

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A battle is taking place in a foreign land similar to that of Vietnam. A 20-year-old YOUNG MAN with brown hair and blue eyes in a Marines uniform is in the middle of the mess.

Bombs are exploding around him. Friends are getting thrown to the side and he panics.

He spots his friend running toward him and waving his hands to make the young man notice a bomb. The bomb explodes close enough to him that he is flown back into a rock while his friend turns into ashes.

The young man is disoriented and grabs his knee in pain. Through the haze a figure of a shadow of a man walks slowly up to him and raises his gun and points it at him. The shadow smiles wickedly before...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A gunshot is heard as the young man--now in his 70s--wakes up and sits up in his bed.

He pants and grabs his digital clock: 2:37am reads on it. He takes a drink of water that sits on the bedside table before trying to go back to sleep. As he does this he notices a picture frame and picks it up: it's him as a young man in the Marines.

He places it back on the bedside table, this time picture down before going back to sleep.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

It is now morning and the veteran wakes up, grabs his cane, and walks out to the kitchen where...

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

He limps to the kitchen and tries to make coffee. We see some of his medals on the wall next to a picture frame with a picture of a battalion group he was apart of.

He stirs his coffee, which is in a styrofoam cup, with a spoon, but the spoon falls to the floor when he fails to put it sturdily on the counter.

He tries to get down to pick it up and reach under the counter to get it, but fails.

He gives up and tries very hard to get up. He uses his cane and the chair to get up slowly.

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He grabs his coffee and sits at a chair by the window, looking out it wistfully.

It is a bright, sunny day and some little kids across the street are playing outside. He looks like he has an idea and inspired.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

The veteran walks outside and slowly walks around the block. Children play outside and are having fun. A few are running through a sprinkler.

Neighbors are talking to each other. They seem happy with their companions. He becomes slightly sad at this, but continues on.

All of a sudden a breeze of wind hits him with a piece of paper. He pulls it out and reads it carefully: Come bring home a pet at your local humane society! It has a picture of a puppy and kitty on it.

INT. HUMANE SOCIETY - DAY

The veteran has come to the Humane Society. He talks briefly to a worker lady before going down the row of pets.

Many pets are really excited and bark and meow happily. One dog barks really loud and makes him stumble backwards.

There is, however, one puppy that is very quiet and takes a nap. The veteran spots him and walks over to him.

The worker lady comes over to the veteran to see how he's doing and the veteran points out the puppy happily. The worker gets nervous and shakes her head concerningly. She tries to convince him of other pets there. The veterans expression becomes concerned now.

The puppy wakes up and tries to stand up, but wobbles a bit before falling down: he has three legs. But he smiles happily and wags his tail.

The veteran becomes shocked with a hint of amazement.

EXT. HUMANE SOCIETY - DAY

The veteran walks out with the very happy puppy who is on a leash and every so often falls over. But they both radiate with happiness.

MONTAGE

--the two arrive back at the house

--puppy limps with three legs and falls over in the house

--puppy tries to get the spoon that is under the counter from earlier, but gets stuck

--the veteran helps the puppy by getting him a leg brace

--the man and puppy go to the park together and play catch

--they watch tv together

--the veteran makes them both food and more coffee

--puppy looks older and is running through a hose that is squirting water

--older puppy accidentally knocks the picture frame off of the table and it falls underneath the bed

--older puppy now gets the few spoons under the counter

--older puppy/now dog needs a new and bigger brace and gets one

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Once again we find the veteran as a young man on the battlefield in the same nightmare as earlier.

However, this time when the shadowed man figure appears the dog appears and barks at the figure. The figure turns into more translucent smoke and blows away.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see the veteran and the dog sleeping in the same bed curled up to one another. The veteran--still asleep--takes his arm and hugs the dog who snuggles closer to him. All is well.

FADE OUT:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The veteran's alarm goes off and the dog jumps off of the bed and playfully pulls the cover off of him and licks his face.

The veteran wakes up and tries to push the dog away. He laughs.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The veteran goes about his normal routine of making coffee, but seems to be out of breath constantly. He is also more shaky than normal.

He makes the coffee and the spoon falls, but the dog catches it before it hits the floor and pushes it on the counter as the man goes and sits with his coffee.

The dog notices something is wrong with the man, so he thinks to cheer him up by grabbing his ball from earlier and brings it to him as if questioning that they can go to the park.

The veteran smiles at him as if to say, "okay."

EXT. PARK - DAY

The veteran throws the ball to the dog once and he brings it back to him. The next time when he brings up his arm to throw it, the veteran collapses.

The dog runs over to him and checks him out. He understands something is wrong so he barks in different directions as if a cry for help.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The man is now in the hospital. The dog lies on the floor next to him and is sad.

The dog looks up and notices that the man's arm falls over the side of the bed.

The dog gets up and nuzzles him with his nose. The man weakly scratches his head. The dog licks his hand in return.

But soon the man stops scratching his head and his hand goes limp. A screen's heart monitor turns into a straight line. The dog tries to move the man's hand but with no avail.

He sits under the man's hand with the hand resting on his head. The dog whimpers and howls sadly.

EXT. FUNERAL PROCESSION - DAY

The dog who is wearing now a black collar is at the funeral of the man. The humane society worker from earlier is holding onto him with a leash.

It is a sad affair with very few people.

When they put the coffin into the ground, the dog pulls away from the worker and runs away. He is upset.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The next day the dog is awake in the man's bed alone.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The dog looks at the coffee pot, but it's not brewing.

The dog looks under the counter for a spoon, but doesn't find any.

The dog lies down on the floor staring at the ball from earlier.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The dog goes back into the bedroom to lie back down on the bed, but before he does he accidentally steps on the picture from from earlier.

He's curious and flips it over. He recognizes it as the veteran at a young age and licks it.

The dog picks up the picture frame and jumps on the bed. He sets it down gently next to him, takes the blanket and nudges it towards the picture so the picture is "warm" and "comfortable."

The dog lays down next to the picture and tries to fall asleep and finally succeeds.

FADE TO BLACK