

THE BORDER

by

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FIRST DRAFT (2ND REVISION)

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"THE BORDER"

SUBTITLE: IRELAND 1975

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

A small car weaves through the countryside. Alongside the road, lush green grass sways in the breeze.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

CAL grips the steering wheel, his face strained a bit from tension. SARAH stares out the window smoking nervously on a cigarette. In her hand she grips a packet of smokes and a lighter. Both are young, mid-twenties and speak with strong Southern Irish accents.

CAL

I love the countryside.

SARAH

I'd rather be enjoying it back in Cork.

(pause)

I don't know why I have to hold your hand on this trip anyway. You know how I feel about your friends.

Cal sighs.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I'm just not comfortable about this at all. The British treated my father like shite just for having the Irish flag stuck to his dashboard for Christ's sake.

CAL

Which is why you don't see one in here.

Cal takes one hand from the steering wheel and grips her hand. He brings it to his mouth and kisses it, glancing briefly over at his unsmiling companion.

CAL

Let's not get political.

SARAH

We're not even at the border yet,
so expect this conversation to
reconvene.

CAL

Everything will be okay. Just
follow my lead. We won't have any
trouble.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The car heads off into the distance.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Rain hits the windshield hard. The wipers frantically try
to keep up with the downpour. Ahead of them a small border-
patrol hut and road barrier creeps into view.

SARAH

I've got a bad feeling about this,
Cal.

CAL

Take it easy, and we'll be fine.
Danny said it doesn't have to be a
big deal unless you make it a big
deal.

SARAH

Your friends were certainly not
forgotten when God dished out the
wisdom.

CAL

Just relax.

As they approach the barrier a SOLDIER, mid-thirties,
bulky, steps out from the patrol hut leaving a much younger
SECOND SOLDIER inside. The first soldier's assault rifle
lay across his folded arms. He turns to face the car and
holds up one hand gesturing for the car to stop.

Cal eases off the accelerator. The car slows to a stop. He
pulls up the handbrake and winds down the window. The sound
of rain hitting the roof of the car forces Cal to raise his
voice as he greets the soldier.

CAL
Good afternoon!

The soldier arrives at the car window. He replies with a strong British accent.

SOLDIER #1
What's your name, Sir?

CAL
Callum Given.

The soldier scans the interior of the car looking Sarah up and down in the process.

SOLDIER #1
Where are you heading?

CAL
Just visiting a friend.

SOLDIER #1
(SARCASTICALLY)
Sorry my mind-reading skills
aren't what they used to be. Where
does your friend live?

CAL
Sorry, Cookstown.

The soldier looks at Sarah again then turns his attention back to Cal.

SOLDIER #1
And what will this visit consist
of?

CAL
Mostly drinking.

Cal glances at his straight-faced girlfriend before turning back to the soldier.

CAL (CONT'D)
For my part anyway.

The soldier smiles as Sarah glances over at the second soldier in the patrol hut.

The second soldier grips the butt of his assault rifle with his right hand. The business end of the firearm leans against his shoulder. He watches the couple through an open sliding-window in the patrol hut.

Sarah's concentration breaks.

SOLDIER #1
Show me your driver's license.

Cal casually reaches inside his jacket pocket.

SOLDIER #1
Slowly, Sir.

Cal makes no sudden movement as he slowly retrieves his wallet. He removes his license and hands it to the soldier who steps away from the car and moves around to the rear of the vehicle. Cal glances at Sarah and smiles nervously.

A few moments later, the soldier returns to the window and hands back the license to Cal.

SOLDIER #1
Seems fine.

SARAH
Surprised?

CAL
Sarah!

The soldier isn't impressed with Sarah's attitude.

SOLDIER #1
I'm going to have to ask you to
step out of the car, Sir.

SARAH
Why?

The soldier's calm expression turns to irritation.

SOLDIER #1
It's routine, Ma'am.

EXT. BORDER - DAY

The soldier steps away from the car. Cal winds up his window, opens the door and steps out into the pouring rain.

SOLDIER #1
Lean against the car, Sir.

The soldier gestures towards the boot of the car as Cal closes the driver's door.

INT. BORDER - CAR - DAY

Sarah turns her attention away from Cal's situation back to the second soldier in the hut.

The second soldier now holds his rifle across his arms. His finger is wrapped around the trigger with his young and slightly nervous stare fixed on Sarah.

Sarah retrieves a cigarette from the packet still in her hand and tries to light it with her lighter. No spark, she attempts to light it again, then again.

EXT. BORDER - DAY

Cal is now facing the boot of his car side-on.

SOLDIER #1

Put your hands down on the boot of
the car.

Cal assumes the position. The soldier slings his rifle over his shoulder and begins to search the Irishman, slowly tapping his way down Cal's arms to his upper body then to his waist.

INT. BORDER - CAR - DAY

Sarah looks on as the soldier searches Cal. She is getting increasingly agitated and frustrated with both her lighter and the situation outside.

SARAH

Bastards.

EXT. BORDER - DAY

The soldier is at Cal's ankles. He finishes his search and returns to a standing position. He removes his rifle from his shoulder and returns his firearm to its original position across his now folded arms.

SOLDIER #1

Okay, we're almost done.

CAL

Almost?

SOLDIER #1

Pop the boot.

INT. BORDER - CAR - DAY

Still unable to light her cigarette, Sarah throws her lighter to the floor of the car and reaches for the glove compartment. She pulls on the latch, but it's stuck. Frustrated, she yanks at the latch again.

EXT. BORDER - DAY

Cal's shoulders drop. His own patience is now being tested.

CAL

I need the keys from the car.

SOLDIER #1

That's fine.

(beat)

No sudden movements.

Cal turns towards the driver's door.

The second soldier is watching his colleague's situation. He briefly looks back at Sarah and notices her frantically trying to open the glove compartment. Immediately he raises his rifle and takes aim at the girl.

SOLDIER #2

Keep your hands where I can see them!

Confused, Cal looks in the direction of the patrol hut as the first soldier reacts to his colleague's alertness and immediately raises his gun taking aim at Cal.

SOLDIER #1

Stop right there!

Cal turns back in the direction of the first soldier and throws his hands up in the air.

INT. BORDER - CAR - DAY

The rain continues to smash down on the roof of the car. Sarah is oblivious to the second soldier's order and activity now going on outside. She pulls at the latch again. The glove compartment flings open. She reaches inside. The sound of glass smashing echoes throughout the car as a bullet enters her temple.

EXT. BORDER - DAY

Cal immediately turns in the direction of the gunshot and screams out in horror.

CAL

Sarah!

He forgets about his own situation and races over to the passenger door. The first soldier follows Cal's every move with his firearm.

Cal opens the door and pulls Sarah from the car. He drops to the ground holding her lifeless body against his. Gently, he rocks her back and forth oblivious to the torrential downpour. Cal reaches for Sarah's hand and removes a lighter from her clenched fist.

He cries out again in agony...

CAL

Sarah!

FADE TO BLACK:

SUBTITLE: THE ONLY VICTIM'S OF WAR ARE THE INNOCENT.

FADE OUT.