IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (USA, 2007)

**Credits:** director/writer, Paul Harris; story, Mark Boal, Paul Harris.

**Cast:** Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron, Jason Patric, Susan Sarandon.

**Summary:** Murder mystery set in contemporary New Mexico. Retired Army CID sergeant and Vietnam vet Hank Deerfield (Jones) receives a call from Fort Rudd (N.M.) that his son Mike, whose unit has just returned from Iraq, is missing. When he arrives there, Hank finds that Mike’s buddies are keeping mum and that base officers like Lt. Kirklander (Patric) are bureaucratic lackeys with little interest in the case. Hank gradually earns the respect of Emily Sanders (Theron), a local civilian detective, and pushes the case to a full blown murder investigation. Ultimately Deerfield discovers that Mike was murdered by one his buddies, a victim of the unrecognized PTSD that plagues many of the recent returnees from Iraq.

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