

The New Patriots

By

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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

JOHN lies awake in bed, his wife asleep beside him. A soft PING of a computer notification grabs his attention. He gets up and goes to his desk. He looks at his computer.

INSERT: "Frank Henson. 337 Mulberry Ln. Melanoma."

There is another PING from his wife's phone. She stirs and looks at it.

INT. CAR - DAY

John pulls up in front of an average looking home. The numbers on the mailbox read "337". He gets out of the car.

INT. HENSON HOME - DAY.

There is a knock at the door. MRS. HENSON answers.

MRS. HENSON
Can I help you, sir?

John shows her his badge.

JOHN
May I come in for a moment?
Government business.

She steps aside without a word. John walks into the living room. FRANK HENSON is sitting in an armchair, watching a news report.

JOHN
Your nation thanks you, Mr. Henson.

John pulls out a gun and shoots Frank in the back of the head.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT.

Emily is sitting at the table. John comes in and takes off his coat.

EMILY
How was work?

John goes to the fridge to get a drink.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Well, I got to go to a school today and talk to the kids about becoming a new patriot.

John is only half listening.

EMILY

I went with Hank - you know Hank, the doctor - well, anyway, part of the visit was to give all the kids their mandated checkup. Turns out one of the little tikes had leukemia. So the other kids got to see what it's like when someone fulfills their duty to their country.

JOHN

Do you ever think about it wonder if it actual helps at all?

EMILY

Of course it does. Why wouldn't it?

INT. DINER - DAY

John is quietly eating breakfast before his orders come in. Another Enforcer enters the diner. They acknowledge each other with a slight head nod. The other enforcer goes over to a woman seated at the bar.

ENFORCER 1

Samantha Taylor?

SAMANTHA

Yes?

ENFORCER 1

Could you step outside with me for a second? Government business.

The Enforcer and Samantha step outside. John tries to focus only on his meal. A gunshot is heard outside.

INT. CAR - DAY

John is driving. The radio is on and a commercial starts playing.

(CONTINUED)

RADIO PERSONALITY (VOICE)
Remember, citizens, the National
Public Health and Productivity Act
of 2021 requires all civilians to
comply with the enforcement of all
public and private health
violations. The success of our
beautiful nation depends on the
health and well being of our
populace. Your sacrifice will lead
our nation to glory.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

John and Emily stare at the ceiling.

JOHN
Do you ever think about them?

She thinks for a second.

EMILY
Sometimes.

Quiet.

EMILY
We making heroes out of them, John.
It's not bad if you think about
them every once in a while.

Silence.

EMILY
Oh, I've got my checkup tomorrow,
so I'll be in the city most of the
day. You'll probably be on your own
for dinner.

INT. ENFORCER HEADQUARTERS - DAY

John enters and heads to the front desk. He addresses the
man behind the desk (MARCUS)

JOHN
How's life, Marcus.

MARCUS
Not too bad. Here for your paycheck
I assume?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Well, I certainly didn't come to
see your pretty face.

Marcus gets a check out of a file and hands it to John. The familiar PING of orders emanates from Marcus' computer.

MARCUS

You're in luck, Johnny. I'm
forwarding you some fresh orders to
go with that paycheck.

John's checks the new orders that just came to his phone.

INSERT: "DOUGLAS WAKEMAN. 1717 W. PINE ST. N/A"

JOHN

Marcus, this guy's not sick. You
must've sent me the wrong file.

MARCUS

You're right. He's not sick, but
his wife was. He tried to smuggle
her out of the country instead of
allowing her to fulfill her
patriotic duty.

JOHN

We do that now?

Marcus looks up at John quizzically.

MARCUS

We always have. Is this the first
time you've gotten orders like
this?

John just looks at him.

EXT. WAKEMAN HOME - DAY.

John goes up to the front door and knocks.

WAKEMAN (VOICE)

It's open.

John opens the door.

INT. WAKEMAN HOME - DAY.

John enters to find DOUGLAS WAKEMAN seated in the living room.

WAKEMAN
Make yourself at home.

John sits down.

WAKEMAN
I figured you'd be here sooner. I got sent back here two days ago.

JOHN
Why didn't you run?

WAKEMAN
They could've saved her, you know.

JOHN
She needed to fulfill an obligation to her country.

WAKEMAN
I don't think you really buy that.

JOHN
Why's that?

WAKEMAN
You haven't shot me yet.

John is silent.

WAKEMAN
You know, population control is a lot easier when tell people you're just going to kill off the sick and the old. It sure beats making laws prohibiting people from having sex. Now there's a way to cause a revolution.

JOHN
Why didn't you run?

WAKEMAN
I needed to ask you a question.

John listens.

(CONTINUED)

WAKEMAN

Is this the country you want?

Douglas pulls out a gun and shoots himself. John is stunned. He gets up to leave, and notices a map on the table next to Douglas. It's the map he used to try to get out of the country.

EXT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY.

John walks away from the Wakeman home. He looks back at the house. John's phone rings.

JOHN

Hello?

EMILY (VOICE)

Hey, love.

JOHN

Hi, Em. What's up?

INT. OFFICE - SAME TIME.

Emily is seated in an office with another Enforcer.

EMILY

I was just calling to let you know about my checkup. Um, it looks like I have breast cancer, so I was just calling to let you know I won't be home tonight.

EXT. JOHN'S CAR - SAME TIME.

JOHN

What?

EMILY (VOICE)

Yeah, I guess I get to be one of the new patriots now.

JOHN

Emily, you can't do this. We'll find some other way.

EMILY (VOICE)

John, we've been over this. This is a good thing.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Em, don't do this. I can get us
out, we can get help.

EMILY (VOICE)

I love you, John.

SFX: Gunshot.

John breaks down.

EXT. JOHN'S CAR - NIGHT.

John throws some frantically packed bags into the trunk. He
pulls Douglas Wakeman's map out of his pocket and drives off
into the night.