

Virginia Commonwealth University VCU Scholars Compass

Mighty Pen Project Anthology & Archive

Mighty Pen Project

2020

What Was He Thinking

Jack Frazer

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/mighty_pen_archive

Part of the Creative Writing Commons, History Commons, Leadership Studies Commons, Military, War, and Peace Commons, Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons, Peace and Conflict Studies Commons, and the Terrorism Studies Commons

© The Author(s)

Downloaded from

https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/mighty_pen_archive/63

This 1981-2000 Army is brought to you for free and open access by the Mighty Pen Project at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mighty Pen Project Anthology & Archive by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact libcompass@vcu.edu.

Jack Frazer

What Was He Thinking?

It happened so quickly He was so young Didn't kill anyone, used a note No shots fired, piece-of-shit gun Turned it on himself.

Amateur hour, less than three grand Could have been out on probation By the time he turned thirty Was he religious, have a girlfriend Never got the chance to ask.

Meat wagon on the way This warehouse is a lonely place To spend your last minutes He probably never expected To end up like this.

That smug psychology professor That sad old agent, at the Academy They tried to tell me what it's like Neither one knew squat. Fuck them I'm me. Here. Real.

SAC Harding got me into this I'd like to kick his bureaucratic ass He's been transferred to LA Good luck to his negotiator there He will need it. What do I tell Rosemary When she asks: "How was your day?" Maggie needs to know. It will be on the news Her school friends are vicious little bitches Rosemary will have to tell her. I can't.

Hey Captain! Keep those TV vultures away Don't give out my name, no press on this one The kid killed himself. It's not the fucking circus We don't even know who he is. Tell them To show a little respect, for God's sake!

SWAT guys packing their gear Didn't have to do anything. Glad it is over Will take me for a drink. I need one They will say "Tough break, not your fault" Then tomorrow, call me "2 for 5 Murphy."

When is Mass; do I have to confess What did I do wrong. This is number three What could I have said That would have made a difference What was he thinking?