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PAUSE FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT

SEASON.01 - NAPODPOMO

CHAPTER.01 - RING

BY

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**CAST**

THOMAS BLACK (NARRATOR)  
DOUGLAS DIRE (HOMELESS VET)

**OVERVIEW**

*INKTOBER PROMPT: RING*

**SCENE 1.**

**INTRO**

[THEME MUSIC]

[NARRATOR] GREETINGS! I'M YOUR APPROVED STORYTELLER THOMAS BLACK. A THIS IS **PAUSE... FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT.** PRESENTED BY GAGGLEPOD STUDIOS.

[NARRATOR] TODAY'S ADVENTURE CONTINUES WITH CHAPTER ONE (PAUSE)  
RING

**EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT**

**SOUND: SHUFFLING BOOTS, SHOPPING CART  
SQUEAKING, CART COMING TO A STOP.**

[DIRE] **WELL, WELL, WELL.**

[NARRATOR] THERE, NEAR THE EDGE OF AN EMPTY PARKING LOT, LAY THE RING.

[DIRE] **WHAT HAVE WE HERE?**

[NARRATOR] THE SUN GLINT OFF IT'S GOLDEN CURVES WAS WHAT FIRST ALERTED HIM TO ITS RESTING PLACE. IT WAS AN OLD RING, FASHIONED WITH FANCY DETAILS AND CAREFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP. BUT IT WAS THE SIZE OF THE STONE THAT HE FOCUSED ON. THE INLAID OPAL WAS AS BIG AS HIS THUMB AND HE MIGHT HAVE TRIPPED OVER IT IF HE HAD NOT SPOTTED ITS RESTING PLACE FIRST.

[NARRATOR] THE LITTLE TREASURE WAS JUST ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO APPEAR EXPENSIVE. ONLY IT WAS **WERE** HE FOUND IT THAT GAVE **DOUGLAS DIRE** PAUSE.

**[DIRE] MMM... WE'RE A LONG WAY'S AWAY FROM LOOSE CHANGE, NOW, ARN'T WE, HERE.**

[NARRATOR] THIS WAS HIS SECRET SATURDAY AFTERNOON HUNTING GROUNDS. HE WAS USE TO FINDING PENNIES, DIMES, EVEN THE OCCASIONAL QUARTER IN THIS PARKING LOT ON WEEKENDS. ONE TIME HE EVEN REMEMBERED FINDING A TWENTY-DOLLAR-BILL. HOWEVER, AFTER SPENDING AN HOUR INSPECTING HUNDREDS OF VACANT PARKING SPOTS, IT WAS ONLY IN THE LAST ROW THAT HE ENCOUNTERED THE ROYAL ACCESSORY. THE OPAL COMMANDED HIM BY STEALING HIS ATTENTION IN A SHOW OF RAINBOW LIGHTS AND IVORY SPARKLES.

**SOUND: STRANGE SOUND IN THE DISTANCE.**

**[DIRE] (NOW VERY ALERT) WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?**

[NARRATOR] A CHILL FELL OVER HIS NECK LIKE A COLD SHADOW, HE SNAPPED HIS EYES UP, SIDE-TO-SIDE, SCANNING EVERY INCH OF THE DISTANCE WITH SUSPICIOUS PRECISION.

**SOUND: WIND BLOWING.**

[NARRATOR] HE SPENT A GOOD AMOUNT OF TIME INSPECTING THE VAST PAVED DESERT AND SURROUNDING BUILDINGS. IT REVEALED NOTHING. HE WAS ALONE WITH ONLY FADED PAINTED LINES, A FALL BREEZE, AND SILENCE.

**[DIRE] NICE JOB, DEVIL DOG. STRESSING OVER WIND AGAIN.**

[NARRATOR] IT WAS ALERTNESS THAT NEVER TURNED ITSELF OFF, EVEN OUT HERE IN THE WIDE OPEN WHERE HE STOOD ALONE. HIS ATTENTION RETURNED TO THE RING.

**[DIRE] HOW COULD SOMEONE DROP SUCH A THING SO PRECIOUS?**

[NARRATOR] HE PONDERED THAT QUESTION AS HE THOUGHT OF SCENARIOS WHERE A RING THIS SIZE COULD BE MISSED. COULD AN EXECUTIVE HAVE BEEN IN A CARELESS HURRY TO GET HOME? COULD IT HAVE DROPPED MERE MOMENTS BEFORE THEY CLOSED THEIR CAR DOOR FOR THE DAY?

[DIRE] YOU'VE DROPPED WORSE.

BEGIN FLASHBACK 1.

SOUND: WAR SOUNDS FADE IN.

[NARRATOR] WITH A FLASH HIS MIND WAS TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE SIX-SECONDS THAT HAD CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER.

[VOICES] CONTACT FRONT! WEAPONS UP!

SOUND: GUNFIRE. BULLETS HITTING ROCKS, HEAVY BREATHING. RUNNING.

[DIRE] CUT LEFT CUT LEFT. FRAG OUT!

[VOICES] WEAPON UP. RELOADING! RELOADING!

SOUND: METAL HITTING ROCK.

[DIRE] OH, MY GOD! NOOOO!

SOUND: GRENADE EXPLOSION.

[VOICES] MAN DOWN! MAN DOWN! MEDIC!

SOUND: WAR SOUNDS FADE OUT.

END FLASHBACK 1.

[DIRE] (TIGHT MUMBLING) I'M NOT REALLY THERE. I'M NOT REALLY THERE. 5-4-3-2-1. (HEAVY BREATH) (WHISPER) I'M NOT REALLY THERE. 5-4-3-2-1. (HEAVY BREATH)

[NARRATOR] HIS MIND WAS ONCE AGAIN BACK TO THE SILENT PARKING LOT. AND HE KNEW THIS RING WAS NOT THAT FATEFUL HAND GRENADE, AND HE WAS NOT IN IRAQ WISHING HE HAD MADE A BETTER THROW.

**[DIRE] (NOW CRYING) IT WAS A BAD THROW. ANYONE COULD HAVE MADE THAT MISTAKE. IT WAS ONLY A BAD THROW...**

[NARRATOR] HAS HIS WAKING NIGHTMARE SUBSIDED, HE HAD FINALLY RETURNED TO HIS OLD SELF AGAIN.

**[DIRE] (AFTER CRYING SNIFFS) WHAT DID DOC "G" SAY TO CALL IT. YES. RIGHT. (CLEARS THROAT) (SLOWLY) I'M IN THE NOW. I'M IN THE NOW. WHAT IS IN THE NOW WITH ME? IN THE NOW WITH ME IS THIS BEAUTIFUL FORGOTTEN THING.**

[NARRATOR] IF ONLY HIS V.A. THERAPIST COULD SEE HIM TAKING CONTROL! IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, BUT IT HAD TAKEN DOUGLAS DIRE YEARS OF HARD WORK TO LEARN HOW TO RECOVER FROM HIS FLASHBACKS WITHOUT BEING TAKEN OVER BY THEM. NOW, ALL HE NEEDED TO DO WAS PICK UP THE METAL AND MINERAL LOTTERY TICKET LAYING AT HIS FEET. THIS RING COULD BE JUST WHAT HE NEEDED TO CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.

### **END SCENE 1.**

#### **OUTRO**

[THEME MUSIC]

[NARRATOR] WHO DROPPED THE RING? WHERE IS IT'S OWNER? AND WHAT WILL THIS VETERAN DO WITH IT? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF ***PAUSE (PAUSE) FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT.***

[NARRATOR] PAUSE (PAUSE) FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT, IS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KYLE M. BONDO, AND PRODUCED BY GAGGLEPOD.

[NARRATOR] FOR MORE TALES OF WOE, PLEASE VISIT [PAUSEFORDRAMATICEFFECT.COM](http://PAUSEFORDRAMATICEFFECT.COM).

**END**