

JOHN WAYNE WAS A PUSSY

a short play

by
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CHARACTERS

SPC MADERA, 24, Specialist

PFC BETTY, 21, Private First Class

PVT TEPPER, 18, Private

PLACE

A barracks room on a large Army base.
Afghanistan.

*Specialist Madera, 24 and Private First Class Betty, 21.
2 female US Army soldiers, wearing PTs.
Barracks room. Spare.*

SPC MADERA

Lick my balls.

PFC BETTY

Uh, that's a negative, ghost rider.

SPC MADERA

You lost. You lick 'em. That was the deal.

PFC BETTY

Lick your own balls, you c-word.

SPC MADERA

Wish I could. Trust me.

PFC BETTY

I didn't lose shit.

SPC MADERA

You lost the bet. You lost your dignity. You lost everything.

PFC BETTY

If you wanna go down that road, I'd say you lost on a technicality.

SPC MADERA

Excuse me?

PFC BETTY

She was upset before you talked to her. You knew that - yet you pressed on.

SPC MADERA

That in no way effects the outcome. The bitch cried, plain and simple. The fact that she's a little whiny clam to begin with shoulda been taken into account by you, before the bet was made. I carefully weighed all factors, why do you think I bet the way I did?

PFC BETTY

You cunning whore.

SPC MADERA

Facts are facts.

PFC BETTY

She barely cried.

SPC MADERA

She wept.

PFC BETTY

I counted a single tear. Maybe two.

SPC MADERA

You are a damn sorry loser and it is not becoming. At all.

PFC BETTY

I can't even say she was crying because of you. There could be many--

SPC MADERA

Of course she was! I decimated that filthy urchin. It was pathetic.

PFC BETTY

It was pathetic.

SPC MADERA

See?!

PFC BETTY

But still. Your tactics are un-sportswoman-like.

SPC MADERA

I am the victor.

PFC BETTY

By a vag hair.

SPC MADERA

I don't give a shit.

PFC BETTY

I know you don't.

SPC MADERA

Pay the bossman.

PFC BETTY

(beat)

Why do you say I lost my dignity?

SPC MADERA

Because everything was on the line. It is every time.

PFC BETTY

Now hold on now. I don't concede.

SPC MADERA

You said I won by a vag hair!

PFC BETTY

The ruling on the field has been rescinded.

SPC MADERA

How so?

PFC BETTY

Are you familiar with zero sum theory?

SPC MADERA

Excuse me, Professor Tampon?

PFC BETTY

In which both sides lose.

SPC MADERA

Okay, nerd. If anything, we both won.

PFC BETTY

Like take us. Here. In this stupid fuckin war. You could say there are no winners.

SPC MADERA

What are you talking about? We've crushed the Taliban. Al-Qaeda is scattered to the wind. We've pissed on those terrorist fucks. I'd consider it a win.

PFC BETTY

Yeah but at what cost? Lives, treasure. Resources. Time. Future costs. Unseen damage. The true psychological toll won't be seen for years. If ever. Look at Alicia. She's... I mean the bitch is... When the losses are so bad on both sides, no one wins. Zero-sum game.

SPC MADERA

You're so retarded. Someone *always* wins--

PFC BETTY

--Then maybe it's not us.

SPC MADERA

--And to the victor goes the spoils of war. So...pay up bitch.

PRIVATE TEPPER, 18, enters, outfitted in full battle rattle: uniform, body armor, rifle.

PVT TEPPER

Where were you guys?

SPC MADERA

Well, looky looky who we have here.

PFC BETTY starts laughing at PVT Tepper's uniform.

SPC MADERA

A real stud bitch.

PFC BETTY

Hoollly shiiittt.

SPC MADERA

You're a fucking hero, John Wayne. You know that? You're the wind beneath my wings.

PFC BETTY

I heard when John Wayne fucked chicks he would wear his holster and colt revolver. That's it.

SPC MADERA

Sure he did. And when he fucked dudes he'd wear a double holster and only give a reach around if he was in the mood. He fucked anyone anyway he wanted. He was John Wayne.

PFC BETTY

You think he played for both teams?

SPC MADERA

He played for America. He played for the West. He fucked Indians and Germans up. Bad. He loved to fuck. I bet he fucked his horse.

PFC BETTY

Would you fuck him?

SPC MADERA

I'd fuck his *corpse*. It was John Wayne. The Duke could fuck Chuck Norris in his ear if he wanted to. John Wayne was the greatest American who ever lived.

PVT TEPPER

John Wayne was a pussy.

Silence.

PVT TEPPER

He was. He was an actor who—

SPC MADERA

(impression of the Drill Sgt from Full Metal Jacket)

What did you say? Who said that? Who said that!? Who the fuck said that?!?!?! Who is the slimy communist twinkle toes cock-sucker here who just signed his own death warrant!?!?

PFC BETTY

(imitating Pvt Joker from Full Metal Jacket, doing an impression of John Wayne)

It was me. Is it me?

SPC MADERA

Bullshit I can't hear you!

PFC BETTY

Is that you, John Wayne?

SPC MADERA

I admire your honesty, hell I like you, you can come over to my house and fuck my sister!

SPC MADERA swiftly punches PFC BETTY in the gut. She topples over in pain, then rolls over and they both start cracking up. PVT TEPPER watches in disgust.

PVT TEPPER

Whatever, assholes, you missed formation. Sgt Weeks was pissed.

SPC MADERA

Sgt. Weeks can blow me.

PFC BETTY

Not if you blow him first.

SPC MADERA

Absolutely if I blow him first.

PVT TEPPER

He's probably going to write you both up.

SPC MADERA

Why would he do that if you covered for us? You *did* cover for us, didn't you?

PVT TEPPER

I—

PFC BETTY

She didn't! Did you not cover for us? What the fuck?

SPC MADERA

Yes, indeed. What the fuck, Jane?

PVT TEPPER

I didn't realize I was supposed to—

PFC BETTY

Of course you were supposed to, pig dick!

SPC MADERA

Of course. Always. We always cover for each other. You're our battle. Aren't you?

PVT TEPPER

Yeah, but, I thought—

PFC BETTY

Fuckin blue falcon!

SPC MADERA

Jane, Jane, Jane. Now we're going to get written up, is that what you said?

PVT TEPPER

I don't know.

SPC MADERA

You don't know?

PVT TEPPER

I don't know, I mean—

PFC BETTY

I swear to fuckin God—

SPC MADERA

Okay, okay. Let's just... don't worry about it, Jane.

PVT TEPPER

I can go back and talk to him, I really didn't mean--

SPC MADERA

Don't worry about it. Will you take all that shit off, already. My balls are sweating just looking at you.

PVT TEPPER

Yeah, no kidding.

PVT TEPPER unstraps her vest, and starts to dump the rest of her gear.

SPC MADERA

Here let me help you.

SPC MADERA assists her with the gear, carefully placing everything on a chair/bed. PFC BETTY watches, still fuming.

PVT TEPPER

Thanks.

SPC MADERA

Put on your PTs and we can hang out, alright.

PVT TEPPER nods and begins to undress. Takes off her jacket. Then her pants. The other girls watch. She takes off her t-shirt but it gets stuck. SPC MADERA helps her and there's an awkward moment as she just stands there in her panties and bra.

SPC MADERA

You know what I just realized?

PVT TEPPER

What?

SPC MADERA

Private First Class Betty, you know what I just realized?

PFC BETTY

What?

SPC MADERA

Private Jane Tepper has a smokin body.

*PVT TEPPER giggles awkwardly and grabs for her shirt.
SPC MADERA pulls away.*

SPC MADERA

No, you do. You're a certified hottie. Look at her perky titties.

PFC BETTY

You're right. Very tight package.

PVT TEPPER

Whatever.

SPC MADERA

Why didn't we realize this earlier?

PFC BETTY

I don't know.

SPC MADERA

You know what else I just realized?

PFC BETTY

What?

PVT TEPPER

Can I have my shirt back please?

SPC MADERA

(to Tepper)

You know what else I just realized?

PVT TEPPER

What?

SPC MADERA

You should totally fuck Sgt Weeks.

What? PVT TEPPER

You're right, she should. PFC BETTY

Why would I do that? PVT TEPPER

Because he'd be really fuckin in to you, that's why. Unless, wait, are you fucking any of the other NCOs? SPC MADERA

What? No. PVT TEPPER

Not that it'd matter anyway. But think about it, if you get with Sgt Weeks, you're in. He's in, literally, and you're in, figuratively. SPC MADERA

In what? PVT TEPPER

In the club, Private Jane. Don't you understand how it all works? You need an in. Everyone does. That's how this whole shit parade marches along. SPC MADERA

If you like him so much why don't you sleep with him. PVT TEPPER

For one, he doesn't like Puerto Ricans. SPC MADERA

You're Puerto Rican? PFC BETTY

Bitch, you're missing the point. SPC MADERA

What is number two? PVT TEPPER

What? SPC MADERA

You said, 'for one...'
 PVT TEPPER
 Forget about that. Listen--
 SPC MADERA
 Can I have my shirt back now?
 PVT TEPPER
 Of course you can.
 SPC MADERA
SPC MADERA hands her back the shirt and she puts it on, then her shorts.
 SPC MADERA
 Are you going to go see him?
 PVT TEPPER
 When?
 SPC MADERA
 Now.
 PFC BETTY
 No time like the present.
 PVT TEPPER
 What am I supposed to say?
 SPC MADERA
 Don't say anything. Just touch his arm.
 PVT TEPPER
 His arm? You mean his--
 SPC MADERA
 No I mean his arm. Near his wrist. Trust me. Just a light touch, for three seconds. He'll know everything you want him to know.
 PVT TEPPER
 And I want him to--
 PFC BETTY
 Don't overcomplicate a very simple thing.

SPC MADERA

Fucking a sergeant is the simplest of things. An officer is a little more complicated, but not impossible. Trust me. Do you trust me?

PVT TEPPER

I--

SPC MADERA

Good. And you wanna be promoted don't you?

PVT TEPPER

Of course.

SPC MADERA

So, you might wanna pay him a visit.

PVT TEPPER laces up her sneakers.

SPC MADERA

And tell him PFC Betty wasn't feeling well this morning. Woman problems. And I stayed with her because I'm a good battle.

PFC BETTY moans and holds her stomach.

SPC MADERA

Man up, bitch.

SPC MADERA pushes PFC BETTY on the ground, she continues to groan.

PVT TEPPER leaves. As soon as she's gone, PFC BETTY stops and sits up.

PFC BETTY

Think it worked?

SPC MADERA

Of course. I'm a professional killer. John Wayne *was* the pussy.

PFC BETTY

Definitely.

END.