

SCRIPT TITLE

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JAMIE LIGHTS A CIGARETTE AND RONSEL SIPS FROM THE BOTTLE. THEY'RE BOTH DRUNK. IT'S HOT IN HERE AND THE SUNLIT SMOKE HANGS ON THE HUMID AIR.

RONSEL
The silver star? Damn.

JAMIE
Don't be impressed. I got it for being stupid.

RONSEL
What?

JAMIE
I almost drowned in a flood when I was a kid. Since then, baths, swimming pools, any kind of water I hate it. And this one mission I changed course so we wouldn't be over the water so long. And, as luck would have it, we ran smack dab into some enemy flak. A lot of it. But I managed to hit the target and bring us all back.

RONSEL
You so scared of water you'd rather get shot at than fly over it?

JAMIE
Damnedest thing, ain't it?

They share a laugh and a drink, then:

JAMIE (CONT'D)
You ever miss it sometimes? Being over there? I don't mean getting shot at, but... I actually miss it.

RONSEL
Me too. Over there I was a Liberator. Had folks lined up on the street cheering and throwing flowers. Back here, I'm just another nigger pushing a plow.

JAMIE
Miss some of the guys too.

RONSEL
Think about 'em every day.

JAMIE
Seeing different parts of the
world. (smiling)

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Italian girls. English girls. Some
of those big old hairy muffs...
Yeah, it was something else. It was
something man.

Ronsel leaks a smile.

RONSEL
It was different over there.

JAMIE (BEAT)
You ever been with a white girl?

RONSEL
A few.

JAMIE
Well I'll be damned.

RONSEL
Army gave us separate barracks,
separate blood supply, separate
latrines. But them European girls
didn't mind us a bit. When we were
in Wimbourne, English gal I never
laid eyes on patted me right on the
butt. Told me she was checking for
a tail because the white GI's was
saying we were more monkey than
human. And she was checking for a
tail.

Jamie laughing.

JAMIE
I'm sorry to laugh.

RONSEL
So we made sure to show 'em just
how human we were every opportunity
we got we showed'em just how human
we were. Yep.

JAMIE
German girls too, huh?

Ronsel drifts with the memory of Resl, wistful.

RONSEL

Uh-oh.

JAMIE

Oh, oh, oh, oh. I've seen that look before.

RONSEL

Huh?

JAMIE

She must'a been something special.

RONSEL

Yeah. She was. But that was then. And this is now, and I guess I'm right where I should be. Yep. Right where I need to be. Throwing my life away.

Said with a cut of drunken sarcasm.