you don't understand what it is  
like for boys. They will do anything,  
say anything to touch you because they  
get horny as hell.

END FLASHBACK



SITA continues to play the scene in her mind were she brushed up against the American soldier.

**EXT. VILLAGE - MORNING**

UMAR gives VAFA a stick. It is a very strong stick.

UMAR  
Hit me!

Ten-year-old VAFA hits him lightly on the leg.

UMAR  
Harder!

VAFA hits him again only a bit harder.

UMAR takes the stick and hits VAFA very hard. The boy cries.

UMAR give VAFA the stick back and gestures to him to swing.

VAFA does finally muster a nice swing.

UMAR  
Take care of your sister. There isn't any school for you until I say. Take the goats to graze. If she speaks a word, use this stick.

VAFA  
English?

UMAR  
Any language.  
(pause)  
She has been told not to speak to any man.

VAFA is totally freaked out and frightened. He only listens, not batting an eye.

UMAR  
If she disobeys you, use the stick.  
(pause)  
Women are only a burden.  
(pause)

The man is the center of society.

Women are dependent first on their father and then on their brother, whom they are also expected to obey.

(pause)

Violence is a way of ensuring compliance and preventing rebellion.

(pause)

This is a very serious situation. I prefer to sell her but an honor killings might be required. You know about this solution?

VAFA shakes his head that he does understand.

UMAR

You can only prevent this by ensuring her virginity until marriage.

(pause)

She must not undermine our ownership rights by engaging in premarital sex or adultery.

UMAR shows VAFA a pistol under his belt. It is a very old pistol.

**EXT. PATH TO GRAZING - DAY**

VAFA, SITA and the GOATS travel to the valley at the base of the mountain. After a time VAFA wonders off exploring a stream. He is looking for fish. SITA disappears up the mountain to her cave.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - DAY**

SITA sets up a camcorder outside of the cave. It might have been the very same camcorder and the same location Osama bin Laden used to explain 9/11. She hits the record button and..

SITA

I'm Sita Gula. Born east of Ghazni on 8 May 1996. Last night I experienced a miracle. I heard an angelic voice for which I found rather interesting.

(pause)

I was promised one of the most important miracles of God. I asked Jibril how he will be able to conceive, when no man has touched me. Gabriel's reply assured me that for Allah all things are easy and that a virgin birth will be a sign for mankind.

(pause)

And the angel said to me, "Do not be afraid, Sita, For Allah is watching goodness." You are pregnant and will give birth to a son. And his name is Isa.

(pause)

Power and High will overshadow. Therefore, the holiest by you born. Son of Allah. This wonderful blessing of the heavenly life is in my belly. He has given me little one Isa? Amen.

We really don't know the level or SITA's sanity. She might be joking making this video. Perhaps she genuinely believes she is pregnant.

Just as she is finishing the tape, VAFA appears. He has over heard the revelations and is in awe.

SITA appears to have true power over him at this time. VAFA always followed SITA around, but not she has the son of Allah inside her. VAFA turns and runs (panicked) down the mountain.

SITA laughs. Maybe making the tape was just a joke?

#### **EXT. HOME - DAY**

After a time the rumor gets around the village and UMAR hears the rumor. But instead of accepting it as a rumor, he immediately thinks it is the truth.

After being questioned by her father, given her sudden understanding of English, the Americans are blamed for impregnating her.

There are several village women there with UMAR.

UMAR

Sita, I was told that you are with child. Is this true?

SITA

Yes.

UMAR

Then, I've spoken to Ben Brooksbyja. His son, Elijah Brooksby, has agreed to marry you.

SITA

He is mentally retarded.

UMAR

Rachel, whatever infidel who did this, obviously not suitable for the father of your child.

SITA

He wants to be a martyr.

UMAR

Who told you that?

SITA

He did. He was trying to impress me.

UMAR

Enough!

SITA

He gives wisdom to whom He wills.

UMAR

Sita, you have sinned.

SITA

I've not. This is a miracle.

UMAR

Maybe I was talking to a soldier when I shouldn't have.

SITA

And then ... Then I got pregnant.

(pause)  
A few months ago.  
(pause)  
You are going against Allah.  
(pause)  
It was the same with Mary, as in the  
Koran!

UMAR  
I have no choice.  
  
Tomorrow, you leave this family.  
  
Sita, you're getting married to  
Elijahom Brooksbyjem tomorrow.

SITA  
Marrying Elijahom Brooksbyjem?  
(pause)  
I do not need to ask God, I know that's  
not right.

UMAR  
You will not mention Elijahom becoming  
a martyr.  
(pause)  
Do you understand?

SITA  
And in whatsoever ye disagree, the  
Verdict therein belongs to Allah.

UMAR  
Allah's verdict is marriage.

SITA  
Perhaps not.

There are some village women that UMAR has recruited to  
cover her in a berka.

SITA is told she will be married the next day.

**EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT**

Whoever believes in Allah, He will guide his heart.

Rather than undergo an arranged marriage, SITA steals a truck in the night and escapes toward Ghazni, along with VAFA, who suddenly begins to feel her protector. As SITA pulls away in the night. VAFA runs and jumps in the back of the truck.

**EXT. RISE OVER LOOKING GHAZNI FOB - SUN RISE**

It is a very quiet morning. SITA looks at the mountains on the left. The starts above and she looks down at the base.

SITA

And He placed on the earth firmly set mountains over its surface, and He blessed it and determined therein its [creatures'] sustenance in four days without distinction - for [the information] of those who ask.

(pause)

And He completed them as seven heavens within two days and inspired in each heaven its command. And We adorned the nearest heaven with lamps and as protection. That is the determination of the Exalted in Might, the Knowing.

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

SITA

Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor does He hate you.

SITA slowly approaches the base in her stolen truck. She passes a sign in Russian, "Опасность: мины" (DANGER: Mines) and it is written in Dari also.

But there is some question about whether SITA understands.

SITA

And whoever holds firmly to Allah has (indeed) been guided to a Straight Path.

She seems focused on the three flags - American, Polish and Afghan. She is so focused in fact that she doesn't drive to the gate, she drive directly through the minefield.

**EXT. INSIDE THE GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

GUARD

T-man! Driving through the minefield!

There is a mad rush for weapons. The MEAT EATERS focus their weapons on SITA's truck. Most other soldiers run for cover and are nervously looking around for other threats.

GARY

You think the mines are still there?

DAVID

You think the Soviets bothered to dig them up when they left?

ETHAN

We are about to find out.

GARY

Twenty dollars says they don't make it.

GARY takes out a twenty dollar bill and puts it under a clip.

ETHAN

I'll take that. I say they are lucky.

ETHAN takes out a twenty and puts his money under the clip. John has some field glasses.

JOHN

Don't shot it's a kid.

DAVID

Screw that, if they get close enough.

JOHN

No seriously, it is a female. Don't fire.

CLYDE

Seriously it is a girl.

JOHN

A young girl.

SITA survives a drive across a minefield, as the MEAT EATERS watch. ETHAN takes the money. SITA leaves the truck parked on a slight rise. She does NOT set the parking break.

SITA doesn't approach any SOLDIERS but begins to walk around the base. She is taking it all in the sounds and the images. She has a confident smile on her face, like she was meant to be there.

Everyone puts his gun down, except DAVID, who trains his weapon on her.

CLYDE

She's charmed. She's a lucky charm.

DAVID

Maybe the Russians just put the signs up to scare people? Or they destroyed mines when they left.

CLYDE

I don't plan on dying over here man. If she is good luck, then she is good luck.

POLISH SOLDIER

She is a very lucky girl. We Poles want her.

CLYDE

Wrestle you for her.

POLISH SOLDIER

Okay, you are a small sissy type boy.

CLYDE

No, David here is our wrestler.

VAFA exits the back of the truck, unobserved. He runs to hide behind a supply vehicle.

DAVID steps up. He is ripped and probably wrestled at U of Iowa or Oklahoma State. The POLISH SOLDIER looks around at his countrymen. No one steps up and no one catches his eye.



POLISH SOLDIER

Keep your new good luck charm. You  
might need her, you Americans are so  
gung-ho.

CLYDE pats DAVID on the back. And gestures positively as to  
say...

CLYDE

That was easy.

The other MEAT EATERS shake their head like this is a  
mistake.

The wind picks up and blows the truck off the hill into a  
slight depression. One tire hits a land mine and the truck  
goes up in flames.

CLYDE

Hot dog! Did you see that?

DAVID

I did!

CLYDE

Now lets go see what we got.

They move to follow SITA.

SITA is tall and physically superior.

CLYDE

You nearly were killed?

SITA

Why?

CLYDE

You drove through a minefield.

SITA

Yes?

CLYDE

You can't do that?

SITA  
But you didn't kill me?

CLYDE  
No, we could have easily through.

SITA  
You killed my father.

CLYDE  
I did?

SITA  
Americans. Yes.

CLYDE  
Your mother?

SITA  
She is dead also, but from cancer. You  
are not responsible for that.

CLYDE  
I'm sorry.

SITA  
Can I stay here?

CLYDE  
They think you are lucky?

SITA  
I am lucky and beautiful and I'm here  
now.

CLYDE  
What a charmer you are!

SITA  
So I can remain?

CLYDE  
They are thinking about keeping you.

SITA  
You won't tell the authorities?

CLYDE

Probably not.

A new group of soldier have arrived at the FOB. SITA sees the new arrivées watching videos, confiscated from insurgents, depicting Americans getting killed on mountain roads; vehicles exploded and rolled down the embankments, first responders are shot, all punctuated by insurgents screaming "Allahu Akbar!"

SITA walks a massive dirt-floor barn full of disarmed bombs cadged from the countryside, and we see constructed mock culverts like the ones on village roads. The instructors are telling stories.

Also SITA over hears the sexual assault briefing.

INSTRUCTORS

The sexual assault brief was regrettable (and infuriating in the sense that soldier-on-soldier rapes are common enough to warrant it).

Going counterclockwise around the base, the fence butts up against an Afghan village. The adobe houses look the same as pueblos. There are wooden ladders allowing access to roofs and windows.

We see the calm boys out flying kites and kicking a ball around a very muddy field.

The more angry boys run alongside the fence throwing rocks, but the stones land harmlessly on the ground.

CUT TO:

**INT. TV AND MEDIA ROOM - DAY**

Inside the room there are 10 SOLDIERS "relaxing" by shouting and playing a video game. Two are playing Call of Duty. The others are shouting instructions and strategies. It is intense. You would think they would get enough of the adrenaline rush outside but these kids are addicted to the games, clearly.

BACK TO:

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

Outside we see SITA walking around the FOB. No one is interfering and no one is with her. She is taking it all in. She looks as if she is in some sort of a daze.

The gym is palatial.

SITA notices there are attractive American girls on base.

There is an open door and though the opening SITA can see the maps and the computers and the operational planning that is going on.

SITA

They plan, and Allah plans. Surely,  
Allah is the Best of planners.

VAFAs peak out of the back of the supply truck. He doesn't come out, but he is watching it all happen. SITA approaches some POLISH SOLDIERS with her Call of Duty box.

SITA

Where?

The POLISH SOLDIERS laugh and they point to a building.

SITA walks in that direction but opens the door to the wrong building. She opens the Pizza Hut door and we see a strange look on her face. She does not enter, but looks back the POLES. They signal for her to go to the next building.

There in the next building she finds the gamers. She slowly moves in and about the players. Some notice the young girl. Others are totally oblivious.

**INT. GHAZNI FOB CHOW HALL - DAY**

Later, the MEAT EATERS take SITA to the chow hall.

CLYDE

(to Sita)

You are lucky! Your first meal on base  
is roasted beef brisket.

DAVID

(to Clyde)

That portion of meat was cut for you by a KBR guy making three to five times your salary.

SITA

All the stories are true?

CLYDE

We have a self-service ice cream sundae bar.

ETHAN

Five different flavours of milk.

JOHN

All of it free. Everyone deployed to Afghanistan eats for free.

SITA

The patient will be given a reward without measure.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

When they emerge from the cafeteria, VAFA is waiting. He senses they were eating. VAFA looks at SITA, she is surprised to see him.

The MEAT EATERS don't stop well, and almost step on the boy.

RAYMOND

Whoa!

GARY

Who is this?

JOHN notices the look on SITA's face.

JOHN

Let me guess, Our lucky girl's brother?

DAVID

He is a Jonah.

CLYDE  
Not necessarily.

ETHAN  
Maybe he just wants to eat.

JOHN turns into the mess hall.

JOHN  
Hey there is another kid to feed.

SITA gestures for VAFA to enter. She follows him. VAFA looks frightened.

SITA  
(in Pashto to Vafa)  
This is roasted beef brisket.  
(pause)  
This man who is serving makes five times as much money as a soldier.  
(pause)  
There are five flavours of milk.  
(pause)  
This is the self-service ice cream sundae bar.  
(pause)  
All of it free. Everyone deployed to Afghanistan eats for free.

When VAFA has his food they sit.

SITA  
Why are you here?

VAFA  
I'm here because you ran away.  
(pause)  
It is my job to watch you and protect you from the infidels.

SITA  
That isn't your job.

VAFA  
Father said it is my job.

SITA  
Just go home.

VAFA  
Are you really going to tell them the  
Virgin Mary story?

SITA simply stares at her brother.

**EXT. STRANGE AFGHAN VILLAGE - DAY**

The MEAT EATERS pull into a village and there is a huge firefight. The whole village erupts as soon as the vehicles roll up. There are insurgent mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and rifles all targeting a 30-man platoon. Several soldiers panic and run the wrong way and get separated from the group.

And here's DAVID, all smiles, muscle and gear, and the rotten ground of an Afghan manure field is exploding in chunks all around him as he sprints as fast as his suit of armor will let him to the other side.

They are in the most dangerous and hostile part of the country and DAVID performs heroically. He runs through an open field when one of the new squads are isolated, all the while being chased by DShK fire.

RAYMOND  
What the fuck was that?

CLYDE  
A Russian-made heavy machine gun.

JOHN  
12.7-mm and they're meant to take down  
airplanes.

GARY  
The bullets can punch through cinder  
blocks.

DAVID tells his cut-off soldier what to do next (move), and then, to everyone's surprise, he runs right back again.

GARY  
This is insane.

JOHN

I've never seen anything like that.

DAVID runs back and is laughing once he makes it.

CLYDE

He made it back in one piece; he acted like nothing happened.

It is hard for the other MEAT EATERS not to be jealous. They all look at DAVID as if that wanted to be him. They want to live through the close calls and shrug it off the way he does.

They maintain their positions until jets appear and bomb and TALIBAN who disperse.

**INT/EXT. GARAGE GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

ETHAN is an amateur mechanic. In his spare time, he is repairing a Moped. SITA spends a good deal of time watching. She even has a chair there for her to sit in. ETHAN is excited to get a package. It contains an engine part and a nice new chrome mirror. He returns to the Moped and completes the work.

ETHAN

Can you ride a bicycle?

SITA

Yes.

ETHAN starts the engine and it purrs like a kitten. He has an proud accomplished look on his face. He gestures for her to sit on the Moped. SITA is afraid but does.

ETHAN grabs her and the scooter and guns the accelerator a bit. He looks at her and she seems to understand. Clearly no one has ever given her such a gift.

She slowly ride away... very carefully.

ETHAN is a very large man and the scooter is very small. Naturally, SITA is the logical destination for the scooter.



She drives around inside the FOB. The MEAT EATERS cheer her one and encourage her to go faster!

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT**

We witness the last few seconds of a planning conference. There is a conference for literally all mission planning briefs and operations orders.

OFFICER

Our special forces are assigned to control a platoon of Afghan soldiers on a search of a village known to be a Taliban gathering site.

JOHN looks at his men.

OFFICER

Surveillance aircraft have regularly seen men digging in the dirt road that ran between this village and the Ghazni highway.

(pause)

The road is so dangerous that even local businessmen with no connection to the Afghan government will not drive it, and there is a truck graveyard of legendary proportions in which insurgents had seized vehicles hauling American equipment and burned them to the ground, sometimes with the drivers included.

The OFFICER shows the group media, still photos and films from surveillance drones.

OFFICER

We are looking for any military-age males, any bomb-making equipment, and any weapons behind the individual AK-47's that each family is allowed for home defense. We will report to the airfield about a week from today for preparation and rehearsal, and the next morning we will fly (with our Afghan partners) by helicopter and arrive at sunrise.

The American SOLDIERS roll their eyes a bit. They have learned not to count on the Afghan soldiers.

OFFICER

The most important party and the entire nature of this mission are our Afghan partners. We wouldn't tell them exactly where things will take place, but we have them in the loop.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB CONCRETE HANGAR - DAY**

The MEAT EATERS are happy to coordinate with the AFGHAN POLICE to assign a platoon of the CIVIL ORDER POLICE, who are by and large better trained and trustworthy. They are no longer worried about the Afghan side.

JOHN

(to the Afghan platoon leader)

We will leave by helicopter and your people will enter the homes. We are there for back up and to oversee the operation. You will learn the location of the village as soon as possible but not now.

The MEAT EATERS brief their mission; the Afghans brief theirs, and there is a pause as the multitude of interpreters passed along the word. There is a lot of standing around waiting for the translators to work.

The MEAT EATERS are preparing their packs and equipment, briefing the REGULAR U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS staying behind on how to handle the daily events and any emergencies, and before long they are all outside on the helipad, conducting a walkthrough as a group.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB HELIPAD - DAY**

The MEAT EATERS and the AFGHAN COPS are all walking toward the helipad. CLYDE and RAYMOND are walking side by side. CLYDE's phone chirps.

RAYMOND

What is up?

CLYDE

Email. My dad was an infantry officer  
in the Kuwait War.

RAYMOND

What did he say?

CLYDE

(reads email)

This is the job you've been wanting to  
do the whole time you've been there.  
Just do your job, do the right thing,  
and don't worry about it.

RAYMOND

Good thing you are calm.

CLYDE

I have a terrible feeling about this.

The group walks through some of the mission.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB CONCRETE HANGAR - NIGHT**

The all the SOLDIERS both American and Afghan sleep in the  
hanger, inside massive tents shaped like Quonset huts.

The MEAT EATERS all wake up at four in the morning, they  
put on our armor and gear. The Americans wake the AFGHAN  
SOLDIERS, loaded into two-and-a-half-ton trucks and drive  
to the helicopter flight line. Two CH-47 Chinooks warm up;  
they board, take off and turn north. The back ramp is open  
and a gunner is manning the fixed machine gun. It is dark  
and pitch black.

**EXT. JAGHATU, AFGHANISTAN - SUNRISE**

The two helicopters land in farm fields surrounded by low  
mud walls and, in the distance, orchards of hardwood trees.  
We would sweep the town from south to north.

Once the helicopters left and the storms of brown dust  
clear, the MEAT EATERS all seem to marvel at how utterly  
silent it is.

They point to people who have begun watching them from the  
rooftops of massive *qalats*.

DAVIDS

If they are going to, this is going to be the moment that they will start shooting.

No shoots. The mission is utterly serene. The sunrise and the silence steals this scene.

All of the village's military-age males are gone.

While the Afghan police are searching the homes, several people come out to talk to the supervising Americans.

VILLAGER

They're out working in the fields in another town.

The village people were cautiously receptive.

JOHN

(to interpreter)

We ask the homeowners to follow them and make sure nothing is stolen, and after each house we will ask them if they were willing to sign a statement saying that a legal search was conducted.

The interpreter speaks to the village people and then to JOHN.

INTERPRETER

(to John)

They all agreed, but on the condition that we'd read the agreement to them and they would sign with a fingerprint in ink.

JOHN looks strangely but agrees.

The only moment of fear came when a cow charged me and almost knocked me over.

The MEAT EATERS give the AFGHAN SOLDIERS solar-powered radios and the COPS give them each family after the search

is complete. The interpreters read the paper and finger print (agreement) is made.

In the end, the AFGHANS conducted a formal sit-down, or *shura*, with the village elders. When it is complete, they part with hugs and kisses.

During this meeting, we see helicopter approaching in the distant.

The MEAT EATERS are standing together waiting.

JOHN

I did not encounter a single person on my half of the village who could read. It took about eight hours to move from one end to another.

DAVID

We found nothing.

CLYDE

The poverty is staggering and tragic.

RAYMON

I met a little boy with severe conjunctivitis that was likely going to lose his vision.

**EXT. AFGHAN ROAD - DAY**

Days later, SITA leaves the FOB and the MEAT EATERS all gather around each other and look worried. Some are nodding in encouragement. Others are shaking their heads in disapproval.

NONE will try to stop SITA, but they all appear to be fathers the first time their daughter drives solo. They look at each other worried and some shake their head approvingly.

Later we see, SITA riding around the city and then out into the rural area on a highway. She has a very free and fun looking expression. She ride far from the city and then returns.

Please understand that the average Afghan woman would never be allowed to drive. And SITA is taking risks by doing this. Perhaps she understands that since the MEAT EATERS gave her the scooter, they will come to her rescue if someone protests.

Riding through the city, she then spots a car in a yard being rigged with explosives. She pulls over and feigns looking for her dog. She is actually making it worse so that the guy could get away. But he screams at her.

TALIBAN

Get away silly girl.

(pause)

Wait what are you doing on a scooter?  
Get off that, I'm going to find your father.

SITA gives him a dirty look and zooms away.

**INT/EXT. GARAGE GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

She comes back to the FOB out of breath; she walks into the office and tugged at JOHN, in her gentle way,

SITA

Bomb in a car.

(pause)

I see.

JOHN takes her to a map. She doesn't understand and can't find the location.

JOHN

Where?

SITA

City.

JOHN

In the center of the city?

SITA can't respond.

JOHN

Where?

SITA

A car.

JOHN

What is it near?

SITA

A house.

JOHN

Which house?

SITA shrugs and can't say.

JOHN

Let's find an interpreter.

The interpreter arrives.

JOHN

(to Sita)

Talk to him.

SITA talks to the interpreter but things aren't clear to him. Basically, SITA doesn't know how to tell them where the car is located.

JOHN

(to radio)

I've got information on a car bomb.

BATTALION

We need a map coordinate.

JOHN

It is a young girl.

BATTALION

Can she get a usable location?

JOHN

That is a problem. Let us get back with you.

JOHN puts down the radio.

JOHN  
(to a corporal)  
Tell the boys to "Mount up."

SITA takes a GPS unit and waves it at JOHN.

JOHN hesitates allowing her to go back.

JOHN  
(to a corporal)  
Cancel that.

Walks to a refrigerator and takes out bottled water. She smiles confidently and chugs the entire bottle.

SITA drives back out and she marks the location with a waymark. She brings the GPS unit back to the FOB and hands it to JOHN. By then, all the MEAT EATERS are in the office to congratulate her. There is a huge celebration and they pick her up on their shoulders and parade her around the base.

The Afghan police roll up on the would-be bomber and arrested him.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

CLYDE, the only "innocent" MEAT EATER has a crush on a FEMALE SOLDIERS. He is awkward and doesn't know how to approach her. He is advised to give her what she really wants. SITA watches CLYDE chase a puppy half the day, under trucks, across the base. He puts out food and devises a trap, which fails. Finally he manages to tire the puppy and the puppy stops running. He brings her the puppy. She is amused of course.

Later, SITA sees DAVID and the FEMALE SOLDIER making out like crazy. DAVID puts his face between her legs and she puts the puppy down. The puppy runs away.

CLYDE sees the puppy running around the base and it further demoralizes him. SITA seems to notice CLYDEs dejected state. SITA is a keen observer.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**



SITA is drawn to one of the soldiers who has the same "U.S. Army" ring as SGT. MUELLER.

Sita runs a race against DAVID and almost beat him. The soldiers all cheer for the SITA.

It is her idea to get information from a sergeant named CLYDE. But SITA becomes romantically involved with CLYDE and the group of superstitious soldiers adopt SITA. They are mean and cold killers but have a soft side for the young girl.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - NIGHT**

SITA

And if the Unbelievers seek your help,  
then help them, and escort them to  
safety. So long as they are...

The TALIBAN attack. The mortar rounds are close enough to pepper the MEAT EATER'S building with shrapnel.

JOHN is meeting with a government official. He comes running back to his room to grab his gear when the first rounds impacted.

Suddenly, he freezes in his tracks. JOHN see's SITA standing in the middle of the base without cover. She is strangely unafraid, she has a pair of night vision glasses on. JOHN takes a step toward SITA and then hears a violent and terrifying sound above his head.

It sounds like a jet engine, but moved on the trajectory of a balloon that is quickly deflating. It lands about 200 feet JOHN and explodes.

We get the impression if JOHN had not stopped to look at SITA, he would have been hit in the head with the RPG.

JOHN starts running again and then stops. DAVID is staring at him through his night vision glasses.

DAVID

Did you see that, sir?

JOHN

I didn't.

DAVID

Sir, an RPG round went right over your head. It literally almost hit you in the face.

JOHN

But it didn't.

The FOB takes fourteen mortar hits inside the compound. SITA watches it all from her central location with the night vision goggles.

The MEAT EATERS man the towers and reinforce the gates.

The JOHN makes a few radio calls when we got a very clear indication that an American bomber is about to drop on the TALIBAN motorists.

An American patrol is about to shoot a convoy of Afghan police that, for whatever reason, were tearing through the city streets with their lights off.

AMERICAN PATROL

Sir permission to fire. Convoy of vehicles tearing through the city.

JOHN

Afghan police? Are your lights on?

AFGHAN POLICE

No. We don't want to be fired at.

JOHN

(to the American patrol)

No, no. Don't shot them.

(to the Afghan police)

Turn your lights on. We were about to shot you.

AMERICAN PATROL

The lights are on.

JOHN

Well they are out driving fast... that is better than hiding. Give them an E for effort.

JOHN is the only one who could talk to both elements. It is tense for a moment, until they stand down.

Suddenly there is a very loud explosion outside the base. Presumably the TALIBAN mortar location is bombed.

JOHN  
Talk about unlucky.

CLYDE  
Why unlucky? Everyone dead in Afghanistan is that.

JOHN  
There is an American bomber group right over that mountain. They aren't always there. But well tonight... yes.

The Air Force has dropped a five-hundred-pound bomb directly atop the attackers.

**EXT. FIELD JUST OUTSIDE THE GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

The next after the attack, the MEAT EATERS visit the sight of the dropped bomb.

JOHN  
I've been asked to document some stuff about last night.

The MEAT EATERS look bored.

JOHN  
You want to come and have a look see?

They jump up and are ready for the chance.

JOHN  
They dropped a five-hundred-pound bomb directly atop the guys from last night.

The scene might be morose; the MEAT EATERS become enthusiastic and gear up.

**EXT. BOMBING SCENE - DAY**

At the scene, only one body was still intact enough to identify. The MEAT EATERS are security for a joint U.S. and AFGHAN POLICE team. They are running biometric scans to see if this man had ever been documented before and could be identified. And of course they are picking up body parts.

DAVID

The U.S. Air Force. They always bring dignity to what would otherwise have been a vulgar brawl.

He is wrapped up in white cloth and placed in the back of an Afghan police truck. They take iris scans on the clouded eyes, white now as if covered with cataracts.

They take fingerprint scans of the hands, one with all but three fingers blown off. We can tell from the face and gestures of the policeman that the flesh is cold to the touch and the joints are immobile.

The dead AFGHAN MAN is probably about thirty or forty. He had a thick beard and was held together by blankets below the waist. His legs are gone, his innards blown open and his body spotted with deep punctures from shrapnel. He has lain out in the night air for at least twelve hours.

It isn't the first time the MEAT EATERS have assisted this sort of police process, but this time they felt as though they owned a part of it, because the dead guy had been trying to kill them.

CLYDE

Who is he?

JOHN

The local type, financed by the Pakistani ISI, totally broke and illiterate and, once dead, replaceable.

JOHN looks around to see if anyone is watching them.

**EXT. BOMBING SCENE HUMMER - DAY**

Riding back to the base, CLYDE has his phone and is emailing or texting his parents.

RAYMOND

How is the fam?

All of the MEAT EATERS stare at him until he divulges the news. They have a solemn look on their face.

CLYDE

My mom and dad are fine. They are at my grandparents' house with the rest of my family. There was some scandal about my aunt trying to host Christmas dinner at her house versus at my grandparents', and my mom told me the debate about it in detail. I didn't feel like telling her much about this place.

(pause)

They don't need to know about things on my end. Of course they asked, thosugh, and I told them that last night it was no big deal. Things will calming down anyway. Right?

They chuckle and laugh.

**INT. OFFICE ON GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

CLYDE is standing in front of JOHN at his desk. Evidently he has put in a request for a helicopter.

JOHN

Our rush to fly election delegates at the end of August had an unfortunate side effect; and we don't want the Afghan government to realized how apparently easy it is for us to conjure up helicopters. They will be constantly flooding us with requests to fly.

CLYDE

So the answer is no?

CLYDE looks dejected.

JOHN

You may not military air. And you may not use Presidential Airways. They are more cooperative. But, there needs to

be at least one armed American soldier on the aircraft escorting them. Can't get involved in anything like that as shorthanded as we are.

CLYDE looks further dejected. There is a long pause.

JOHN

Use the Afghan National Army Air Corps. Pay the bribe to the crew chief. You know how it works?

CLYDE smiles and seems to have a small personal victory.

**EXT. HELIPAD AT GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

Later, the Afghan National Army Air Corps with a Russian Mi-17 helicopter flies in like a hot rod.

All the MEAT EATERS are there with SITA and VAFA.

The CHIEF gets out with a map in hand. He holds out his hand. CLYDE puts six twenty-dollar bills in his hand.

The CHIEF holds out the map. CLYDE doesn't know what to do. CLYDE turns to look at the MEAT EATERS. They all signal something different. So CLYDE just puts his finger on the map and moves it around in a circle.

CHIEF

(in Pashto)

You want use to ride the girl in a circle and then back here?

CLYDE has no idea what he is saying but shakes his head in agreement.

SITA is too afraid to run to the helicopter. DAVID whisks her up and carries her to the chopper. He puts her in the chopper and buckles her in. CLYDE brings VAFA and puts in him the chopper.

The helicopter races off the pad in a reckless manner. It seems the pilot thinks his job is entertainment and thrills.

VAFA is terrified. SITA smiles and is exhilarated by the ride. The chopper reaches a certain altitude and at a distance begins to circle the city. There are mountains to the right and the city and FOB to the left.

On the ground, the MEAT EATERS watch intently.

SITA looks at the mountains.

SITA

Had We sent down The Quran on a  
mountain, you would have seen that  
mountain humbled and rent asunder.

SITA looks at the military base.

SITA

O Allah! You give power to whom You  
will and You take power from whom You  
will. You honour whom..

Then everything goes awry. The chopper takes fire from the ground and the engines whine down and then stop.

The MEAT EATERS see smoke from the chopper and immediately run for their equipment and then to two Hummers. They race out of the base in the direction of the crash.

They race down the highway and then across the plain.

The TALIBAN get to the crashed helicopter first. It is a smoldering wreck and potentially on fire.

The TALIBAN COMMANDER signals to his followers to take the children into the mountains. And he signals his men to kill the PILOT and CREW CHIEF.

The Afghan PILOT and CREW CHIEF are badly injured and are executed by the TALIBAN. VAFA is freed from the wreck and led off. SITA's seat belt will not come loose. The TALIBAN abandon her to be burned when they see the Hummers approaching.

TALIBAN

Leave her to burn.

VAFA is captured by the Taliban.

VAFA's father has left the war and is looking for him. He is not looking particularly for SITA. Luckily, VAFA is returned to his father.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - NIGHT**

CLYDE is religious and is saying his prayers.

SITA  
For you is your religion and for me is my religion.

CLYDE  
You okay, kid?

CLYDE  
You worried about your brother?

SITA  
No, he is a male. He will be fine.

There is a long pause.

SITA  
I'm pregnant.

CLYDE  
What?  
(pause)  
It's a joke. Right?

SITA admits to CLYDE that she thinks she is pregnant. She has not had her first period and she isn't "covered" yet... She is a uniquely confused young girl. She has heard somewhere that if you don't get your period then you are pregnant AND she did touch SGT. MUELLER'S hand.

SITA  
No. I'm going to have a baby.

CLYDE  
And the father is...

SITA  
He is a Sergeant. He wears a ring like yours. Here is his picture.



SITA takes the Call of Duty box and shows it to CLYDE.

CLYDE  
This is a video game.

SITA  
No, he is a real man.

CLYDE himself is totally confused but wants to protect SGT. MUELLER, who he doesn't even really know.

SITA  
I'm going to find him again. He finds water. That is his job.

CLYDE  
Oh, that guy. He really does look like the box cover. You are right.  
(pause)  
You and he...

SITA  
Dates from the trees fell.

CLYDE  
Is that what you call it?

SITA  
I guess.

There is a long pause.

CLYDE  
I will marry you. It will freak out everyone but... what the f...

SITA  
You don't have to. It isn't necessary.

CLYDE  
I don't want you off chasing around.

SITA  
I've already been out on the scooter. Nothing ever happens.

CLYDE  
You aren't covered.  
(pause)  
Are you really twelve?

SITA  
I am eight-teen.

CLYDE  
Really?  
(pause)  
So why aren't you covered?

SITA  
I don't want to. Maybe in the winter.

CLYDE  
Afghanistan doesn't work that way does  
it?

SITA  
It has. They put a burka on me. It is  
not a beautiful thing to wear like they  
tell you; it is a curse. So, I ran away

CLYDE  
People are looking for you?

SITA  
I doubt it.

CLYDE  
No, I will marry you. Don't tell the  
guys.

SITA  
Don't tell Vafa.

There is a long pause.

SITA  
Can we live in Kubal?

CLYDE  
No. San Antonio.

SITA  
Remember the Alamo.

CLYDE  
You know that story?

SITA  
Doesn't everyone know this battle?

CLYDE  
Well not really.  
(pause)  
You can't go find Mueller and the well  
diggers. Too dangerous. I'll find him  
for you.

SITA  
I will explain everything to him. And  
then I will leave you?

CLYDE  
Yes, sure if that is what you want.

SITA  
"Do not approach the property of an  
orphan, except with good intentions.  
And keep your promises, for you will be  
questioned about every promise you  
make."

CLYDE is well into his 20s and SITA is actually 12, but he is a gentleman and clearly SITA is nervous about her future. While totally unrealistic, his promises make SITA feel better. Say what you will about CLYDE, he is emotional and a wreck of a man, but he is well intentioned.

**EXT/INT. BETWEEN GHAZNI AND KABUL - NIGHT**

In the dead of the night, SITA leaves the FOB looking for SGT MUELLER.

Later, SITA is lost and out of gas. She is pushing her scooter in the middle of nowhere.

SITA  
"And Allah found you lost, and He  
guided you."

She comes upon a house. She approaches and the dog does NOT bark. There is a quiet moment of pause. The dog looks but doesn't seem alarmed.

The OWNER of the home, comes outside to feed the dog table scraps and the man notices SITA.

OWNER  
Child?

SITA  
Yes.

OWNER  
Come in and eat.

SITA enters the home and sits. She has some food and water.

SITA  
And they offer food to the needy, the orphan and the captive. "We feed you for the sake of Allah alone."

SITA is given a place to sleep by the OWNERS WIFE. Curiously the no one asks her many questions.

**INT. GHAZNI FOB OFFICE - DAY**

CLYDE is in the office and JOHN is about to assign him to a mission.

JOHN  
The mission doesn't sound like a good idea. We received a phone call informing us that the governor, Musa Khan Ahmadzai, is scheduled to fly to Kabul on a contracted Presidential Airways flight. This wasn't anything unusual, but I also received instructions to send one of my soldiers as an escort. You will stay overnight at the nearby airbase; the flight will take place early in the morning and you will would return later that day.

CLYDE

Why me, sir?

JOHN

The problem is that there were only two open seats on the flight. The Governor speaks little English, and there will be no room for an interpreter. If any difficulties arise, another soldier would have no way to explain what had taken place and what would come next.

CLYDE

And you expect something will go wrong.

JOHN

I always I suspected that something would go wrong.

CLYDE

Sita is gone.

JOHN

Probably to go find her brother?

CLYDE

Maybe.

**EXT. BETWEEN GHAZNI AND KABUL - MORNING**

The next morning, SITA gets up and discovers a gas can inches from her scooter. She leaves. She quickly finds herself lost again. The wind begins to blow.

SITA

And it is He Who sends the winds as good tidings before His Mercy, And He sends down pure water from the sky.

The wind blows up a storm and the rain soaks SITA.

She impulsively follows a path for a considerable distance and discovers SGT MUELLER, who she believes is the father of her baby.

**INT. HELICOPTER FLYING BETWEEN GHAZNI AND KABUL - DAY**

When MUSA KHAN AHMADZAI and CLYDE arrive at the helicopter there are two American CONTRACTORS already there. But of course they don't seem to speak Pashto or Dari.

One CONTRACTOR has a sack full of beautiful gem peridot crystals and the other a small but exotic rug.

This conversation is done in Pashto.

AHMADZAI

(to the contractor)

You aren't supposed to take those out of the country.

CLYDE

(in English)

You aren't supposed to take the gems out of the country.

CONTRACTORS

We aren't. We are studying them in Kubal.

CLYDE

He says they are studying them.

There is an uneasy moment. AHMADZAI chooses to change the subject.

AHMADZAI

How many tours have you done?

CLYDE

One. This one.

AHMADZAI

You have learned our language quickly.

CLYDE

Yes, that is strange. I'm a bit surprised myself.

(pause)

I never did that well in school. But here it seems important.

AHMADZAI

Yes. It can open some doors for you.

(pause)  
When the war is over perhaps you will  
say here?

CLYDE  
No, I don't know about that.

AHMADZAI  
Maybe?

CLYDE  
Maybe. Yes.

AHMADZAI  
Well, it is rare to find such a person.

CLYDE  
Thank you.  
(pause)  
Happy to help you, here today.

AHMADZAI  
Unfortunately, I need to plead for  
funds. My compound, we need generators,  
heaters, an electrical overhaul. We are  
having daily electrical fires. And they  
are the ones to make the financial  
decisions for facilities like mine, I  
wanted to let them know personally. My  
companions have advised me against it.

The storm is on the horizon. The helicopter seems to swerve  
to avoid the storm. CLYDE is looking intently out the  
window. From the air, he spots SITA on her scooter. She is  
traveling from the storm toward KABUL.

AHMADZAI  
What state do you come from in America?

CLYDE stops his conversation with the governor and watches  
SITA.

AHMADZAI  
Texas?  
(pause)  
Florida?  
(pause)

California?

CLYDE continues to watch her until SITA is out of sight.

AHMADZAI

What do you see? Friend?

CLYDE

A girl on a scooter.

AHMADZAI

A girl on a scooter. You mean a bicycle.

CLYDE

No I'm pretty sure it is a scooter.

AHMADZAI

No girl in Afghanistan is allowed a scooter. It is a boy?

CLYDE

See for yourself.

MUSA KHAN AHMADZAI leans over but SITA quickly disappears. The only thing AHMADZAI sees is a National Guard unit drilling a water well.

AHMADZAI

Afghanistan is a nation of many mysteries. Is it not?

**EXT. WATER WELL DRILL NEAR KABUL - DAY**

SITA's scooter runs out of fuel and coasts to a stop at a water well location.

SGT MUELLER is with his civil engineering unit. They are drilling a water well for a very small village.

SITA

Did you find water?

SGT MUELLER

Not yet.



SITA

Everyone is rewarded for the effort one makes.

SGT MUELLER's "water recovery" group isn't as hospitable to SITA. They are considerably less superstitious than the actual combat soldiers. They give her a strange haunting look.

SGT MUELLER

Hey I know you.

(pause)

You were at the village a week or so ago.

SITA

Yes. You remember me.

SGT MUELLER

Was I not supposed to remember?

SITA

Yes, you should.

SGT MUELLER

You were the first Afghan I spoke to.

SITA

Okay.

SGT MUELLER

Well how are you doing?

SITA

I'm here.

(pause)

Can we talk?

(pause)

Over there?

SGT MUELLER hesitates but does agree to move away from the water well.

SITA

You are new to our country?

SGT MUELLER  
Yes. Pretty much.

SITA  
You don't have a gun?

SGT MUELLER  
They have guns.

SGT MUELLER gestures to the other soldiers who appear to be standing guard while the water specialists drill.

SGT MUELLER  
Mine is in the truck.

SITA  
Near enough.

There is an odd thing about SGT MUELLER. He is not the fierce warrior on the Call of Duty box cover. He is a goofy, happy and simple guy. SITA as young and as innocent as she is, she still has expectations. The audience might have expectations and they are slowly shattered.

SITA  
Tell me about your family.

The other soldiers in SGT MUELLER's unit are becoming concerned. She might be Taliban. Or they are concerned SITA is getting too attached. She is a very young girl and it seems innocent enough but still one or two SOLDIERS casually move closer to listen.

SGT MUELLER takes out his phone and scrolls through the photos.

SGT MUELLER  
This is my dog.  
(pause)  
This is my softball team.  
(pause)  
This is my girl. We are engaged.

SITA  
You are engaged?

SGT MUELLER  
Yes. She's great.

SITA  
How tall is she?

SGT MUELLER  
About here.

SGT MUELLER hold his hand up a foot above SITA.

SITA  
And she is pregnant too?

SGT MUELLER pauses and thinks but then laughs a bit. He figures the "too" is just a language thing or that SITA meant "fiancé" and is pregnant "also".

SGT MUELLER  
(chuckling)  
No. Not that I know of.

SITA  
Okay. I see.

They have had a talk and SITA slowly realizes that SGT MUELLER isn't all that interesting.

SITA is disillusioned about SGT MUELLER.

Finally, SITA gets her period.

SITA  
Can you excuse me for a minute?

SITA disappears. It isn't clear at this time but she decides to return to her home and village.

SITA returns to the water well.

SITA  
Can I have some fuel, please?

SGT MUELLER  
How much?

SITA  
1.3 gallons

SGT MUELLER chuckles at the .3 exact figure and fills her Moped's tank.

**EXT. KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY**

AHMADZAI and CLYDE arrived at the airport, and the governor met his drivers as soon as they entered the terminal.

AHMADZAI  
Do you want to stay with my family.

CLYDE  
Thank you but if I don't return it will create an international search-and-rescue convulsion.

AHMADZAI extends his handshake. CLYDE struggles to quickly remove his gloves before shaking hands. Instead, AHMADZAI embraces him. CLYDE finally takes off his gloves and they shake hands.

CLYDE stays behind as AHMADZAI departs. The terminal at KIA is a strikingly modern building, with indoor plumbing and working lights.

All around CLYDE are soldiers from NATO militaries. Germans, Danes, Poles, Turks, Italians.

A delegation of DANISH MILITARY POLICE trainers posed for photographs under the WELCOME TO KABUL sign.

A Greek female named, ALALA, an airport guard, approaches CLYDE and speaks to him in flawless English.

ALALA  
What do you think about your M4 rifle versus the M16 that I am carrying?

CLYDE  
It is okay. Lighter.

ALALA  
Maybe only one pound?

CLYDE  
Yes. More of less.

ALALA  
I'm Alala. This is my third four-month rotation.

CLYDE  
Clyde, first tour for me.  
(pause)  
What other jobs have you had here?

ALALA  
Same job at the same place.  
(pause)  
Come have a drink. I'm off duty.

CLYDE  
I didn't have enough cash to buy anything.  
(pause)  
There isn't an ATM?

ALALA  
Come on. I'm buying yours. You big handsome American. This is my lucky day.

CLYDE  
I'm sorry I've been out in the boondocks.

ALALA  
Boondocks? What is that?

CLYDE  
Nowhere? A very remote place.

They enter a restaurant/bar at the terminal. There was an Afghan woman, sans face covered, working behind the counter.

ALALA  
What kind of beer do you like?

CLYDE has an incredulous look on his face.

They are selling beer by the bottle, which is absurd to CLYDE. Alcohol is unequivocally banned for U.S. soldiers deployed to the combat theater, but not for NATO militaries.

Later, The Alala and CLYDE sit in a television lobby and waiting room. They sit on a threadbare green sofa on the other side of the Alala is an Afghan. They are watching the movie "Apocalypse Now" on a TV/VCR combination.

**EXT. REMOTE DIRT ROAD - DAY**

Later, SITA is riding her scooter on a very remote stretch of highway. She approaches a road block. However, it isn't put up by coalition soldiers. They are TALIBAN. She stops 100 yards from the TALIBAN and watches. She might be hoping they will disperse. OR she is hoping that someone will come along a save her.

She thinks about turning around, but reasons they will only chase her down. SITA sits and waits. Finally, the TALIBAN get in the two vehicles and approach her.

SITA

Allah, make Clyde care and send him to help me.

Before SITA can return home, she is captured by a group of Taliban who don't know she is her father's daughter.

This group only know she is the traitor who has been helping the Americans. There is a huge debate about what to do about her.

**INT. U.S. BASE AT KUBAL - DAY**

This Taliban group is being monitored by drones. There is a huge debate about whether to use a drone to kill the group. Complicating things is SITA's presence. It appears to some intelligence officers that she is being "guarded" and there is a legend about a soldier's lucky charm.

Other intelligence officers are arguing that she is part of the group. The U.S. commander balks at destroying the group in the hopes the woman leaves (escapes) the group.

**EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY**

SITA tries to escape by running. She is tackled hard.

SITA is tied with her hands behind her back.

SITA

My Lord! Truly I am in need of whatever  
good You would send down to me

The Taliban take SITA high in the mountains and she is to be executed.

SITA

Do not lose hope, nor be sad. You will  
surely be victorious if you are true in  
Faith.

SITA's father joins the group and considers killing the others to rescue his daughter. The group is sitting and resting. UMAR takes the safety off his weapon, but never musters the courage.

As they reach the end of the path, UMAR we can see he is willing to go along with the execution.

SITA

And Allah is Sufficient as a Guardian,  
and Allah is Sufficient as a Helper.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY**

The MEAT EATERS are guarding a caravan of gravel trucks. One truck is hit with an improvised bomb. All of the anti-mine devices and search teams at the head of the convoy missed it, and when it detonates, it knocks off the truck cab and threw gravel all over the road.

DAVID runs down to check on the drivers, to make sure they are all right and to start setting up security. They are shaken but unhurt.

DAVID

(on the radio)  
Circle the trucks.

Running back to his vehicle, he steps on another mine that had been specifically placed to target first responders.

It blows off both of his legs and most of both arms. DAVID is dead before he hits the ground.

**EXT. GHAZNI FOB - DAY**

There is a guard outside the refrigerated container where DAVID would stay until after the doctors are finished.

CLYDE walks out and sits on a picnic table. RAYMON joins him.

RAYMOND

He was supposed to get married.

CLYDE

No that is off. She dumped his ass.

RAYMOND

Too bad. Army won't tell her will they.

CLYDE

(chuckling)

I'd like to make that call.

RAYMOND

I wonder how long it will be before his parents find out.

CLYDE

I hate the fact that I knew something so terrible and hardly anyone else knows.

**INT. GHAZNI FOB OFFICE BUILDING - DAY**

The GARY and ETHAN are waiting outside of a meeting. JOHN is in a room with higher-ranking officers. We can only see the conversation through a window, but a MAJOR doesn't look too happy. Perhaps he is making the argument the SOLDIERS should not have become so close to SITA. Clearly the MEAT EATERS want to look for SITA.

JOHN

Mount up. We have orders to hunt.



The MEAT EATERS gather their gear quickly. GARY and ETHAN whistle and gesture for RAYMOND and CLYDE to come inside.

ETHAN

Gear up. We are going to go get her.

Everyone puts on their game face and the wait for a helicopter. Nothing is said for a very long wait.

**EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY**

A helicopter comes and picks up the MEAT EATERS at the base. It delivers them to the base of a mountain.

**EXT. PATH UP THE MOUNTAINS - DAY**

The MEAT EATERS are walking up the mountain cautiously.

CUT TO:

**INT. DRONE CAMERA - DAY**

Video footage shows us that a drone in the air is keeping an eye on and tracking the TALIBAN.

CUT TO:

**INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL ROOM - DAY**

PRIVATE

Why don't we just take them out?

MAJOR

It seems the little lady..

He points the picture from the drone on the video screen. He points to SITA (the smallest of the party).

MAJOR

... she is an intelligence asset. And our boys are going to get her back.

VAFA joins the group of American SOLDIERS and they start after SITA and the group of Taliban.

Together, CLYDE and the others climb the mountain. As the climb they each have a flashback memory of their time in Afghanistan.

GARY has a flashback of his wife and two kids back home. They are playing in the back yard of a suburban home and then hugging and waving to him at the airport as he departs.

GARY

(to Clyde)

We are here because there is a war. We are here because they attacked us, "they" being Gulf Arabs and Egyptians. And in Afghanistan we were getting revenge by building schools and roads, paying truck companies, cajoling results from the police and Army.

ETHAN

(to Clyde)

And we build fortresses and tear them down again.

RAYMON has a flashback of flying into Bagram looking out the window of the plane out the window, everything is so clear and the space so huge. Then he exits the plane into a dust storm and visibility is almost nothing.

RAYMOND

(to Clyde)

No sense being bitter about it, bro.

GARY

(to Clyde)

Right, stop asking "Why are we here?"

JOHN has a flashback of DAVID's mangled body.

JOHN

It's moot—you're already here, and you're not leaving anytime soon.

ETHAN has a flashback of SITA riding the scooter. First, she is riding safely around the interior of the base. Suddenly she is exiting the gate onto the road and she is almost hit by a truck.

ETHAN

We are here to kill them and get back  
our little girl.

JOHN

She isn't our...

CLYDE

I don't know why I'm freakin' here.

CLYDE has a flashback of the nearly dead AFGHAN BOY in the  
back of the van.

CLYDE

The people shooting at me are broke and  
illiterate. And I'm supposed to make  
them dead?

ETHAN

Oh, I don't know; I sort of see it  
different.

CLYDE

Really, how do you see it.

ETHAN

I'm just a travel agent to Allah.

(pause)

I mean what would all those virgins do  
without me sending them fresh meat  
every week?

CLYDE

Cute. Very cute.

**EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY**

We see SITA and the TALIBAN she is about to be executed.  
UMAR is there and is dressed in black.

The MEAT EATERS circle and maneuver to get a good shot.  
When they are set, VAFA approached JOHN and pulls on his  
uniform.

VAFA

Please don't kill the man in black.

JOHN

Why?

VAFA

He is my father. Can you only wound him?

JOHN

No. I just can't wound him. It don't work like that.

(pause)

Okay, I will try.

JOHN thinks but the execution seems near. He is rushed with a decision.

JOHN

(to the radio)

The target in black is not a target.  
She is an intelligence asset now. Okay.

The other MEAT EATERS acknowledge the message. DAVID does not. CLYDE trains his weapon on UMAR.

JOHN

Hall? Do not shot him! Understand?

CLYDE continues to point his weapon at UMAR. In just a few seconds, SITA will be executed.

SITA

Indeed, the Hereafter is better for you  
than the present life.

CLYDE aims the weapon at another TALIBAN. The MEAT EATERS fire their weapons.

Everyone in the Taliban group is killed except SITA and her father. SITA is rescued.

SITA runs to her father and the brother comes, from behind the rocks, down to the location with the MEAT EATERS. They are an uneasy family. UMAR seems embarrassed and detached. SITA hugs him none-the-less.

**EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY**

UMAR is almost comatose descending the mountain; we get the impression his war is over.

**EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

SITA, VAFA and their father return are returning to the Ghazni FOB and pass by their home and the village. We see a group of soldiers, including SGT MUELLER, drilling a new water well.

I have to tell you that I explained to him the way that Camp Phoenix made me feel about the entire war effort and my own insignificant personal efforts therein, and he told me not to worry about it. "Just laugh," she said. "You don't have to worry about not doing enough. I know what you did, you know what you did, and the mountains of Afghanistan know what we both did."

SITA

"And to Allah belongs the outcome of all matters."

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot: What The F#@&, Over.