

Night with A Marine

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Settling in for the night

An abandoned village

Wonder where everybody went

Now there's a mystery

Tropic night stifles the day

Music courtesy of a

Thousand mosquito band

Overridden, by a whisper

A growing whine, hollow thump

Mortars in the air, screams

And shouts of "incoming"

Trying to curl inward to nothing

A soggy crump shatter the night

2 minutes, 2 years, 2 lifetimes

Then it ends and the silence rages

Waiting, straining to hear wounded cries

Harsh whispered "Doc, Doc"

Shuffling to the door, "help him doc"

One look, top of skull gone

Nothing where once was a brain

No help here, no help ever again

A failure without the chance to fail
Grief hits the friends who now
Have the faces of boys for an instant

Back to their posts, left alone
With a shattered brother
A companion for a night
That will go on and on, and on.

Empty eyes stare no matter where I move
“why’d they bring you here?”
“They knew you were gone”
I reach to close the eyes and cover the face

Unseeing eyes see and give me pause
“All right, all right – just for a bit
I’ll leave your eyes be – Just
Don’t be keeping me up.”

You want to talk and so we do
On into the night
“That was friendly fire?”
“Shit, sucks, don’t mean nothin’ “

Guy talk, have to help him with
His part of the conversation
But its real, its real, our talk
And dawn pushes the night away in a rush

“Time to go bud,

I’ll take you to the chopper

Safe journey, angels wait,” Zip the bag.

Fill the slip, move on,” don’t mean nuthin”

Just another lie to keep living