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Deserter DVD Comes Up Way too Short



By [Jesse Schmitt](#), published May 20, 2008

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Rating: 4.6 of 5

God bless the meek, but God help the morons!

That's all that I can think to say after watching the 24-minute Big Noise Tactical Media film "Deserter." This short tells the story of Ryan and Jen Johnson (which is really just Ryan Johnson because the only thing that Jen even says in the whole damn movie is about changing the car radio) two young, ignorant military Deserters as they make their way from San Diego to Canada. We'll get to that in a minute, but first to the story.

Ryan is a young, enlisted GI who was talked into joining the military by an Army recruiter; further research proved that this was sometime in 2003 or 2004; this is a true story! That's the thing that blows my mind about this. Regardless, he and his wife enlisted in the military and he was under the impression that his unit would not be going to Iraq.

OK. If this were a documentary about the tactics used by the government to sweet talk people into joining the military or whatever, I could see that being a film. But if you join the Army and there is a war going on, well, you connect the dots; Ryan and Jen certainly couldn't. I shouldn't say that; as I said, I heard nary a peep from his wife the whole damn film. I couldn't tell if she were mad, glad or indifferent. Even though it says on the back of the package that, "...we get to know Ryan and Jen-two shy, small-town kids...who joined he military because there were no jobs, and now find they must make a heroic stand in order to escape an illegal and immoral war."

Wow. Where to begin? Well, this film had my curiosity piqued so I did some further research and found an interview with Democracy NOW! that Ryan and Jen allegedly did. The only problem with this was that it was all about how Ryan couldn't hold down a job and how Ryan felt so put upon by his country and their war and I was a little bit confused.

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