STORY MAP

A Few Good Men

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Stage I Stag	ge II S	tage III	Stage	: IV	Stage	e V	Stage VI
SETUP: Daniel Kaffee is a lawyer with a knack for pleabargaining. He's incredibly likable: charming, witty, and clever. But there's something off; despite his nine months and 44 cases as a lawyer, he's never actually tried a case in the courtroom. NEW SITU Kaffee de handle his way he alv by negotiat bargain. In help of his help of his help of his hard bargain. It has a lawyer be death ma earlier. It's right awa doesn't lik and one clients, Dholds him in Almost imm Kaffee is of plea bargai was hopin instead of, it, he decid until after Cub.	recides to case the ways has: inig a plea With the s friend, being, and y, special r Internal ne gets is revealed es's father credibly s and full trial fefore his ny years also clear y that Jo e Kaffee, e of his olawson, nediately, ffered the in deal he gate state. The state of the cover in accepting es to wait his trip to his case where the cover in accepting es to wait his trip to his trip to his trip to his case was a conflicted and has first trip to his case was a conflicted and has first trip to his trip trip to his trip trip to his trip trip trip trip trip tr	d his team puter a defense. earch, gather ee, prep their es, and start the proceedings. excels at crossition, while Jomistakes that their case. A ed Markinson ely admits to that Jessup the Code Red saltered key of evidence to t up. Kaffee oenas the Markinson to accordingly, will essentially em the case.	They put toge strategy to ge admit on the he ordered to Red. They also with new arg support their before Jessup testify, Jo rea Kaffee what's can't get a con't be a succon't be a succon't be a succon't be a succon't get able to make prour	ther a new t Jessup to stand that the Code o come up uments to case. Just is called to affirms to at risk if he onfession: a courting thrown lavy, and ense as a fee's mind, will prove ars that he cessful trial that he have been his father	FINAL P Kaffe become more forcefue hold nothing back. conting questice Color Jessup, fights every stathe w	ee nes re I and Is ng He ues oning nel who him	AFTERMATH: Jessup is arrested. While exonerated of most of the charges, Kaffee's clients are found guilty of conduct unbecoming a marine and are dishonorably discharged. Still, Kaffee has earned Dawson's respect and he's saved his clients from both death and imprisonment. Most importantly, he's honorably and respectably tried a case in court, and he now has a future as a trial lawyer. He's found fulfillment in finally stepping out from under his father's shadow, he's able to do the job he's always wanted with self-respect, in a way that would have made his father proud.
OPPORTUNITY: Kaffee is assigned the case of two marines accused of murder at Guantanamo Bay.	CHANGE OF PLANS: Kaffee goes to Guantanamo to interview witnesses and gather information. When he meets Colonel Jessup, the base commander, and his executive officer, Markinson, Kaffee realizes that they're hiding something—that Jessup very likely ordered the Code Red that resulted in the victim's unintended death. This means that his clients were following a fairly simple order with no intent to kill, and when things went wrong, Jessup cut them loose and is now setting them up. Worried that his case is becoming increasingly complicated and difficult to win, Kaffee suggests that Dawson take the plea bargain offer. Tensions between them escalate; Kaffee doesn't understand why Dawson would refuse such an amazing deal, and Dawson calls Kaffee a coward for being too scared to do the right thing. Kaffee decides to quit the case and have new counsel assigned. When Jo finds out, she challenges him, accusing him of avoiding a court case because he's afraid of not living up to his father's expectations. Affee a hight of contemplation, Kaffee decides to continue to represent his clients and try the case in court.	POINT OF NO Due to a crucial mist critical discrepancy in is revealed in court, chance at success. Markinson kills hims be made to testify. bender and Jo tries to convince I way to save their clie Jessup on the stand. high rank and decor marine, there are r accusing him of a cri able to prove it; if K him admit in court th Code Red, Kaffee martialed and throw He will lose his case, he can't live up t reputation as a trie proven true. After a p Kaffee realizes tha comparing himself to this case his own w would do it instead ather would have de himself fully to his cl and subpoen	take on Jo's part, a at their clients' story threatening their. The same day, self before he can Kaffee goes on a gives up. him that the only ents now is to put But due to Jessup's rated history as a repercussions to me without being affee can't make hat he ordered the ewill be courting out of the navy. and his fear that to his father's all lawyer will be per talk from Sam, at he must stop o his father and try way—the way he d of the way his one it. He commits ients and his case	MAJOR SET Jessup isn't into line on the and it doesn like he's go admit to order Code Red. It must make second develoe between fold his line questioning pushing Je (putting every stake) or bacand letting haway with every lossed will lose his chis clients with found gu	falling ne stand n't look ing to ering the Kaffee a split- cision lowing of g and essup ything at king off him get erything t Kaffee ase and will be	After and courting Kaffee him if h	impassioned emotional room battle, flat-out asks e ordered the e Red, and admits to it.

ACT II

ACT III

ACT I

SETUP:

Daniel Kaffee is a lawyer with a knack for plea-bargaining. He's incredibly likable: charming, witty, and clever. But there's something off; despite his nine months and 44 cases as a lawyer, he's never actually tried a case in the courtroom.

OPPORTUNITY:

Kaffee is assigned the case of two marines accused of murder at Guantanamo Bay.

NEW SITUATION:

Kaffee decides to handle his case the way he always has: by negotiating a plea bargain. With the help of his friend, Sam Weinberg, and Jo Galloway, special counsel for Internal Affairs, he gets started. It's revealed that Kaffee's father was an incredibly famous and successful trial lawyer before his death many years earlier. It's also clear right away that Jo doesn't like Kaffee, and one of his clients, Dawson, holds him in disdain. Almost immediately, Kaffee is offered the plea bargain deal he was hoping for, but instead of accepting it, he decides to wait until after his trip to Cuba.

CHANGE OF PLANS:

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Worried that his case is becoming increasingly complicated and difficult to win, Kaffee suggests that Dawson take the plea bargain offer. Tensions between them escalate; Kaffee doesn't understand why Dawson would refuse such an amazing deal, and Dawson calls Kaffee a coward for being too scared to do the right thing. Kaffee decides to quit the case and have new counsel assigned. When Jo finds out, she challenges him, accusing him of avoiding a court case because he's afraid of not living up to his father's expectations. After a night of contemplation, Kaffee decides to continue to represent his clients and try the case in court.

PROGRESS:

Kaffee and his team put together a defense. They research, gather evidence, prep their witnesses, and start the court proceedings. Kaffee excels at cross-examination, while Jo makes mistakes that weaken their case. A conflicted Markinson privately admits to Kaffee that Jessup ordered the Code Red and has altered key pieces of evidence to cover it up. Kaffee subpoenas the reluctant Markinson to testify accordingly, which will essentially win them the case.

POINT OF NO RETURN:

Due to a crucial mistake on Jo's part, a critical discrepancy in their clients' story is revealed in court, threatening their chance at success. The same day, Markinson kills himself before he can be made to testify. Kaffee goes on a bender and gives up.

Jo tries to convince him that the only way to save their clients now is to put Jessup on the stand. But due to Jessup's high rank and decorated history as a marine, there are repercussions to accusing him of a crime without being able to prove it; if Kaffee can't make him admit in court that he ordered the Code Red, Kaffee will be court-martialed and thrown out of the navy. He will lose his case, and his fear that he can't live up to his father's reputation as a trial lawyer will be proven true. After a pep talk from Sam, Kaffee realizes that he must stop comparing himself to his father and try this case his own way—the way he would do it instead of the way his father would have done it. He commits himself fully to his clients and his case and subpoenas Jessup.

COMPLICATIONS AND HIGHER STAKES:

They put together a new strategy to get Jessup to admit on the stand that he ordered the Code Red. They also come up with new arguments to support their case. Just before Jessup is called to testify, Jo reaffirms to Kaffee what's at risk if he can't get a confession from Jessup: a court-martial, getting thrown out of the navy, and losing his license as a lawyer. In Kaffee's mind, such a failure will prove correct his fears that he can't be a successful trial lawyer and that he would never have been able to make his father proud.

MAJOR SETBACK:

Jessup isn't falling into line on the stand and it doesn't look like he's going to admit to ordering the Code Red. Kaffee must make a split-second decision between following his line of questioning and pushing Jessup (putting everything at stake) or backing off and letting him get away with everything (ensuring that Kaffee will lose his case and his clients will be found guilty).

FINAL PUSH:

Kaffee becomes more forceful and holds nothing back. He continues questioning Colonel Jessup, who fights him every step of the way.

CLIMAX:

After an impassioned and emotional courtroom battle, Kaffee flat-out asks him if he ordered the Code Red, and Jessup admits to it.

AFTERMATH:

Jessup is arrested. While exonerated of most of the charges, Kaffee's clients are found guilty of conduct unbecoming a marine and are dishonorably discharged. Still, Kaffee has earned Dawson's respect and he's saved his clients from both death and imprisonment. Most importantly, he's honorably and respectably tried a case in court, and he now has a future as a trial lawyer. He's found fulfillment in finally stepping out from under his father's shadow; he's able to do the job he's always wanted with self-respect, in a way that would have made his father proud.