**The War We Lost**

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**Summary:**

Our play takes place in the year of 1967 during the Vietnam War. The main character Elizabeth, a young woman still in her teens. Elizabeth is someone who is brave by heart. She volunteers to fight in the war, but the only thing she is allowed to do, is be a nurse. Once she gets there she helps a soldier, but Elizabeth isn’t being treated with the respect she deserves. She wants to do more and not stand to the side because she wants recognition for what she’s doing. Elizabeth is taking care of the patient who thinks women know nothing about medicine. This irritates her, so she wants to prove that she can do more than heal. Elizabeth takes his place in the war while he is recovering and dies instead of him. He realizes his mistake in judging her, and regrets  having ever treated her the way he did. Our theme/message is don’t underestimate a person, because you never know what they might be capable of.

Prologue:

*(A hospital room, early morning, Elizabeth is tending to a patient, he has bandages around his head and torso, Elizabeth is wrapping a bandage around his arm)*

**William:** *(groans)* Be gentle…

**Elizabeth:** I am being gentle, but you have to stop moving.

**William:***(he says angrily lowering his voice)* Don’t tell me what to do

**Elizabeth:** *(calmly)* I’m not telling you what to do, I’m just trying to help you.

**William:** *(he laughs mockingly)* You? a woman? trying to help me?

**Elizabeth:** I studied medicine. *(she finishes wrapping the bandages, and puts them on the table)* Therefore I am able to help you.

**William:** *(he glares at Elizabeth as she starts to unwind the bandage on his head)* Careful, my head still hurts!

**Elizabeth:** *(she sighs)* I know what I’m doing *(she unwraps his head, moving in front of it)* your wound is healing up nicely, you’ll only have to be here for a few more days.

**William:** *(he smirks)* That's what you think, but you’re a woman, you can’t do a thing other than cook clean, and care for children.

**Elizabeth:** *(she bites her lip, looking down at her hands as she starts rewrapping Williams head)*

**William:** Thats what I thought, you can’t do anything to prove me wrong can you!?!

**Elizabeth:** *(she ignores him, in order to continue working)*

**William:** I asked you something, Answer me!! *(He raises his voice)*

**Elizabeth:** *(looks up at him, making eye contact, she says in a cold voice)* I can answer you, but I prefer not to.

**William:** Dont talk to me that way! *(he slaps Elizabeth, and laughs as she cries out in pain)*

**Elizabeth:** *(she cries out in pain, dropping the bandages and covering her face with both hands)*

Parados

*(a group of nurses come out, they are wearing white frocks that fall to just above their knees, they are wearing white flats and white hats)*

**Chorus:**

**Nurse 1:** Anger, building up,

**Nurse 2:**All they do, is strike us,

**Nurse 3:** Hit us, they treat us as second class citizens

**Nurse 1:** But one will rise,

**Nurse 2:** Above the others,

**Nurse 3:** She will lead us, in our darkest hour

**Nurse 1:** And as we fall under a shadow, her name

**All of them:** Will stick with us forever

Scene 1

*(Elizabeth is wearing a white nurse uniform, her hair is in a braid and she is holding a pitcher of water. There is also a hospital bed next to her and a table next to the bed, on the bed there is a young man, his head is wrapped in bandages and he has one black eye)*

**Elizabeth:** *(she is pouring water for William)*

**William:** *(he opens his eyes coughing)*

**Elizabeth:** *(looks at him, putting down the pitcher)* Oh good you’re awake. *(She smiles kindly)*

**William:** *(after a few moments)* Of course I am, did you think I was dead?

**Elizabeth:** *(she snorts amused)* If you were dead the machines next to you would have gone haywire beeping and making noise

**William:** *(he looks over at the machines frowning)*

**Elizabeth:** *(watches him)* I'm going to have to change your bandages in about an hour.

**William:** *(he looks over at her)* I'll be fine, you don't have to change them.

**Elizabeth:** But, I have to. If I don't your wound could get infected, and that could cause serious problems.

**William:** Didn’t you hear me?

**Elizabeth:** *(she nods her head)* Yes, I did hear you.

**William:** Then why are you changing them?

**Elizabeth:** *(she smirks grabbing fresh roll of bandages)* Because, it’s my job*(she grabs a needle and syringe)* and when it comes to your health I can’t afford to have a patient die on me

**William:** *(he slaps the syringe out of her hand)*

**Elizabeth:** What was that for?

**William:** You already know, you worthless piece of garbage.

**Elizabeth:** *(she turns away bending down to pick up the syringe)*

*(Another nurse (Annabeth) walks into the room, her hair in two pigtails falling over her shoulders, she gasps when she sees Elizabeth picking up the broken glass)*

**Annabeth:** What happened?

**Elizabeth:** William, just broke this.

**Annabeth:***(she walks over to Elizabeth, shaking her head slightly)* how many syringes have you broken this month?

**Elizabeth:** *(sadly)* About 10.

**Annabeth:** *(shocked, she sighs staring down at Elizabeth)* you need to stand up for yourself.

*(Annabeth exits from the left)*

**Elizabeth:** *(she slams her hands onto the floor)* I will stand up for myself, just you see! I will prove I am not garbage!

*(Lights go black, Elizabeth exits)*

Chorus 1

*(Lights come back on, a group of 3 nurses are standing center stage each one is holding a pitcher of water)*

Chorus:

**Nurse 1:** We are forced to care for people,

**Nurse 2:** The people who are not our kin.

**Nurse 3:** The ones we care for and cook for,

**Nurse 1:** Yell, shout, strike.

**Nurse 2:** For reasons known to only them.

**Nurse 3:** They thinkwe are weak,

**Nurse 1:** Dumb,

**Nurse 2:** And worst of all,

**All of them:** Women.

Scene 2

*(Elizabeth is standing in front of a desk, the general is behind it, sitting on a chair. He is dressed in military clothes)*

**Elizabeth**:*(calmly not making eye contact)* Please sir, I-I want to fight, I want to defend our nation

**The general:***(Shakes his head)* I'm sorry, but you're a woman you cannot fight.

**Elizabeth**: *(Looks up at him)* Sir, please, I need to go, I have to prove that I am not weak

**The genera**l: *(Stands up walking towards Elizabeth)* No, I can't risk losing a nurse *(he keeps his eyes on her)* do you know how many men would die if just one nurse left?

**Elizabeth:** *(She shakes her head maintaining eye contact)*

**The general**: Lots of men would die, and do you know who's fault it would be?

**Elizabeth**: *(She shakes her head again)*

**The general**: It would be yours *(at the word 'yours' he throws some papers on the ground, he points to the papers)* pick them up, that's an order.

**Elizabeth:** Yes sir *(she bends down picking up the papers)*

*(Enter 3 soldiers from stage left, they’re pants are tucked into their boots and they are all wearing camouflage pants, their shirts are black and untucked)*

**Soldier 1:** Sir, we’re under attack!

**Soldier 2:***(franticly)* It’s the enemy, they coming!

**General:** Call all our men to arms, have them fight and defend our injured and supplies.

**Soldier 3:** Sir, most of our men are injured

**General:** then fight, fight as hard as you can!

**Elizabeth:** *(she stands up, placing the papers on the desk)*I could fight, my father taught me to use a gun, and I know all the shortcuts around the place.

**Soldier 1:** you? a woman? know how to use a gun? thats not very ladylike

**Elizabeth:** This is war! who cares about manners and being a “lady”?!

**General:** Nurse, stay in the hospital where you belong!

*(Elizabeth storms out, leaving the men with bewildered looks on their faces the lights go completely black, the General and Soldiers exit stage right)*

Chorus 2:

*(The lights come back on revealing a group of 3 nurses, they are all wearing white frocks)*

**Nurse 1**: Asking for a chance to go and protect,

**Nurse 2:** Only wanting to prove she is not weak.

**Nurse 3**: Rejected, by the voice of a man.

**Nurse 1**: She is weak in his eyes, just an object,

**Nurse 2**: To him, she is just an item, a machine easy to replace,

**Nurse 3**: She tries to prove that women are not weak,

**Nurse 1:** Women are strong, and powerful,

**Nurse 2**:  Women are more than just faces,

**Nurse 3:**  Women are both beautiful and powerful,

**All of them**: But, she is laughed off as a second class citizen.