

ENLISTED

"BROTHERS & SISTER"

Written by

Peter A. Knight

Directed by

Peter Lauer

#1AWV04

SHOOTING DRAFT (White) 9.6.13

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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
Private Dobkiss Kyle Davis
Private Gumble Mort Burke
Private Park Tania Gunadi
Private Robinson Michelle Buteau
Older Guy Michael Merton
Cop. Jon Donahue
Erin
Denny Chesney Karl Herlinger
Jeanie Mircea Monroe
10-Year-Old Pete Griffin Cleveland
14-Year-Old Pete Canon Kuipers
18-Year-Old Pete
10-Year-Old Girl Izzy Eggerling
14-Year-Old Girl Olivia Rose Keegan
18-Year-Old German Girl Hayley Derryberry
Kate Nathalie Johnson
Laura Kerry Britt
Theresa Chasty Ballesteros
Ryan Seacrest
Doctor Mort Burke
Christopher "Kid" Reid Himself
Christopher "Play" Martin Himself

SETS

INTERIORS

Fort McGee
Barracks Rec. Room
Motor Pool
Cody's Office
Chow Hall
Derrick & Randy's Room
Main Office

The Claymore
Doctor's Office

EXTERIORS

Convenience Store Parking Lot

Roadside
Golden Sunset

Ft. Bragg (Flashback)
Ft. Campbell (Flashback)
Ft. Baumholder (Flashback)

ACT ONE

1 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE PARKING LOT - DAY - DAY X 1

PETE exits a convenience store to find he's double parked an OLDER GUY, who's none too pleased.

OLDER GUY
Oh you gotta be dry shaving me!
Who parked me in?!

PETE
Sorry, sir, not trying to "shave"
you. Keys are under the seat.
It's how we did it in Afghanistan.

OLDER GUY
Afghanistan?

PETE
Two tours, but that's no excuse.

OLDER GUY
Only excuse I need. Take your
time, son.

Pete nods obligingly and double-times it to his car.

2 EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY - DAY X 2

A COP approaches Pete's car with a citation.

PETE
Sorry, Officer.
(beat; then tentatively)
It's just that... there weren't any
speed limits in Afghanistan.

COP
Afghanistan?

Pete nods. The officer tears up the citation. Pete smiles.

3 INT. BARRACKS - REC. ROOM - DAY - DAY 1 3

Pete and DERRICK play a heated game of ping pong. PLATOON MEMBERS and RANDY watch vacantly. Pete rips a forehand.

DERRICK
Out!

PETE
Out? It hit the edge. Guys?

The platoon GRUMBLES, uncertain and disinterested.

PETE (CONT'D)
I was in Afghanistan.

The platoon instantly renders their opinion.

PARK/ROBINSON/DOBKISS/GUMBLE
In! / I totally heard a tick. /
Yeah, it was in. / Could not have
been more in.

DERRICK
"I was in Afghanistan?"

RANDY
Shame on you, Derrick. He's a
combat veteran.

Pete tosses his paddle on the table with a shit-eating grin.

MAIN TITLES

4

INT. THE CLAYMORE - NIGHT - NIGHT 1

4

Amid the fun, crowded atmosphere Derrick refills a peanut basket, sees a gross-looking jar of pickled eggs behind the bar. ERIN, the brassy and spirited bartender, 20s, comes up.

DERRICK
Who buys pickled eggs these days?
Is it the theater crowd? Looking
for a quick bite before the opera?

ERIN
It's mostly alcoholics.

DERRICK
Oh, then can I have one?

They share a smile as Derrick spots Randy smiling at a pair of girls. He cracks his neck and stretches as if preparing.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Oh boy. Excuse me, I've gotta go
save a dummy from himself.

Randy approaches TWO WOMEN with an irresistible smile.

RANDY
Hey, I'm Randy. Wanna see me do a
headstand?

Before they answer he drops and hits an impressive headstand.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You can put your beers on my feet.

They do just that as Derrick rolls up.

DERRICK

Sorry he's bothering you, ladies.
I'm his primary caregiver, Derrick.

The girls LAUGH and remove their beers. Randy pops up.

RANDY

He's my brother not my prim--
ooo... head rush.

Derrick steadies him. The girls seem charmed and flirt back.

ANGLE ON: JILL watching Derrick and Randy. Pete joins her.
He notices a flier on the wall.

PETE

I'm pumped for this AFO show. They
always go all out for the troops.

(reading flier)

"Entertainment, TBD." Wonder who
they'll get to play. I saw Foo
Fighters in Kandahar. Kinda
connected with Dave Grohl.

*
*

JILL

Get out! You met him?

PETE

No, but he saw me in the crowd.
Gave me one of these...

(does a "rock nod")

Game recognizes game.

JILL

Well, don't get your hopes up.
Rear D doesn't draw the big names.
Last year we had Denny Chesney.

PETE

You mean Kenny Chesney?

JILL

No. I mean his cousin Denny
Chesney the ventriloquist. His
puppet had a lot of opinions about
the border fence.

JILL

You looked like a team to me.
Randy breaks the ice. You help
drive the ship home.

DERRICK

No, no, no. We're not a team.

RANDY

That's an interesting theory, Jill.
I'll sit with it. Now, do Pete.

JILL

It's harder to peg Pete's vibe.
Because it's buried under a dense
fog of narcissism and cologne.

PETE

Lemme break it down for you: strong
and silent, with arms that can save
you from a fire or wrap you in an
embrace that'll start one.

(winks at her)

What's up.

JILL

Ewww. Don't wink at me. You're
like my brother.

PETE

Not looking for a sister,
Jillybean. Unless you're in the
mood for a little brotherly love.

JILL

You want to take that last one back
don't you?

PETE

So bad. Instantly sorry. I need a
shower. Wanna come with? Again,
so sorry. It's like a tic.

7

INT. MOTOR POOL - THE NEXT DAY - DAY 2

7

Park and Gumble trail CODY as he walks and talks with an
attractive, professional-looking civilian woman, JEANIE, 30.

JEANIE

So, I'm still working on the AFO
talent booking. Do you think your
troops would like Kid 'N' Play?

*

CODY

I don't know who that is, so, yes.
Now you may not be aware, but I've
been known to favor the AFO crowd
with a song or two, myself. I
enjoy it. And I know my troops do.

*

PARK

Yes, Sgt. Major Cody sings a song
eeevery year.

GUMBLE

Eeevery year. Like taxes.

CODY

(defensive)
Or Christmas.

PARK

Or a seasonal flu.

CODY

Hmm. This is not over.

They come upon Pete and Jill's platoons.

PETE

At ease!

CODY

Carry on. Everyone, this is our
AFO director, Jeanie Rotonto.

*

Jeanie sees Pete before he sees her. Her jaw drops.

JEANIE

Pete Hill?

Pete's eyes go wide. Randy picks up on the recognition.

RANDY

You two know each other? Awesome.
You seem like a nice lady and Pete
is obviously the best.

PETE

Heeeeeey, Jeanie. How are you?

JEANIE

Not great, Pete! Not after what
you did to me, you jerk.

PLATOON

Ooooo!

JEANIE

We were together for eight months!

GUMBLE/ROBINSON/PARK/DOBKISS

Aw. / Damn. / Wow. / That's a marriage, dog.

JILL

Guys, let's give them some spac--

Derrick, loving this, steps on her foot.

DERRICK

Do not take this away from us.

CODY

Yeah, cool your jets, Sgt. Perez. I want to see if Sgt. Hill can pull his beans out of the fire.

JEANIE

We were dating and then you got deployed and never called, wrote, emailed, or contacted me in any way. You just bailed!

RANDY

Ma'am, this does not sound like Pete. Is there any chance it was another super good-looking soldier?

JEANIE

You put me through two years of hell! Do you know how much Adele I had to listen to? What could you possibly have to say for yourself?

Derrick whips out his phone, starts filming. Pete feels it.

PETE

...I was in Afghanistan?

Everyone turns to Pete, appalled. A long beat, then...

CODY

Yikes. So, let me show you where the stage is gonna be.

Pete sits with Jill, Derrick and Randy.

JILL

Help me out here, Pete. This girl seems great and, at one point she was willing to tolerate your company. Why would you walk away from that?

PETE

No, look, she was a good kid--

JILL

(disgusted)
Bluuuch.

PETE

But we were just moving at two different speeds. She was ready to settle down. I wasn't.

JILL

Of course you weren't. You've got another thirty, forty years of acting like you're in your twenties. Then, why didn't you just break up with her?

PETE

What, like, "boom" it's over? No. I'm a fade out guy.

Jill closes her eyes and shakes her head.

RANDY

Don't beat yourself up for not knowing what that means. I bet he's gonna tell us now.

PETE

I'm like a classic rock song. We have some fun, a solid groove, maybe a tasty guitar solo, then I start a nice, slow fade out. You don't even notice it's over until you're halfway into the next song.

JILL

Jeanie noticed. As I imagine any woman with a pulse would.

DERRICK

He never had to worry about that. We were Army brats. We moved to a new post practically every year.

(MORE)

DERRICK (CONT'D)
That's how DJ Fade Out perfected
his signature move.

9 EXT. BASE - DAY - FLASHBACK - DAY X 9

A sign reads "Fort Bragg, North Carolina". A 10-YEAR-OLD PETE sits in the back seat of a packed station wagon. A sad 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL stands nearby.

10-YEAR-OLD PETE
So long, Sally!

10-YEAR-OLD GIRL
I'll write you every day, Pete!

Young Pete gives her a thumbs up, then double taps the side of the wagon (Peter will show you), cueing mom to drive off.

10 EXT. BASE - DAY - FLASHBACK - DAY X 10

A sign reads "Fort Campbell, Kentucky". A 14-YEAR-OLD PETE, in a football half shirt, is in the back seat of the same station wagon. A tearful 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL sees Pete off.

14-YEAR-OLD PETE
So long, Megan.

14-YEAR-OLD GIRL
I'll page you every day, Pete!

Young Pete holds up his pager and gives her a thumbs up, then double taps the side of the wagon, cueing mom to drive off.

11 EXT. BASE - DAY - FLASHBACK - DAY X 11

A sign reads "Fort Baumholder, Germany". 18-YEAR-OLD PETE is in the back of another wagon. A sad 18-YEAR-OLD GERMAN GIRL sees him off. In German (chyroned in English as she says it):

18-YEAR-OLD PETE
Auf Wiedersehen, Inga!

18-YEAR-OLD GERMAN GIRL
Ich sende dir eine Nachricht jeden
Tag fall wir nicht von Y2K
umgebracht werden, Pete!

CHYRON: "I will email you every day if Y2K doesn't kill us
all, Pete!"

He double taps the wagon and fades out of this girl's life.

*
*
*
*
*

12

INT. CHOW HALL - BACK TO PRESENT - DAY 2

12

PETE

I miss that old station wagon.

JILL

I bet some therapist has named a syndrome after you.

RANDY

Pete's...
(searching too long)
...Syndrome. I like that.

PETE

You can knock the "fade out" all you want, but it's foolproof. So with Jeanie when I found out about my deployment, I thought, hey, this could be a win-win.

JILL

There's not even one win in there. Look, I don't have a dog in this fight, but common decency says you need to apologize to this girl.

PETE

Hey, she's no saint either. I got there and right away she's writing, emailing, texting, and here come the care packages and--
(hearing it himself)
Wow, I am a monster. I'll apologize.

13

INT. DERRICK & RANDY'S ROOM - DAY - DAY 2

13

Derrick reads a book. Randy's legs dangle from the top bunk as he mutters speedily, skim-reading from a card. Finally...

RANDY

Bro! Check it out.

Randy hops down holding Wildlife Index cards.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Jill was right about us! I was researching animal facts with my Wildlife Index cards.

DERRICK

Randy, you've had those cards since you were eight. When are you going to get rid of them?

RANDY

Never. A lot of this knowledge hasn't made it to the internet yet.

(lays out cards)

See, when Pete was around we were like a colony of Bonobos. We lived together. We sought food sources together. There's also a bunch of weird hypersexual behavior with Bonobos that doesn't apply...

DERRICK

Where are you going with this and how can I go the other way?

RANDY

Once Pete left, our dynamic changed. We evolved from Bonobos to...

(holding up the cards)

The hippo and the oxpecker.

DERRICK

That's not how evolution works.

RANDY

I say, "teach the controversy." But there's no denying how well the hippo and this bird work together.

DERRICK

I get it. The bird eats stuff from the hippo's teeth. He gets food. The hippo gets free dental.

RANDY

In the scientific community we call it, symbiosis. SIM-BI-OH-SIS.

DERRICK

I know what it is! But I don't benefit from you, I save you from you. I make the girls feel okay about your ridiculous headstand routine.

*

RANDY

Face it, Derrick. I'm the hippo, you're the bird. It's science.

DERRICK

It's a set of cards from the zoo!

RANDY

Fine, be that way. Maybe it's time for this bird to fly solo!

DERRICK

You just said you were the hippo.

RANDY

Maybe it's time for this hippo to fly solo!

14

INT. MOTOR POOL - MAIN OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY - DAY 3

14

Jill is going about her business. Jeanie approaches. There's an awkward wordless moment.

JEANIE

Hiiiiii.

Jeanie wraps Jill in a warm embrace like an old friend.

JILL

Oh, okay, we're doing *this*. Good.

JEANIE

What you did for me was so sweet.

JILL

Well, I'm glad you liked it...
What did I do?

JEANIE

Pete said you're the reason he apologized to me. You don't even know me but you looked out for me.

JILL

Oh, yeah. That. Well, somebody had to teach him some manners, right? And, hey, now you can move on with your life.

JEANIE

Yes, we can.

JILL

Good. Wait, what?

Jeanie spots Pete and waves him over. She takes his hand and gives him a kiss.

JEANIE

We got back together.

REVEAL the platoon is watching through the window, drawn in.

PLATOON

Oooooooooo!

Pete waves them off. Jeanie beams.

JEANIE

So I guess what I'm trying to say
is thank you.

PETE

Yeah Jill, thanks for making this happen.

As Pete glowers at Jill, we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

15

INT. MOTOR POOL - DAY - DAY 3

15

Members of both platoons set up a stage decorated with bunting, AFO flags. Derrick and Randy attach two risers. *

DERRICK

Randy, pass me the wrench.

RANDY

Sorry, solo hippos don't help out solo birds. I'm not even sure solo hippos help out other solo hippos. Hippos are mean. It's on the card.

Derrick rolls his eyes. We ANGLE ON the rest of the platoon some distance from Derrick and Randy as Cody approaches.

CODY

Privates, a word.

DOBKISS

It was dead when we found it.

CODY

What?

DOBKISS

What?

CODY

Never mind that. This is a focus group. Regarding my singing at the AFO shows, how satisfied are you with my performance? One, extremely satisfied, two-- *

PLATOONS

One! / Extremely satisfied! / Cannot get enough.

CODY

Now this is a no-bull zone. You have my permission to speak freely.

ROBINSON

Weeell, when you do something every year people start to expect it.

PARK

Like birthday husband stuff.

CODY

Predictability is a performer's worst enemy. Makes it so damn hard to take their breath away. How do I freshen my act?

GUMBLE

Sequins. No -- velvet. Got it. Sequin velvet cape! And a scepter.

DOBKISS

My Aunt Luanne's got a traveling burlesque show. Gets pretty raw.

ROBINSON

That's doo doo, y'all. Sgt. Major, you ever watch *American Idol*?

CODY

I certainly do. Still remember where I was the night Miss Kelly Clarkson won her title.

(beat)

At home on my couch. Your point?

ROBINSON

What was Kelly's story again?

CODY

Simple girl from Burleson, Texas. House burnt down, not a dime to her name, but she overcame every obstacle to give the performance of a lifetime.

ROBINSON

That's what you need to do.

DOBKISS

I'll torch your house for ten percent of the insurance money.

CODY

So I have to get the audience to invest in my narrative. Share in my struggles.

PARK

I've struggled. I was born in a labor camp.

CODY

Not now, Pvt. Park.
(scanning the platoons)
(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)

Be in my office at oh nine-hundred.
We're going to work on my
narrative. Bring your imaginations
and a sense of wonder.

GUMBLE

(enthusiastic)
Yes, Sgt. Major!
(then, to others)
I have no idea what we're doing!

16

INT. CHOW HALL - DAY - DAY 3

16

Jill sits eating by herself. Pete comes up, plops his tray
down in a bit of a huff.

PETE

Well, I hope you're happy. Your
stupid advice blew up in my face.

JILL

Hey, I'm just eating my eggs here.
I told you to apologize, not get
back together.

PETE

Should've gone with my gut. She's
about to go to Kuwait with the AFO.
She'll get busy, I'll get busy,
it's day here when it's night
there. And we faaaade out.

*

JILL

Yeah, but what about when she gets
back from Kuwait?

PETE

Right! Who knows where I'll be?

JILL

Everyone but you, Pete! Your post-
hopping days are over. You're not
getting re-deployed. You can't fade
out if you're not going anywhere.

PETE

(stunned)
I need to sit down.

JILL

You are sitting down.

PETE

I need to sit down more. So, what do I do here?

JILL

Well you got two options: commit to Jeanie or be a decent human being and let her know how you feel.

PETE

There's gotta be a third option.

Pete gets a text from Jeanie.

PETE (CONT'D)

(reading the text)

She just booked us at a B&B in Vermont for leaf-peeping fall of 2015.

He puts the phone down.

PETE (CONT'D)

Walk me through that "decent human being" thing.

17

INT. CODY'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY 3

17

Cody stands in front of the platoon.

CODY

Okay troops, I want that audience in the palm of my hand. Craft my narrative. Make me Kelly Clarkson.

DOBKISS

Well, respectfully, you've milked that fake foot thing for all it's worth. What else on you can we make fake?

CODY

You're done. Next idea?

PARK

At the labor camp when they separated me from my mother--

CODY

Sounds like a lot of you, and not much me. Gimme something good!

GUMBLE

It was a cold winter day. Your mom was supposed to take you to voice lessons. But she didn't show 'cause they were putting your dog down--

CODY

Too long.

GUMBLE

You beat cancer.

CODY

Too short.

DOBKISS

Can I try again, Sgt. Major?

CODY

No!

DOBKISS

Look, just because I come from nothing, doesn't mean I don't have something to say...

(off Cody's look)

I will burn your house down for only five percent of the insurance money, plus materials.

Robinson picks up a framed photo from Cody's book shelf.

ROBINSON

Sgt. Major, who's this?

CODY

That's my daughter. The love of my life, my pride and joy.

PARK/DOBKISS/GUMBLE

Awww.

Robinson clocks their "awww".

ROBINSON

We've got ourselves a narrative. Pvt. Gumble, roll tape.

18

INT. THE CLAYMORE - EVENING - NIGHT 3

18

Derrick and Randy enter and belly up. Erin approaches.

ERIN

Two beers, guys?

RANDY

Yes but we're not together because
Derrick won't admit that he's a bird
and I'm a hippo so it's solo hippo
patrol up in this mamma jamma! Woo!

*

Randy plops a five on the bar defiantly and gives Derrick a look as he heads over to two girls by the pool table.

ERIN

Do I need to cut him off?

DERRICK

Wouldn't make a difference.
There's no stopping this
trainwreck.

They watch from across the bar as Randy does a headstand.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

There he goes. This is the part
where they assume he's a high-
functioning moron.

ERIN

They're laughing...

DERRICK

At him. Now, this is when I would
swoop in to reassure them that he
is, in fact, a low-functioning
normal person. I can't look.

ERIN

They don't seem to mind.

DERRICK

Give them time.

Derrick turns around to see Randy, now upright, head toward a booth with them laughing.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Give them more time.

ERIN

Maybe he's not the Hill brother who
needs help.

DERRICK

Are you kidding? If yes, hilarious.

ERIN

I see him with two girls. I see you
with zero. Let's see what you got...

She nods to a single woman (KATE) down the bar. *

DERRICK

No way. Forget it.

ERIN

Okay, okay.
(then, taunting)
Bawk, bawk, bawk.

DERRICK

You're the worst. Fine. I'll do it.

Derrick smooths himself over, about to move in.

ERIN

Quick thought. You're kinda
sarcastic. Women hate that. And I
notice you never smile. Try to
work one in, but don't overdo it.
You're overdoing it. Go.

She's clearly gotten to him. He approaches Kate, smiling. *

DERRICK

Hi. I see you like wearing jeans.
I do too. Not always.
(to himself)
Wow.

Laughter punctuates the silence and Derrick turns to see
Randy doing the robot mixed with tight popping and locking.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

That's the idiot-tron 4000. He's a
prototype. It's a soft launch.

Kate laughs. *

KATE

Friend of yours? *

Derrick is pleased he's broken the ice, but then realizes
he's still relying on Randy. *

DERRICK

No, no, forget him. We don't need
that guy, right? Why would we need
that guy? We got this. *

Derrick smiles, too big. Now he just seems weird to Kate. *
Erin gives him a mocking thumbs up from the bar.

19 INT. MOTOR POOL - MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT - NIGHT 3 19

Jill sits across from Pete in their office.

JILL
Okay, breaking up is actually
pretty simple. Just be honest,
direct, and firm.

PETE
I can be honest, direct, and firm.

JILL
But because you never have, this is
coming out of nowhere. She may get
desperate. And a desperate woman
isn't above using tricks to keep
her man. So remember that. Now
show me what you got. I'm her,
you're you. Go.

PETE
Okay. Okay, let's see... Jeanie,
I've been thinking about us...

JILL
I've been thinking about us too.
What we're going to do tonight.
Things I've been afraid to try.

PETE
(intrigued)
Oh yeah?...

JILL
Tricks, Pete! I told you there'd
be tricks. Let's try that again.

RESET for QUICK CUTS of Pete and Jill's role play face off.

PETE
...You're a great person, but I
just don't have feelings for you.

JILL
Do you feel unworthy of a great
person or were you placating me?

PETE
Huh? She's not going to come back
with something that complicated!
(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)

She works for the AFO, she's not an
evil wizard!

*

RESET again. Jill is crying. Pete watches, feeling horrible.

JILL

What if no one ever loves me?

Pete goes to hug her. She pushes him away, stops crying on a
dime and shifts back into teacher mode.

JILL (CONT'D)

I'm gonna stop you there. You know
what you did?

PETE

Was it the hug?

JILL

Yeah it was the hug. Classic mixed
message. Unless it's your grandma,
a hug is never totally platonic.

PETE

I'm doomed.

JILL

No, here, we'll try this another
way. I'm you. You're her. And...
Jeanie, it's over.

She prompts him with a gesture to give pushback.

PETE

...But I still love you.

JILL

Love is an illusion that distracts us
from the fact that we all die alone.
Get your stuff out of my place by
noon tomorrow or it goes to Goodwill.
I've already blocked you on every
social media site I'm on. Don't make
me change my number.

*

*

PETE

Ouch.

JILL

Yeaaah.

20

INT. THE CLAYMORE - NIGHT - NIGHT 3

20

Derrick sits at the bar, talking with a woman (LAURA). It's not going well. He's a bit drunk. The classic *Enlisted* reggaeton anthem, "*Me Gusta Dat Booty*" plays.

DERRICK

This was my parents' wedding song.

LAURA

Really?

DERRICK

No.

LAURA

Why would you say that, then?

DERRICK

'Cuz I'm a sarcastic bastard with one move.

LAURA

Uch, later, drunk.

Laura exits, leaving Derrick alone with his beer. He downs it. Over his shoulder we see Randy, who has taken to the dance floor with the two girls. Erin comes over.

ERIN

Shall I go ahead and rope off a V.I.P. area for you and a few select lady friends?

He sees Randy exit with the two girls he's been talking with.

DERRICK

He's leaving with them?! Give me a shot of bourbon. I've got an idea. I don't need Randy to play off of. I'll be my own idiot brother and make fun of myself.

ERIN

I would not call this plan foolproof.

He pounds the shot and approaches a woman (THERESA), and her friend.

DERRICK

Hey I'm Derrick. Wanna see me do a headstand?

THERESA

How drunk are you?

DERRICK

The right amount to do this.

Derrick drops into an unsteady headstand. The girls back away just as he falls and KNOCKS OVER a table. Disaster. Erin cringes as Derrick lies in a heap on the floor, GROANING.

ERIN

How'd it go?

21

INT. MOTOR POOL - MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT - NIGHT 3

21

We're close on Pete; a changed, more determined Pete.

PETE

Jeanie, I've made a decision. I'm not in love with you and our relationship is over.

JILL

Can I still sext you?

PETE

Have some self-respect.

JILL

You're being mean.

PETE

I'm being honest.

JILL

I think I'm going to cry.
(then, breaking character)
Say it.

PETE

Your tears aren't my problem anymore and neither are you. Goodbye.

Jill sits back in her chair, impressed with her work.

JILL

God, I'm good.

PETE

Is there wiggle room on the sexting?
(off her look)
You're right, you're right.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

22

INT. MOTOR POOL - THE NEXT NIGHT - NIGHT 4

22

The show has not yet begun. Soldiers and their families mill about merrily. Fun is in the air. Jeanie, looking fantastic, talks to a soldier as Pete and Jill observe from the floor.

PETE

Oh no, she looks hot. I bet I know what bra she's wearing too. Dammit, what if she's the one??

Jill flicks his ear. Pete ad libs an "Oww!"

JILL

Get it together! You can do this.

ANGLE ON: Cody, scarf around his neck, spots Randy in the crowd. He wanders over.

CODY

(loud whisper)
Excuse me, Pvt. Hill, do you know where I could get some hot water and lemon?

Hearing their cue, Park and Robinson suddenly appear.

PARK

(loudly)
Hot water and lemon? Did you wake up today with no voice, Sgt. Major?

ROBINSON

(also loud)
But you were going to sing tonight. How will you overcome this hurdle?

CODY

That's just it, I may not. Keep me in your prayers.

RANDY

I do every night anyway.

CODY

Pvt. Hill, I'd hate for the crowd to get swept up in my personal drama so keep this to yourself. Pass it on.

Randy nods. Cody winks to Park and Robinson who disappear into the crowd as if they were never there.

Elsewhere, Derrick is surprised to spot Erin, setting up a bar. He walks over to her.

DERRICK

Hey. What are you doing here?

ERIN

Well, as a millionaire it's hard to stay grounded. Working three jobs helps me "keep it real." I'd offer you a bourbon, but we're not serving alcohol.

DERRICK

That's okay. I learned two things last night. One: bourbon's not "good idea juice," and two: I have no game.

ERIN

So? Not everybody likes games.

DERRICK

What do you mean?

He helps her unload a pallet of glasses.

ERIN

Well last night I watched you fail miserably doing something most bar jerks do really well. Kinda makes me think maybe you're not a jerk.

DERRICK

A minority opinion around here.

ERIN

Prove me wrong.

She writes down her number, and hands it to him before taking a drink order. Derrick walks away, feeling good. He turns and bumps into Randy. There's a moment of quiet tension.

RANDY

Derrick. You're looking well. Better than when I came home last night. You know you threw up in your hamper?

DERRICK

Yes, I saw the picture you posted online, thanks.

*

RANDY

You could've "liked" it.

DERRICK

Look, Randy, I was obviously wrong about what I said. I need you more than you need me.

RANDY

You do? For real?

DERRICK

As long as there will be no follow-up questions, yes.

RANDY

Awesome. Although I saw you get her number without my help.

DERRICK

Yeah yeah yeah.
(off Randy's smile)
You know you got some spinach in your teeth.

Randy tries to get it out. Shows Derrick again.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

How is there more in there now?

RANDY

I love spinach.

DERRICK

Come here.

Randy exposes his front teeth, Derrick gets a napkin and picks out the spinach. Randy catches the symbolism.

RANDY

Wait, you're grooming me. Hippo and bird! Hippo and bird!

DERRICK

This moment is over.

Just then, the house lights go down. Park, Gumble, Robinson and Dobkiss wander near Derrick and Randy. Back on stage:

JEANIE

Thank you for welcoming the AFO to
your post. Before we bring up Kid
'N' Play, let me direct your
attention to the screen.

*

Projected on a VIDEO SCREEN we see the following:

23 EXT. GOLDEN SUNSET - DAY - DAY X 23

Cody, in his dress blues, crests a ridge, silhouetted in a golden sunset as contemplative music PLAYS, A.I.-montage style.

RYAN SEACREST (V.O.)

Command Sergeant Major Donald Cody
is a decorated war hero with 25
years of Army service. But while
he did his duty he never turned his
back on his passion for singing.

24 INT. CODY'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY X 24

Cody is being interviewed in soft focus.

CODY

I had no idea I could sing 'til the
day my daughter was born.

A photo of Cody holding his baby daughter appears on screen.

CODY (CONT'D)

But the moment I laid eyes on her,
I sang with joy and never stopped.

24A INT. MOTOR POOL - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 4 24A

ANGLE ON the audience, receptively cooing.

DERRICK

Does he really think this'll work?

RANDY

(tearing up)
He's so tender.

ROBINSON

Oh strap in, boo boo.

24B INT. CODY'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY X 24B

BACK TO CODY'S VIDEO:

RYAN SEACREST (V.O.)

But then the Sergeant Major got a diagnosis that turned his purple heart blue.

We hear a THUNDERCLAP and the image of Cody and his daughter becomes the chilling photonegative. Randy GASPS. Cody continues on screen in a now raspy whisper.

CODY (O.S.)

I have dealt with much adversity in my life. But when my doctor said I might not be able to sing, well...

(he chokes up)

I'm sorry, can we turn the cameras off?

25 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY X

25

A DOCTOR sits on a desk. It's Gumble in a wig.

"DOCTOR" (GUMBLE)

When I told him it was vocal nodes, he said, "What can I do?"

(removes his glasses)

I said, "Pray."

26 INT. CODY'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY X

26

Back to Cody's interview, still raspy voice.

CODY

...And so I did. I asked my maker for another chance to share my gift. To this moment, I don't know if he heard my prayer.

27 INT. MOTOR POOL - NIGHT - NIGHT 4

27

The film ends. The screen goes up. Smoke fills the stage. Cody, in dramatic silhouette, rises right out of the stage.

We find Dobkiss and Gumble turning a crank (presumably hoisting Cody up).

Back on stage, Cody whips off his scarf and beams!

CODY

Do you believe in miracles?

The crowd ROARS as he launches into a stirring version of "America The Beautiful."

*

ANGLE ON Jeanie as she approaches Pete. Jill is close.

PETE

I gotta say, you look amazing,
Jeanie.

JILL

(sotto)

You don't "gotta" say that.

PETE

I mean, can we talk?

JEANIE

We can do more than that...

She reveals her bra strap.

PETE

I knew it!

Pete refocuses himself and takes Jeanie aside.

PETE (CONT'D)

Listen, this is awful of me, but I
don't want to pick up where we left
off. I should've broken up with you
two years ago but I chickened out
'cause I didn't want to hurt you. I
was selfish and dumb and I'm sorry.

She is crushed, but manages to keep herself together.

PETE (CONT'D)

You're great. But we're not right
for each other. And I think on
some level we both know that.

Jeanie nods.

JEANIE

I think I'm going to cry.

Pete goes to hug her. Jill, looking on, pantomimes, "No
hug!" Pete refrains. Instead he steadies her shoulders.

JEANIE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm stunned. Again. But at
least you were honest.

Relieved, Pete gives Jill an "A-Okay" sign. Jeanie sees it.

JEANIE (CONT'D)

Wait, did she put you up to this?

PETE

No, she said to be way harsher.

Jill rushes over to help put out the fire.

JILL

Hi. I did not "put him up to this."

PETE

No no no, she just made it clear that I had to break up with you.

JILL

As opposed to stringing you along.

PETE

She's right, I wasn't even gonna do it.

JILL

He was going to let you go to Kuwait and pull a fade out!

JEANIE

Who are you? Are you trying to steal him from me?

JILL

No! Please. I have no interest in him. I mean, I have self-esteem. Not that you don't. Pete, talk!

PETE

She's the reason I broke up with you.

JILL

Stop talking!

JEANIE

Look, I don't know what's going on here but I'm starting to get pissed off. Why do you care so much about his love life?

JILL

(long beat, then)
He was in Afghanistan?

Just then, we ANGLE ON Cody, as he finishes to HUGE applause.

CODY

This night of miracles has just begun.

(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)

Please welcome, together for the
first time since late December
2011, Kid 'N' Play!

The crowd goes crazy as CHRISTOPHER "KID" REID and
CHRISTOPHER "PLAY" MARTIN bound onto the stage.

KID/PLAY

What's up, Fort McGee! / How you feeling?

The crowd ROARS as Pete and Jill focus on a fuming Jeanie.

PETE

This is not entirely Jill's fault.

JILL

Thanks.

PETE

But this is what I was trying to
avoid. I didn't want to hurt you.
I was just gonna let things play
out naturally.

JEANIE

Oh you mean like last time? When
you deleted your online presence
and my care package came back
"return to sender, love Pete"?

Pete's got nothing.

PETE

Okay, she said not to do this but
come here.

Pete goes in for a hug. Jeanie hauls off and POPS Pete in
the nose. She storms off, casting a pall on the proceedings.
Cody takes the mic from Kid.

CODY

Looks like a kerfuffle's stealing
focus. I gotta save this show.
Back me up!

KID

We're the headliners.

CODY

Five, six, seven, eight!

He again goes into "America The Beautiful." But this version
has a New Jack Swing feel. Kid 'N' Play begrudgingly join in. *

28

INT. MOTOR POOL - MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT - NIGHT 4

28

We can hear the show faintly. CLOSE ON Pete's nose, we see the bottom of a tampon hanging out (an actual soldier trick).

PETE

Pretty cool that you can use these for bloody noses. And if I understand the ads correctly, I can swim with it too?

JILL

Sadly, I think that's all you've learned today.

PETE

No no, you were right. I should've listened to you from the beginning. Listen... you know how you say you hate me and I'm disgusting, how the idea of being with me makes you physically ill?

JILL

Sure.

PETE

Well, the only people who talk to me like that are my brothers. I guess that makes you...

JILL

Your sister?

PETE

I was gonna say female brother but don't listen to me, I've lost a lot of blood. Anyway, thanks for helping me.

Pete hugs her, platonically, at least on his end. But on Jill's face we see for the first time she might have something other than brotherly feelings for Pete. They break apart, she shoves the tampon further up his nose.

PETE (CONT'D)

Ow!

JILL

Find a receptacle for that. Do not flush it.

Jill exits, leaving Pete confused.

END OF SHOW