

WHEN LEE ARRIVED AT THE BASE SHE WAS QUICKLY POINTED TO HER NEW SQUAD AND ITS SERGEANT, THEY TOLD HER TO JUST FOLLOW THE SHOUTING..

YOU ARE HERE, IN MY SQUAD, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST THAT ROLLED OUT OF BASIC TRAINING..

AND IN MY EYES THIS MEANS YOU ARE **UTTERLY AVERAGE!**

BUT DO NOT FEAR YOU WRETCHED SCUM!

I WILL FORGE YOU! I WILL MOLD YOU! I WILL **BREAK** YOU!

WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE.. IF YOU LEAVE HERE.. YOU WILL BE PART OF THE MOST ELITE, MOST WELL TRAINED UNIT ON THIS GOD GIVEN GREEN EARTH!

I EXPECT NOTHING BUT ABSOLUTE EXCELLENCE! ANY INFRACTION, ANY DISOBEDIENCE, AND I SWEAR I WILL HAVE YOU SHOVELING SHIT FOR THE REST OF YOUR CAREER! OR MY NAME IS NOT SERGEANT HAKES!





SERGEANT HAKES WAS JUST ABOUT TO END HIS CAREFULLY PRACTICED "NEW SQUAD" SPEECH WITH A ROARING "IS THAT UNDERSTOOD!?" WHEN HE WAS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED..

CORPORAL LEE JONES REPORTING SIR!

THE INFIRMARY IS DOWN THE ROAD AT THE MAIN BUILDING..

YOU CAN REPORT TO MISS GRACE, SHE WILL SHOW YOU THE NURSES QUARTERS..





LEE PRODUCED HER TRANSFER PAPERS AND HANDED THEM TO SERGEANT HAKES..

I WAS TOLD  
TO REPORT TO  
SERGEANT HAKES  
SIR

TO JOIN MY NEW  
SQUAD IN MARINE  
TRAINING..

WHAT..?

IN MY  
SQUAD? WHAT  
THE FUCK IS  
THIS..?

YOUR  
PHYSICAL  
EVALUATION IS  
EXPIRED..

YOU'LL  
STILL HAVE TO  
REPORT TO THE  
INFIRMARY! RIGHT  
NOW!





BEFORE TOO LONG LEE HAD FOUND THE INFIRMARY.. AND WAS POINTED TO THE CORRECT ROOM..

TAKE A SEAT  
LEE, AND TAKE OF  
YOUR SHIRT..

AND NO..  
BEFORE YOU SAY IT..  
ONLY YOUR SHIRT IS  
FINE..

AND BEFORE  
YOU ASK, NO, I'M  
NOT SINGLE AND  
WOULD NOT LIKE TO  
GO ON A DATE WITH  
YOU..

I'M VERY  
HAPPILY ENGAGED  
AND ABOUT TO GET  
MARRIED..

UUUUH..  
OKAY?



IT TOOK THE WOMAN SEVERAL SECONDS TO REALISE THAT THE VOICE THAT RESPONDED WAS FEMALE.. AFTER WHICH SHE SUDDENLY TURNED TO LEE..

YOU..  
YOU'RE A  
WOMAN!

AND..WOW!

I'M SO  
SORRY!

I SAW YOUR  
NAME AND TEST  
RESULTS IN YOUR FILE  
AND KIND OF ASSUMED  
YOU WERE WELL.. A  
MAN..





I'M SORRY LEE,  
I DIDN'T MEAN TO  
OFFEND YOU.. ALLOW ME  
TO START AGAIN.. I'M GRACE,  
I'M THE MEDICAL  
DEPARTMENT HEAD  
HERE..


NONE TAKEN,  
DON'T WORRY..  
I'M LEE, LEE  
JONES

I'M SURE YOU  
KNOW WHAT IT'S  
LIKE TO BE A  
WOMAN WITH ALL  
THESE SOLDIERS  
AROUND..

AND I FOUND  
IT'S BETTER TO  
STATE THAT I'M TAKEN  
RIGHT AWAY.. TO AVOID  
UNWANTED  
REMARKS..







I JUST HAVE TO  
DRAW SOME BLOOD  
AND RUN SOME TESTS  
LEE, SHOULDN'T TAKE  
MORE THEN FIVE  
MINUTES..



MEANWHILE.. ONLY A FEW DOORS DOWN THE HALL..

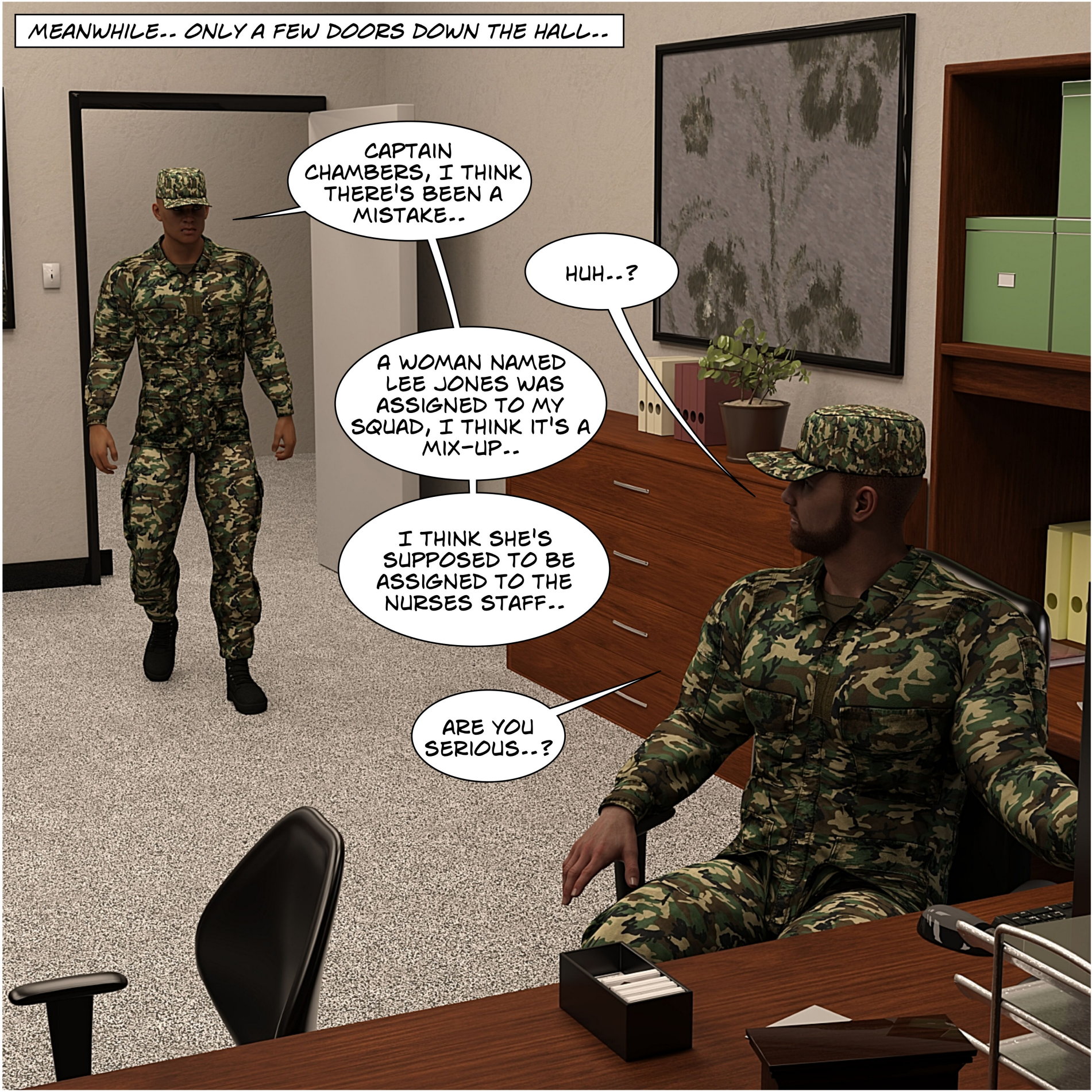
CAPTAIN CHAMBERS, I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE..

HUH..?

A WOMAN NAMED LEE JONES WAS ASSIGNED TO MY SQUAD, I THINK IT'S A MIX-UP..

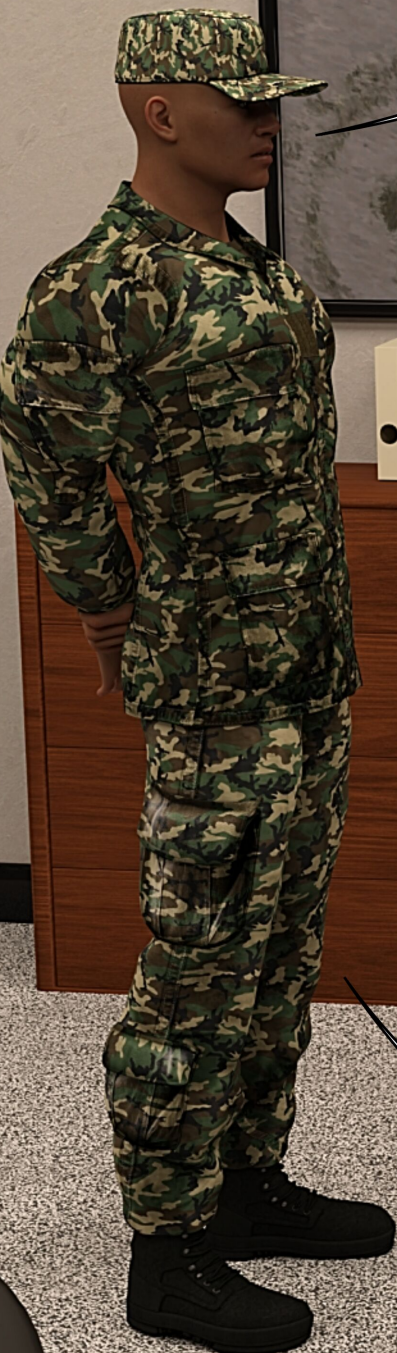
I THINK SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE NURSES STAFF..

ARE YOU SERIOUS..?





CAPTAIN TOM CHAMBERS HAD SOMEWHAT EXPECTED TO SEE SERGEANT HAKES THIS AFTERNOON EXACTLY FOR THIS REASON.. YET SOMEHOW IT STILL PISSED HIM OF..



SIR!

HAKES! TO ATTENTION!

IT IS NO MISTAKE, CORPORAL JONES WILL BE IN YOUR SQUAD.. WILL THAT BE A PROBLEM..?

EEH.. NO SIR.. BUT..

BUT WHAT?!

I'VE ALWAYS TRAINED THE BEST SQUADS THAT LEAVE THIS BASE SIR.. AND I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO THAT WITH..

WHAT? A WOMAN IN YOUR SQUAD?

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY HAKES! WOMEN CAN JOIN THE MARINES! CORPORAL JONES HAS GONE THROUGH BASIC TRAINING WITH AN EXAMPLARY RECORD!

YOU WILL TRAIN HER AND YOU WILL TREAT HER LIKE ANY OTHER SOLDIER! AND THAT IS AN ORDER!

SIR YES SIR..





BACK AT THE INFIRMARY..

HMM..

OKAY  
LEE, ALL  
DONE!

YOU ARE WELL..  
NOTHING SHORT OF  
PHYSICAL  
EXCELLENCE!

THOUGH THAT'S  
HARDLY A  
SURPRISE.. I MEAN  
LOOK AT YOU..

I'LL UPDATE YOUR  
FILE.. YOU CAN GO  
BACK AND REPORT TO  
SERGEANT HAKES..  
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD  
TO FIND.. JUST  
FOLLOW THE  
SHOUTING..

THANKS  
GRACE..







GRACE SEEMS  
NICE.. SHE DOESN'T  
SEEM TO HAVE A RANK  
THOUGH.. MAYBE  
CIVILIAN?

I HAVE THIS GUT  
FEELING HAKES IS GOING  
TO GIVE ME TROUBLE.. HE  
LOOKS LIKE A REAL  
ASSHOLE..


FUCK HIM.. I CAN TAKE  
ANYTHING HE THROWS AT ME..  
I'M SURE.. I'LL SHOW ALL OF  
THEM..

I GOT THROUGH  
BASIC JUST FINE  
DIDN'T I?

THOUGH AT  
LEAST THERE WERE  
OTHER GIRLS THERE AS  
WELL..

SEEMS LIKE I'M THE  
ONLY ONE HERE.. NO USE  
WORRYING ABOUT THAT  
THOUGH.. CHIN UP LEE.. YOU  
CAN DO THIS..





PHYSICAL  
EVALUATION  
DONE SIR..

TSS..

JUST GET  
BACK IN LINE  
WITH THE REST  
OF THESE  
LADI..

IN A SUDDEN MOMENT OF  
INTROSPECTIVE, HAKES REALISED  
THAT PERHAPS CALLING HIS  
SQUAD "LADIES" MIGHT NOT  
EXACTLY BE THE MOST SUITABLE  
INSULT ANYMORE WITH LEE  
AROUND... THIS REALISATION  
ONLY SERVED TO PISS HIM OFF  
MORE THOUGH..

JUST GET THE  
FUCK IN LINE  
SOLDIER!





LET'S START  
WITH SOMETHING  
SIMPLE..

OBSTACLE  
COURSE, WORK AS A  
TEAM, KEEP GOING  
TILL I TELL YOU TO  
STOP..

...

GO GO  
GO!



THE SQUAD SHOT AWAY.. AND EVEN  
THOUGH LEE WAS AT THE END OF THE  
LINE WHEN THEY STARTED SHE  
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE  
LEAD, OUTRUNNING MOST OF THEM..







THANK  
GOD.. THE  
BARBED WIRE IS  
HIGHER HERE THAN  
IN BASIC..

AT LEAST I  
WON'T RIP MY  
PANTS ALL THE  
TIME..





AS LEE REACHED THE LOG WALL SHE INSTANTLY FELT HERSELF RETURN TO THE FAMILIAR PATTERN OF REGULAR BREATHING AND FOCUSED MOVEMENTS.. SHE WAS HAPPY SHE WAS DOING THIS ON HER FIRST DAY. NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE TRIED TO IGNORE HER FEELINGS SHE COULD NOT DENY THAT SHE WAS SLIGHTLY NERVOUS ABOUT THE REST OF THE SQUAD. SHE WAS QUITE SURE SHE COULD TAKE ANY ONE OF THEM IN PURE STRENGTH AND SPEED, BUT SHE COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW THEY'D FEEL ABOUT BEING OUTDONE BY A GIRL. IN BASIC TRAINING THE OTHER GIRLS HAD LOVED TO SEE HER OUTDO THE MEN (AND VERY FEW HAD DARED TO CHALLENGE HER FOR IT). BUT THERE WERE NO GIRLS HERE.. AND THESE MEN DEFINITELY LOOKED A BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE RUN OF THE MILL SOLDIER SHE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE..

ALL THESE WORRIES FADED AWAY THOUGH AS SHE COULD FEEL HER REGULAR HEART BEAT ECHOING THROUGH HER BODY AND HER MUSCLES TENSING TO LIFT HER VAST FRAME UP THE WALL WITH EASE..

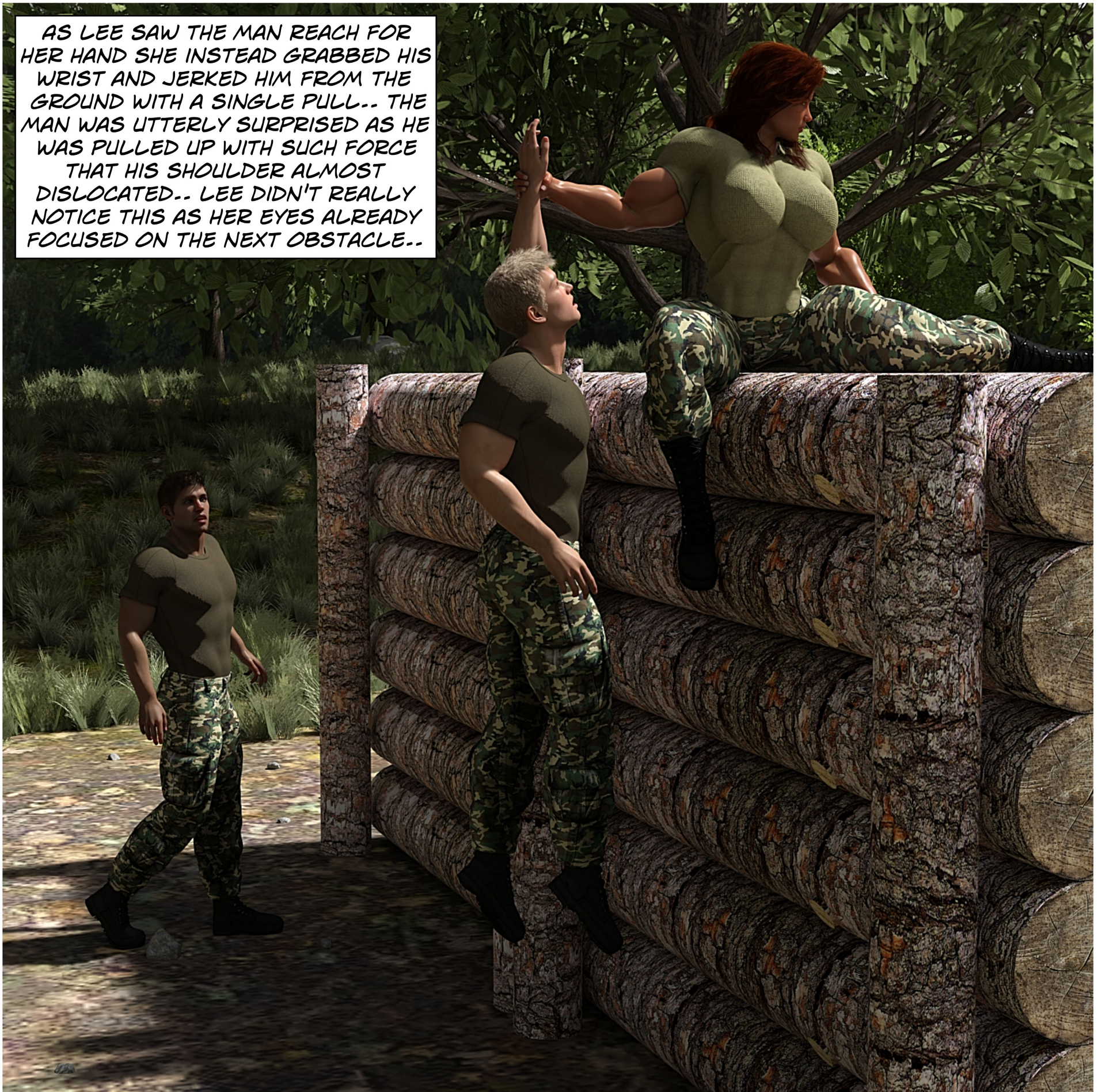




LEE SAT ON TOP OF THE WALL FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, WAITING FOR THE REST TO CATCH UP AS SHE EXTENDED HER HAND TO THE NEXT MAN BEHIND HER..



AS LEE SAW THE MAN REACH FOR HER HAND SHE INSTEAD GRABBED HIS WRIST AND JERKED HIM FROM THE GROUND WITH A SINGLE PULL.. THE MAN WAS UTTERLY SURPRISED AS HE WAS PULLED UP WITH SUCH FORCE THAT HIS SHOULDER ALMOST DISLOCATED.. LEE DIDN'T REALLY NOTICE THIS AS HER EYES ALREADY FOCUSED ON THE NEXT OBSTACLE..



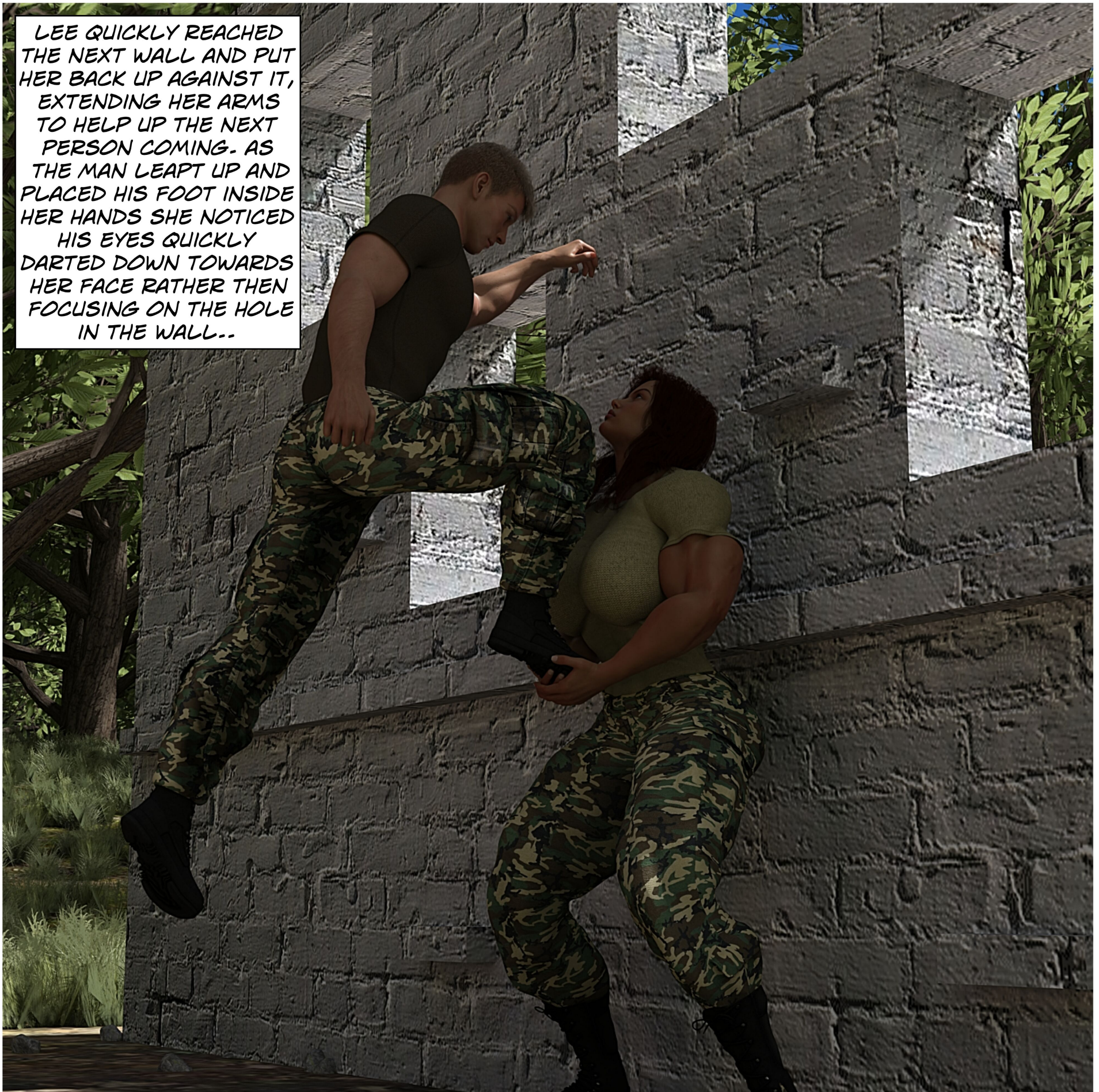


LEAVING A SLIGHTLY DAZED MAN ON TOP  
OF THE LOGS LEE SPRINTED OF AGAIN..





LEE QUICKLY REACHED THE NEXT WALL AND PUT HER BACK UP AGAINST IT, EXTENDING HER ARMS TO HELP UP THE NEXT PERSON COMING. AS THE MAN LEAPT UP AND PLACED HIS FOOT INSIDE HER HANDS SHE NOTICED HIS EYES QUICKLY DARTED DOWN TOWARDS HER FACE RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON THE HOLE IN THE WALL..





AFTER WHICH LEE PROMPTLY LAUNCHED  
HIM THROUGH SAID HOLE..



OOH  
CRAP..

