

BURNING WIND

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SCREENPLAY BY G.E.M.

1940-44 German occupied France

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

A YOUNG WOMAN, mid to late 20s, in tattered clothing digs next to a lonely tree. From the hole she pulls out a wooden box. Inside is a soldier's knife, a Resistance Medal, and a photo of a man in uniform: her brother.

She looks around and lifts the knife to her wrist.

CRASH and THUD

An AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER, mid to late 20s, in an American soldier uniform struggles to get to his feet through the wind and high grass.

The young woman stares, knife in hand. The African American soldier holds his hands up afraid that she may attack.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER  
Parlez-vous...English?

She locks eyes with him in anger and takes a step forward.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(French accent)  
You can't help us! It is too late!  
You are too late!

She points the knife towards him.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER  
Look, I don't know what you are  
going through, but if I'm going to  
help anyone, I've got to find my  
brothers.

He points west. Her eyes water as she realizes that all hope is lost. She drops the knife and falls to her knees, despair taking over her body.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
I really have to go

He turns towards the west and makes his way towards the horizon with his brothers in arms on his mind.

## BEACH COAST - LATER THAT DAY

The young woman walks towards the coast wondering where the soldier went off to, wondering what is left for her life now that her brother is gone. She falls to her knees with the items from the box, and looks out at the waves crashing on the coast.

Not far away, the African American soldier searches for any sign of his comrades. He sees the young woman on the coast and suddenly a pair of GERMAN SOLDIERS A & B, mid to late 20s, drive up in a jeep.

He quickly runs for cover. The young woman looks up and sees the coming threat. She digs a hole to hide the knife, picture, and medallion.

The jeep pulls right up to her. German Soldier A CLIMBS out and walks up to her while he scans the beach. The African American soldier watches from his hiding place.

GERMAN SOLDIER A

My fraulein, what are you doing out here?

On her knees, she keeps her head down, and doesn't respond. The anger inside of her bubbling up.

GERMAN SOLDIER A (CONT'D)

An enemy soldier was spotted landing here on this beach. It is dangerous here.

She lowers her face. He crotches down to her with a smirk.

GERMAN SOLDIER A (CONT'D)

Your brother's death was sad, yes but his ties to the resistance, well, we cannot tolerate insubordination.

Her anger almost uncontrollable, she digs down into the sand for the knife. German Soldier A overhears a noise in the bushes where the African American soldier is hiding. He spots footsteps and follows them towards the bushes.

Turning back to German Soldier B, he directs him to scan the beach. German Soldier B, with his rifle in hand, follows his command.

GERMAN SOLDIER A (CONT'D)

Ah!

The young woman stabs him in the back and he falls. As the blood drips from the knife, she looks down in satisfaction, then scans the bushes for the African American soldier.

YOUNG WOMAN

Come, hurry!

They run up to the Jeep, start it, and DRIVE off.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

Go, go, go!

With hope in their eyes and the wind in their hair, they drive off fast towards a new destination together...

BANG

German Soldier A lowers his gun with a blood filled smirk and falls down dead.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER

Oh God!

Blood SPLATTERS the windshield and the African American's face. She lifts her hand from her heart, covered in blood.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, hey!...don't go...stay  
with me.

Her hand in his as he drives away, the medallion drops into his hand. She FALLS back into her seat and passes. Underneath the medallion is the picture of her and her brother.

With tears in his eyes, he drives on.

END.