

A Boy At War

By

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Based on the Novel by Harry Mazer

EXT. HAWAII - DAY

The beach is peaceful. Tourists sit on their beach towels in 40's-style bathing suits, putting on tanning oil as opposed to sun screen. There is a smile on everyone's face.

In town, old cars drive down the streets passing by soda shops and drug stores. In the windows of these shops are your typical "JOIN THE NAVY" propaganda posters.

The town is ripe with a military feel. Everywhere you go, you can't escape a plethora of military ads.

EXT. PEARL HARBOR - CONTINUOUS

The blue ocean is filled with the shadows of large, over-sized military ships. We focus in on the U.S. Arizona. It's large and beautiful.

On the deck of the U.S. Arizona, the crew lines up to greet a newcomer. We watch as they raise their hands to salute.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Cars pull up to the curb with students exiting their cars, slinging their bags onto their backs and entering the school. Down the street, we see a small red car slowly moving along.

ADAM (O.C.)
Drop me off here, Mom.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

ADAM PELKO, a young American boy who might barely be fifteen, reaches down for his bag.

In the driver's seat next to him is MRS. PELKO, his mother. She looks over at him curiously.

MRS. PELKO
Why? I don't mind driving.

ADAM
Mom! This is high school, not elementary school.

MRS. PELKO
I see other people being dropped off by their parents!

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Registering late is bad enough!
It's November! The term is already
half over!

MRS. PELKO

What does that have to do with
anything?

Adam SIGHS.

ADAM

Here. Just drop me off here.

The car stops as Adam grabs his bag and gets out without
even saying bye.

MRS. PELKO

I love you!

Mrs. Pelko watches as Adam just keeps on going.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Adam sits in a chair, waiting patiently. He sits with
perfect posture, having been taught by his father never to
slouch.

The office SECRETARY comes over with a handful of papers,
looking through them to make sure they are all there.

SECRETARY

Here we go.

The Secretary hands Adam all the pages as he stands to
attention.

SECRETARY

Class schedule, locker number and
combination, and that first piece
of paper is for your teachers.
Since you are new, they won't know
you are coming. Just hand it to
your teacher to alert her of your
presence.

ADAM

What do I do about books?

SECRETARY

That piece of paper will explain
the situation to all your teachers.
Have you ordered your books?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Yes, ma'am.

SECRETARY

Then just get them in as soon as you can.

ADAM

Thank you, ma'am.

SECRETARY

Ok, be on your way.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

MR. HANDLER, the teacher, stands in the front of the room, watching as his students take a test.

A young kid with thick black hair walks to the front of the class, handing Mr. Handler his test. The kid looks to be Japanese.

After a couple of seconds, the rest of the students begin piling to the front of the class handing in their tests. As the last boy hands in his test, the door opens and Adam walks in.

MR. HANDLER

Excuse me, who are you?

ADAM

I'm a new student. Transfer student.

Adam nervously hands Mr. Handler the sheet of paper explaining his situation. Adam looks around, surveying the class as he knows each student is silently judging him.

MR. HANDLER

Ok, class. This is Adam Pelko? Did I pronounce that right?

ADAM

Yes, sir.

MR. HANDLER

Sir. I like the way that sounds. Good boy. Where are you from, Adam?

ADAM

No place.

Mr. Handler gives a sarcastic chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

MR. HANDLER

No place? I've never been to no place.

Adam rolls his eyes, but unfortunately Mr. Handler sees this.

ADAM

I'm military.

MR. HANDLER

And where's that? Pearl Harbor? Hickman Field? Or is it Fort Knox?

ADAM

America. The United States of America.

A few people in the class laugh as Adam looks up, knowing this was a mistake.

MR. HANDLER

You going to salute the flag now or what?

ADAM

What? Do you want me to?

The class laughs again. Mr. Handler looks at him disapprovingly, as if he were a troublemaker.

MR. HANDLER

We're all Americans in here. And though Hawaii may still only be a territory of the United State, we are Americans and we will one day be a state. Now, please answer the question. Your hometown, your place of origin, please.

Adam thinks for a moment. He never felt like he really had a hometown.

ADAM

Adam's Center.

MR. HANDLER

Adam's Center? And your name is Adam? Are you pulling my leg? Are you trying to be funny?

ADAM

No, sir. It's in New York. My Grandfather has a farm there. We were there just before we came over here to Hawaii.

Mr. Handler SIGHS. He is slowly becoming more and more frustrated. Adam eyes an empty seat near the back of the room, ready to go there.

Mr. Handler goes to the black board, pulling down a large map of America.

MR. HANDLER

Ok, Adam. Point to Adam's Center. Find it. Show me where Adam's Center is, Adam.

Adam walks over to the map, looking frantically all over New York.

ADAM

It's not here.

Mr. Handler smiles, feeling satisfied at proving Adam wrong, which he isn't.

ADAM

It's a tiny place.

Adam looks at the map again.

ADAM

It's next to that.

Mr. Handler looks at the map as Adam points to Lake Ontario.

MR. HANDLER

A tiny place next to a great lake! How many Great Lakes are there, class? Who knows their names?

The black-haired Japanese boy raises his hand.

MR. HANDLER

Yes, Davi.

DAVI

Five of them. Ontario, Erie, Michigan, Huron and Superior.

(CONTINUED)

RANDOM KID
Sticky brain!

The class laughs as Davi turns defensive.

DAVI
At least I have a brain!

MR. HANDLER
Class! Quiet! Adam, can you tell us
something about Adams Center?

Adam begins to head to the empty seat.

ADAM
It snows a lot.

EXT. HALLWAYS - LATER

Adam walks out of the class last, red-faced and embarrassed
at Mr. Handler making him look foolish.

DAVI
Hey, Snowman!

Davi comes running towards Adam.

ADAM
What?

DAVI
Snowman.

ADAM
Is that supposed to be your idea of
a joke?

DAVI
Well, you said it snows a lot.

Adam rolls his eyes and continues on down the halls, hoping
he has no more classes with this kid.

DAVI
What class you got next?

ADAM
Economics.

DAVI
Me too! So, Snowman, how cold is
snow?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Below freezing?

DAVI
Really? I've never actually left
Hawaii so I don't really know.

Adam just looks at him, nodding.

EXT. HAWAII - DAY

Adam rides his bike down the roads of Aiea. Just as Adam is passing the Koolau Mountains, rain begins spitting down on him from the clouds above.

The water sprays up from the bike wheels as Adam looks around for a place to take cover, but there is nowhere. He just continues on.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - LATER

Adam turns onto the street as the sun is now coming out. The streets are still wet and shiny, but Adam has nearly dried off from the sun's intense heat.

Adam pulls up into the empty driveway of a typical All-American house.

White paneling, blue shutters, wooden door. There is even a tire swing in the front yard. They may move around a lot, but the Pelko's look as if they are living the American dream in this home.

Adam parks his bike on the side of the house and walks around to the front door, being sure to wipe his shoes off on the mat before even thinking about opening the door.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The living room is perfectly clean. A small TV set sits against the wall with a couch positioned in front, albeit a few feet back.

Against the wall is a bookshelf full of books on military planes, Navy warships, Army combat, military in general with a few pieces of fiction spiced in. A chair and a small table sit next to the bookshelf.

Adam walks in, looking around at the empty room. His Mother walks in from the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. PELKO
Hey, sweetie!

Mrs. Pelko comes over to Adam, kissing him on his forehead.

MRS. PELKO
How was school today? Getting any better?

ADAM
Not really.

MRS. PELKO
Make any new friends?

ADAM
Not yet.

MRS. PELKO
Adam, it's been two weeks. You have to try to make friends.

ADAM
Mom! I am trying! It's not that easy. We move all the time, Mom! By the time I make friends, we get our orders to move again! I don't even see the point in trying to make friends.

MRS. PELKO
Well, honey...

ADAM
And this isn't like the military schools. This is a civilian school and I'm pretty sure they don't like us military brats.

MRS. PELKO
Sweetie, I'm sorry.

Mrs. Pelko moves in to hug Adam, but he just shrugs her off.

ADAM
It's fine. I get along fine, even if I don't have one good friend.

Adam walks straight into his room. The room is decorated in military memorabilia.

From the ceiling hangs a couple dozen hand-crafted models of air fighters. On the wall is your typical Navy sign. Adam walks over to it, reading from the sign.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Join the Navy and See the World!

Adam SIGHS and rips it off the wall.

EXT. HAWAII - LATER

Adam rides around on his bike, tearing through the streets. He takes off down the Kamehameha Highway, a hilly two-lane road all the way to Aiea.

As he reaches a place named Aiea, which we see on the sign, Adam heads all the way around to the back of the sugar mill where he can see the whole harbor. He stops his bike, looking off into the distance.

He can see the entire spread of the harbor; Ford Island in the middle and beyond it, hills of green sugarcane. And beyond that are the huge, shadowy Waianae Mountains.

As he looks down on the harbor, he sees it is full of ships. They have everything; Submarines, cruisers, destroyers.

Adam looks over at Ford Island where there is a naval air station. Battleships are moored in pairs alongside Ford Island.

ADAM
Battleship Row.

Adam looks over at Battleship Row. He looks around for his father's ship. Finally, he spots it. The Arizona.

As Adam looks on at it, he notices a small motor boat leaving the ship carrying white-capped sailors to shore.

Adam looks back at his watch, wondering if he'll be late home for his father's arrival.

Adam gets a good grip on his bike and begins pedaling back to Honolulu, standing up on the pedals and pushing harder.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

Adam SKIDS his bike to a halt in the driveway, sweating and panting as he is out of breath. He parks his bike on the side of the house and walks into the backyard.

BEA, a tiny little girl around the age of four, comes SCREAMING towards Adam. Her face is filled with excitement and glee, the opposite of Adam's.

(CONTINUED)

BEA
Daddy's home!

ADAM
Hi, Bea.

Adam looks over to see his mother wearing a silk dress with a pink flower in her hair, all dressed up for his father's arrival home.

Adam sees his dad, LT. EMORY J. PELKO, stretched out in his dress whites on a lawn chair. Adam looks at his father's feet, noticing that his shoes and socks are off.

ADAM
Dad.

Adam salutes his father.

EMORY
Hey, son.

Emory studies his son for a moment.

EMORY
Your hair.

ADAM
Sorry, sir.

Adam brushes his hair to one side, even if it will fall back to the way it was in a moment's notice. Adam's hair can't be any more different from his father's.

His father's hair is blond, wavy, and still. It doesn't flop about with every movement. On the other hand, Adam's is dark and does flop around.

EMORY
Ten days and look at him! What have you been feeding the boy? He's getting bigger, almost like his old man!

Emory isn't a particularly muscular guy. He's no feather, but he wouldn't win a body building competition. Despite this, he has a huge presence and big voice.

MRS. PELKO
Wow! I hadn't even noticed! Look at how tall he's gotten!

Bea comes running over to her father, dropping her doll on the way.

(CONTINUED)

BEA
Daddy! Wiggle them, Daddy!

Bea stops just in front of her father's feet, looking at his toes intently.

BEA
Say the five little sailors!

Adam SIGHS, having heard this story a million times. His father just laughs as he sits up, ready to tell the tale of the five little sailors.

EMORY
The big boy toe is Rip, then comes
Lip.

As he says each name, Bea points to the corresponding toe, being fascinated by such a simple story.

EMORY
Then comes Chip, and Hip and little
bitty...

BEA
Bip! Now tell the girl ones!

They switch to Emory's other foot.

EMORY
Five little tarts. Suzi's the
biggest, then comes Doozi, then
Choozi, then Bloozi, and finally...

BEA
Me! Bea! Then they get married! Say
that part, Daddy! Say it fast!

EMORY
Rip to Suzi, Lip to Doozi, Chip to
Choozi, Hip to Bloozi, and Bip
to...

BEA
Me! Bea!

Everyone except Adam laughs. He just looks at her, admiring her childhood innocence and lack of understanding.

EMORY
How's school?

MRS. PELKO

I'm going to go get us some more
lemonade.

Mrs. Pelko excuses herself to the kitchen as Adam takes a
seat in a chair.

ADAM

It's okay.

EMORY

Making friends?

ADAM

Oh, sure.

EMORY

Civilian schools sure are
different.

ADAM

It's not that bad.

EMORY

You'll get used to it. You'll
probably like it better than your
last few schools.

ADAM

Hopefully.

Emory gets up, picking up his daughter and marching around
with her laughing along.

EMORY

What if I walked around my ship
this way, Bumble Bea, in my bare
feet? What do you think my men
would say?

Bea salutes her father as she says this.

BEA

No bare feet in the navy, Daddy.
That's against the rules.

Adam watches as they laugh together.

ADAM

Hey Dad, can I have the keys to the
car?

Adam is using his father's good mood to his advantage.

(CONTINUED)

EMORY

What for?

ADAM

To, you know, practice my driving.

EMORY

Since when do you take the car?

ADAM

Just around the house. Mom has let me a few times.

EMORY

You don't drive alone until you get your license, is that understood?

ADAM

Yes, sir.

Emory looks at his son again, thinking.

ADAM

I don't go anywhere. Just up and down the street. I stay real close.

EMORY

Alright. Let's see what you can do.

Adam goes into the house to get the car keys.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car door shuts as Adam gets in the driver's seat. He waits for a moment as his father strolls over and gets in the passenger seat.

EMORY

Always put the car in neutral.

Adam nods as he ignites the engine. The needles move on the gauges. Adam pulls out the choke, looking to his father for approval.

EMORY

You don't need to do that.

ADAM

I thought...

(CONTINUED)

EMORY

We just drove in, so the engine is still hot.

ADAM

Right.

Adam pushes the choke in, disappointed in himself for not remembering you only choke a cold engine.

EMORY

Alright, now back out?

Adam begins slowly backing out, stepping on the brakes a little too much a few times. Adam is beginning to sweat, obviously a mess.

Once out into the street, Adam nervously begins to drive forward slowly.

EMORY

Put a little more gas on it.

Adam presses down harder with his foot. The car speeds up and begins to make a horrible SCREECHING sound.

EMORY

Clutch and shift!

ADAM

Sorry!

Adam presses down on the clutch and shifts into another gear.

EMORY

How could Mom have ever let you drive this thing?

Adam looks scared as Emory just starts to laugh, probably a little buzzed off liquor. Adam looks a little relieved as his father laughs.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

The sky has gotten a tad bit darker as the car pulls into the driveway. The lights turn off and Adam and his father get out of the car, walking inside.

EMORY

You did well. You have the basic idea. Just a little more work on the fine points and you'll be okay.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Thanks, Dad.

Emory pats his son on the head, approvingly, as they walk inside.

FADE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Adam is walking down the hall to class, Davi following closely behind.

DAVI
Hey, Snowman! How high does it pile up?

ADAM
Ten feet.

And with that, Adam turns and walks into a classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

The bell RINGS and the doors flood open, Adam being the first out, still closely followed by Davi.

DAVI
Baloney, haole boy!

ADAM
Believe it or not, I don't care.

DAVI
Then how do you get out of your house?

ADAM
Climb out the upstairs window.

DAVI
You are a straight-faced haole liar.

Adam turns and heads into a classroom, followed by Davi as usual.

(CONTINUED)

DAVI (O.C.)
So, Snowman, if you hold snow in
your hand, how long does it take to
melt?

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Adam slowly descends the steps out of the school as Davi comes smashing by like the Hulk, nearly knocking Adam over as he pushes his way through.

ADAM
Is that the Hawaiian way of being
friendly?

Davi stops, turning around slowly as he attempts to be menacing, but Adam is much bigger than him.

DAVI
The Hawaiian way is beating each
other mercilessly.

ADAM
Not a good idea.

DAVI
Afraid to take a punch?

Before the word "punch" has even escaped Davi's mouth, his fist has already hit Adam in the side. Adam winces a bit, but hides the pain, not trying to give away that he is hurt.

ADAM
You know, you are a real jerk.

Adam starts to walk away.

DAVI
Oh, come on! Hit me!

Adam turns around before "me" has left Davi's mouth and hits him straight in the stomach, knocking him back onto the ground.

Davi shakes his head, recovering.

DAVI
I've been hit harder by a girl.

Davi gets up, walking past Adam.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

I'll never understand these people.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Handler walks in between a row of desks, handing out sheets of paper filled with words.

MR. HANDLER

As you all know, the American Legion is sponsoring a contest based on an essay entry you are all to write for me. The subject: I'm Proud to Be an American!

Mr. Handler sets a form down on Adam's desk. He begins reading all the requirements for the essay.

MR. HANDLER

As you can see, it is a minimum of four pages, double spaced. That is all. It will be due November 28th as we will have a special assembly December 5th where the winner will be announced.

The bell RINGS.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam sits down at his desk, pulling out a few sheets of notebook paper.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

The auditorium is filled to the brim with students and American flags. A sign on stage says "I'm Proud to Be an American."

The teachers begin to HUSH the CHATTER of the students as Mr. Handler and a member of the American Legion descend upon the stage.

Mr. Handler walks over to the microphone while the member of the American Legion stands perfectly still.

MR. HANDLER

And now, we'd like to announce the winner of the "I'm Proud to Be an American" essay contest and a check

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MR. HANDLER (cont'd)
for ten dollars! And the winner
is...

Mr. Handler's voice is filled with excitement, but the audience doesn't seem to really care.

MR. HANDLER
(continued)
Davi Mori!

The audience politely claps as Davi gets up from his seat and walks up on stage. He shakes hands with the guy from the American Legion, who hands him a check.

Mr. Handler hands Davi his speech as he walks up to the microphone, preparing to read it aloud.

DAVI
My grandparents came to this country shortly after marrying in Japan. While they were Japanese, I'm an American. Born and raised in America, just like my parents, I have been privileged to the greater things in life. The security of knowing that tomorrow I can wake up in my bed and know that everything is alright. I know that outside my window, everyone around me is living their lives to the fullest. We have fresh fruit and vegetables, running water and electricity. Some of us even have televisions. My Grandparents often would tell me stories of living back in Japan and one thing I've always noticed is the things their lives lacked in that country. They didn't have jobs like our parents. They weren't able to go to the movies on a Saturday night. They were lucky if they could afford to eat every night. But when they tell me about the change moving from Japan to America, and how it saved their lives from poverty, I can't help but smile knowing that his country has embraced those in need. This country has welcomed many with open arms and that is because this country has one thing that many others lack: Love. Love for the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVI (cont'd)
people and the freedom they
deserve. I love America...
(beat)
And America loves me.

Davi looks up as he says the last sentence, no longer reading from the paper. A few people snicker as the audience politely APPLAUDS, once again. Adam, on the other hand, just rolls his eyes.

Davi walks back towards his seat, passing by Adam.

ADAM
That's some voice you got. Have you
thought about a career calling in
pigs?

Davi smirks as Adam laughs to himself. Adam sulks back into his chair as Davi walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Adam jumps awake, startled, to see Bea on his bed holding a small stuffed bear.

BEA
Bear says good-morning to Adam!

ADAM
Good morning Bear. And good morning
to you too, Bea.

BEA
Good morning! Do you want to play?

ADAM
What?

Bea holds up one of Adam's model planes.

ADAM
Ok, Bea. We'll play a game called
Dogfight.

BEA
But I don't like dogs fighting!

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

No, it's the way planes fight each other in combat. Here, the plane you are holding is called a Zero. It's a Japanese fighter.

Adam picks up a plane himself.

ADAM

Here is how we play.

As Adam describes the game, Bea re-enacts it with her model plane.

ADAM

You're high, against the sun, so I can't see you till the last second, and you come out of the sun, shooting down at me.

Bea moves her plane down towards Adam's.

BEA

Bap! Bap! Bap!

ADAM

Good! See how you are behind me? It looks like I'm a goner, but watch this.

Adam sends his plane into a rolling dive and comes up under Bea's.

ADAM

I just blew your plane into a million pieces!

BEA

No you didn't!

Bea holds up her plane, triumphantly as if she won this battle.

BEA

I'm still in one piece!

Adam laughs, taking the plane away from Bea.

ADAM

Ok, you win. But the American planes are the best.

(CONTINUED)

BEA
We always win!

Mrs. Pelko peeks in through the doorway.

MRS. PELKO
It's time for breakfast kids.

ADAM
Is it that late already?

MRS. PELKO
It's almost time for lunch. You
better clean this mess up too.
Let's clear the decks and get this
bunk ready for inspection. If your
father sees it, you'll be in for a
nice, long lecture.

BEA
And a sock on the behind! And then
you'll cry and cry and cry!

ADAM
Bea, boys don't cry. Always
remember that. Come on.

Adam lifts Bea off the bed and begins tears the sheets off.
He starts from scratch, making the bunk navy style.
Everything is taut, hospital corners, no wrinkles.

Once he is done, he goes to the doorway, calling for his
mother.

ADAM
Mom! I'm ready.

His mother enters the room again. She walks around,
inspecting the room, checking the bed very carefully before
turning to Adam.

MRS. PELKO
Do you appreciate that you have a
room of your own, sailor?

ADAM
Yes, ma'am.

MRS. PELKO
I didn't have a room of my own when
I was a girl, sailor.

ADAM

No, ma'am, I know that.

MRS. PELKO

All I ever got for Christmas was a pair of socks. No model airplanes like yourself.

ADAM

No, ma'am, I know that.

MRS. PELKO

Are you thankful for what you have?

ADAM

Yes, ma'am, I am.

MRS. PELKO

Good boy. Now get down there for breakfast.

Mrs. Pelko lightens up a bit, kissing her son on the forehead as he leaves the room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Adam and his Mom walk into the kitchen where Bea is sitting at the table with a banana in front of her. Adam walks over, sitting down next to her and peeling the banana for her.

BEA

I want Jell-O!

ADAM

Mom, what was Dad like when he was my age?

Mrs. Pelko hands Adam a bowl of cornflakes and Bea a bowl of Jell-O.

MRS. PELKO

He was a farm boy, and he had to work terribly hard. If there was work to be done, he got up at five every morning before school. A lot of times he never made it to school. He was the oldest, and your grandpa needed him on the farm since he only had one arm.

(CONTINUED)

BEA

Dad ran away from home, didn't he?

MRS. PELKO

Your father ran away, but he wasn't a bad kid. He joined the navy.

ADAM

And lied about his age.

MRS. PELKO

Your father doesn't lie! I don't like the way you just said that, Adam.

ADAM

Sorry, Mom.

MRS. PELKO

It wasn't the same as real lying. He wanted the navy. He needed a home. Sometimes life forces you to do things. We don't know how hard his life was, Adam. We can't even imagine it. He had to work like a man from the time he was eight years old. You will never have to make the choices he did. And what he's accomplished, the position of trust and authority that he's risen to, everything he's achieved, he did all by himself. He came up from nothing and he has become an admirable man.

BEA

A great man!

MRS. PELKO

A really great man.

ADAM

Maybe he'll be admirable of the fleet someday.

MRS. PELKO

There might be a war.

ADAM

War with Japan?

(CONTINUED)

MRS. PELKO

Yes. Nobody wants it, but...

ADAM

Dad wants it.

MRS. PELKO

What do you mean? What kind of thing is that to say?

ADAM

Well, it's his job. That's what all the training exercises are for. We're ready for them.

MRS. PELKO

Ready is one thing, war is something else.

ADAM

You don't have to worry, Mom. There's nothing safer than a battleship. If war comes, Dad will be okay.

MRS. PELKO

I suppose.

ADAM

Dad says all the talk in Washington is pointless. The Japs want to push us out of the Pacific. But if they try, we're going to knock their heads off.

MRS. PELKO

Don't say Japs. It's vulgar.

ADAM

Sorry, Mom.

Adam finishes his cereal and puts the bowl in the sink.

ADAM

I'm going out, Mom.

MRS. PELKO

Where to?

ADAM

I don't know. Just look around I guess.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. PELKO

Be home on time. You know how your father is.

ADAM

Yes, ma'am.

EXT. HAWAII - LATER

"GOD BLESS THE CHILD" by BILLIE HOLIDAY plays over the greenery as Adam rides down the street on his bike. He stands high off the seat, riding the pedals.

He rides fast, despite having no final destination. The scenery is beautiful, Adam taking it all in as if it were all he had to keep him company.

EXT. PIER - LATER

Adam turns his bike down onto the wooden pier, passing by little shops. Fish markets, a flower store with a tiny little Japanese woman chanting "Flarraaah!" over and over with the hopes of making some American money.

Adam looks out into the blue waters. Out in the distance he sees sampans and Japanese fishing boats.

Adam rolls up to a bike stand and screeches to a stop, leaving a few skid marks behind.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

A now barefoot Adam strolls out onto the beach, breathing in the salty air.

He picks up a sea shell and examines it before tossing it out into the ocean.

Not a second passes after throwing the shell before...

VOICE (O.C.)

Hey Haole boy!

Adam turns around to see Davi Mori barefoot and wearing a pair of old jeans topped off with a flowered Hawaiian shirt.

Along with Davi is a group of other Hawaiian kids, none of whom Adam knows.

(CONTINUED)

DAVI
Haole Boy, you wanna play?

ADAM
I don't know any of them.

Davi looks back at his friends and takes a step forward towards Adam, whispering.

DAVI
Come on, Haole boy.

ADAM
What's the game?

Davi holds up a coconut.

DAVI
Football. Only, we play with a coconut.

ADAM
So Coconut Ball?

Davi doesn't laugh at his joke, just giving a confused look.

ADAM
What are the rules?

DAVI
Tackle is one-knee down. Come on.

Davi, along with Adam, walks back over to the group of boys. The other team captain, MARTIN, snorts.

DAVI
This is my friend Adam. He's on my time.

MARTIN
What do you need a Haole for, Mori?

DAVI
You got five on your team, now I got five too. Mark up the end-zones.

One boy goes off with a stick to mark field boundaries while each team gathers opposite the other.

DAVI
Ok, we're the Devil Sharks.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN
Excuse me?

DAVI
You got a problem with that?

Martin walks over from his team.

MARTIN
Yeah. That's a Hawaiian name.

DAVI
So?

MARTIN
So, you're a Jap.

DAVI
And you're a moron. Fine, have the
Devil Sharks.

Davi turns back to his team.

DAVI
Quick, give me a name.

The rest of Davi's team, Paul, Cody, and Lyle, shrug.

PAUL
Barracudas?

CODY
Rattlesnakes!

LYLE
Sea Scouts?

CODY
Too much like Boy Scouts.

PAUL
How about Girl Scout Cookies?

ADAM
Wildcats.

DAVI
Wildcats?

ADAM
Like the F4F navy fighter.

DAVI
I don't know...

MARTIN
Devil Sharks eat Wildcats for
breakfast.

Martin looks back at his team as they LAUGH.

DAVI
Come on Wildcats.

Davi tosses Martin the coconut.

DAVI
Your ball.

This wipes the smile off of Martin's face.

Davi and his team huddle together for a second as Martin's team lines up on the other end of the field.

DAVI
He's going to keep the ball, so
stay on him!

ADAM
What if he passes?

DAVI
He won't. Trust me. One, two,
three! Break!

The team splits up and forms a line against Martin's team.

MARTIN
Hut! Hut! Hike!

The coconut is tossed to Martin who winds up for a long pass down the field. Adam sees this and takes off after the receiver, but upon moving out of the way, Martin runs through the open space of where Adam should've been.

The Wildcats all go after Martin. Martin knocks down Paul, Cody, and Lyle like dominoes until it is just him and Adam.

Adam comes in for the kill, but Martin just does a little spin and is in the end zone.

DAVI
Dammit, Haole Boy! I told you guys
to cover him!

Davi's team lines up with the coconut.

(CONTINUED)

DAVI

Hike!

Davi immediately takes off through the defensive line and runs all the way down the field to score. He begins cackling as he throws the coconut into the sand.

DAVI

That was far too easy, boys!

Back and forth the game goes. As soon as the Wildcats score, so do the Devil Sharks.

Finally, Martin breaks through the defensive line until, once again, it is just him and Adam.

Adam runs up alongside of Martin, trying to push him over, but he is no match. Finally, Adam runs past Martin and just gets in front of him, tripping them both over.

DAVI

You got him! Nice work, Haole Boy!

Adam gets up, smiling as he finally feels apart of the team.

The game goes on until the sun slowly begins to set. Davi takes the coconut with him and walks off the beach alongside Adam.

DAVI

Come on. We'll crack open this coconut.

EXT. DOCK - LATER

Adam tosses a piece of eaten coconut off the dock as he walks towards his bike with Davi and Martin.

ADAM

First time I've ever had fresh coconut.

DAVI

You're getting to be a real Hawaiian, Haole boy. You ever head of Kamapua'a?

ADAM

Who?

(CONTINUED)

DAVI

Kamapua'a, the great Hawaiian pig
god.

ADAM

Pig god? You're kidding me, right?

MARTIN

The great pig god, Kamapua'a, he
got eight eyes, eight legs, forty
toes. He eat the valleys, swallow
volcanoes whole. He brushes his
teeth with trees. When he farts, he
makes all the islands shakes. What
do you say , Haole boy? You got a
god like that?

ADAM

Oh yeah.

The three laugh before Adam looks down at his watch.

ADAM

Hey, I have to go! I have to be
home at eighteen-hundred and it's
seventeen-hundred now!

DAVI

What?

ADAM

Military time!

DAVI

What?

ADAM

It's five now and I have to be home
at six!

DAVI

I'll ride with you.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Davi and Adam ride down the street at quite a speed.

DAVI

So Adam's Center is really real?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Yeah. I wasn't really born there though.

DAVI

What?

ADAM

Well, it's where my Grandfather lives. He has a farm there. He lost a leg in the military so we go there when we can to help out.

DAVI

That's cool.

ADAM

Yeah, I...

Suddenly Adam is on the ground, blood pooling around his face.

DAVI

Hey, Adam! You alright?

Davi's bike falls to the ground as Davi runs over.

DAVI

Adam?

ADAM

What happened?

Adam looks back in the road to see a hole in the ground.

DAVI

You hit that hole in the ground. Is your nose okay?

ADAM

What?

Adam reaches his hand to his nose and looks down. Blood.

ADAM

I think so. A little beaten up but nothing feels broken.

DAVI

Your bike...

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

What?

Adam looks at his bike. The tire is off track, broken. The steering won't turn at all.

ADAM

What am I going to do now?

DAVI

My Dad can fix it.

ADAM

What?

DAVI

Yeah. It's what he does. He can fix anything. We live in Chinatown.

ADAM

My Dad's told me never to go to Chinatown.

DAVI

He hate Japs?

ADAM

Well, he is in the Navy.

Davi laughs.

ADAM

I'm going to be late if I go with you.

DAVI

And if you have to walk you'll be late and with a broken bicycle.

ADAM

Good point.

DAVI

Come on.

EXT. HOME - LATER

Adam and Davi walk up the pebble street to a small, faded green house with a small garage. The lawn isn't as pretty as Adam's. The grass is dying and a bit patchy, but it's home to Davi.

(CONTINUED)

Davi walks towards the garage, stomping on some weeds along the way. Upon reaching the garage, Davi sees his father, MR. MORI.

Mr. Mori wipes the sweat off his brow with a dirty, grease-covered rag sitting next to him. Adam looks at the flat bed truck Mr. Mori is working on, wondering whether this is his work or if it is his own truck.

DAVI

This is my friend, Adam.

Mr. Mori extends his hand to Adam, who is a bit unsure as he remembers how his father has taught him about the Japanese.

MR. MORI

Pleased to meet you.

Not wanting to be too late and knowing he needs his bike fixed, Adam meets Mr. Mori halfway and they shake hands.

ADAM

Nice to meet you too, sir.

DAVI

Adam wrecked his bike accidentally.
I was hoping you could help fix it
so he can get home in time for
dinner.

Mr. Mori inspects the wrecked bike being dragged along by Adam. He SIGHS and mumbles something in Japanese to the tune of "Stupid kid."

Mr. Mori grabs the bike from Adam and takes it over to a small welding cart.

DAVI

Wanna see my room while he fixes
it?

ADAM

Uh, sure.

Adam checks his watch on the way out of the garage.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Davi walk in through the back door, passing through the kitchen.

Adam notices the wall where there is a poster of a mustached man sitting on a white horse.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
I've seen this before. That's
Hirohito, your honorable emperor.

DAVI
Not mine.

Davi looks back at Adam as the two walk.

DAVI
My parents think he is divine, but
they were born in Japan. I was born
here. One hundred percent American.
They're issei and I'm nisei, or at
least that's what we say.

INT. DAVI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Davi opens the room and the two enter the humble little
abode. There is a small cot in the far corner and pictures
of birds on the walls. Adam carefully studies the birds.

DAVI
I like things with wings.

Curiously, Adam turns to Davi.

ADAM
Even airplanes?

DAVI
Well, mainly living things.

Adam then sees a small faded picture of a large boat.

ADAM
This is the boat we came over on.
Four day trip. Spent three of them
puking my guts out.

DAVI
I never puke anymore. Spent too
much time on my Grandfather's
fishing boat for that.

ADAM
Really?

DAVI
Yep. We could go fishing if you
like. Martin and I go all the time.
Maybe tomorrow?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Sure. What time?

DAVI
I'll meet you no later than six.

ADAM
0600? Are you up by then?

DAVI
Yeah. I'm always up. I like the morning light.

ADAM
Well, I really should be going. My Dad is going to kill me.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Davi walk in to see Mr. Mori inspecting the bike, looking as good as new.

ADAM
Thank you so much! How much?

Adam reaches for his pocket, but Mr. Mori waves him aside.

MR. MORI
Any friend of Davi is a friend of mine. You should be going. It's getting late.

ADAM
Thank you so much again, Mr. Mori.

EXT. HOME - LATER

Adam stows his bike on the side of the house and begins walking back into the garden, hoping to sneak in.

He notices his mother and father in the garden, talking. Mrs. Pelko is smoking a cigarette.

EMORY
You're late.

ADAM
Sorry, my god--

(CONTINUED)

EMORY

Don't use that language in front of your mother!

ADAM

Sorry. My bike. It broke and my friend Davi's father had to fix it. He wouldn't accept any money for it though.

EMORY

Who is Davi?

ADAM

A friend I made at school.

EMORY

Where does he live?

ADAM

Near Chinatown.

EMORY

Chinese?

Adam slows his pace, not sure how to respond.

ADAM

Japanese.

Emory eyes Adam carefully.

EMORY

Marilyn, could you get me some more ice?

Emory hands Mrs. Pelko an empty glass.

ADAM

I can do it.

EMORY

Sit down, son. We need to talk.

Mrs. Pelko takes the glass to the kitchen while Adam takes her seat.

EMORY

There are plenty of boys for you to make friends with.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Davi is the smartest kid in our class!

EMORY

Let us think about this for a second.

Emory leans in and puts his arm around his son.

EMORY

I'm in the United States Navy. And your friend is a Jap.

Adam tries to interject, but Emory stops him.

EMORY

Now listen. How would that look if a son of a Navy man were friends with the enemy? War is coming, Adam, whether you or I like it. The last thing I need is you being friends with the enemy. What you do reflects on me. And it reflects on the Navy.

ADAM

I'm sorry, Dad.

INT. CAR - LATER

Adam sits in the back seat as the car drives on down the road. An easy listening 40's SONG PLAYS OVER THE RADIO.

Emory and Mrs. Pelko sit in silence as they drive on. Adam looks out the window as they pass through Chinatown.

Emory parks in front of a large theater and turns the car off.

INT. THEATER - LATER

Adam takes a bit of his popcorn as the lights dim. Adam takes a bite of popcorn and looks over at his parents, who sit together awkwardly.

The Pelko's sit next to each other, but so far apart. Their hands don't touch as there is a solid amount of space between the two.

Emory looks on the screen without faltering away, as does Mrs. Pelko.

(CONTINUED)

Finally, Adam looks away from his parents as the first commercial begins playing.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
We need your support!

Sepia-toned B-roll footage from a battle overseas begins playing over the voice of an announcer.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Overseas, the war has begun! There
is a call to arms for men just like
you! Join the Navy and see the
world!

The commercial ends and Adam looks over at his distant father, who has a look of pride in his eyes.

Adams rolls his eyes as the movie begins to play.

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Adam sits up, looking out the window. It's still dark out. He rubs the sleep from his eyes and gets up to get dressed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Adam walks out and into the kitchen and living room area. He grabs a piece of paper and writes "Be home soon. Gone fishing."

As he sets it on the counter, Bea comes out of her room sleepy.

BEA
Adam?

ADAM
Hey, Bea. What are you doing up?

BEA
I was wondering what you were
doing.

ADAM
I'm going fishing. Will you tell
Mom?

BEA
Sure.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Alright, good. Go back to sleep,
Bea. Get some rest.

Bea runs over to Adam and wraps her arms around him, hugging him.

BEA
Bye, Adam.

Adam gives a little chuckle and hugs Bea back.

ADAM
Bye.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Adam sits under a giant pineapple tree with his bike next to him. He checks his watch: 0600. Davi is late.

After a few moments, Adam starts to get up when he notices something coming from the distance.

DAVI
Hey, haole!

Davi is sitting on the crossbar of a bike being pedaled by Martin.

ADAM
You're late.

DAVI
I had to wake this guy up. He
sleeps like a pig.

MARTIN
Here.

Martin hands Adam the poles and some rope and he begins tying them to the handlebars of his bike.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER

The three boys ride down the highway, laughing and genuinely having a good time.

ADAM
Where are we fishing?

(CONTINUED)

DAVI
The Pearl!

ADAM
Like the harbor?

DAVI
No, like an actual pearl.

Martin LAUGHS.

DAVI
Yes, Pearl Harbor. Where else?

Adam looks indifferent to this idea as he thinks about what his father would say if he saw them.

MARTIN
Hey, haole. You ever eat mahi mahi?
You wrap the fish in taro leaf and
then cook it over hot coals. You
have never lived until you've had
mah mahi.

ADAM
You ever cook brook trout? Catch
them in ice cold water. They're the
best.

MARTIN
Nah, you got it wrong. Best fish
come from the ocean.

DAVI
Everyone knows that!

Davi laughs as the boys ride on.

EXT. PEARL HARBOR - LATER

The boys lean their bikes up against a fence with a
"MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY" sign. Crawling through a small
hole in the fence, the boys escape down the bank.

Martin and Davi sit down around a pile of rocks. Adam takes
to this and does the same.

Martin pulls out a cigarette and lights it up, blowing smoke
over the rocks.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

We ask stonefish god to help us
out. Ku'ula bring us lots of fish.

Martin hands the cigarette to Davi who does the same.

DAVI

Lots of fish.

Davi hands the cigarette to Adam who just looks at it,
confused.

DAVI

Go on.

Adam takes the cigarette and blows smoke on the rocks.

ADAM

Lots of fish.

Martin takes the cigarette and takes another puff before
throwing it into the water.

MARTIN

Come on.

DAVI

Which ship is your father's?

Adam points towards the Arizona.

ADAM

That one.

DAVI

Wow, look at those guns!

ADAM

Twelve fourteen-inch guns. Can
carry a thousand sailors.
Armor-plated. Completely
untouchable. Those long rifles can
shoot fifteen-hundred-pound shells
twenty miles and hit a target.

MARTIN

Look at that!

DAVI

What?

Martin points to an old canoe washed up on shore.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Forget fishing from shore. Ka'ula provides!

The boys race over to the canoe and flip it back on its side.

MARTIN

Put the poles in.

Adam picks up the poles and puts them in the canoe as they begin pushing it out onto the water.

As the boys row into the harbor, they watch as troops move out onto the deck and salute the flag as the "Star -Spangled Banner" begins playing.

Adam, almost instinctively, raises his hand over his heart as the song plays.

Adam looks towards his father's ship, trying to see if he can spot his father.

ADAM

Maybe we should move away. I don't want my father to recognize me.

Just as he says this, Adam begins hearing a faint BUZZING.

ADAM

Do you guys hear that?

Martin and Davi look around.

MARTIN

What is that?

DAVI

I think it's...

Davi looks in the distance as he sees planes coming in towards them. A lot of planes.

Literally, hundreds of planes begin overtaking the air above them, flying so close to the water that when one passes over the rowboat, it shakes in the water.

MARTIN

Whoa! Close call!

DAVI

Navy?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

No. here was a red circle. Not the bars and stripes of the Navy.

Adam looks as he sees something drop into the water.

DAVI

Maybe they're making a movie?

As if Davi's words were a cue, a large explosion comes off from the distance. The three watch as flames flicker into the air and a blast of hot air batters them.

Slowly, more and more explosions begin occurring.

DAVI

Guys?

ADAM

We have to get out of here.

Adam looks up at the planes as more bombs begin dropping. Suddenly, he notices an American flag on fire.

DAVI

Look at them!

Davi watches in awe and spectacle at the flames and explosions, enchanted by the sight.

ADAM

Davi, I think it's real. They're Japanese.

Adam looks at Davi, still cheering on the action. He begins to wonder whether Davi is cheering on the Japanese. Who had said to come to Pearl Harbor to "fish"?

ADAM

Davi, sit down!

Davi continues on, ignoring Adam.

ADAM

You dirty Jap!

Suddenly filled with rage, Adam reaches over and drags Davi down, trying to drown him.

Martin reaches over, pulling Adam back and throwing him down.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Stop it! We have to get out of here.

Martin shoves an oar into Adam's hands.

MARTIN

Now row!

Adam, still angry, begins rowing.

Suddenly, another plane whizzes over their heads, rocking the boat.

Adam's eyes follow the plane as it drops a bomb straight towards the Arizona.

BAM!

A large fiery explosion as the shot is a direct hit.

Suddenly, the Arizona is lifted up out of the water, splitting apart in the middle. Fire bursts out as black clouds thicken the sky.

Adam watches on as his father's ship begins sinking.

BEA (V.O.)

Bap! Bap! Bap!

Adam turns his head again to see quick bursts emitting from the front of an oncoming plane.

Everything begins spinning as Adam's lungs fill with water.

Swimming towards the surface, Adam gasps for air as he notices the row boat broken in the water.

He looks around to notice the planes flying away. There is almost silence.

ADAM

Martin? Davi?

Adam WINCES. He touches his back and then looks at his hand again. Blood.

Out in the distance, Adam finally sees Davi and Martin clinging to a piece of wood and swims over to them.

Adam frantically swims towards the two, WINCING in pain with every stroke.

He makes it over the two and notices Martin isn't moving.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Martin? Are you okay?

DAVI
He's hurt, Adam.

Adam looks to see a wooden splinter sticking out of Martin's chest.

ADAM
Help me get him to the pier.

Adam and Davi each grab an arm and begin paddling towards the shore.

In the background, flames burst on another ship being ripped in half.

The three reach the shore and Adam and Davi drag Martin up onto land.

As they lay him down, Martin coughs up a bit of blood.

DAVI
What should we do?

ADAM
Let's get him to the pier.

Adam and Davi grab Martin by the arms and take him towards the fence.

EXT. PIER - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Davi, struggling to carry a pale Martin, walk onto the pier where there is mass hysteria. They watch in horror as windows are smashed and people run for their lives.

DAVI
What do we do?

ADAM
I don't know! We have to get him to a hospital!

Adam looks over and sees a truck with a red cross on the side.

ADAM
There! Hurry!

Adam and Davi drag a barely conscious Martin towards the truck.

(CONTINUED)

The DRIVER sees Martin and comes over to them.

DRIVER
We don't have much more room.

ADAM
He has a piece of wood in his chest!

DRIVER
I can probably only take two of you.

A Navy SOLDIER comes up and pistol whips Davi in the face.

SOLDIER
I've got one! I got a Jap!

Martin falls to the ground and Adam gives the soldier a little shove.

ADAM
Get your hands off him! We're all Americans!

Adam reaches to help Davi up as the Driver grabs Martin and carries him to the truck.

ADAM
You okay?

DAVI
I think so. Thanks.

ADAM
You go with Martin.

DAVI
What about you?

ADAM
I don't know. I'll go get my bike and head home.

The Driver looks at the two impatiently.

DRIVER
We have to go!

ADAM
Go!

Davi goes to the car and gets in as Adam runs off through the chaos to his bike.

(CONTINUED)

Just as Adam reaches his bike, a series of Navy men storm in his direction to the beach.

Adam is knocked off the ledge of the pier a solid six feet down into the sand.

As he WINCES in pain, feeling the blood on his back, a soldier helps him up.

TAYLOR

The name's Taylor. You a sailor?

Adam struggles, not knowing what to say.

TAYLOR

Doesn't matter. Come on.

Taylor grabs a rowboat, very much like the ones Adam and his friends found earlier, and begins pushing it into the water.

TAYLOR

Come on!

Adam now finds himself rowing through the harbor alongside Taylor and other boats.

They pull up alongside a much larger boat as more planes begin coming in behind them.

Adam looks up and recounts the previous attack in his head.

ADAM

Oh shit.

A soldier throws a gun to Adam just as the planes come up.

TAYLOR

Come on, kid! Shoot!

Adam looks at Taylor, perplexed at the situation he has gotten himself into.

TAYLOR

Kid!

The image of Bea playing with the toy planes flashes before Adam's eyes as the Japanese planes suddenly fly over again.

Gun fire hits the boat and Adam feels blood splatter across him as he falls down.

Adam looks up to see Taylor riddled with bullet holes. Not knowing what else to do, Adam begins firing at the planes.

Adam feels the anger of what has happened to Davi and Martin and fires without even thinking. His gunfire goes all over the place until he notices a bomb dropped, coming right for them.

VOICE (O.C.)

Jump ship!

Adam runs to the edge of the boat and jumps off into the water as the bombs hit the boat, blowing it to pieces.

Adam comes up out of the water, surrounded by bodies. The water runs red with their blood, Adam spitting water out.

ADAM

Jesus Christ!

Adam begins swimming towards the shore.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - LATER

The door opens a blood drenched Adam walks in.

Mrs. Pelko, scared, comes over to see who it is.

MRS. PELKO

Adam! Oh my God!

Mrs. Pelko runs over to her son, hugging him.

MRS. PELKO

Where were you?

ADAM

Pearl. The Pearl.

Adam walks over to the couch and sits down.

MRS. PELKO

What? What happened?

ADAM

I saw it.

Adam pauses.

MRS. PELKO

Saw what?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
Dad's ship.

As Adam says this, Bea comes out in the doorway, looking at him.

ADAM
Dad's...

Adam can't finish his sentence.

EXT. DAVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam pulls his bike up in front of Davi's house. The house is now deserted and empty.

ADAM (V.O.)
After that day, I never saw Martin or Davi again. School was shut down for the next couple of weeks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mrs. Pelko sits down on the couch, holding a letter.

ADAM (V.O.)
After getting the news we all expected, my Mom decided it was time to head back to Adam's Center, New York to live with my grandfather.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

Adam, Bea, and Mrs. Pelko look on as their ship begins to pull out of Hawaii.

Adam is holding onto Bea's hand while she cries softly.

ADAM
Bye, Dad.

Mrs. Pelko puts her arm around Adam and the three walk away from the railing, moving on with their lives.

The End.