

Faded Into Blue

Patrick M Heffernan

#\$%&'(\$)*+&"", &&-./0\$"*)"1)2&"\$3'*)" *+&"4'5.'" "\$, 6*\$02/)782)8"2)4&"08"\$3&"* &+-9(": 2'; &%2)' 4<\$3&") * &" \$3' \$"(8%\$"\$3&"#4' 19(" 88%&"40* &("6*\$,) <' * 4"()+-&4" \$3&"3&' 4"26: 3\$6*\$3&"=, ."(8%\$\$6*: "6\$("%8"+%&'*)" 8&* ">?" "\$3&"&' (\$."+' 0: 3\$"&\$&* 46*: "6*\$)"\$3&/' 5.'" %1) (\$"\$)\$"\$3&" (3)0%4&2.", &2&"\$3&"3' 62(."\$3&/'&' 24."\$3&"+)*: % 1 &2' \$&")A"&O\$2)836&4"-10+- "\$' *: %&4"6*" * "6*\$&2,); &*"" % ' %1 & (" ' %)*: "\$3&/'&*\$36+B)* &>?" "\$3&", &(\$."+' 0: 3\$": "6* (\$"\$3&"

Í Hc 7 Uff]WÚbbđ

Í Hc'gca Yk \YfY'byk "í' =Úhñ.YVi thVybYUñ'a m

a n'Úb[Yf'Uñ'fcggñ.Yñf][[YfzYUW'f]X[YWñW]b[ð.Y'

H\Y[ccgYÚYgñ'fcgY'WbYUñ'a mUñYfgža Òa a U]Lb'

5 ÚñMí mYX'ci hcZ\]gf][\hgcWYñ'Í Mti k Ubhk \Uñ

=ñck YfYXñ.Yf]ÚY"

UfY'í < Y:ghYddYX]b Vcgy'Ubx'ñUWX\]gÚb[Yf'Uñ'ci bX'

h.Yk]bX]bj UXYh.Y\c`YgřfYg `h]b[]b UgbchU`YX`
Yl d`cg]cb" H.Y'a U[[chgkf][[`YX]b h.Yfch]b[`Uygž

g bžVi h h.fci [\ h.YVfUWžh.YfYk LgUŮ]WYf`cZ][\h`

Ī A Uh=Lg_ nci `cbYei Ygf]cbž `Ygd]Xk]h UŮ]WYf`

Ī K \mXc:nci `bc`cb[Yf`UbXh.]gbYWgd.fnš

XkY`]b[`d`UW`H.Yb h.Y\c`YgU`YX]bžh.YfUhgj

a]]hufmgUW`dUW`cj Yf`a mg]ci `XYfg`#k LgU`YXk]h`

H\Uhgk \m=Vfci [\hUgc`i h]cb"i `=g]ZNY`a mf]ŮY`

=VY[[YXZcfVfd

fg`h`

Xccfk UhLbXntb_YX`ci hUŮgž `cZfcchZfca h.YXi bY`

o ch.

A glimp e be ond. A c'ack in he face, no coming o ha e. I an ed op nchi, ea he he c , apo i e i, bea he he ilica ai. E'ophied m ck g'e f'om m chin in plo che angling a'o nd m h'o a and collap ing m'achea. The nd had no he'e o go, oi d g'deep and e'p ed, a p'e' i ed bomb e' off b m o n agnanc .

I opened he doo, and he man i h onl a mo h en e'ed.

Wipe o' fee I old him. Yo al a lea e foo p'in e e' here.

He eaked m'el come ma i h g'ain-fed m d. Hi oe o ld ne e' h'ne, b i d' d he job. No ha I ca'ed m ch. M fee e'e plen di' oo.

Thank o . I d'opped ome ice c be an a emp ed al age mi ion in o m'ea and ook a fe good ip.

Dea' me, he hi p'e'ed h'o gh ag'in, i' q i e da'k in he'e. I feel like ome' iggling ea' h o'm, and I m' e o do oo. Do o mind if I open he blind ?

Yo' can e en ee.

He h'gged and le' he ligh in h'o gh m fo' p'aned i'ndo .

Three pho o' e'e on he' all. One old, one ab en , and one ne . The old' a of an infan' o ing' hi' f'fed bea' do n he ai' . Hi plaid o'e all e'e opa q e h'o gh he' n' ained bl e inge. The ab en a a' o'k pho o' f'ro nded b' h ea- hell flame. A do i o' e'lf ma e' piece made f'om a do i m' a ki' . The ne' a of a beach, clean and oli a' i' h m'oon' o'ck' i' ing f'om he plain. Rain-jacke a' mo' o e' a e'-logged kin.

Wh' a'e o' he'e again? I a' ked. I eem a li le' de o' ho' p' nan' no nced.

If I a' n an ed, pe'hap i' o ld be.

Yo' a'e n an ed

Yo' fa'ade i' cha' ming, ho' e e' de'le e'io . No ma e' . A mo' e' p'e' ing ma e' i a hand i' eem . So, if o' don' mind me a king, h' he knife?

I fel' a' m in m' hand. Ten inche of e' a' ed eel a c'XYX]brc UÚbYdc]bri'ónhYdf]W]b[cZa n'hi a Vg'z i hadn' been ha'p'ened in ea' , b i' ill o'e.

I hink I an' o be' id of o , I aid. Seem Úh]b['i

Yo' don' an' o be' id of me. Yo' ar' o be' id of ha I can ho' o . He ook a' ep o' a' d me, la' ing one pla' ed oe do n a a' ime. Yo' need me. Yo' e' no happ' i ho' me.

I m' no' happ' i h o .

I m' o' onl' connec ion o' he ime o' lef .

Yo' e' a' i' o' he ime' ha e' lef .

He g'abbed m' hand and b'o' gh' he blade o' hi h'o a . Then h'ill me. Kill he onl' hing o' ha e' lef .

Eigh' -fo' hook , ca' b' o' ed eel' od , b' o' o' ed in o' me. Thei' ba' b' o' me' e'ble, ome' jig ca' gh me. The' i' ng a' held a' gh. The'e a' no' ep I co ld ake i' ho' being p' lled back. The'e a' no' ho' gh I co ld hink i' ho' being anked back o' he head.

Yo' need o' ee, he' hi p'e'ed.

I an' o be' done i' h' hi .

Yo' belong he'e. Le' me ake o' back.

I can go back on m' o n. Wi' ho' o' .

He la' ghed. Ho' ill of o , m' dea' . Do o' e' all belie e' ha' ? He p' hed he knife again hi' kin. Yo' ill ne e' be ha' f' la' gain. B' i' o' l' an' o, go a' ead, g'ra' p' a' o' a' . J' e' m'embe' ha I am o' onl' op' ion fo' ome' hing mo' e.

A' if o' e' g' i' ng ne an' hing mo' e' han' ha' .

Wh' a' I ho' o' i' eal. When o' ee, o' e' l' he'e.

I can do be' e' han' o .

Then kill me. Drag' ha' blade ac' o' m' h'o a , a' ch me' die, and' rem'embe' ha i' a' o' ha' h'e a' a' o' onl' chance a' life.

I' q' ee' ed he handle.

I m' o' onl' pa' age o' ha' momen , o' onl' a' of ac' ali' ng o' a' im.

=g'fYX]brc \]ggcWYg'z]brc h'YÚYg' ZK]b[]brc'

*+, -&. //0'1& . . * . *'\$%2. 3'&%'45/'\$%' / . . 0'1& . . * . *'\$%'
 ÚřY" H\YdUW\k Ujgĵ ĵ b ě h Y V U ĵ ĵ a Y b ě ě h Y V U ě h Y g
 6. . . '#7. +&3'\$8. '#+&/'6. . . /'\$77'9+/'\$*5. 0'1'#%57*1/'\$77', 5&0
 ; ; & . '<% , . '\$"<. =>'1/'*0
 ; ; & . '<% , . '\$"<. 0>
 1'&%** . *+&*'/# , +\$#8. *'\$8. '27+* . '%??'8"/. 9** . , <"/0
 @"/'8+&*'/7"\$8. . . *+, %5&*'+&*#'+5A8'\$8%7*%'<'B'
 6, /'\$3'4+AA. *+&'7/'*AA"&A* . . 9""&\$%'<'B'-'&0'C'5A3'+
 B+&-3'+*+ . . #'\$%"&0'@. '9577. *'<. %D. , '\$%'8. '9%5, E9+& . *'
 6"&*%6'+&*'/9%*%'<. '59/'\$, +A8\$0
 : F. . 3>'8. '#%<<+&* . *0
 1'/+6'<B/. 7'\$8, %5A8'\$8. '6"&*%60'GB'<5A'6+/'
 . <9\$B0'H%'<%, . '\$. +3'&%<%, . '<. 7\$. *""# . 0'C'27+&-/'7+\$. 0'
 I 8. . . '1'6+/3', +&E4+#- . '\$/8, 5AA. *+ , %5&* '<'B'/8%57* . , /3'
 *+<9'4. +&/'#75&A'\$%'<'B'. A/3'+&*6. 77" . /'59'<'B'+7D. /J'
 LbX\h\YfY =k Uĵĵ ŪbbY XfLbYXUWċggja mVUWĵĵ YUbg
 8. 7**59'2B'+?, +B. *+ , %9. '2. 7\$3'+&*'. "A8\$EB. +, E%7*'/%#-'/
 \$8, . . +* . *+ , %5&* '<'B'\$%. /0
 : K 8+\$"/'\$8"/=>'1/'*0
 : 1* . &\$'B3>'8. '<+&/'*2. 7%, . /8, "&- "&A'+6+B""&\$%'
 \$8. '#%, & . , 0
 GB'?+#. *+ , "99. *'<%, . '\$8+&'8. '\$. +, /3'<%, . '\$8+&'8. '
 <"/\$0'1\$'<. 7\$. *""&\$%'8. '7+2, "#2. 7%63""&\$%'8. '7%5#8'+&*'
 A, 5<27. 3'. &#B/'&A""&\$%'<'B'/\$%'<+#8'+&*'+%, "&A'<. '
 *%6&3'+%, "&A'<. '? , %<'8%5A8'\$%' , . +7"\$B0
 1'<5<27. *'\$8, %5A8'\$8. '6"&*%63'25\$'1'#%57*&L'\$8. +, 0'
 1'&. . * . *'\$%'8. +, 0
 1'%'-%'8. '25\$\$%'?'8. 'A5&3'+&*1'%'-%'8. '8+&*7. '%?'
 <'B'-'&'? . 3'+&*1'/8+\$\$. . . *'\$8. 'A7+/'2. \$6. . &'<B/. 7?0 I 8. '
 /8+, *'/# , 5. *'2. & . +\$8'<'B'6. 77" . /'+&*#5'\$8, %5A8'<'B'
 \$8, . . +2+, . /%#-' /+/'1'/\$. 99. *'?% , 6+, *0'K "\$8'&'*D"* . 3'
 +7%-%M&%'8"&A'<%, . '\$8+&'A7+&#. M"&\$%'<'B'. B. /3""&\$%'
 +&'5&* . , /\$+&*"&A0' I 8. . . '6+/'&%'/ . 9+, +\$%"&J'\$8. . . '6+/'
 &%*'"/\$+&#. 0'; & . ""&'8. ' /+<. 3'1'6+/'10
 : K 8B'*%B'5'-. . 9'#%<"&A'2+#+=>'1+/- . *'<B/. 7?0
 : 1?'1'-&. 6'\$8. '+&/6. , 3'1'6%57*&L\$0>
 1'7%-%. *""&\$%'<'B'. B. /3'B'5&A3'B. '\$6. +\$8. . . *0'G. \$+7/'
 +&*'+5\$, . &\$/'7. +- . *'? , %<'8. <3'27%* /8%\$0'N+, . . &'7+&*'
 gYd]b[ĵbrċ VUffYb k UYf" H\YŪgĵ ĵ ĵ k Uĵ\YU nĵ
 Ī 7i hĵh\YVUfVgUbXfi b ě ě k \YfY\YVbŵhŪbXnai žĵ

1'/+*0': C&B68. . . '25'\$8. . . 0>
 : I 8. BL. . ""&'\$%'* . . 90'1'<+B'#5'\$%'<5#80>
 : I 8. &'/\$+B0'07. +/. 3'7%, '\$8. '7%D. '%?'<. 3'/\$+B0'P%&L\$'
 #%<. '2+#+-0>
 : @. L7'\$+- . '<. '2+#+-3>'1/'*3'/8+- "&A'<'B'8. +*0'
 ; ; ?? . /'1'#+&L\$' . ?5/ . 0>
 =LXĵ gYX'a m[f]d'cbĵh\Y\UbX'YUbXfUb'a mŪb[Yf'
 +7%&A'\$8. '2+, . . 70': 1\$/'\$'<. '\$%2. ' , *"%?'8'<'8. &0>
 ; D. , ""&'8. '#%, & . , 3'\$8. '<+&'6"\$8'&7B+'<%5\$8'\$%'-%'
 +2, . . +-' , %<' /8+, 9. &'&A'8'/\$. . \$8'6"\$8'8'/'%&A5. '\$%'
 /85** . , +&*7+5A80
 1'/"A8. *0': Q%5'-&%6'1'#+&L\$'#+, B'\$8+\$'6. "A8\$0>
 : R+&'1. D. &'7D. '6"\$8%5'\$8'<=>
 : G+B2. 3'25\$""\$/'&%\$'6%, '\$8'\$8. ' , /-0>
 1'&%** . *0': I 8. &'68. . . *% . /'\$8+\$7. +D. '<. =>
 : F\$777%/\$3'1'/599%/. 0>
 1'85<< . *3'\$6%E\$%& . *0': F%3'1'/8%57*'/+\$+B0>
 : 1&'2%\$8'97+#. /3'B. /0>
 : C&*?%, A. \$=>
 : Q. /0>
 1'7+5A8. *3'#, "&-7. *' /- "&'?%7*"&A'+\$8. '#%, & . , /'%'<'<'B'

