

This part of the play will give a representation of the moments when soldiers tell their loved ones about joining the military and how their reactions can be either similar or different. As well as the steps they take to obtain their goal.

Daryl: David

Mom: Rebecca

Daryl:

“Mom...”

Mom:

“Yes what is it Daryl?”

Daryl:

“I have something to tell you.”

Daryl:

“It’s really important.”

Mom:

“What do you have to tell me that’s so important?”

Mom:

“Why would you want to join the navy you could die?”

Daryl:

“I am only planning on serving for the required four years just so I can get a free ticket to California and try to get into the music industry.”

Mom:

“But I might never get to see you again”

(Mom starts crying while Daryl gives her a hug)

Daryl:  
"I'll be ok."

***(scene fades out)***

***(next scene)***

Larry: Nate  
Jose: Truman  
Sara: Rebecca

*(Set in Larry's living room. Larry is sitting on the couch along with his mom and dad facing toward him. He is serious and sitting nervously. )*

**LARRY**

So, I wanted to talk to you guys about what I want to do. (Looks down, then looks up at his parents) I know you probably won't like it, but I need to get away. Not from my family, but it's tiring being here in this town and I want to get to know more of the world.

**JOSE**

What have you decided to do? (Looks at Sara)

**LARRY**

I want to join the marines, like how you did. I kind of want to follow your steps and I want to feel what it's like.

**SARA**

What? (Stares at Larry in shock) Why don't you go to school instead? And get a degree? You can get a job and stay here with your family, and even make a family of your own.

**JOSE**

Sara! You have to let him make his own decisions! (Looks at Sara then back at Larry)

**LARRY**

Dad, it's okay. I understand. But I'm still going to do it, no matter what you say. And I can still go to school mom, once I finish and retire. Plus, they will pay for it.

**SARA**

Ugh! (Put hands to her face, then brings them down) I just don't want to worry about losing you like I did with your dad! And what if something happens! You wouldn't know what it would feel like.

(Sara gets up and leaves the room)

**LARRY**

Mom! Why can't you respect what I want? You always tell me that you will support me!

(Sara stops and looks at Jose)

**SARA**

It's not that I don't support you it's just...

**JOSE**

Look Sara, nothing happened to me and nothing is going to happen to him. It will be alright. He knows what to do. (Looks at Larry) Right?

*(scene fades out)*

*(next scene)*

Petty Officer: David

Scooter: Truman

**Petty Officer MEPS:**

"Hi! Your Daryl right?"

**Scooter:**

"Yes thats me."

**Petty Officer MEPS:**

"You're right on time, please come on in."

(scooter sits down and closes the door behind him)

**Scooter:**

"Thank you for this opportunity."

**Petty Officer MEPS:**

"No problem. First off, why are you interested in the N.A.V.Y?"

(printer is buzzing and beeping)

**Scooter:**

"For me the biggest reason I can think of is my passion for entertainment and music so my first thought was California and the opportunity it comes with."

**Petty Officer MEPS:**

"Ok, I can't say I haven't heard that one before."

(they both slightly grin)

**Scooter:**

"Yeah, If I had a better answer I would tell you but honestly the biggest reason why I's to get to California."

**Petty Officer MEPS:**

"Alright, fair enough."

**Scooter:**

"So, If I may...How did you become a MEPS Petty Officer?"

(both the petty officer and scooter are looking each other in the eye)

**Recruiter:**

"Well I Was a N.A.V.Y guy and I just enjoy helping people and I got lucky enough for this job to basically just to fall into my lap, since they were looking for a recruiter and I had the experience. With the right training of course."

**(scene fades out)**

**(next scene)**

Nick: Nate

Syd: Daya

Nick:

I've finally got my orders!

*(Nick runs up to Syd's house)*

Nick:  
baby come open the door! I have something to tell you!

Syd:  
haha what are you gonna take me out?

Nick:  
no I'll tell you when I come in

*(opens door and sits down)*

Nick:  
babe I finally got my orders and I wanted to open them with you.

Syd:  
really? tell me all about it

Nick:  
I deploy to Texas on april 2

Syd:  
i'm so happy .....(Looks down to the floor then back up)

Nick:  
what's wrong? you're trembling

Syd:  
nothing im just really happy I suppose.

Nick:  
don't lie to. me I know you better there is something bothering you.

Syd:  
its just that, that date is coming up and I need you.

Nick:  
listen I know what you're thinking but this is the path I have chosen .

Syd:  
I know I know ..

Nick:

I care alot about you and your family , if you would like id be happy for you to come with me.

Syd:

i'd love that but its not what I need right now ... I feel like I still need to take care of my problems here.

Nick:

ill give you time to think about it, I'm always here for you , just be patient with me.

*(Nick gets up from the couch where they were talking and leaves to give sydney space)*

*Nick:*

*sitting in my car I start to think about what I had to do to get to this point. thinking back all the way from boot camp and college to telling my family I decided to join the airforce. there was a point where I thought about leaving the air force just to be with 1 person, I was put into this situation were I had to make a decision best for me again.*

Syd:

(syd sits there thinking) Should I go with him? Maybe I could make it work... Wait, no. My mom wouldn't appreciate that especially because I promised her I would help more around the house and find a job. Knowing myself, I wouldn't even attempt at finding a job if I didn't have to. I care about him and I want him to pursue what he's been working so hard for. But I need him right now.

Daya:

When my son began high school, he decided that he wanted to serve his country as a US Marine. After he graduated, he went off to the 13 week boot camp the summer of 2013. Followed by a test, *Crucible*, which all recruits have to go through in order to officially get the title of a US Marine. That lasted 54 hours. 54 hours of walking with loads of weight on him, very few hours of sleep, and no communication whatsoever. It was all hell for me. I was used to seeing my outgoing, funny, young man around the house and when he came back from school and on weekends when we would sit on the couch and watch movies together. When he came back I noticed a big change in him; he matured, but he was just so quiet now. It seemed as if he came back incomplete because he definitely left a part of him back at bootcamp. Soon after that, my son was called for a deployment to Iraq. Its like all these memories of his childhood came to my mind. After thinking about everything he went through in bootcamp, and knowing that he was going to be gone for an indefinite amount of time, I entered a sort of denial phase. I no longer watch the news, read the newspaper, or even listen to what the radio has to say about the current situation. I'm afraid of what I might see or hear about the wars. I'm afraid of the thought of my child being one of those armed men out there, surrounded by danger. There is not a night when I don't pray for the best and cry myself to sleep because my mind is trying to

cram all my thoughts together. My son, my son, MY SON. I want the best for him, and is it dangerous and filled with risks? Of course it is, and I am aware of that. But as a mother, I have to support him. I've learned to support him because his future is no longer in my hands. It was his decision and it's what makes him happy. Therefore I am, or at least want to be, happy.

**(scene fades out)**

**(End of Act 1)**

The soldiers in this scene begin and experience their first mission and end up realizing that it isn't what they had in mind.

## Part 2

**John Matthew:**

My name is Michael Jenkins but you can call me ill mike. I joined the Marines in June of 2005, the elite. I have always welcomed competition, and the marines could challenge my limits. I know the physical part will be hard but what will be the most testing for me is the mental challenges. The training is all about mind over matter. Although they say these tests are what prepares us for war, I know not even Marine boot camp will be enough. I know that I will become a different person and people might perceive me differently but I will change only for the better. Better disciplined, learn special values that I share with other friends, that are friends for life, the Marines.

**(Jacob)** (exits the stage)

(Sam and recruiter are walking and talking)

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

So you signed up to be a fireman acquaintance?

**Sam (Wendy):**

Yes Sir, I did

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

Let me tell you something (approaching a door) before the navy ships ran on diesel, they were run of coal and in here we like to keep it old school. Since you decided to join as an fireman acquaintance, you're going to be the one underneath shoveling the coal. (opening the door and walks in)

(Sam has his eyes wide open surprised, watching people shovel coal)

**Sam (Wendy):**

What the heck! I didn't think that I would be shoveling coal under a boat! (covers his nose) OH MY GOD!! WHAT'S THAT SMELL!!

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

That's the smell of hard work and sweat.

**Sam (Wendy):**

Wait, you didn't tell me I would be doing this.

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

Well you didn't ask.

**Sam (Wendy):**

I went to college for this?! This isn't happening. I didn't imagine myself shoveling coal for a living.

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

Look son, we don't like people crying here because they didn't expect this job. Now what I'm asking you to do is be a man and suck it up.

**Sam (Wendy):**

Wait but sir, I.. (recruiter cuts him off)

**Recruiter (Kevin):**

(with a loud voice) Son, didn't you just hear what I said. SUCK IT UP!! You're a man right?

**Sam(Wendy):**

Yes sir.

**Recruiter:**

Then be a man and do your job and stop crying like a little girl.

**Sam (Wendy):**

You know what screw this I'm studying to be a corpsman.

(Sam And Recruiter walk off stage together)

(lights fade out: End scene)

(lights fade in)

(5:00 AM, Afghanistan, sun rising over the horizon.)

**(John Mathew) Michael**



“Wake up”

(Sebastian jerks up looks around after waking up from a nightmare.)

**(Kevin) Sebastian**

“I’m up”

(As Abraham walks in the sunlight hits Sebastian in the face, his hand jerks up to cover his eyes from the early morning sunlight.)

**(Wendy) Abraham**

“Get up, shower, and eat. Debriefs in 20 for today’s mission.”

(Sebastian turns and sits on his bed, takes a deep breath, then stands up and heads for the shower.)

*End Scene*

(Truck passes by behind Sebastian. Sebastian walks into the tent and takes a seat)

**(Christian) Mark**

“As some of you might have heard we have received new vehicles. They were specifically built to protect us from IEDs.

**Mark**

“The main difference is that they have shock absorbing plating that will help during explosions.

The plating is the strongest under the the vehicle, so the vehicle would not be majorly damaged. We will be using these from now on as we head into missions”

**Abraham (Wendy)**

“ Alright ladies get your gear, refill on water and ammo lets head out on today's mission.”

*(lights fade out)*

*End Scene*

*(lights fade in)*

**Marine #1**

**(John Matthew)**

This house lets go!

**Marine#2**

**(Kevin)**

Prepare to breach!

(Marine Kicks door down)

(Women and kids screaming)

**Marine #1**

Get him on the floor now! Clear the rest of this house!  
(Marine Gets Man on the floor)

**Liam**

**(Christian)** I'm on it!  
(Liam goes throughout the house but finds nothing)

House is clear!

(Marine #1 interrogates the man of the house)

**Liam**

Doesn't this feel wrong to you?

**Marine #2**

What feels wrong?  
(Marine pulls out a cigarette and lights it)

**Liam**

Coming into someone's house like this. We are telling the man of the house where to go in his own house. This is where he should feel protected and we are taking that away from him and his whole family.

**Marine #2**

I guess it's wrong but this is our job. You'll forget about this later.

(Liam walks outside disgruntled and watches the outside of the house)

(Lights fade out)  
(End of Act 2)

In this episode, different soldiers go through similar experiences of interacting with Iraqis and realize the positive impact they give to them and how it can change both their lives.

### **Part 3**

**Kristine:** I was deployed to Iraq in 2003, leaving my 4 year old daughter and 6 year old son. That was one of the hardest things. I went to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a UH-60 pilot. Yeah, it was a lot, but I find it easier to think about the good we did for those people. While I was out there I flew 6-8 hours everyday, seeing everything. I decided that seeing it wasn't enough and wanted to take part in some community service within those

villages. This was when I saw what I could do for those communities; for those we wrongfully effected with our war.

*(End Scene)*

*(Rob and Marine enter stage right. Za'atar enters stage left and kneels on ground, digging. Rob adjusts his sniper towards the man. Marquez positions himself right next to Rob)*

**Rob:** It's way past their curfew. Can you give me more of what they're doing Marquez?

*(Marques looks through his binoculars)*

**Marquez:** It looks like they're digging. Possibly a mortar.

*(Rob puts his head down and breathes heavily.)*

**Marquez:** Take the shots, Robins.

**Rob:** Something doesn't feel right.

*(Marquez looks at Rob, and places a hand on Rob's shoulder for comfort.)*

**Marquez:** I can see you're not comfortable with this, but you need to take the shots. You don't want to be remembered for not disarming a possible mortar attack on a U.S. embassy, a convoy, or our base for that...

**Rob:** *(Interjecting)* And if we're wrong!? I could have more families that want me dead because I put down three more innocent civilians. *(Picks up radio)* I need a humvee to scout three suspicious individuals south of the base, over.

*(Marquez glares at Rob.)*

*(End Scene)*

*A small room in a military compound with sparse furnishing, beds and a table with two chairs. The room is clearly only used for sleeping.*

*(To share his experience with Iraqis, and talk about their bravery and kindness)* **Jack:** I became friends with two Iraqis, brothers, named Mohammed and Za'atar Shaikh. They were powerful people in their provinces, like tribal leaders, and they were my friends. They were prideful men who had earned their spots of power. They knew about the SEAL's, and they wanted us to train their militia. So, I worked closely with them and their men. And I found the Iraqis to be kind people, who joked and laughed. They didn't deserve a war. Yet they sacrificed themselves for

me. Za'atar was killed by a suicide bomber in an IED vest, and I don't know where Mohammed is anymore.

*(Jack sits in one chair looking at a map. Za'atar enters stage left and sits on the other side of Steve.)*

*(Courtesy)* **Za'atar:** Hello Jack, how are you?

*(Compliment)* **Jack:** *(Shakes hand)* I'm okay, thanks. You did good out there today, your men are getting stronger.

*(Admirance)* **Za'atar:** Ha, yet you continue to squash us. Everyone is moaning back in our barracks.

*(Reassurance)* **Jack:** They're building up to it, don't worry. Tell me Za'atar, why did you and your brother want *(emphasis)* us to train your men?

*(Admirance, curious)* **Za'atar:** *(smiling)* Isn't it obvious? You Seals are some of the fiercest fighters I've ever seen. We want to be trained to be just as good! Now, let me ask a question of my own: Why did you choose this path?

*(Confusion)* **Jack:** Excuse me?

*(Curious, observant)* **Za'atar:** Why did you decide to be a warrior? You are obviously motivated.

*(Thoughtful thinking)* **Jack:** *(Pause)* Well, when I was a kid I ditched class one day and *(chuckles)* somehow I found a book about elite warriors in the library. I was intrigued to say the least, and I wanted to become one. I guess I never really deviated from that dream. I was always getting into trouble as a kid, so becoming a fighter just seemed to make sense, ya know. What about you?

*(Passive aggressive sadness)* **Za'atar:** *(Chuckles)* You may have opportunities in your country, but here everyone must fight to survive. Saying you're a civilian just trying to make an honest living won't change the direction of the bullets.

*(Curious)* **Jack:** So if there wasn't a war then you wouldn't be a soldier?

*(Prideful)* **Za'atar:** I would be doing whatever my people would need me to do. I am a leader for them, as is my brother. They look to us for guidance, and we do what we can to ensure their safety. It's a hard position, but I'm sure you would do the same for your people.

*(Comparison, compliment)* **Jack:** *(Laughs)* Well that's why I'm here I guess, in this war. Trying to keep my people safe. You seem to be holding up fine though. People here respect you, listen to you.

*(Realistic, truthful)* **Za'atar:** Yes, but that also makes me a target. Everyone knows I'm willing to die for my people, but that doesn't mean I want to.

*(Reassuring)* **Jack:** Well, the faster we train those men of yours, the quicker we can end this war. They've rested for a while now, I'll go and pick them up for another circuit soon.

*(Informative)* **Za'atar:** That sounds good, I must go myself. I'm heading out to meet an informant in town.

*(Cautioning)* **Jack:** It's already dark, you'll be more vulnerable.

*(Cocky reasoning)* **Za'atar:** *(cocky smile)* I'm always vulnerable. But the information this man has may help ensure my people's safety.

*(Farewell)* **Jack:** Stay safe yourself then.

*(Farewell)* **Za'atar:** I will do my best, friend. Good-bye.

*(Za'atar exits stage left. Jack grabs radio and listens to orders.)*

*(Informative)* **Operator:** We need a humvees to scout 3 suspicious individuals South of the base, over.

*(Acknowledgement)* **Jack:** Copy, over.

*(End Scene)*

*(Za'atar enters stage left and crouches over, making digging motions. Rob, Marquez, and Claire enter stage right.)*

*A humvee appears on the scene. Jack and another marine get out and shine lights on the three individuals. They motion them to stop what they're doing and put their hands up. The marine motions to them to sit on the side of the road. Rob grabs his radio.*

**Rob:** Claire, give me an update on the individuals.

**Claire:** I'm getting word that it was an Iraqi uncle with his two nephews.

**Rob:** What are they doing out past curfew?

**Claire:** One of your Seal friends is telling me they were digging to find a water pipe. They had run out of water for his pregnant daughter.

**Rob:** *(Breathes a sigh of relief)* Okay, thank you Claire.

**Claire:** Good call Robins, see you on base.

*(Marquez looks through his binoculars in disbelief.)*

**Marquez:** You don't have to lecture me on this, I'm fully aware...

**Rob:** *(interjects)* Marquez, please. I won't lecture you on what you already know.

*(Rob packs his sniper, stands up and looks down at Marquez.)*

**Rob:** The best shot is the shot we don't have to take.

*(End Scene.)*

*(Kristine enters stage left and stands center stage.)*

**Kristine:** Since then, I knew I was capable of making a difference, so I decided to give my all to that little town. We would fly over the schools in our helicopters and drop soccer balls and candy bombs for the children. They were always scared of us flying so low and so loudly, but they soon realized our intentions. I was able to build a children's center, form a soccer league, and help in the establishment of the Woman's University of Tikrit. I not only helped the community, but I met so many inspirational people along the way. Those are just some of the accomplishments that I pride myself in my time serving, but I think the greatest was seeing the children we had dropped candy bombs and soccer balls to. Two years later, we could see them down there no longer scared of us, but looking up at us, kicking and shouting, and it felt good knowing that I had done what I could to help these people. But now I was ready to go home.

*(End of Act 3.)*

Imagine leaving your family and going across the world for over a year. Once you come back, you are never the same.

#### **Part 4**

#### **Middle Group #2**

*Andres and Sierra enter (with couch?). Andres sits on couch and Sierra sits on floor with doll.*

*Nazaria walks up to center stage*

Quinlan: My husband deployment changes every time the news changes. It is hard because sometimes he isn't suppose to be leaving for another six months but one thing changes and he will be leaving in the next two days. I pack up all his things then he is gone. I never really know when he will be back or where he is. He calls me when he can on a satellite phone. I miss him but I'm not the only one, of course he has family, friends and our daughter Molly who is three years old. She is the one affected by it the most she has separation anxiety from her father leaving so much. His job is very important to him, he is an IED specialist, very exclusive thing and very adrenaline filling. He can't go back to a normal job anymore because he has been in it too long where a normal job isn't enough. He has always been like that; searching for adventure and adrenaline. So I don't want to blame it on his job. Now you're probably wondering is my husband a changed person. I've been with him seven years and I can see the changes, but everyone changes. His changes aren't big, he is just always alert and as his wife I have adapted to that. Not only accepting it but paying attention when he is being alert. Always being alert to him. I'm not blaming him or saying that its his fault but a lot more people get affected than you would think.

(End Scene)

(Chief Baldwins Living room, 11 p.m)

*Nazaria walks to Andres and tries to comfort him. He is frozen and she slowly turns away. Andres gets up and starts pacing around.*

Chief Baldwin:

I don't why i'm still here, I don't know why i'm feeling this way, I have no other choice. Im sorry.

Grace:

I'm here for you, you're children are here for you, what are you teaching your children if you keep drinking yourself unconscious? nothing.

Chief Baldwin:

I feel trapped and I feel like i'm reliving the moment when I experienced my life in real danger, I don't see anything the same I don't think it'll change.

Lindsay:

Daddy everything will be ok I promise

Chief Baldwin:

Lindsay sweetheart i'm so sorry, i've missed and I love you so much.

Grace:

Listen Dan, as long as you're here with us, your safe, nothing can hurt you.

Chief Baldwin:

Even though i'm home it still feels like i'm in Iraq, I'm not comfortable being around a crowd of people, I'm not comfortable being at a firework show, it just doesn't feel right.

Lindsay:

What do you mean daddy?

Chief Baldwin:

Lindsay please, go to your room, i'll see you in the morning.

*Nazaria escorts Sierra off the stage. Chief Baldwin picks up Lindsay's doll and addresses it.*

Goodnight and sweetdreams.

*Chief Baldwin is staring at doll as lights fade to black.*

### **Kristine**

*Kristine enters and stands in middle of stage.*

I faced many struggles during my deployment and the one that I struggled with the most was leaving my kids when they were only 4 and 6. When I left them it broke my heart because I knew that I wouldn't be there to watch them grow up and I wouldn't be there to share memories with them like a normal mom would. There were many days when I would only think about aubrey and cooper and how much I miss being with them. I miss waking them up for school, I miss asking them how their day was at dinner time and I miss giving them a goodnight kiss before bed. I would give up anything for my kids and I know that being here in Iraq is not only helping all the children here but also helping my own.



*Sierra Exits.*

(A few months later)

(It was Chief Baldwin's last day before being deployed to Iraq, Location at his house around 5 p.m)

*Nazaria enters with clothes and sits on the couch and begins to fold them, Andres follows with a bag and begins packing the folded clothes*

Lindsay:

Daddy why do you have to go?

Chief Baldwin:

I'm sorry honey but it's just something I have to do, for the sake of the citizens of America and my family.

Lindsay:

But I want you to stay.

Chief Baldwin:

Time goes by fast, here.. I got you this stuffed bear to remember me by when i'm gone.

(Baldwin knew his only regret was that as time goes by he won't get to see both his son and daughter grow up and he knows he won't be there when they do grow.)

Grace:

Good luck out there, we'll miss you. I love you so much and you know I'm here with you for anything.

Chief Baldwin:

I'm blessed to have you in my life, I love you too. I will be off soon.  
(end scene)

Brandon:

I left my services 8 years ago. The reason I joined the military was because I wanted to prove to myself that I can be a better man. I thought joining the military was going to be simple, by leaving my family behind I realized I need them more than I thought I did. When I came back home I met someone that was going to change my life forever, a person that I thought I was never going to love more than my own family, and myself. Few years past by I married that beautiful for girl that I loved so much that I now call my wife. One day I got a letter in the mail box that said I was going to get re-deployed when I saw it I told my wife . My wife started to bring up stuff that I didn't want to hear because I didn't want to hear worrying about me. She started saying stuff like... "What will

happen if you don't come back". "What happens if I never see you again". "What happens if this is the last time I will see you". I tried my best to calm her down by talking to her that I would be alright and nothing going was going to happen to me. I told her that I will never leave her that i will always be by her side. When the time came that I have to get re-deployed I promised her that I will keep contact with her every single day. When I came back I quit the military just for her so she doesn't have to get worried about me ever again.

(end of act 4)

How would it feel to lose your legs and never be able to walk again? In this scene, soldiers share similar traumatic experiences that change their lives forever.

### Part 5

#### Valeria's Monologue:

(Eugene is in a tank on the top surrounded by other men)

I was sent on tour to Iraq for 38 months. I was on patrol day and night, I never really had a chance to relax, I never felt calm. I was always alert and preparing myself to expect the unexpected. I felt the adrenaline rush up and down my body.

(sound of gunshots, yelling men)

When I least thought of it, we were ambushed. Gun fires, the hot sticky weather, men yelling, "Get Down!", that was all I could hear. Many men were down and I was wounded three times. I was shot on the back of the neck by a sniper. I remember the bullet spun around my helmet and then into my neck, and suddenly, everything went black.

(scene fades black)

I was knocked out. I woke up in a hospital in Baghdad. I was out for a couple of days until I became conscious. The second time I was wounded on my left arm, and then on my right leg by a hand grenade.

(loud explosion and flash of lights)

(Dwayne falls in and out of concenciness)

Dwayne: (mono) The air was cold but the warmth of the humvees tire warms my back. I can hear the ringing of my gunman screaming in pain. The orange glow surrounds me and lights up the the area. I can feel the the blood falling out of my ears. I was cold all over and my mind was going blank.

(fades black)

(sounds of chopper coming down)  
(chopper lands)

Rescue team member 1: Secure the staff sergeant

(Team members rush over to the staff sergeant and puts him on a lift)

Rescue team member 2: Staff sergeant Johnson ?  
Sir?

Dwayne: (mono) I can't feel anything. My mind is thinking too much, or is it? I can't tell anymore.

(Dwayne is lifted up into chopper along with the others)  
(Chopper takes off to base)

**Valeria Sofia:**

**Eli**

I want to go.

[Sergeant sighs]

**Sargeant**

Go where?

**Eli**

I want to go pick up the bodies.

**Sargeant**

Soldier...

**Eli**

Sargeant, please...

**Sargeant**

Are you out of your mind!

**Eli**

Ha funny that you ask, I don't know if you heard but I just created a fucking death trap!  
and now theres arms, legs, and limbs all over the place!

**Sargeant**

Soldier calm down...

**Eli**

How do you want me to calm down?! because of me innocent people died! I'm supposed  
to be making things better here not worst!

**Sargeant**

Look around princess, we are at war! there is no such thing as making things better or  
easier, now for the last time you are not allowed to go into the helicopter landing zone you hear  
me?!

( Stage goes pitch black)

### **Jacob's section**

INT: ER

(Nurses and doctors taking care of patients)

(Sounds of beeps and screams of men)

Doctor: We need to operate immediately and see if we can save his legs.

Nurse: Doctor patient has sustained serious nerve damage and has lost his left and right  
foot due to the explosion. He is losing a lot of blood.

Doctor: Then we don't have much of an option now do we?

Prep the patient for surgery, I need to amputate the patients right leg and  
patch it up, his left leg has to much shrapnel and damage to it, we may need to amputate it as  
well.

(Fades black)

(Dwayne wakes up in hospital bed after operation)

Dwayne: Where the hell am I?

(Patient looks up and stares at dwayne)

Patient: you are in the hospital staff sergeant, and by the looks of it you aren't doing too good. I think you should rest more.

(Dwayne is confused and enraged)

Dwayne: I need to get out of here and get back to my unit, they need me, we were hit last night with an IED.

(Dwayne pushes himself off the bed only to fall on the floor)  
(looks down at legs)

Dwayne: What the fuck!?  
                    What happened!?  
                                    Where the fuck are my legs?!

(Patient screams out for nurse)

(Nurses rushes into room and picks up Dwayne and puts him back on the bed.)

(tears of rage fall from his face)

Dwayne: How did this happen to me? and where is the rest of my unit?

Nurse: The soldiers you were traveling with didn't make it, I'm sorry this happened. We had to amputate your legs because there was too many nerves that have been damaged, you had an immense amount of blood lose and if we didn't amputate what's left and stitch you up you would have died.

Dwayne: You should have left me to die with my men!

(He is filled with rage and is screaming)

Nurse: We tried to save them too. We try not to lose anybody, but unfortunately we do.

(Nurse sedates him and puts him back in bed)  
(Dwayne passes out)

(end of act 5)

In this part, soldiers come home and it doesn't feel right for them, especially for their loved ones. They try to find a way out, but it isn't as easy as they think.

### **Part 6**

#### **Alyssa's Monologue:**

(sits down on chair)

Coming back home I knew I was messed up in the head. I partied a lot and started to drink. I was pretty messed up for 5 years until I met Carmen, we met at a hospital I used to work at. It took quite a while because it was a big adjustment for me. I was pretty wild. I just wanted to go to a bar and get drunk. There wasn't any help back then, I was in the Navy back in 1969, We didn't have any programs to help us like we do now. I had to help myself, It's a self adjustment that some people have to make you know... some people made it and some people didn't. My parents got a divorce when I was 12 years old, I was always alone. Even when I came back home.. I didn't know who or what I was coming home to. Both my parents and sisters were never there and didn't care. Maybe that's why I didn't have a hard time leaving "my family" because I never really had one... Maybe that's why I had to help myself because who would be there to help me through my drinking problem?

(end scene)

#### **Chantal's and Meagan's Monologues**

*(both sitting on opposite sides of the stage)*

Meagan: Oh god, the things he must have seen to make him so depressed, all those times where I felt like he was back in Iraq. A world away from me. When I needed him here.

Chantal: You definitely wouldn't ever think you would have the chance in your lifetime to see these things. It's terrible. It's very traumatic. Once you see them you can't erase them from your memory. It will always be there.

I knew I had to get help but I didn't want it because I was embarrassed. I saw it in a way that having PTSD made you look weak. I didn't want to be seen weak.

Meagan: How could I continue to help other couples work out their own problems when me and my husband couldn't even do it for ourselves? I work out problem after problem with married couples. I encourage them to communicate! Talk to each other! *(mocking, false cheer)* Communication is the number one most important thing in a relationship! *(saddened, more real)* All he needed to do was just talk to me. Is that so hard to ask of somebody?

Chantal: If only it was that easy. Trust is something big as well. When you're out there it's either them or you dying. We are taught to survive, not to kill. So coming back trusting people was hard. You always think twice about a person. Even someone you've known for so long.

Meagan: I should've been better for him, the best goddamn counselor in the world for him to talk to. I was a package deal. Two in one. Wife and therapist rolled into one pretty little package.

Chantal: It's not a switch where you can just turn it off whenever you want to. She just needs to let it go.

Meagan: (look at your one and only) Why wouldn't he let me help him?

(end scene)

### **Cynthia's Monologue:**

*(car crash sound effects blast in the background, once effects fade SAM begins to speak)*  
*(Walks towards chair)*

I was injured in a car wreck *(sits)*, *(To audience)* couple broken bones *(quick pause, rubs forehead)* brain injury left me in a coma for 3 days. I didn't go back after, my injuries were bad and because *(pauses)* one tour was enough, I feel like I did my part and now it's time to move on with my life.

When I got back, I felt *(quick pause)* shock almost. It's very quiet here compared to the helicopters and guns, all that kind of stuff. It's not as busy and the *(SAM spaces out, msnaps out of it as gunshot sound effect blasts)* *(continues speaking)* stakes aren't as high. It's a bit of a trial you know, to see someone get mad because they got their coffee order wrong. Like dude, it really ain't that big of a deal I've seen worse *(laughs a bit)*. So it's a bit of a culture shock I guess.

Switching to civilian life was difficult, going to work, seeing people show up late, forget things. You know, that's the type of stuff that gets you killed over there. You have a different type of mentality. *(To AUDIENCE)* That stays with you. And if you wonder if I'd change anything..no. Yes there are times I would second guess my decisions, but it's not about looking back at the past. It's about living in today. *(pauses)*

I mean it'll take time to heal the wounds, *(To AUDIENCE)* but you know what they say, good things take time *(smiles a bit)*.

*(end of play 1)*