

Mock Sides: Original Scripts for Workshop Actors

AWOL

Written by

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Pages: 2+

Characters:

Sergeant Johnson 30+

Gunnery Sergeant Miller, 30+

Synopsis:

Sgt. Johnson informs Sgt. Miller of his wife's death, but won't grant him leave from their current station. Miller takes things into his own hands.

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INT. MARINE BARRACKS - DAY

First Sergeant JOHNSON is sitting at his desk when there is a knock at the door.

JOHNSON

Enter.

In walks Gunnery Sergeant MILLER. He walks in and stands at attention.

MILLER

You wanted to see me Sergeant?

JOHNSON

Yes Gunny. Thank you for coming so quickly. At ease Gunny.

Miller loosens up a bit. Johnson takes a heavy breath shaking his head.

JOHNSON

I don't know any other way to tell you this Gunny.

MILLER

Tell me what, Sarge?

JOHNSON

Gunny, I'm sorry. Your wife was killed in a car wreck last night.

The news hits Miller like a ton of bricks. His legs start to wobble as he reaches for a chair. He tries to regain control of himself. Johnson motions for him to sit down. He does. Finally he looks up.

MILLER

Are you sure it was my wife?

JOHNSON

Yes. Her ID was on her.

Miller tries hard to contain his feelings.

MILLER

I have to get back home. What happens now?

Johnson shakes his head once again.

JOHNSON

Well Gunny, I guess that's up to you.

(CONTINUED)

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MILLER

How do you mean?

JOHNSON

Unfortunately the mess we are in
over here doesn't allow for any
leave time.

Miller looks straight ahead.

MILLER

Permission to speak freely?

JOHNSON

Go ahead.

MILLER

If you don't let me go back to the
states for the funeral, you know
I'll go AWOL.

JOHNSON

Careful Gunny. You shouldn't be
letting me know that. There are
laws that have to be followed here.

MILLER

Laws or not, I'm going back for the
funeral and for my son.

Johnson shakes his head.

JOHNSON

Well then you will leave me no
choice but to have you placed under
arrest until we can figure out a
solution.

Miller, pulls his side arm out and points it at Johnson.

JOHNSON

Gunny, don't be stupid. Holster
your side arm.

MILLER

I can't do that sir.

Johnson sees that he is not kidding around.

JOHNSON

Gunny, that is an order! Holster
your side arm now.

(CONTINUED)

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Miller pulls back the hammer. He slowly starts to walk towards the door.

MILLER

I'm sorry, but my family is my life. Without them I would die.

JOHNSON

Don't make this any harder than it already is.

MILLER

You leave me no choice, Sergeant.

Miller walks backwards through the door. As soon as he is gone Johnson grabs the phone calmly.

JOHNSON

It's done... Yes sir... Just like we talked about...He'll be arriving in Atlanta within the next day or so...Yes sir...Thank you sir.

Johnson hangs up the phone. A slight smile moves across his face.

FADE TO BLACK.