

ARMY SCENE 1-1 (STEVE LANG)

DEL

Private Johnson, are you unhappy in the army?

ATHEN

No SIR

DEL

Then how would you explain the fact that out of one-hundred and twenty people we tested, you're the only one who came up positive for drugs?

ATHEN

I'm sorry SIR

DEL

When you were given the opportunity to enlist, a kind of contract was agreed upon. I think the Army has honored its part of that agreement.

ATHEN

Yes SIR

DEL

Do you believe in what we're doing here, Private Johnson?

ATHEN

I-- I can do the job, SIR

DEL

You don't sound too enthusiastic.

ATHEN

I am, SIR

DEL

What exactly do you think your job is, Private?

ATHEN

Follow orders. Do whatever they say.

ARMY SCENE 1-2

DEL

Who's 'they'?

ATHEN

The-- the officers.

DEL

And that's the job? Nothing about serving your country?
(beat) These aren't trick questions, Private. You'll be
given an Article 15 and be going into the ADCAP
Program one way or the other. What happens after that
is up to you. I'm just trying to understand how
somebody like you thinks. (pause) Well?

ATHEN

You really want to know *sir?*

DEL

Please.

ATHEN

It's their country. This is one of the best deals they offer.

DEL

How do you think I got to be a Colonel?

ATHEN

Work hard, be good at your job. *sir* Do whatever they
tell you.

DEL

Do whatever they tell you.

ATHEN

I mean follow orders, *sir*

DEL

With your attitude, Private, I'm surprised you want to
stay in the service.

ARMY SCENE 1-3

ATHEN

I do, SIR

DEL

Because it's a job?

ATHEN

Outside it's-- it's such a mess-- it's--

DEL

Chaos. (beat) Why do you think they let us in on the 'deal'?

ATHEN

They got people to fight. Arabs, yellow people, whatever. Might as well use us.

DEL

Do you think you've been discriminated against on this post?

ATHEN

No SIR not at all.

DEL

Any serious problems with your sergeant or your fellow soldiers?

ATHEN

No sir. They've all been real straight with me.

DEL

It works like this, Private-- every soldier in a war doesn't have to believe in what he's fighting for. Most of them fight just to back up the soldiers in their squad-- you try not to get them killed, try not to get them extra duty, try not to embarrass yourself in front of them. Why don't you start with that?

ATHEN

Yes SIR

DEL

You're dismissed, Private.

ATHEN

THANK YOU SIR