

# **Alex**

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## Alex

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

We hear the sounds of war. Tank and artillery shells explode, machine guns fire and soldiers scream.

INT. TANK - NIGHT

ALEX THOMAS (34) finds himself in a small tank with two other soldiers, a DRIVER (30) and a GUNNER (34). They are all wearing British Army uniforms. Gunfire can be heard outside.

TANK DRIVER

They are surrounding us!

Suddenly a massive shock wave goes through the whole tank. Alex is knocked to the ground.

TANK DRIVER

We've taken a hit on the left side.

The tank starts to circle uncontrollably. Alex speaks without thinking.

ALEX

Everyone bail out!

The gunner opens the hatch. Almost instantly he is fired upon. He returns fire and escapes from the tank. Alex follows. It is dark outside but the fire from the tank lights up the night. Alex and the gunner are repeatedly fired upon.

Suddenly the tank explodes. Alex and the gunner are knocked to the ground. Alex feels an intense burning sensation on the left side of his face. The gunner is killed in the blast by shards of shrapnel. German voices can be heard in the background. Alex struggles to his feet but before he can regain his balance he is knocked to the floor by a GERMAN OFFICER. Alex lies on his back. The German officer punches him in the face knocking him out.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex wakes up in his bed. He is breathing heavily and has a line of sweat over his forehead. He clutches FREDDY, his teddy bear, very tightly. He catches his breath and looks at Freddy.

ALEX

(In a child's voice)

It was only a nightmare Freddy.

He pauses for a moment. Something about his voice is strange. He regains focus and hugs Freddy. Just then his MOTHER, a good looking blonde haired woman in her late thirties, enters the room.

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## Alex

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MUM

Is everything okay sweetheart?

ALEX

Mum, I had a bad dream.

His mother comes over to hug him. She holds him in her arms. He feels much better.

MUM

Don't worry Alex, I am here to protect you.

She leaves the room. Alex looks at his hands. He appears to be alright. He gets up and opens his curtains. It is a beautiful summer's day. There is a mirror in his room. Moving towards it he sees himself in the mirror. He is an eight year old boy with dark brown hair, fair skin, and soft features.

On the floor is a war game. A green coloured mat represents the grassland, books under the mat form hills. A squadron of tanks with a British flag are seen approaching a shoebox which has a German flag on it.

A lone tank is by itself. It is smaller than the others and is very close to the shoe box. On top of the tank is an orange flag. Alex picks it up and looks at it more closely. He then places it back onto the mat.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is now eating breakfast. In the background his mother is making some eggs and listening to the radio. She places two toasts on Alex's plate and then puts two fried eggs onto them.

MUM

Eat up sweetheart.

She caresses his face very lovingly. He smiles.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex looks at his war game again. Now the lone tank is being surrounded by enemy soldiers. The Allied Tank squadron has not moved. The most interesting thing is that the orange flag is now on top of the shoe box.

Alex heads for his bed. Sitting on top is Freddy. Alex tucks himself into bed and holds Freddy in his arms. Soon he is asleep.

## Alex

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Alex finds himself in a prison cell. Looking at his hands he can see he is a man once more. Again he is wearing a British army uniform. It has been stained with mud and dirt. The left side of his face has been burnt so has his left hand. Strangely also on his left hand the name FREDDY has been written with a marker pen.

Suddenly the cell door opens. Two German officers come into the room and attack Alex. He tries to fight back, hitting one of them across the face, but he is no match for them. The hits feel real. One of the officers starts laughing.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex wakes up. He is breathing heavily again. He clutches Freddy very tightly. He catches his breath and looks at Freddy.

ALEX

I am happy to see you Freddy.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is now eating lunch with his mother. She has the radio on in the background.

ALEX

I had another bad dream Mum.

MUM

Something must be on your mind.

ALEX

It was a dream about the war.

His mother looks at him. Sadness covers her face.

MUM

Remember our promise.

ALEX

But Mum...

His mother gets up and leaves.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex heads for his bed. He tucks himself in and holds Freddy in his arms. He takes a few deep breaths and slowly falls asleep.

**Alex**

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Alex is brought into a room escorted by two German officers. They leave him and exit, closing the door behind them. Alex looks around the room. The walls are plain and there is a metal table placed in the centre with two chairs opposite each other.

There is one window. A German officer is standing in front of it with his back toward Alex. He is smoking a cigarette and continues to look out of the window.

GERMAN OFFICIER

(In English)

Corporal Thomas?

ALEX

(In a child's voice)

Um...yes.

Alex pauses for a moment. His voice is the same as when he was a child. The officer turns around, revealing his uniform which has a Nazi emblem. He looks to be in his late thirties.

GERMAN OFFICER

My name is Captain Glock. Please have a seat.

Alex sits on the chair nearest to him. The German officer sits down opposite him. He takes a long drag of his cigarette.

GLOCK

Would you like a cigarette?

ALEX

No.

GLOCK

Worried about your health?

ALEX

I don't like smoking.

Glock takes a long drag of his cigarette.

GLOCK

You killed a lot of my men.

ALEX

I am just doing my duty, Captain.

GLOCK

I suppose you mean 'God save the King' and all that nonsense? The days of Kings and Queens are over. We are the future.

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**Alex**

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ALEX

You don't scare me Glock.

GLOCK

How can you be so sure?

ALEX

I just know. I also know that you won't win this war.

GLOCK

That brings us nicely to the reason why you are here. Tell me about the Allied attack plans for this area.

ALEX

I don't know anything.

GLOCK

Come now Corporal lets not play games.

ALEX

I'm telling you the truth. I have no idea what you are talking about.

GLOCK

Then explain to me why your unit was intercepted only twenty miles away from our defence perimeter?

Alex pauses for a moment. He can't think of an answer.

ALEX

We...we were on a training exercise.

GLOCK

You English are bad liars. You were doing recon work. My men found maps depicting our entire defensive grid.

Again Alex is lost for a response.

ALEX

I don't know what you want.

GLOCK

Your story is pathetic and a futile effort to conceal the truth.

ALEX

I am telling you the truth.

GLOCK

We both know you are lying.

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**Alex**

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ALEX

I've already told you all I know.

GLOCK

I ask you again, tell me about the Allied attack plan.

ALEX

I don't know. For god sake, I am telling you the truth.

GLOCK

God can't save you from me. I will get what I want by whatever means.

ALEX

I...I have rights...

GLOCK

Not here you don't boy, this is war. This is your last chance. Tell me!

Alex starts to breathe more heavily.

ALEX

Please, you have to believe me, I...

GLOCK

Very well, have it your way. Guards!

The door swings open and the same two guards who escorted Alex before come into the room and stand behind him.

GLOCK

(In German)

Take this lying dog back to his cell.

They forcibly grab him and start to take him out of the interrogation room.

GLOCK

(In German)

One moment.

They stop and turn to face the Captain. He gets out of his chair, walks towards them and stands in front of Alex.

GLOCK

It is a shame it has to come to this.

He tears Alex's uniform open and rips off his Captain's badge. Alex tries to struggle but the guards hold him still.

GLOCK

You are no longer a soldier. In my eyes you aren't even a man.

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**Alex**

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Glock strikes him across the face. The blow knocks Alex unconscious.

GLOCK

(In German, sounding faded)

Take him away!

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex wakes up in his room. His face still feels a bit sore from the punch. He looks around. Everything is the same. He is still in his house. It was just another dream. He gets out of his bed. He feels his arms and body. He rubs his chest where Glock had ripped off his Captains Badge. Just then his mother walks into the room.

MUM

You are up early.

ALEX

Mum, I had another bad dream.

MUM

Oh sweetheart, come here.

She comes forward to hug him. Alex moves away.

ALEX

It was the war Mum.

His mother stops in her tracks.

MUM

The war?

ALEX

Yes, I was in the war and I was in a German prison camp.

MUM

Alex, we promised never to speak about the war.

ALEX

Mum, I am telling you, it was so real. It was like I was there in the war.

MUM

Don't be silly.

ALEX

Mum, I...

Just then his mother notices the war game he has set up on the floor. She goes over and picks up the lone tank, which

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**Alex**

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surprisingly looks very real and has some damage as if being struck by a rocket. She hands it to Alex.

MUM

These stupid games you play get to your head. We are not talking about the war again understood?

Alex says nothing. He looks at the toy tank in his hands.

MUM

Alex!

ALEX

I understand..

His mother leaves the room. Alex sits on his bed, looking at the toy tank. Suddenly he can hear soldiers' shouting in his head, as if in the distance.

SOLDIERS' VOICES

We've been hit. We can't move. They are coming for us. We have to get out.

Alex goes over to his war game. The battle scene has changed. The Allied tanks have advanced onto the shoebox.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex is sitting up in bed and frantically keeps rubbing his eyes to try to stay awake. Freddy is sitting next to him.

ALEX

(To Freddy)

Can't sleep, have to stay up.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - SOME TIME LATER

Alex is now nodding off. He struggles to fight the sleep but soon succumbs.

INT. PRISON CELL

Alex is tied to a chair in the middle of his cell. Various German officers take turns to beat him. One of them takes his belt off and whips him. Another pours cold water onto his body. Alex starts to shiver. Glock enters the room. The officers stop. Alex looks up at Glock.

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**Alex**

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GLOCK

Are you ready to tell me the truth?

ALEX

You don't understand, I am not who you think I am, I...

Glock strikes Alex hard across the face.

ALEX

Mum! Help me!

All the German officers start laughing hysterically.

GLOCK

(In German to the others)

The poor baby misses his mother. Awwww!

Glock hits Alex again, this time knocking him out.

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alex wakes up in pain. He screams for his mother.

ALEX

Mum! Please help me!

No one comes.

ALEX

Mum! Please help me!

He looks for Freddy. He has gone.

ALEX

Freddy! Where are you Freddy?

Alex jumps out of bed. Freddy is nowhere to be seen. He turns on a light. Still Freddy is nowhere. He moves to his war game. Now the Allied tank squadron is surrounding the shoebox.

He opens his curtains. There is a violent thunderstorm outside. Alex is terrified.

Then suddenly he feels a hit to his face and then another. He is knocked down to the floor. He is being hit by invisible men and is completely confused.

GERMAN VOICES

Talk boy! Talk! Had enough yet! No Mummy to save you! Tell us the truth! Tell us!

**Alex**

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex runs into the hallway. Still he is getting hit from all sides. His body is in pain. He holds his ribs.

ALEX

Mum! Freddy!

GERMAN VOICES

Where are you running to boy? Come back here.

The attacks intensify. Alex runs for his mother's room.

INT. FURTHER DOWN THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex makes it to his mother's bedroom door. But for some strange reason the door is metal and very similar to the door of the interrogation room. Alex is totally confused but is desperate to see his mother. He opens the door.

INT. MOTHERS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex runs into the room. It is an empty space. Glock is standing in the middle. He has Freddy in his hands. Alex screams.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Alex wakes up. He is back in the interrogation room sitting at the metal table. He is badly cut and bruised. His ribs feel broken. He is struggling to breathe. On his left hand the name Freddy is still written but now it has been soaked with blood. He can barely move.

Glock is once again by the window. There are flashes of explosions outside along with the sound of heavy rain and thunder. He smokes his cigarette.

GLOCK

The Allies are all over our position.

A German officer comes into the room.

GERMAN OFFICER

(In German)

Sir, they have taken out the gun tower!

GLOCK

(In German)

Damn you Corporal I said not to disturb me! Keep fighting! Don't surrender!

(CONTINUED)

**Alex**

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The officer leaves and closes the door. Glock sits down opposite Alex. He continues to smoke.

GLOCK

(In English)

This is all your doing Corporal. What I want to know is how you did it?

ALEX

Did what?

GLOCK

How did you hide the attack plan from me?

Alex pauses for a moment. He looks at his left hand. And then he notices he is also wearing an orange wristband. Now he knows the truth.

ALEX

(In a mans voice)

Freddy...

GLOCK

What?

ALEX

Freddy helped me.

GLOCK

You have clearly lost your mind.

Alex pauses for a moment and takes a deep breath.

ALEX

I had to hide the attack plan far away from you. I chose my childhood. That's what they trained me to do. To hide a secret, hide it deep down where no one can find it. Can I have a cigarette?

Glock passes him a cigarette pack and a lighter. Alex takes one into his mouth and lights up. Every movement hurts.

ALEX

You were right Captain. I planned this whole advance. And I kept it safe from you.

Glock looks very edgy. Alex takes a long drag of his cigarette.

ALEX

Soon the Nazi's will be defeated and you will have to endure pain. And you'll deserve it.

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**Alex**

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Glock rises from his chair and tosses it to one side. He takes out his sidearm and approaches Alex. Alex barely flinches.

GLOCK

You'll see hell first.

He takes aim for Alex's head. Alex looks at his left hand.

ALEX

(V.O)

Thanks Freddy...

Glock shoots.

All goes black...