

COLD OPEN

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A large crowd of high school students and parents take their seats while hip-hop plays over the loud speakers. The stage is dimly lit except for a banner across the back curtain that reads in graffiti letters: "Brockton High Poetry Slam"

CHARLIE KNIGHT, A skinny tattooed, middle aged man walks into the theater with his wife HOPE KNIGHT, a middle aged tattooed woman who is pretty, but in a mean way. Their daughter BETH KNIGHT, a plucky but tough teen girl is proudly by their side, not embarrassed to be with her parents.

Parents, teachers and kids notice them walking in and start applauding and shouting. Charlie and family wave, and smile as they make their way down to their seats. They shake hands, high-five, sign autographs and take selfies with the crowd, all without stopping. FAN #1 approaches Charlie. He is a teen boy who is covered in ant bites and has a cast on his arm. He holds a Sharpie between his fingers.

FAN #1

Charlie Knight! Will you sign my cast?

Charlie takes the pen and signs the cast, with a signature that includes a hint of male anatomy.

CHARLIE

Jumped off a roof, onto a picnic table, covered in ants?

FAN #1

(surprised)

Yeah, but I forgot to hit record.

CHARLIE

You need a partner in crime. (looks at Hope) See that bombshell blonde with two big (looks towards fan) hearts. She was my first cam girl...camera girl...Camera Wo-man. Find yours!

FAN #1

That's a little hetero-normative, but I think I get it.

The Knight family finds their seats up front. Charlie is looking up at the empty stage, scanning it for his son AARON KNIGHT.

INT. AUDITORIUM BACK STAGE

Aaron, a 15 year old skinny teen with glasses peaks through the wings, to check out the crowd. His best friend GREG SMITH a charismatic skinny 15 year old Black teen stands next to Aaron, looking out too.

AARON

Dude, I wish they didn't come.

GREG

I get it but they are the reason this place is packed. Look even Ebony Wilson is here.

Aaron frantically looks across the auditorium till he sees a 17 year old beautiful girl wearing tomboy casual clothes. She is laughing with a group of friends, and a boy beside her, puts his arm around her. She snuggles up to him, he whispers in her ear, and then she throws his arm off her.

AARON

(whispering)Ebony Wilson

Aaron's face is a mixture of pain, and longing, but doesn't look like either.

GREG

Your making the face aren't you?

AARON

What? No. Shut up.

We see Ebony walk up to Charlie and Hope to get their autograph.

AARON (CONT'D)

See, everyone is here to see them and not us!

GREG

Don't sweat it A.K. At least your parents are here.

AARON

Dad working on a case?

GREG

When is he not. I'd have better
luck seeing him if I robbed a bank!

AARON

Or a Chili's.

GREG

Facts.

The MASTER OF CEREMONIES steps up next to them, nods to both of them. The music swells.

INT. AUDITORIUM

The MC steps on stage and heads to the mic. The audience begins to shout and applaud.

MC

Hey Brockton High, are we in here!?

The crowd erupts with applause and shouts.

MC (CONT'D)

That's what I am talking about!
Welcome to the Brockton High Poetry
Slam. We have some wonderful poets
that are waiting in the wings, but
I did want to take a moment to
thank some distinguished guests in
attendance.

The MC finds the seated Knights and motions to them. We see Charlie is all smiles, waving to the crowd as they shout and applaud. Hope and Beth wave too, but don't get the applause that Charlie does.

MC (CONT'D)

Tonight's show is streaming live,
so we world wide Ya'll. So make
some noise for your first poet,
Aaron Knight!

Aaron heads to the mic to applause. Charlie looks at Beth, who nods to him. She gets up, grabs her bag, and sneaks out of the isle through the applause. She heads through a door on the side of the stage, that says "Backstage." Aaron makes his way to the mic. His head is up, but so are his shoulders. The applause dies down.

AARON

Hi. I'm Aaron Knight.

CHARLIE

We know! You got this bro!

AARON

I am going to perform an original piece today.

Aaron rubs his fingers together nervously as he contemplates his next word. Aaron scans the audience to find Ebony. She's not paying attention texting on her phone.

INT. AUDITORIUM BACK STAGE

Beth is now back stage. She puts down her bag and takes a pie out of a box. Greg can see it from the other wing, and tries to signal something by making a wide eyed face. Aaron nervously looks back at Greg but can't process anything he is doing and nervously mirrors his wide eyed look. Greg goes back inside to the wing. He has to make it to the other side to stop what is happening.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Hope shouts out from the crowd.

HOPE

What's it called baby?

AARON

It is called "On My Own."

Aaron closes his eyes for a moment and his shoulders drop, with the music. Aaron begins with accompanying intense music and immediately we are sucked in. He grabs everyone's attention, including Ebony, from the first word.

AARON (CONT'D)

(Powerful)

I am acquainted with the night! I won't see the light until I am on my own.

Greg is moving quickly backstage but trying to not make any noise.

AARON (CONT'D)

When will I know I can fly on my own. Scared to try. Scared to die. On my own. Who am I...

Beth has quickly made her way on stage with the pie. Charlie pulls out his phone, to film, he is filled with joy about the prank that is about to be pulled. Greg finally makes it to the stage left wing, but isn't able to stop Beth.

AARON

On my own? I am....

Beth holds the pie like she is going to hit him in the face with it. Aaron sees this, is surprised, puts his hand up to protect his face. She doesn't hit him in the face, but in the crotch. Aaron reacts to getting hit in the crotch. Beth quickly moves to the mic.

BETH

Sorry Charlie!

The crowd erupts in laughter and applause, we see Ebony laughing too. Charlie is beside himself laughing to tear. Beth runs off the stage in delinquent joy. Hope smacks Charlie in the crotch, and he makes the same face as Aaron.

The freeze frame of Charlie and Aaron's faces are now side by side. And we pull out from the image, and see that it is a screen on the set of TMZ.

INT. TMZ STUDIO

HARVEY LEVIN is standing next to a giant monitor with the frozen faces of Charlie and Aaron.

HARVEY

Like father, like son. It seems
Aaron Knight is the latest victim
of his father's prank show "Sorry
Charlie."

TITLE CARD

Punk music starts and drives the energy of the montage that shows the stunts and pranks that Charlie has performed through his life. A young Charlie has a oversized pie strapped to his back, full of firecrackers. His friends light it and it explodes, Charlie falls down in pain but also laughing.

From his first prank to his own show, spin off's and now a world wide success. It shows the birth of the kids, their first pranks, and how they have joined the show. The montage ends with the title "Sorry Charlie" across the screen.

ACT I

INT. HOSPITAL DOCTOR'S OFFICE LOBBY

A television is on in a doctor's office lobby. Patients are strewn about the room, looking at magazines, on their phones, and a few are watching the television. We can hear the sound of the television as Harvey comes back on the screen.

HARVEY

Some are wondering if this isn't a joke anymore, and for what? To inflate the aging pranksters ratings? Maybe someone should call CPS. Next up, Nancy Kardashian the disgraced twin they hid from the world is now out of rehab and you won't believe her new look.

Charlie signing in at the receptionist desk receives a look of disapproval.

RECEPTIONIST

(looking at his signature) Charlie Knight! The Charlie Knight! Your like...father of the year right!

Charlie turns around and finds a seat. We see the receptionist make an even more disgusted look as he walks away. Charlie sits down addresses the television while he is on the phone with Hope, talking loud enough for everyone to hear.

CHARLIE

It was a prank! Nobody can take a joke anymore. (Looking back at the Receptionist)

The whole waiting room is staring in disapproval. Except one guy who give him a thumbs up.

HOPE (O.C.)

Charlie, this is serious! Numbers are dropping.

CHARLIE

Numbers? I have four teen choice awards, two barf badges, and a boner award! Not to mention my bank account numbers.

INT. CAR

Hope is in her car, on the handsfree phone. She rolls her eyes.

HOPE
Our bank account Charlie!

INT. HOSPITAL DOCTOR'S OFFICE LOBBY

CHARLIE
I didn't do all that to be called a bad dad on national television.

HOPE
Charlie. It's time to look at how we are doing things and make a change.

CHARLIE
What? Why would I change what I am doing, it is the world that is messed up, not me. I never thought I'd be the one saying this but They're all snowflakes.

HOPE (O.C.)
If they come for our show, then they've come for our wallets.

Charlie looks up and notices a woman with a purple pixie haircut wearing all black staring at him intensely. Charlie starts making childish faces at the woman. She glares at him then reaches in her purse. The RECEPTIONIST interrupts.

RECEPTIONIST
Jamie Spears... I mean Charlie Knight, the doctor will see you now.

Charlie jumps up anxiously and it is revealed that he is already in a hospital gown and it is untied in the back.

CHARLIE
(to Receptionist)
Thank god, I don't feel safe back here with the manic pixie dream girl.

The woman watches as Charlie goes back to an exam room, and his bare butt is exposed. She pulls out her cell phone and snaps a photo.

INT. EXAM ROOM

The exam room is decorated with medical posters and anatomic models. Charlie sits down on the noisy paper of the exam table, still talking to Hope on the phone.

CHARLIE

Why do I have to be here, nothing hurts too bad.

HOPE (O.C.)

For the insurance company. No exam, no season 7.

Charlie picks up a model of the human stomach. He holds it up to his to compare sizes, and nods.

CHARLIE

(to his stomach)

7, wow, I couldn't have done the first six without you.

HOPE (O.S.)

Charlie? Who is this? What have you done with my husband...

CHARLIE

I'm serious I would die with out you and your cute little belly button.

HOPE

Well I have been on the peloton a bunch lately.

There is a knock at the door, as an African American female doctor DOCTOR WILLIAMS comes in the room. Charlie puts the stomach model under his robe, hiding it from the doctor.

CHARLIE

Doctor is here, babe. I gotta go.

Charlie hangs up the phone while Hope is still trying to talk to him. We see Hope in the car.

INT. CAR

HOPE

Charlie wait I..

The call ends. We immediately see another call come in from "Bank".

HOPE (CONT'D)
 God help me.

Hope sends the call to voicemail rolling her eyes. Hope exits the luxury vehicle holding a luxury purse and marching across the parking lot wearing luxury heels.

INT. EXAM ROOM

CHARLIE
 Hey doc.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
 Good morning Mr. Knight. Let's make this quick.

Doctor Williams looks for agreement from Charlie. Charlie excessively nods in approval.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 How are you feeling today?

CHARLIE
 Well, doc, I'm...

Charlie holds onto his stomach. The doctor is concerned.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
 What! What is it?

CHARLIE
 It's nothing I cant handle

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
 Please Mr. Knight just tell me.

CHARLIE
 I have been having stomach problems.

He holds onto the model under his gown, like he is pregnant.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I feel it kicking. I think it is going to be a girl. I'll name her Karen, because she is a pain in my... Ahhh! She's crowning!

Charlie gives "birth" to the stomach model, holds it in is arms and kisses it, beaming with pride at the "baby" and his joke. Doctor Williams tries to act unimpressed as she holds back a roll-your-eyes smile.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
Let's go over your medical history.

CHARLIE (LAUGHING)
Come on Doc... That was good. I
know your job is stressful enough?

Doctor Williams doesn't answer.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
So your most recent break was your
right fibula?

Charlie shakes his head in disbelief

CHARLIE
I know people think I'm an idiot.
And I am, but I'm smart too.

Doctor Williams breaks a smile.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
Your an idiot and your smart?

CHARLIE
Yeah. Idart...no Smidiot.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
I think I can prescribe something
for that.

CHARLIE
Good cause I know its contagious.
I'm smart enough to act like an
idiot, making everybody laugh, and
you might not know this Doc but
that releases dopamine and
oxycodone to the brain.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
That's more idiot than smart for
two reasons. One, its Oxytocin and
two, your son isn't laughing.

Charlie is visibly upset.

CHARLIE
Your wrong, it was my left...
fibula.

Doctor Williams looks disappointed

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
And before that you broke...

CHARLIE
My leg, arm, well...both legs,
arm's, this one was Phoenix. This
was in Jersey, nothing's good in
Jersey. This was in Kennebunkport,
with a couple of Pomeranians.

Charlie points to each injury as he talks about it.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
And the burns?

Doctor Williams begins the exam as Charlie talks.

CHARLIE
Burns, from gravel, this was from a
blow torch. This scar was a
piranha. I also got Lead poisoning,
Mercury poisoning, Mars
poisoning...

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
Mars poisoning?

CHARLIE
I ate four pounds of Mars bars
causing gastroperalisy.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
Please don't do that anymore.

CHARLIE
Hershey's paid me to do it.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
And how much of that went to
medical bills?

CHARLIE
Exactly! Your pockets are greased
too. Are we done here?

DOCTOR WILLIAMS
Okay, everything is looking normal.
Well, wait a minute.

Doctor Williams takes an extra moment to look at something on
Charlie's neck. It is a small lump, that intrigues the
doctor. She touches it lightly, and Charlie winces.

CHARLIE

Damn it doc.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS

Did you recently hit your neck?

CHARLIE

Define recent.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS

I would like to get this checked out. We can run some tests. There isn't any bruising, so it worries me.

Charlie has a new sense of joy about him.

CHARLIE

You know doc, that really hurt. Any chance I can get a prescription for the pain.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS

Something tells me that's a white lie.

CHARLIE

You willing to risk my safety. I could pass out on the way home from the sheer pain alone. Don't be a smidiot.

Doctor Williams doesn't laugh at his joke.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS

Mr. Knight, I don't know what this is, but it could be serious, but I'm non prescribing anything until we run some tests.

Charlie looks disappointed, but accepts the answer.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

You can get dressed.

CHARLIE

I brought this from home.

DOCTOR WILLIAMS

Of course you did. Bye, Mr. Knight.

Doctor Williams is not amused.

INT. TELEVISION NETWORK HEADQUARTERS

A group of male executives are sitting around a modern conference table, with monitors on each of the walls. Hope Knight sits in the midst of all of it. She looks powerful and ready to get to business. Exec #1 is a silver fox, who looks like he could be president. Exec #2 has a receding hairline with a ponytail, glasses and Birkenstocks.

HOPE

We have most of the season mapped out, and can open with the poetry slam because there is so much buzz around it.

EXEC #1

That is what we wanted to talk to you about. There is some backlash about the pie to the crotch.

EXEC #2

Hope, the landscape is changing. We are going to honor the contract for this last season, but we need to have no more stunts with the kids.

EXEC #1

We are picking up a new show. Have you heard of the Woke Colon Brothers? We would like to have the last episode of this season be sort of a passing of the baton.

HOPE

Since when do you all fold to social pressure? Look I didn't like what Charlie and Beth did, but that is family business. I will take care of that privately.

EXEC #2

But that is the thing Hope, your family is part of the public. We are not saying we want to cancel the season but we will need some sort of apology statement. They are threatening to protest the network. Marketing is working on it now.

HOPE

Charlie isn't going to go for that.

EXEC #1

If he doesn't there won't be a seventh season.

HOPE

Well good luck. We will shoot the season, and I can work on Charlie, but if he doesn't want to apologize then you will have to deal with it.

EXEC #2

I hate to say this but he is replaceable Hope.

HOPE

You can't replace genius.

EXEC #1

He hits people with pies and jumps off roofs.

EXEC #2

Look, if the public sentiment changes, then maybe we can figure something else out. And, to change gears a little bit, We want Charlie, you, and the kids to know how much we appreciate the creative partnership.

HOPE

If you did, you wouldn't be doing this.

Hope gets up and storms out of the office. The execs look at each other. One turns on the clip of Aaron getting hit. They all laugh.

EXEC #1

I mean it is comedy gold.

EXEC #2

Too bad the kid looks miserable

Execs look at each other with a shared idea

EXEC #1

Could we super impose a smile on his face?

EXEC #2

Now that's genius. If the kids smiling its not abuse.

A TECH PERSON with an iPad, sitting next to the wall, looks up.

TECH PERSON

We can try.

The frame of Aaron grimacing is frozen on the screens in the room. We see his frowning mouth, pop out, turn upside down, in a strange Joker smile.

EXEC #1

Nope. We were wrong. Burn that.
Never do that again.

INT.BROKTON HIGH SCHOOL - BOY'S LOCKERROOM

Boys are changing into their P.E. gear. This is not a room full of jocks, it is nerds out of their natural environment. Aaron is finishing putting on his shirt, while Greg, holding his laptop open in his hands, is looking at his laptop.

GREG

Here it is, I told you.

Greg shows the screen to Aaron, as Aaron pulls up his shorts. The screen says "Sorry Charlie, You're Cancelled." and shows graphics that have Charlie's picture, crossed out, in all different scenarios. As the screen rolls down, Aaron sees his picture, and above it reads, "Emancipate Aaron."

AARON

Emancipate?

GREG

They mean Divorcing your parents.
Look Drew Barrymore did it,
Macaulay Culkin did it.

AARON

Who?

GREG

50 First Dates and Home Alone.
Doesn't your family have movie
nights?

AARON

We have Sorry Charlie season
marathons.

GREG

Yikes.

COACH COLLINS, a middle-aged male in polyester shorts, enters and looks at the boys with mild disapproval.

COACH COLLINS

Boys. Is that a racquet in your hand?

GREG

By racquet do you mean over priced laptop made by child slaves in china?

COACH COLLINS

Smith...

GREG

Yes Coach

COACH COLLINS

Im sorry for what my people did to your people.

GREG

What?

Aaron hands the laptop to Greg and picks up the racquet that was sitting next to him. Greg, puts his laptop in his locker, and pulls out a racquet.

AARON

Here, coach.

COACH COLLINS

Let's get out there and hit our shuttle cocks around.

The boys get shuffled out of the locker room.

INT. BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL - GYM

The gym is full of students all dressed the same. There are Badminton nets setup up in the gym and kids are playing. We quickly see that they are trying hard, but not very athletic. We see that most students have physical or mental disabilities. Everyone is having a great time, the gym is full of laughter and children running after shuttle cocks. Aaron and Greg are on one of the courts, playing STEVIE and SALLY, both children with intellectual disabilities.

AARON
That's a point for you guys.

SALLY
I'm a girl.

AARON
Sorry Sally, my bad. You two are up
one point.

Sally and Stevie both do air pumps. Greg and Aaron smile, and Greg serves. As the game continues on, Aaron and Greg finish their conversation.

GREG
If you did it, you'd be on your own
like you wanted.

AARON
I mean, where would I live? I don't
even know where my money is, from
the show.

Greg runs to continue the volley

GREG
You can stay in my room. I'm sure
my Dad wouldn't even know you were
there.

AARON
Ouch. So I'd be in hiding?

GREG
Like Ann Frank! Shoot you already
have a diary.

AARON
Its a poetry Journal

GREG
It's a diary.

AARON
Well if Im Ann Frank, that would
make my Dad...

STEVIE
Hit...the birdie

Aaron runs to continue the volley

GREG

That would make your dad a crazy white man... That's what my mom calls him.

AARON

Your mom is still pissed that I sprayed all that aerosol deodorant all over your room.

GREG

Yeah, cause Artic blast just isn't our scent. We're more Tropical mist.

Stevie and Sally cheer in the background.

AARON

It all sounds kinda crazy.

GREG

Says the son of Charlie Knight.

SALLY

Crazy white man.

GREG

(serving)

No Sally, its pronounced Florida Man.

SALLY

Aarons, Florida Man.

AARON

It's not me Sally, my dad is.

STEVIE

Is it cause he isn't nice to you?

AARON

Yeah, Stevie. But it will be okay.

STEVIE

No...no, that sucks.

Sally covers her mouth in shock at what Stevie said.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

It does suck. His dad wont play with him.

Sally goes wide eyed.

GREG

Stevie's right. Aaron is an untouchable. He doesn't have any friends. No guy friends or girl friends.

SALLY

I'll be your friend.

STEVIE

Guy friend or girl friend?

SALLY

Im a girl.

GREG

Oh you heard it Stevie. Aaron and Sally sitting in a tree!

They all laugh and it is very good natured. The Counselor walks into the gym and up to the game that the four are playing.

COUNSELOR

Hey everyone. Who's winning?

GREG

Team Turbo.

STEVIE & SALLY

(victorious)

Team Turbo!

COUNSELOR

Good job, you guys!

SALLY

(points to chest)

I'm a girl.

COUNSELOR

Oh sorry, I know that. I just meant...sorry. I know you are a girl Sally.

STEVIE

I'm a guy, so it's okay for me.

COUNSELOR

Aaron, can I talk to you a second. It will just take a minute.

GREG
(to Stevie and Sally)
Water break?

The three shuffle off the court toward the water fountains.

COUNSELOR
Aaron, I wanted to know if you
wanted to talk about the poetry
slam?

AARON
I appreciate it, but no thanks.

COUNSELOR
(conspiratorial)
Do you feel like you are in danger?

AARON
No, not exactly. No. Why?

COUNSELOR
Well I studied psychology while I
was in the army so I know a thing
or two about being pinned down
across enemy lines, having to dig a
fox hole with your bare hands just
praying you wouldn't get...
(realizing she's scaring Aaron)
pied. If you feel like you are in
danger you can tell me, and we can
help get you to a safe house.

AARON
If I feel like I am in danger, can
I call you?

COUNSELOR
They can trace calls? Do you know
Morse Code?

AARON
uh. No.

COUNSELOR
(tapping on her hand)
Alpha..Bravo..

AARON
Charlie?

Stevie, Sally and Greg are making their way back.

COUNSELOR
(conspiratorial)
Exactly! This is big. One mission
could take the whole operation
down. You give the word.

AARON
No. Look I will come talk to you
okay, I just don't want to talk
about this in front of my friends.

SALLY
Team Turbo is hydrated.

STEVIE
4 to 3 Team Turbo!

AARON
It is your serve Sally.

The Counselor getting the hint steps off the court, and heads
back toward the door.

COUNSELOR
Just think about it Aaron.

SALLY (O.C)
Serve!

The shuttle cock hits Aaron lightly in the face.

STEVIE
5 up!

Aaron picks up the shuttle cock, to serve.

AARON
I'm coming for you Stevie!

Aaron serves, hard, but the shuttle gently floats over the
net, and Team Turbo returns the serve, Greg misses it. They
all laugh. Aaron looks back at the counselor as the door
shuts behind her.

SALLY
You in trouble?

Aaron nervously fidgets with his fingers.

AARON
I don't know Sally.

STEVIE

If you're in trouble, just cry.
They'll give you a jolly rancher.

Stevie mimics pleading and crying.

GREG

That would work on me. Okay, we are
coming back. Serve!

Aaron and Greg turn their attention back to the game, and
having fun.

INT. HOSPITAL PHARMACY

Charlie is back at reception to schedule his tests.

RECEPTIONIST

When are you free in December?

CHARLIE

I don't know what I am doing in 5
minutes. Can my wife just call you?

Receptionist rolls her eyes. She hands him a clipboard to
sign some papers, and he grabs a pen from the counter
attached by a chain to the desk. A television is still on,
now playing TMZ.

HARVEY

We just got an update from an
insider and it looks like this will
be the last season of Sorry
Charlie.

CHARLIE

What the...!?

As Charlie reacts to the television, he accidentally pulls
the pen off it's chain. In a chain reaction, it wrecks the
receptionist desk, displacing files, knocking over a water,
pulls the keyboard off the desk.

HARVEY

The network said that they were
planning on cancelling the show all
together, but Charlie Knight, the
show's star, released this apology.

A title key pops up with the written version of the apology,
and Harvey reads it. Charlie interjects throughout the
reading.

HARVEY (CONT'D)

First off, I want to thank all my fans for their continued support. I want to apologize for my actions, and any harm I caused when my son got pied in the crotch. While I didn't throw the pie, I did orchestrate it, and after some reflection, I realize I was wrong. I will take this lesson with me the rest of my life, and my son and I have discussed this at length. With his forgiveness, and the continued love and support of my family and fans, we are looking forward to the best season of Sorry Charlie, starting September 10th on all major platforms.

CHARLIE

I would never give a large sack of sorries on TV! You've got to be kidding me!

Charlie, still holding the pen, turns to the receptionist.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Do you think I would ever say that crap?

RECEPTIONIST

Accountability? From you? You have yet to acknowledge what you did to my desk.

Charlie just now notices.

CHARLIE

I'm keeping the pen.

I/E. TELEVISION NETWORK HEADQUARTERS

A taxi pulls up to the Television Network Headquarters parking lot. Charlie gets out, we see his gown, his footie socks, and his pen still on the chain. He is indignant, and clicks the pen to match his rage. There is a small protest outside the building with signs that say "Sorry Charlie, You're Cancelled." He pushes his way past and into the building. He storms past a receptionist, past security and into the board room. The COLON BROTHERS, a young set of twins, dressed like Pete Davidson from SNL, are sitting with the executives, and look bored.

Charlie busts in and they are surprised, but overjoyed. The executives are startled. We can see the protesters outside the windows of the board room.

TIMMY COLON
Holy Crap, Charlie Knight! Yo!
Homage bro.

JIMMY COLON
The O.G.! Diggin the threads.

CHARLIE
(to Colon Brothers)
Shut up you pre-pubescent wannabes.
(to executives)
You want to take everything away
from me?

EXEC #1
Charlie, calm down. Did you not
talk to Hope?

CHARLIE
She knows about this?

EXEC #2
We had a meeting this morning. This
was all part of keeping the show on
the air for another season. There
are protesters outside, we are
doing everything we can to keep
your show on, Charlie!

CHARLIE
But you guys made me look like a
snowflake! I didn't apologize,
because I didn't do anything wrong.
It was a joke!

TIMMY COLON
(pointing outside to the
protesters)
Sorry Charlie. Get woke.

Charlie launches at Timmy Colon. Execs get up to restrain him
Jimmy Colon is filming it.

JIMMY COLON
For the gram! Get him Charlie.

TIMMY COLON
Yeah get at me bro!

The executives, and now security subdue Charlie. He calms down and shrugs off their hold.

EXEC #1

Charlie, I don't know if you have met the Colon Brothers, Timmy and Jimmy. You will be working with them this season, so you are going to have to calm down.

CHARLIE

These baby rectums?

Charlie turns and puts his fist in the nearest monitor. He then tries to pull it off the wall. Putting his full weight on it, but it doesn't budge. Security stops him and now gets him on the ground.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Get off me!

EXEC #1

Get him out of here. We are done. Charlie you are in breach of contract by this display.

EXEC #2

This is a real shame Charlie.

JIMMY COLON

(Live streaming)

Charlie Knight just tried to fight Timmy!

TIMMY COLON

(Live Streaming)

Thanks for the show, Boomer!

The monitor finally falls on the floor with sparks shooting out.

EXT. TELEVISION NETWORK HEADQUARTERS PARKING LOT

Charlie is removed from the building and thrown down by his car. The protesters are held back from him. He yells as he is getting removed from the building.

CHARLIE

Good luck! You're nothing without my show! I'm going to do my own show, my own way! You'll be begging me to come back.

He finally stops yelling as he is on his hands and knees. He breathes, trying to catch his breath. He flips the building off, and the people coming in and out of the building. Passersby and protesters react accordingly. Charlie gets his phone out, and orders an Uber. The crowd is yelling at him. Uber Black says that there is a thirty minute wait. He looks up and sees a Byrd scooter. He unlocks it and as he is leaving flips off the protesters.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Cancel this!

ACT II

EXT. KNIGHT HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Charlie is in his back yard with his new crew, they are not professional at all. One is looking into the lens of the camera. The sound guy drops the mic in the dirt, picks it up off the ground, and dusts it off.

CHARLIE

Alright guys, this is our chance to prove them all wrong. This is our chance to show them something they have never seen before, like a...like a...something new.

The crew cheers and drops a light.

CREW MEMBER

What you wanna do, jump off your roof or something? That would be awesome.

The whole crew loves this idea.

CHARLIE

No more roofs! Come check this out, I got something I've been working on.

The crew follows Charlie.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOME - LATER

The rest of the second act is shot in a different style than the first. It is now shot as a reality show, from the perspective of the crew that Charlie hired. There are name keys, strait-to-camera interviews, etc.

Aaron is walking down the sidewalk, from school, up to the house, and before he makes it to his house, he reaches into a bush that is on the way, in a neighbors yard, and pulls out a football helmet and puts it on, sees the camera, and is surprised.

INT. REALITY SHOW INTERVIEW ROOM

Aaron is dressed nicer, has longer hair, and is giving an interview for a reality show. He is more grown up and on his own.

AARON

(to camera)

I know it may seem weird, but a helmet is necessary in my house, and any I find, my dad hides. So I hide them too.

Montage: Shots of his hidden safety gear all over the neighborhood. In bushes, gutters, under cars, etc.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOME

Back to the neighborhood street, Aaron walks up to his lawn, and a pie hits him in the helmet. Charlie reveals himself and crew, laughing. Aaron has no reaction at all.

CHARLIE

Come on, Aaron. That was hilarious.

AARON

Nothing new, dad.

Aaron, goes inside. Charlie, flabbergasted, turns to his crew.

CREW MEMBER

Wanna try the roof?

CHARLIE

(to the crew, frustrated)

Yeah, do whatever you want.

(to the closed front door)

Aaron!

Charlie follows Aaron into the house. The crew shuffles around for a moment, one brings a ladder into frame, and they cheer and get excited.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOME

Aaron is sitting in his room, looking at the Emancipation Website, listening to sad emo music. Charlie comes in the room. One of the camera operators follows Charlie into Aaron's room. Through the conversation we can hear people on the roof. Aaron quickly shuts his laptop. Charlie grabs for it, but Aaron pulls it away and puts it out of Charlie's reach.

CHARLIE

(to Camera)

My son is watching adult content,
and becoming a man. What are you
into, I bet whoever it is looks
like your mom.

AARON

Stop it. Get out.

CHARLIE

Look Edgar Allen Poe, I wasn't
trying to interrupt anything
important, but what was that out
there?

AARON

Not right now, dad.

CHARLIE

It's a prank, for the show.

AARON

It's childish. Make Beth do it, she
loves this stuff.

CHARLIE

Get up we are doing a reshoot, this
is how we keep the lights on.

AARON

I don't want to.

CHARLIE

God, you piss me off sometimes. I
love you, but damn, dude.

AARON

I know but...

CHARLIE

What?

AARON

If you loved me you would leave me
alone, sometimes.

CHARLIE

God, dude, what is going on with
you?

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Love is not leaving you alone.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Love is a baseball bat to the sack.
Love is ants in your mouth to buy a
house. Love is faithful. Love is
kind. Love is Hope. Beth. Me...your
Uncle Chomp.

Charlie starts looking around the room, and picks up things,
and adds them to the poem.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Love is this Decemberist poster.
Love is this pair shoes, and this
pair and this pair, and this pair.

AARON

God, you are so emotionally
stunted. Just because you have
money doesn't mean you can do
whatever you want. Grow up!

CHARLIE

So you aren't going to reshoot?

AARON

No.

Through the window we see a camera person on the roof, slip
and, go flying past the window. Charlie and Aaron move to the
window to see.

CHARLIE

God damn it. They aren't insured.

Charlie rushes out of the room. The camera man stays. There
is an awkward moment between Aaron and the camera man, who
realizes he should have followed Charlie. The camera man
rushed out of the room, trips, and cries out.

EXT. CHOMP'S GARDEN

We see a lush garden filled with plants every color of the
rainbow. They are being misted lightly, some are covered, and
some in full sun. A master gardener's garden. Charlie
stumbles into the shot and burps. He meanders down a path,
looking at the plants, smelling some and laughing, he is
clearly tipsy.

CHARLIE

(Yelling)

Chomp! Chomp! It's me!

INT. REALITY SHOW INTERVIEW ROOM

CHARLIE

Was I intoxicated? Yeah a little bit..All I wanted was to go to the one place I could be myself. My brother in pranks, Chomp's. He's been with me since the beginning.

EXT. CHOMP'S GARDEN

Charlie looks up from a flower and smiles really big when he sees CHOMP, a middle aged man with neck and face tattoos, who exudes calm.

CHOMP

Welcome brother.

The two men move to each other and hug. We hear Charlie's mic make a muffled noise.

CHARLIE

I am glad to see you man. Do you have some time?

CHOMP

As much as I'll ever have. These guys following you around, like the old days?

CHARLIE

Yeah, is that cool?

CHOMP

No worries. Can I get you guys anything.

CREW MEMBER

I'd love some iced tea.

CHOMP leads Charlie to a table and chairs. There is iced tea already out, and poured into two glasses. Chomp hands his to the crew member. We hear the Crew Member slurp loudly. They start and stop a few times, with the slurping bit.

CHOMP

What's up Chuck?

CHARLIE

Where do I start? I lost the show, this new crew is a bunch of misfits, there's this thing with the doctor, my kid hates me.

CHOMP
Sounds like a lot is happening.

 CHARLIE
Yeah.

 CHOMP
I'm sorry man, that sucks.

 CHARLIE
Yeah it does. What if you did this
new show with me, like the old
days?!

 CHOMP
Man.

 CHARLIE
I know you retired or whatever, but
man think of the stunts we could
do, just you and me, no executives
handcuffing us.

 CHOMP
Bro, the show is the handcuffs.

INT. REALITY SHOW INTERVIEW ROOM

Chomp addresses the camera.

 CHOMP
I knew he was drunk and probably
high. I couldn't judge him, because
he has driven me to the hospital
with multiple O.D. scares. The show
is just a life I have left behind.
And it is hard, ya know, leaving an
old life and still trying to keep
the people that mean so much to
you. But everything has a cycle,
things come things go, and if you
try to go back, it never works out,
it is just this new thing, with old
pieces.

EXT. CHOMP'S GARDEN

Charlie is stunned by this. He is truly confused.

 CHARLIE
What?

CHOMP

I am grateful for everything I have, but I'm done with "Sorry, Charlie." I'm still down with Charlie, but that stuff is done, bro.

This really upsets Charlie. He doesn't want to cry but his eyes start watering.

CHARLIE

I know it has a physical toll but..

CHOMP

Bro, that ain't nothing. I am talking about the spiritual toll. I just can't put my heart through that anymore.

CHARLIE

Oh no, not you too.

CHOMP

You are trapped doing stunts with your body, but you need to do stunts with your heart.

CHARLIE

How am I supposed to do that?

CHOMP

What are you feeling right now?

CHARLIE

(laughingly proud)

Nothing... My doc hooked me up with a 10 day script

CHOMP

No. Tell me what you feel inside.

CHARLIE

(looking for the words)

Confused.

CHOMP

Then yell that out.

CHARLIE

I'm confused!

CHOMP smiles and nods.

CHOMP

That's it.

CHARLIE

Just yell what I'm feeling?

CHOMP

Yeah. For now.

CHARLIE

I'm confused! And kinda
pissed...This is dumb!

CHOMP

All we do is dumb stuff. If you can
name it you can tame it. What are
you thinking right now?

CHARLIE

I think it's hot in here.

Charlie removes his shirt.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I think I'm too high! I think my
life might be ruined! My show was
cancelled! My son hates me... I
might be a bad dad!

Something shifts in Charlie on that last one.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm a bad dad!

Charlie keeps yelling, and walks out of the garden. The
camera crew follows as he continues to yell, walking down to
the street. One camera operator stays behind to see Chomp's
reaction.

CHOMP

He's on a journey now. I wish him
well.

CAMERA OPERATOR

Thanks' for the tea. Is that
bergamot?

CHOMP

Yeah, man. You got a good palette.

A beat. We can still hear Charlie yelling off camera.

CHOMP (CONT'D)

You should probably follow him.

CAMERA OPERATOR

Oh crap.

The camera operators starts running after Charlie.

ACT III

INT. TMZ STUDIO

We are out of the reality show of Act II, and back to single camera.

Harvey is sitting behind a desk. Camera pushes in on him as video of Charlie's breakdown begins to play with a keyframe, "Knight, Knight, Charlie"

HARVEY

Charlie Knight from Sorry Charlie, had an emotional breakdown that was pretty compelling. If you haven't seen it. Check it out.

EXT. BUSY STREET

Charlie has disrobed down to his tighty whiteys. He has made his way to a busy six lane street. He is yelling he is a bad dad, to anyone who is in the vicinity. He finds a traffic cone and starts swinging it around like a sword. Not paying attention, he steps into traffic and gets hit head over heels onto his back. The camera comes right up to his face.

CHARLIE

Did you get that?

INT. TMZ STUDIO

Back in the studio Harvey speaks.

HARVEY

The video has already surpassed YouTube and TikTok records. One wonders if Television Network made a mistake by cancelling his show.

INT. TELEVISION NETWORK HEADQUARTERS

We reveal that we have been watching the TMZ report on a television in the boardroom. Hope is back, still surrounded by men. The windows that Charlie broke are boarded up, there is a broken chair, and torn down monitor.

EXEC #2

Thanks for meeting with us. Did you like our prank?

HOPE
What prank?

EXEC #1
The one where we cancelled your
show.

Exec #1 points to an TECH PERSON in the corner, with a camera
phone.

HOPE
With these numbers, we don't need
you.

EXEC #2
We have such history, Hope. We have
created a legacy. We here at
Television Network believe your
family is the future of our
company.

EXEC #1
(to Exec #2)
You don't have to beg.
(to Hope)
The new deal is better. You would
be crazy no to take this.

HOPE
Have you met Charlie?
(looking to the contract)
It says Charlie can't ever enter
the building.

EXEC #2
We thought that would be best.

Exec 2 looks to carnage left by Charlie's rampage. They all
nod in agreement.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NEXT DAY

Hope pulls up to the hospital with Aaron and Hope. They get
out of the car, and are surrounded by protesters. Signs with
slogans that say "Emancipate Aaron," are being held up, and
there is chanting, "Sorry Charlie, You're Cancelled." They
see the Knights and quickly surrounding them. They boo Hope
and Beth, but shake Aaron's hand, patting him on the back,
showing support. It is a mirror of the opening scene, where
Aaron is the star, and not his dad. He smiles politely, and
thanks people. Security finds him and brings him past the
crowd and into the hospital with his sister and mom.

HOPE
Let's not tell your dad about this
yet. Only good news in the
hospital.

AARON
(under his breath)
This is good news.

Hope gives Aaron a look and they all head further into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Charlie wakes up in bed, he is in a full leg cast, has bandages around his ribs, and his head is almost completely covered in bandages. Hope, Beth and Aaron are in the hospital room. The window is open and we can see protesters outside, but Charlie can't. Charlie tries to speak but his bandages muffle his voice.

AARON
Hey Dad.

CHARLIE
(muffled)
Hey man, how's it going?

AARON
Better than you.

Charlie laughs and it hurts him. He winces from the pain but sits up in the bed, pulls on his bandages so he can speak better.

HOPE
Glad you are okay. People really
like what you did with the show.

AARON
Yea, you have a ton of people
outside waiting to see you. So many
fans.

Charlie gives a thumbs up, and leans to look out the window, but can't quite see. Hope throws a glare at Aaron.

HOPE
We can talk to them later. What
were you doing out there?

CHARLIE

Chomp dared me to express my emotions.

AARON

Chomp will probably lose his medical license.

CHARLIE

What medical license?

AARON

Exactly.

HOPE

Can we get you some food?

CHARLIE

Chicken fries and opioids please.

HOPE

I'll see if they can put that in a blender for you. Aaron, Beth, let's go get him something to eat.

CHARLIE

Wait, can I talk to Aaron, for a second.

Hope looks at Aaron to say he has an out if he wants to. Aaron looks at Charlie, shrugs and stays.

AARON

(to Hope)

I'm good.

(to Charlie)

What's up dad?

Beth and Hope leave.

CHARLIE

It's a teddy bear.

AARON

(playful)

Oh man, those drugs they are giving you must be good.

CHARLIE

No. No. From before. You asked me what love feels like.

AARON

It feels like a teddy bear? Okay,
I'll put that on your get well
card.

Charlie is getting tired but shakes his hands in a "no"
gesture.

CHARLIE

When I was a kid, I was alone a
lot. My parents worked so much, and
they never had time for me, but
they always bought me the best toys
and latest technology.

AARON

They had technology back then?

CHARLIE

Yeah, but none of them were
special, except a teddy bear that
Nanna gave to me when I was tiny.
He was my only friend.

AARON

(looking out the window)
Dad, this is awkward. Can we just
talk about it later.

CHARLIE

God damn it, no. You asked, now
listen. In 5th grade, my school
went on a field trip to the
happiest place on earth.

AARON

Chili's?

CHARLIE

Disney land...what, no?

AARON

I don't know. Greg always want's to
go to Chili's.

CHARLIE

I hid teddy in my backpack. That
day, I must have put my bag down
somewhere, but I lost him. He was
gone. He was my only real friend,
and I was his. I was devastated,
beside myself. I threw myself into
the log flume splash pool head
first, trying to end my life...

AARON

Wow dad... that sounds like some serious trauma.

CHARLIE

But it was only a few feet down, and the water was like an inch thick. I stood up and people were looking at me. I was soaking wet, and they started to laugh. So I did it like five more times. I started to forget about the bear. I had a concussion, but when they laughed, I felt better.

AARON

That's...that's a lot dad.

CHARLIE

When that car hit me, I didn't think about the bear or the views. I thought about you, and Beth, and your mom. And if I would still be able to make love to her after surgery.

AARON

Dad!

CHARLIE

But it's like right now, your standing right in front of me, and I can still lose you, and I don't want that.

AARON

Dad, I don't know what to say.

CHARLIE

Say what you feel.

AARON

(looking out the window
at the protesters)
I feel...obligated to say something nice to you.

CHARLIE

That's honest.

AARON

Say what you feel?

CHARLIE

I feel like a weight has been
lifted.

We focus on the catheter bag which is filling up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Holy Crap, 8 ounces! That's like a
full can!

CREDITS