

Gl Jane

DEHAVEN

Jordan. I always hoped we'd get together -- though just now I'm gearing up for a child-care vote that --

JORDAN

Lieutenant Thomas Wickwire. You know him.

DEHAVEN

Sounds familiar.

JORDAN

It should. You nominated him for Spec-Recon just three days after you nominated me.

DEHAVEN

Jordan. Might we do this over lunch tomorrow? I do very much want to talk, but now is scarcely --

JORDAN

Did you set me up? Did you set me up just to see me fail?

DEHAVEN

Absolutely not.

DEHAVEN

Wickwire was there to help. To be my eyes on the inside, to make sure you were getting a fair shot. At least that was the intent.

JORDAN

What changed?

DEHAVEN

Should probably ask him that.

JORDAN

If I have to ask again, Senator, I'll be asking in front of cameras.

DOORKEEPER

Madam Senator? Your esteemed colleagues are requesting --

GI Jane

DEHAVEN

Two seconds, Walter.

(answering Jordan)

In 1981, the Supreme Court was asked to rule on the issue of women in combat positions. The Court cited the 1948 Combat Exclusion Laws as a legal foundation for keeping women ineligible. That decision held for all these years -- until the White House, 10 days ago, moved to have the Exclusion Laws voided. To demolish that legal foundation.

JORDAN

So? Isn't the President jumping on your bandwagon?

DEHAVEN

What he did was light the bandwagon on fire. Because he knows what I know -- that American families are not prepared to put their daughters in harm's way.

JORDAN

You don't know that.

DEHAVEN

In face, I do: Roper, Harris, Gallop -- they all come back the same.

JORDAN

What are you saying? That a women's life is more valuable than a man's? That a women's death hurts a family more?

DEHAVEN

I'm saying it's not going to happen. Not when the President is set to turn this into a third-rail issue should I choose to ever campaign against him. He will fry me six ways to Sunday for sending daughters and young mothers off to war -- and, quite possibly, for bringing them back in body bags.

JORDAN

You were never going to let women serve in combat. You always had a safety net. Or thought you did.

DEHAVEN

Jordan. I don't expect you to fully understand this -- but sometimes there's more to be gained from the fight than the victory.

JORDAN

So the rhetoric gets you headlines. But the reality gets you in trouble.

DEHAVEN

The reality is this: We send far too many men off to war. I don't need to compound the problem with women.

(off Jordan's look)

Can you honestly tell me you wanted that life? Squat-pissing in some third-world jungle with --

JORDAN

I wanted the choice. The chance to prove myself, my skills, my work, me. That's how it should've been.

DOORKEEPER

Madam Senator, once again I must --

DEHAVEN

Just hold the goddamn clock, Walter.

(beat)

I once promised you a fast ticket, Jordan, and I always meant to make good on that. Come work for me. I can always use a hard-charger on my team.

JORDAN

You promise Wickwire a fast ticket, too?

DEHAVEN

I've had no direct communication with him since this whole thing began. And that's quite verifiable.

GI Jane

JORDAN  
I'm sure it is.

DEHAVEN  
You'll think about my offer?

JORDAN  
You know, I wonder what the SecNav  
would think about it. If I spoke  
with him.

DEHAVEN  
Well, I spoke with Mr. Hayes this  
morning myself -- and told him the  
deal was off. No more test cases.  
He was only too happy to oblige.  
(dangerously low)  
Don't play politics with me, little  
darlin'. You'd be up way past your  
bedtime.

DOORKEEPER  
(distraught)  
Madam Senator, please...

DEHAVEN  
I'll call you in a few days.

JORDAN  
So I wonder what the President would  
think.