**M3630 THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS** (USA, 2009)

**Credits:** director, Grant Heslov; writer, Peter Straughan; book, Jon Ronson.

**Cast:** George Clooney, Jeff Bridges, Ewan McGregor, Kevin Spacy, Stephen Root.

**Summary:** Satire set in the U.S. and Iraq in 2003 with flashbacks to the 1980s. Reporter Bob Wilton (McGregor) is to interview self-proclaimed psychic Gus Lacey (Root), but stumbles on a bigger story. In the 1980s, in the period following the Vietnam War when the Army had lost its sense of purpose, U.S. Army Intelligence and Special Forces had formed a secret unit of “psychic spies” who, among other things, trained to kill animals by staring at them. The most gifted of the group was Lyn Cassady (Clooney). According to Cassady, the 1st Battalion of the New Earth Army was to change the way wars were fought. They were Jedi “warrior monks” with unparalleled psychic powers who could read the enemy’s thoughts, pass through solid walls, and even kill a goat simply by staring at it. Now, for the war in Iraq, Cassady has been reactivated. Unfortunately, the program’s founder, Vietnam vet-turned-New Age hippie Bill Django (Bridges), has gone missing and Cassady’s mission is to find him. The pair tracks Django to a clandestine camp in Iraq run by renegade psychic-soldier-turned-civilian-contractor Larry Hooper (Spacey), the reporter is trapped in the middle of a grudge match between the remnants of Django’s New Earth Army and Hooper’s contract psychics who are conducting psychological warfare against the Iraqis and torturing Iraqi prisoners by various psychological means.

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