

MICHELLE SIDE

A monologue from page 85

MICHELLE

They tell you, don't go out by yourself at night... always go with a buddy... I went with two "buddies" just walking, having a smoke, kidding around... They.. they... started playing a game with each other... a game of dare.... they pushed me down on the ground, pulled my shirt off -- and they tore my pants... I couldn't get up -- I fought with them but they --- they ... It was such a shock, I felt so betrayed... I couldn't get--- I couldn't get myself together ... I was so ashamed, so angry and ashamed and --(*pause*) I went to my company commander and he said "can you prove you didn't ask for it?" That's what he said to me! Why did I even --- and then he said "so you want to be replaced, Sergeant?" Like I shouldn't be replaced, like it was my fault, like I should just suck it up -- but I couldn't suck it up, I was a mess, my brain wouldn't stop crying -- I was in shock -- I was just—and I said yes, I want to be replaced. He says, "Okay you've got food poisoning. " (*pause*) I'm a Marine. I'm proud to be a Marine. This doesn't happen to a Marine. (*pause*) It was supposed to be me on that convoy. It should have been me.