

THE GREAT EMU



WAR

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. AUSTRALIAN DESERT- DAWN

A sorrowful and barren violin track begins to slowly play as we see the beautiful but unforgiving deserts of Queensland.

The only thing heard under the violin is the wind from the desert. After a few moments this is finally broken by the deep but still dry voice of the NARRATOR, who sounds eerily like Ken Burns.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

'No new days sun is ever seen by those cursed with the unending burden of war.' - Wayne Gretzky

FADE TO: PHOTO OF AN AUSTRALIAN CITY POST INDUSTRY, BUT IT'S UP IN FLAMES

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The war raged on for the better half of a year. Starting off with a gruesome battle in 1932. Following the orders of General George Pierce, who sent out the first infantry of men on what would unknowingly become the dumbest war anyone could ever imagine. And surprisingly, it wasn't because of America.

FADE TO: OLD QUALITY PHOTO OF A BATTLE FEILD OF EMUS WHICH LAY DEAD

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The following battles and ambushes of the war read like a Shakespearian play. So many twists and turns, met with the rising stakes of some of history's best propaganda.

PHOTO OF MAN POSING WITH DEAD EMU

NARRATOR (V.O.)

What started as an honest attempt to control a birds population turned into a legitimate military war which mobilized an entire country.

FADE TO: PHOTO OF GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Violin continues. The photo was taken in 1930, and the quality reflects that.

GEORGE PIERCE is in his 40s, with a real douchebag 'I'm better than you' look to him. He dresses in normal general garb, and looks pretty standard everywhere except for his frosted tips.

GEORGE PIERCE (V.O.)

Was it the first war the world had ever seen that was against only birds? Yes, I believe still to this day. Did it get a little out of hand? Of course, what war doesn't? But at the beginning, it was just about one thing: killing emus.

BLACK: BASED ON REAL EVENTS.

SUPER: THE GREAT EMU WAR

FADE IN: INT. FARMLAND- MID AFTERNOON

The footprint of what appears to be a giant three taloned monster is the first image seen, it looks larger than life and dangerous. Its printed into hardened sand, a weird mix between yellow desert sand and brown soil. No vegetation is seen around the foot print.

After a few moments, it steps down again to fill in the print, but instead of a monster it reveals itself as just a little four foot tall blue bird... an emu.

The harmless emu stands on an otherwise empty farm, on the surrounding horizon are nothing but plateaus and desert dunes. Next to the farmland lies, sensibly, the farmhouse, which is small and conservative. Easily 20 or so years old.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLATEAU TOP- CONTINUOUS

PERCY FAWCETT, 19 years old, wears your typical post WW1 military uniform, accompanied with binoculars and a long rifle, carefully aims it at the head of the emu.

TITLE: Queensland, 1932

After a few moments of expertly aiming his shot and focusing, he fires only to miss the emu by a laughable distance. The emu barely turns its head.

R.C. ANDREWS (O.C.)
Good work, dipshit.

It is revealed that there are two more people on top of the plateau, each on one side of Percy. The voice is coming from R.C. ANDREWS, who wears an in period explorers hat with medic garb to match. His accent is distinctly American. The other stands holding a camera set, JAY HUNT, who shoots Percy with his film camera while Percy shoots at the bird.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)
If we were at war with the dirt
we'd be winning.

JAY HUNT
I thought you did great, but we are
supposed to be killing the bird.

These insults each hit Percy hard. The other boys laugh. Jay puts down his camera. His accent matches RC's.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)
I'm not gonna get anything, am I?

R.C. ANDREWS
Hey fine by me, this war is cruel
and abusive, and it sucks and its
dumb.

Percy IGNORES them and keeps aiming, shooting, and missing the emu while they have their conversation.

JAY HUNT
Yeah if we were at real war I might
actually be able to shoot cool
stuff.

R.C. ANDREWS
Or be able to save people and show
them war is cruel and abusive.

JAY HUNT
Shut up, medic.

PERCY FAWCETT
(still focused)
Yeah shut up medic.

R.C. ANDREWS
Maybe it's in my nature.

He takes a swig from a flask, then passes it to Jay.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)
But at least I get to hang out with
you guys.

JAY HUNT
Here here.

R.C. ANDREWS
You think we'll be friends when we
get back?

Percy is still focused on shooting.

PERCY FAWCETT
Eh, I'll be too busy getting paid
for being the worlds greatest war
hero.

R.C. ANDREWS
Percy, you've killed as many birds
as I have, I wouldn't be talking.

PERCY FAWCETT
(trash talk)
Oh yeah? Watch this.

Jay holds up his camera and gets excited. Percy fires and
misses. Jay puts everything back down.

JAY HUNT
Yeah that's about right.

Percy drops his head in silence for a few seconds.

R.C. ANDREWS
Keep shooting bozo, as long as
you're here, the birds are safe.

Percy quietly starts to sniff. Jay squints in confusion.

JAY HUNT
Percy are you (a beat) crying?

Percy snaps, turns and stands up over the boys in anger, mascara slightly smearing.

This also conveniently blocks the sun and shades Jay.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Oh nice.

R.C. ANDREWS
Is that mascara?

PERCY FAWCETT
No, yeah, maybe, a little bit. That doesn't matter. We're here to do a job. You guys need to stay focused. There's a reason America deployed us here, and we owe it to our country to win this war in not only the name of Australia, but America.

R.C. ANDREWS
Listen if an emu is able to injure you I will gladly tend to your wounds.

JAY HUNT
and some platoon, there were only three of us deployed.

PERCY FAWCETT
Well on the list of American priorities this is pretty low, with the depression and everything. But Australia has always helped us so we gave them what we could. That's the American way.

Inspiring music starts playing.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
So yeah, maybe I am tearing up a little bit. Maybe I just love my country too much. But that's never been a bad thing. But if we can win this war, for our allies and our homeland, well (waits to build momentum, none is built) we'll go back heroes.

Jay and RC groan.

R.C. ANDREWS
This again.

JAY HUNT

The stupid war hero thing, how about you kill one emu first and give me something to show General Pierce.

PERCY FAWCETT

Gladly.

He sits back down to his gun, putting the sun back on Jay.

JAY HUNT

Wait no no no no wait I want to hear more stand back up.

R.C. ANDREWS

You people are monsters.

Percy starts to aim.

PERCY FAWCETT

If you saw the devastation they have been doing to the farmlands here you'd get it.

JAY HUNT

Percy we just got here.

PERCY FAWCETT

(trapped)

Yeah... well... I heard about it so...

He sits in silence for a few beats, then starts to quietly chant to himself.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Birds suck, birds suck, birds suck
birds suck, birds suck.

He fires, the emu lets out a gobble as it finally explodes.

He jumps up in over-excitement.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Wahoo! That's what I am talking about baybeee.

He looks to Jay. Jay nods.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Sweet.

JAY HUNT

So do we head back to base?

PERCY FAWCETT

Base? We have to go say you're welcome for saving this guys farm.

R.C. ANDREWS

Are you serious?

PERCY FAWCETT

Yeah, I have to get credit somehow.

R.C. ANDREWS

You are such a prick.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE DOOR- MOMENTS LATER

An old Australian farmer opens the door, tough as nails, and. Looks perplexed at an enthusiastic Percy.

In the background, RC stands over the carcass and moves Jay over to shoot him saying something unknown.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER

What the fuck do ya want dickhead?

Percy is unmoved and maintains his excitement. He is about to speak when a high pitched voice is heard from inside the house, he patiently stops and waits.

An 8 year old Australian kid who's dressed very similarly to the elderly man opens the door.

AUSTRALIAN BOY

Who the hell are you, dickhead?

PERCY FAWCETT

Well, sir, I am glad and excited to tell you I have vanquished the beast in your yard.

He motions to the carcass in the field.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER

Why is there a bloody carcass on my farm?

AUSTRALIAN BOY

Ya see we were just inside eatin
popsicles I was having a good time.
He was having a good time.

He motions up to his granddad. Percy starts to grow worried.

AUSTRALIAN BOY (CONT'D)

Spending quality time together,
which is important. He was teaching
me values, and we come out here and
find someone who thinks he's the
queen of fookin England.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER

You destroyed our field, you
buffoon. I outta

PERCY FAWCETT

-Well actually Australia-

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM- CONTINUOUS

JAY'S CAMERA PERSPECTIVE

RC stands on camera over the carcass.

R.C. ANDREWS

As you can see here, the emu has
been shot, brought to death.
Executed. For destroying a little
bit of crops?

BEHIND them, Percy slowly starts to back up as his argument
escalates.

JAY HUNT (O.C.)

Why am I doing this?

R.C. ANDREWS

These are trying times for the
people of Australia, but was the
life of this emu really worth what
we gained? A little bit of
farmland. Think about that people.

A crate gets thrown and absolutely bodies Percy in the
background and he falls to the dirt. The little boy exits the
house with a bottle and brings it down over his head and
shatters it on Percy's back.

The boy then runs out of the background and towards RC, he carries another bottle. As soon as he jumps up to R.C.'s level and makes contact-

CUT ON A FILM
REEL.

ZOOMS OUT OF
REEL TO:

INT. WAR ROOM- DAY

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE, Guy from the photo in the beginning sits behind a desk, showing them the footage on a projector. The lights turn on, revealing a giant table with the map of Australia on it in the middle of the room. On it lies a bunch of army figures and miniature emus. On the wall lies a painting of Pierce, with the frosted tips of course.

He's still laughing from watching RC get his head bashed by the kid.

On the other side is various officers and soldiers.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

You see lassies, our bird brained enemies have just suffered a horrific loss and are expected to be retreating into the southern gorge.

The General uses a stick to move one of the emu figurines further down the map.

GENERAL FLYNN

Do we have a recent victory that I was not informed of? How many of the beasts were killed?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Well General Flynn, I'm glad you asked. Private, bring in... The Americans

Everyone else in the room stops in their tracks. The Private goes and opens the door. Percy walks into the room, followed by RC and Jay.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

Whoa. This is a classified briefing, a strictly need to know basis. Percy, please have your mates wait outside, thanks.

General Pierce waves his hand in a "goodbye" motion.

JAY HUNT

You wanna say you're welcome for
the film?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Get the fuck-

JAY HUNT

Okay okay. Yes sir.

Jay and RC leave the room and close the door.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Gentlemen, this is Percy Fawcett.
Yesterday, he secured our first
victory in weeks.

GENERAL FLYNN

How many emus did you nab?

PERCY FAWCETT

Well, there I was, my back was
against the wall. I had only one
shot left in the chamber. I took
aim, and blew the bastard's head
clean off.

GENERAL FLYNN

So, one bird.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

It may have been one bird but is
was the first one in three god for
saken weeks. You have shown that
there is intact hope in this
hopeless war.

PERCY FAWCETT

Just doing my job sir, as any
soldier would.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

men soldier, way to stick it to
those damn ostriches.

GENERAL FLYNN

Emus, sir. We're fighting emus.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Don't you correct me on how I
address these damn pigeons.

General Flynn concedes.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

Now, Percy, I am officially promoting you to lead a battalion on the front lines, under a joint Australian-American task force. We need men like you leading the charge.

PERCY FAWCETT

Really General? I-

(a beat)

-I don't know what to say.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

W Well, I know what to say - FUCK BIRDS! FUCK BIRDS! FUCK BIRDS!

General Pierce tries to erupt a chant in the room but fails to do so.

INT. BALLROOM. NIGHT.

General Pierce, Flynn, Percy, and other officers are gathered in a lavish ballroom that is comically large for the small crowd they have. Over everyone lies a banner that reads: GOOD JOB PERCY!

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

FUCK BIRDS?

PERCY FAWCETT

Fuck em!

Still, nobody else joins in on the chant.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

You guys have no spirit. That's what I like about Percy here.

General Pierce points to one of the officers.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

Servant, fetch me two drinks.

Pierce notices a bottle of scotch and glasses resting on a table nearby.

PRIVATE

But, Sir, I'm not a-

Pierce gets a little bratty when the private doesn't immediately comply.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Two drinks, please.

Outside the venue, a bunch of hard to make out chants are erupting, in assumingly protest. At the other end of the party, RC and JAY sit bored at a table- no one else is in their vicinity. Jay looks to be bored and stares longingly into his drink, while RC seems focused on Percy and the general.

JAY HUNT

This sucks ass, and not the good kind.

R.C. ANDREWS

This is gonna go straight to his head.

JAY HUNT

Well at least he's happy.

RC is astonished.

R.C. ANDREWS

How could you even say that?

JAY HUNT

well -

R.C. ANDREWS

Seriously, how?

JAY HUNT

WELL I-

R.C. ANDREWS

How?

JAY grows confused.

JAY HUNT

Wait are you literally asking me... how I said that?

RC rolls his eyes.

R.C. ANDREWS

He's great an all but he's too eager. He's gonna escalate this war, it's already getting too out of hand.

JAY HUNT
I don't know about all -

As he's talking, you see him and GEORGE chanting.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
(with Percy)
Fuck birds! Fuck birds! Fuck birds!

JAY HUNT
Point taken.

R.C. ANDREWS
And he's not even gonna be in our
platoon anymore.

JAY HUNT
Now that does suck.

BACK WITH PERCY
AND GEORGE

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
I mean you're a real natural, kid.
You remind me of an older me.

Percy is confused.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
Not only that, you've gotten some
attention.

PERCY FAWCETT
Yeah I mean, all the great people
I've met tonight.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
No there's someone else that wanted
to meet you, wait let me go find
them.

Percy looks around at the comically small group that makes up
this 'party'.

PERCY FAWCETT
Shouldn't be too hard...

Pierce ignores him and leaves the scene anyways.

He turns to the bar and finally gets a moment alone to
himself. He gets bored after a beat, and turns to the
bartender.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
It's the best day of my life.

He smiles and nods to be nice, and continues with his job.

MARGRET WAGNER, beautiful, 19, walks up to the bar, just out of Percy's view.

MARGERET WAGNER
Hope this spot isn't taken.

He hasn't turned, but is immediately made upset by the request.

PERCY FAWCETT
How dare you even try to take
General Pierce's seat you cowww--

He stops once he turns to see her.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
-abunga... just like a thing I'm
working on- like a catchphrase-
where- like- I say that- when I
like get excited to- make a new
friend so... yes of course hi I'm
Percy.

MARGERET WAGNER
I know who Percy Fawcett is, the 18
year old general- heard you are
very brave.

PERCY FAWCETT
I was just doing what was right.

MARGERET WAGNER
Word around is you single handedly
saved the war.

PERCY FAWCETT
Oh please you flatter me! But yeah.
(A beat)
And you are?

RC and Jay are at the end of their drinks, they break into laughter mid conversation.

Jay turns to a waiter.

R.C. ANDREWS
Can I get a whisky neat?

The waiter doesn't stop moving for even a millisecond.

WAITER
Bite me, fatass.

RC turns back.

R.C. ANDREWS
That was weird, he was a bad
waiter.

They ignore it and Jay goes back to reminiscing.

JAY HUNT
I'm telling you I've never seen
anything like it.

R.C. ANDREWS
You should have caught it on film.

JAY HUNT
God everyone always says that, I
have a personality too!

He shrugs, right behind him stands George, who aggressively
taps RC on the shoulder.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
(Trying to impress)
Margret Wagner, prime ministers
daughter.

They awkwardly look at him, the conversation is dead in its
tracks.

R.C. ANDREWS
A-
(a beat)
Alright.

George presses his lips together and nods in a 'pretty sick'
expression. He doesn't leave or indicate he's leaving. RC
gives him a desperate thumbs up. In a moment of awkward
silence and desperation- George boops him on the nose.

BACK TO PERCY.

PERCY FAWCETT
Honestly I'm surprised to see
someone as pristine as you at one
of these things.

MARGERET WAGNER
Are you kidding? This is one of the
biggest parties we've had all year.

PERCY FAWCETT
Are you- are you serious?

MARGERET WAGNER
Yeah and I love my people so I
couldn't miss it. I've seen so many
farmers go poor because of those
damn birds, hopefully you can make
a real difference. Save my future
people.

Percy is aware that isn't how prime ministers work, but he
doesn't acknowledge it.

PERCY FAWCETT
Hopefully.

MARGERET WAGNER
Shall we get another drink?

PERCY FAWCETT
On me!

MARGERET WAGNER
(Laughs)
It's an open bar!

PERCY FAWCETT
Hey I'm the reason, aren't I?

She laughs.

MARGERET WAGNER
What a gentleman.

They turn to order- but before they can out of nowhere the
lights shut off. Everyone immediately starts leaving. From
somewhere in the party General George appears from a group.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Ooh, that's it.

PERCY FAWCETT
What's it?

Pierce GLANCES at his watch.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
That was it. It's 9. That was the
party. Government funding is mainly
being used for the whole goose
thing.

GENERAL FLYNN

Emu.

PERCY FAWCETT

What?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Yeah- good luck at your first day
tomorrow!

They're about to leave when three protesters barge into the room. The one in the front, KALINDA, is an indigenous Australian, bold and strong, stands in the front dignified and ready to battle.

KALINDA

To hell with this general and to
hell with this war!

RC sits up in excitement at his table.

R.C. ANDREWS

Oh hell yeah!

One of the indigenous peoples turns to RC without skipping a beat.

ABORIGINAL PROTESTER

Shut up war trash.

RC gets mad for a moment.

R.C. ANDREWS

What? I was backing you u-

He stops halfway through and grows defeated.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

-Ah you're right.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Party's over.

GENERAL FLYNN

Yeah you missed it.

KALINDA

O-oh.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Most people left like immediately.

GENERAL FLYNN

We actually don't ha-

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 (interrupts)
 -Yeah we don't even have the place
 rented anymore we have to go.

He begins to motion and rush everyone towards the door,
 except Percy, who turns back to Margret while that's
 happening.

PERCY FAWCETT
 To be continued I gue-

Once he turns he sees that she is nowhere to be found.
 General Flynn walks over and starts to physically move him.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 Okay OKAY I'm leaving.

CASINO SCENE WILL GO HERE

BLACK.

The slow and empty violin begins to play over black.

FADE TO: 1924 PICTURE OF PERCY, JAY AND R.C.

The empty voice of Ken Burns returns.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 The three musketeers, they would
 later be called by the other kids
 at the orphanage.

FADE TO: 1900 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORPHANAGE

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 The world never did them any
 favors. Banished from a normal
 childhood.

FADE TO: PHOTOGRAPH OF A ONE PERCY FAWCETT

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 Percy Fawcett. Desperate for
 adoration on battle lines. His goal
 stems from his father.

FADE TO: PHOTOGRAPH OF OLDER GENTLEMAN IN WW1 MILITARY CLOTHES

NARRATOR (V.O.)

John Fawcett, who died in the great war. Forgotten to everyone but a hero to Percy.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In fact, Jay RC and Percy all lost their dads to the war- but Jay-

FADE TO PHOTO OF JAY AS A BABY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

-His mother couldn't handle the burden of being a single mom. so to the orphanage with him too.

FADE TO PHOTO OF THE THREE AS YOUNG LADS, SLOW ZOOM ON THE BYS ON THE RIGHT, RC.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And RC? He was put in the orphanage long before the war took his father. A victim of unloving parents rather than dead ones. Certainly makes his humanitarian efforts all that more heroic. What a great man. Given nothing and still fights for what is right.

FADE TO: PERCY FAWCETT HOLDING A RIFLE WITH A DEAD BIG CAT BEHIND HIM.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Almost makes Percy seem evil. His unending lust for battle and war reads pathetic compared to RC's love for peace and healing those in pain. Percy- is the cause of the pain.

FADE TO: PHOTOGRAPH OF PERCY WITH A CROWD OF PEOPLE ON FIRE. HE LAUGHS

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I'm not supposed to give my opinions but what a terrible monster. A fucking joke.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Deserves to be left out in the
desert and starved to death.

QUICK MONTAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERCY- EDITING IN A WAY TO
MAKE HIM SEEM LIKE SATAN-

INT. WAR ROOM. NIGHT.

General Pierce sits alone in the war room, a single lamp
illuminating his intimidating figure. A clock reads 3 AM. A
knock is heard on the door. He motions his hand towards the
door.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Come in.

Percy walks in, wearing his soldier uniform.

PERCY FAWCETT
You wanted me for something
important sir? The attack isn't
until morning.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Your clothes. I want them. So give
them to me.

PERCY FAWCETT
Um sir-

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
I don't recall stuttering.

PERCY FAWCETT
Um - okay.....

Percy awkwardly takes off his soldier uniform and places it
on General Pierce's desk. Percy stands there in his tight
white undergarments, undergarments which fail to hide the
outline of his reproductive organs.

A beat.

Suddenly, Pierce pushes the uniform off of his desk
violently. He then places a large cardboard box on the desk
in its place.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
You are no longer a measly foot
soldier, a grunt. Those rags, those
were not the clothes of a General.
In this box, lies your new skin.

PERCY FAWCETT
I get my own blues?!

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Yea, well something like that.

General Pierce walks towards the door.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
We attack at dawn. Anything else?

PERCY FAWCETT
No sir, you were the one doing the
spiel.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Oh yes. One other thing.

General Pierce walks back from the door to Percy. He leans in
uncomfortably close to his ear.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
Nice cock.

The General walks out of the room. Percy is scared for a
moment, but then recovers quickly opens the box. A yellow
glow emerges, illuminating his face. It is revealed inside
the box a uniform similar to the one that General Pierce was
wearing. Percy picks up a large gold badge. On it reads
"General Bartholomew" but has a line through it, and now says
"General Fawcett" in scribbled marker. A smile slowly emerges
across Percy's face and he begins to nod in excitement.

A John Wick style suit up montage scene.

EXT. THE OUTBACK- DAWN.

General Pierce and two soldiers sit in what appears to be a
trench. However, the camera is pulled back to reveal it is
simply a small, pathetic hole, not even deep enough for them
to stand, as they are on their knees. Percy then walks over
to them.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Ah, General Fawcett, right on
schedule.

PERCY FAWCETT
It's my duty sir. Excited to do my
part. Want me to finish this
trench?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Huh?

PERCY FAWCETT

The trench sir. Do you want me to finish it?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

It's finished.

PERCY FAWCETT

Shouldn't we be able to stand?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

We only had the funds to rent a shovel for one hour. Now get in here and lets kill some birds. They should be approaching us any minute now.

Percy awkwardly gets into the trench as there is barely room for all of them. A soldier is looking to some binoculars next to him. He scans the horizon, not seeing any birds in sight. Suddenly, a large avian eye fills the entire viewfinder.

SOLDIER #1

It's a fucking bird!

He pulls off the binoculars to see an Emu standing right in front of him. It lets out a hellish scream and scares the shit out of everyone in the trench. They shoot their guns at it and misses every single shot. The Emu then runs away.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Gun that dinosaur down!

The group then leaps out of the trench in slow motion and charge after the emu. They only make it about one hundred feet or so before giving up due to the severe Australian heat. The emu keeps running away, comically far ahead of them. It then stops once it is out of range of the guns, as if to mock them.

PERCY FAWCETT

We're never gonna catch him on foot sir. We need to call in the calvary.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

What do you have in mind?

PERCY FAWCETT

Well, we take a truck, and-

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 Actually, don't explain. I trust
 you.

TEXT : 1 HOUR LATER

The Emu is still standing there, picking at the soil and
 whatnot. Suddenly, an old pickup truck rolls up behind the
 group.

PERCY FAWCETT
 Did you bring it?

The driver struggles to roll down the window and hands Percy
 some rope.

JUMP CUT

The truck barrels down through the desert, chasing the Emu. A
 machine gun has been tied to the back. Percy stands in the
 back holding the gun. General Pierce is in the passenger seat
 next to the driver.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 Go faster god dammit!

DRIVER
 It's going almost 20 miles an hour
 sir!

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 Jesus Christ that's fast. Well are
 we gaining on the damn bird?

DRIVER
 Well they can go 30 easy, so, do
 something. Quick.

The truck is now parallel with the emu.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 FAWCETT OPEN FIRE! THIS IS THE BEST
 SHOT YOUR GONNA GET!

Percy swivels the gun towards the emu, but the car is so
 bouncy that he can't even aim and misses every single shot.

PERCY FAWCETT
 I'm out sir!

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 Fuck! Pull into a gas station.
 Let's rethink this.

The driver stops the car. They are in the dessert and there is no gas station in sight.

Pierce exits the vehicle with a small fold out table, he quickly opens it out to reveal a map of Australia. He places a single miniature emu on the map- and two army guys a few inches away.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
General, what are we thinking?

PERCY FAWCETT
It looks like the bird is heading for that small farm sir. I have a plan, let me go in alone and ambush him.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Well, godspeed soldier. I want that ostrich beak. GENTLEMEN! Let's go back to base and tend to our wounds.

The truck drives away, leaving Percy alone in the desert.

PERCY FAWCETT
One hundred emu beaks.

EXT. SMALL FARM. DAY.

A small, peaceful, primitive farm. A few indigenous tents. Suddenly, an Emu foot slowly steps into the foreground. The Emu spots a delicious snack - vegetables. It walks over to a patch of squash and starts violently pecking them, juiciest oozing out.

An indigenous girl runs from out of a small shed screaming.

KALINDA
No! My baby!

Suddenly, Percy explodes from under the dirt, rifle drawn.

PERCY FAWCETT
Don't worry lassie. I'll save you!

He shoots the Emu in the leg and it falls over, screaming.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
Ah this is a piece of rubbish!

He throws the gun down, and charges towards the Emu like a linebacker. He draws his sword.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 AAAAAAAAAGH

He tackles this beast and grabs its long neck. He shakes the creature violently as it lets out a painful squabble.

KALINDA
 No! Stop!

Kalinda picks up the rifle and bonks Percy on the head and he takes his hands off of the bird.

PERCY FAWCETT
 OW! WHAT THE FUCK! I'm trying to save you dumbass.

KALINDA
 The Emu is a sacred animal. How dare you assault it.

PERCY FAWCETT
 But he was just massacring your squash!

KALINDA
 SHE was just hungry.

Kalinda begins petting the Emu.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
 I was sad as they are my only crops, but I will survive, it wasn't worth the life.

PERCY FAWCETT
 But these crops - they are your life! And these birds seek to take it.

KALINDA
 Yeah- they're hungry-

She squints.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
 Hey I know you.

He stands up proud.

PERCY FAWCETT
 Aw yeah?

She slaps him.

KALINDA

War monger.

He grows not upset, but defensive.

PERCY FAWCETT

You have no idea how bad these emus
have hurt the land of the poor
here.

KALINDA

I have the biggest idea.

She goes to help the bird.

KALINDA (CONT'D)

But killing them for trying to
live, it's like what's happening to
my people.

Percy doesn't budge.

PERCY FAWCETT

Well I'm sorry about that- but- I
do what I have to.

KALINDA

Oh please, you love it.

PERCY FAWCETT

(Shrugs)
I am pretty good at it.

KALINDA

The last thing we needed was you
and you American friends, the war
was almost over.

PERCY FAWCETT

I can't help being good at what I
do.

KALINDA

War.

PERCY FAWCETT

-Ending wars. With me it will be
over sooner.

KALINDA

But at the cost of lives.

PERCY FAWCETT

The lives of stupid birds.

KALINDA

They live just like we do. Well I'm
not sure about you.

The bird is struggling.

PERCY FAWCETT

I'm sorry, but, I still have a job
to do.

He raises his sword to kill the emu. She quickly steps in
front.

KALINDA

(sad)

Please. Don't.

He pauses.

KALINDA (CONT'D)

Show mercy.

He looks over her shoulder at the beast, crying in pain. He
turns around and makes sure no one is watching.

He lets out a defeated sigh, then sheaths his sword.

PERCY FAWCETT

Okay, you win.

She drops her head in relief.

KALINDA

Thank you, Percy.

She turns to treat the bird, Percy stands there, confused. He
smirks. She moves some of the emus feathers, he gets up and
runs into the horizon.

PERCY FAWCETT

That's a lot of effort for one
bird.

KALINDA

You don't understand their true
beauty.

He turns to leave.

PERCY FAWCETT

His time will come.

That gets to her, with the speed of someone with a plan.

KALINDA

Follow me.

He stops and turns.

PERCY FAWCETT

What?

KALINDA

I'll show you their beauty.

He squints in curious confusion.

PERCY FAWCETT

I guess we'll have to see.

KALINDA

A real war hero knows what he's fighting for. I'll show you.

EXT. OUTSIDE DESERT BASE- AFTERNOON

Half a mile away, far enough for the base to be in sight but silent, stands Jay with a his classic camera. Ready to roll. Next to the camera sits an in period vinyl player, which plays upbeat 1930s music- something like Al Bowlly.

It is revealed that RC stands on the other side, with an obviously fake plush emu.

He holds a script in his hand.

JAY HUNT

And why are we doing this again?

ADD A SCENE EARLIER WHERE PIERCE AND A BUNCH OF SOLDIERS ARE WATCHING HIS TAPE AND LOVING IT

R.C. ANDREWS

Hush- didn't you see at the casino? Everyone in town was watching what we made- they are starting to listen.

JAY HUNT

They were laughing at you.

R.C. ANDREWS

I know but- I feel like if we embrace it we can get more attention to what's going on.

(MORE)

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

And the general pulled me aside and said he could push it to theaters to play in front of real motion pictures!

Jay shrugs.

JAY HUNT

As long as you're giving me something to shoot.

R.C. ANDREWS

That's the spirit.

JAY HUNT

Why do you care about what the general says?

R.C. ANDREWS

Hey whoever can help get the message out there.

JAY HUNT

Which is...?

He gets excited.

R.C. ANDREWS

Well, in this one, I play Ivo, the friend of the birds, who weeps at the death of his favorite bird-Monkey.

He's confused.

JAY HUNT

How does you crying have anything to do with the war?

R.C. ANDREWS

Um, it's a war against birds?

JAY HUNT

Whatever.

Jay begins rolling the film.

RC is eating it up.

PERSPECTIVE OF JAYS CAMERA

RC runs into frame to see the Emu on the ground. He begins to weep uncontrollably.

R.C. ANDREWS
Money! Monkey!

He drops to his knees and grabs the emu. He follows it up with lazily reaching into the bird to create a hole. Blood starts uncontrollably leaving the bird.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)
I can't believe it! I can't believe
it! Monkey!

In the background of the scene- you see a bunch of people running back to the base in almost a panic.

OUT OF CAMERA PERSPECTIVE.

R.C. ANDREWS
It's all because of those farmers.

JAY looks away from the camera to look at the base in concerned confusion.

JAY HUNT
Uh R-

R.C. ANDREWS
It was almost his birthday! Oh dear
god! That wasn't the way it
crumbled, cookie-wise.

JAY HUNT
I really think-

The panic at the desert base gets louder- you can faintly hear what the screams are saying.

SOLDIER #1
(from a distance)
Medic! Medic!

SOLDIER #2
Where's the fucking medic!

CUT TO:

INT. WAR TENT- MOMENTS LATER

The two sit in George Pierce's war tent, as if they had been called to the principle's office. RC is literally covered in blood- to a comedic level. Jay drops the film on his desk, Pierce's stern look stays unmoved.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Boys.

They say nothing.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

Care to explain why when one of our soldiers suffered a terrible emergency our medic was no where to be found.

R.C. ANDREWS

Well-

Pierce holds up his hand- stops RC dead in its tracks.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Was rhetorical.

R.C. ANDREWS

Really didn't sound rhetorical.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

When you show up- you are covered in the largest amount of blood I've ever seen- and almost in a dazed panic performed the worst feat in medicine I have ever seen in my military life.

FLASH TO:

INT. MEDICINE TENT- EARLIER

A poor sap lays in a gurney- roll of cloth in his mouth and screams louder than an opera singer.

Around him- General and Jay and closest, a still blood covered RC.

Everyone around him is supportive and almost coaching him.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

You got it!

JAY HUNT

It's a simple injection.

RC screams in fear and throws a searing so deep into the injured mans arm it goes straight through to the other side.

Everyone grows disgusted.

R.C. ANDREWS

Shit.

BACK TO:

INT. WAR TENT- CONTINUOUS

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

You were supposed to be America's best.

JAY HUNT

Well then you were lied to I can tell you he is a terrible medic. The worst I've ever seen.

R.C. ANDREWS

I just wanted to do my part to end the war.

He sits up in excitement.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

But I think I found another way to do that.

He sits there, unamused but giving him a chance to speak. He also spikes his frosted tips while listening.

JAY HUNT

We were making another film.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Well that's your job, so.

JAY HUNT

It's different though-

He hands him the film roll.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)

We made some more of that anti war propaganda you loved so much from the other day.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Anti war propaganda? You mean the pro war one?

RC begins to panic.

R.C. ANDREWS

I'm sorry, sir?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Really good stuff- gave us a good laugh over here. You play the idiot who likes the goose and then you get absolutely bodied by the kid. Hilarious. Something Chaplin would write!

He chuckles at just the thought of it.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

If you made another one of those gems? The last one went base wide, I could easily see a new one going country wide.

R.C. ANDREWS

No- but sir. This one- as well as the last one- are cries for the general public to speak out against the war. Art that will call for the people to do something.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Yeah it'll do something. Get us more funding. Listen, we own the footage. If it's anything like the last one I see a future, if not. We are not spreading something that openly goes against the war.

RC looks pissed and storms out of the scene. General Floyd looks at him leave, slightly concerned.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

What do you look so concerned for?

GENERAL FLYNN

A lot of great films we could be missing out on.

EXT. BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE- 6 PM

PERCY is still following KALINDA to the top of a giant dune.

After a lot of effort from Percy's side he finally makes his way up the dune and bares witness to something truly beautiful. What seems like a beautiful heard of emus grazes the sands of Australia. The emu who just ran away joins his heard again. This nearly brings a tear to Kalinda's eye.

KALINDA

See? It's...

Percy just watches, his hard exterior slowly melts and Kalinda notices. She stops talking and just lets him enjoy it.

PERCY FAWCETT
You see, this is nice.

She smiles.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
But it's not my choice, it was the job I was given.

KALINDA
You know you don't have to support ideals you don't agree with.

PERCY FAWCETT
But I have to support my country.

She gets close to him.

KALINDA
You don't have to denounce your country to do what's best for it.

He lets out a conflicted sigh and looks out onto the horizon.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
You ever hear of the tasmanian tiger?

He shakes his head.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
Probably not, humans killed them. All of them. To extinction. It's easy to see just a bunch of birds. but their beauty is hard to see until they're gone.

EXT. TABLE OUTSIDE BASE CAFETERIA- LATER

RC still fumes from the information broken to him. Around him sits Jay and a few miscellaneous solders.

R.C. ANDREWS
Can you believe they did that to me?

JAY HUNT
At least you're like beloved.

He takes a break to take a bite of gross military food.
General Flynn walks up to him.

GENERAL FLYNN

And listen, kid, the war isn't all
bad, look-

He points to an old man with a group of soldiers.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

That's Jim Irwin, a farmer who came
in a panic after losing everything.
That's the kind of person your
films are helping. It's less black
and white than you make it out to
be.

RC actually considers what Flynn says.

R.C. ANDREWS

What about the emu population?
Their lives are useless?

GENERAL FLYNN

Of course not, I love emus.

He puts a weird emphasis on 'love' which draws a weird look
from Jay.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

They're our national bird for
Christ's sake. But for the people
and the emu population to not get
too big and explode on itself, the
war provides a huge use.

He sits, thinking.

JAY HUNT

Hey- how was Percy's first day?

Flynn looks to Jay.

GENERAL FLYNN

Apparently amazing, he called a
generals war meeting to discuss a
new plan.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM- NIGHT

Our three generals stand around the same table as earlier. Behind them, a hoard of soldiers.

Percy is taking the lead.

START A PERCY FLYNN FEUD SOMEWHERE FROM PAGE 10-20- MAKE FLYNN MORE OF A DICK EARLY ON

PERCY FAWCETT

Alright so I have been given some new intel about a ginormous field of birds just thirty clicks out from Perth.

Flynn goes confused, almost jealous.

GENERAL FLYNN

How could you possibly have found this out dickhead?

PERCY FAWCETT

Well I don't know what you were doing but I was out getting information.

GENERAL FLYNN

Our trench strategy works. We took out over four emus today.

His entourage behind him start hyping him up. He lazily puts his hand up behind him and meets a high five from one of his boys. Percy ignores it.

PERCY FAWCETT

Well if we do this correctly, we could have hundreds of birds gone. And with my plan, it will be easy.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

And what would that be, general?

PERCY FAWCETT

Thank you, general. I propose we use one of my strategies for emu hoards. First thing. We go at them at night, as they won't expect it.

Everyone at the table listens intently.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
Then, we go one at a time and take
them out as silently as possible.

GENERAL FLYNN
(fuckin' pissed)
But our machine guns?

One of his hype-men jumps in.

SOLDIER #1
Our fookin' machine guns bitch-

Percy looks confused at the soldier.

PERCY FAWCETT
Yeah he can not talk to me like
that.

The soldier doesn't care.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
I know you guys love those things
but if you want to win this war
you'll have to do this slowly but
effectively.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
I like your out of the box
thinking, general, and I am willing
to give this a try. Would your task
force be going out first thing
tonight?

PERCY FAWCETT
Well- actually I have another
mission to get a bunch of emus
myself, we ride at dusk tomorrow.

George Pierce scoffs. Percy ignores it as he looks out onto
the distance.

THAT'S HIM NOW- BY SEVEN BLUE BABIES BEGINS TO SLOWLY PLAY AS
PERCY'S MIND IS ELSEWHERE.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. PERCY'S ROOM

He holds up a few ties. He's skeptical and over analyzes all of them.

CUT TO:

Percy tightens one up.

CUT TO:

Percy gels his hair up in a few different styles and settles on the perfect one.

CUT TO:

Percy stands with Jay and RC, they hype their boy up with a basketball team esc- hype up. They all start cheering and at the end of the build up Percy jumps into their dog pile.

END MONTAGE

INT. STEAK HOUSE- NIGHT

The music still plays but quiets down as to make room for Percy, who sits at a table with Margret at what appears to be the nicest place seen all film.

She looks absolutely stunning, and rightfully turns the heads of everyone in the place. She doesn't bat an eye- her whole attention is on Percy. They're mid conversation, as if the audience was a fly on the wall that entered at the wrong time.

MARGRET WAGNER

(chuckles)

I missed you after the party the other weekend.

PERCY FAWCETT

Oh you didn't miss much, we just pretty much went to bed.

An aggressively early 20th century French waiter comes up with drinks.

WAITER

Compliments of the restaurant-
Madam Wagner and Monsieur Fawcett.

They Kindly take the drink.

MARGRET WAGNER
Oh that's very kind.

Percy nods.

PERCY FAWCETT
Thanks, pal.

Percy holds up his drink and takes a sip.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
I was surprised to get your call.

She's bewildered.

MARGRET WAGNER
(smiles)
Surprised?

PERCY FAWCETT
Happy- don't get me wrong. But when you disappeared the other night I thought I had said something stupid.

MARGRET WAGNER
A war hero like you? never. I had some other stops to make. And like you said, you pretty much went to bed.

He lets out a soft chuckle.

MARGRET WAGNER (CONT'D)
Well, good. Whatever you did, it worked. You've seemed to breathe new life into this war.

PERCY FAWCETT
People keep saying that.

MARGRET WAGNER
No really, it's amazing. Daddy was about to cut the military spending on it. But word is you've done a tremendous job.

For the first time all film, Percy is not exuding the confidence we've come to know.

PERCY FAWCETT
I don't know...

She grows curious.

MARGRET WAGNER

What?

PERCY FAWCETT

In America, the eagle is glorious,
held so highly no one would dare
harm even one. It's weird seeing
this war against your own country
bird.

MARGRET WAGNER

That must be weird for you...

Percy's catches himself looking too conflicted, he smiles and looks back up at Margret. She moves on.

MARGRET WAGNER (CONT'D)

Oh yes- isn't it wonderful? You've
done a great job turning the public
perception around. But still- the
majority of people despise it.

It goes silent.

MARGRET WAGNER (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

He looks up.

PERCY FAWCETT

Of course, Margret.

MARGRET WAGNER

What drives you so much to be a war
hero?

He thinks a little bit, surprised by the question.

PERCY FAWCETT

I- I don't know. My dad fought in
the Great War- he died a hero in
the Battle of Somme.

MARGRET WAGNER

Aw- Percy- I'm sorry.

PERCY FAWCETT

It's okay, I was only two.

MARGRET WAGNER

Because of the crown we had to
fight too- lost over 60,000 men.

PERCY FAWCETT

So why go back to war? I've always wanted to fight but... it seems...

MARGRET WAGNER

Well you know how seriously we take war, we wouldn't risk our people if the cause wasn't just. This war isn't for the crown, or for Britain, it's for one thing, our people.

Percy catches himself again.

PERCY FAWCETT

Here here.

EXT. BASE-NIGHT

Meanwhile- General Flynn, and his posse come storming out of the war tent, ready to ambush.

SOLDIER #2

So we're doing the ambush anyways?

GENERAL FLYNN

We do not follow General Percy's calendar, officer.

He nods. His boys run to gather their weapons, one turns to him.

SOLDIER #1

Flynn, do we bring the machine guns?

GENERAL FLYNN

Percy isn't here, I'm making edits to the plan. Take as many as we can carry.

The soldier nods. Before heading off, Flynn looks over to the other side of the base and sees RC and Jay, shooting what looks to be more nonsense.

He walks over.

Jay shoots RC but cut as soon as Flynn walks over.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

How is your night, boys?

JAY HUNT

Eh-

R.C. ANDREWS

Shit. We haven't gotten shit for our new short. It's shit.

GENERAL FLYNN

Well good thing I've been looking for you guys, I have some good news.

They look at each other and get excited.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

However, I have a late night mission.

R.C. ANDREWS

You guys are doing the ambush?

He nods.

GENERAL FLYNN

If you want, you can come with us and get it on film, I'll give you the good news on the way back.

Jay looks unconvinced at RC, expecting him to obviously say no. He turns to Jay.

R.C. ANDREWS

We could really use a battle sequence to hammer this thing home.

JAY HUNT

Are you... sure?

He nods.

R.C. ANDREWS

I feel like we're close to our best work ever.

JAY HUNT

Yeah but we've already shown a lot of blood- I feel like the message is-

R.C. ANDREWS

Have you not been paying attention?
The message is showing about how
the amount of gruesome murders is
what fuels Ivo to change- it's
necessary.

JAY HUNT

I-
(a beat)
Okay.

RC turns back.

R.C. ANDREWS

We're in.

GENERAL FLYNN

Okay, let's ride.

LITTLE LADY MAKE BELIEVE- BY AL BOWLLY plays softly as--

FADE TO:

INT. STEAK HOUSE- LATER

The restaurant is now empty

Our couple is the last table left in the entire place. They
laugh.

PERCY FAWCETT

You know I missed this.

MARGRET WAGNER

Missed what?

PERCY FAWCETT

Going out with someone I genuinely
enjoy.

She's flattered.

MARGRET WAGNER

Oh, you don't enjoy General Pierce?

She holds her hair up to form mock frosted tips.

MARGRET WAGNER (CONT'D)

Ooh look at me- those damn pelicans
will all die!

He laughs.

PERCY FAWCETT
 For someone who hates emus so much
 he sure does a bad job of
 remembering their names.

MARGRET WAGNER
 It's a power move.

PERCY FAWCETT
 (baffled)
 Against who!?

She laughs. He can't help but get lost in her eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAND DUNE- MOMENTS LATER

The boys run up and lay down on the top of the hill Percy and Kalinda were at earlier. They marvel at the heard that still lies there, this time they all sleep.

SOLDIER #1
 Whoa.

RC and Jay to the left of Flynn, all the soldiers lay to the right. Flynn looks through his binoculars.

GENERAL FLYNN
 Alright boys, go around and be
 ready for my signal.

The soldiers all follow his commands.

JAY HUNT
 You ready to shoot?

R.C. ANDREWS
 Yeah go set up- I want to talk to
 the general.

Jay nods.

JAY HUNT
 You're not my boss
 (a beat)
 But okay yeah.

He leaves the scene, leaving Flynn and RC.

R.C. ANDREWS
 Flynn, I was thinking about what
 you said.

GENERAL FLYNN

Yeah? And?

R.C. ANDREWS

While I despise the war, when we were out shooting our first bit I noticed how barren that farm was.

GENERAL FLYNN

Right? Those emus are beautiful, but unregulated go out of control and ruin the lives of the people.

R.C. ANDREWS

Oh trust me, all my mentors at the orphanage were hit hard by the depression, I don't even know if they're still fed back there. We were just lucky to get out.

GENERAL FLYNN

It's tough times. You're lucky you have Jay and Percy with you. The world depression is why we are so timed. No countries can afford to trade with us, and if we don't get these emus under control, our families here are going to starve.

RC is conflicted just as Percy is, however for different reasons.

R.C. ANDREWS

Do you think my films could actually help?

GENERAL FLYNN

As much as a film can, we need to spread the message of desperation to the country if we want this war to end.

R.C. ANDREWS

I guess...

GENERAL FLYNN

Listen kid, the sooner you help this war end the sooner the emus can go back to their lives.

RC nods.

R.C. ANDREWS

Right.

GENERAL FLYNN

Oh, and I forgot to tell you the
gay news.

RC laughs.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

It means happy.

R.C. ANDREWS

I know. I know.

GENERAL FLYNN

I should tell you just in case this
battle is my last. This new film.
We've seen how hard you've been
working on it.

RC nods in intrigue.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

We had the prime minister talk to
the motion picture foundation of
Australia and they've agreed to
screen you film in front of every
film shown starting October 11th.

RC can barely contain himself.

R.C. ANDREWS

No. Way.

GENERAL FLYNN

Mhm. So. It's time you decide, what
is your film about?

RC thinks.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

If you want this war to end. Do
your part.

RC nods and runs off to find Jay, leaving Flynn alone. He
lets out a lone exhausted sigh, and pulls up his gun.

After a few moments- raises his hand- signaling for his men
to fire.

We see them all get gunned down. It is brutal. The cries from
the emus as the life leaves their eyes is heartbreaking. Some
run and almost make it, but just as there's hope, they get
gunned down too.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE- LATER

Percy walks alone down the street approaching the base, visibly ecstatic.

He shines from ear to ear as he makes his way down the empty road. More slow and romantic 1930s jazz plays.

He lets out a feet click for the great night he's had.

After a few moments, he gets a tap on the back on the back of his shoulder, he turns revealing a sad Kalinda.

PERCY FAWCETT
K-kalinda? Are you-

KALINDA
How could you?

She slaps him.

PERCY FAWCETT
I'm sorry?

KALINDA
They killed them. Every. single.
one. Right outside our home.

He realizes.

PERCY FAWCETT
What? No. We weren't supp-

KALINDA
I knew you were a monster just like
the rest.

PERCY FAWCETT
The- well we-

KALINDA
Hundreds, just trying to live.
You're a monster.

Percy remembers Margret and stands up straight.

PERCY FAWCETT
A win is a win.

He doesn't sound convincing. Kalinda can't believe what she's hearing.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 We are doing what needs to be done
 for our people.

KALINDA
 Our people? Executing hundreds of
 peaceful birds just trying to
 sleep.

PERCY FAWCETT
 I'm sorry, K.

She laughs, only to stop her from crying as she's on the
 verge of tears. She turns to walk away. Percy is about to say
 something, and then he lets her.

INT. WAR ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Percy barges into Pierce's war tent, he is doing something
 ridiculous, TBD.

PERCY FAWCETT
 What the fuck is wrong with you?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 Sorry the war doesn't operate on
 PST.

PERCY FAWCETT
 (confused)
 Pacific? Yeah, I know.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 N- no- I meant... Percy Standard
 Time, but I get the confusion, it
 was a weird joke, sorry.

He crosses something out on his notepad, it's the 'PST' joke,
 there are other terrible Percy jokes on the notepad.

PERCY FAWCETT
 What gives you the right?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
 I am on a mission to end a war.
 Which is what I am doing. Wish you
 were here to help but I don't even
 know where you are half of the
 time.

PERCY FAWCETT
 It wasn't supposed to be a
 slaughter.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
What was it suppose to be then?
Adoption? Were we suppose to make
them soldiers? This is not a zoo.
This is a war.

He stands up as Percy stands silent.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
I didn't want to have to do this.

He walks over to a picture frame, with Percy's face on it.

Under it reads the caption: Daddy's Little Angel

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
You were a shoo-in to keep your
spot another week cause of all your
awesome plans, cause they were
awesome, but Flynn has recently
beaten you on follow through.

He puts up Flynn's portrait.

PERCY FAWCETT
But it was still my plan, sir.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
-eh eh eh bub bub- My turn. Your
plan or not, Flynn executed it. You
need something huge to pull out of
your arse if you want back on
daddys wall.

Percy looks disappointed.

PERCY FAWCETT
I'm sorry, sir.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
You're okay. You just need to
reconsider your priorities.

Percy nods.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
Now get out, I have Jenga based
plans later.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
What are- Jenga based plans?

Pierce scoffs, but then sits there not answering the question.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNK TENT- LATER

Percy lays looking up at the top of the tent, deep in thought. Jay and RC enter the tent, adrenaline up and at peak excitement.

R.C. ANDREWS
See? That was fun.

They look up to see Percy breaking concentration.

JAY HUNT
What's up Percy? Been a minute.

R.C. ANDREWS
Where have you been?

PERCY FAWCETT
I was out...

JAY HUNT
Boooo you missed out.

PERCY FAWCETT
Wait, you guys were there?

JAY HUNT
Yeah shooting our new picture.

RC holds up his hands as if he sees what he's about to say on the marquee now.

R.C. ANDREWS
'Ivo the Farm Avenger' has a nice ring to it huh?

Percy doesn't think too much about it.

JAY HUNT
Seriously though, it seems weird you weren't there, you're supposed to be our best.

PERCY FAWCETT
Eh, had some diplomacy to do.

JAY HUNT

Well now there's talk about you as a general.

PERCY FAWCETT

There shouldn't be, I have a new plan that blows that one out of the water.

R.C. ANDREWS

Really? What is it?

PERCY FAWCETT

I'll tell you, but I'll need your help on some propaganda.

JAY HUNT

Just like the good old days! We're in.

R.C. ANDREWS

We'll always be in.

(a beat)

We could get some more footage too if I'm being honest.

TRUCKER- by TYLER YAREMA begins to play.

EXT. DESERT- MIDDAY

Our three heroes trail out in the middle of the desert on the same truck as before, with the same driver. There are a few of Percy's miscellaneous soldiers on the truck too.

R.C. ANDREWS

I can't believe after everything they're letting you do this.

PERCY FAWCETT

Oh yeah. I don't think they know what a general is.

JAY HUNT

So what is it we're looking for?

PERCY FAWCETT

Before everything went down one of my indigenous friends on the other side-

R.C. ANDREWS

-Wait. Is that how you got the intel from the ambush?

PERCY FAWCETT

Yeah.

JAY HUNT

Well why don't you just ask him
where the other heard is?

PERCY FAWCETT

Her. Snd it's not that easy.

R.C. stays silent.

JAY HUNT

-Are you coming to the premiere of
our short next weekend?

R.C. ANDREWS

Yeah, it's suppose to be in front
of one of Perths biggest new
pictures.

PERCY FAWCETT

Of course, I wouldn't miss it for
anything. I swear I miss one ambush
and everyone thinks I'm dead.

The truck comes to a screeching halt.

The boys all jump out and walk out to a hill. Over it, one
singular emu.

R.C. ANDREWS

One emu? We're kind of above that
now.

PERCY FAWCETT

Not just one. I've been tracking
this one.

They remain confused.

JAY HUNT

And why would that be?

PERCY FAWCETT

This one is their leader, the
alpha, Kal- I mean my source said
this is the one they follow.

R.C. ANDREWS

So their heard shouldn't be far
behind.

PERCY FAWCETT

No. They shouldn't be. If we play this right, this should be a gold-mine for hundreds of emus.

R.C. ANDREWS

So we kill it?

That line makes Jay grow a side-eye at RC.

PERCY FAWCETT

Kill it and we get one emu, trap it and who knows how many follow.

They finally get it.

JAY HUNT

So we just need to capture it?

PERCY FAWCETT

Yes. Sorry about not briefing any of you, but this mission is suppose to be lowkey.

R.C. ANDREWS

Alright. Seems easy.

He turns to Jay.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Definitely get this.

Upbeat 1930s military music starts to play.

BEGIN MONTAGE

EXT. BASE- LATER

Percy sits in the bed of a truck happily at the entrance of the base, next to him, in a sack and tied up, is the aforementioned emu.

Pierce looks happy and nods to Percy.

Percy nods back, the confliction in his eyes slowly going away.

EXT. TRENCHES- DAY

FLYNN stands above all of his entourage of soldiers as they sit crouched in the trenches.

They shoot at emus with their machine guns. Flynn's pride starts to fade as all the emus run, they only kill one or two.

INT. WAR TENT

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Genius! Shoot at them and they run.

Flynn rolls his eyes.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
Capture them and more come. Percy,
you're a genius.

PERCY FAWCETT
(flattered)
Animals follow patterns, sir.

INT. APARTMENT- NIGHT

Percy sits with MARGRET, they smile and clink their wine glasses.

EXT. DUNES- DAY

RC stands next to Flynn, both holding rifles. There is an emu in the background as JAY films- Flynn is out of frame.

They both shoot their guns, RC obviously missing, but Flynn hitting. The way the shot looks it looks like RC is the one who shot him.

RC cheers in success at the death of the Emu. JAY keeps his concerned look to RC.

R.C. ANDREWS
The farm is avenged!

BLACK TABLE:

A NEWSPAPER slaps down with the headline:

AMERICAN FILMMAKERS TO SCREEN NEW PRO-WAR FILM

EXT. BASE- DAY

Percy walks into the base, behind him, about ten soldiers, each dragging a burlap bag behind them, each filled with an emu.

PERCY FAWCETT
Another great day.

EXT. BASE- DAY

Kalinda and her same cronies protest the war.

Percy on-looks from afar. Kalinda meets her eyes with his, he lets out a sympathetic smile. She ignores it.

INT. WAR TENT

PIERCE walks up to the portrait and takes Flynn's down, replacing it with Percy's.

EXT. SAND HILL- DAY

Pierce walks up a hill. Behind him, Percy. He escorts him to an unknown place.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
You've been doing such a great job
dickhead, so I wanted to show you
something.

Percy looks excited.

PERCY FAWCETT
Of course sir.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Your trophy. You know all those
birds you've been bagging these
last few weeks?

PERCY FAWCETT
Yes sir!

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Well we decided to name where we've
been keeping the after our amazing
general.

Percy stops, in awe of what the general just said,

PERCY FAWCETT

After me?

GENERAL FLYNN

Yes sir!

Triumphant music slowly fades away as they get to the top of the hill. His excitement turns to utter panic.

He sees what looks to be thousands of emus in containment, packed together with no room to move. He stands in fear as they cry out in pain.

PERCY FAWCETT

w-wha-

GENERAL FLYNN

It's amazing, isn't it?

END MONTAGE

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. RED CARPET- NIGHT

In the otherwise empty street of Perth, a crowd brews just outside the cinema as the thin tape separating the famous from the citizens is like two different worlds. All over the walls are the 'Ivo the Farm Saver' posters.

Photographers are there to snatch photos of the new cinema star as RC Andrews pulls up in a 1933 luxury Ford, brand new.

The carpet itself is already populated with other socialites and stars. None getting more attention than RC himself, and he's not even out of his car yet. While to RC it feels like hundreds of adoring fans, because of the depression it's probably no more than twenty or so people.

RC, form in the car, takes a breather. Jay, who sits next to him, comforts him.

RC takes a deep breath.

JAY HUNT

Wow. This was fast.

R.C. doesn't answer.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)

Just breathe. and don't forget why we're here.

Fast paced 1930s tunes play as RC greets the crowd.

Mentally prepared, he smiles and waves, like he saw the stars before him do. His eye grazes the crowds until he finds a group of citizens with a 'FUCK BIRDS' sign.

'FUCK BIRDS' GROUP
Fuck birds! Fuck birds!

R.C. hesitates, but then smiles and gives them a thumbs up.

R.C. ANDREWS
For the people!

The crowd roars.

In a moment of enjoyment, someone approaches R.C., someone we have not seen in a while.

After a brief second of mystery, Margret Wagner, looking beautiful, is the one that enters the scene.

MARGRET WAGNER
Hello!

He turns in shock, smiles and then hugs.

R.C. ANDREWS
Hi, R.C. Andrews.

She laughs.

MARGRET WAGNER
I know who you are, R.C..

R.C. ANDREWS
I figured, I know who you are too,
just didn't want to sound
desperate. You're dating general
Fawcett aren't you?

MARGRET WAGNER
Yes, and it's nice seeing such a
close friend of his realize the
value of the war and see success on
this side.

R.C. ANDREWS
Well I wanted to help end the war,
as far as I see it, that's what
we're doing here.

MARGRET WAGNER

And I got an early screening, and
it was a beautiful picture. Truly.

Jay enters the conversation.

JAY HUNT

Hey, where is Percy?

MARGRET WAGNER

Um, I'm not sure. Don't worry, he's
probably around here somewhere.
Look around. He would never miss
this.

(a beat)

Well, I'm gonna grab a seat, see
you inside.

She exits the scene, leaving R.C. to look aimlessly around
the crowds for Percy. He is almost immediately let down when
he has no luck. While looking, another mysterious voice is
heard behind him.

UNSEEN MAN (O.C.)

Well, here we are!

He turns to see Flynn, the disappointment turns to pride as
he greets his new friend.

R.C. ANDREWS

Flynn!

They shake hands.

GENERAL FLYNN

I always supported you, and now
look.

R.C. ANDREWS

Seriously, thank you. We couldn't
have done any of this alone.

GENERAL FLYNN

Oh, please. Well we couldn't get
the funding we needed without this
film. You guys are really doing
your part in making sure this war
ends.

R.C. smiles.

R.C. ANDREWS

Thank you, sir. Where's general
Pierce?

GENERAL FLYNN

Oh you don't know?

He points behind him, General Pierce is eating the attention of the paparazzi up. He dabs and does weird dances as they egg him on.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

Everyone from the base is here, we would never miss it.

R.C. looks around Flynn again for Percy, it once again is unsuccessful.

SING, SING, SING- by BENNY GOODMAN begins to play as--

CUT TO:

EXT. INDIGENOUS VILLAGE- NIGHT

Meanwhile, PERCY FAWCETT, walks with power and confidence as he enters the indigenous village from earlier.

He spots the older gentleman who protested with Kalinda at the inaugural ball.

He walks up.

PERCY FAWCETT

Excuse me-

He doesn't budge.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Excuse me?

He turns.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Do you know where Kalinda is?

He spits on his shoes.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Okay, I deserved that.

He goes through a lot of effort to hock another spit ball at Percy, hits him on the shoes again.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

You know what? This place isn't that big I can find her myself.

INT. TENT- CONTINUOUS

Percy walks into a tent, on the other side, lit by an orange lantern, is Kalinda.

PERCY FAWCETT
 (to himself)
 Nice, first try.

She ignores him.

KALINDA
 What are you doing here?

PERCY FAWCETT
 Listen, I need your help.

She doesn't say anything.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 There is something terrible going on. They took one of my plans too far. Long story short. I've changed and you do not have to believe me. But there's some liberating we need to do.

She turns briskly.

KALINDA
 I. do not. trust. you.

He sits there, and lets her say her piece.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
 You need to make up your mind, which side you're on. You're so caught up with being a war hero you ignore what you actually want.
 (a beat)
 You have a hear, I've seen it.
 (another beat)
 If you wanted to actually free all the captive emus, you wouldn't have caught them in the first place.

PERCY FAWCETT
 You're right, I would have killed them.
 (a beat)
 Every general is off base at a premiere tonight, our window to free these birds closes tonight.

She begins to walk for the exit of the tent.

KALINDA
I'll do it. But not for you.

BACK TO:

INT. THEATRE- NIGHT

RC sits in a theatre seat in between general Flynn and a seat that reads: RESERVED, PERCY FAWCETT.

He rolls his eyes. General Flynn reads RC's expression.

GENERAL FLYNN
I saw him at the base, he should be here any minute.

RC lets out a fake smile, which quickly dissipates.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAND DUNE-NIGHT

Kalinda and Percy make their way to the top of the mountain. Over it- FAWCETT CANYON- the holding cell for all the emus.

Kalinda puts her hand over her mouth.

KALINDA
How can people do this?

PERCY FAWCETT
I don't know. But what I do know- is tomorrow there will be a slaughter. If we can't do something-

He doesn't finish.

KALINDA
Well we can- what's our plan?

PERCY FAWCETT
Easy- we go one- get one- walk him to safety- and then we do it again.

She grows confused.

KALINDA
You can't be serious.

PERCY FAWCETT

Look-

He points.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

It's heavily guarded. There's no freeing all of them which doesn't lead to a slaughter.

(a beat)

They have to never know we were there.

She nods.

KALINDA

So- which one first?

He gets up and approaches the fences- motioning for her to follow.

Down the canyon, the emus silently start to gaze at them. After a beat, they all start gobbling.

PERCY quickly does as much as he can to shush them, it doesn't work.

They arrive at the backside- at the front, stands four soldiers. They stand straight however gaze over at the commotion. Kalinda and Percy duck to avoid being seen.

PERCY FAWCETT

You have to be fucking joking.

Kalinda, calm as a cucumber, stands and calms the first emu she sees, after a few moments, it starts a chain effect that calms all the birds.

Percy exudes a sigh of relief.

KALINDA

Which one first?

Percy looks at the one she calmed, and notices the gunshot wound on its leg. It's the same emu they rescued from earlier.

PERCY FAWCETT

Hey look!

She recognizes it too.

KALINDA

Okay- how do we get it out?

He thinks.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
You're a general- go relieve them
of their duty.

He doesn't skip a beat.

PERCY FAWCETT
(stern)
No. They can't know I did this.

She rolls her eyes.

KALINDA
So you haven't changed.

He hesitates.

PERCY FAWCETT
I-I don't know yet. but I do know
these emus don't deserve to die.

KALINDA
Okay- I'll go over and yell at them
for being monsters. While they're
distracted. Take it.

He nods.

She quickly disappears in the darkness and moments later
reappears by the guards.

She holds a rock and throws it at one of them. they all grow
confused, then ready their guns.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
War mongers! Murderers!

GUARD #1
Hey- calm down lady.

GUARD #2
Yeah we don't want to hurt you.

She keeps approaching, and throws more rocks in an effort to
egg them on.

GUARD #3
While I respect the bravery I can't
allow you to throw rocks. Calm
yourself.

They all point guns. she realizes it's not working and collapses to the ground in fake hysteria.

KALINDA
 (sobbing)
 Oh god!

The guards look at eachother- confused.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
 I am in so much pain!
 (A beat)
 So much pain!

They all hurry to surround her and console her.

GUARD #2
 You'll be alright.

GUARD #3
 Guy troubles?

She ignores the sexist comment.

BACK TO:

BACK OF THE FENCES- CONTINUOUS

Percy is in the cage, he stands with the emu, who now has rope around its neck. Percy tries to lift it out and to the other side with little success. The emu is as still and unhelpful as a statue.

He grunts in his extra-ordinary efforts, the emu shits.

He drops his head.

JUMPCUT

Him outside the gate- pulling on the rope with tremendous effort- the emu doesn't budge.

JUMPCUT

Percy tries jiggling the fence open so that he can just walk out. One board falls.

PERCY FAWCETT
 (whispers to himself)
 Yessss

JUMPCUT

He jiggles the bottom one and it finally budes, allowing for the emu to walk out, which it finally does.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Okay- let's go buddy.

He starts leading the bird into the darkness and over the hill.

This reveals- a few miles away- the base. Percy eyes stop at the truck, he knows what he needs.

BACK TO:

KALINDA
 All the guards simp hard, each competing for her attention.

GUARD #1
 You're right-

GUARD #2
 So right! We don't love the war too!

She looks up- tears in her eyes.

KALINDA
 R-really?

After a few moments- it is revealed that right next to them stands an emu. Completely free. It takes them a few seconds to comprehend.

Then it is revealed that behind that emu, is another emu.

One guard turns to Kalinda.

GUARD #3
 What did you do?

It is then shown that all the emus are escaping through the opening Percy made for the first bird. Half of the birds escaped.

GUARD #1
 Group them up- don't let a single one of them leave!

They all spring into action, and then Guard 1 turns to Guard 4.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
Arrest her!

Guard 4 nods and turns.

GUARD #4
You know I don't want to do this,
but it is not my order. I guess I'm
one of the good ones

She rolls her eyes.

BACK TO:

PERCY

Percy and the bird make it to the back of the war tent at base. He turns back and looks at the hill blocking the view from Fawcett Canyon- able to hear the commotion.

PERCY FAWCETT
Oh no. That was fast.

He turns and sneaks through the camp, and avoids soldiers that run towards the canyon.

He gets behind the final tent in between him and the truck, so close he can taste it. But after a second of thinking he comes to a realization.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
(to the bird)
Fuck. We need the keys, buddy.

He ties to emu to a post and looks for the tent that will most likely have them.

His eyes stop at the war tent.

INT. WAR ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Percy enters the room and immediately sees the keys right at captains desk.

He slowly, very slowly, starts to approach it. You can still hear the commotion outside the tent at the camp, but his razor focus keeps him from noticing.

Tension builds and relieves as he grabs the keys.

He finally gets a second to breath, and while he feels like he's safe, a gun cocks behind him.

He turns to see one of Flynn's men from earlier as he points a gun at him. Behind him is the emu, almost like he directed him to Percy.

The emu lets out a fast and aggressive yelp. Percy sighs.

SOLDIER #1

Lot of commotion outside.

PERCY FAWCETT

Yeah I heard, was just about to get the truck and go and help.

SOLDIER #1

I think we have it handled.

PERCY FAWCETT

Soldier I am your general. Drop your weapon.

SOLDIER #1

That's a no can do. You aren't my general. You are a treasonous American who kissed ass. I follow strict instructions from Flynn only.

His eyes widen.

PERCY FAWCETT

Flynn?

Percy after a split second dives behind the desk- right as the soldier fires.

While he was in the air he was able to grab the comically large 1930 truck key, and he starts to think of an escape plan.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Officer you just fired at a general, stand down.

SOLDIER #1

No can do. You are no general.

The emu screams again.

He dives for the tent wall in front of him and crawls under it. He thinks for a moment and makes a run for the truck.

Halfway there he links up with the emu who runs beside him.

He's about halfway there when-

-BONK

Percy gets hit on the head by the soldier- and falls to the ground.

Behind him- a bunch of soldiers enter the scene with Kalinda cuffed up and being dragged by the knees.

GUARD #1

What do we do with her?

SOLDIER #1

We were only told to keep the general alive. Kill her.

After not even half a second, before Percy can even process anything. Kalinda gets shot and retreats to the sand. Percy eyes already welding up- he can't help but to scream.

PERCY FAWCETT

Nooo-

He gets hit again, and this time fully passes out.

SLOW FADE IN:

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE DESERT- MIDDAY

The scorching desert is palpable through the screen. The dry and barren desert is emblematic of the opening shot of the film. Ken Burns returns to narrate over Percy's slow death.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And just like that. What could have been one of the greatest war heroes of all time, fell victim to first treason, than the harsh climate of the scorching desert.

Percy opens his eyes.

PERCY FAWCETT

(to the narrator)

Shut. Up.

He sweats, and after a moment desperately looks around and sees that he's stranded and cuffed out in the middle of the Australian desert.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Help!

He grows more desperate.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Help! Help!

He pants, already out of energy. He takes a few seconds to think in silence. It probably would have continued but it is broken by the squawk of a bird. He grows confused, then DESPERATELY searches for where the sound originated from.

He looks until he spots the only form of life within presumably fifty miles.

He rolls his eyes as right next to him is the emu he tried to break free, who is also tied up and stranded in the desert.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

God dammit.

It squawks at him.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Why you are the most annoying. most heart breaking, dream shattering, biggest piece of SHI-

The bird squawks again.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

-IT I've ever seen! and you ruined my life.

(a beat)

I was suppose to be a hero! And you ruined that you stupid bird.

Percy looks down, defeated.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

I don't even know what I would do if I went back.

The bird stays silent.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Kalinda's gone.

(a beat)

Everyone and their mothers are for the war. R.C.'s stupid pictures has completely gotten everyone to support it.

(a beat)

And I guess I didn't help either. But it was different at the beginning. It's all our faults... But the longer this goes on, the more of you will die.

(MORE)

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

And the more money wasted when they could be feeding the poor. Kalinda was right.

(a beat)

You ever hear of the Tasmanian tiger? It was easy to convince everyone to kill them because all they did was paint them as a useless species. Well, they won't do that to you.

(another beat)

You are beautiful, and Kalinda would want me to save you. But there is nothing I can do.

He lays in silence and turns away from the bird. You silently hear him begin to weep.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

(SILENTLY)

I thought it was going to be different.

The bird grows confused-

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

And now I'm stuck here with you.

Then after a few moments of silence, the bird scoots over to him and begins to nip at his rope. He is so in his head he doesn't even notice until it frees him.

He looks at the bird, confused, and mascara a little bit smeared. Then separates his hands, which drops the rope to the sand. He now sees that he is free.

Percy lights up.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Thanks bird!

He sits up and starts untying his legs.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Hey- I haven't named you. I'm gonna call you... Damian!

DAMIEN

(Squawks)

PERCY FAWCETT

You know what? You're right. I've fallen for propaganda my whole life. That ends today. No more war mongering for you or me.

He launches to his feet in triumph. He then unties Damien quickly.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Now how are we gonna get out of here?

The bird doesn't answer because it's a bird.

He turns to see track prints in the sand heading in a direction.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

I guess thats a start.

He gets a curious look and turns to Damien.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Hey, sorry but, can I ride you?

Damien looks concerned.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE DESERT- LATER

Adventurous music plays as Percy rides Damien through the sands- which after a few moments proves useless as Damien collapses to the ground.

PERCY FAWCETT

(after a beat)

Shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM- LATER

We hear the clinking of a bowl play as we see a stretch of farmland just outside the desert. The emu is waiting on the porch.

PERCY FAWCETT (V.O.)
And so now I'm trying to find my
way back.

CUT TO:

INT. FARM- CONTINUOUS

Percy sits chugging out of a canteen with a bowl of chicken soup in front of him. He sits at a kitchen table.

A FARMER, late 50s, stands at the kitchen making himself something, he then quickly walks over and sits across from Percy.

FARMER
Everyone thinks you're dead.

PERCY FAWCETT
Dead?

FARMER
Yeah, you sacrificed yourself and
gave ya life to kill that
protestor.

PERCY FAWCETT
Oh god. How long has it been?

He takes a huge swig from his water.

FARMER
A few days, maybe a week. It's just
gotten the people more worked up.

PERCY FAWCETT
That's not good.

FARMER
None of it is. This bloody war...

Percy looks at the farmer, confused.

PERCY FAWCETT
W-what?

FARMER
Waste of money.

PERCY FAWCETT
Are you serious? You're who we're
fighting for.

FARMER

Us? You're fighting for the funding. Soldiers constantly running across my land attempting to kill emus has only made my crops worse.

He grows upset.

PERCY FAWCETT

I have to leave.

Percy explodes from his chair and heads for the exit.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Thanks for the food-

The farmer waves.

CUT TO:

PERCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Just like in 'Justice League' the next bit is Percy questioning different farmers from his POV.

FARMER 1

The first one is a heavysset farmer, dressed in typical farmer clothes.

FARMER #1

Oh no the war sucks.

FARMER 2

As this progresses the farms get more green, hinting at Percy getting closer to home.

FARMER #2

Waste of money. Heard it was all going to the prime minister.

FARMER 3

This one stands on a dock- over a lake.

FARMER #3

Who cares about emus? We're in the middle of a depression! So stupid.

FARMER 1

FARMER #1

Happy to see you're alive.

FARMER 2
FARMER #2

Fuck. You. Your war has made us worse.

FARMER 4

FARMER #4
Word around is the emus all
escaped.

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)
So they cut funding?

FARMER #4
Conveniently no. Big thanks to that
Ivo picture, heard that single
handedly saved them and got the
people in the cities to vote for a
longer war, they're even making
more.

FARMER 5

FARMER #5
The war is stupid, but I loved that
picture. Finally an American star
here in 'Stralia. Heard he's dating
the prime ministers daughter.
Almost made me forget a bunch
soldiers destroyed my crops just to
kill two birds.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE MANSION- DAY

TITLE: Weeks Later

Percy arrives at the Prime ministers mansion and knocks
heavily on the door.

EXT. PRIME MINISTERS DOORSTEP- CONTINUOUS

Percy stands furious, his perspective is furious.

After a few moments- footsteps approach from inside the house. The sound resembles heels on granite, it's Margret for sure.

The door cracks open to reveal her- and she looks fantastic just like every other appearance in the film. She stands there- stunned at Percy's arrival.

MARGRET WAGNER

Percy?

He is not phased, and barges into the home.

INT. MANSION FOYER- CONTINUOUS

The house was practically built by the gods- Percy paces around the house, fuming.

MARGRET WAGNER

I thought you were dead.

He ignores her, he stays deep in thought.

PERCY FAWCETT

Is it true?

MARGRET WAGNER

Is what true?

PERCY FAWCETT

The war. R.C.'s propaganda.
Promoting me to general. All for
getting people to support funding
for a nonexistent problem?

MARGRET WAGNER

Percy you aren't making any sense.
Is this because I'm seeing R.C.?

PERCY FAWCETT

What? No. It's about using your
people to make money.

(A beat)

And I fell for it.

She realizes he's decided and it's like something clicks in her head, she gets serious.

MARGRET WAGNER

You're too late, Percy.

PERCY FAWCETT

I know.

MARGRET WAGNER

We have enough money to fund the war for another year.

PERCY FAWCETT

I can stop it.

MARGRET WAGNER

Don't see how. With the ambush happening, support will only grow.

He looks at her, confused.

PERCY FAWCETT

Ambush?

MARGERET WAGNER

Oh you didn't hear? They've found the countries biggest heard, they're going to gun them down in the name of you.

He looks down, she walks up to him and grabs his arm.

MARGRET WAGNER

It isn't too late. We can still make you a hero. You can get what you want.

He backs up, not falling for it.

PERCY FAWCETT

You're evil. I can't believe I wanted you.

MARGRET WAGNER

So what are you gonna do?

He looks up at her.

PERCY FAWCETT

You have a phone?

MARGRET WAGNER

What? Why?

CUT TO:

INT. BUNK TENT-CONTINUOUS

Jay is packing up film reel- he looks unsure of himself. Behind him, dressed in a shitty 'Ivo Farm Avenger' costume is R.C.

R.C. ANDREWS

Hey- I'm gonna head to the truck

JAY HUNT

Yeah I'm almost done, I'll see you there.

As R.C. exits, a random soldier enters.

SOLDIER #1

Jay- your fathers on the phone.

He turns up, confused.

JAY HUNT

But I don't have a-

He stops himself.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Jay stands in the war room alone- Percy on the other end and the room lies empty.

JAY HUNT

Hello?

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)

Sup dip-shit.

Jay for the first time since the gang broke up- smiles from ear to ear.

JAY HUNT

No way!

He looks around and calms himself.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)

They said protesters killed you.

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)

They said a lot of things, they've been lying.

JAY HUNT

Shocker.

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)

I need a favor.

JAY HUNT

Anything.

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)

Where's the ambush taking place? I can make it.

JAY HUNT

Okay I'll tell you, but you need to talk to R.C., he's gone completely off of the deep end with these pictures.

PERCY FAWCETT (O.C.)

He's not the only one that's changed.

EXT. AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK. THE SOUTHERN GORGE. NIGHT.

The Orange Desert hues are now gone, replaced with browns and grays, the sky is overcast. The usual vibrant color tone now resembles a depressing renaissance painting.

Two pickup trucks roll onto the scene, each filled with soldiers, the entire might of the Australian military. The trucks stop, and everyone dismounts. There are around ten foot-soldiers, a flag carrier who also holds a trumpet, General Flynn, General Pierce, RC, and Jay. RC is in his film costume.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Alrighty men, alrighty. We are here finally to kill the birds once and for all. On this day, all the birds....DIE.

Some soldiers look around, confused as this insane man blabs on about nonsense.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

These fucking birds - today lads, alrighty - are going to perish and will save our motherland, and return as glorious heroes. General Flynn will explain the strategy. General Flynn, I order you to explain the strategy.

General Flynn ignores Pierce's aneurisms.

GENERAL FLYNN

The Emus have been pushed back into
The Southern Gorge, as you see
here.

Flynn points with his rifle to a canyon ahead of them, raised
land on either side with a dip in the middle.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

They should be in the back of the
canyon, with nowhere left to go.
All we have to do is hold a steady
line and march in parade style. We
will use a flare to draw them out,
and then gun down the bastards.

RC ANDREWS

This is going to make one hell of a
picture.

JAY HUNT

Um, Sir, if I may -

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Address the man properly, nerd.

JAY HUNT

Sir General Flynn, are we really
going to massacre the rest of the
Emu's here? Shouldn't we take them
prisoner to relocate? Isn't this
murder?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Is it really murder to rid the
world of this avian filth?

GENERAL FLYNN

Well-

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

THE BIRDS WILL DIE TODAY! TROOPS!
BEGIN THE ASSAULT!

The flag carrier begins playing his trumpet to the tune of
the Australian National Anthem. The group gets into a
formation that consists of the flagger carrier in the front,
followed by the foot soldiers, and in the back Flynn, Pierce,
RC, and Jay.

The entourage begins to march towards the canyon as the
Australian Anthem slowly fades into a dark choral theme as
they enter the mouth of the canyon.

GENERAL FLYNN
Soldier! The flare!

A soldier takes out a flare gun, and shoots it into the canyon. It goes all the way through - completely illuminating the rocks with a red glow. However, the flare reaches the end of the canyon, with no Emus in sight.

RC ANDREWS
What.....That was terrible. Jay -
cut.

Jay turns off the camera.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
Where. The Hell. Are the damn
birds?

Suddenly, bird shit drops onto Pierce's face. He angrily wipes it off, and then, licks it.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)
Yep. That's Emu poo alright.

An orange light spills into the canyon as it is now sunrise.

SOLDIER #1
Um... Sir...

The soldier points to the top of the canyon directly above them. On the ridge, a bright glowing sun begins to emerge. In front of the sun, standing on the edge of the cliff, silhouettes of dozens of Emus. The choral score erupts as wind majestically blows through the bird's feathers. The platoon is in utter fear.

RC ANDREWS
Now...This....Is Epic.

JAY HUNT
Shut up man.

RC ANDREWS
This...This Is a great shot.

JAY HUNT
Should I be rolling?

RC ANDREWS
Yes! That's what a shot is dumb
ass.

Jay Hunt starts rolling. He then looks through the viewfinder. He zooms in, to see a humanoid looking figure standing on the ridge with the Emus.

JAY HUNT

Guys... I think thats Percy.

Dolly in to Percy standing atop the canyon with the Emus. He is in an aboriginal war outfit, complete with face paint and feathers, resembling an Emu.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

What the hell are you doing lad?
Get down from there!

PERCY FAWCETT

For once in my life, I know exactly
what I'm doing.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

GET AWAY FROM THE DAMN BIRDS! Man
is not supposed to mess with nature
in that way lad.

PERCY FAWCETT

I'm the one messing with nature?

Percy chuckles confidently to himself.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

You're right. When you mess with
Mother Nature, she tends to mess
back.

The Emus begin vocalizing, as if to agree with him.

GENERAL FLYNN

You really want to do this Percy?
Is this what Kalinda would have
wanted?

General Flynn smiles as he knows that is a soft spot for Percy.

PERCY FAWCETT

It's time to pack it up boys. End
the war right now - for your sake.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Liiiiiiike hell. We're not gonna
stop until every one of you bird
brained baboons is six feet down
under.

Percy doesn't respond. He then walks down the backside of the ridge, out of sight of the platoon below. All of the Emus follow him.

GENERAL FLYNN

Soldiers, if you see Percy among their ranks again, have your rifles consider him an Emu.

JAY HUNT

WHAT? B-BUT SIR-

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

He is now an enemy of the state, Mr. Hunt. We have no choice.

RC looks down in guilt, the gears of change start to slowly turn inside his propagandized head. But they do not turn enough, as he fails to summon the courage to speak up.

SOLDIER #1

Orders sir?

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

There are no orders left sir. It's in God's hands now.

Suddenly, the small rocks on the ground begin to shake. The platoon turns towards the entrance of the canyon, to see Percy running at them, sword drawn. Then, hundreds of Emus come out from around the gorge, following his charge.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

Well mates, there was actually one order left.

He takes out a pistol from his holster and raises it into the air.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE (CONT'D)

ATAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACK!

RC ANDREWS

ACTION!

The platoon charges towards the oncoming flock of Emus. The sun bathes the valley in a yellow glow as the two armies run at full speed.

GENERAL FLYNN

Halt! We are in range!

The platoon stops. Soldiers start lining up their shots. One soldier takes out a motar and launches a grenade right into the front of the oncoming Emu onslaught. An explosion erupts, filling the valley with smoke.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Haha, stupid bastard birds.

Emus fiercely charge through the smoke, unscathed from the explosion. They charge straight into the platoon, knocking some troops aside, including the motar which triggers another explosion. The valley becomes a full blown war zone, soldiers shooting Emus, Emus pecking soldiers. The sunrise turns into a thunderstorm, filling the canyon with mud. The Generals and filmmakers are taking cover behind a large boulder.

RC ANDREWS

Alright, let's go Jay. Wee need some POV shots.

JAY HUNT

What the hell are those.

RC ANDREWS

It's a new thing I invented. Point of View shots.

JAY HUNT

Okay man.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

And bring me some Emu toes back son!

RC ANDREWS

Are you guys not gonna come help fight?

General Pierce and Flynn exchange an awkward look.

GENERAL FLYNN

We...um... have to stay back and strategize.

RC ANDREWS

Sounds good to me.

RC and Jay charge into battle. Suddenly, a figure can be seen through the crowd of birds. The Emus slowly part their crowd to reveal Percy, sword drawn.

RC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Jesus, man. What has become of you?

RC draws his sword.

JAY HUNT

What the hell are you doing man,
you're suppose to be the
humanitarian?

RC leans into the camera.

RC ANDREWS

Ending this war.

PERCY FAWCETT

This war could have ended long ago
if it wasn't for your damn movies!
They're shit anyways. You break the
180 rule like all the time.

RC ANDREWS

How would you know? You didn't even
come to watch them. You were off
with your fucking girlfriend
instead of hanging with the boys.

PERCY FAWCETT

I was listening to her criticisms
about the war!

RC ANDREWS

Oh, and you are some pacifist all
of the sudden? Aren't you the one
who designed this damn battle?

PERCY FAWCETT

I'm not denying that I have blood
on my hands. But it's never too
late.

RC ANDREWS

These birds have been ruining the
lives of everyone in this country!
I cannot fathom how you side them
over your own damn species.

PERCY FAWCETT

You have become a pawn! Do you not
see! Your blind devotion is what is
carrying out this war!

RC ANDREWS

You're just jealous I've become a
better war hero than you've ever
been! You were always a joke.

PERCY FAWCETT

And what animal is on the god damn
flag you fly?

RC looks down on the ground to see the Austalian battle flag
in the mud. On it are two animals, a Kangaroo, and an Emu.

RC ANDREWS

Well, I see you are beyond saving.
Surrender, General, and we can
still be boys.

PERCY FAWCETT

Is this what our homeland would
want of us? We're supposed to be
the ones fighting against tyranny!

RC ignores him.

RC ANDREWS

Percy Fawcett, you are hereby
formally being taken into custody
by the Australian Military. I
encourage you not to resist.

Percy raises his sword.

RC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

FOR AUSTRALIA!!!!!!

Percy raises his sword even higher into the air.

PERCY FAWCETT

FOR THE EMUUUUUUUS!

All the Emus let out a battle cry and lightning illuminates
the valley followed by a roll of thunder. The two friends
charge at each other. Their swords clash as lightning strikes
once more, bringing the storm down even harder. Choral music
swells as they begin to dual in the monsoon. Jay watches in
horror as his two best friends try to kill each other.

JAY HUNT

GUYS! STOP! GUYS!

The two keep fighting. Jay starts crying.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)

Fuck this.

He throws his camera down into the mud and runs back towards
the generals.

RC slashes at Percy's legs and he jumps over the blade with extreme reflexes.

PERCY FAWCETT
Is this really what you want? To
kill your best friend?

RC ANDREWS
Best friend? You ditched me the
first chance you got to go run off
and be a war hero. We were supposed
to be deployed together!

Percy swings at RC. He blocks and they continue dueling.

PERCY FAWCETT
I came back damnit!

RC ANDREWS
Yea, all because of some girl. And
the only reason you're like this
now is because you had to go and
get her killed!

PERCY FAWCETT
AAAAGH!

Percy swings, and slashes RC in the arm.

RC ANDREWS
AGH! FUCK YOU!

RC kicks Percy in the chest, sending him crashing down into the mud. Percy then summons an Emu and climbs on top of it. He charges at RC and tramples him.

RC ANDREWS (CONT'D)
What in the hell?

RC jumps on an Emu as well, and they begin sword fighting, on top of Emus.

CUT TO:

EXT. A LARGE BOULDER.

General Pierce and General Flynn are still crouched behind a boulder, waiting for the battle to end. Jay arrives through the chaos.

JAY HUNT
You've got to call off the attack.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
And why is that mate?

JAY HUNT
RC and Percy. They're going to kill
each other sir.

GENERAL FLYNN
Ah. Their deaths will be noble
sacrifices.

Jay grows visibly angry and clenches his fist.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE WARZONE.

Percy and RC are still on top of their Emus. RC throws his sword into Percy's Emu, killing it. The Emu collapses to the ground along with Percy.

PERCY FAWCETT
NOOOOOOO!

RC then takes out his pistol, and shoots the Emu that he is riding, killing it too. He jumps off of it.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
You're going to regret that.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BOULDER.

JAY HUNT
Noble sacrifices? How can you men
speak of nobility when you sit
behind this damn rock, waiting for
the war to end.

General Pierce gets up.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE
You're right lad. Come on Flynn.
Let's go grab some bird beaks.

General Flynn gets up too.

GENERAL FLYNN
Time to bring the pain.

General Flynn takes out his gun and cocks it.

JAY HUNT

That's not what I meant! You must
call off the attack!

In epic slow mo, the two generals jump out from behind the
rock, gun's a blazing. They immediately get trampled by Emus.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

God damnit. Fucking penguins.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE TOP OF THE RIDGE.

RC and Percy are now on top of the ridge that overlooks the
canyon battle. Lighting flashes behind them as they continue
dueling. Rage courses through their veins as they are both
determined to win.

RC ANDREWS

Percy!

PERCY FAWCETT

The world would be a lot better
place if people like you weren't
falling victim to propaganda.

RC stabs Percy in the leg.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Aaahjgejwge!

RC front kicks him, pushing him towards the edge of the
cliff.

RC ANDREWS

The wrong side my friend. I'm
afraid you've chose the wrong side.

A lone Emu walks up to stand in front of RC's sword, as if to
guard Percy. Percy recognizes the Emu.

PERCY FAWCETT

Damien....you came.

The bird sits down. RC stands there, not knowing what to do.
The Emu looks at him with puppy dog eyes. RC's sword begins
to shake.

A Beat.

Damien gets up, and walks away, revealing....a beautiful dark green Emu egg. Even RC is slightly moved. He drops the sword, and picks up the Emu Egg.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WARZONE.

Jay is still hounding the generals, who are now back behind the boulder. He eventually gives up.

JAY HUNT

That's it.. I'm going to end this whole thing.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

You can't go out their lad! It's a blood bath.

An Emu drags a soldier comically past them.

JAY HUNT

I respectfully discharge my service.

Jay rips off the United States Flag patch from his uniform.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)

Keep her warm for me.

Jay hands the United States patch to General Pierce.

CUT TO:

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE:

RC is holding the egg, contemplating what to do with it.

Soldiers and Emus fighting.

Jay starts running through the chaos. He makes it through and starts to climb to the top of the gorge.

More soldiers and Emus fighting.

The Generals shooting Emus from behind their cover.

RC tosses the Egg off of the cliff - only to be caught by Jay, who was nearly done climbing. He then manages to pull himself up and emerges from the edge behind Percy.

JAY HUNT

Come on guys. It's time to go home.

The two fighters do not change their angered composure.

Suddenly, a stray mortar round impacts the cliff, sending Jay off of the side.

PERCY FAWCETT

JAY!!!

The two drop their swords and run down the mountain at top speed. They arrive to see that the fighting has stopped, the Soldiers are standing around Jay's body, the emu stampede seems to have vanished into the horizon, their flee worked. Percy and RC drop to their knees on both sides of the body.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

Is he?

RC's head is dropped.

JAY HUNT

Y-

(a beat)

Yeah. He's dead.

Percy finally breaks. We've seen him weep, but this was the final straw. He starts crying. Flynn and Pierce watch from a behind.

GENERAL GEORGE PIERCE

Uh oh. An American killed. That's not good.

RC snaps his head towards the generals, eyes water.

R.C. ANDREWS

He was more than just an American.

Everyone except RC and Percy leave the scene.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

(soft)

I'm sorry, Percy.

Percy puts himself together.

PERCY FAWCETT

He told us not to fight.

R.C. ANDREWS

How did it get like this?

PERCY FAWCETT

We aren't immune to propaganda. No one is.

RC sniffs up his tears.

R.C. ANDREWS

What now?

PERCY FAWCETT

I-

Flynn appears behind him.

GENERAL FLYNN

I'm sorry for your loss. But that's war.

RC springs up with rage, and draws his sword to Flynn, who doesn't move an inch. Flynn is as calm and unintimidated as a statue.

GENERAL FLYNN (CONT'D)

Your move, medic.

PERCY FAWCETT

RC, don't.

RC, eyes still watery, stops and breaths.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)

That's what he wants. We can do this another way.

R.C. ANDREWS

You did this.

GENERAL FLYNN

I'm sorry, but aren't you the reason he was on that cliff? That's war. Casualties.

Pierce for the first time is calm, just watching the situation play out from a distance.

The depressing and empty Ken Burns violin music begins to play again.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And just like that. As easy as it was to start. The war

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(a beat)
Was over.

FADE TO:

INT. BUNK TENT- DAY

RC and Percy pack up their clothes, like they're leaving.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
One of the most bizarre showcases
of mans power of war the world had
ever seen. And with RC Andrews new
Australian influence. He was able
to speak out against the war.

FADE TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD- RAINY DAY

As rain pours unforgivingly onto the soldiers, as if to tell
them it was their faults. A bunch of Australian soldiers and
our cast stand around the grave of JAY HUNT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And the death of an American meant
no more funding from the prime
minister, and he was forced to shut
down the war.

FADE TO:

EXT. BASE- DAY

The tents each come down, just outside the base stands Percy,
just observing in pride.

FADE TO:

EXT. EMU HEARD- SUNRISE

Percy stands with the indigenous man from Kalinda's tribe,
the one who spit on Percy's shoes. They overlook a beautiful
field of emus.

PERCY FAWCETT
I can't believe it's all over.

INDIGENOUS MAN

War is easy to start, hard to end.
I'm glad you did what you could.

PERCY FAWCETT

Thanks. I wish it didn't take so long.

INDIGENOUS MAN

A lot of people never see it. They get blinded by the people profiting, and never suspect a thing.

PERCY FAWCETT

Kalinda would have loved to be here.

INDIGENOUS MAN

She died standing for something. My heart will never be fixed, but I get great peace knowing that's how she wanted to go.

Percy stands watching in silence, a small smile grows on him.

FADE TO:

INT. CAFE- DAY

Percy and RC sit in a humble cafe and sip from their drinks.

R.C. ANDREWS

So
(a beat)
What now?

Percy thinks for a moment.

PERCY FAWCETT

I've been thinking about that.

R.C. ANDREWS

Back to the states?

PERCY FAWCETT

Well... We have more friends here than anywhere else.

R.C. ANDREWS

And I could never get tired of the landscapes.

Percy smiles

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)
 We could stay? Make sure everything
 is steady on the road back to
 normal.

PERCY FAWCETT
 I was just about to perfect my
 Australian accent. It'd be a shame
 to leave no.

RC laughs.

PERCY FAWCETT (CONT'D)
 -And we could keep making movies-
 but this time-

R.C. ANDREWS
 -They can be fun. An escape from
 the world. Not pushing some agenda
 for profiteers.

PERCY FAWCETT
 And if something bad happens-

A group of younger men enter the place.

YOUNG MAN #1
 Hey, are you Percy Fawcett?

YOUNG MAN #2
 And RC Andrews?

PERCY FAWCETT
 That's us.

YOUNG MAN #2
 Thank you. Getting drafted sucked.

YOUNG MAN #1
 You guys are the best.

Percy sits there, flattered. The guys leave.

PERCY FAWCETT
 You know me from a month ago would
 have loved that.

RC ANDREWS
 So would've me from a week ago.

Percy raises his cup for a cheers.

PERCY FAWCETT

Cheers- to helping make the world a better place.

R.C. ANDREWS

If we can do it with emus we can do it with anything.

They laugh as we slowly zoom out of the cafe, leaving them alone. As we're leaving, we hear one last exchange as they laugh.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Also, we're eskimo bros.

Percy chuckles.

PERCY FAWCETT

You know I was thinking about that. We should cheers again.

R.C. ANDREWS

It all makes sense, that giant mansion with a government salary.

PERCY FAWCETT

We'll get them out of office soon.

As we move out they are no longer audible.

ISLE OF INISHFREE by THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS begins to play.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And Percy pretended to learn his lesson, but I have a feeling he'll be back to his own tricks soon enough.

PERCY FAWCETT (V.O.)

Hey dip-shit, aren't you suppose to be bipartisan, why have you been making me the asshole this entire time?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I only say the truth.

PERCY FAWCETT (V.O.)

You're just as bad as Ivo the Farm Avenger was. Stop abusing everyones trust and spinning your own narrative, ass.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Okay.

PERCY FAWCETT (V.O.)

I don't believe you.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.