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If We Must Die



A 10-Minute Drama by
Floyd Stephen Alexander

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If We Must Die
by Floyd Stephen Alexander

CAST OF CHARACTERS

1W / 1M

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS VINCE TAYLOR; *a soldier in the U.S. army*

CORPORAL LISA EVANS; *also in the U.S. Army*

SETTING

*A war zone area somewhere in a desert-covered country on the Arabian Gulf coast:
Year 2000 to the present*

If We Must Die

by Floyd Stephen Alexander

SETTING: *A war zone area somewhere in a desert-covered country on the Arabian Gulf coast; the year 2000 to the present.*

AT RISE: *Two U.S. soldiers, Private First Class Vince Taylor and Corporal Lisa Evans, hunker down behind sand bags built around a foxhole dug in the sand.*

TAYLOR

I got 150 rounds left for my weapon. That first rush that come at us blacked my ammo down pretty fast. How much you got, Kippy?

EVANS

30 rounds. 30 rounds for my 45, but it ain't worth shit if they are 80 clicks away. And stop that "Kippy" stuff! It's Evans or Corporal Evans. If you want to be familiar, it's Lisa. Kippy is the dog sitting on your lap while you're driving to the grocery store.

TAYLOR

Word 'round camp says that's your nickname. It's short for "Kim"... "Kit". Some WASP name.

EVANS

None of the above. (*EVANS looks through her binoculars*) Take a look your side an' see what they are doing.

TAYLOR peers over the edge of the foxhole with his binoculars.

TAYLOR

I see them. Nobody's making a move towards us.

EVANS

Would you worry about being shot at by two people instead of an entire platoon? They know they're getting shot at from one location. They'll make their push at night fall. And just for the record I'm not a WASP. I'm a mutt. German, Irish, Polish and Swede. I can drink you under a table, need directions to change a light bulb, kick your ass in a fight and look good doing it.

TAYLOR

Why the name "Kippy"?

EVANS

(Pause) I love eating kippers. Right out of the can. I got some sent to me in last month's mail call. Nobody in the sandbox knew what they were, so I told them. Next thing I know, some smart ass makes a funny and the name got around. Kipper... "Kippy". Not much of a stretch.

TAYLOR

What people won't do to make life easy.

EVANS

I don't follow you.

TAYLOR

Nick names. Real eggs. P. T. A. magazines. Pictures of your high school buddies at your favorite hangout. Stuff to keep your head on straight while stuck to your neck in shit. Taliban, ISIS, or the, I don't know... Mohammed Militia. Take your pick. They all got us 10 to 1.

EVANS

Don't think about walkin' over there and givin' yourself up.

TAYLOR

I don't deserve to be in this camel dump waitin' to die! You here too, don't you feel the same way? And don't quote me the goddamn Army manual. I use that for toilet paper in the latrine.

EVANS

Daddy didn't pay enough attention to you, Taylor?! You got heartburn with the system, find your way out. We got enemy right over there and 150 rounds between us. That's all I'm thinking about now. If I got one beef with the Army, they got no fashion sense. I don't look good in boxers and a bra.

TAYLOR

They're willin' to die to see vestal virgins in paradise. What's waitin' for me if I die?!

EVANS

Your family. A girlfriend. A boyfriend. The VFW. Shit, I don't know? What the hell kind of question is that?!

TAYLOR

They strap bombs to themselves and blow up an entire neighborhood. They drive themselves into a frenzy before headin' out to a fight. We got drones, missiles, an' technology better than any country in the world. But when you get right down to it, it's the foot soldier that wins or loses. That the difference.

EVANS

Are you listening to yourself? You're one big contradiction. You hate the Army, but you saying you'll be a ground pounder for the pride and the glory of it. It's about you believin' in everything you put on the line. Yourself and the guy on your right and the other on your left.

TAYLOR

What, I'm 'pose to die for you?

EVANS

You ain't in this hole by yourself. Anything come 'cross that sand, we fight. We all got our reason for being here. The reasons are enough to know we don't make it back all the time.

TAYLOR trains his weapon down range in the direction of the enemy just within sight. He then gets a strange look on his face, smiles and then gives a laugh.

EVANS

What's funny?

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes