

PART TIME HEROES: PILOT

(or The Magnificent Five: Pilot)

Written by

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TEASER

EXT. ALLEY ADJACENT A CITY STREET - NIGHT

A young couple -ALEX and KENDRA- cower behind the corner of a building in an alley. They hold each other.

KENDRA

Is it over?

Alex moves to peek around the corner.

ALEX

I don't know. Maybe they--

BLUE FLASH. EXPLOSION.

He twists back to protect Kendra.

In the street, debris falls: brick, metal, drywall.

EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

A man wearing a Victorian style, low top hat, red of diamonds painted around his left eye, has two hands grasping his throat, lifting him up from the ground.

The man doing the lifting is POLARIS, stands 6 foot, clad in a black, ankle length coat. A dark cowl covers his face, exposing only his lower jaw and short hair.

As he lifts the man, a white glow surrounds his hands, moving back through his arms to his chest, as if drawing out energy from his unfortunate victim.

The top hatted man struggles to no avail. The glow disappears.

He cast the man into the air, raising his arm as if to mentally lift him higher.

His victim twist in the air away from him.

A shorter man, SOLANO, comes alongside Polaris, dressed in dark coat and pants. Looks up. Holds his palms about six inches apart near his stomach.

A fireball appears between his hands.

SOLANO

Eat this!

He thrust the fireball skyward.

BRIGHT RED/YELLOW FLASH. SEARING BOOM.

The top hat falls onto the street.

EXT. CITY STREET ADJACENT THE ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Two figures run down the street past Alex and Kendra. They weave between cars, some left abandoned in the street, some wrecked and ablaze.

One stops. PICUS, a man of medium height and a bit on the chubby side. Turns to look back.

Down the street Polaris, Solano and six others move with villainous steps toward him.

The other, SONJIA, a woman, dressed in a long gray coat, high collar, gray/white flowing locks, looks back to see the man standing still.

SONJIA
Keep moving!

Polaris lifts his hand.

RUMBLING. Picus looks to his right.

Part of the building tears away from the rest.

He turns and continues running.

The piece of building flies through the air, crashing down almost atop him.

Sonjia stops. Rushes back.

Picus crawls away from the wreckage. Collapses onto his back.

In pain, he reached inside his coat. Pulls out a small device.

Sonjia reaches him. Kneels down. Attempts to lift him and pull him away.

SONJIA (CONT'D)
Come on. We can make it.

Picus shakes his head as he pulls a small black card from the device. He's in obvious pain.

PICUS
Take... this...

Sonjia looks up. Polaris and the others are closing in.

SONJIA
We can make it.

Picus offers her the card.

PICUS
Take... this.

SONJIA
NO!

PICUS
For me. The others. For... for her.

She stops. They stare into each other's eyes.

Hers sad.

His resigned.

She set him back down. Takes the card.

PICUS (CONT'D)
(painful smile)
Go...

She takes it, shakes her head and leaves.

She races towards a solid wall. Disappears into it.

Picus tries getting up. Two arrows plunge into his chest. He falls onto his back.

His arm reaches out. The device falls free onto the road.

EXT. ALLEY ADJACENT A CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Kendra watch the group stride by.

Anger grows on her face. She bolts away into the street.

ALEX
Kendra no!

She marches to the middle of the debris ridden street.

KENDRA
(screaming)
You bastards! Turning our homes,
our planet into a battlefield.

Alex gets to her. Tries pulling her away.

KENDRA (CONT'D)
(screaming)
We've had enough! Leave us alone!

A couple of the group give her a passing glance. Polaris doesn't turn at all.

EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Picus lay dead. A woman, ACESHOT, clad in tan, compound bow strapped to her back next to a quiver, walks up next to him. Then another approaches.

A man, LUCIDITY, walks next to Polaris.

LUCIDITY
Madness. Madness.

Picus' body. Aceshot crouches down near his outstretched arm and device.

LUCIDITY (O.S.)
The fool. Could have lived! They
all could have lived.

Aceshot pics up the device. Looks like a bulky blackberry complete with small keyboard.

SOLANO
Gotta hand it to them, they weren't
afraid of dying. Put up a good
fight before cashing in.

Polaris watches Aceshot tap away on the device.

POLARIS
What did you find?

ACESHOT
A comp tablet. The data card's
gone.

Polaris looks over the area, the destruction, then at Picus.

POLARIS
Bring it.

He turns and marches off back down the street. Lucidity walks beside him.

As they walk...

LUCIDITY

Joxon doesn't have many friends
left.

POLARIS

Nor have you found where their
hiding.

LUCIDITY

He's not making it easy. Only a
matter of time. He has nowhere else
to go.

POLARIS

Nor anyone else to turn to.

ACT 1

FADE IN:

INT. CLUB BARCADE - DAY

A nice INVITATION CARD:

"I cordially invite you to spend an evening with my guest and I as thanks for accepting our offer of employment and the hard work you have demonstrated making the club a success. Dress is casual. Come as you are."

STEPHANIE REECE (late 20s), experienced bartender who's seen it all when it comes to mixology and dealing with drunks, looks up from reading the invite. She stands behind the small bar. Old model video games line the wall on one side of the room; couches and gaming monitors along the other.

BRIAN (30ish) walks in carrying a box. Walks around to the front of the bar and sets box on it.

She turns to him, holding up the invite and envelope. She has an alluring, raspy voice.

STEPHANIE

Ah... got this weird invite to a party from a...

(turns the card around)

Gary Trevino.

He begins unloading items from the box.

BRIAN

Our co-investor. When I was looking for a business loan he approached me. Great terms. Great guy. And he doesn't come around telling me how to do things.

STEPHANIE

Oh?

BRIAN

Yeah. After we opened he threw a shindig for us employees right here as appreciation. Catered and everything.

She stows the card back in its envelope, turns and puts it into her purse sitting next to the register.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Since he had me scalp you from your
gig down the street, you must a
waited on or served him a few times

STEPHANIE
Don't recall anyone by that name.

BRIAN
Must a though you were worth it.

He takes the now empty box off the bar.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
And have to say you are.

She half smiles, turns back around and starts putting away
the items he placed on the bar.

STEPHANIE
(little enthusiasm)
Thanks.

BRIAN
You... you're going. Right?

STEPHANIE
(shrugging)
I'll think about it.

BRIAN
If it'll make you feel better,
I'll... tag along.

STEPHANIE
(sarcastic stare and
smile)
You mean like a... date?

BRIAN
Ah... no. But a...

He heads away.

STEPHANIE
Hey.

He turns back.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Wasn't trying to be being mean. And
I do appreciate how you treat me.

He gives her a humble nod.

BRIAN

I know you've been through a lot.

Stephanie's eyes go flat. Looks away.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Just a... think about it. Wouldn't want to offend him. Knowwattamean?

STEPHANIE

(half-hearted)

Sure. I'll think about it.

EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

A football squad runs a practice play. All wear helmets but no padding.

QB takes a snap. Reels back as if to hand the ball off. Twists around with the ball and lurches back. Jogs right, then left. Cast the ball forward.

Down field a receiver catches it.

On the sideline the COACH (middle aged), dressed in the team's polo and hat, blows a whistle one could hear a mile away.

COACH

Good job!

The QB moves to the sideline. Removes his helmet.

RANDY MARTINEZ (20ish), great looking, fit and lean, runs a hand through his full head of hair. Walks up to the coach.

COACH (CONT'D)

Doing great Randy. Good hustle.

RANDY

Thanks.

Looks to the left then right.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Got a minute.

COACH

Sure.

The walk along the sideline.

COACH (CONT'D)
 If you're still wondering about
 play time, gonna start Gene. As the
 season goes on--

RANDY
 No. Coach. It's not about that.

Coach looks at him. Randy looks confused.

COACH
 Everything okay?

RANDY
 Got this invite from Mr. Trevino to
 a party he's throwing.

COACH
 Ah! Gives you a chance to thank 'im
 personally.

RANDY
 Yeah. Guess I should.

COACH
 Nice of him ta donate that
 scholarship for ya. Rescue you from
 that community college. No place
 for an all-state quarterback.

RANDY
 Thanks. My folks were glad too. One
 less expense they gotta worry
 about.

COACH
 How's your dad?

RANDY
 Docs say he's doing good.
 Treatments really helping him out.

COACH
 Well, when you see Mr. Trevino, you
 can give him a nice big thanks.

RANDY
 Yeah. And for my spot on the team--

COACH
 (stops and turns to him)
 Hey. He mighta forked over the cash
 to get you here. But you earned the
 spot you got.

(MORE)

COACH (CONT'D)

An don't think back up QB means
second string.

RANDY

(beaming smile)

Thanks Coach. I'll put a good word
in for you too.

They both chuckle.

INT. ON SITE CONSTRUCTION OFFICE TRAILER - DAY

WILLIAM (BILL) MCGIBBON (mid 40s) enters the trailer and
removes his ballcap. His short black hair mixes with gray
ones. Few extra pounds. Unpretentious. Blue collar worker
all his life.

MAGGIE (middle aged) stands in front of a large board
covered in construction drawings and lot layouts. She turns
to him.

MAGGIE

Hey Bill.

BILL

Hey. Got all that electrical work
caught up on units A7 thru 10. Less
you say otherwise gonna move 'em to
the next lots while we got 'em
here.

MAGGIE

Great! You've been saving our bacon
since you came on.

BILL

Thanks.

MAGGIE

We get this housing development
finished ahead of schedule, you
know, they'll be a bonus for you.

BILL

Sounds great. Should help with
alimony.

MAGGIE

Yeah. Hope that's all working out
for you.

BILL
 (staring off into the
 distance)
 It will. Getting offered this job
 out of the blue kind a helped too.

Maggie notices his dower face.

Awkward silence.

MAGGIE
 Oh!

She moves to a paperwork covered desk.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 This got dropped off for you.

Puzzled, Bill takes it.

She moves away as he opens it and pulls out the card. Scans it.

BILL
 Isn't Gary Trevino...

MAGGIE
 One of the investors for this new
 development. Why?

BILL
 (looking up)
 Nothing.

He pockets the card and envelope. Turns to leave.

BILL (CONT'D)
 Will get those sparkys working on
 the next lot.

MAGGIE
 Let me know if you need anything!

EXT. OUTSIDE TRAILER -CONTINUOUS

Bill trudges down the temporary wooden steps, donning his cap. Deep in thought. Takes a step. Pauses. Takes another. Pauses. Repeat till he gets to the bottom.

BILL
 (to himself)
 Why in the hell would he...

Shakes his head and moves off.

INT. LARGE UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

A myriad of students occupy the desks. Some take notes. Some fiddle with their cells. Some look bored. As the view passes over them...

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

The universe functions on a few simple principles. Unbreakable laws that we have come to understand.

CLAIRE MAXWELL (19) sits in awe in the front row. Your typical shy, part time cosplayer, full time geek. Another young lady sits next to her.

MALE VOICE (O.S) (CONT'D)

That said. There are many things we don't understand. Those wonders of creation that exists on the most elementary, quantum level.

Upon the lecture stage is ADRIAN FREDERICK (mid 30s). Head full of hair flowing behind his ears to his shoulders. A looker, excited about physics.

ADRIAN

They defy known laws of science, requiring physic geeks like me to figure them out.

CHUCKLING.

Claire laughs, keeps her eyes fixed on him.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(looking at his watch)

With that, I'll bring our first class of the semester to an end. You all have the syllabus so prepare accordingly.

Claire and the young lady gather up their stuff. The young lady stands first, leans over to Claire.

YOUNG LADY

This class may be tough but at least easy on the eyes.

Claire just smiles as the young lady moves off. She rises too looking over at Adrian.

A handful of students surround and chat with him.

Claire collects her laptop. She moves with hesitance towards them. Her wide eyes focused on Adrian. Then...

She stops. Turns. Begins moving away. Looks as though disappointed in herself.

ADRIAN (O.S.)
Miss Maxwell!

She stops cold. Eyes grow wide. Spins around.

Adrian's gesturing her to hold on. He finishes up with the knot of students.

Claire's part petrified, part excited. She brings her laptop to her chest, crosses her arms over it. She fidgets as he approaches.

ADRIAN
Claire Maxwell. Right?

CLAIRE
Ah... yeah-- Yes, professor.

Extends his hand. They shake.

ADRIAN
Call me Adrian. I make it a point to meet our scholarship students. 'Specially ones devoted to the science and technology fields.

CLAIRE
A... thanks... an... honor to be...here. Ha ha.

ADRIAN
Honor to have you. You got a scholarship from that mister... Trevino?

CLAIRE
Yeah. A... sort a... came out of the blue... you know. But I'm... really thankful.

ADRIAN
No doubt.

CLAIRE
In fact I'm... meeting... him soon.

ADRIAN

Great! Maybe you can put a few good words in for the physics department. A donation or two.

Claire nods with some hesitance and reluctant eyes.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

My department's low on the social if not budgetary order here.

CLAIRE

Well... yeah. I can... do that. It's sad that... we get treated like... hobbits when it... comes to money.

ADRIAN

Right! While all the attention gets put on Gandalf and Sauron!

CLAIRE

Exactly!

Both laugh.

ADRIAN

Well you take care and say hi to Mr. Trevino for us.

He turns and walks off.

CLAIRE

Will do... Adrian.

He stops and turns back to her.

ADRIAN

Ah... we got a physics club here. Meets once a week. Hope to see you there.

Her hearts about to jump out of her chest.

CLAIRE

You bet... Adrian.

He smiles, waves and continues on.

Claire stands amid the empty room watching him leave.

He heads out the door.

She draws a breath. Then sighs.

EXT. VALET PARKING STATION - NIGHT

EZEKIEL (ZEK) LAURENT (late 20s) strides up. He's a young, amoral guy who's ambition matches the speed of a tree sloth except when it comes to women and having a good time. He's got on black slacks and white collared shirt. A red valet vest hangs from one hand.

BRICE (mid 20s) stands at the station. Behind him an upscale club. Sees Zek coming. Puts on a scowl.

BRICE
You're late... again!

ZEK
Sorry... again.

Starts putting on his vest.

BRICE
You can't be here on time just let me know.

ZEK
You don't look that busy.

BRICE
Not now. No thanks to you. Had them lined up coming in for some big bachelorette party.

ZEK
Really? They need any male strippers for the night?

Brice isn't amused. Two other valets amble up from dropping off cars.

BRICE
(to Zek)
Just get ready.

The headlight of an approaching car illuminates the stand. One of the returning valets gets ready to hop in.

BRICE (CONT'D)
(points thumb at Zek)
Let Magic Mike here take this one.

Zek wants to say something but refrains. Moves to the curb and watches car stop. Looks as enthused as a man awaiting an enema.

BRICE (O.S.)

Hey.

Zek turns just in time to catch an envelope Brice flicked at him.

BRICE

Someone dropped that off for you.
Whoever it's from, tell'm you got a
home and future mail needs to go
there.

Zek heads to the drivers side of the car, shoves the envelope into his pocket. Grabs driver's keys. Gets in. Closes door.

A few moments go by. Car moves forward. Halfway down the short drive it stops. Zek steps halfway out.

ZEK

(back towards Brice)

Hey!

Brice looks over.

ZEK (CONT'D)

Who the hell is Gary Trevino!

BRICE

The hell should I know! Google him.
But get that parked and back here
first.

Zek gives him a 'whatever' look, gets back in.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Zek pulls the car into empty stall. Shuts down engine.

INT. INSIDE CAR - CONTINUOUS

Zek looks over the invitation. Puzzled face. Cocks an eyebrow. Reaches for and pulls his cell out of his front pocket. Stops.

Turns ignition key enough to bring up dash lights, radio etc. Accesses the onboard internet. Search engine. Types in the name Gary Trevino. Scrolls through results. Selects one.

ZEK

(half mumbling to
himself)

Reclusive and recent new
resident...

(MORE)

ZEK (CONT'D)
Made several contributions to local
university...

He exits. Scrolls down a bit more. Stops.

ZEK (CONT'D)
Estimated net worth...

His eyes flare in surprise. Looks at invite.

ZEK (CONT'D)
Well Mr. Gary T, guess that's a big
yes to your invite.

ACT 2**EXT. OUTSIDE LARGE NICE HOME - EVENING**

A simple sedan rolls up the driveway. Parks along the curb just behind a older model pick up, which is parked behind a another car.

Stephanie steps out. Looks over the nice, two story home behind one of those 8 foot steel fences with an ornate spike at the top of each square post.

Another car comes up. She watches it park as she closes her car door.

Randy gets out, clad in a jacket bearing the colors of the university and athletics logo.

Stephanie cocks an eyebrow.

Randy walks up to her.

RANDY

Hey.

STEPHANIE

Hey.

She zeros in on the logo.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

You go to the university?

RANDY

Ah... yeah. Play for the team.
Backup QB. Names--

STEPHANIE

A jock. How nice.

She turns and walks away.

He stands dumbfounded for a moment, then follows.

They walk towards the front gate. A cab enters the driveway. It stops adjacent the front gate as Stephanie and Randy get there.

Claire emerges. Closes the door. Cab moves off.

The other two watch her approach.

CLAIRE
 (to each in turn)
 Hello... Hello.

STEPHANIE Hey. RANDY Hello.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 You guys on scholarships too?

RANDY
 Yeah. Football--

STEPHANIE
 No.

Randy cast her a quick glance. Back to Claire.

RANDY
 (extending hand)
 Randy Martinez.

CLAIRE
 (shaking hands)
 Glad to meet... a... I'm Claire
 Maxwell.

STEPHANIE
 Stephanie Reece. And not a college
 student.

CLAIRE
 (shaking her hand)
 Oh. I just... thought... well...

A MALE VOICE shoots through the air.

MALE VOICE
 Welcome.

All three look at the intercom in one of the pillars next to
 the front gate. UNLOCKING SOUND.

MALE VOICE (CONT'D)
 Please come in. Just follow the
 sidewalk to the front door. It's
 open. We're in the large study off
 too the right.

Stephanie opens the gate. They all walk in.

INT. LARGE STUDY - CONTINUOUS

The room looks like one from Downton Abbey. Zek stands in front of Bill, holding a drink, waving it to and fro as he speaks.

ZEK

Then he's getting in his car, got some eye candy of a girl climbing into the passenger seat...

Bill sits in a nice loveseat, quietly, respectfully, if not painfully, listening, sipping on a bottle of beer. He nods every now and then.

ZEK (CONT'D)

...makes no attempt at a tip. So I'm like... how 'bout something for the effort.

(takes a sip)

He says next time put my seat back to the way I had it. Slams the door shut.

Bill nods out of respect.

ZEK (CONT'D)

Not my fault this guys like... five two and--

He looks away.

Stephanie, Randy and Claire amble into the doorway to the study.

Silence as they move in. Bill gets up.

ZEK (CONT'D)

Hello hello. See more guests have arrived.

He and Bill meet them. They all introduce.

Awkward silence comes over them.

STEPHANIE

(to Bill and Zek)

So, out of curiosity, you guys from the university too?

BILL

A... no. My college days are long behind me.

ZEK

Dido. Just not as long ago.

CLAIRE

(to Zek)

What was your major?

Zek draws a breath. Puts on a smile.

ZEK

Art.

More awkward silence. It's getting to everyone.

BILL

Well, our host's provide some refreshments.

Gestures towards a table full of finger food. Bottles of alcohol and beer on ice sit at one end.

Stephanie, Randy and Claire move towards it. Zek follows.

ZEK

Yeah. Quite the spread. And he didn't go cheap on the booze either.

Stephanie eyes the bottles. She recognizes them.

STEPHANIE

You can say that again.

Randy pics up what looks like a small quiche and eats it.

ZEK

Can I get you ladies something?

STEPHANIE

More than capable myself thank you.

ZEK

Claire?

CLAIRE

I'm not... old enough. Won't be 21 for... two more years.

BILL

Curious. Have any of you guys ever seen this Mr. Trevino?

Claire and Zek shake their heads. Stephanie shrugs and shakes her head. Randy's about to say something when he glances at the other end of the room.

RANDY
(nods head that way)
Not till now.

Everyone turns or twists to look.

GARY TREVINO (middle aged), dressed in a nice blazer, shirt and slacks, walks towards them, smiling. Carries himself like a humble Nobel laureate with a dash of Mr. Roarke (Ricardo Montalblan) from Fantasy Island mixed in.

The group spreads out to await him. He stops in front of them.

GARY
Thank you all for coming.

His is the same voice through the intercom at the front gate.

Takes a deep breath. Hesitates.

Randy and Stephanie give each other a puzzled look.

GARY (CONT'D)
You can not know what a pleasure it is to finally see you all in person... here.

Each spout out thanks in one way or another.

GARY (CONT'D)
Since you all have introduced yourself... I am Gary Trevino. Just call me Gary.

Yet more awkward silence.

BILL
Not sure what everyone's story is but a... want to thank you for the new job... and all.

GARY
You are very welcome, William.
(to the others)
I'm sure everyone's appreciative of our benevolence.

ZEK

Yeah. Bout that. Kindda curious--
but thankful-- for the invite.

RANDY

And you said "our" benevolence?

GARY

(nodding)

Yes. We should get to that. Please.
Everyone. Have a seat. And help
yourself to the food and drink.

Bill goes back to the loveseat. The others find a chair. Zek gets a refill.

The mood goes to one of those where the willy private eye's about to reveal the sinister killer.

Gary draws a breath, then...

GARY (CONT'D)

You are all very special people.
More than you know. So much so, I
am going to ask the incredible of
you. My friends and I desperately
need your help.

They all share glances at each other.

GARY (CONT'D)

None of you need feel obligated to
anything. You are free to leave at
any time. What has been given will
not be taken away. That said, what
I will ask of you is not without
drawbacks. Or danger.

Their eyes go wide or they straighten up.

GARY (CONT'D)

But we have all faced that before.
You possess the talent we need.

BILL

Mister... Gary. Beg pardon, but you
talk like you know us.

GARY

I do.
(eyes go sad)
I did.

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)
(walks up to Bill)
We have seen you pull a 727 from a
lake and save every one of those
passengers.

Bill's shocked.

Gary moves to Stephanie.

GARY (CONT'D)
We remember how you went into that
one skyscraper, on fire top to
bottom and took each one of those
children out one by one.

She can muster no words.

Gary moves to Randy.

GARY (CONT'D)
If were not for your ability we
would not have flushed out that
mole in the UN Department of Global
Security.

Randy looks around at the others.

Gary moves to Claire. She begins fidgeting. Looks
frightened.

GARY (CONT'D)
Claire. You parted that ocean like
it were nothing more than water in
a bathtub.

Her eyes grow wide.

Gary moves to Zek.

GARY (CONT'D)
With a wave of your had you brought
to a dead stop a wave of missiles
ready to take us out mid air.

Zek, for once, is speechless.

Gary moves back to where he started. No one speaks. They
only share glances of shock or puzzlement or fear.

CLAIRE
Mis... G... Gary you... make us
sound like... like...

STEPHANIE

Some type of mutant x people or
cape wearing superheroes!

GARY

Some of you did wear capes.

ZEK

Scuse me?

GARY

Not you though. You never looked
good in one. Of course, those days
are gone.

RANDY

Gonna go out on a limb here but...
don't think any of us have done all
those... things?

GARY

Not here. Not in this reality. Not
in the universe as you know it.

BILL

(standing)

Okay. I'm taking you up on that can
leave any time offer. The Matrix
was a great flick and all... but
sorry.

He heads to the food table and set the beer down.

Randy stands up. Stephanie follows suit and bolts to the
door.

RANDY

Make two of us Mr. Trevino. Thank
you everything you've done but...
gotta say no thanks to this.

Gary watches him and Stephanie head out.

His face grows saddened. Lowers his head.

Claire remains seated. Eyes fixed onto Gary.

Zek looks hesitant. Unsure. Moves to set his glass down like
he's about to follow.

Claire bolts up.

CLAIRE

I wanna see it.

Everyone stops. Turns.

Gary's head pops up.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

If it's not the... the universe as we know it, then it... must be another. Science shows it... it can exist.

Everyone looks stunned.

ZEK

Ah... Yeah!

(moves to Claire)

Yeah. Me... me too. Show us this... alternate universe.

GARY

By all means.

INT. LARGE BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

All 5 stand staring with blank eyes looking forward.

Gary stand next to a podium which stands next to a what use to be part of the basement wall surrounded by a metal square frame. Looks big enough to drive a truck into. The solid rock behind stands exposed.

RANDY

And this is a...

GARY

Portal. I have not activated it yet.

All, save Claire, give each other skeptical looks.

Bill walks over to the rocks. Gently bangs his fist on the rocks. Stephanie walks up. Kicks the wall a few times.

STEPHANIE

Okay. We've come this far. Show us what's behind the curtain Oz.

Gary moves to the other side of the podium.

GARY

Interesting fact. On my Earth, that movie was never made.

ZEK

There go the Kansas jokes. No
one'll get'em.

CONTROL PANEL ON PODIUM: Keyboard, small, monochrome screen,
scanner with outline of a hand. Places his palm on a
scanner. Screen comes to life.

RANDY

You're from the... other side then?

GARY

(typing with free hand)
We prefer the term alternate
universe. But yes. The technology
to open such a portal came at a
very high price.

LOW BUZZING.

GARY (CONT'D)

It will be a few moments.

WIND LIKE SOUND.

Stephanie and Bill look up and around. He notices the rock
loose cohesion. Starts walking away backwards.

ZIPPER-LIKE SOUND.

Stephanie sees Bill. Turns to the rock. Eyes go wide.

The area within the frame looks as though it's twirling
clockwise. Faster towards the center verses the edge.

All eyes are fixed onto the portal.

PANG. WHOOSH. Small gust of wind hits everyone.

Silence.

The rock's disappeared, replaced by a large room about ten
feet beyond.

Gary moves towards the opening. Another person emerges on
the other side. Wears a long tan coat. Gives a small wave.

GARY (CONT'D)

We are all okay Theodor.

Gary looks back at the five.

Bill's holding his chest. Stephanie and Randy are stunned. Claire's got a hand over her mouth. Zek slack jawed, pointing at the portal.

Gary turns back and walks through the portal.

Once across, turns back around.

GARY (CONT'D)
Anyone care to join me?

The 5 exchange looks of shock and awe.

Randy eyes the portal. Moves with trepidation towards it.

The others move that way also, lingering a few steps behind him. Randy stops at the entrance. Looks over the frame. Then at Gary. Draws a breath. Steps in.

One foot slowly in front of the other. The 10 feet feels like a mile.

ACT 3**INT. LARGE ROOM, ALT-EARTH - CONTINUOUS**

Randy emerges from the portal. Walks up to Gary. The room has a vaulted ceiling and looks as though inside some old castle, but modern doors lead to other rooms.

He looks at his hands. Then over the rest of his body. Takes a deep breath. Looks at Gary.

GARY

Well?

Randy turns back to the portal.

RANDY

So far... so good.

Claire begins her journey through. Then Bill, Stephanie. Zek takes up the rear. None move quickly.

RANDY (CONT'D)

(to Gary)

I don't feel any different.

GARY

Nor should you. At least... as normal here people would.

THEODOR

Were you 'specting a nice buzz.

The others emerge. They spread out, looking around.

RANDY

No. But--

His face goes flat. Looks at the others.

Bill sees him.

BILL

You okay.

RANDY

I can... feel...

STEPHANIE

(twists towards him)

Feel what?

He's at a loss for words. Then...

RANDY
It's coming from...

He looks at each in turn.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Fear. Awe. Hesitation. More fear.

GARY
Heightened senses and perception.
That is your gift. Your power.

Zek tries shaking off his fear.

Randy puts on a half smile.

RANDY
I can... feel what... they're
feeling. Even you. And...
(to Theodor)
Joy.

THEODOR
The names Theodor. And I sure glad
to see you again, Sargon.

Randy's smile widens as the other move toward him.

STEPHANIE
I don't feel any different.

CLAIRE
Me neither. Is their something
wrong?

GARY
No. The power is unique to--

Randy's head pops up. Sudden, serious look. Glances over at
a nearby wall with a door.

He moves ghost like towards it. Stops after a few steps.

BILL
What's the matter.

RANDY
(pointing)
There's somebody-- No! A few people
in there. Behind the wall.

Stephanie faces that way.

STEPHANIE

You can tell if someone's behind--

She disappears in a haze of gray smoke, then reappears next to the door.

ZEK

Whoa!

Her face is chock full of surprise. Face inches from the wall. She steps back. Holds up her hands as if blocking something.

Twist around.

STEPHANIE

What... The hell... Just happened?

Gary steps towards her.

GARY

Teleportation. Your mind's not trained to separate what your looking at and where you want to be.

(to Theodor)

Call them out.

Theodor puts two fingers in his mouth. LOUD WHISTLE.

The door next to Stephanie opens. She moves off.

A young woman steps out. HENRIETTA APIO (aka UMEME) moves towards Gary. She wears a smock.

Behind comes CASSIUS LEE (aka BOOMER) donning a short leather jacket and knee high riding boots. Walks towards Zek.

A short, round man, BEAU, comes out last. Looks a bit disheveled.

The 5 just look on.

Henrietta walks up to Gary. She speaks with an east African accent.

HENRIETTA

Welcome back, Joxon.

They hug.

STEPHANIE

Joxon?

GARY
That's the other name I'm know by
here.

Cassius goes to Zek.

CASSIUS
Magic Man.
(slaps his arm)
Good to see you again.

ZEK
Ah... dido?

Moves to Claire.

CASSIUS
Shehbui. Same to you.

CLAIRE
Who... what is... a Shehbui?

CASSIUS
Our God of the south wind! Master
of weather.

Gives her a slight theatrical bow.

Turns to Stephanie.

Henrietta goes to her.

HENRIETTA
I never thought I see you again.

Stephanie notices she's almost in tears.

CASSIUS
The Red Falcon in our midst once
more.

Moves to Bill. Looks him over.

GARY (O.S.)
May I introduce Henrietta Apio. Or
Umeme as she is known.

She extends her hand to Stephanie. They shake. She goes to
each of the other 4 in turn.

GARY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And this is Cassius Lee.

CASSIUS
Boomer by name.
(to Bill)
Maximus! Arrrg!

BILL
Hey.

Cassius slaps him on the stomach.

CASSIUS
His other half let himself go over
there. Don't worry, we'll have you
lifting busses in no time just like
our Maximus did.

Lets out a small laugh. Bill does the same with less
enthusiasm.

He moves towards Randy. His face goes from a cherry smile to
distain. Looks Randy over from head to toe with a passing,
almost dismissive glance tinged with hate. Walks past
without a word.

Randy watches him glide by. His eyes widen, then narrow.

Cassius goes up to Gary. Points a thumb back at Randy. Talks
as he moves.

CASSIUS (CONT'D)
Hope Sargon Two here works out
better for us.

RANDY
Got a problem with me vato?

CASSIUS
(over his shoulder)
No. And let's try keeping it that
way.

Henrietta steps up.

HENNRIETTA
Randy. Don't let it get to you.
We'll explain everything... in
time. Just... ignore his emotions.

Zek notices Beau approach him. He holds a Victorian style,
low top hat. Stuck in the band are two playing cards.

He approaches Zek with a big smile.

Zek gets cautious.

GARY (O.S.)
And this joyful man is Beau.
Another of our familiars.

CLAIRE
Familiars?

THEODOR
Meer humans like me who help out
our superheroes here.

BEAU
Sure is swell ta see you again
Zeeky.

ZEK
A... likewise. Zeeky?

BEAU
Yeah. You let me call you that. I
mean... the other you.

ZEK
Okay.

BEAU
Kept your favorite hat too. Once
Joxon told us he was gonna fetch
you twins I just had ta get it
ready.

Beau holds out the hat to him.

Zek looks at the others.

Everyone's starting at them.

STEPHANIE
Don't be rude. Take it.

Zek paints on a smile. Takes the hat.

Beau steps back holding an even bigger smile. Gestures Zek
to put it on.

Zek doesn't really want to. But all eyes are on him.

Puts on the hat. Feigns enthusiasm.

ZEK
Well. How do I look?

STEPHANIE
Lovely.

CLAIRE
In a steampunk sorta way.

BEAU
(to the crowd)
Told ya! Told ya he look just as
good! Didn't I?

Goes back to Zek.

BEAU (CONT'D)
Oh Zeeky. So great to see ya. Too
bad there wasn't enough left of the
other you ta give you a proper
burial--

GARY HENNRIETTA
Beau! Beau...

Zek's face lights up in surprise.

BEAU (CONT'D)
Oh! I'm... I'm sorry Zeeky. I
wasn't supposta say that.

Zek stares at him with dismay for a bit.

ZEK
Thanks for the heads up.

He takes off the hat. Hands it back to Beau.

ZEK (CONT'D)
And how, may I ask, did I get dead?

BILL
We're all dead... I mean... our
twins, those people you described
back in the parlor. Here.

GARY
Yes.

CLAIRE
Oh God!

STEPHANIE
And we have their same powers. But
only here?

GARY
Yes. And that is why we need you.
Desperately.

BILL

What happened to them.

HENNRietta

Polaris, or one of his group, got most of them. Others, through years of infighting amongst ourselves.

Cassius turns his head away.

RANDY

And Polaris is...

GARY

A very powerful man who has a very different view on how things should be here. And a good number of our gifted friends follow him.

HENNRietta

We and a few others are all that are left to stop him.

CLAIRE

Why don't you just come to our universe. Get away from here. You did?

Henrietta hangs her head as if in shame.

GARY

That was the original intent. I... we soon discovered this was not possible.

RANDY

Not possible? Why?

GARY

I'll let Theodor take that one. He's our in house scientist, part time alchemist, and full time tinkerer.

Theodor motions his head to the side.

THEODOR

Follow me.

EXT. OPEN AIR PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Theodor leads everybody onto a large open air patio. He walks to the edge where a waist high stone wall stands.

Everyone fans out over the patio. Zek goes to one end, apart from the others, with Beau in tow.

THEODOR
This is our Earth.

The sun's setting on the horizon.

Claire walks up to the wall. Looks down. Eyes go wide.

The patio's actually on the ledge of a cliff and there's a several hundred foot drop beneath it.

She gasps.

THEODOR (CONT'D)
Same sun. Moon. Stars.
Fundamentally no different than
yours in it's cosmic make up.

The other 4 go to the wall and peek over.

Randy and Bill then look over the valley, fields and mountain range beyond.

BILL
Nice view.

RANDY
Really.

THEODOR
No difference save one...
(turns around)
We can only spend 20 hours max at
any given time in each other's
universe.

	RANDY		CLAIRE
What?		Huh!	

	STEPHANIE		BILL
20 hours.		Why?	

THEODOR (CONT'D)
We've discovered a quantum phase
imbalance between the worlds.

RANDY
In non-trekkie terms?

THEODOR

Not sure what a trekkie is but...
each universe has it's own
frequency... so to speak.

BILL

You mean like... 60 hertz verses
50?

THEODOR

It's more complicated but yes. At
the subatomic, quantum level, every
particle of matter operates on the
frequency of your universe.

BILL

Okay. Like running a clock or drill
at a different frequency. It either
won't work, run funny or... break
down?

CLAIRE

Your saying the structure of our
atoms will start breaking down?

THEODOR

Yes. By my calculations that will
begin at the 20th hour. And by the
way, time is still the same in both
places-- minutes, hours and
seconds. Morning. Noon. Evening.

STEPHANIE

Dare I ask what happens on hour 21?

THEODOR

Mass looses form, cohesion.
Exponentially. It's my belief the
point of no return will occur
between hour 24 and 26, depending
on the body mass index of the
individual.

CLAIRE

And you know this how?

GARY

From me. When I first went to your
side, we didn't know. Luckily I was
able to get back in time. My near
death experience proved invaluable.

BEAU

You see, Zeeky. We can't leave.

Zek remains staring over the ledge.

ZEK
Yeah. Tough luck.

He doesn't look at the others.

ZEK (CONT'D)
Out a curiosity, what's your
superpower there Joxon?

GARY
Indestructability. Here I am
impervious to all known forms of
destruction: fire, blunt force,
bullets. There, I can get a
papercut.

ZEK
So your not... immune on our side?

GARY
No. Nor any of you here.

RANDY
Are we like... cool right now or
will things start falling off me
later?

STEPHANIE
That's what your worried about?

THEODOR
You're all perfectly fine. It's
only when you approach and hit the
20 hour mark. Whereupon you'll
require between 30 to 40 hours of
recuperation in your own universe.

BILL
Depending on your body mass index I
take it.

He rubs his head. (*looks at rock?*)

GARY
Listen. We've given you a lot to
digest. Perhaps it's best to go
back and let this sink in. And it
is getting late.

BILL
I'll a... second that.

GARY

Cassius. Let the other's know I'm
okay and where we stand.

He gives a theatrical salute. Heads to the edge. Hops onto
the low wall. Steps backwards.

He levitates out a few feet.

CASSIUS

If I don't see you guys again, have
a nice life.

Everyone watches as he flies through the air, up and away
from them and the setting sun.

BILL

Wow. Bet that's a hell of a ride.

Henrietta comes up next to Claire.

HENRIETTA

You can do that too. Using the
weather. In away. Just not as fast.

Claire's too focused on the sky to look at her.

CLAIRE

Really? That's lit AF!

ACT 4**INT. LARGE ROOM ALT-EARTH - MOMENTS LATER**

The 5 walk through the portal back to our universe with Zek leading. Gary and Henrietta follow. Theodor and Beau remain on the other side.

BEAU
I'll keep your hat ready there
Zeeky.

He doesn't answer.

A look of deep sadness comes over Beau.

BEAU (CONT'D)
They're not coming back, are they?

THEODOR
No. I don't think so. And to be
honest, who'd blame them.

Beau lowers his head. All but cradles the hat.

Theodor put his arm around him. Leads him away.

THEODOR (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's get some dinner and
back to work.

INT. LARGE BASEMENT OUR EARTH - CONTINUOUS

Once on the other side the 5 drift around the basement. Each face holds a different expression. Gary and Henrietta stay near the entrance.

GARY
I know we are asking a lot of you.
Whatever decision you make, we will
respect it.

BILL
I think I can say for all of us...
thanks for... your honesty. As for
me... I'll get back to you.

HENRIETTA
I think I can say for all of us,
thank your for coming. And please,
think about it. Time is short.

Bill smiles, nods then heads for the stairwell at the other end of the basement.

STEPHANIE

Can't say I've ever had an evening
like this before but... same here.

She drifts away.

Zek strides past Bill towards the stairs.

Randy raises his eyebrows and follows.

CLAIRE

This all sounds neat but... I
really gotta think about it. Sorry.

GARY

No need to apologize, Claire. We
can ask no more of you.

EXT. OUTSIDE LARGE NICE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

It's getting dark. The 5 move down the sidewalk. Zek's ahead
by a few steps holding a high end bottle of liquor he
liberated from the refreshment table.

CLAIRE

One thing I don't get.

RANDY

And that is?

CLAIRE

Gary... Joxon... doesn't seem to
care... what if tell other people
about this... Alt-Earth thing.

BILL

Who'd believe us. We'd get an I-
love-me-jacket and nice padded
cell.

RANDY

And all Bruce Wayne here has to do
is pack up and leave.

Zek turns and walks backwards.

ZEK

I've told some whoppers in my time.
Some remotely plausible. But no
one's gonna believe this.

STEPHANIE

Did you swipe that bottle?

ZEK
 (points at bottle)
 This is what worries you?

Lets out a huff and twist back around.

He swings open the gate and strides out. Heads for his car, the first one parked. The others enter the sidewalk.

While opening his car's door...

ZEK (CONT'D)
 Hasta la vista folks!

He shoots in.

INT. ZEK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Throws the bottle on the passenger seat.

Starts the car. Casts a glance at the passenger seat.

Under the bottle a RED VALET'S VEST.

He frowns.

EXT. OUTSIDE LARGE NICE HOME - CONTINUOUS

Zek's car shoots off.

BILL
 Like Boomer there was saying, if I don't see any of you any more, wanna wish you the best of luck in whatever you do.

RANDY
 You too.

BILL
 You know... I played some ball back in high school, college--

He stops. Face falls flat. He then puts on a smile.

BILL (CONT'D)
 Ga'night.

Randy, Stephanie and Claire say goodbye each in their own way as Bill gets into his truck and shuts door.

INT. BILL'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

He starts it up. Pauses. Draws in then lets out a deep breath. Turns to the passenger side.

On the seat LARGE ENVELOPE ADRESSED TO HIM FROM A MULTI-NAMED LAW FIRM.

He looks sad.

EXT. OUTSIDE LARGE NICE HOME - CONTINUOUS

As Bill's truck moves off...

STEPHANIE

Well... gotta get to work. Closing tonight. I'm sure I'll see some of your friends there to put up with. So... with that...

Gives Randy and Claire a wave and heads to her car.

They watch her for a moment.

RANDY

(to Claire)

Need a lift back to campus?

CLAIRE

Ah... yeah. Thanks.

INT. STEPHANINE'S CAR

Stephanie starts it up. Stares back at the home for a moment.

Pulls down the sun visor. Looks at herself in the small mirror. Straighten outs and errant hair. Next to the mirror a PICTURE.

She looks at it: She and another young girl. Both smiling, an arm around the other. Both wear sweaters bearing a university's color and logo.

In the mirror her eyes fall sad. She shut the visor.

INT. RANDY'S CAR DRIVING BACK TO CAMPUS- NIGHT

RANDY

So... what's your take on all this.

CLAIRE

Honestly... a little freaked out. You now.

RANDY
Don't I know it.

CLAIRE
Like... why don't they just find
their own twin... bring them over
and have double... super-twins
power like thing going.

Randy looks surprised.

RANDY
Ah... you know... good point.
Like... Gary and the rest don't
come off as stupid. So... gotta be
a reason.

CLAIRE
I mean... who'd a thought... an old
guy, university kids, a guy with a
degree in art...

Randy huffs, rolls his eyes.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

He takes a breath, pauses like he's trying to find the right
words.

RANDY
I... I don't think that Zek guy has
a degree in anything.

CLAIRE
You... could sense his feelings
like... on the other side?

RANDY
No! No. Not here. Just a gut
feeling. I mean... come on... art?

Claire looks confused.

CLAIRE
Why... why lie?

RANDY
Wants to make himself look
important. I mean... who doesn't.
He's human. Like the rest of us.
Like... we're doing something with
our lives.

CLAIRE
And what was with that... that
Boomer guy and you?

RANDY
Him... I could feel.

CLAIRE
And what was it.

Randy stairs straight ahead. Eyes narrowed.

RANDY
Hatred. I've never felt like that
towards anyone my whole life.

EXT. OUTSIDE DORMATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Randy stops the car in front of the dorm.

A group of ladies walk to the dorm from the other side of
the street. They see Randy in the driver's seat, window
down, arm half-hanging on the ledge. Claire gets out.

One of the ladies veers towards him.

He catches her. Smiles and waves.

She and the others wave back.

He looks towards Claire, who's already heading to the front
doors. Drives off.

The group heads to the front door also.

YOUNG LADY 2
A... hey!

Claire stops and turns.

YOUNG LADY 2 (CONT'D)
Wasn't that... Randy Martinez? One
of our quarterbacks?

All eyes are on her. She's uncomfortable. Thinks about what
to say.

CLAIRE
Ah... yeah. He's a friend of...
mine. Ha ha.

YOUNG LADY 3
You getting any benes?

Claire's eyes widen in fear.

Looks over all the ladies. They appear to hang on her next words. Like they want to listen to her.

Her eyes relent.

CLAIRE

Ah...

(smiling)

Better not say. You know.

She turns and walks off. Gentle smirk on her face.

INT. ALT-EARTH OFFICE - NIGHT

Polaris stands in front of a large window overlooking the ocean. Wears his coat and cowl. Arms behind his back.

The door into the office opens. A woman walks in.

WOMAN

You needed me?

Polaris half turns. Points at a table.

On the table is the comp tablet Picus once held.

The woman goes there. Sits down in adjacent chair. Gets comfortable.

She places a hand over the tablet. Her fingers sink into it, as if the device were made of pudding.

Her unblinking eyes look straight ahead. They go dark, then turn the color of a static filled TV screen mixed with ones and zeroes.

As Polaris moves towards a seat at the other end of the room...

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Images of various men and women...

familiars... various notes...

data... innocuous messages...

Polaris plops down in the chair.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Some unflattering comments about

you...

The statement gets no response from him.

The woman's eyes grow wide.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Interesting...

Polaris removes his cowl. He looks just like Claire's teacher Adrian, save much shorter hair and slight beard.

POLARIS

Do tell.

FADE OUT.