

Off topic now.

ETHAN

JOSH

begin  
I went. Last month.

ETHAN

No you didn't.

JOSH

Yeah, like nine days.

ETHAN

I speak to you like twice a week, when could you have -

JOSH

You spoke to me when I was there. You called my cell.

ETHAN

Well, this is a whole new level of fucked up we've embarked on here.

JOSH

I didn't want to have to explain it to anyone...besides it would have looked weird that Jess wasn't there.

ETHAN

Yes, well...fine. So fine. Listen, it's not like I don't -- I don't entirely disagree with you. About America. I'm not to be as political as you, but that -

JOSH

You're an American. To the rest of the world, that's the biggest political statement you can make. And that you don't get that, that no one here gets it or seems willing to accept the consequences of that...I don't know. That's why I'm leaving. Part of it anyway.

ETHAN

I don't know what to say to that; I don't.

JOSH

Then be smart and don't say anything.

ETHAN

No it's that...Jesus, I'm sorry Josh, but I think, you've managed to *romanticize* what's happened to you.

JOSH

*Romanticize – fuck you, OK, Ethan?*

ETHAN

No, I'm...I'm sorry; but these bastards who did it, when it boils down to it, they were just, just fucked up, fucking cruel hearted scum. It wasn't part of some intricate political web; it just gave these bastards an outlet. There's people who'll find an excuse to hurl rocks or grenades or airplanes at people no matter the political landscape. I mean it's nicer to think it's got to *do* with politics or religion or history, frankly, it's a kind of comfort because then A) maybe there's a solution to it and B) the killers and the victims can feel better about it all; it gives it a larger purpose somehow. But it's all a rationale.

JOSH

Wow. You actually took the time to rehearse a speech to give me.

ETHAN

No, no, I...a little.

JOSH

The A and B thing.

ETHAN

Too on the nose?

JOSH

But nice.

ETHAN

Thanks. Do you – seriously, do you see my point, though?

JOSH

Yes, I have to admit I do; I see it quite clearly. It's an incredibly dumb point, but I do see it. Maybe it would have a little more weight if the man talking to me about the, about all of this had an understanding of political or spiritual ideals that ran deeper than Tivoing episodes of "Frontline." Maybe, but I doubt it. Maybe you *should* stick to talking about the Jets. *(Small smile)* That was the speech I rehearsed.

ETHAN

*(As honest a question as he's ever asked)* What happened, Josh? What's happening?

JOSH

*(Tries for a moment to give an answer)* What can I...*(both seem to sense the futility; they move on)* I want your help getting through Thanksgiving, you know, and I wanted you to know why it's liable to be really stressful for Jess and me. That's why I brought all this up. I mean, I can't imagine I'm going to tell Mom that day, but...*you* don't think I should do it before, do you?

end