

The Swagger - 'Loaded Gun'

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EXT. WOODS - DAY

The woods are empty and a mist hangs in the air.

We see a man - CYRUS - running in the distance we can see he is carrying a gun.

His legs are running.

He slams into a tree and his face is scared and out of breath. The barrel of the gun by his cheek.

He bends down and slowly looks around the tree into the distance.

There is nothing to see.

He slumps down onto his arse and takes out his cantina.

His hands are shaking as he takes a drink.

He looks at his shaking hand.

We see his hand shaking.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The same man but dirty and with long hair looks at his shaking hand.

He is dirty from street living. He looks vacant.

He takes another sip and tightens the lid.

People walk past and one drops some change into his paper cup.

Across the road a little girl has stopped walking with her mother and tugs at her hand.

DARCY

Mummy mummy... It's daddy!!

She smiles and points across the road to Cyrus who is looking up at a passing man and thanking him.

The mother looks over and looking upset pulls Darcy along.

MOTHER

C'mon we need to get to school.

As they walk down the street Darcy is waving in the hope that her Daddy will see her and the mother a few metres down the street glances over and then carries on walking.

INT. COUNSELLING ROOM - DAY

Cyrus enters the room shakes the counsellors hand and sits down.

On the desk are pamphlets about PTSD and dealing with anxiety.

Cyrus is asked to sit down and does so.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Cyrus is slowly crawling through the undergrowth peering through the brambles.

He sees a couple of people dressed in civilian clothes a few metres away.

They disappear behind a tree and he moves a little further. He suddenly freezes and a boot comes down inches away from his face.

Seconds later the boot leaves and he has not been discovered. He watches them leave and then crawls to a tree.

Using a small mirror he looks around the tree and by the car are a few men with guns looking very suspicious.

He sends a message on his phone confirming the co-ordinates of the car.

The missile drop is confirmed and he slowly crawls back to a safe distance.

INT. COUNSELLING ROOM - DAY

Cyrus has his head in his hands and is crying to a counsellor who is listening intently and writing notes.

She bends over and offers him some tissues.

He carries on talking through the tears.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cyrus is eating a sandwich and puts it half finished on the pile of other sandwiches.

People walk past and Cyrus stares into space across the road. His daughter is walking across the road untouched by the traffic whizzing by.

She stops.

She continues walking.

The traffic whizzes by.

She carries on walking.

She reaches Cyrus and holds out her hand.

Cyrus goes to hold it with tears in his eyes and her hand turns into a woman's hand with a five pound note.

Cyrus snaps out of his day dream and drops the fiver.

It falls onto the cardboard which says SOLDIER NEEDS HELP.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Cyrus is looking through binoculars at the car with the people and his phone says 5 seconds to impact.

He keeps looking through and the car door opens and a small girl jumps out and into the arms of her dad who leans his gun against the car.

Cyrus tries to communicate with base to abort the missile strike but it is too late.

His face lights up from the explosion and from above we see an explosion in the trees.

Cyrus is beside himself with shock from what has happened and starts running back through the forest through the smoke.

INT. COUNSELLING ROOM - DAY

Cyrus is talking to the counsellor more calmly now and even manages a small smile.

She picks up her phone and speaks to someone.

The door opens and in comes Darcy running and throws her arms around his neck.

They cuddle and smile as the mother walk in after her.

The counsellor is smiling and starts talking to the mother who looks nervous and not sure what to do.

The counsellor encourages her to go over and as she walks over Cyrus stands up still hugging Darcy and they all hug.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cyrus is sitting on the pavement and sees his wife and daughter across the road.

They stop and look over to him.

With all the effort he can muster Cyrus stands up looks over and smiles.