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★ CHARLIE ★  
FOXTROT ★

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"Pilot"

Written by:

Sam Sklaver

Directed by:

Todd Holland

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**FULL PINK**

3-20-2017

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# ★ CHARLIE ★ FOXTROT ★

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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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# ★ CHARLIE ★ FOXTROT ★

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Episode 101 - "Pilot"

**Full Pink**

**3.20.17**

**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

1 EXT. FORT BRAGG, NC - DAY (D1) 1

Stock footage of a busy military base. Soldiers exercise. Military vehicles pass through checkpoints.

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.*

2 INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - HALLWAY - DAY (D1) 2

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.*

A3 INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - DENTAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D1) A3

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

CHARLIE

It's go time.

3 INT. WOMACK MEDICAL CENTER - DENTAL OFFICE - DAY (D1) 3

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 -

(CONTINUED)

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-laugh 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.

4 EXT. FORT BRAGG - COMMUNITY POOL - DAY (D1) 4

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)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOE (CONT'D)

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)

Mom.

(then)

Mom...

(then)

Mom!!

SUE

(a beat)

What.

(a beat)

What!

(a 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.

(they hug, then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (5)

4

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

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**

ACT ONE

TEXT ON SCREEN: **Five Months Later.**

5 I/E. DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG - COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY (D2) 5

A sign in the window reads: "Art Therapy." SIX SOLDIERS paint while Sue oversees. Charlie enters.

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)

5

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.

6

EXT. DOWNTOWN FORT BRAGG - DAY (D2)

6

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

O'Brien exits. Hector gives Charlie a big smile.

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. \*

8 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (N3) 8

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.

A9 I/E. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT (N3) A9

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 -

B9 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (N3) B9

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-r-ia. 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.

(CONTINUED)



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.

9 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N3) 9

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.

(CONTINUED)

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

10 INT. ANGELINA'S CAR - NIGHT (N3) 10

Angelina drives around, nervously scanning for Maria. We SPLIT-SCREEN and see:

11 INT. CHARLIE'S CAR - NIGHT (N3) 11

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:

12 INT. SUE'S CAR - NIGHT (N3) 12

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.

13 EXT. FORT BRAGG - BY THE GAZEBOS - INTERCUT (N3) 13

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'd...

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.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: 14

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.

15 EXT. JOE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N3) 15

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

16

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

16

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)  
Temple. Eyes. Balls. Knee caps.

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.

(CONTINUED)

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  
Eddie? 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:

17 EXT. FORT BRAGG - RECEPTION ROOM - DAY (D4) 17

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.

18 I/E. FORT BRAGG - PROVOST MARSHALL'S HALLWAY - NEXT DAY (D5) 18 \*

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. \*

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

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

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.

19 INT. FORT BRAGG - O'BRIEN'S OFFICE - DAY (D5) 19

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

21 INT. FORT BRAGG - PROVOST MARSHALL'S HALLWAY / CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (D5) 21

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. \*

22 EXT. JOE'S APARTMENT - DAY (D5) 22

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.

23 INT. JOE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (D5) 23

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)

(CONTINUED)



23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

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 -

24 EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY (D6)

24

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**

**TAG**

25 EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - MORNING (D7)

25

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**