

UNTIL VALHALLA

A Silent Film
Written by

Art Mireles

Based on
My experience as a Veteran to our nation's longest war
&
A pastiche of Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* (1954)

SPC Antony Black
Death
PFC Brown
SGT Gonzaba

EXT. CHURCH STEPS - EARLY MORNING

The sky is cloudy and a CROW gently glides.

The STEEPLE is high in the sky and THE SOLDIER is slumped at the steps surrounded by EMPTY BEER BOTTLES. SPC Antony Black sips from one of the ALMOST EMPTY BOTTLE of BOOZE.

TITLE CARD: "In those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it..."

SPECIALIST (SPC) ANTONY BLACK, 21, a tall, slender, Black American in his early 20s, with a fairly large AFRO and SIDEBURNS. He is extremely out of regulations wearing his ARMY UNIFORM.

Around him is his PONCHO LINER, or "Woobie", and he is HOLDING a BLACK LEATHER ZIP CONTAINER in his right hand.

SPC Antony Black removes his WOOBIE and reveals he is adorned with a CORD on his shoulder and the COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE on his chest. His right sleeve is rolled up, revealing the TRACK MARKS of intravenous drug use on his ARM.

Beside SPC Antony Black is a CHESSBOARD that is awaiting to be played. He is staring into the sky.

Going through his BLACK LEATHER ZIP CONTAINER a NEEDLE and SPOON is revealed. A CANDLE and BLACK TAR-LIKE SUBSTANCE are both carefully removed from the Zip Container. SPC Antony Black turns at the presence of a DARK FIGURE.

DEATH, a small, pale, attractive young woman wearing a BLACK CLOAK, is standing above the steps facing and smiling at SPC Antony Black as she flutters her eyelashes at him.

SPC Antony Black smiles at the face of Death.

Death sits next to him at the steps. SPC Antony Black PREPARES A NEEDLE and HOLDS IT IN his RIGHT HAND.

The NEEDLE PLUNGER recedes again and BLOOD mixes with the substance. The plunger is pushed, forcing the substance to travel.

Death looks at the NEEDLE and back at SPC Antony Black. A face of ECSTASY is upon SPC Antony Black's face.

Death is pleased.

INT. BLACK VOID - NIGHT

Surrounded by celestial lights, Death and SPC Antony Black are divided by a chessboard on top of a pedestal.

Death grabs A BLACK PAWN and a WHITE PAWN and swaps them behind his back. She holds both hands in front of SPC Antony Black. He chooses the RIGHT HAND.

Death reveals the Black Pawn and she chuckles.

A SOLDIER sits behind Death.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) BROWN is wearing FULL COMBAT LOAD, has a UPPER TORSO underneath the PLATE CARRIER. SPC Antony Black notices PFC Brown's welcoming smile.

SPC Antony Black seems a bit out of it as Death orients the CHESSBOARD. She starts moving pieces in their appropriate order. Death grins as SPC Antony Black.

They begin to play. As if they are late for a party, PFC Brown is waiving his arms to hurry SPC Antony Black to finish the game. PFC Brown taps on his WRIST WATCH.

Taking a PAWN from Death, SPC Antony Black laughs at her face as he places the KNIGHT down.

Death strikes back as she takes the KNIGHT that was just placed.

ANOTHER SOLDIER EMERGES and sits behind Death.

SERGEANT (SGT) GONZABA is wearing his DRESS GREENS, LARGE RIBBON RACK, SHOULDER CORD and COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE on his chest. SGT GONZABA greets PFC Brown and as they shake hands a GUNSHOT WOUND through the TEMPLE is revealed.

SGT Gonzaba manages to wave at his Battle Buddies.

SGT Gonzaba hand signals to SPC Antony Black to hurry up and move out. Both PFC Brown and SGT Gonzaba look eager to hang out. SGT Gonzaba and PFC Brown tap on their WRIST WATCHES.

SPC Antony Black hastily makes a move with his BISHOP and Death swoops to take that piece.

SPC Antony Black slams his QUEEN onto the Chessboard. Death calmly takes the other KNIGHT.

A Black Pawn is moved behind the BLACK QUEEN. Death takes the BLACK QUEEN with her WHITE QUEEN, and set up for a CHECK.

SPC Antony Black can barely keep his eyes open. Death nods, signaling for him to move.

SPC Antony Black reaches for THE BLACK KING, but knocks over a Black Pawn onto the neighboring space.

Death chuckles as she removes the KING and light is shining brightly behind DEATH. She places her hand out and SPC Antony Black reaches for it.

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All THREE SOLDIERS stand up. SGT Gonzaba and PFC Brown finally walk past Death and welcome SPC Antony Black. They all fade into the atmosphere as they walk and reminice.

Death follows behind them.

WHIP PAN TO:

EXT. CHURCH STEPS - EARLY MORNING

Lifefless, SPC Antony Black is lying down with a SYRINGE stuck in his left arm, wrapped in his Woobie. His Black Leather Zip Container is EMPTY.

FADE TO BLACK.