

A Fatal Miscommunication

by

Jaden Powers

jpowers603@gmail.com
(603) 707-9854

EXT. TOP SECRET FACILITY - NOON

JLTVs surround a research facility in the middle of a desert.
GUNSHOTS and EXPLOSIONS everywhere.

Army soldiers use the JLTVs as cover. BRADLEY, 30, Secret
Operations Commander, uses cover as debris flies over.

BRADLEY

Skip, what's our status?

SKIP, 25, Intelligence Officer, hits the JLTV he's behind.

SKIP

Well, let's see, deadly mission,
time running down to our last
minutes, seems like a normal
Tuesday.

GARY, 28, Senior Weapons Officer, launches a MORTAR like a
rocket launcher.

BRADLEY

Gary! What are you doing?

GARY

Ensuring success Commander,
ensuring success.

BRADLEY

(sighs)

Keep the war crimes to a minimum,
please.

GUNSHOTS echo.

GARY

It's a life-or-death situation. Who
cares about laws?

JOANA, 23, Chief Warrant Officer 3, communicates through
RADIO.

JOANA (O.S.)

This isn't the time for fooling
around, guys.

GARY

Come on. There is always time for
fooling around. As long as the job
gets done, who cares.

JOANA (O.S.)
Just survive, this isn't a normal
Tuesday.

GEORGE, 26, General, nudges COOPER off balance.

GEORGE
Don't forget I want a party after I
die. No mourning me.

Cooper, 34, Major General, FIRES two rounds and ducks down.

COOPER
Hit me again and your party will be
tomorrow.

SKIP
Same here, celebrations only.

BRADLEY
Quit it and focus up.

Shooting stops. Bradley peeks over cover.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
Everyone move in!

Lieutenant General, 48, long time smoker, opens a private
radio channel with Bradley.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)
We have some new information. Be on
your guard. Your team may commit
treason.

BRADLEY
I won't count on it.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)
Just use that device if you get
into any trouble.

BRADLEY
Get off the channel.

Bradley changes radio channels.

COOPER
Everything alright, sir?

BRADLEY
Yeah, we're good. Let's hurry this
up, I'm starving.

Bradley's squad starts moving inside.

INT. TOP SECRET FACILITY DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Six tables are in the corner with pillars evenly spaced out and bookshelves lining the walls. The Kitchen is behind a counter where they serve food.

GARY
Starving, you say.

JOANA (O.S.)
I've got a bad feeling about this.
Keep your guard up. Look....
infor... inside...

Joana's RADIO cuts.

GARY
That's not good, is it?

BRADLEY
Just move forward, this bunker goes underground, we were bound to lose service.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)
Bradley, trust no one.

Bradley aggressively changes channels.

SKIP
While I agree with your assessment, we just went inside, we should still have contact.

BRADLEY
Just push forward.

SKIP
No, let's think about this for a second.

Bradley stands over Skip.

BRADLEY
I don't think you know what's at stake here. This is for humanity to live on.

GARY
Come on, let's calm down, arguments will get us nowhere.

Skip pushes Bradley.

SKIP

Look Commander, get a grip. You aren't the only one here. We all know the stakes. We just need to take in all the information we can. Perhaps there was faulty info.

BRADLEY

I don't really care what information we might be missing. Keep moving forward.

SCIENTIST, 46, runs from the basement towards the group.

SCIENTIST

(Frantically)

You guys don't know what you're doing. This is all a big mistake, stop at once.

Bradley turns, SHOOTS the scientist in the head and proceeds to the basement George steps in front.

GEORGE

Bradley, what is wrong with you? That was an unarmed man. That was murder.

BRADLEY

What do you want from me? I'm doing what I must.

GEORGE

What going on? You were fine for the entire goddamn mission, why now?

GARY

Come on guys, let's take a second and breathe.

BRADLEY

Shut up George. If you guys are so upset about how I conduct the mission, then just walk away.

SKIP

Walking away would be unjust. You are under arrest.

Skip pulls out handcuffs. Bradley SHOOTS Skip. Skip FALLS to the ground.

COOPER

Skip!

Cooper picks up Skip and starts walking to the door.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Bradley, you need a serious reality check.

Cooper places Skip outside and starts patching up the wound.

BRADLEY

Like I said, just walk away.

George draws his weapon at Bradley.

GEORGE

You are out of chances, lay down your weapon and come peacefully.

Gary and Cooper join in pointing their guns.

BRADLEY

I can't believe it's come to this. Traitors all of you.

GEORGE

You branded yourself as soon as you shot Skip. Brad you are no longer viable for Commander.

BRADLEY

They told me this would happen.

GARY

Who?

BRADLEY

The Lieutenant General. They had suspicions of people in our ranks. Specifically, all of you.

Bradley drops a CONCUSSION GRENADE and jumps behind a pillar. Gary, Cooper, and George dodge in the other direction behind the counter.

COOPER

This is ridiculous. We are a team, Brad. You've held my daughter. Why would we turn against you?

BRADLEY

Plenty of things can sway a person. Money, safety, blackmail.

GREG

We can still talk about this Brad.

BRADLEY

In case you forgot, I'm the only person who gives a damn here. None of you want to do anything.

GEORGE

You are so not getting a party after this.

Gary, George, and Cooper jump over the counter and push toward Bradley.

Bradley turns the corner and shoots Cooper in the leg, then head.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(Yells)

Cooper no!

George rushes towards Bradley with Greg close behind.

Bullets fly from outside and kill Gary and George.

Bradley stands, drops the distress button, and goes to the basement.

BRADLEY

Don't worry, I'll give you your parties.

A tear falls down his face.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

I wish it didn't have to come to this.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Computers line the walls all with blue screens. The center console glows red.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)

Brad? It's the General.

BRADLEY (O.S.)

Reading you loud and clear.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL

Mission status?

BRADLEY

I'm at the terminal now, there have been four casualties. Just like you predicted.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)

Perfect, now put in the code N453S.

BRADLEY

And done. Mission success.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (O.S.)

With that your service with us comes to an end. We wish you a good retirement.

BRADLEY

I can't retire. I still got a couple good years left.

INT. TOP SECRET FACILITY DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRADLEY

Sir? Hello?

JOANA (O.S.)

Hello, anyone there? What happened down there, everything's in chaos.

BRADLEY

What do you mean, everything should be fine?

JOANA

Bradley, look outside.

The world is on fire, ROCKETS launch in the sky.

JOANA (CONT'D)

You guys need to get somewhere safe, that bunker may be your best bet.

EXT. TOP SECRET FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Bradley walks outside. Skip, still losing blood, sits outside the door, grabs his leg.

SKIP

What did you do? Traitor...

Skip loses his grip and passes out.

JOANA

Bradley, are you there? Cooper?
Skip? Greg? Gary? George? Someone
respond!

Bradley takes out a GRENADE.

BRADLEY

Joana?

JOANA

Bradley, where is everyone are you
guys okay?

BRADLEY

I'm so sorry. I didn't want any of
this to happen.

Bradley falls to his knees.

JOANA

What are you talking about? Where
is everyone?

BRADLEY

I'm sorry.

Bradley pulls the pin and drops the grenade by his leg.

INT. BUNKER - SAME

JOANA

Brad? Answer your damn radio!
Cooper, Skip! Someone. Anyone.

The earth SHATTERS and the bunker COLLAPSES around her.