

ENLISTED

"REAR D DAY"

Written by
Kevin Biegel

Directed by
Phil Traill

#1AWV01

SHOOTING DRAFT (WHITE) 08.09.13

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CAST LIST

Pete Hill. Geoff Stults
Derrick Hill Chris Lowell
Randy Hill Parker Young
Sgt. Jill Perez. Angelique Cabral
Sgt. Major Cody Keith David
Corporal Chubowski. Mel Rodriguez
Private Dobkiss Kyle Davis
Private Gumble Mort Burke
Private Park Tania Gunadi
Private Robinson Michelle Buteau
Rodney Spratz Andrew Daly
Tim Spratz Drew Justice
Cody's Daughter Teala Dunn
Passing Civilian Ervin Ross

SETS

INTERIORS

Fort McGee
Motor Pool
Hallway
Cody's Office
Chow Hall

Rodney's House
Stairwell
Tim's Room

Movie Theater
Various - Handheld video

EXTERIORS

Fort McGee
Battalion Area

Town
Photo Booth
Street
Coffee Shop
Restaurant

Rodney's House
Backyard
Back Window

ACT ONE

1 INT. MOTOR POOL - VIA HAND-HELD VIDEO - DAY - DAY 1 1

Via shaky hand-held video, we see the floor slicked with grease. As the PLATOON CHEERS, CHUBOWSKI launches himself down it and crashes into some GAS CANS. We PAN to RANDY:

RANDY

Hell yeah that's a spare, son!

Someone CLEARS THEIR THROAT: the camera PANS to REVEAL PETE.

PETE

You slicked up Chubowski and bowled with him? Why didn't you come get me? And stop it!

CHUBOWSKI

Permission to succumb to my wounds, Sergeant Hill.

Chubowski collapses IN THE GREASE.

2 INT. MOTOR POOL - NORMAL FILM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 1 2

Pete takes in the platoon. GUMBLE is filming.

DERRICK

Hi, brother! We're making a safety video about the dangers of grease.

PETE

No chance that's true.

DERRICK

We're making stupid videos for the internet. Now, before you get mad--

*
*

PETE

Already there.

DERRICK

Every soldier in the Army does it.

On a laptop he clicks a few REAL VIDEOS OF SOLDIERS.

*

RANDY

They sing songs, they dance, oh look this guy's marching with ducks!

DOBKISS

I wanna march with ducks.

PARK

I wanna march with that beautiful man.

DERRICK

And c'mon, Pete, who doesn't enjoy a fat guy falling down?

CHUBOWSKI

The fat does not cushion my feelings.

DERRICK

Hey, our audience is gonna love it.

PETE

Is your audience a guy who can make you do push ups all day?

RANDY

It's more like twelve-year-olds?

GUMBLE

This isn't some *kid's* video, Randy. It's free-form art. Now Pete, look into camera and say, "Now that's what I call a slippery situation."

PETE

No! I don't care how much fun this is, it's over!

3 INT. MOTOR POOL - HAND-HELD VIDEO - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 1 3

Pete SLIDES and CRASHES into cans. All CHEER. To camera:

PETE

Okay, now it's over.

As Pete SLIPS and maybe the cameraman SLIPS AND FALLS.

MAIN TITLES

4 EXT. BASE - BATTALION AREA - SIX AM - DAY - DAY 2 4

Pete looks at his Leader Book. To platoon, upbeat:

PETE

Good morning, everyone. Let's check out today's work. We have to resupply the snack machine in the Mess Hall. That is gonna rock! Right? Who's with me?

*

RANDY

You heard Sgt. Hill, give it up for snacks! Tasty snacks! I feel weird.

*

DERRICK

What's with the positive attitude, Rachael Ray? You hate Rear D.

PETE

Well, maybe today I like it.

DERRICK

Oh god, did you have one of your "realizations" again? Pete wakes up with these realizations he thinks are profound. "Kale is a super food!" "Social media is tearing us apart."

PETE

People used to have conversations!

DERRICK

Look, whatever this new realization is, don't expect us to buy into it.

RANDY

I buy into it Pete, what is it?

PETE

It's just that when I was deployed the only way to get through a bad mission was to "embrace the suck." I realized Rear D is no different!

RANDY

I'm glad I bought into that. And kale is a superfood, it's showing up on every menu. You can't even get a real Caesar salad anymore--

PETE

Like I said, embrace the suck. Do you know how many fences in Afghanistan I built, then blew up, then rebuilt?

RANDY

How many?

DERRICK

There's no way to embrace this job.
There's no whistle while you work
here, unless you count the sound
Dobkiss makes when he's tired.

DOBKISS

A donkey kicked my esophagus when I
was six, but we stayed friends.

RANDY

I so embrace our job. We maintain
the base, we help its families.
Our job is like a majestic bald
eagle you just want to hug.

DERRICK

Which then claws out our eyeballs.

DOBKISS

A eagle clawed my eyeballs when I
was ten, but we stayed friends.

PETE

How are you still alive?!
(to the platoon)
Atten-shun.

They come to attention as CODY walks up, holding an iPad.

CODY

Carry on. Hey, do you like tablet
computers?
(platoon murmurs "yes")
Aw, me too. In bed or on the go, I
can watch dumb crap!

*
*

He hits play on a VIDEO of Pete crashing then "speaking":

GUMBLE (PRETENDING TO BE PETE)

*Now that's what I call a slippery
situation!*

PETE / EVERYONE ELSE

Dude! / That's hilarious!

CODY

No more videos are to be made on
this post! As for punishment...

Cody addresses Pete.

CODY

... There's a deployed soldier's husband who needs a little help around the house. Whatever he needs, you will do. We take care of our own here.

PETE

Sounds great. I don't know if you heard, but I'm gonna be an awesome Rear D soldier now.

CODY

Well that is super duper!

PETE

I feel you're being sarcastic.

Cody rummages around in his desk as JILL enters.

JILL

Sergeant Major--

CODY

One moment, Sgt. Perez. Sgt. Hill decided to actually try at his job so we're celebrating.

Cody pulls the rip cord on a party store popper.

CODY (CONT'D)

Hooray.

PETE

Why do you have those in your desk?

CODY

I'm a festive man. Go on, Sgt. Perez.

JILL

I was just wondering if you'd considered my application for the Advanced Leader Course?

CODY

Oh right. You know what, I'm headed to town for coffee in an hour. Join me and we'll talk.

JILL

I would love that, thank you.

PETE

Hey, I like coffee.

CODY

If it looks like I'm playing favorites it's only because she's my favorite. It's not personal. She's just a better person who I like more than you. Dismissed.

6

INT. BASE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

6

*

Pete and Jill walk and talk. She gloats.

JILL

When Sgt. Major approves me for ALC, I'll be in line for promotion and I'll finally get some respect.

PETE

Oh do you crave that too? 'Cause I just had a popper go off in my face.

JILL

And that was a great moment, but it's different for me. People see you and say, "There goes a brave soldier." People see me and say, "Look, a lady one!"

PETE

C'mon, you're way more than just a "lady one."

JILL

Here it comes...

PETE

You're also "a suck up." "A rules freak." Sometimes you smell like pancakes -- that's not a bad thing, it's just worth commenting on.

JILL

Yes I'm good at my job and I smell like America. You're just a poor man's Ryan Reynolds.

PETE

Backfire. That's a compliment.

JILL

I feel sorry for whatever Army wife
you're about to release this
"charisma" on.

PETE

Joke's on you, 'cause it's a dude.
Named Rodney Spratz.

JILL

Rodney?

Jill walks away laughing.

PETE

Why are you laughing?

7

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - DAY - DAY 2

7

RODNEY SPRATZ (38, grating, has fanny pack) greets the Hills.

RODNEY

What up, brosefs?

PETE

Hi, Mr. Spratz. That fanny pack's
a bold choice.

RODNEY

Yep, I'm bringing back the pack.
Come on in, lemme show you around.
(takes them through house)
Over there's my man cave. Got two
"Scarface" posters. One's real,
one has my face on it.

RANDY / DERRICK

That's awesome! / Which is which?

Just then, TIM (11, doesn't respect his Dad) passes through.

RODNEY

That's my boy, Tim. Say hi to your
Dad's new friends, Tim-bo.

TIM

We're out of eggs, Rodney.

RODNEY

I'll get right on that, 'cause I'm
your Dad. Call me Dad!
(Tim exits)
He's great.

PETE

So Rodney, what do you need?

RODNEY

Ain't no thang. I converted my laundry room into a closet to age my home brew so I need a new place to put the washer and dryer.

8

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

8

The guys look at an impossibly narrow stairway.

RODNEY

So let's float these puppies upstairs! If anybody needs me I'll be making nachos.

Rodney heads off.

DERRICK

So Rodney sucks.

PETE

Come on guys, we can do this.

DERRICK

What are you thinking?
Teleportation, *Honey I Shrank the Kids* machine or just good old fashioned wizardry?

RANDY

Do I get a vote?

PETE

Guys, come on just grab an edge and lift.

DERRICK

It won't fit, Pete. I know you're committed to this "Rear D is awesome" realization, but I give it ten minutes before you flip out and turn into T-man.

PETE

I'm not gonna turn into Temper Man.

RANDY

He's not gonna turn into Temper Man.

(then, fearful)

Why'd you bring up T-man, Derrick?

(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)

Nobody said T-man, Pete. Please don't turn into T-man.

PETE

Come on, I haven't turned into T-man since--

DERRICK

Two weeks ago? When you punched a Colonel and got sent here from Afghanistan?

PETE

I was on international soil, it doesn't count.

Derrick hops onto the washing machine, enjoying this.

DERRICK

Shall we look closer to home? Like when you lost State and threw the second place trophy through a plate glass window?

PETE

I was putting it in the trophy case and it slipped.

Randy indicates "that's reasonable!"

DERRICK

You beat up a cotton candy machine because you were too short to ride the Log Flume.

*

PETE

You know I was taller than that bear's hand!

DERRICK

(searching Pete's eyes)
T-man, are you in there?

PETE

(catches self, grins)
No. Because I have a new attitude. I'm a Rear D man now and a Rear D man embraces his suck.

RANDY

All right, we've chased the unpleasant memories into the darkness where they belong. Now let's get our suck on!

(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)
(off their looks)
I'm better at the echoing than the
originating.

9

EXT. TOWN - COFFEE SHOP - DAY - DAY 2

9

Jill and Cody sit. Cody seems distracted, looking past her.

JILL
So the Advanced Leader Course would
really speed along my promotion. I
know I can impress people.

CODY
Yes, impress people... Very good.

JILL
Thank you, Sgt. Major. Sgt. Major?

CODY
You know, kids are a son of a
bitch.

JILL
Come again now?

CODY
I tell you, I am having a hell of a
time with my teenage daughter.
She's going through "the change."

JILL
I don't think that means what you
think it means.

CODY
She used to be so sweet. Now she's
a moody little mini-woman. Says
she doesn't want any drama,
meanwhile, she serves up more drama
than ten episodes of Falcon Crest.

JILL
Have you tried talking to her?

CODY
I try, but she's all, "Don't go
there." I'm like, go where? I
don't know where I'm going.

JILL
I'm sorry about that. So... about
that leadership course?

CODY

You know, why don't we go somewhere else? You hungry?

He gets up and moves off. Off Jill's confusion...

10

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - STAIRWELL - DAY - DAY 2

10

In a series of shots Pete leads the PLATOON in lifting the washer/dryer up the flight of stairs. As they struggle:

PETE

Derrick, stop pushing down on it.

DERRICK

Oh lift up. Got it.

-- They get stuck at a corner. Dobkiss WHISTLE-BREATHES.

-- As they hold it at the second landing, Rodney comes up, opens the dryer door, and pulls out shorts.

RODNEY

Whoops, these are still wet.

He puts them back and walks off. Robinson looks in.

ROBINSON

There's a damn carpet in here!

-- As they lift, the door swings open and HITS CHUBOWSKI in the face.

CHUBOWSKI

Unbelievable pain.

Chubowski TUMBLES DOWN THE STAIRS.

*

GUMBLE

Can you do that again for the camera?

-- Finally they PUSH the machine ONTO the top landing. For Derrick's benefit, Pete mock searches the surroundings. He is quickly imitated by Randy.

PETE

Hey, has anyone seen T-man?

RANDY

No I haven't seen him at all.

PETE

Check the morgue because he's dead
and gone.

RANDY

I won't go to the funeral but I'll
send flowers and an oversized card.
I mean I'll make a donation to his
favorite charity but I'll do it
anonymously--

DERRICK

Oh my god, shut up!

PETE

Aw, there's T-man.

Rodney walks up with nachos.

RODNEY

Hey we did it!

PETE

(for Derrick's benefit)
That's right Rodney, like I always
tell my men: embrace your task.
Remember, if there's ever anything
you need, we're here for you.
Anything.

SMASH CUT TO:

11 EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2 11

Rodney's horribly overgrown backyard. It's a jungle.

RODNEY

I've always wanted to turn this
into a backyard sports court for me
and Tim-bo. Basketball, batting
cage, a mini ab station... I'll get
my sketches.

The platoon looks to Pete, pissed: what did you get us into?!

DERRICK

Well done, Pete. We're gonna die
here.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

12

INT. MOTOR POOL - A HALF HOUR LATER - DAY - DAY 2

12

Pete digs through a supply closet for saws, shovels, etc.

PETE

Maybe we can get a flamethrower and just torch Rodney's yard.

RANDY

Are we seriously getting a flamethrower?

DERRICK

We're really building this guy a sports court?

RANDY

Derrick, do not get us off topic. So, about this flamethrower?

PETE

Hey part of embracing the suck is not giving up when things get suckier.

RANDY

So if I'm to understand... the flamethrower is still in play?

PETE

Randy, there is no flamethrower.

RANDY

Well this has been one big roller-coaster ride.

DERRICK

Come on, Pete. It's just us, admit you hate this.

PETE

I'm sorry, admit what? I can't hear too well from an RPG that blew up next to me in A--

DERRICK

Albuquerque??

RANDY

It's pronounced "Afghanistan."

PETE

Point is, we're Rear D soldiers.
We're gonna do what we need to do
and we're gonna do it with a smile.

DERRICK

Oh my god you are so full of--

RANDY

Wisdom? Confidence? A passion for
excellence?

DERRICK

Crap, Randy! He can't keep this
up. I bet we see T-man before the
day is done.

PETE

I will take that bet with a smile.

DERRICK

I will watch you lose it with a
smile.

RANDY

Pete's gonna win, we're all gonna
smile, Rodney's gonna get a sports
court, it's gonna be a really great
day all around. Break!

13

EXT. TOWN - RESTAURANT - DAY - DAY 2

13

Jill sits and eats with Cody, who seriously asks questions.

CODY

So teen girls act crazy because of
their hormones, right?

JILL

That's probably fair to say.

CODY

So can I stop them?

JILL

Can you stop... hormones?

CODY

Not stop, that's crazy! Just slow
them down. For instance, does
spicy food have an effect? And
what about the moon? Friend or
foe?

JILL

Oh, Sgt. Major, did you get into the internet?

CODY

I'm grasping at straws here! Since my wife and I split, I don't have a woman to turn to for help. My head's so full of nonsense. I'm pretty sure WebMD's been compromised!

JILL

Sgt. Major, while I'm happy though slightly terrified talking to you about what it's like to be a teenage girl, I was really--

CODY

What I'm really worried about is this guy my daughter's dating. Just look at him.

JILL

Look at who?

Jill turns to see what Cody is looking at: across the street a TEENAGE GIRL is talking to a YOUNG MAN.

JILL (CONT'D)

Have we been spying on your daughter's date?

CODY

I've been spying. You've been picking at some jambalaya. Let's go, they're on the move.

JILL

What do you want me to do?

CODY

Blend in, duh.

14

EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY - DAY 2

14

As the brothers walk through the jungle-like backyard, Rodney (son Tim begrudgingly in tow) details the work he wants done:

RODNEY

So the trees, bushes, plants, they all gotta be cleared out. FYI, the fire ants kinda took over back here.

(MORE)

RODNEY (CONT'D)

No biggie smalls, just wear gloves.
But check the gloves; fire ants
love hanging out in gloves.

DERRICK

There's the silver lining.

RODNEY

Pretty cool your Dad's new buds are
helping out, right?

TIM

They aren't your buds.

An awkward moment as Tim exits.

RODNEY

Oh, snap. My soul laid bare.

RANDY

(to exiting Tim, genuine)
Classic burn about us not being
your Dad's buds, Tim! Which we are!
(aside to brothers)
I wanted to make it less awkward.

DERRICK

Did you say *less* or *three times*
more?

RANDY

Less.

Randy watches Tim exit, a little concern on his face.

RODNEY

That's why I need a sports court,
so I can get Tim-bo out of his room
and doing real guy stuff. I tell
you, raising him alone while his
Mom's deployed is not easy.

RANDY

Hey, we get it. Our Mom raised us
while our Dad was deployed.

PETE

Well, she had some help. I stepped
in a lot to raise these
knuckleheads.

DERRICK

And here we are cutting down trees,
a job they make prisoners do. So
you did a spectacular job.

PETE

Well I did with one of you.

RANDY

He's talking about me.

PETE

You're my favorite.

RANDY

You're *my* favorite.

DERRICK

(to Rodney)

My life, all the time.

PETE

Well Rodney, this is one Rear D
soldier who is ready to embrace his
task. Who's with me?

Randy CHEERS, everyone else just SIGHS.

SMASH CUT TO:

15 EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - AN HOUR LATER - DAY 2 15

The platoon cuts down plants, digs, etc., sweaty and
miserable. Pete frustratedly swings at a hugely thick bush
with a machete. Whack, whack, CLANG!

PETE

Found a bath tub.

RODNEY

(leaning out back door)

You guys can make a planter outta
that.

PETE

Tryin' to focus on a sports court,
buddy!

DERRICK

Pete, you sound a little
frustrated. Take a break, have a
little tea... man.

Pete swallows it, gives him a big smile.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Here's the thing, I'm actually feeling great because I know you're miserable. Which is fine because we're all miserable, right guys?

PARK

I have ten fire-ant bites.

GUMBLE

(very sunburned)

I don't do well in the sun.

ROBINSON

My boob sweat is mixing with my back sweat and it's kind of pooling in my basement.

Dobkiss, raking, "whistle-wheezes" as he breathes heavily.

DERRICK

So come on, we're all with you. Let T-man out of his cage. It's gonna feel so good. T-man! T-man!

EVERYBODY

T-man! T-man! T-man!

PETE

(confidently)

Sorry guys, it's not gonna work. T-man doesn't live here anymore. Tell them, Randy.

(looks, doesn't see Randy)

Aw, where's my hype man?

16

EXT./INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - TIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2 16

Randy looks in an open window and sees Rodney's kid watching internet videos. The room is decorated in "emerging nerd".

RANDY

Pst, little boy. I'm right behind you.

TIM

Ahhh!

RANDY

Sorry I didn't want to startle you, I've been watching you for a long time. Let me start over. How ya doing? Hey ya know your dad has us out there building a pretty sweet sports court for ya.

TIM
(disinterested)
Yeah...

RANDY
What are you watching? Funny
videos? Those are funny. Actually
I'm a content provider myself. Type
in "Awesome Soldier Lipsync".

Tim does. INSERT on his screen VIDEO OF RANDY LIP-SYNCING
"Me Gusta Dat Booty" (or another song we get cheap).

RANDY (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's me. What's up?
(Tim laughs, then)
Hey, since I'm right here... Did
you ever think about maybe cutting
your Dad some slack?

TIM
Why? My Dad's lame.

RANDY
That's a great point, but look,
when my Dad was deployed my Mom had
a real tough time and--

Tim shuts the window.

RANDY (CONT'D)
That's cool, you don't want to
talk. I'll be around if you change
your mind.
(Tim shuts the shades)
Okay, that was a little more harsh,
but message received.

17 EXT. TOWN - DAY - DAY 2 17

Jill, Cody walk/follow the daughter, boyfriend at a distance.

JILL
I can't believe I'm doing this.

CODY
That boy has a chain wallet? You
know he's trouble.

18 EXT. TOWN - PHOTO BOOTH - DAY - DAY 2 18

The daughter and her boyfriend get their picture taken. PAN
OVER to Jill and Cody at another photo booth, peeking out.

CODY

So she wants to get a tattoo of a daisy. Is that code for anything?

19

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY - DAY 2

19

The daughter and her boyfriend watch a movie. REVEAL Cody and Jill sitting a few rows behind them.

CODY

Who takes a girl to see a giant robot movie? Whatever happened to rom-coms?

JILL

Can we please talk about my career?

CODY

First let's talk about pads.

JILL

Let's never talk about pads!

Cody's daughter and her date TURN around to see Jill sitting by herself. REVEAL Cody crouched down behind the seat.

CODY

(whispers)

Were you serious about not talking about pads?

20

EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY - DAY 2

20

As the Florida sun beats down we see a montage of the platoon (some shirtless) working/sweating/dying in the awful yard and being taken out one by one in each of the following moments:

- Dobkiss, overheated, falls into a HOLE he's digging.

DERRICK

He fell in a hole. He literally dug his own grave!

DOBKISS (O.C.)

Give my brother my Camaro.

- Park blows one fire-ant off her left hand. Sighs in relief. Raises her right hand to find it's COVERED in them.

PARK

(Swears profusely in Korean)

- Robinson and Gumble rip out a bush, get SHOWERED with dirt: it clings to their sweaty faces/goes in mouths.

- Randy (shirtless) sways as he works helping Pete put the batting cage together.

RANDY
Oh good I finally stopped sweating.
(then)
I'm gonna lie down here.

Randy does so. Pete shakes his head and continues working.

- The entire platoon is laid out and defeated. Alone in the yard, Pete dumps a large bucket of balls into the ball machine and closes it, triumphant.

PETE
Finished! And with a smile. I
dedicate this court to T-man, god
rest his soul.
(then)
Dobkiss, you still in the hole?

Dobkiss' hand rises from the hole, giving a thumbs up.

DISSOLVE TO:

21

EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - END OF DAY - DAY 2

21

The yard is now cleared of brush, the batting cage and basketball hoop are set up. The platoon, a total mess, prepares to leave.

RODNEY
Thanks bros, looks great. I don't
see the ab station but you know
what, I like my curves.

PETE
Well, if you're happy, we're happy.

Rodney slaps Pete's back.

*

RODNEY
Least you only had to do some yard
stuff. It's not like you had to do
any real soldier work, amiright?

Pete's eyes go wide in anger. Derrick whispers to Robinson:

DERRICK
Welcome to the rodeo.

PETE
So... we're not real soldiers?

RODNEY

Well it's not like you're deployed.

Derrick WHISTLES. Pete puts on a big smile and starts mumbling to himself as he wanders away.

PETE

Well, who would know better? I'm glad we're around a real expert on what real soldiers are. It's tough to tell what's real sometimes. Am I real? Is she real?

(re: bench)

Is this real? Let's find out.

Pete takes a bat, SMASHES a bench, then a bucket of balls.

RODNEY

Sergeant Hill, what are you doing?

DERRICK

Whoa whoa whoa let the fire burn.

Pete rips the batting cage out of the ground and chucks it. It HITS the pitching machine, which turns on and starts firing balls. One narrowly misses Park. One narrowly misses Gumble. Just then, Chubowski comes around the corner.

CHUBOWSKI

I'm out of the hospital and ready to work!

The third ball beans him.

CHUBOWSKI (CONT'D)

Endless parade of pain!

Just then Rodney's son Tim enters, having heard the shouting.

PETE

You know what is real, Rodney? You're a giant pain in the ass. No wonder your kid doesn't respect you -- I don't either.

All stand, shocked. A long beat, then:

DERRICK

I've seen a lot of good work from T-man. This is his masterpiece.

Off an awkward scene, stray balls continue to launch.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

22

INT. CHOW HALL - MORNING - THE NEXT DAY - DAY 3

22

Pete, nervous, sits with Derrick and an oddly silent Randy.

PETE

I swear, the only thing worse than being yelled at by Cody is the anticipation of it. This is like opposite Christmas.

DERRICK

Are you kidding? T-man chucked a batting cage. This is super Christmas.

PETE

You just love chaos, don't you?

DERRICK

Yep, just call me the Joker.

PETE

Well I guess that makes me Batman.

DERRICK

Whatever, if you're Batman you're crappy Batman. You're George Clooney Batman. You killed the franchise.

PETE

(a la Christian Bale)
But then I rose again. Right, Robin?

RANDY

I'm just eating my eggs over here.

CODY (O.C.)

Sergeant Hill!

PETE

Here we go...

DERRICK

Here we go!

CODY (CONT'D)

(walking up)
Sgt. Hill, Rodney called... To thank me for your work. Seems like that new attitude is the real deal. You earned yourself one of these.

(smiles)

(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)

That's a real smile. It's the same
as my fake smile.

Cody exits. Pete raises his arms in triumph.

PETE

Yes! Rodney's too scared to rat us
out. Good dude. How 'bout that,
Robin?

RANDY

Robin only works for a hero.
You're no hero. You're a dick.

Randy walks off, leaving Pete confused. Then, singing:

DERRICK

Deck the halls with--

PETE

Shut up.

23

INT. BASE - HALLWAY - DAY - DAY 3

23

Jill looks at paperwork as she walks. Cody comes around a
corner. She turns to walk away but he catches her.

CODY

Oh Sgt. Perez? I got a text from
my daughter but I don't think it
was meant for me.

(re: his phone)

"Wut up Dinkie-do? Lulz. Smiley
face smiley face picture of a
rainbow." Does that mean she's on
drugs?

JILL

Sergeant Major, I spent most of my
day spying on your daughter but you
didn't talk about the Leadership
Course once.

CODY

I just thought as a woman you could
help me out.

JILL

A woman. It's bad enough when a
civilian sees me as just that.
It's a lot worse from you.

Jill walks off, passing a CIVILIAN. To his friend:

PASSING CIVILIAN
Ooh, a lady one!

JILL
I will end you!

As all this registers with Cody...

24

INT. MOTOR POOL - DAY - DAY 3

24

Pete, Derrick in tow, finds Randy fixing a Humvee.

*

PETE
Okay, what's going on?

RANDY
I think I made it clear, Sergeant.
You are a slang word for genitals.

PETE
That slang word is a crazy
disrespectful thing to call a
superior, Randy. But I'll ignore
it because I'm your brother and I
want to know what's going on.

RANDY
Look, sure, Rodney abused the
system. And yes, he's annoying.
But remember how hard it was for
Mom while Dad was deployed?

PETE
Yes. It was hard.

RANDY
It's gotta be hard for Rodney, too.
Maybe harder because we *like* our
Mom; Rodney's kid thinks he's a
dork. And then you went off on him
and justified everything that kid
thought.

This sinks in on Derrick and Pete. Then:

PETE
Oh man, I am a slang word for
genitals.

DERRICK
I don't feel good about today
anymore.

PETE

So you want to apologize?

DERRICK

No no, of course not.

RANDY

You need to go apologize, Pete.
You need to embrace your own suck.

DERRICK

Pretty profound stuff from a guy
whose favorite food used to be
pennies. But he's right. Look,
you always try to set a good
example for us. Not that I'd ever
follow it, but... I mean at the
very least it's what Mom would want
you to do.

PETE

She's a great Mom, isn't she?

RANDY

She's the best Mom in the world.

DERRICK

Amazing... I'm not gonna cry.

RANDY

(tearing up)
I am. I love you Mom.

DERRICK

(fighting it)
I love her, too.

PETE

I love her most.

DERRICK

Don't make this a competition.

Just then, they see Gumble filming them.

GUMBLE

Keep crying ladies, this is great.

RANDY

Our tears are private!

JILL

Sergeant Major, you asked to see me? Before you say anything, I know I was out of line--

CODY

You weren't. I got you something.
(hands her a thermos)
It's a thermos.

JILL

I see that.

CODY

Keeps cold things cold, hot things hot, the salesman assured me it's gender-neutral.
(then, sincerely)
I'm sorry. I've got a bad habit of putting what I want first. At least that's what my ex-wife says.

He looks at his daughter's framed picture.

CODY (CONT'D)

I just don't feel like a good Dad. I don't trust her, I don't give her the benefit of the doubt...

JILL

Hey, all you can do is care. My parents weren't there for me-- well, like, ever. Dad was in jail. Mom wasn't home. My brothers were in gangs, my Uncle Rico was beaten to death with a sock full of oranges. Or was it doorknobs? No, it was oranges; his corpse was sticky.

CODY

Stop telling me things.

JILL

Sorry. I'm just saying I had no one. Your daughter has someone great. She's gonna be okay.

CODY

Thank you.
(then)
Look, you may not have had someone who cared then... but you do have someone who cares now.

Jill keeps it together, but his parental vibe hits her.

CODY (CONT'D)

(chuckles)

Anyway, thanks for talking. I can't go to Pete with daughter questions, you get a whole different set of answers.

JILL

Well we can still talk, but maybe after we discuss that leadership course?

CODY

Oh, I already approved that. You deserve it.

JILL

Thank you.

CODY

So... oranges? Really?

JILL

The key is to put them in the freezer the night before, so they get nice and hard--

CODY

Go back to not telling me things.

26

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - DAY - DAY 3

26

Pete is talking to Rodney. They have beer in bottles.

PETE

I'm so sorry, Rodney. I was totally out of line.

RODNEY

Thank you. Cheers.

They clink beers. Pete sips and is disgusted.

PETE

Hmm. This beer is... gelatinous. And sandy. Am I tasting pork?

RODNEY

It's Rodney's Summer Pig Roast Ale. It sucks! I'm lame and I can't even make good beer...

PETE
Hey, don't beat yourself up.

RODNEY
My son doesn't even respect me.

PETE
That's not true.

RODNEY
Those are your words.

PETE
That's true.

RODNEY
I don't know what to do. He stays
in his room all day. That's why I
thought the sports court would be
good. We could toss a ball around,
blast our abs.

PETE
Yeah... I'm not sure he'd be into a
sports court anyway. And I'm not
just saying that because I
destroyed it.
(then)
Look, I think you've been focusing
on the wrong thing.

RODNEY
Okay...

PETE
You know, I was talking to Randy...
I may have an idea.

27

INT. / EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - TIM'S ROOM - DAY - DAY 4

27

*

Tim's at his computer. Randy and Pete appear in the window.

RANDY
Psst. Little boy. You wanna make
a video? Your dad said it was
okay.

PETE
Randy!

RANDY
Let me start over.

TAG

30 INT. CODY'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY 4

30 *

Cody sits at his desk. His phone DINGS, receiving a text.
It says: "Yo Dinkie-do whaz the haps?"

CODY

"Whaz the haps?" And what the
hell's a "dinkie-do??"
(then, typing)
Well, whaz the haps with you--

He goes back and deletes the "h" in "with."

CODY (CONT'D)

"Wit" you, dinkie-do?

On his phone he sees the "... " that means incoming text.

CODY (CONT'D)

Giving me the "dot dot dot," here
we go.

His phone DINGS. It says: "Dad is this you???"

CODY (CONT'D)

Come on! How'd she know?

Then, the jig up, he types:

"See you tonight, sweetie. I love you."

A very quick "... " on his screen and she sends: "Love you,
too SMILEY FACE EMOTICON." Comically overcome with emotion
like the brothers before, Cody slaps the desk and exclaims:

CODY (CONT'D)

She gave me a smiley face. She's
still my little girl!

He reaches into his desk and pulls out a popper and pops it.
A noise outside his window. He looks: Gumble is filming him.

CODY (CONT'D)

Get the hell out of here!

END OF SHOW