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FADE IN:

INT. A GREYHOUND OR SIMILAR BUS.

A soldier in uniform is looking eagerly out the window. There is an old lady sitting in the seat opposite him, and several people, a hispanic couple, a young punk kid with a mohawk and leather jacket, and a forty something woman surround the soldier.

OLD LADY
Are you going home?

The soldier is staring out the window, but shakes out of it when he realizes that the lady is speaking to him.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Ma'am?

OLD LADY
I'm sorry, but the way you were looking out the window, I thought you were looking for something.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I was.

OLD LADY
You must be looking forward to seeing your parents.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Yes, ma'am, I sure am.

OLD LADY
How long has it been?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Six years ma'am.

OLD LADY
Oh my, that is a long time.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I've been protecting the country ma'am.

OLD LADY
I see. Well, thank you for that young man, and welcome home. What is your name?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Sargeant James H. Grayson the
third, ma'am, my friends call me
Jimmy.

OLD LADY
Well, nice to meet you Sargeant
Grayson.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Call me Jimmy.

OLD LADY
You can call me Mrs. Wilson.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Yes, ma'am.

OLD LADY
Mrs. Wilson.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Yes, Mrs. Wilson.

OLD LADY
Do you have a girlfriend?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I did. I'm not so sure now.

OLD LADY
You didn't write?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Not as much as I should.

OLD LADY
Why not?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Well, Mrs. Wilson, I was a sniper
over there. I spent my days
hiding, and my nights shooting the
enemy. There was no post office
in the field.

OLD LADY
That must have been terrible.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
You get used to it.

OLD LADY
You poor boy.

She is just uttering this sentence when the bus pulls up to the bus stop in a very small town.

BUS DRIVER

Holtana, now arriving in Holtana.
There are no facilities here
people. Next stop is Texarkana in
about thirty minutes. Holtana.

Jimmy gets up and grabs his bag from the overhead.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Nice to meet you ma'am. Er, Mrs.
Wilson.

OLD LADY

Nice to meet you Sargeant James
Grayson.

Mrs. Wilson gives Jimmy a wink and a nod. Jimmy nods back and tips his hat, then exits the bus.

The bus driver has exited and gives Jimmy his large duffel bag from the storage under the bus.

BUS DRIVER

There you go son. Welcome home.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Thank you sir.

BUS DRIVER

Thank you son.

The bus driver gets back on the bus, puts it in gear, and heads off.

It is a small town similar to the setting of Mayberry RFD. Jimmy is at the bus stop.

Jimmy picks up his bag, and looks around. He spots a diner and heads in.

CUT TO:

INT. A DINER

It is a small town diner. Jimmy sets his bags down and sits at the counter. He picks up a menu and begins to study it.

The waitress approached and noticeably is shocked when she recognizes him.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Jimmy? Jimmy Grayson?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
That's me. Karen Donaldson, right?

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
It's Karen Williams now. I don't
know why since I'm not married
anymore, but that's a long story.
How are you?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I'm good. You look good.

Karen adjusts her look a bit nervously.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
I feel good. I guess I'm a morning
person. How about you?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I guess I'm more of a night owl
lately, but I'm looking to change
that.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Well, how about some coffee to get
you started?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
That sounds great, black. I'll
have the special, too.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
How do you want your eggs?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Over easy.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Hash browns or grits?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Hash browns.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Toast? Muffin? Bagel?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Toast sounds good.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Coming up.

Karen turns to the window and puts in the order. She gets a cup and pours a cup of coffee. Jimmy gets up and puts a song on the juke box. They meet back at the same spot. Jimmy takes a drink of the coffee.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS (CONT'D)
Jimmy, can I ask you something?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Sure you can.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Did your parents move or something?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
What do you mean?

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Well, your mom and dad used to come in here about twice a week. Your mom ordered the perch, and always had cobbler. Your dad drank his coffee black, just like you. Well, I haven't seen them in over a year, and I hear they tore down your old house.

Jimmy is shocked. He stands up.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
What?

Jimmy grabs his bags and runs out the door.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Jimmy?

She looks out the window, Jimmy is running down the street. Karen turns to the window where she turned in the order.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS (CONT'D)
Sam, cancel that order.

Karen takes off her apron as she moves toward the door.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

SAM
Where are you going?

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
I'm not sure.

Karen leaves the restaurant hastily.

CUT TO:

EXT. A DINER

Karen is in her car. She starts it, puts it in gear, and starts driving.

CUT TO:

EXT. A SMALL TOWN SIMILAR TO MAYBERRY RFD

Jimmy is running down the road carrying his bags. Karen pulls next to him and stops. Her window is down.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Need a ride?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Yes I do.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Let's go.

Jimmy puts his bags in the back seat, and gets in the front.

CUT TO:

EXT. A FARM

There is a barn and silo, but no house. The barn and silo are surrounded by a field which is where Jimmy's house used to be. Jimmy is standing there with Karen. He is staring in amazement.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
What happened?

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
Nobody knows. They were here, and then one day they were just gone. There was a fire at the house, but they didn't find anyone in there. The city eventually had to clean the lot, and nobody's heard a thing since.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
But that's not possible. Where would they go? What would they do?

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
I don't know. What do you think
happened?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I don't have a clue. I was in
Iraq. I couldn't write. I
couldn't, there was no....I was..

Jimmy is visible shaken. He drops to his knees.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER (CONT'D)
What happened here? Where is my
mom?

Karen stands close to Jimmy and rubs his hair.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
We'll find out. I'll help you.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
You will?

Jimmy stands up.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
You don't think I would leave you
out here, do you?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
You don't have to...

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS
I've known you since we were kids.
It's the least I can do.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Thank you Karen. Thank you.

Jimmy puts his arms around and Karen puts hers around Jimmy.
They both turn to look at the place where Jimmy's family used
to live.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. A SMALL HOUSE

It is Karen's house. She lives alone and the place is neat yet sparse. Karen is scrambling about. Jimmy is sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS

My ex took all the good stuff. There are drinks and food in the fridge. The phone is over there, don't worry about charges. There's a computer in the other room that is on the internet. I have to go back to work. I'll see you about three thirty.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Thank you Karen. And thanks for the coffee.

KAREN WILLIAMS WAITRESS

Don't mention it. I hope you find them.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Me too.

Jimmy is sitting at the kitchen table. He is visibly puzzled. He gets up and goes into the other room and gets on the internet.

CUT TO:

Shot of computer screen. Jimmy is searching for his parents' names. No matches come up. They are gone.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER (CONT'D)

What the heck!

Jimmy has a cell phone in his pocket. It rings. He answers it.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Hello?..... This is James Grayson..... I'll wait.....Captain Dalton?

CUT TO:

I/E A SPLIT SCREEN JIMMY GRAYSON AND CAPTAIN DALTON

CAPTAIN DALTON

Hello Jimmy, how have you been?

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I've been better. My parents are missing.

CAPTAIN DALTON
I know. I was contacted by the FBI. They have them in protective custody.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Why?

CAPTAIN DALTON
For their protection, and yours. You killed a lot of men in Iraq, and there are people in this country that want you dead.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
Are you serious?

CAPTAIN DALTON
I'm afraid so.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
So you burned down my house?

CAPTAIN DALTON
Yes. If we didn't your parent would be dead right now, and so would you. They were waiting for you.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
But how?

CAPTAIN DALTON
We had a mole. He gave out information on our soldiers. Sorry Jimmy. We are in damage control mode now.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
What should I do?

CAPTAIN DALTON
Get out of town. Come back in. We can protect you.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER
I just got out.

CAPTAIN DALTON

If you stay there you are dead. So is anyone who is close to you. These people are professionals. They already wiped out Johnson and his entire family.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Frank?

CAPTAIN DALTON

That's right. He went to his family's home, and the next day everyone in the house was executed.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Jesus.

CAPTAIN DALTON

That's right. Get in here. We need your help.

Jimmy hears a noise. He moves quickly to hide in a cupboard in the kitchen. The door is cracked so Jimmy can see out. He whispers into the phone.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

I'll call you back.

CAPTAIN DALTON

Jimmy?

Jimmy hangs up the phone and pulls back into the cupboard as far as he can.

CUT TO:

INT. KAREN'S CUPBOARD

We get Jimmy's perspective. There is a man looking in a window, then attempting to open the front door. Jimmy notices his duffel bag sitting in the open and quietly says.

JIMMY GRAYSON- SOLDIER

Shit.

The man finds the front door open, and comes in quietly.

MAN AT KARENS HOUSE

Karen?

The man walks into the kitchen. He notices Jimmy's duffel bag.

