

WARLORD

Written by

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EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

MICHAEL STERLING, a young Black Army Lieutenant leads five American soldiers.

They are FREDDY FELTON, RICHARD GAVIN, THADDEUS "TRUNX" JONES, KHALIL REED and Michael's second in command, MYA MARIE PORTER.

The soldiers shuffle through the thick bush like cunning predators preparing to attack their prey.

All six soldiers communicate through hand signals and radios.

They are heavily armed.

Freddy reads a GPS.

He signals to Richard.

Richard sets a C4 explosive charge on the entrance.

The doorway explodes.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVE - SAME

SEVERAL TERRORISTS react to the explosion above.

An alarm sounds loudly.

Chaos erupts.

The terrorists scatter, arming themselves and screaming orders to one another in SWAHILI.

EXT. JUNGLE - SAME

Michael leads his team down into the cave system.

MICHAEL
Let's go to work!

The team rappels down into the elaborate system of caves.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Michael's team touches down and is instantly met with gun fire.

They take cover and return fire.

MICHAEL
(calmly)
Team A, go with Sarge!

Michael's team splits into two groups and continues to return fire.

MYA
Let's get it!

Mya takes Khalil and Trunx down a corridor.

Michael, Richard and Freddy force their way forward.

MICHAEL
Keep 'em hot people!

Michael's group continues with heavy gun fire.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - SOUTH CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mya's group takes out terrorist after terrorist using powerful hand to hand combat techniques and non lethal shots.

They continue running down the south corridor.

MYA
(to Trunx)
Big bro! Give me a reading!

TRUNX
We got action at 20 meters!

MYA
Khalil! How we looking in the back?

KHALIL
We're solid big momma! The train is not leaving the station!

MYA
All right, let's get 'em fast!

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - NORTH CORRIDOR - SAME

Michael's group reaches a cell.

There are two FEMALE HOSTAGES inside the cell.

Michael radios to Mya.

MICHAEL
 (into radio)
 Porter! I got two of the hostages
 here! What are you looking like?

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - SOUTH CORRIDOR - SAME

Mya and her group continue forward.

MYA
 (into her radio)
 Nothing yet papa bear, and the
 deeper we go down this cave, the
 rougher time we're gonna have
 coming up!

Khalil notices another corridor.

KHALIL
 Wait! Something's down this way!

He runs to the corridor.

MYA
 Wait! Reed, stand fast!

Khalil disobeys the order and continues.

MICHAEL
 (into radio)
 What the hell's going on?

MYA
 God damn it! Khalil's gone rogue!

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - NORTH CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Michael's team waits at the cell door.

MICHAEL
 (into radio)
 Porter, hold your position!

Michael begins to cut the lock on the cell door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Felton, take these hostages back to
 the entry point. Gavin, go up
 another fifty feet, if you don't
 see anything, fall back! We're
 getting the hell out of here!

RICHARD
What are you going to do?

MICHAEL
I'm going after Khalil!

Michael calls out to the hostages.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Ma'am, are you Alana Durrant?

FEMALE HOSTAGE 1
(crying)
Yes!

MICHAEL
I am with the United States Army!
We're here to get you out! Are you
able to walk or run?

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - SOUTH CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mya and Trunx hold their position as ordered.

They continue to take heat from enemy fire.

There is an explosion.

Fire and smoke bellow out of the corridor Khalil ran through
minutes earlier.

MYA
Shit! Trunx wait here!

TRUNX
But Lieutenant said-

MYA
(interjecting)
Just wait here!

Mya runs after Khalil.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - CORRIDOR - SAME

Michael runs back in team A's direction.

He continues taking heat.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - NORTH CORRIDOR - LATER

Richard throws explosive charges further up the corridor.

Explosions send terrorists flying.

He reaches his fifty feet.

There is no sign of any other cages or hostages.

Richard falls back as ordered.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - ENTRY POINT - LATER

Freddy reaches their entry point with two hostages.

The rappelling lines still dangle.

Freddy remains calm to help compose the hostages.

He speaks to them delicately.

FREDDY

OK! Ladies, just put these around
your waists, all right? They're
just like belts. OK?

The hostages whimper, but they comply.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

All right. The device is going to
do all the work, OK.

Freddy connects winching devices to the hostages belts.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Just stay calm and as still as you
can.

Freddy types codes into small computerized keyboards on the
winching devices.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

When you reach the top, you guys
are going to have to climb just a
little to get out of the caves.
You'll unhook and I'm right behind
you. OK?

The hostages agree.

Freddy engages the winch and sends them up.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - CORRIDOR - LATER

Mya runs through the smoke filled corridor, weapon armed and ready.

She comes to a dead body, battered and bloody.

Mya notices the name on the uniform. It is Khalil.

Mya collects herself and turns to run back.

She is knocked off her feet by an UNKNOWN ASSAILANT.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - SOUTH CORRIDOR - SAME

Michael meets up with Trunx.

MICHAEL
Where the hell is Sarge?

TRUNX
She went after Khalil! I tried to
stop her, Sir!

MICHAEL
God damn it!

Michael starts to run down the same corridor.

He and Trunx are met with heavy gun fire.

They leap for cover.

Trunx is shot and killed.

Michael screams out and returns fire.

There is a barrage of smoke and bullets.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - ENTRY POINT - SAME

Freddy and the two hostages are at the top of the cave system.

Freddy is helping the hostages unhook.

Suddenly, all three are executed by an UNSEEN PARTY.

Their lifeless bodies dangle on the rappelling lines.

INT. CAVE SYSTEM - SOUTH CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Richard regroups with Michael.

They are pinned down tight.

The enemy fire slows.

RICHARD

Sir, what the hell are we doing? We gotta fall back!

MICHAEL

I know, I know! It's a cluster fuck! A team is down! But I gotta find Sarge!

RICHARD

What about Reed?

MICHAEL

I don't know! He disobeyed orders and flew solo! No communication! Trunx is dead! What about Felton and the two hostages?

RICHARD

Same, no communication! So what's the game plan?

MICHAEL

I'm not leaving here without Mya!

Suddenly, out from the heavy smoke walks DIKEMBE SUWOMBE, a large, dark man with a rugged, evil face.

He walks with an arrogant swagger as he grips a helpless and bloodied Mya, a handgun pointed at her temple.

Michael and Richard react.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(in Swahili)

No! Let her go! Let her go!

RICHARD

(in Swahili)

Drop the weapon!

Suwombe laughs.

SUWOMBE

(in Swahili)

You are powerless Americans!

(MORE)

SUWOMBE (CONT'D)
 This is my day! A day of new birth!
 Of new beginnings!

Michael and Richard hold fast, aiming at Suwombe.

SUWOMBE (CONT'D)
 (in English)
 What I have learned today, the gift
 I have been given, your country
 will not stop me!

MICHAEL
 I don't give a shit about your
 gifts, Suwombe! You're about to
 have a bullet in your brain if you
 don't let her go!

There is a beat.

SUWOMBE
 You know me?

MICHAEL
 I know you're a terrorist piece of
 shit who's about to be ventilated
 if you don't drop your weapon and
 surrender, now!

Suwombe laughs again.

SUWOMBE
 Perhaps I should let you kill me
 now, yes?

RICHARD
 Yes!

MICHAEL
 Absolutely!

SUWOMBE
 You will come to know me even
 better. This world will soon know
 it belongs to me.

Suwombe pulls the trigger and shoots Mya in the head.

Michael screams.

Mya's lifeless body falls to the ground.

Several of Suwombe's men rush from behind him.

Suwombe ducks and flees.

One of the men throws a hand grenade towards Michael and Richard.

Richard dives for the grenade.

It explodes, throwing Richard against Michael.

Suwombe escapes in the chaos.

As the smoke clears, Michael rises and stumbles over to Mya's lifeless body.

He holds her in his arms.

Michael screams in agony.

INT. COURT ROOM - SEVERAL YEARS LATER - DAY

Michael is now an attorney.

He is well dressed and appears very confident and charismatic as he controls the courtroom.

Michael stands in front of the jury, delivering a closing statement.

Sitting at the prosecution's table are Michael's young teammates ADAM PRESCOTT and REGINA VASQUEZ.

MICHAEL

Ladies and gentleman of the jury
the defendant is the worst kind of
coward. He is a coward who uses
religion to manipulate the weak
minded into committing horrible
crimes.

The jury listens closely.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

On the night in question, thirty
military personnel and sixty
civilians lost their lives based on
the orders given in a video in
which the defendant, Malik Al
Nassim, offered a reward in
exchange for the bombing of a DC
monument.

The defendant watches Michael intently.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

The first amendment provides for Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. It does not provide for freedom to massacre.

The jury continues to listen intently.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Now, I understand that what we ask of you today is ugly. No one likes to speak about putting people to death, even if they are murderers.

There is a beat.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But what you must do today is help secure, not only the safety and security of countless American citizens, but your also your own.

Adam jots notes down on a writing tablet and shows it to Regina.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Malik Al Nassim dreams of murdering your loved ones, your countrymen, children every day he is alive. Don't let his dreams become your nightmares.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER THAT NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The music is blasting.

Hundreds of people dance and party.

A very happy Michael makes his way through the crowd with two beers and two shots.

He makes it to his table where he joins his colleagues.

MICHAEL

And to my wonderful team, without whom I would be nothing.