

LEGRAND SIDES 2

The river flows by, dark and powerful.

SOLDIER
You're mad.

The doctor stares into the water, shakes his head.

SOLDIER
Take me for a fool, don't ya?

Legrand searches for the words.

LEGRAND
The good book.

Beat.

LEGRAND
Do you believe it?

The soldier stares back at him, as wounded inside as out.

LEGRAND
The Bibl-

SOLDIER
Yeah I know what you mean.

Beat.

SOLDIER
As much anyone I guess.

The doctor opens up to him. The boy, tense, shifts back.

LEGRAND
Well, think about those stories.
They're pretty damn ridiculous,
wouldn't you say?

He measures the doctor's eyes: they're sincere.

LEGRAND
Maybe sometimes things happen that
don't make sense. Doesn't mean they
didn't.

SOLDIER
Didn't what?

(CONTINUED)

LEGRAND

Happen.

The doctor hopes he buys it. The soldier's brow, tight and creased from anger begins to loosen.

SOLDIER

I can't.

He gets up, again fast for a cripple, swinging away. The doctor struggles to his feet.

He talks to the soldier as the latter marches on.

LEGRAND

You're discharged aren't you?

SOLDIER

It ain't that.

He stops to bark in the doctor's face.

SOLDIER

But I don't need remindin' anyhow.

He goes on, slamming the crutch with every step against the stone path.

LEGRAND

Well then what is it?

The young man can't go on. He can't keep it up. That gentleness from the song breaks through.

SOLDIER

I'm not a man. Not no more.

The doctor recognizes the pain in his eyes.

LEGRAND

Are you sure about that, boy?

The soldier looks on, helpless.

LEGRAND

Because I am a doctor. I know what happened as well as you... and I ain't.

SOLDIER

You ain't what?

The doctor: determined.