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A LETTER TO A SOLDIER



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A LETTER TO A SOLDIER

written by

Rachel Benjamin

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Synopsis

In this short, simple play, three readers present a powerful letter of honor and gratitude to a military service person. Perfect for Veteran's Day, Memorial Day weekend, or similar occasions, "A Letter to a Soldier" on Scriptmore presents a unique way to recognize and connect with service men and women on a personal level.

When we encounter these heroes at airports, malls, and parades, we often acknowledge their sacrifice with a nod or applause. But how often do we pause to look them in the eye and extend our heartfelt thanks? The thoughtful letter in this script provides a heartfelt and eloquent means to help these military heroes feel seen in a way that goes beyond the surface. It invites the audience to express their gratitude sincerely and directly, bridging the gap between words left unspoken and the honor due those who have readily served all of us.

More than just a script, "A Letter to a Soldier" is a way to offer appreciation to those in the audience who have served and to encourage those present to continue to do so long after the play is over. Crafted with care and empathy by playwright Rachel Benjamin for audiences from middle school through adults, "A Letter to a Soldier" resonates with active and former members of the armed forces, as well as those who love and appreciate them.

Cast of Characters

PERSON 1

PERSON 2

PERSON 3

Time

Present Day

Props

Three Pieces of Paper

Director Notes

SET

The stage should be bare except for the actors and (if you want) three podiums. Actors can either hold the letters in their hands or place them on a podium in front of them.

PERFORMANCE

Although reading a letter, make sure that the actors take time to look up at the audience. The slight pauses should be very brief – seconds. However, they are written into the script to remind the actors to actually 'remember' each situation described. Read this as if you are reading an Eulogy. It shouldn't be morbid, but rather meaningful and thoughtful as if remembering the life of a hero. If preferred, this script can be performed by one actor reading the entire letter.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The stage is bare; three podiums are optional.

At Rise: PERSON 2 stands Stage Left of Center with a letter in her hand. PERSON 3 stands Stage Right of Center with a letter in her hand. PERSON 1 enters. She approaches Center Stage with a letter in her hand. She clears her throat and begins reading the letter. While reading she glances up, from time to time, and looks directly into the audience.

PERSON 1

I don't remember if I ever said, thank you.

(slight pause)

PERSON 1

I remember seeing you in uniform at parades, at ceremonies, in the airport. You always looked unafraid and heroic. I remember the way you would salute the flag- with such precision.

(slight pause)

PERSON 2

I waved at you. One time. You were marching in a parade, your gaze was determined, unwavering – straight ahead. You didn't see me. I knew you probably wouldn't, but I waved anyways.

(slight pause)

PERSON 3

I remember your humility. They would play, the band- they would play for you. And you would reluctantly stand, modestly, often not wanting to be singled out.

(slight pause)

PERSON 2

I remember the way you wore your hat, the way the light would hit the metal on your uniform. I remember the sound of your boots when they hit the ground.

(slight pause)

PERSON 1

But I don't remember if I ever said, thank you.

(slight pause)

PERSON 1

I probably didn't. Because it seems so strange to thank someone you don't know. That shouldn't have stopped me. It didn't stop you. You were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice for someone that you didn't even know.

PERSON 2

You didn't know if I had brown eyes or blue, if I was young or old, if I was tall or short. Not that it would have changed anything. You were willing to spend time away from your friends, your family, your country, to defend - me. No matter who I was.

PERSON 3

You fought to protect my freedom.

PERSON 1

To uphold my right to vote.

PERSON 3

My freedom to worship-

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(slight pause)

PERSON 2

Your sacrifice has changed my life. It's still changing my life. And I don't remember if I ever told you that.

(slight pause)

PERSON 1

Somehow it doesn't seem enough- but I wanted to make sure that you knew, that I know, this country, my country, my freedom- would not exist without you. And I wanted to make sure that I said...

PERSON 1, PERSON 2 AND PERSON 3

Thank you.



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