

SCENE 1: The Beginning

EXT. The Trenches, Bear side - Day

Sunlight covered the field. Clouds loomed on the horizon. Vultures roamed the skies waiting for the battle the begin.

GENTLE BREEZE WHISTLES THROUGH THE TRENCHES

Bears fill the trenches waiting for battle. Other bears can be heard in the tents making what little food they have left & working on their weapons.

The sound of a hammer clanging on metal roams the camp. A bear is crafting weapons. A solider named Strickland walks up to the maker.

STRICKLAND:

"Will these be ready before the doves arrive?"

WEAPONS MAKER:

"Yes. I should have a few bayonets for your rifles by then"

STRICKLAND

"Good."

The solider looked to the sky. Dark clouds loomed over head. Vultures roamed the skies waiting for the battle to begin. The stench of bodies filled the air.

STRICKLAND: (contin)

"Weather's turning. We shouldn't fight today."

The weapons maker looked up to the Solider.

WEAPONS MAKER:

"We've fought on worse days. There's nothing different about today."

STRICKLAND:

"There's always something different. Each day brings something new even in war. I'm just worried about Robert. He's leading his squadron for the first time."

WEAPONS MAKER:

"We need to stop the foxes. They stole our supplies and we're fighting to get it back. It's a noble cause. Your son is one of our best to take charge."

STRICKLAND:

(scoffs)

"A noble cause. There's nothing noble about bears dying for a cause that most are too young to even remember how it began...Robert doesn't even remember it."

The Soldier searches the battlefield as if looking for any recognizable feature from the past. The weapons maker returned his attention to his work.

STRICKLAND (to self)
"I'm sick of this."

The soldier looks to the weapons maker and studies his face. Strickland is looking for something. He's cautious for some reason.

STRICKLAND (to Weapons maker)
"You're too young to remember this, but it didn't use to be like this. Things were peaceful. Finally at peace when the humans were gone. It took time, but eventually everything returned to a balance. Until one day, I stumbled upon a bear and fox talking to each other. I was far away so I couldn't tell what was being said, so I kept walking. When I heard gunshots, I ran to the bear and fox. I didn't see the battle, but I found the bodies. The bodies of a fox and bear. It was difficult to tell, who killed whom or if both were murdered by someone else. The news of this spread and mutated into what we see today. The Doves took the news across lands, they must've been watching me because I hadn't seen them by the bodies. I tried explaining that we couldn't tell who started it and who ended it, but no one listened. If they did listen, they didn't care....so then two sides start fighting a war over speculations and gossip. Everything spread like wildfire. My good friend of 50 years, a fox, was the only one who believed me. Arnold was his name."

WEAPONS MAKER
(to himself)
"Robert was right. His dad loves giving speeches"

STRICKLAND (contin)
"Too many bears have died for this."

WEAPONS MAKER- looks around the camp and spots a few younger soldiers with Robert. He stands grabbing the carefully crafted weapons.

WEAPONS MAKER
(to STRICKLAND)
"I'll have your weapons ready before you head into battle."
WEAPONS MAKER- Stood and left the soldier to talk to Robert and the young soldiers.
Doves gathered at nearby tree. Waiting for the general.

STRICKLAND-He sees the doves in the tree above where the weapons maker spoke with the young soldiers.

The dogs of war are loose.

SCENE 2: The Battle

EXT: BATTLEFIELD -AFTERNOON

We follow the Strickland as he trudges through the field. The weapons maker stopped Strickland to hand him his weapon.

The STRICKLAND walked with the young soldiers behind him. The battle rages on in front of them.

STRICKLAND-Bullets zoom by as he takes cover. His adrenaline spikes. His rage builds. He peers over the rocks and sees a fox hiding behind cover. The young bear soldiers charged onward. Perpetuating the violence.

GENERAL BEAR (off screen)
"What are you doing?! FIRE!"

STRICKLAND- biting through his resentment, he looks once more at the cowering fox across the field. His breathing calms. He looks over his cover and takes aim the young fox. A clear shot at the unaware fox. His finger lies on the trigger. That's all it takes. A simple pull of a trigger to change lives. To change the world. To change history. So much power stored in this simple action. It's too easy. He stares the young fox still unaware of the danger he's in. He growls that he can't do anything about to stop the violence.

The Young Fox sees Strickland with his rifle aimed at him.

STRICKLAND- takes aim at the Young Fox at the same time the Young Fox aims at him. He pulls the trigger.

SUDDENLY, his gun exploded in his face and the Young Fox fires at STRICKLAND striking him in his shoulder.

STRICKLAND- his body lay on the battlefield. Bleeding from his face and shoulder, Soldier Bear quivers from his wounds.

With one last glance at his gun, he noticed someone had tampered with it.

Before he could yell to Robert, a young bear who was medical aid dragged him off the field out of sight out the bears and began to bury him. Strickland writhed in pain. Tried squirming so the young bear could see that he was still alive. But the young bear knew, he just didn't care.

Before Strickland was buried, he uttered one last word.

STRICKLAND (dying breath)
"Alicia.."

Soon, STRICKLAND was erased from this earth. Buried 6ft under the battlefield amongst the corpses of those he silenced.

ROBERT (Same moment)- fighting valiantly on the battlefield. Sees his get hit with a bullet and scream with rage. He sees the medical bear run to his father. His squadron searches the field and find the origin of the bullet. They charge the field and fire at the young fox who shot their comrade.

The young fox ducks behind cover and then runs towards a cottage off the battlefield.

Robert's Squadron give chase until an older fox soldier intercepts them. They knew he was a veteran from his tattered clothing, experienced fighting, and unwavering conviction to give it his all. That didn't matter. Robert's Squadron was out for blood. They sought to tear this fox apart for protecting the fox who shot Robert's father.

Robert gave out his bellowing roar at the veteran fox. The fox stepped back. Afraid, but he recognized that voice. As the other bears in Robert's Squadron tried attacking the fox directly, the veteran fox outmaneuvered them.

The agility of the fox and lumbering movements of the bear kicked up a dust storm that surrounded the four of them. The sunlight illuminated the dust until the 4 of them were surrounded in a sheath of light.

The veteran fox still looked at Robert as the bears grew tired.

VETERAN FOX
(sees name sticked on uniform)
"Robert? Robert Strickland?"

ROBERT: (growling)
"That will be the last name you hear!"

ROBERT-lunged towards the veteran fox with the grace of a fencer. The veteran fox barely leaped out of danger.

VETERAN FOX

"Robert! Wait! It's me Arnold. I was friends with your father!"

ROBERT (growling)

"My father told me Arnold is dead! Why should I believe you?"

ARNOLD

"We were friends before the war. Played games every weekend."

The bears surrounded Arnold. The dust continues to float around them providing a veil of privacy. As Arnold tells his story, the bears calm down.

ARNOLD (contin)

"You were only 2 or 3 when the war started. I'm sorry about your mother. She-"

Arnold stops talking immediately.

ROBERT (solemnly)

"How did she die?"

ARNOLD

"Your father managed to save you, but he couldn't save her."

ROBERT

"He told me that she died when someone bombed my home."

ARNOLD

"Your father tried to protect you from this war from the beginning."

One of the bears hears glass shattering in the distance. He tries to alert Robert, but Robert doesn't pay attention.

ROBERT

"Who bombed my home? The Foxes?"

The other bear begins to hear it also. They notice doves flying towards a cottage in the distance. They try to alert Robert.

ARNOLD

"No. A bear tried to murder you, your father, and your mother."

SUDDENLY, a shot was heard and Arnold fell to the ground.

Robert bent down and tried to revive Arnold.

ARNOLD (dying breath)

"She's alive."

The other bears charged the cottage. They knew where the shot came from and who took it. The same guy who shot at Robert's father. Robert rushed towards them.

SCENE 3: Home

INT: Cottage

BEARS-burst through the front door. Breathing heavily.

Robert's Squadron begin to search the house. They split up. Robert & one of his teammates search the first floor while the other searches the second.

Robert slowly creeps through the house. He hears a clicking noise and readies his weapon.

CLICK.

Robert sees the projection of images on the wall. It was his childhood.

CLICK.

Robert and his teammate walked into the living room. Both transfixed by the joy and peaceful world that used to exist. For the first time, he sees a bear, his mother, with all of her heavenly warmth. Just how his father described her.

CLICK

It was alien world to both of them. No fighting in the slides, only joy.

CLICK.

Robert's teammate heard the unlocking of a weapon and searches for it. He finds the body of the dead bear on the ground.

Robert kneels beside the body of the slain bear. He turns the body over and studies its face. He recognizes it. It's the same face in the projected images.

CLICK.

It's his mother. Tears stream down Robert's face. He sees the fox standing in front of him but he doesn't care. He's lost everyone.

The projector reached its last slide. A Blank Slide.

The white screen illuminated the room. Glowing brightly behind the bears. Casting a bright light on the fox.

Robert looked through his tears at the fox. Just a kid. No older than himself.

The young fox can barely see through the blinding white light. He looks away.

Robert's teammate draws his weapon, but realizes his chamber is empty. He slowly places his weapon on the ground and prepares to lunge towards the fox.

The young fox struggles to stare into the blinding light. The fox aims at him.

Robert's teammate lunges with his claws ready to slit the fox's neck.

The young fox fires.

The bear tackles the young fox to the ground.

THE END.