

# Private Joker



- Private Joker is the Protagonist in the film.
- Protagonist = the chief person in a story.
- Played by actor Matthew Modine.
- He is given the name 'Joker' by Hartman.

Joker earns Hartman's respect because of the way he stands by his beliefs and the fact that he has good reason for doing the things he does.

Joker is assigned by Hartman to be a military journalist in Vietnam.

The modern-day jester Joker joins the fray, but while Marines kiss the dirt with requisite vigor, he remains detached, retaining his requisite objectivity. He keeps his conscience on ice with dark humor and frequent John Wayne imitations ("Listen heyah, Pilgrim," etc), but his frozen morality can't prevent the one-on-one confrontations he seeks to avoid, including one that makes for the film's climactic finale. ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

## Some Key Quotes:

- *[narrating]* Paris Island, South Carolina. The Marine Corps Training Depot. An eight-week college for the phony tough and the crazy brave.
- Sir, the private believes that any answer he gives will be wrong! And his senior drill instructor will beat him harder if he reverses himself, sir!
- The dead know only one thing: it is better to be alive.
- My thoughts drift back to erect nipple wet dreams about Mary Jane Rottencrotch and the Great Homecoming Fuck Fantasy. I am so happy that I am alive, in one piece and short. I'm in a world of shit... yes. But I am alive. And I am not afraid.
- I wanted to see exotic Vietnam... the crown jewel of Southeast Asia. I wanted to meet interesting and stimulating people of an ancient culture... and kill them. I wanted to be the first kid on my block to get a confirmed kill!
- A day without blood is like a day without sunshine.