

SHELLSHOCK

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OVER BLACK:

The sound of gunfire and explosions drones in the distance and grows closer.

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A neat bedroom with tangled curtains, a cold wind blows into the room.

CAMERON DANIELS (35, Caucasian) clean-cut and dreary jolts awake and GASPS, his breathing quickens.

His dog tags jingle on his chest as he panics.

A hand grips his arm.

MICHELLE DANIELS (32, Caucasian) beautiful and innocent, looks up at him, she realises.

BATHROOM

Cameron turns on the mirror light. He runs the cold tap and glances at his reflection.

Michelle looks on from the doorway.

MICHELLE

Cam-

A BABY CRIES. Michelle sighs and walks away. Cameron splashes water over his face and looks at the reflection. A SOLDIER with a hole in his head stands behind him.

Cameron swiftly turns. The soldier is gone.

Cameron backs into the wall and slides down onto his backside. He grimaces and whimpers, grabbing at his head.

GUNFIRE. EXPLOSIONS. SCREAMING.

Cameron squints and trembles.

Blood trickles from his nose onto his finger. He grabs a towel.

SOLDIER

You abandoned us.

Cameron jolts up at the sight of the Soldier. Blood trickles from the Soldier's head wound.

SOLDIER
You left us for dead.

CAMERON
I'm sorry.

Cameron sheds a tear.

SOLDIER
You killed me. It was your fault.

CAMERON
I know.

Soldier stands and confronts Cameron.

SOLDIER
You deserved what I got.
It should have been you.

CAMERON
Stop.

SOLDIER
You are responsible.

CAMERON
I said STOP!

Cameron throws a glass into the wall. The Soldier is gone.

Michelle rushes in and sees the broken glass. She presses her hand to Cameron's shoulder.

MICHELLE
Cameron, what happened?

Cameron's eyes sink.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

ALAN (59, Caucasian) cooks meat on the barbeque. He serves HENRY (5, Caucasian) a burger and ruffles his hair.

Michelle is with her friends ANGIE (29, Caucasian), BECCA (30, African-American) and LETICIA (28, Latina).

Everyone seems to be having a good time.

JAKE MARSDEN (36, Caucasian) cracks open a beer and looks up at the second-floor balcony. He sees Cameron in the window.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Cameron walks through the lounge. He notices pictures of him and his family on the mantelpiece. All smiling and having a good time, Cameron bows his head.

MARSDEN

Hey, bud.

Cameron glances at Marsden. Marsden hands him a beer. Cameron contemplates.

MARSDEN

You OK?

Cameron takes the beer.

CAMERON

I'm fine.

Marsden takes a swig and a seat. Cameron opens the beer and gulps it down.

MARSDEN

Whoa.

Cameron looks at him. Marsden looks like the Soldier. Cameron steps back and drops the beer, SMASH.

CAMERON

Get out.

Marsden stands. He approaches Cameron. Cameron sees the Soldier, not Marsden.

MARSDEN

Cam, you OK man?

CAMERON

Get OUT!

Cameron grabs Marsden and slams him into the mantelpiece. Cameron slams Marsden's head into the wall multiple times.

Michelle rushes in and GASPS.

MICHELLE

Cameron!

A few more people enter and watch. Alan walks in.

Michelle tries to stop Cameron. Cameron backhands her and she falls. Cameron punches Marsden in the face with venomous force.

Alan grabs the phone and dials 911. Henry looks at his bloodied mother, Michelle and cries at the sight of Cameron pummelling Marsden.

HENRY

Daddy -

Cameron raises his fist. He sees Marsden, bloodied and battered, and releases him.

Cameron steps back in horror. He looks at his hands. Blood stains his hands. Cameron looks at Michelle.

CAMERON

I'm so sorry, Mich-

Cameron reaches down. Michelle swats his hand away.

Cameron glances around the room. He sees the dead soldiers in the place of every single guest. Cameron's eyes widen, he steps back against the wall.

WHISPERS (V.O.)

(creepy)

It was your fault. You killed us. You betrayed us. You left us. You abandoned us. It was you. You did this. It was your fault.

Cameron covers his ears and closes his eyes.

GUNSHOTS. EXPLOSIONS. SCREAMING. PANICKING.

Cameron covers his head with his hands and rocks back and forth.

CAMERON

I'm sorry, I made a mistake,
I made a mistake, it was an
accident, it wasn't my fault.
I didn't know. Please, please -
I - I did it. I caused it.

DOCTOR MILLER (V.O.)
Caused what, Cameron?

PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE

Cameron lies back on the couch. DOCTOR MILLER (49, Caucasian) surveys him.

CAMERON
We were stationed in a small town outside of Basra, just a few grunts, jarheads. I was making my patrol when I came across a man. He was weak, injured - I took him in.

Miller jots on the notepad. Cameron's eyes tear up.

CAMERON
It was the biggest mistake of my life. He was an insurgent. A plant. They tracked him down to our base and - they killed -

DOCTOR MILLER
It was an accident.

CAMERON
No. They didn't kill everyone.

Miller looks on. Cameron takes a breath.

CAMERON
When they attacked, a small team managed to get to the tunnel access gate. I didn't know, I got there first, when they arrived I heard gunfire, explosions, screaming - hell. I was scared.

THE TUNNEL

The Soldier bangs into the gate and tries opening it.

SOLDIER
It's locked from the other side.

Eight soldiers defend the position. Soldier reaches in.

Cameron rushes to the gate from the other side.

SOLDIER

Cam, thank God, get the gate
op-

Gunfire sounds. A soldier hits the ground, DEAD. The
Soldier's eyes widen.

SOLDIER

Open the gate.

CAMERON

I'm sorry.

Cameron runs.

SOLDIER

Cameron!

Insurgents arrive and open fire. The Soldier takes a
bullet through the head and drops dead.

Blood drizzles onto the tarnished ground.

PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE

Miller sighs and jots down the info. Cameron tears up.

CAMERON

I killed them.

The Soldier looks on. Cameron spots him. The Soldier nods
gracefully and disappears like a ghost.

Cameron looks at Miller.

DOCTOR MILLER

Is that all?

Cameron nods.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Military Police usher a chained Cameron into the car. He
stops and looks at Michelle and Henry. He smiles at them,
Michelle whimpers.

Cameron gets into the car.

The Military Police car drives past Michelle and Henry. Cameron gazes at them through the window. Henry watches as the car drives away.

Henry grips Michelle's hand. They exchange looks and walk away.

INT. MILITARY CAR - DAY

Cameron takes a relieving breath. He looks around. Military Cop #2 looks at Cameron in the mirror.

Cameron looks on, redeemed.

CUT TO BLACK:

SHELLSHOCK

ROLL CREDITS