

DON'T CALL ME SIR

by

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EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A loud BOOM BOOM BOOM comes behind two soldiers, SERGEANT LOUSE, late 50s, and PFC COOTIE, late 20s, who quickly take cover in the trenches.

PFC COOTIE

What are they? And what the hell's up with that creepy laugh?

SERGEANT LOUSE

I don't know, I only saw their shadows. Whatever they are they're fuckin' huge.

PFC COOTIE

They decimated Reynolds and Bernstein. They had like a laser or something, it just ripped right through them.

SERGEANT LOUSE

I've heard about them. Thought they were an urban legend.

PFC COOTIE

We're going to die out here aren't we, sir? Oh, why did we have to be the ones that got sent out for food? Why us?

SERGEANT LOUSE

Keep yourself together, I'm not dragging you behind me because you can't keep your wits about you.

PFC COOTIE

You're right, we'll wait it out. It would be ridiculous to try to fight them. I just want to be back, back with Antonia, where's it safe.

SERGEANT LOUSE

Who's Antonia?

PFC COOTIE

Antonia, Antonia, she bunks next to me. We've started up a...  
situationship. I know, it's against the rules, but she followed my pheromones, what choice did I have?  
(paces)

They say when you're about to die your whole life flashes before you.

(MORE)

PFC COOTIE (CONT'D)

All I keep thinking about is her arms all over my body. What do you think that means?

SERGEANT LOUSE

I don't... I uh, I've never had a girlfriend--

PFC COOTIE

Like ever?

SERGEANT LOUSE

(shrugs)

So... you know, my life flashing before me, it's more just like what I did yesterday, on repeat.

PFC COOTIE

What happened yesterday?

SERGEANT LOUSE

Same thing as the day before.

PFC COOTIE

That's so sad. Well, we're not that serious. It's mostly a physical thing, but if she was open to kids, I would consider it.

SERGEANT LOUSE

Isn't she sterile? Wingless?

PFC COOTIE

I forgot about that! That sucks.

SERGEANT LOUSE

(peeks out)

Kind of comes with the territory.

PFC COOTIE

They still there?

SERGEANT LOUSE

I don't see them. Just stay down, out of sight.

PFC COOTIE

You know, the other day, I saw a bird, a real pretty red one. It looked so happy. When it was ready to fly off into the sky, it just flew off into the sky.

SERGEANT LOUSE

I've seen it. Sometimes when I'm working I think about that bird. I *become* that bird.

PFC COOTIE

"Become that bird"-- ?

SERGEANT LOUSE

Do you believe in God, Cootie?

PFC COOTIE

I believe in the Queen.

SERGEANT LOUSE

No, I mean, do you believe in the afterlife? Like maybe you can come back as a butterfly or something--

PFC COOTIE

I think that's a caterpillar.

SERGEANT LOUSE

I know it's a caterpillar, I'm just using it as an example. My point is, maybe it's something beautiful. Something better than this.

PFC COOTIE

There's nothing after this for guys like us. You're a worker, man. We work, maybe get a little bang bang choo-choo train on the side and when its time to die we--

SERGEANT LOUSE

Die, yeah, I know, but what if not? My whole life I've been in the colony. Droned on, never questioned the work. I've seen the older guys break down and become useless in the end. And you know what they do? They carry them out and dump 'em. Sometimes they might throw on a little dirt, then it's back to work.

PFC COOTIE

Okay, what's your point? Better yet, what's the alternative? See? You old guys always like to complain but you never offer any answers. Tell me, old timer, what's the solution?

They stand, staring at each other for a moment before Soldier #3 interrupts. Stares down at them.

SOLDIER #3

Thank God I found you two. We're starving, what the hell's going on?

PFC COOTIE

You idiot, you've compromised our location. Get down!

SOLDIER #3

Wha-- ?

Too late. Soldier #3 gets zapped by laser fire. The sky seems to open, lighting him up. He falls into the trenches with them, burnt crisp.

PFC Cootie loses it but Sergeant Louse touches the charred body fondly, longingly.

DEEP VOICE (V.O.)

Hey, there's more over here!

Loud stomping. Creepy laugh as large shadows cover them.

PFC COOTIE

It's them! What's our plan of escape? I'm not ready to die.

SERGEANT LOUSE

I think I am.

PFC COOTIE

What?

SERGEANT LOUSE

Goodbye.

PFC COOTIE

Wait a minute, sir--

SERGEANT LOUSE

Don't call me sir. We're about to be on equal footing, soldier.

(whispers)

Make me a butterfly.

Sergeant Louse runs out of the trenches.

A laser of fire hits him in the chest, burning a hole through him. He falls over with a smile on his face.

More terrifying laughter. PFC Cootie freezes.

PFC COOTIE  
No! No! Antonia, I love you!

A fire laser burns through his chest. He falls to the ground.

Big laughter. Up to the owners of the laughter: TWO KIDS with a magnifying glass directing the sun at them.

Back down to the soldiers who we see are really ants. Now burnt ant corpses.

KID #1  
Stupid ants.

More laughter from the kids before they stomp off, leaving a trail of ant soldiers for whom the war is now over.

THE END