

BOULDERS

by

Samuel Jurado

Samuel Jurado  
628 Eten  
CDMX  
07730  
4646503231  
samuelaljuma@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. ARMY DESERT CAMP      DAY

The sun is rising on the horizon as we see a bus driving through the endless dunes, which fill the entire view apart from the vestiges of the once great cities of the desert . A pair of big black leather boots blocks the view as the bus approaches the wearer. As the bus arrives the passengers step down from it and the camera focuses on the last one to do so. He doesn't seem happy to be there, as opposed to the other passengers which we can see grinning and rushing where the wearer of the black boots is.

SERGEANT SETH  
(shouting)

Hurry up soldiers! And welcome  
to your new home until you make  
us win the war or die trying!

In an instant, all the soldiers form a horizontal line in front of the Sergeant, except for the last one to come down of the bus, Colt.

SERGEANT SETH  
(Yelling to Colt)

Didn't you hear me soldier? I  
said hurry up. I've got more  
important things to do than  
babysitting you, but we're short  
on staff, so I'm doing this  
quickly.

Colt lines up in the dead center of the line, he hates to be the center of attention so getting called out again would be undesirable. Sergeant Seth paces back and forth through the line as he talks.

SERGEANT SETH  
As you may know, the war we're  
fighting seems to be endless,  
and I'm not here to tell you  
some bullshit like you are the  
last hope of our country and so  
on. I know and you know you're  
here because of one of two  
reasons: You love to kill or  
you just didn't have anywhere  
else to go...

The latter is the case for Colt. The Sergeant words rumble on his head as the Sergeant continues to speak. A few moments pass and Colt comes back on himself, but the Sergeant's speech is already about to end.

SERGEANT SETH  
...In conclusion, because of our  
fruitless attempts to finish  
this war, the government has  
decided it's time to get  
experimental.

The Sergeant points to several wooden crates that were  
previously covered, revealing that they contain young  
canines.

SERGEANT SETH  
Each one of you is going to be  
assigned a canine partner. This  
breed is specifically made for  
the desert environment. They  
are going to be your lifeline on  
your ongoing missions but you  
will have to gain their trust  
and respect.

Colt reluctantly receives his new partner, he didn't signed  
up for this. He never was good maintaining any kind of  
relationship, and now he has to make a strong bond with an  
animal for his own good.

EXT. ARMY TRAINING FACILITIES DAY

We see the soldiers training with their new partners. Colt  
stares down at his with a worried expression.

COLT  
(Diligent but  
insecure)  
Okay uhmmmm...sit down!, roll!,  
jump!

His partner stares back at him and turns its head sideways  
expressing confusion.

COLT  
(To himself)  
Great. Now I'm stuck in here  
with a stupid animal that I  
don't even know how to  
communicate to. Maybe I'm the  
stupid one on that regard,  
everyone else seems to be  
getting along fine with their  
partners.

Colt glances around and sees how his fellow soldiers are  
making great progress towards training their partners. The  
frustration wins him over and he decides to sit besides a  
near boulder and buries his face on his hands.

COLT  
(To himself)  
This is stupid, I should just  
give up and return home.

Colt's partner walks up to him and softly licks his hand then  
it proceeds to curl up between his feet.

COLT  
(To himself,  
happily)  
Huh, seems you haven't given up  
on me as I did.

Colt smiles honestly, no one ever stood by his side like this  
animal did. Everyone, including himself, abandoned all hope  
on him as soon as he failed once.

COLT  
Now that I think about it, I  
haven't named you.

Colt looks back at the boulder he is leaning on and an idea  
crosses his mind

COLT  
I've got it! Since you are  
going to give me support and I  
can lean on you, I'm going to  
name you: Boulder!

Boulder stands up and barks joyful once he hears his new  
name.

COLT  
Yeah, I like it too!.Now come,  
I'm going to try my best to  
seize the chance you gave me!

Weeks pass, and Colt and Boulder's friendship grows strong as  
they train together. They run through the dunes like no  
other partners do, they help each other to cruise through the  
debris of the destroyed desert cities and they do an  
excellent job at protecting each others back.

EXT. SERGEANT SETH'S OFFICE     NIGHT

Colt enters the Sergeant's office, he is sitting in his desk  
looking at a map of the region.

COLT  
You wanted to see me Sergeant?

SERGEANT SETH

(Serious Tone)

I'm going to be very straightforward, kid. I need to send you and your canine partner on a mission you might not get back

COLT

I understand, but, may I ask, what mission?

SERGEANT SETH

(Serious Tone)

I need you to infiltrate the enemy base and retrieve a very important USB drive that our sources believe it contains the next plans of attack of our enemies. We have been trying to intercept them over multiple mediums without succeeding, now we think the reason is they don't transmit it over any signal but physically.

COLT

And why us?

SERGEANT SETH

(A bit ashamed)

None of the other soldiers on the program have shown the level of teamwork you and your partner have. We need to succeed on this one, this time you are really the last hope of our country.

Colt nods agreeing on the mission and the Sergeant begins to explain the details of it.

EXT. COLT AND BOULDER'S TENT      NIGHT

Colt begins to tie a not around the center pole of the tent and Boulder's collar. Colt has a frown on his face, but tries to hide it in an effort to not worry Boulder. An effort that's quickly interrupted by Boulder's keen eye.

COLT

(Sad)

I can't really hide it from you, can I?. I'm going on a mission and I may not get back. I've got direct orders to take you with me, but it would be a shame to lose an amazing soldier like you, wouldn't it?. Don't worry about me, I've trained with the best.

Colt walks to the exit of the tent and looks back to see Boulder one last time.

COLT

(Holding his  
tears)

Thanks for supporting me!

Boulder whimpers as he sees his partner walking away without him. The hours past and Colt does not return, but Boulder does not find peace waiting for him at the tent, so he starts nibbling nervously and rapidly at his leash until he breaks free. He begins to sniff in search of Colt's scent and, as soon as he finds it, he begins to run at it.

EXT. ENEMY FORT     NIGHT

Boulder arrives at the enemy's Fort, he tracks down Colt's scent down to an obscure cellar. The entrance seems to be closed but there's a tiny ventilation port at one of the sides. Boulder uses some wooden crates to climb up and then he manages to sneak into the cellar.

INT. DETENTION CELLAR     NIGHT

At the center of the cellar, tied to a metal chair and lighted by a harsh white light is Colt who is equally happy and angry to see Boulder there.

COLT

(Whispering  
angry)

You stubborn dog! I thought I've told you to stay in the tent!

Boulder licks frantically Colt's face and then starts nibbling on the ropes that tie him.

COLT

(Whispering)

Hurry up partner, it's a matter of time before they figure out what I've stolen from them and...Shit! They're coming, hide somewhere!.

Boulder squeezes himself behind some barrels and Colt tucks his hand behind his back to pretend he is still tied. Some kind of officer, and two guards, enter the cellar speaking an unintelligible language, nonetheless by the tone of their voice is very clear that they are not happy. The officer begins to yell at Colt and beats him up. At that point Boulder jumps from his hiding spot and throws himself against the officer's face.

COLT

Good job Boulder! But I've  
would have liked to have some  
kind of signal

Colt uses the confusion to disarm and neutralize the guards. When all seems settled Colt reaches his pocket and draws the USB to his hand.

COLT

(Panting)

We did it partner!. Well, you  
did it. I would still be tied  
to that chair if it wasn't for  
you. Take care of this for me,  
I want everybody to know who is  
the hero that ended the war.

Colt pats Boulders head and signals him to go ahead to watch out for more guards. After doing so he began to inspect the guards and Officer in search for weapons and ammo. Then, a dim beeping sound starts. Colt knows exactly what's happening. He quickly reaches the cellar door and takes a good last look at his best friend, the one he didn't wanted but certainly needed, as he closes the cellar door to protect Boulder from the explosion.

The explosion does not reach Boulder, he seems astonished to what is happening and his sadness is immense, but his best friend gave him an order and is his duty to honor that. He turns around and rushes back to the army camp, before anyone sees what happened.

INT. ARMY CAMP DAY

Boulder arrives at the camp, visibly tired and with a loss look on his face. Sergeant Seth receives him and gently pats his back.

SERGEANT SETH

Rest now, Soldier, you have done  
enough.

Hearing this words, Boulder curls up as he used to do at Colt's feet and deeply inhales his last breath. Apparently some metal fragments managed to get to his stomach but that didn't stop him from fulfilling his mission. Now he can rest besides his partner and best friend.

According to Sergeant Seth's report, the information

retrieved from the USB was crucial for winning the war. The canine partner project became known all around the country as also did the heroes who helped terminate the war. Now their bravery, compromise and friendship is immortalized somewhere on a main square, in the newly revitalized country on the form of a statue of both of them.

FADE OUT:

THE END