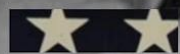




Boys Fight



Wars

by faith noelle avon & ava kramer

**WHEN A GROUP OF JROTC CADETS PARTICIPATE IN A
ROUTINE EXERCISE OF CAPTURE THE FLAG,
IT BECOMES ALL TOO REAL WHEN
ONE OF THE PLAYERS
ENDS UP DEAD**



THE STAKES

We follow 16-year-old cadet, Isaac Banks, and his two friends, Jayden and Noah, into the final week of JROTC Summer Camp. Petty fights, superficial politics, and constant ball-busting surround this battalion, but Isaac is only focused on one thing; the annual game of Capture the Flag. For one week and one week only, two teams camp out in the woods, no adult supervision, and attempt to steal the opposing team's flag. When one of these flags are pulled, the supervisors are alerted that the game has been won. While Jayden is more concerned with having fun and goofing off, and Noah is driven by a pure competitive need to win, Isaac's got his eye on something bigger; college. Succeeding in these JROTC exercises are key to getting nominated for admission into top military academies. For Isaac, losing this game is not an option.



The three friends are split up into two teams: Isaac and Jayden on the Blue Team, Noah on the Red Team. Tensions rise as the previous threesome face off against each other. Isaac is unable to relinquish control in his team and butts heads with Jayden as Jayden continuously goofs off. Noah feels out of place on his team without his friends, but so badly wants to beat them. As the game progresses, a strategic move from the Blue Team gets them into the Red base. Isaac and Noah find themselves facing off as Isaac tries to grab the Red Team's flag. As Noah and Isaac fight for the flag, Isaac finds himself closer, closer, until, in a moment of chaos and desperation: Noah strikes Isaac with a rock, killing him.

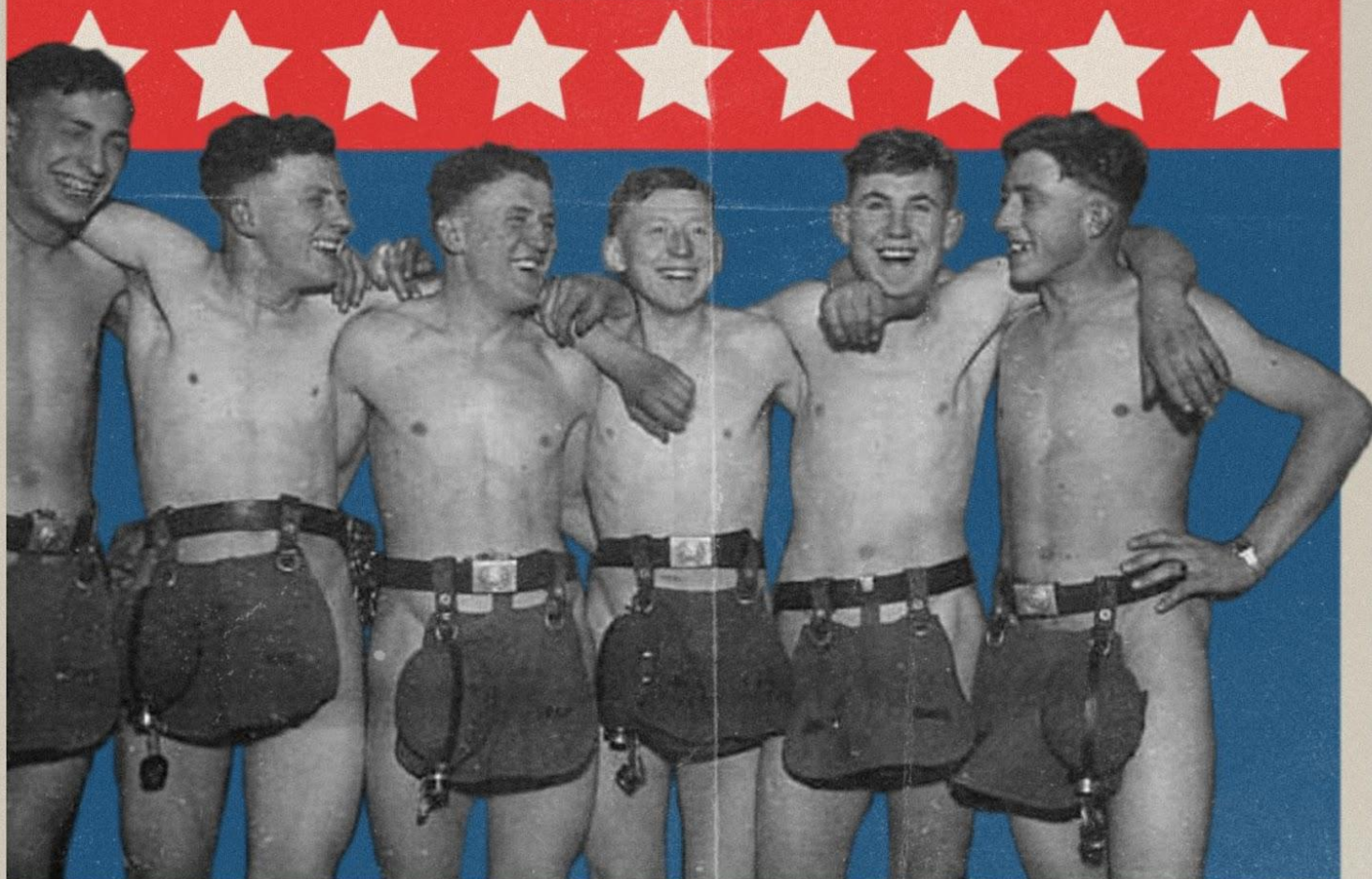
In the chaos, nobody sees the blow, but everybody sees the body. Panic sweeps the battalion as the two warring teams argue over what to do. Two new teams emerge: The team of cadets that want to call for help, led by Jayden, and the cadets that want to hide the body, led by Noah. Now, with Jayden in control of the body, and Noah in control of the only flag left, this war game becomes dangerously real.

THE CONFLICT



THE *THEMES*

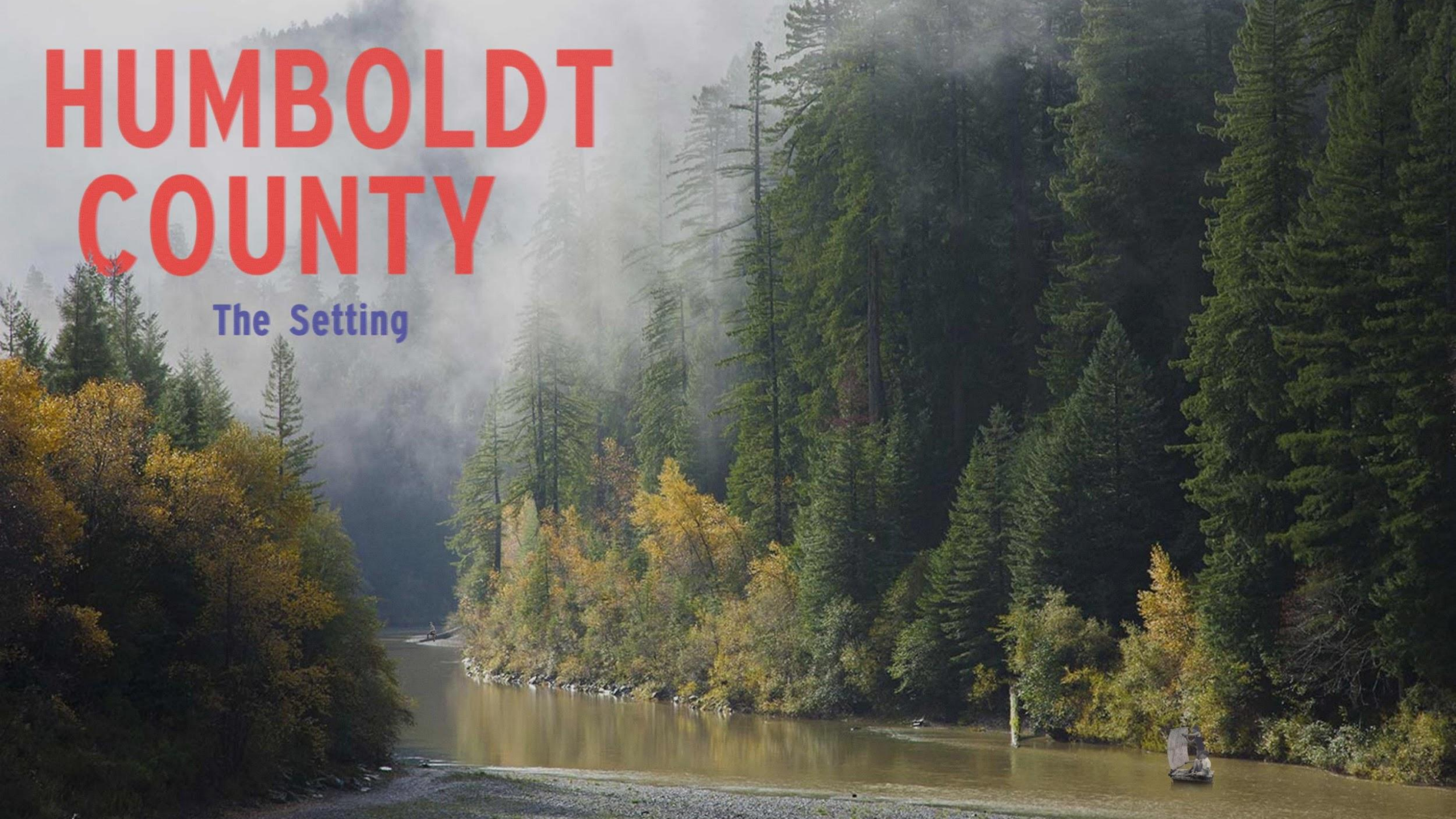
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- ★ The gender of "boy" vs "man"
- ★ War through the eyes of boys, who have historically fought most of the world's wars
- ★ War as a gender ritual being sought out in the modern day
- ★ How war used to facilitate close male relationships
- ★ To be "bitched"
- ★ The struggle between the need for power and the need for connection
- ★ Mob mentality

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The Setting



ISAAC G. BANKS

- SEX: M
- AGE: 16
- WEIGHT: 145
- At every turn Isaac Banks chooses to be a cadet, not some directionless boy like his friends. He's going to play this game as professionally as any 16 year old can. Always looking towards the future, Isaac is aiming to be admitted into the top US military academies and this game could get him there. He knows he has what it takes to inch himself in front of his peers and get the recognition he needs, but he'll have to work around his team's lack of skill.
- Isaac has all the markings of a leading serviceman. He's analytical, smart, quick on his feet, and physical. Coming from a home where debt strangled his family, Isaac is determined to have the life they never had.

NOAH HANCOCK

- SEX: M
- AGE: 16
- WEIGHT: 153
- The loudest and the most unsure of the three friends. Noah swings from being caustic, cocky, and rambunctious, to faltering, sweaty, and aggressive. Noah is one of the highest performing cadets of the battalion but suffers from a lack of direction; leaning on his competitive streak to guide him. Separated from his friends during the game, he struggles to lead his team forward.
- Noah joined the JROTC when he beat someone in a school recruitment exercise. The thrill of not just being the best but *beating* someone else got him hooked.

JAYDEN GARDNER

- SEX: M
- AGE: 16
- WEIGHT: 142
- Jayden can't think of anything better than killing time with his friends and getting into lighthearted trouble. A boy that only ever skims sincerity. He's not really motivated by competition but instead seeks out what will be the funniest/most fun thing to do. In the game, Jayden is paired with Isaac and butts up against his professionalism. For Jayden, Capture the flag is just a game, nothing more.
- Jayden isn't bad, he's just not great. Not that it bothers him anyway, Jayden joined the JROTC because his friends were there.

The Battalion

- **Bryce McCallister:** M: 17: 160 lbs: The battalion leader and lap dog of the two supervising sergeants. Red in the face with power and a need for validation.
- **Ethan Playford:** M: 16: 140 lbs: The scheming double agent only out for his own gain. If something's amiss, Ethan is involved.
- **Owen Chambers:** M: 14: 135 lbs: One of the newest members of the battalion, Owen has yet to gain his sea legs in this high-pressure environment.
- **Liam Gerbers:** M: 14: 138 lbs: Overly enthusiastic about everything war related, and very eager to succeed.
- **Matt Dawson:** M: 15: 143 lbs: The black sheep of the battalion. Matt is participating in the JROTC as a form of community service to have his Juvie record expunged.
- **Andrew Garcia:** M: 15: 159 lbs: Aggressive, gruff, and a bit dogmatic. Andrew is quick to draw lines and start pointing fingers.

The Supervisors

- **Tyler Reeves:** M: 21: 161 lbs: An apathetic cynic with sharp edges. Tyler just simply doesn't give a shit about anyone or anything, except his juul.
- **Cameron Bonner:** M: 23: 165 lbs: Behind a very cheerful and supportive attitude lies a shadier, more conniving persona. Cameron likes to ever so slightly pull the strings from off stage to get what he wants.