

WARRIOR - BRANDAN AND TOMMY MEET/TALK ON BEACH

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Brendan walks on the beach as the waves of the Atlantic Ocean lap at the shoreline. Boats bob on the water. Stray bottle rockets trace through the night sky.

In the distance, the NEON LIGHTS of an amusement park flash and zip. Behind Brendan, the big casinos loom, advertisements for Sparta filling their BILLBOARDS.

Brendan continues walking, then spots Tommy coming toward him. The brothers make eye contact. Stop. Then approach each other warily.

BRENDAN

Been looking all over for you.
How's it going?

TOMMY

It's going.

BRENDAN

I was thinking maybe we could grab
a coffee.

TOMMY

I don't drink coffee. Whattya want?

BRENDAN

You don't want to go sit down
somewhere?

TOMMY

I'm good right here.

Brendan looks at Tommy. Sees how rigid he is. A long silence. Finally Brendan cuts right to it.

BRENDAN

Shit, Tommy. How was I supposed to know I was never gonna see you guys again?

TOMMY

You were briefed. You had the information. You chose the old man and the girl.

BRENDAN

She wasn't some *girl*. I married her. She's my wife.

Brendan reaches into his pocket and removes a recent Christmas PHOTO of Tess, Emily, and Rosie from his wallet.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

(handing Tommy the picture)
That's Tess. And that's Emily and Rosie. They're your nieces, Tommy.

Tommy glances at the photo impassively and hands it back.

TOMMY

Don't know 'em.

BRENDAN

I know you don't know them. Of course you don't know them.

TOMMY

Why am I looking at pictures of people I don't know?

BRENDAN

Because that's my family.

TOMMY

And who are you exactly?

BRENDAN

I'm your brother, man.

TOMMY

You were in the Corps?

BRENDAN

What?

TOMMY

I said I didn't know you were in the Corps.

BRENDAN

I wasn't in the Corps.

TOMMY

Then you ain't no brother to me. My brother was in the Corps.

With that, Tommy walks briskly away from Brendan and up the beach. His brother runs after him.

BRENDAN

Jesus, Tommy. I was a 16 year old kid. What the hell did I know?

TOMMY

I don't know what you know. Why don't you go ask your girlfriend about it?

BRENDAN

She's my *wife*, Tommy. So that's it? I stay with Tess and I never get to see you guys again? Not a single phone call? Nothing?

No response from Tommy. He's a wall.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

God, man, I don't understand this. You won't forgive me, but you'll forgive Pop?

TOMMY

Shit. He's just some old vet I train with. He means nothing to me. From what I hear he means nothing to you, either, so you got balls talking about forgiveness.

BRENDAN

That's got nothing to do with forgiveness. I've got a family to protect. Everything I do is for them.

Tommy smirks. Walks away again.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

But I forgave Pop. Just like I forgave you and Mom.

TOMMY
(turning around)
You forgave us?

BRENDAN
Yeah.

TOMMY
I'm not surprised you made the
tournament, Brendan. You got some
stones.

BRENDAN
I fell in love, Tommy. What the
hell was I supposed to do?

TOMMY
You were supposed to stick to the
plan. You were supposed to come
with us. Mom needed you. I needed
you. You were my big brother and
you bailed on me.

The words hit Brendan hard.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm glad you stayed and
everything worked out for you,
Brendan. See, you leave, you get
the opposite. You leave, you get to
bury people.

BRENDAN
You're not the only one who
suffered, Tommy. I didn't even know
she was sick. I never even got the
chance to say goodbye to my own
mother. You had no right to keep
that from me! That was not your
decision to make!

TOMMY
You know what? You walk around with
your pictures in your wallet and
you're all, I forgive you, I
forgive Pop. I forgive everyone.
But you know what? You're full of
shit.

Tommy and Brendan are right in each other's faces. Standing
on the knife's edge of violence. They hold the stare down for
a few long seconds, like two fighters about to go to war.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Are we done, Brendan? Are we
finished?

Tommy and Brendan look at each other with burning intensity.
Too much baggage and both too much and nothing left to say.
Finally, Tommy turns and walks on down the beach.

END