"Pilot"

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CHARLIE
FOXTROT

Episode 101 – “Pilot”

Full Pink
3.20.17

CAST

CHARLIE TAYLOR....................................... JASON BIGGS
ANGELINA GUERRERO.................................... ANA ORTIZ
SUE TAYLOR........................................... SWOOSIE KURTZ
MARIA GUERRERO.................................... NICOLAS CANTU
HECTOR GUERRERO............................... MADALYN HORCHER
CAPTAIN O’BRIEN.................................... ROBERT BAKER
MAJOR TOM JORDAN............................... ERIK GRIFFIN
ASHA KHLAPA...................................... MEERA ROHIT KUMBHANI
JOE TAYLOR.......................................... GEOFF STULTS
NOWITZKI............................................. ZACHARY JAMES RUKAVINA
ARMY BRAT.......................................... SHANT ROOHINIAN
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SET LIST

INTERIORS
WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER
HALLWAY
DENTAL OFFICE

DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG
COMMUNITY CENTER

ALL AMERICAN CAFE

CHARLIE’S HOUSE
FRONT DOOR (I/E)
LIVING ROOM

ANGELINA’S CAR

CHARLIE’S CAR

SUE’S CAR

RECEPTION ROOM

PROVOST MARSHALL’S
HALLWAY (I/E)

O’BRIEN’S OFFICE

JOE’S APARTMENT

EXTERIORS
FORT BRAGG, NC
BY THE GAZEBOS
FOUR-WAY INTERSECTION

COMMUNITY POOL

DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG

CHARLIE’S HOUSE
FRONT DOOR (I/E)
FRONT LAWN

JOE’S APARTMENT

RECEPTION ROOM

PROVOST MARSHALL’S
HALLWAY (I/E)
COLD OPEN

EXT. FORT BRAGG, NC - DAY (D1)


CHARLIE (V.O.)
They say when the President dials 911, the phone rings here at Fort Bragg, the most populated military base in the world.

INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - HALLWAY - DAY (D1)

Boots stride purposefully. We reveal CHARLIE TAYLOR, wearing a Standard Army Uniform, walking down the hallway.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I’m stationed here as a highly trained member of the U.S Armed Forces. And I have a very specialized skill set.

INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - DENTAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D1)

CLOSE ON Charlie as he enters and nods firmly to a seated SOLDIER.

CHARLIE
It’s go time.

INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - DENTAL OFFICE - DAY (D1)

Charlie, now in scrubs, works as a dentist, examining the soldier. "Highway to the Danger Zone" plays quietly. Charlie’s nurse ASHA is there. Charlie rolls back on his stool, sternly:

CHARLIE
I’m gonna need you to switch to a softer toothbrush a-sap. That’s a direct order.

The soldier stands. He TOWERS over Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)
Actually, from this angle, everything looks great. Thank you for your service.

He exits. Charlie turns to Asha, trying to sound cool -
CHARLIE (CONT’D)
Enough heroics for one day. I’m going to Joe’s party.

ASHA
Oy, another tour of Iraq. Wish him good luck for me.

CHARLIE
It’s all good. This is what we do. Joe fights Isis, I fight ginja-Isis.

She cringe-laughs and exits. Charlie turns sweetly, jokingly whispering to himself.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)
I want to be your boyfriend...

ASHA
What was that, Doctor Taylor?

Asha has popped back in, surprising Charlie.

CHARLIE
Nothing. Just gargling. Bye!

Charlie quickly walks past her, embarrassed, and exits.

EXT. FORT BRAGG – COMMUNITY POOL – DAY (D1)

Soldiers and their families barbecue at the community pool. A homemade banner reads: “GOOD LUCK BADGER PLATOON!” Charlie, now in flips-flops and carrying a six-pack, spots: JOE TAYLOR, his fiancée, ANGELINA, her daughter, MARIA, and her son HECTOR. A beautiful family. The adults drink beers.

ANGELINA
What if we broke your legs? Then they couldn’t send you to Iraq.

JOE
But they’re my best feature. You should see what happens when I walk by a construction site.

MARIA
You’re right. You should totally wear skirts more.

ANGELINA
Hey! That’s another way you can get out of deploying. And I’d love to see those legs in heels.

(CONTINUED)
They laugh. Charlie walks up.

CHARLIE
What, what! Who’s got two thumbs
and some hard cider because they
think they may be developing a late-
in-life gluten allergy?

He excitedly holds up two thumbs.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)
What’s up Angelina. Hector...

Charlie looks to Maria, forgetting her name.

ANGELINA
Mari-
CHARLIE (CONT’D)
(a beat behind)
Maria! My girl. Totes...

Joe gives Charlie a half-annoyed look. CAPTAIN O’BRIEN, a
Military Policeman, approaches.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
Folks, I hate to be the deuce in
the pool, but alcoholic beverages
are not allowed in public spaces.
This isn’t Bonaroo. This is the
United States Army.

HECTOR
You think you work for the Army,
but your real boss is a guy named
Lockheed Martin.

JOE
(to O’Brien)
Sorry, Captain. He just discovered
The Huffington Post.
(to the kids)
Look at Garcia’s spread. Go grab us
* some brats before his kids eat ‘em
* all.

The kids run off. Joe quickly chugs his beer, then grabs
Angelina’s and pours it into a Red Cup. She turns to him.

ANGELINA
Joe, I can take care of this guy.

JOE
I know. That’s why I’m stepping in.
For his sake.
(to O’Brien, re: red cups)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Problem solved. Field Beverage Concealment Units. Now we’re drinking cream soda.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
Major Taylor, I’ll stand down outta respect for your service.
(to Angelina)
But miss, you are a guest on this base. Do not mistake my gallantry for weakness.

O’Brien shoulder checks Charlie and exits. Then, after he’s clearly out of earshot, Charlie acts tough:

CHARLIE
What a douche.

JOE
Gotta pee. I’ll be in the pool.

Joe kisses Angelina, and walks to the pool. He acts like he’s about to do a perfect dive, but then throws himself in like a maniac. Angelina smiles. Charlie stands for a beat, then –

CHARLIE
So... you enjoying living on base?

ANGELINA
Love it.

CHARLIE
* C’mon. This place is great. We’ve got a bowling alley, a golf course, a Starbucks without a bathroom code. A privilege I’ve been known to abuse.

ANGELINA
* What an image. Here’s a real question, why’s your mom hate me so much?

CHARLIE
What makes you think she hates you?

We REVEAL SUE, standing very close, staring daggers at her.

ANGELINA
Well, she’s giving me the stink eye like she can’t wait for them to build that border wall.

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
Nah, mom’s not racist. She was just as mean to Joe’s white girlfriends. I’ll handle it.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)
(trying to shoo her) (a beat)
Mom.
(then)
Mom... (a beat)
Mom!! (a beat)

SUE
What.
(beat)
What!
(beat)
What?!

Charlie gives up and looks back to Angelina.

CHARLIE
She’s always been a hard-ass. She met my dad when she was a nurse in Vietnam.

ANGELINA
* Our side or the Viet Cong?

CHARLIE
* It was never clear. She pulled a bunch of shrapnel out of his leg and called him “cry baby” for the rest of his life.

JOE
* Yo Charlie! Come in. Water’s great.

Charlie walks over to the pool’s edge and leans over.

CHARLIE
* I already took a shower today and I like what my hair’s doing, so -

Joe smiles, then grabs Charlie and pulls him into the pool. Charlie surfaces, shaking off his wet clothes.

JOE
We gotta talk.

CHARLIE
Okay. Let me just silence my phone.

Charlie pulls his wet phone out and places it on the edge.
JOE
I keep thinking about what Dad used to say about war: “A true soldier fights, not because he hates what’s in front of him, but because he loves what’s behind him.”

(then)
Angelina. The kids. All of a sudden, I got a lot behind me.

CHARLIE
That’s on you. Falling for a girl with two kids. Doesn’t Tinder have a filter for that?

JOE
If something happens, I need you to promise that you’ll have her back.

CHARLIE
Yeah, yeah...

JOE
This isn’t “yeah, yeah,” dude. This is important. Angelina’s been on her own for so long – it’s not easy for her to let people in. She’ll try to push you away, but I need you to push back. I know pushing back isn’t your thing, so –

CHARLIE
Hey. I can push back.

He tries to knock Joe back with a push. Joe doesn’t budge.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)
Well, you get what I was going for.

JOE
I need this. I know it’s been less than a year, but they’re my family.

CHARLIE
I got you. I promise.

JOE
Thanks, bro. I love you.

CHARLIE
Love you too.

(MORE)
I feel so safe in your arms. And warm.

JOE
That’s because I’m peeing again.

CHARLIE
Dammit!

Charlie tries to run away, but Joe jumps on him, and the brothers wrestle.

END OF COLD OPEN
TEXT ON SCREEN: Five Months Later.

I/E. DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG - COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY (D2)


CHARLIE
Hey Mom, let's hit the mess hall early. The SEALs are on base and their motto is: buffet diem.

SUE
(to the group)
Okay, ladies. I’m taking lunch.

She passes NOWITZKI, a veteran who holds a paintbrush with his new prosthetic grip, and critiques his painting.

SUE (CONT’D)
Jeez Nowitzki, I hope your PTSD’s improving faster than your brushwork.

NOWITZKI
It is, Ma’am. Thanks for asking.

Charlie looks out the window and sees Hector across the street, handing out leaflets with THREE WEIRD FRIENDS. A homemade sign reads: “Close Gitmo.” Some ARMY BRATS approach.

CHARLIE
Is that Hector?

SUE
What’s his problem with Gitmo? He wants us to put Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in The Red Roof Inn? I can’t believe Joe brought that family on base. Fingers crossed he meets a nice Iraqi girl.

CHARLIE
Joe’s not dating in Iraq.

SUE
What do you know? During Vietnam, a lot of soldiers met Asian brides. Remember Sergeant Witney and that little woman who eventually stabbed him?

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
Sure. Ping Mai. She used to bring orange slices to our soccer games.

SUE
(re: Hector)
That family’s gonna get Joe in trouble. Go fix this.

CHARLIE
Ehhh. Those kids look kinda big.

Off Sue’s annoyed look, Charlie heads out the door.

EXT. DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG — DAY (D2)

Charlie walks over, then starts to run as the scuffle escalates. Hector is in the middle of it all, arguing furiously in Spanish.

HECTOR
... No puede pensar que sea justo detener a personas por un tiempo indefinido!! They’re entitled to habeas corpus, numb-nuts.

CHARLIE
Whoa! Spanish, English, Latin. That’s a lot of passion.

Captain O’Brien approaches from his Fort Bragg MP Cruiser. The other kids scatter.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
What is all this? What kind of *
monkeyshines is going on here? *

CHARLIE
Hey, O’Brien. Everything’s cool -

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
Hey Doc, I don’t go to your office and knock the floss out of your mouth, okay. Lemme do my thing. (to Hector) And why are you even protesting? America’s great again.

Charlie pulls O’Brien aside, trying to make nice.

CHARLIE
O’Brien, he’s just a kid.
CAPTAIN O'BRIEN
So’s Kim Jong Un. And this boy’s sister is no better. Running around base with her “squad” like it’s Mardi Gras at the teenage factory.

CHARLIE
I can talk to their mom.

CAPTAIN O'BRIEN
You best. Because one more infraction from any of ‘em and I’ll recommend they be suspended from on-post housing. And if they think Gitmo’s inhumane, wait’ll they see the rental market in Fayetteville. Am I clear?

CHARLIE
(giving in)
Yes, sir.


HECTOR
Pigs, man.

CHARLIE
Yeah. Pigs.

O’Brien overhears Charlie and turns back to him.

CAPTAIN O'BRIEN
What’d you say, Doc?

CHARLIE
What’s that? Just gargling! Have a blessed day!

Charlie grabs Hector and they exit.

INT. FORT BRAGG - ALL AMERICAN CAFE - DAY (D2)

Angelina works the counter at the diner. Charlie approaches.

ANGELINA
Hey Charlie T. It’s been a minute.

CHARLIE
Yeah. Sorry I haven’t been around. Been pretty busy, keeping up on the latest dental technologies. We got a new sucky thing at the office.

(CONTINUED)
ANGELINA
Well, I hope you two are happy together. What’s up? I’m busy.

CHARLIE
O’Brien just busted Hector for protesting on base. He’s fine, but I think he needs more supervision. And Joe would say the same thing. Parents really have to be present in their kids’ lives. Not as present as Mom is in mine, but -

Charlie looks to the window, Sue is outside, glaring at them.

ANGELINA
Huh. For a guy with no kids, that’s pretty insightful.

CHARLIE
Well, we have a lot of parenting magazines in our waiting room.

ANGELINA
You think this is simple, Charlie?

CHARLIE
I did. For a second...

ANGELINA
I’ve been supervising these kids, on my own, since I was twenty-three years old. And I’m a damn good mom. So don’t tell me that Joe would come here with some half-assed lecture. Joe would step up.

(a beat, then)
So here’s a thought: how about you take a break from your new sucky thing and watch the kids sometime?

CHARLIE
Oh? Well... the headline here was: you supervise more while I give strategic advice from a distance.

ANGELINA
Great. I’ll pick up a late shift tomorrow and drop them off at your place for dinner.

(Continued)
CHARLIE
Sure... I’ll have the kids over. It’ll be fun. Order some Pad Thai -

ANGELINA
Hector’s got a peanut allergy.

CHARLIE
It’s okay. He can just flick them off.

ANGELINA
Or you could consider not ordering a peanut-based entree.

CHARLIE
I could. I will! But I always get Pad Thai on Sundays. I don’t want my friends at Lotus Siam to worry.

INT. CHARLIE’S HOUSE – NIGHT (N3)
The house is tidy. Charlie leans on the counter, reading a Parenting Magazine from his dental office.

CHARLIE
You can’t give honey to babies? How am I just learning this now?

The doorbell rings. Charlie goes to get it, then turns back, and quickly puts his honey on a higher shelf.

I/E. CHARLIE’S HOUSE – FRONT DOOR – NIGHT (N3)
Charlie opens the door. Angelina, Maria, and Hector are there. AD LIB hellos.

CHARLIE
The gang’s all here! We’re going to have a blast! A few quick rules: I keep a Japanese household, so I prefer no shoes, but -

INT. CHARLIE’S HOUSE – NIGHT (N3)
Maria and Hector blow past him. Hector looks at the computer.

HECTOR
Is this on the base server?
CHARLIE
It is. I sometimes pull up medical
records at home. It’s also on the
“don’t touch” list. Arigato.

Angelina pulls Charlie aside. Hector goes to the computer.

ANGELINA
So Hector told me you and O’Brien
were getting into it yesterday. Do
I need to worry about that?

Charlie decides to lie to Angelina.

CHARLIE
I took care of O’Brien. He’s got a
loud bark, but this big dog has the
claws.

He claws the air. She’s not impressed.

ANGELINA
That’s a cat. I hope you’re better
with kids than you are with
metaphors.
(then, sincerely)
Thanks, Charlie. It’s nice having
help. Okay locos, be good. But make
him work for it.

Angelina exits. Charlie looks to Maria - she’s texting.

CHARLIE
Ma-ria. Sup, girl? I remember Joe
saying you liked backgammon. Wanna
get your back-gamm... on?

Maria decides to manipulate Charlie, pretending to open up -

MARIA
Oh... I don’t know. Backgammon.
That was kinda my thing with Joe.
My new dad. I miss him so much. I
just - I think I need some space.

CHARLIE
Yeah. Take all the space you need.

Charlie feels terrible. Maria breaks -

MARIA
I’m clowning you, man. Relax.
CHARLIE
Why would you do that to me?

MARIA
I think I have trouble making connections because of my father. He left right after Hector was born.

CHARLIE
Oh. I’m sorry. I -

MARIA
Dude! I got you again.

CHARLIE
What? Why?!

MARIA
Because you’re an easy mark. I’m done. I’m going to grab a drink.

Maria crosses to the kitchen.

HECTOR
Whoa! My science teacher is on a ton of antidepressants. Cheer up, Mr. Lerner. *

CHARLIE
Hector! That’s sensitive information!

HECTOR
Not as sensitive as Mr. Lerner. *

MARIA (O.S.)
You want something? I hate to drink alone.

CHARLIE
Wait! What are you drinking?!

Charlie runs after Maria as Hector types away.

INT. CHARLIE’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N3)

Charlie and Hector sit on the couch, watching a documentary on the Cuban Revolution. *

CHARLIE
Wow. Five-hundred channels and you picked this, huh? *

(CONTINUED)
HECTOR
Yep. You got a pretty sweet life here, man. Big house, nice TV.

CHARLIE
Eh. But it gets a little spooky at night. I’m definitely sleeping on top of ghosts.

HECTOR
I don’t get why you’re single? You should be crushing it.

CHARLIE
There is a girl at work I like, but I’m waiting for the right moment – like after a global pandemic when we have to mate to save mankind.

Hector smiles. Angelina enters.

ANGELINA
Well, well, well. No cop cars out front. You haven’t been drugged and hog-tied. You really did this, huh?

CHARLIE
I did. The kids were a breeze.

ANGELINA
I see one breeze. Where’s Maria?

CHARLIE
She’s been in the den since dinner. I’m giving her space. Don’t want to be a tiger mom.

ANGELINA
Oh, dammit! Hector, go check.

Hector runs off. Angelina takes out her phone and dials.

CHARLIE
What’s wrong?

ANGELINA
Me thinking you could handle this.

Hector pops back in.

HECTOR
She’s AWOL.
ANGELINA
And she’s not picking up her phone.
(to Charlie)
We gotta find her. It’s after base curfew!

Angelina starts for the door. Charlie runs after her.

CHARLIE
Okay, but let’s focus on the positive: they didn’t get into the honey.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. ANGELINA’S CAR – NIGHT (N3)
Angelina drives around, nervously scanning for Maria. We SPLIT-SCREEN and see:

INT. CHARLIE’S CAR – NIGHT (N3)
Charlie and Hector drive. They all talk over SPEAKERPHONE.

CHARLIE
Angelina, I’m sorry. If everyone had taken off their shoes she’d be a little easier to catch, but, admittedly, I took my eye off the ball.

ANGELINA
Well, I never should have passed it to you.

SUE (O.S.)
Enough bellyaching about balls.

THREE-WAY SPLIT-SCREEN:

INT. SUE’S CAR – NIGHT (N3)
Sue, on speakerphone, pulls over, taking off her nighttime BluBlockers.

SUE
Got some activity, half-a-click ahead, by the gazebo. It smells like the sixties. I’ll approach on foot.

Sue puts in a Bluetooth earpiece and exits her car.

ANGELINA
I can’t believe you called your mom.

EXT. FORT BRAGG – BY THE GAZEBOs – INTERCUT (N3)
Sue walks up. Camera is handheld, like on the show COPS.

SUE
I don’t want to be here either, cupcake, but when you break the rules in this family, you get Sue’ed...

SUE / CHARLIE
So you better lawyer up.

(CONTINUED)
Sue quickly stops, then whispers.

SUE
I see her. I’m a ghost.

Sue quickly drops to a military crawl and silently advances.

HECTOR
This place is so repressive. It’s like Putin’s Russia.

CHARLIE
Yeah, if Putin’s Russia was awesome. This place is the best. *
  (then, earnestly)
  I grew up on bases - it’s nice to be surrounded by people you can count on.

ANGELINA
I wouldn’t know. The only person I can count on is five-thousand miles away.

This lands with Charlie. Then Sue springs to her feet, surprising Maria and her FRIENDS.

SUE
Party’s over, Apple Jacks! Get!

MARIA
Where the hell’d you come from?!

SUE
Your nightmares.
  (into her Bluetooth)
  Target acquired. I’m bringing her in for some enhanced interrogation.

MARIA
You’re not waterboarding me.

ANGELINA
Like hell she’s not. Sue, bring the board. I’ll bring the water.

Angelina approaches a four-way stop, but she’s distracted.

Captain O’Brien is in his patrol car, listening to AM radio and drinking a tea. Angelina BLOWS past, speeding.
CAPTAIN O'BRIEN
Well color me a cricket, daddy's 'bout to serve a ticket.

O'Brien flicks on his flashing lights and slowly pulls out.

EXT. JOE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N3)

Angelina marches up to Maria and Sue. Charlie and Hector exit their car.

ANGELINA
I hope you had fun tonight -
(re: Charlie)
Making a fool of this dumb bastard.

CHARLIE
Let's stay focused on the truant teenager.

MARIA
(to Angelina)
You're such a hypocrite. It's not like you never broke curfew.

ANGELINA
I did a lot of dumb stuff at your age. You want one of these, too?

She pulls up her shirt, revealing a tattoo of Betty Boop coming out of a genie's lamp. Sue laughs.

SUE
Why did you make her a genie?

ANGELINA
It's called "mushrooms," Sue.

SUE
Copy that. I got Minnie Mouse spinning a basketball on my tuchus from an R and R in Manila.

Charlie gives Sue a look - he didn't know this. Then -

CHARLIE
Okay, look. Mistakes were made.
(to Hector)
Also think we made some memories.

ANGELINA
I made a mistake alright. Trusting you.

(CONTINUED)
Charlie is hurt by this. Then he sees Captain O’Brien pull up with his yellow lights flashing. Neighbors come out to gawk.

CHARLIE
Shoot! O’Brien. Everybody be cool.
Don’t give him an excuse.

Sue quickly closes her flask and puts it back in her jacket.

SUE
I’m cool.

ANGELINA
An excuse for what? I thought you handled him, big dog.

CHARLIE
I may have over-sold the size of my dog. He’s looking for an excuse to get you kicked off base.

ANGELINA
Kick me off base?!

CHARLIE
Don’t worry. I got this.
(stopping O’Brien)
Hey, O’Brien -

O’Brien blows past Charlie.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
Outta my way, bird turd.

He approaches Angelina.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN (CONT’D)
Funny, I don’t smell smoke. So, pray tell, why were you driving like your house was on fire?

Hector notices MAJOR TOM. He waits on their porch in his Army Service Uniform with another Soldier.

HECTOR
Charlie, who is that guy?

Charlie sees Major Tom. His face drops. He knows what this means. Sue then clocks it as well. She knows.

CHARLIE
No. No... Please...

(CONTINUED)
Angelina doesn’t understand his reaction. She sees Major Tom as an authority figure and yells to O’Brien.

**ANGELINA**
You called for back-up?! That was some forward thinking, cause I’m about to escalate this!

Angelina starts to take off her earrings.

**MAJOR TOM**
No. I’m not -

**ANGELINA**
Thanks for doing nothing, Charlie. Super helpful, once again!

Sue and Charlie can’t speak. They can hardly breathe. O’Brien knows as well and stands down.

**MAJOR TOM**
My name is Major Thomas Jordan.

**SUE**
No. Don’t you say it.

**ANGELINA**
(getting worried)
Say what? Sue. What?

Charlie looks to Sue. Then Angelina. He doesn’t want it to be true. He wants time to stop. But it won’t. Major Tom recites his script.

**MAJOR TOM**
The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret:
Major Joseph Taylor was killed in action today in Mosul, Iraq. He died while coming to the aid of his men during an insurgent ambush...

Major Tom continues speaking, but we don’t hear his words. It’s clear on everyone’s faces. It’s heartbreaking.

Our beautiful score builds. Camera cranes up on the tragic tableau. Yellow lights flash. Angelina is frozen in grief. Sue clings to Maria and Hector. And Charlie realizes that his brother has died, and nothing will ever be the same.

**END OF ACT TWO**
ACT THREE

INT. FORT BRAGG – RECEPTION ROOM – DAY (D4)

We’re at a funeral reception. Friends from the community are there. Charlie is in his dress uniform. Sue gives him a hug and kiss, then crosses off. Charlie then looks at a display of a folded American flag and Joe’s military medals.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
My brother died as he lived. A hero. He was the best. And, not to make it all about me, but talk about setting a high bar... This must be what Frank Stallone feels like. Wait – why the hell am I thinking about Frank Stallone? Joe’s dead. And there’s nothing I can do.

Major Tom approaches.

MAJOR TOM
Hey, Charlie. Thanks again for inviting me.

CHARLIE
Of course, Tom.

MAJOR TOM
I appreciate being included. People don’t always like having me around. Because of my job they think I’m the Grim Reaper, y’know? But that’s just the tiniest part of who I am. I also beatbox.

CHARLIE
Well, it’s nice having you here. Really.

MAJOR TOM
Good. Cause I’m not going anywhere. I am your Casualty Assistance Officer. I’m all about that follow-through. In a few months, you’ll be begging me, “Tom, please. Enough. Stop calling. We’re all better.” And that’s when I double down.

CHARLIE
Oh. Okay. Will you excuse me?

(CONTINUED)
Charlie crosses off. Camera finds Hector, who stands with the Army Brats he fought earlier.

HECTOR
So, all the base resources are stored on the same server. And it’s ridiculously easy to hack into.

ARMY BRAT
Could you change our grades?

HECTOR
Buddy, I think I could launch a cruise missile.

The Brats smile, making Hector feel cool. We move to Maria, who sits with Sue.

SUE
So if an attacker comes at you, remember the soft spots: T.E.B.K. –

MARIA
(pointing as she speaks)

SUE
And always claw. Really get that DNA under your fingernails.
(then, holding back emotion)
Never had a daughter to teach this to. Feels good.

Maria nods, touched by Sue’s sentimentality. Asha crosses and we follow her as she approaches Charlie.

ASHA
Hey, Doctor T. That was a beautiful eulogy.

CHARLIE
Really? I wish I hadn’t told that story about how we’d choreograph dances together when we were little.

ASHA
No. I loved that part. Although now I can’t get “Ease on Down the Road” out of my head.
(then)
So, I was thinking of going out for a drink later.
CHARLIE
(not getting it)
Good plan. I’m jealous.

ASHA
No. I meant, I’d like to grab a
drink with you. If you wanted to
talk. I don’t know –

CHARLIE
Yes. I love drinking! Not that it’s
becoming a problem, yet. One day at
a time. But: yes! That would be
nice.

ASHA
Okay. Got a little weird there for
a second, but I think we stuck the
landing. I’ll text you.

Asha smiles and walks off. Charlie can’t help but smile. He
then sees Hector and Maria, who are nearby, watching.

HECTOR
I told her you’d say yes.

CHARLIE
You did that?

MARIA
Yeah, man. And he didn’t know which
lady at work you liked, so he also
set you up with your receptionist.
And the lady who does your filing.

Maria looks to EDIE, who throws Charlie a flirtatious smile.

CHARLIE
Edie? She’s seventy-six.

MARIA
Hey, granny was down.

HECTOR
Think of it as my going away
present.

CHARLIE
Wait. You guys are leaving? But you
can’t...

They both look at him: it’s clear they’re not happy with it.
Charlie, concerned, looks out the front window and sees:
Angelina accepts condolences from a SOLDIER and WIFE.

ANGELINA

Thank you.

The couple exit. Angelina sees Nowitzki, standing by the guestbook - he quietly salutes the photo of Joe. Charlie approaches.

CHARLIE

What’s this crap about you leaving?

ANGELINA

You thought we’d stay? C’mon. O’Brien was trying to kick us out when Joe was alive.

CHARLIE

But you’re supposed to be here. I can talk to O’Brien -

ANGELINA

Like you talked to him the last time? Or like you watched my kids? Charlie, you’re sweet. But you’re not the guy to fix this. That guy’s gone. Which means we’re gone too.

Angelina crosses off. Charlie has an idea.

Charlie walks up to the building, with purpose. Major Tom is waiting for him.

CHARLIE

We gotta make sure Angelina and the kids can stay on base. How’d it go at the Housing Office?

MAJOR TOM

A big success. I know Colonel Morr from Adult Children of Alcoholics. We got a pretty good softball team, not that my dad cares. Anyhoo, he said Angelina can keep her status if O’Brien signs off on it.

Tom hands Charlie a folder full of paperwork. Charlie begins to walk to O’Brien’s office.
CHARLIE

Oh, he’ll sign off. This is my fight. I’m a man on a mission, and I won’t be stopped by anybod- *

Just then, a group of Soldiers walks towards them down the hall, and Charlie quickly gets out of their way, apologizing -

CHARLIE (CONT’D)

Whoopsie! Scusi. Totally my bad, after you. *

Once the Soldiers clear, Charlie psychs himself back up.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)

Angelina belongs here. I can do this.

MAJOR TOM

I believe in you. And if O’Brien gives you any grief, I got a Plan B.

Major Tom lifts up his shirt, showing his waistband. Then -

MAJOR TOM (CONT’D)

My taser! Oh no! Musta left it in the bathroom at Starbucks. Not again.

Major Tom runs off. Charlie takes a deep breath, echoing his moment in our cold open, and turns to O’Brien’s door -

CHARLIE

It’s go time.

INT. FORT BRAGG - O’BRIEN’S OFFICE - DAY (D5)

O’Brien looks up from his paperwork and takes off his Army issued reading glasses.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN

What’s up, Doc. What do you want?

CHARLIE

It’s not what I want. It’s what you want. This office - this nice little life you’ve eked out for yourself. It could all disappear.

Charlie throws the folder down on O’Brien’s desk.

CHARLIE (CONT’D)

Dentinogenesis imperfecta.
CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
I’m sorry - is that a Harry Potter curse? I haven’t read those books. I have a girlfriend.

CHARLIE
I was looking at your dental records and it jumped out at me: dentinogenesis imperfecta. A remarkable lack of tooth enamel. Just the thing that can get you pulled from active duty. Unless you sign off on Angelina and her kids staying on base.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
Lack of enamel? That’s what you’re coming at me with?

Charlie throws down three other folders.

CHARLIE
(listing the folders)
Meyer, Kahn, Aguilar... All soldiers I’ve had pulled for the same condition.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
This is some barnyard effluvium. There’s no way you pulled these men.

CHARLIE
Don’t believe me? Look it up.

O’Brien swivels to his computer and pulls up a file for Meyer, then Kahn. O’Brien can’t believe it.

CAPTAIN O’BRIEN
You ended these men’s careers.

O’Brien then pulls up a third file - Aguilar. We INTERCUT:

INT. CHARLIE’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (D5)

Hector sits at Charlie’s computer, uploading a doctored file for Aguilar. He wears a bluetooth earpiece.

BACK TO:

INT. FORT BRAGG - O’BRIEN’S OFFICE - DAY (D5)

Charlie’s cell phone; we see it’s on speakerphone. Hector can hear everything.

(CONTINUED)
CAPTAIN O'BRIEN
I guess I underestimated you, Doc.

CHARLIE
Welcome to the club! Now sign.

He puts down Major Tom’s letter. O'Brien signs it. Charlie takes it, then jerks towards O'Brien, making him flinch. Charlie then exits.

INT. FORT BRAGG - PROVOST MARSHALL’S HALLWAY / CHARLIE’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (D5)

Charlie walks out into the hallway, proud of himself. Then he quickly gets on his phone.

CHARLIE
(into phone)
Nice job, Hector. Now log out before you get caught.

HECTOR
Okay. But I just looked up Asha’s file. Good news: she’s on the pill.

EXT. JOE’S APARTMENT - DAY (D5)

A moving truck is parked in front. Angelina carries a box. Charlie runs up to her.

CHARLIE
Great news: you can stay!

ANGELINA
You mean in the apartment that’s already been rented out?

Angelina drops the box in the truck and crosses back to the apartment. Charlie follows, confused.

CHARLIE
But I handled O’Brien. For real this time. You don’t have to leave.

ANGELINA
Don’t tell me what I don’t have to do. I’ll decide what’s best for my family, Charlie. I’m not some damsel that needs to be saved.

INT. JOE’S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (D5)

Angelina goes to the living room. Charlie follows.

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
I know you’re not a damsel. I’m the damsel. Do you know how boring my life is? My emergency contact is Chanti from Lotus Siam.
(a beat)
I keep thinking, if anything good could come from all of this – from Joe – maybe it’s this. That we all become a kind of family.

She lifts up a box, but he blocks her path, stopping her.

ANGELINA
You don’t want to take us on. And I don’t need you. I’ve always done for myself.

CHARLIE
But you let Joe help you.

ANGELINA
And look how that turned out. I’m alone again.

CHARLIE
You’re not. I’m here. And I’ll have your back. Am I going to be perfect at it?
(easygoing)
Maybe. You know, it’s important to be optimistic.

ANGELINA
You had two kids for four hours and you lost one of them.

CHARLIE
And we found her. Optimism...
(then)
I made a promise to my brother. To be there for you. And that’s what I’m going to do. If you’ll let me.

She puts the box down, finally getting to the root of it.

ANGELINA
I never told you, but Joe wanted to get married before he deployed. But I wouldn’t do it. I already had one husband leave me. I wasn’t going to let Joe marry me and ship out. I thought I could protect myself...
(MORE)
As if this would somehow hurt less because we weren’t married.

CHARLIE
You were his family. And that makes us family. This is what Joe wanted.

ANGELINA
Every instinct in my body is telling me to get as far away from this place and you and Sue as possible.

CHARLIE
I get it. Every instinct in my body is telling me to let you. (a beat)
But look where listening to our instincts has gotten us.

Angelina considers this. Then:

MARIA (O.S.)
I wouldn’t mind staying on base.
And I have great instincts.

REVEAL: Maria and Hector have been listening on the stairs.

HECTOR
Me too. It’ll be easier to bring the military down from the inside.

Charlie smiles. Angelina considers her options –

EXT. CHARLIE’S HOUSE - DAY (D6)

We’re close on Angelina. It feels like we’re still at Joe’s, but we REVEAL that she’s in the moving truck in front of Charlie’s house. Angelina grabs a box and walks towards the front door. Major Tom, Nowitzki and Sue are there. They run to help. Angelina walks past Charlie as Maria heads inside.

ANGELINA
Before we carry in the heavy stuff, you sure you’re ready for this? We’re gonna mess up your whole life.

CHARLIE
Good. My life needs to get a little messier. (then, noticing Maria)
Maria! Wipe your stompers. Arigato!

(CONTINUED)
Charlie takes the box from Angelina and heads inside. Sue approaches Angelina, startling her.

ANGELINA
Jeez, Sue. I gotta put a bell around your neck.

SUE
Listen here, daisy chain.

Sue takes her by the shoulders.

SUE (CONT’D)
Growing up, I’d never let the boys play with fireworks. Thought they’d blow their fingers off. But Joey loved ’em. Because they’re loud, and sparkling, and they make people feel alive. You’re a firecracker.
(then)
And we’re not done. Us widows. Not yet.

Angelina feels the love, then squirms, rolling her shoulders.

ANGELINA
Sue, you’re kinda hurting me.

SUE
I know. And don’t you forget it.

Sue walks off. Angelina rubs her shoulders.

MAJOR TOM (O.S.)
A little help!

Major Tom is struggling with a Lay-Z-Boy.

MAJOR TOM (CONT’D)
I have severely miscalculated the heft of this sofa!

Charlie runs over to help Major Tom as our music builds.

Angelina looks around one more time. Hector laughs with friends. Sue overloads Nowitzki with bags to carry, and Maria sneaks out a side door and into a friend’s waiting car.

Angelina smiles, then looks to an American Flag hanging across the street. She gives it a little salute. She’s home.

END OF ACT THREE
Sue, Maria, and Hector are in athletic gear.

SUE
Maria, take notes. Hector, come at me like you’re a predator who wants it good.

HECTOR
What do I want? Your wallet?

SUE
Sure, if that’s what the kids are calling it. Now come at me!

HECTOR
I don’t want to come at you. I’m a pacifist.

Charlie exits the house and walks over to them.

CHARLIE
Hey, what are you guys doing?

SUE
Oh good. Come here. Gimme a hug.

CHARLIE
Well that only took thirty-six years.

Sue nods to Maria as Charlie walks over to her, arms wide. Right before they embrace.

SUE
Hoo-ah!

Sue throws him over her shoulder and pins him on the ground.

HECTOR / MARIA
Whoa!

SUE
You just got Sue’d!

CHARLIE
Really thought it was going to be a hug this time.

END OF SHOW