

LOVE YOU, BABE

by
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INT. ARMY BARRACKS, SOMEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN - NIGHT

A soldier, Billy Foden, sits on his bunk polishing one of his Army boots. He is wearing his fatigue trousers and a t-shirt.

On Billy's face is a look of grim concentration.

The room is empty except for one other soldier at the opposite end of the room who is lying on his bunk reading a greetings card. He is smiling and chuckling at its contents.

Billy puts the boot down, picks up the other.

As he polishes, he calls down to the other soldier.

BILLY

News from home, Micky?

MICKY

Yes, mate, a Valentine's Card from the wife.

Billy says nothing, goes on with his polishing

MICKY (CONT'D)

Here, listen to this.

He reads from the letter. Laughs as he reads.

MICKY (CONT'D)

P.S. Jimmy scored a goal for the school yesterday and now insists I call him Wayne Rooney.

BILLY

How old?

MICKY

Nine.

BILLY

My daughter's seven next month.

Micky looks up.

MICKY

Didn't know you had a kid, Billy.

BILLY

Yea, me and her Mum split up when she was four. No one's fault, just married too young, I s'pose. And she hated army life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Another soldier walks in, acknowledges the other two.
Throws himself on his bunk.

3RD SOLDIER

God, it's hot out there.

Billy and Micky both nod their heads in agreement.

MICKY

What's your little girl's name?

BILLY

Alice. Named her after my Mum.

MICKY

Nice.

Micky goes back to reading his card.

Billy gives his boot a final polish. Puts it down next
to other one, regimentally straight.

He looks at his bunk-side table and reaches out for a
framed photograph of a little girl in school uniform
smiling proudly at the camera.

Billy takes the photo and holds it in his hands,
smiling proudly as he does so.

He brings the photo to his lips and tenderly kisses it.

Takes it away from his lips. Looks at it lovingly

BILLY

Love you, babe.

Brings it back and kisses it again.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Love you.

Micky watches sympathetically as Billy puts the
photograph back on to the bed-side table.

FADE OUT