

Good Soldiers
A Play Out of Nowhere
Per Wiger

SETTING: *A bar or cafe, a table, three chairs. #1 is at a laptop, #2 plays with a smartphone. #3 will exit and re-enter through a front door, gutshot. #4 and #5 are official looking, silent and efficient.*

1

I wish... *(beat)* Ask me what I wish.

2

What do you wish?

1

I wish I were anywhere but here.

2

Thanks.

1

No, I mean, they're shooting people in the streets. It's a fucking powder keg out there, and we're just. What, sitting?

2

You want to tell me what you're actually talking about?

1

I'm talking about hitting the streets, marching, protesting. I'm talking about getting *angry*.

2

You're getting angry?

1

How could I not? How could anyone not?

2

Where's Angie?

3

Hey man, got a light?

2

Sorry.

3

That's alright, you have a good night. *(to audience member)* Hey man... *(etc. exits eventually)*

1

Nobody *looks* at each other around here.

2

What?

1

Like that guy, tell me about him.

2

What guy?

1

See what I mean? You didn't even notice him. You're just on autopilot, shit.

2

I think you're getting stood up. Again.

1

She probably just had to work late.

2

She *always* has to work late. Talk about not noticing things. Doesn't even know when he's been broken up with.

1

It's not like that.

2

Sure.

1

We're complicated.

2

I said sure. I don't know what else you want from me.

1

Has she said anything? About us?

2

I don't see her.

1

Don't you two work together?

2

She got fired six weeks ago. I'm telling you, this is a fantasy.

1

She must not want me to worry about her.

2

That explains everything. Give her a call.

1

I don't want to be creepy.

2

It's not creepy, she said she would be here. She *did* say she would be here, right?

1

No, it's totally an invasion of her privacy. If I don't trust her to show up, or have a good reason not to, then how could I trust her with the important stuff?

2

Like telling you when she gets fired?

1

That's not the same thing.

2

You're right. It is literally something else. Forget I said anything.

1

Don't be...

2

What?

1

Snide. It's not important.

No? 2

No. 1

You weren't bothered? 2

No. 1

Not even a little...? 2

Look, what are you trying to - 1

2
Say you were in, wherever it was you were reading about. People marching, demanding change. Whatever. If you were actually there what would you do? Honestly? Would you march, chant, put yourself in danger? Or would you just sit in a coffee shop and complain about how nothing you did made a difference?

1
That stuff is important.

2
What stuff?

1
Freedom, safety, dignity.

2
You won't demand dignity from a woman that's supposed to care about you. Convince me you care enough to stand up to someone with real power.

1
That's what this is about. You want me to call her.

2
It's your life.

1

Fine. I'll call her. If it will make you happy, I'll call her.

2

Don't go out of your way on my account.

1

Look, look here I go taking out my phone, oh look recent calls? Angie. Because we talk.
beat It's ringing.

2

Spare me the naration.

1

Spare you? You just seeed awfully insistent on taking an interest in my life and business
so I thought -

Hey, Angie? I was just wondering if you were -

No. I'm at - I'm sorry, you're cutting out... (*goes to door, continues conversation*)

2

Christ...

Enter 3, bleeding.

3

(*to 1*) Please, you gotta help me.

1

I'm on the phone. Sorry, just some bum.

3

Oh god...

1

I told you I don't have any money or whatever. Are you drunk?

3

No, god I - Fuck. (*staggers into the room*)

2

What now?

3

I'm hurt.

2

You need to stop moving around. Just hang tight and, uh...

3

Help me, help me.

2

You need an ambulance man, I don't know. I -

3

No, no cops.

2

You might be in trouble, but you need help.

3

No hospitals, can't...

2

Here, sit down. Relax, you've got to stop moving around. Lets see... Oh.

3

How bad is...?

2

You'll be fine. (to 1) Hey! C'mon, hey!

1

So you're not coming? No, that's fine, it just... I am, I am a little bit upset, and -
No, I don't want to control... Angie please. It's me. Of course I trust -

2

I need your -

1

Not now.

2

Look. Look at him.

1

What the hell man? You make me call Angie, who is pissed by the way, just like I said she would be. Now you don't want me to talk to her? I get it, you think you're helping me somehow but I'm pissed, honestly. I'm pissed. And -

Angie? Ang -

And now she hung up on me. Happy?

2

Not really, but -

1

Fucking waste of my time. I know I should have just stayed home tonight.

2

Are you blind?

1

You're right, Angie is probably going to break up with me.

2

Already has, but -

1

Or, yeah, she already has. *(returns to table, begins packing up laptop)* Which, again, you're right I should have seen it coming.

2

Please...

1

You did your best. And I appreciate it. I'm sorry that I didn't take you seriously I could have avoided all this had I just...

2

Are you seriously going to leave? Now?

1

I am. I can't... I've got a lot to process right now and I need to get some space to do that. I need to take a walk, just ground myself back in the -

3

(groaning)

2
Ground yourself in this.

1
Jesus Christ! What?

2
You wanted to get involved in something. Here you go.

1
What happened?

2
I don't -

3
Bastards -

1
Now there's no reason for that kind of -

3
Bastards shot me.

1
Oh.

2
Yeah, get the whole story for once in your life. I mean, you're on the phone with your ex -
sorry, your useless ex - and you don't even notice when somebody comes in bleeding?

1
No, absolutely -
Well, okay, I did, yes. Is this really the right time to be going into what's wrong with me?

2
See, that's your problem. You're all concerned about the right time to deal with
something, the right place to deal with -

From now on, do me a favor. You see a problem, confront it, in the moment. Take some
responsibility for your life you know?

3
(*trying to get up*) Someone...

2

You need to lay down.

1

The worst thing you can do is move to much, who knows what damage the bullet did.

2

Moving will only make it worse.

3

The lights...

1

The lights are fine.

2

Stay with me man, come on. Don't go towards the light.

3

They're dancing.

1

Don't be ridiculous they're -

2

Look, you're going to be okay. You have to be okay.

3

Blurry angels all... Swing low, sweet chariot... (*dissolves into coughing/convulsions*)

2

Please, you can't go, don't go.

1

Just keep talking to me. Hey, eyes on me buddy, you're doing great.

3

(*focusing*) Typical.

1

What? What did you -

2

He's not going to make it.

1

He's still breathing. Has somebody called an ambulance?

2

He said not to.

1

Well now he can't say... I'm going to call an ambulance.

2

You would.

1

What's that supposed to mean?

2

Just farm your problems off on someone else. *(4 and 5 enter, as dialogue continues they take 3 away)*

Make a call and make them all go away.

1

What do you want me to do? He's in trouble.

2

In trouble? In trouble is when you didn't study enough for finals. In trouble is when a condom breaks. He's dead. Okay? He's dead and he's got our fingerprints all over him.

1

I'm not going to bury a body.

2

Who said anything about burying?

1

Well you -

2

That's stupid. Put weights in a bag. Put the body in the bag. Toss it off the bridge. There's the dam there, something of size sinks down it won't ever come up. People die that way all the time.

1

People die...? This is nuts. You're nuts. I'm out of here. (*begins to exit*)

2

Yeah, walk away, just walk away from me. (*follows*)

1

I'm done with this, I don't. No, stop. Just stop following me. (*exits*)

2

Typical.

Well what about -

(*out*) This guy, am I right? Fuck. (*exeunt*)

There is no curtain call. The actors vanish into the world.