

Screenplay
"Let him go to his Mamma"

By

Anup Narayanan

Based on a short event in the book "The tunnels of Cu Chi"
(A book on the Vietnam War)

Anup Narayanan

anupnarayanan@gmail.com
+91-9633122590

SCENE 1 - EXT - DAY

SHOT 1

Establishing Shot (Preferably top or pan from left to right)

We are deep inside a jungle, thick foliage of trees and plants. Fallen leaves on the forest floor. Crickets, insects and bird calls in the background.

The following text appears on the screen

In 1988 the war between Sri Lanka and the Indian Peace Keeping Force was at it's peak. Some of the toughest battles were fought in the jungles of Jafna

SHOT 2

Two soldiers (A and B) enter the frame from left. A is the leader and B follows A. They move slowly and cautiously looking around (birdcalls and insects in the background). The soldiers exit the frame from the right.

SHOT 3

The soldiers are in the frame and continue to walk cautiously. Suddenly A raises his right hand signaling to stop.

SHOT 4 (MEDIUM-CLOSEUP)

Slight tension in the face of A and even more in the face of B. A looks slightly senior and B is a young fresh faced kid.

SHOT 5 (FULL SHOT)

A and B are looking at a bush that is in front of them and there is something unknown beyond the bushes which they cannot see. A slowly ducks down, B follows and they hide themselves behind a thick foliage of bushes.

SHOT 6 (CLOSE UP)

A slowly moves apart the branches in the bush and looks out through the gap

SHOT 7 (FULL SHOT)

The camera now looks out through the gap in the bushes (we are seeing through A's eyes). We see a small clearing beyond the bush after which there is thick forest cover again. The clearing is like a small gap in the forest.

(CONTINUED)

Nothing is moving. Silence....Suddenly there is a disturbance in the bushes on the other side and a soldier (we'll call him C) appears. He is an enemy.

C enters the clearing and looks around. Assuming that it is safe he walks towards a tree in the clearing and throws down his bag. He sits down wearily, almost dropping himself. He is still holding the gun.

SHOT 8 (CLOSE UP FROM SIDE)

A and B are intently looking at C

SHOT 9 (EXTREME CLOSE UP)

A raises the guns and looks through the viewfinder.

SHOT 10 (THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER)

We see C through the Viewfinder his head is moving around a little.

SHOT 11 (CLOSE UP)

A's fingers slowly curl around the trigger of his gun

SHOT 12 (MEDIUM CLOSE UP)

B looks at A and it is obvious that B is nervous. He is new to war. His eyes have fear and tension. He looks at A and then C.

SHOT 13 (MEDIUM SHOT)

C rests his back against the tree and rests his gun on his lap. He takes a cover from his pocket.

SHOT 14 (CLOSE UP)

The cover is a letter and he opens the cover and takes the letter out.

SHOT 15 (CLOSE UP)

A raises his eyes from the viewfinder. He is curious.

SHOT 16 (MEDIUM FROM FRONT)

C is reading the letter

SHOT 17 (MEDIUM FROM SIDE OR TOP)

C continues to read the letter

(CONTINUED)

SHOT 18 (CLOSE UP)

A and B are watching C

SHOT 19 (FULL SHOT)

In this shot the camera is in the middle and on the right we can see C and it is obvious that A and B are behind the bushes on the left. Nothing is happening. A will fire anytime.

SHOT 20 (EXTREME CLOSE UP)

A looks into the viewfinder again. Taking aim and his fingers curl around the trigger.

SHOT 21 (CLOSE UP ON B)

B is tense. Mouth slightly open. Eyes full of fear. Looks at A and then towards C.

SHOT 22 (CLOSE UP ON C)

C is holding the letter in such a way that it is covering his face. Then C drops the hand holding the letter and we see that his face is red and his eyes are welled up with tears. He brings his hand towards his face trying to wipe his tears away. But, suddenly he cups his face with his hands and starts crying uncontrollably.

SHOT 23 (THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER OF A'S GUN)

C cups his face tightly and suddenly lowers his face towards his chest and starts crying. He sobs uncontrollably.

When he lowers his face, his head falls below the cross-hairs (the "+" that indicates the point the bullet must strike) of the gun.

SHOT 24 (CLOSE UP)

A is surprised and looks up. He takes his eyes off the viewfinder

SHOT 25 (EXTREME CLOSE UP)

A's fingers relax from around the trigger

SHOT 26 (CLOSE UP)

B looks at A puzzled

SHOT 27 (CLOSE UP OF C)

(CONTINUED)

C is crying and he starts saying "Mmma...."....."Mamma"....

SHOT 28 (CLOSE UP OF A AND B)

A and B are slightly shocked

SHOT 29 (FULL SHOT SIMILAR TO SHOT 18)

We are in the middle of the clearing, C to the right, A and B behind the bushes on the left. The sound that we hear is C's cry of "Mamma....Mamma"

At this moment we feel the pain of war. The pain of young soldiers who are pushed into it without a choice. We hold this scene for some time.

C crying and two enemy soldiers watching him, ready to kill him and C is unaware of it.

SHOT 30 (CLOSE UP OF A AND B)

B slowly looks at A after taking his eyes off from C.

B
Why is he crying?

A does not reply.

SHOT 31 (CLOSE OF UP C)

C continues to cry, saying "Mamma..."

SHOT 32 (CLOSE UP OF A AND B)

B continues his conversation

B
Is he calling his mother?

SHOT 33 (CLOSE UP OF A AND B FROM SIDE, CLOSER TO A)

"A" closes his eyes as if suppressing pain and then nods very slowly (just a nod) in the affirmative.

SHOT 34 (MEDIUM - FROM BEHIND A AND B)

A slowly lowers the gun and turns around. Now his back is towards C. He sits on the forest floor cross legged. B also does the same. A rests his gun next to him on the ground. B is still holding it.

(we can hear C's sobbing in the background)

"A" stares straight....at nothing. His mind embroiled in thoughts. Painful memories deep in his face. B is looking at the forest floor.

SHOT 35 (MEDIUM CLOSE-UP)

Then B speaks. Without looking at A, staring at the forest floor...

B
When did you see your mother last?

A thinks for a while...still staring and not looking at B. Then he answers.

A
(mumbles...)Long time back

Both say nothing for some time. Then B asks, very innocently

B
Will this war end?

A is again quite for some time...again staring straight

A
(mumbles
softly)...yeah...someday we
will go home

SHOT 36 (FULL SHOT)

We see A and B, sitting cross-legged on the forest floor. Two soldiers, alone.

SHOT 34 (CLOSE UP ON C)

C slowly folds the letter and puts it back in his pocket. He wipes his eyes, regaining his composure. He picks his gun and stands up. Then he lifts his bag and looks around.

SHOT 37 (MEDIUM CLOSE UP A AND B)

B looks back hearing the noise of C starting to leave. He looks at A with a slight urgency (not much...)

B
He is getting away

B is about to turn around when A suddenly puts his arms on B's shoulder...stopping him. B looks at A.

SHOT 38 (CLOSE UP)

A is staring ahead...not looking at B. He thinks and as if taking a decision he says firmly.

A

His Mamma must be waiting.....(then
after a slight pause) Let him go to
his Mamma.

B looks at him.

SHOT 39 (EXTREME CLOSE UP FROM FROM A'S SIDE, B'S FACE
TOWARDS A)

B continues to look at A and is thinking about what A just
said. Then B's face breaks slowly into a smile.

SHOT 40 (FULL SHOT FROM FRONT)

A and B on the forest floor. B lowers his gun and puts it on
the ground. The camera slowly fades out and the following
quote appears on the screen.

"Someday this war's gonna end"

--Lieutenant Colonel Bill Kilgore in Apocalypse Now

*****End and Credits Roll*****