

This is the first scene in which Jonas appears. It follows Anne's speech which opens the play, and the two scenes which follow - one with Anne, Seth and Nicholas; and one with Nicholas and Tyson. All are available here online as excerpts 1, 2, and 3...

Seth is a young Marine serving during wartime. Nicholas is his civilian husband who waits back home. In addition to the strain on their relationship caused by distance and absence, they must hide their love for one another behind code words and secret identities because of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy barring gays and lesbians from serving openly in the United States military. Seth's mother Anne assists them by providing the cover of a woman's handwriting for Nicholas' daily letters, but Nicholas and Seth's resolve is starting to weaken. Jonas, another young gay Marine in Seth's unit just coming to terms with his identity, forms an intense bond with Seth overseas.

Emphasis shifts to --

Military base. Desert duty.

The showers.

JONAS, another Marine, late 20s/  
early 30s, appears. Waits.

SETH steps out of the showers.

They're alone.

They hold each other's gaze.

SETH

It's okay.

JONAS

What?

SETH

To look.

JONAS

I'm not looking.

SETH

It's okay.

JONAS

Even if I was looking --

SETH

What?

JONAS

It doesn't mean anything.

SETH

Yeah, it does.

JONAS

You can't talk to me like that.

SETH

Like what?

JONAS

Like you know me. You don't know me.

SETH

Lundy. Seth.

JONAS

What?

SETH

My name. What's yours?

JONAS

Fishman. Jonas.

SETH

So I know you.

JONAS

No you don't.

SETH

You know me.

JONAS  
I just walked in here.

SETH  
You've been here.

JONAS  
So what?

SETH  
So I know that look.

JONAS  
What look?

SETH  
The fear. Not fear of the enemy. Not even fear of getting caught. Fear of someone knowing. Being sure.

JONAS  
I don't know what the hell you're talking about.

SETH  
I've been there.

JONAS  
Yeah?

SETH  
Yeah.

JONAS  
Why should I trust you?

SETH  
That's up to you.

JONAS  
Why?

SETH  
I'm not the enemy.

JONAS  
You say.

SETH  
We can't be the enemy. If we're the enemy --

JONAS  
Yeah?

SETH  
There isn't any point.

JONAS  
So you're -- ?

SETH  
Yeah.

JONAS  
Me, too. I think.

SETH  
You think?

JONAS  
I've never --

SETH  
Oh.

JONAS  
But I feel -- I mean, I know. I think.

SETH  
Uh huh.

JONAS  
I thought this, doing this. Fighting would --

SETH  
Make it go away.

JONAS  
Yeah. Make it bearable.

SETH  
Did it?

JONAS  
Look around.

SETH  
All the guys. So close.

JONAS  
So intense.

SETH  
It's hell.

JONAS  
Yeah.

SETH  
Just made you more sure.

JONAS  
Why're you doing it?

SETH  
Love my country.

JONAS  
Bullshit.

SETH  
Seriously.

JONAS  
What else?

SETH  
Got someone back home. Worth protecting.

JONAS  
Worth fighting for?

SETH  
Worth dying for.

JONAS  
Damn.



JONAS

If I had someone -- I'd never leave. I couldn't.

SETH

Wasn't easy.

JONAS

Then why?

SETH

Told you why.

JONAS

Can I touch you?

SETH

Not here by the showers.

JONAS

Wow.

SETH

What?

JONAS

I thought you'd say no.

SETH

It's just a touch.

JONAS

Would you touch me? Please.

SETH

Not here.

JONAS

But somewhere. Sometime.

SETH

Chest and up.

JONAS

Face.

SETH  
Maybe.

JONAS  
God.

SETH  
We have to be careful.

JONAS  
Right.

SETH  
Later.

JONAS  
Why?

SETH  
It's just to get us through. The other guys do it.

JONAS  
They do?

SETH  
You see it. Doesn't mean the same thing. Not really. Not to them. I think. But they do it. Human contact. They do it to you, they do it to me. We're all brothers.

JONAS  
Like your brother.

SETH  
Actual brothers. You just don't let yourself.

JONAS  
Couldn't trust myself to stop.

SETH  
We'll stop. You'll loosen up, with them, too. It'll help.

JONAS  
Helps knowing.

SETH  
What?

There's someone else. JONAS

Just you. And me. SETH

There might be more. JONAS

You're all I know. SETH

Why'd you trust me? JONAS

Dunno. SETH

Bullshit. JONAS

You looked. I knew. SETH

What? JONAS

You didn't want to hurt me. Probably. SETH