

Epiphany

by

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A Shadow Chill Creation

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FADE IN

INT. ESCAPE POD - NIGHT

Red lights flash as four people move frantically in an escape pod. A warning beeps continuously.

MCNEAL

Come in, Come in. This is alpha niner. We are declaring an emergency. We have lost Nav Systems.

GEIST (O.S.)

Fire in the starboard engines.

MCNEAL

We are going down.

FOSTER

Coordinates are 25 clicks south, southeast of Sector Zulu 5/12. We're going in on Zone 7.

MCNEAL

Prepare for emergency landing.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Impact...impact...impact.

The crew braces themselves for impact.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

The landscape rumbles with gunfire. The sound of a huge explosion rattle the world. Distant screams echo through the air.

EXT. CRASH SITE - NIGHT

Four soldiers move over the land. GEIST, a stalky man, carries JOHNNY, a young, prisoner-of-war with severe wounds, on his side. His hands are restrained. MCNEAL, a clean-cut woman leads the line through the hellish surroundings. FOSTER follows behind Geist, covering the rear. Geist stumbles over Johnny's leg. He catches his footing.

GEIST

Move...

The background flashes as a bomb explodes near by. Smoke and fog make vision very difficult. Gunfire fills the air.

MCNEAL

Over there...

A break in the fog reveals a military bunker.

MCNEAL (CONT'D)

...Foster, take point.

Foster runs around Geist. Geist shifts Johnny so he is more upright. McNeal moves towards the rear. She lifts Johnny's head. His eyes role back.

MCNEAL (CONT'D)

(To Geist) We need to move faster.

Foster runs towards the hole. With gun poised, he looks into the hole.

A gunshot strikes Foster in the stomach, throwing him backwards. Geist drops Johnny and runs with weapon ready, towards Foster. A bullet pierces his thigh and he drops as McNeal lobs a grenade into the bunker.

EXT. BUNKER - NIGHT

McNeal peers into the bunker. Smoke from the grenade clouds her vision. As it clears, she sees a young man equipped in military attire. Steam rises from the side of his chest.

INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

Foster sits against the cement wall and talks into a radio. His gut shot bleeds through his jacket. Geist examines his bloody leg.

FOSTER

Come back. We need immediate evac,
over.

A broken voice relays a message back.

RADIO

W...ed....our...coor.....s. ..ver.

FOSTER

Did not copy that Alpha Station.
Over.

More broken voices make it difficult for Foster to understand.

Geist finishes wrapping a wound around his leg. Geist looks over towards McNeal, who sits at lookout. Her attention never breaks. Her hand tightly grips around her side.

JOHNNY fades in and out of consciousness. His skin tone flushes as his head sways. Geist leans over and props his head against the wall.

GEIST

What should we do with him?

Johnny's eyes roll back and his mouth opens slowly. His breathing becomes very shallow. Geist grabs his neck and hold it in place.

GEIST (CONT'D)

Doesn't look good, partner.

Johnny stares up at Geist. Johnny mutters something. He looks around. Geist releases Johnny's hands from the restraints.

Foster holds the radio next to his head. McNeal's hand drips with blood. She presses harder on her side.

Johnny's eyes roll as he looks around the hole. His eyes come back towards Geist.

JOHNNY

Wha...where am I?

Johnny regains some strength and attempts sitting up. He clutches his stomach.

GEIST

Don't move!

Johnny tries sitting up again. He looks down at the soaked bandage and then up again.

A sound of water dripping catches his attention. The drip gets louder. Johnny's eyes search the crater for the source. Some blood runs out the corner of his mouth. He looks down at a small puddle. As a drop of blood falls from his mouth, its sound becomes amplified. Johnny wipes his chin.

With his head back, Geist closes his eyes.

GEIST
(Without opening his eyes) I
wouldn't move so much.

FOSTER
Shit.

Foster slams the radio onto his shoulder. He rubs his head. He looks over towards McNeal.

McNeal's attention never breaks. Blood runs from her side.

Foster reaches into his jacket and pulls out a flask. He takes a swig. He looks over towards Johnny and Geist.

FOSTER
So...

Shifting his body, Johnny leans forward. Geist keeps his eyes closed.

FOSTER
...why is a scrawny punk like you
so important.

Johnny laughs, but clutches his stomach. Foster throws the flask towards him.

FOSTER
Huh?

Johnny reaches down for the flask. Foster stares at him. Johnny brings it up and opens it. He places it on the rim of his lips. Foster gives him a cold stare. Johnny takes a swig. A horrible look appears on his face and he coughs.

JOHNNY
God!(Wipes face again)

Foster laughs and leans over. Johnny tosses the flask back.

FOSTER
Finest in the Western Region (Takes
another swig) Ahhh. This'll put
some hair on your chest. You want
some, McNeal?

McNeal does not move. Foster smiles.

FLASHBACK

Various war scenes overlap the escape pod explosion. Extreme close-ups of soldiers cut with fast and slow motion footage.

INT. CRATER - LATER

McNeal reaches into Johnny's coat pocket. She pulls out a laminated picture. She holds the picture in her hand. Johnny opens his eyes, but barely reacts.

Geist turns from the lookout.

MCNEAL
She's very beautiful.

JOHNNY
Heaven sent.

Johnny leans back and looks up in the sky.

JOHNNY
All I wanted to give her was the world.

Johnny looks back down at the bandage around his stomach. He closes his eyes and turns a bit.

JOHNNY
Fuck,

Johnny grabs his side.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
isn't that what everyone wants.

Blood seeps through Johnny's fingers. McNeal hands the photo back. His bloody hands smear on the photo.

MCNEAL
Not everyone.

Johnny, with a flushed expression, looks back up.

FLASHBACK

Various war scenes overlap with gun shots and explosions. Extreme close-ups of soldiers cut with fast and slow motion footage.

INT. CRATER - LATER THAT NIGHT

Foster sits at lookout. McNeal looks very pale. Her clothing soaks with her blood. She closes her eyes.

Completely flushed of life, Johnny sits close to Geist.

GEIST
Get out of here.

Johnny laughs very quietly. He clutches his stomach in pain. He looks at Geist with a serious face. He leans in close.

JOHNNY
I'm serious. (Blood runs out the corner of his mouth) My whole image is a... creation. For money. This war,... Do you have any idea what you are fighting for?

Geist pulls a cigarette out of his jacket.

GEIST
The future.

Johnny motions for a cigarette.

JOHNNY
Does that matter? (Geist lights the cigarette)

GEIST
Of course it does.

JOHNNY
Ahh, but what are you willing to sacrifice to accomplish this. Anything? Everything?

Johnny's eyes open.

GEIST
Let me ask you then. What are you fighting for?

FLASHBACK

Flash back sequence of various war scenes fly by. The sound of gunfire and bombs exploding mix with Johnny's last words.

INT. CRATER - DAWN

Sunlight shines on the radio which sit against the wall.

RADIO
(static)

Johnny's eyes stare ahead

The sound of voices approaches. Machine gun fire becomes more frequent.

A group of soldiers jump into the crater.

SOLDIER 2

Get down.

Huge explosion falls over head.

The soldiers pay no attention to Johnny. One of the soldiers places his fingers on Foster's neck.

SOLDIER 1

They're all dead.

A pair of hands grab Johnny's jacket and pull him out.

Johnny's face is void of all color. Laying on the ground, his body looks up at the soldier. The soldier reaches into Johnny's pockets. He pulls the photo out of the jacket.

The soldier makes a swirling motion with hand. He stands up and runs off. He drops the photo.

The photo falls through the air and lands on his chest.

A small, baby girl can be seen.