

ARLEN'S GUN

SAMPLE

Written by

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Based on, "Arlen's Gun" By Edgar Doleman

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) 1  
*BIG MA (early 40's, curvy, big bust, dark skin, female) and a YOUNG ARLEN WASHINGTON (six, male, dark skin) sit together in a hug, Big Ma ruffling his hair lovingly.*

2 INT. SKY TRAIN - NIGHT (THE PRESENT) 2  
*Superimpose titles:*

VIETNAM

Airman ARLEN WASHINGTON (early 20's) grits his teeth, his hands clenching on the handles of a Dillon Aero M134D-H in the open cargo doors. He lets them go when his hands start to hurt, his palms bright red.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
(on intercom)  
Gentlemen! We've got a mission. Got some grunts under heavy attack, we gotta find them.

Arlen, Chief HECTOR PASTOR-VILLANUEVA (male, Native American, early 20's) and Airman TIMMY OTIS (early 20's, male, white) share a knowing glance as they sit strapped in the sky train.

3 INT. COCKPIT - SAME TIME 3  
Captain EDDIE MCLAUGHLIN (male, mid 30's, white) sits in the cockpit with Co-Pilot TOM BLAGGET (male, mid 30's, white.)

TOM  
Coordinates are set. They're in the hills. We should have 500 feet to spare.

EDDIE  
You know I hate the word *should*. Don't forget the artillery fans.

TOM  
Got it. Ten klicks out. Take a heading two niner five.

EDDIE  
Turning two niner five.

4 EXT. AC-47 4

The entire aircraft banks through the clouds.

TOM (O.S.)  
We're on the ground unit's channel.  
Coordinates they sent in the fan of  
a one-five-five battery near max  
range.

5 INT. COCKPIT 5

Outside the large front window, a red glowing flare shines  
through the night.

TOM  
Flashes one o'clock. Could be them.

Eddie grabs the radio, turning it on.

EDDIE  
Queen of Hearts. This is Spooky  
Four-Five, over.

TOM  
Approaching the fan. Turn two four  
five.

EDDIE  
Roger, two four five.

6 EXT. AC-47 6

The aircraft banks again.

EDDIE (O.S.)  
Queen of Hearts, Queen of Hearts,  
this is Spooky Four Five. Over.

7 INT. COCKPIT 7

The radio scratches.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)  
(radio)  
Hearts Six. Over.

EDDIE

Roger, Queen of Hearts. Heard you need some fire support. We're maybe two klicks out southeast if you're under fire. We got some sight on flashes. Over.

8 EXT. FOREST HILLS - NIGHT

8

HEARTS SIX (male, late 30's) hides behind a large tree as gun fire rains all around him. He's out of breath as he speaks into his radio.

HEARTS SIX

This is Hearts Six, yeah I hear you! That's us, I think! What are you, over?

9 INT. COCKPIT - SAME TIME

9

EDDIE

Spooky Four-Five. Puff Magic Dragon. AC-47 gunship. We're old and slow but we got eighteen thousands rounds a minute. Over.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)

(radio)  
Holy shit!

10 EXT. FOREST HILLS

10

Hearts Six flinches as a bomb goes off, falling on his butt behind the tree. He looks out to see what's going on for a moment, men yelling all around him.

He goes back to hiding, pressing the radio to his mouth.

HEARTS SIX

How do we mark you?! Over!

11 INT. COCKPIT

11

EDDIE

Four five. Mark your center and give us a radius from that mark. We can circle around and rain hell.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)  
(radio)  
Hearts Six. I can make a fire, will  
that do?

EDDIE  
As long as we can see it.

12 EXT. SKY - NIGHT 12

The aircraft lowers through the clouds. Once it breaks through, the small orange flame can be seen within the trees of the mountain.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)  
(radio)  
Spooky Four-Five, you asked for a  
radius. Things are getting hot!

13 INT. COCKPIT - SAME TIME 13

EDDIE  
Roger that, Hearts. We got a visual  
on your marker. Stand by.

Eddie grabs the intercom.

EDDIE (CONT'D)  
Hey, Technical Sergeant Hector  
Pastor-Villanueva! Ace loadmaster,  
crew chief, and flight engineer.  
Ready a flare!

14 INT. SKY TRAIN 14

Arlen grabs a flare, attaching himself to the cargo doors with the safety straps. The air whips around him, the rain from the clouds pelting him.

Arlen looks down at the trees, grabbing the safety pin on the flare.

ARLEN  
Ready, Chief!

15 EXT. SKY 15

The aircraft banks, making the wind whip even harder. In the cargo doors, Arlen loses his balance.

16 INT. SKY TRAIN

16

As he loses his footing, he waves his hands around to catch his balance and--

The safety pin unlatches from the flare. It flies through the sky train, landing on the floor and rolling away.

EDDIE

Drop!

HECTOR

Shit!

Hector lunges for it.

17 INT. COCKPIT

17

Tom turns to look back to see what's going on. He slowly turns back around as Hector chases after the flare behind him.

TOM

Flare away.

EDDIE

You serious?

TOM

Washington dropped it.

EDDIE

(disappointed)

Of course of he did.

18 INT. SKY TRAIN

18

Gun shots rain onto the aircraft from down below.

Hector throws himself on top of the flare. He hugs it to his body, getting up, and running for the cargo doors.

As he runs, Arlen looks at the safety pin in his hands, dazed and shocked.

HECTOR

Flare!

He throws it towards Arlen, who is slow on the uptake. The flare yet again rolls away from him on the floor.

TIMMY

Arlen!

More gun shots ring as bullets bounce through the sky train.

Arlen lunges for the flare, but the safety straps on him jerk him to a halt. He yells out in pain, kicking his foot out. It hits the flare, making it spin in the opposite direction.

Hector lunges again, clumsily slapping the flare towards the open cargo doors. The flare is stopped by the Dillon Aero M134D-H mount.

Arlen kicks again, shouting in pain as he hits the flare hard. It shoots back towards Hector.

Hector lunges for a third time, hitting the flare with his shoulder. It rolls to the cargo doors, and falls out into the sky.

A couple of seconds later, it explodes.

Hector sighs, falling to the floor.

HECTOR

Shit!

Arlen looks at the safety pin in his hand again, confused and looking guilty. He winces, touching the back of his helmet and--

His hand is stained with blood.

ARLEN

I've been shot!

His head gear glitches, sputtering electricity.

Arlen unstraps himself, moving to sit next to Timmy.

19 INT. COCKPIT

19

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)

(radio)

Four-Five! Four-Five! Hearts Six,  
they're making their move! They're  
coming!

20 INT. SKY TRAIN

20

Hector and Arlen look at each other, Timmy busy with looking at Arlen's head wound.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)  
(radio)  
If you can do something, do it now!

21 EXT. SKY 21

The aircraft banks again, turning to head closer to the orange markers in the trees.

EDDIE (O.S.)  
Heading your way.

22 INT. COCKPIT 22

EDDIE  
We see you!

23 INT. SKY TRAIN 23

Hector is now up and standing by Arlen and Timmy, looking up as the intercom turns on.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
(intercom)  
Chief! Ten seconds!

24 EXT. FOREST HILLS 24

The orange markers light everything up as Hearts Six hides from more gun fire. In the orange light, shadows the enemy appear everywhere, getting bigger and bigger as they grow closer.

Hearts Six stands, looking around nervously as he picks another tree to hide behind.

HEARTS SIX  
(whispered)  
Oh man, I'm finished...

He closes his eyes, only for a bright white beam of light to shine down on him and the surrounding area. The sound of a loud engine makes him cover his ears, opening his eyes to see the Vietnam soldiers quickly trying to escape.

Hearts Six quickly runs as far away as he can as the guns start firing from above. There are screams and shouts, dirt and grime lifting from the ground, and bullets scattering.

A few seconds later, the shots stop and there's silence.  
Hearts Six sighs with relief, laughing. He grabs his radio.

HEARTS SIX (CONT'D)  
You got 'em! You got 'em all!

25 EXT. HILL SIDE 25

The Vietnamese soldiers prepare a 12.7 mm heavy machine gun.  
With fog rolling in, the clouds high, and rain still falling,  
they're hidden from view.

HEARTS SIX (V.O.)  
(radio)  
We got the jump on them now, we're  
ahead for sure--

They open fire.

26 EXT. AC-47 26

The bullets fly, sparks erupting on the gun ship.

27 INT. SKY TRAIN 27

Hector is hit in the leg, blood spraying. He yelps, falling  
to the floor as everyone inside hits the ground and covers  
their head.

TIMMY  
Chief!

28 EXT. AC-47 28

The aircraft banks back into the air to miss the bullets. As  
it does, one hits the second engine, making it erupt in  
flames.

29 INT. SKY TRAIN 29

Timmy crawls over to Hector who groans with pain.

TOM (V.O.)  
(intercom)  
Anyone hit?! Everyone okay back  
there-- Fire light on number two!

30 INT. COCKPIT 30

The radio in their helmets scratch.

TIMMY (V.O.)  
(radio)  
Chief's hit!

EDDIE  
Tom--

Tom unstraps himself from his seat.

TOM  
I got it.

He presses a button, the sound of an engine whirring as it turns off.

31 EXT. AC-47 31

The aircraft swivels, tilting as it tries to regain balance. The bullets stop. The left engine pushes with more fire power to help with balance.

32 INT. SKY TRAIN 32

TOM (V.O.)  
(radio)  
Otis, an engine's hit! Take care of the Chief--

TIMMY  
I got it!

33 INT. COCKPIT 33

TOM  
Good man!

EDDIE  
Any other flames you can see?

Tom looks around through all the windows.

34 EXT. RIGHT NACELLE 34

The nacelle billows with black smoke, oil dripping out of it.