

**#1** EXT. VA HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

A modern PICKUP TRUCK backs into a parking space.

SCOTT (30s), a rugged man, cowboy hat, BILATERAL AMPUTEE with prosthetic hooks on both arms.

He parks using a Single Pin Spinner Knob on the steering wheel. He smoothly exits the truck and shuts the door behind him revealing a slight limp.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Scott goes to the nurses station and is greeted by NURSE GLORIA (50), weathered but all smiles.

NURSE GLORIA  
Glad you could make it.

He hands her a box of chocolate candy.

NURSE GLORIA  
Always the charmer, Captain.

SCOTT  
You saved my life, Gloria.

NURSE GLORIA  
I just listen. Sometimes that's all people need. Speaking of which...

She nods to a nearby hospital room.

NURSE GLORIA  
Lieutenant McKnight's been here a week. Won't talk, won't eat. He won't even let his family see him.

SCOTT  
Lemme guess; stares out the window? Wants to be left alone?

NURSE GLORIA  
Remind you of anyone?

He nods. *This used to be him.*

NURSE GLORIA

His fiancée comes in every day. She'll wait. Yesterday she was crying so hard.

SCOTT

I'll see what I can do but... some never come back.

NURSE GLORIA

You did.

Touché. Scott nods and walks down the hall and stops outside a door with a small sign that reads "Lt. Ethan McKnight".

He goes in.

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is dark, the shades pulled. The man in the bed is ETHAN (30), ARMY T-SHIRT, disheveled hair, left side is paralyzed, looks away towards the wall.

Scott stands at the foot of the bed.

SCOTT

Hey there.

No response.

SCOTT

I'm Scott. Howya doing?

Ethan doesn't say a word.

SCOTT

Nurse Gloria said you did your training at Fort Rucker.

Ethan clinches his jaw.

ETHAN

Go away.

SCOTT

Sometimes it's good to have someone to talk to that understands.

ETHAN

And that's you?

SCOTT

Maybe.

ETHAN

You don't know me. You don't know what I've been through.

Ethan turns towards Scott to reveal his scared face.

Scott holds out his right claw as a hand shake.

SCOTT

Captain Scott Barron, squad leader of the 101st Combat  
Aviation Brigade, United States Army.