

Unsung Heros

by

Eryn Edelen

Eryn Edelen  
eryn@bluestonecinema.com  
1963 Teal Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-314-1913

SUPER: "France, 1916"

INT. SMALL COUNTRY KITCHEN - DAY

Pans and bundles of dried herbs line the walls and a pot simmers on the stove. The steady TAPPING of a pendulum clock breaks the silence.

ADELE (40's) sits at a small table. Silent tears run down her cheeks as she stares at an opened letter and a Croix de Guerre bravery medal.

JONATHAN (16), quietly walks in the front door, looks at his mother and sits down across from her.

JONATHAN

I think we should leave.

She picks up the medal and strokes it lovingly as she shakes her head 'no'.

JONATHAN

The war's coming closer.

ADELE

It's not coming here.

JONATHAN

Yes, mum! It is! I read the notes my pigeons bring.

Anger flashes across her face.

ADELE

You think those dirty birds are going to win this war?!

JONATHAN

No, but they're helping.

ADELE

Stop!

She SLAMS the medal down and Jonathan's face grows stern as he pushes away from the table.

JONATHAN

Even if you don't like my birds,  
you know that what I'm doing is  
secret, right?

(she nods 'yes')

Good.

He turns to leave the house.

EXT. SMALL COUNTRY HOME

Green ivy clings to the stone walls and the foliage is thick. A few large trees shelter the home from the sun.

A maturing garden grows nearby and not far from the home is a clump of tall trees. Jonathan strides toward them.

EXT. PIGEON LOFT

He kicks pebbles on the path and as he gets nearer to the coop, the pigeons COOING grows louder.

The birds respond to him with excitement as he opens a side door and grabs a small, canvas bag of grain and a stool before entering the coop.

INT. PIGEON LOFT

Placing the stool, he sits down. The pigeons noisily crowd around him and some fly to his shoulders as he digs into the bag of grain and hand feeds them.

JONATHAN

The Colonel told me that if I  
have to leave, you'll all be moved  
to a safer place.

He pets the birds and kisses them when suddenly another pigeon, EVA, lands outside the coop and stumbles because she only has one leg. Jonathan sees her and quickly stands. The birds on his shoulder lose balance and fly off.

JONATHAN

Eva!

EXT. PIGEON LOFT

He closes the door behind him, goes to her, picks her up and nuzzles her affectionately.

A stream of sunlight catches the iridescence on her feathers and she pecks at the grain in his hand.

JONATHAN

I missed you! I'll bet you have  
stories to tell!

Eva nibbles on his hair and COOS quietly into his ear.

JONATHAN

Yes. I love you, too.

He gently removes the rolled up note from her good leg and opens it while holding her.

INSERT - THE NOTE, which reads:

"Your position is compromised.  
Immediate action advised."

BACK TO SCENE

Jonathan's face drops and he looks around with panic. He goes to place Eva back in the coop but changes his mind and nestles her in his arm, instead.

JONATHAN  
(to the other  
pigeons)  
It's all right. I'll make sure  
you're safe.

He opens the side door again and pulls out a pigeon carrier before running towards his house.

INT. SMALL COUNTRY HOME

Adele dusts the furniture when Jonathan bursts in.

JONATHAN  
Start packing! We're leaving now!

ADELE  
What are you talking about?!

JONATHAN  
Now, mum! I'll be right back!

He SLAMS the door without another word.

MAIN STREET OF SMALL COUNTRY VILLAGE

Jonathan races down the street. The few people in his way move quickly to let him through.

EXT. UNMARKED DOWNTOWN BUILDING

He arrives at and bangs on a solid wood door. Latches are UNLOCKED and the door opens partway to reveal the worn leathery face of the COLONEL (50's). Although his eyes are tired, he brightens just a little with Jonathan's presence.

COLONEL  
Jonathan!

JONATHAN

The Germans are coming, sir.

He thrusts the note at the Colonel, who glances at Eva before taking it and opening it. His face grows even more serious and he looks squarely at Jonathan.

COLONEL

Looks like we both have important things to do then.

Jonathan stops him from closing the door.

JONATHAN

Wait, sir.

The Colonel waits as Jonathan gives Eva one last snuggle and kiss before gently placing her in the carrier and handing it to him.

JONATHAN

She's really special, sir. Will you keep her safe?

The Colonel takes the carrier and kindly nods 'yes'.

COLONEL

And I'll do what I can to take care of the others, too. You take care of your mother.

JONATHAN

Thank you, sir. I will, sir.

He turns and takes off running at full speed back towards his house.