

KENDRICK. I'm sure I don't. I have many men in my charge, Lieutenant, I write many reports.

KAFFEE. Do you recall an incident involving a PFC Curtis Barnes, who'd been found stealing liquor from the officer's club?

KENDRICK. Yes.

KAFFEE. Did you report Private Barnes to the proper authorities?

KENDRICK. I have two books at my bedside, Lieutenant. The Marine Code of Conduct, and the Kings James Bible. The only proper authorities I'm aware of are my commanding officer, Colonel Nathan R. Jessep, and the Lord our God.

KAFFEE. Lt. Kendrick, at your request, I can have the record reflect your lack of acknowledgement of this court as a proper authority.

ROSS. Objection. Argumentative.

RANDOLPH. Sustained. (to **KAFFEE**) Watch yourself, Counselor.

KAFFEE. Yes sir. (to **KENDRICK**) Did you report Private Barnes to your superiors?

KENDRICK. I remember thinking very highly of Private Barnes, and not wanting to see his record tarnished by a formal charge.

KAFFEE. You preferred instead to handle it within the unit.

KENDRICK. Yes I did.

KAFFEE. Lt. Kendrick, do you know what a code red is?

KENDRICK. Yes I do.

KAFFEE. Have you ever ordered a code red?

KENDRICK. No, I have not.

KAFFEE. Lieutenant, did you order Corporal Dawson and two other men to make sure that Curtis Barnes receive no food or drink except water for a period of five days?

KENDRICK. That's a distortion of the truth. Private Barnes was placed on barracks restriction. He was given water and vitamin supplements, and I assure you that at no time was his health in danger.

KAFFEE. Would the Court care to remind the jury that Lt. Kendrick is *not* a medical expert, and doesn't have the first clue as to whether or not Curtis Barnes' health was in danger.

RANDOLPH. The members are cautioned.

KAFFEE. Lieutenant, wouldn't this form of discipline be considered a Code Red?

KENDRICK. *(beat)* Not necessarily.

KAFFEE. If I called the other 379 members of RSC to testify, would *they* say it was a Code Red?

ROSS. Please the Court, the witness can't possibly testify as to what 379 Marines would say. We object to this entire line of questioning as argumentative and irrelevant badgering of the witness.

RANDOLPH. Lieutenant Kaffee, I would remind you that you're now questioning a Marine officer with an impeccable service record.

ROSS. Thank you, Judge.

RANDOLPH. You're welcome. I'm overruling your objection.

KAFFEE. Your Honor, I'm withdrawing the question.

(beat)

Lieutenant, was Corporal Dawson given a rating of Below Average on this last report because you'd learned he'd been sneaking food to Curtis Barnes.

ROSS. Object.

RANDOLPH. Not so fast. *(to KENDRICK)* Lieutenant?

KENDRICK. *(pause)* Corporal Dawson was found to be Below Average because he committed a crime.

KAFFEE. What crime did he commit?

(beat)

Lt. Kendrick?

(beat)

Dawson brought a hungry guy some food. What crime did he commit?

KAFFEE. Don't call me son. I'm a lawyer and an officer of the United States Navy. And you're under arrest you sonofabitch. *(to the M.P.'s)* The witness is excused.

(blackout)

(We hear the MARINES chanting...)

MARINES. Lift your head and lift it high...

Lift your head and lift it high...

Corporal Dawson's passin' by...

Corporal Dawson's passin' by...

Left Right...

Sound Off...

Sing it loud...

Do it again...

Three Four

Sound Off

Right Left

Stand Proud!

(The lights come up on the courtroom.)

(RANDOLPH is staring at a piece of paper.)

RANDOLPH. On the charge of Murder in the Second Degree, the Members find the defendants Not Guilty.

(beat)

On the charge of Conspiracy to Commit Murder, the Members find the defendants Not Guilty.

(beat)

On the charge of Conduct Unbecoming a United States Marine...the Members find the defendants Guilty as Charged.

(For a moment, a little energy drains out of the room... but then things move ahead as if it were the simplest of formalities.)

The defendants are hereby sentenced by this Court to time served in the brig up until this point, and are ordered to be Dishonorably Discharged from the Marine Corps.