The Farm League "Pilot"

Ву

Chris Todd

### COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY AFTERNOON

BRIAN ERB (18) joins his parents GREG and LINDA (mid-forties) at the kitchen table. Brian is groggy and looking unkempt.

GREG Nice of you to join the day.

BRIAN If I don't wake up now then I won't be able to take a nap later.

Brian grabs a box of cereal from on top of the fridge. An extra large bowl from the cabinet. A spoon.

He fills the bowl and sits down at the table where he pours some milk and starts eating.

> LINDA (purposeful) Your father and I have been talking.

Beat. He continues to eat.

LINDA (CONT'D) We know it's the summer but, we think it's time you got a job.

He finally looks up from his bowl.

BRIAN Am I being punished?

GREG No. You're a good kid. You just need to learn some real life responsibility.

BRIAN I could get a puppy.

LINDA Oh, let's get a puppy!

Greg makes eye contact with Linda.

GREG Same team, Linda.

He throws a NEWSPAPER to Brian.

GREG (CONT'D) There's a job fair this afternoon. I want you there. The details are in the paper.

BRIAN A job fair for what?

GREG That new baseball stadium downtown.

LINDA Minor leagues.

GREG He knows what stadium, Linda.

Linda gives Greg a look.

GREG (CONT'D) Sorry. Same team.

Brian skims through the job opportunities.

BRIAN

This doesn't sound too bad. I could be a mascot or something.

LINDA You'll make us so proud. And maybe we can talk about putting the puppy thing back on the table?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Brian is in a long line of applicants at the job fair. He is wearing jeans and a screen printed t-shirt. The other hopeful applicants are wearing appropriate business attire. KEVIN MICHAELS (late teens) is in line next to Brian.

> KEVIN Can you believe this line? I've been here for an hour.

BRIAN Me too. Almost the whole time you've been here.

KEVIN I was just trying to make small talk.

BRIAN Yeah, me too.

Beat.

KEVIN I'm here so I can earn a little extra drug money.

BRIAN Yeah, we could all use some extra money.

KEVIN Right, but mine is for drugs.

BRIAN I was pretending I didn't hear that part.

Kevin laughs at Brian's innocence. A recruiter motions to Kevin that it's his turn to interview.

KEVIN OK, man. I'm up anyway. Good luck in there.

Kevin walks toward the interview room. He looks back at Brian and mimes smoking marijuana. Brian gives him a reluctant thumbs up.

## INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Brian is across a small table from his interviewer, ANNIE. He sits back casually on his chair with his legs crossed.

> ANNIE I like your shirt.

BRIAN Oh thanks. I thought it might make me stand out.

ANNIE

It does.

Beat.

ANNIE (CONT'D) So it says here you graduated high school, and just finished your first year of college?

BRIAN That's right.

ANNIE And what do you want to do here, Brian?

BRIAN Oh I'll do anything.

ANNIE Anything in particular?

BRIAN Just something I can call a job.

ANNIE

OK.

BRIAN Maybe a mascot. I told my mom I could be a good mascot.

ANNIE

Right.

BRIAN I've been working on a dance I think the fans will love.

Brian barely lifts his arms above his shoulders before the interviewer cuts him off.

ANNIE That position has been filled.

BRIAN My mom's not going to like that.

There is a brief silence. Brian raises his arms slightly to attempt his dance again but decides better of it.

BRIAN This isn't going well is it?

Annie looks Brian in the eyes for an extended beat without saying a word. Then she looks down to write some notes. More silence.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM PARKING LOT - EVENING, DAYS LATER.

Brian is getting dropped off by his best friend JOSE (17). It's an older model car fit for a recent high school graduate.

BRIAN I don't know if I want to do this.

JOSE You don't even know what 'this' is yet.

BRIAN I know I have to wear khakis. Nothing good happens in khakis.

JOSE I rescued a baby bird while in khakis once.

BRIAN That's pretty good.

JOSE

It died.

BRIAN Thanks for the pep talk.

Beat.

JOSE No problem. Now get out there slugger. Hit one out of the park. BRIAN (overly excited) I'll swing for the fences!

JOSE I think corny baseball phrases should just be my thing.

BRIAN (mumbles to self) A swing and a miss.

JOSE What was that?

BRIAN (clearly not repeating what he said) I said thanks for the ride, man.

Brian reaches to open the door but Jose locks it at the same time. Twice in a row. Brian is less than pleased.

JOSE You're welcome. Love you.

Brian finally gets the door open and heads for the closest gate into the stadium. He's physically stopped by a serious looking security guard, WALLACE.

> BRIAN Oh it's OK. I work here.

> > WALLACE

Name?

### BRIAN

Erb, Brian.

The guard checks a list. Looks at Brian. Checks again.

WALLACE You can go in around back.

BRIAN I bet you say that to all the boys.

The guard looks upset. Brian realizes that sounds bad and not clever like he had hoped.

BRIAN

I'm sorry.

Brian takes off quickly.

INT. STADIUM WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The stadium warehouse is filled with kegs, racks of hamburger buns, and CO2 tanks but still manages to look empty and cold. Brian looks around trying to gain his bearings. Brian's manager, STACKS, is coming around the corner talking to one of his workers, WILL.

WILL

The doctor was just as surprised as I was.

STACKS You should keep that story to yourself.

BRIAN (sheepishly) Am I in the right place.

STACKS

Name?

BRIAN I'm getting that a lot today.

Beat.

BRIAN (CONT'D) Erb, Brian.

STACKS Yep. Grab a visor and an apron. Head over to the third base side.

BRIAN I was never told what I would be doing?

STACKS Oh. Well, you're grabbing a visor and an apron. Heading over to the third base side.

Will tosses a chunk of ice towards Stacks. Stacks swings the makeshift bat he's holding and crushes the ice.

STACKS (CONT'D) And then you'll be working the concession stand.

STACKS swings at another ice cube pitch.

#### INT. CONCESSION STAND - MOMENTS LATER

The concession stand is long and narrow, with 15 cash registers and matching BEER TAPS on the counter with rows of grills and fryers behind them. MARCUS (23) is in front of a crowd of new workers, all in khakis. Brian notices Kevin in the crowd and walks over to join the group.

#### MARCUS

OK listen up. This is super easy. They order chicken fingers. You push the button that says chicken fingers. They order a burger. You press the button that says burger. Pop quiz, they order an Italian sausage, you what?

### BRIAN

(eager to please) Push the button that says Italian sausage!

MARCUS No. We don't serve Italian sausage.

Brian is embarrassed and catches a cute girl, LINDSAY (19), laughing in his direction.

#### MARCUS

See how much fun we're having already?

One of the employees raises his hand to ask a question. Without words, Marcus points as if to say "ask your question."

> CALEB When do we find out how much we're getting paid?

MARCUS Let's keep the questions food service related.

## CALEB

Um. If I was to serve food for twenty hours. What would I make, after taxes?

BRIAN You wouldn't be making Italian sausages. That's for sure.

The joke does not land. With anyone.

Marcus looks at Brian as an acknowledgment that he talked, and nothing more, before finally answering the question at hand.

> MARCUS It's minimum wage.

> > CALEB

I quit.

He unceremoniously throws down his visor and exits the area.

MARCUS There's always one.

KEVIN So you've done this before?

MARCUS

No.

KEVIN Ok great. But there is always one?

MARCUS

One what?

KEVIN Yep. That's about right.

MARCUS (confused) Let's take a quick break. Mingle. Get to know each other.

Marcus takes a quick sip of beer stolen from a nearby tap. Then turns to a couple of female employees.

> BRIAN (to Kevin) Good questions out there.

KEVIN I'm trying to get inside the head of our boss.

BRIAN How's it look in there?

KEVIN It's an empty room with one dude sitting on a chair trying to figure out how to high five himself. BRIAN Pretty descriptive.

KEVIN Thanks. I took an intro to improv class.

BRIAN

And now you're here. Wasn't sure I'd see you again after the job fair.

KEVIN Surprised I could land a job? That's kind of racist.

BRIAN I'm just surprised we got the same job.

Beat.

KEVIN Tomato, tomato.

BRIAN You're actually supposed to pronounce that two different ways. Tomato, toe-mah-toe.

He shrugs.

KEVIN I'm a fry cook.

BRIAN Do fry cooks need to learn the register?

KEVIN Nope, just here taking in the scenery.

Kevin points out a cute girl, not-so-subtly.

BRIAN

Creepy.

KEVIN It's not creepy to follow a girl if she's hot. BRIAN

I'm going to learn a lot from you this summer aren't I?

KEVIN

I'm full of knowledge. And if you say I'm "full of something" under your breath then you'll lose your first work friend.

BRIAN I don't say things like that. We can be friends.

KEVIN Work friends.

BRIAN Was pretending I didn't hear that part.

KEVIN You're good at pretending huh? Want to go pretend we stole the mascot costume?

BRIAN If I thought you were being honest about your use of the word pretend, then maybe.

KEVIN Not a good start to our work friendship, but I respect the honesty. Catch you after.

### BRIAN

Be safe.

Kevin takes off and Brian stands awkwardly alone feigning interest in the cash register.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. CONCESSION STAND

Marcus is chatting with one of the female employees. She's visibly younger than him.

MARCUS I just wanted to let you know I'm here if you ever need any help.

MEGAN Isn't that something you should tell the group as a whole?

MARCUS I could, but I think you're special.

Megan walks away.

Marcus turns slightly to his left where LINDSAY is standing.

MARCUS I think you're special too.

LINDSAY I am special. Which means I'm out of your league.

MARCUS Nice use of a baseball term in a baseball stadium.

LINDSAY Told you I was special.

MARCUS We should try some more baseball terms. Maybe slide into second base?

LINDSAY That's the base where you spend a lot of money on me then go home alone because you're a gentleman and I'm a lady right?

He gives a defeated nod.

Marcus returns to his post as cashier instructor.

MARCUS And we're back, everybody. Who wants to see how to make a soft pretzel?!

BRIAN

Yeah!

Brian makes awkward eye contact with the cute girl, Lindsay, again.

MARCUS OK, we're going to need to settle you down.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin has found his way into the locker room to look for the mascot costume. There are baseball uniforms and equipment everywhere. He searches for any door that might lead to finding the mascot costume.

KEVIN If I were a mascot costume, where would I be?

He checks behind a chair that obviously doesn't have a costume behind it.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Apparently if I were a costume I would be dumb.

Kevin finds, and opens, a door that reveals the mascot costume sitting on a chair. It's a colorful cow-like creature, to match the small town's rural aesthetic.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Nice. I am definitely putting that on.

Kevin reaches for the head of the costume. The MASCOT shakes his head no, and Kevin jumps back terrified.

KEVIN (CONT'D) (out of breath) Oh my gosh, I'm sorry. I didn't know you were in there.

The mascot remains silent, but stands up.

KEVIN (CONT'D) I don't want any trouble.

The mascot gives Kevin a solid shove.

KEVIN (CONT'D) You're supposed to be lovable!

The mascot raises his hand and/or hoof in a threatening manner sending Kevin sprinting out of the room.

INT. CONCESSION STAND - CONCURRENT

Brian is with Marcus in the keg cooler. It's filled with beer kegs and CO2 tubes. There's a fog from the chill in the air.

MARCUS OK. This job is just for you. Nobody else can do this.

> BRIAN Thanks for the opportu

Oh. Thanks for the opportunity for this extra responsibility.

MARCUS It's because you're 18. Not because

you're special. I don't call people special anymore. Plus, you're not.

BRIAN

Thanks.

MARCUS

No offense.

BRIAN Only a little taken.

MARCUS Back to the kegs. It's really self explanatory.

Marcus moves at a pace that is way too fast for Brian to follow. Disconnecting tubes and moving around parts in a blur.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Got it?

BRIAN I think I can catch on. MARCUS (yelling) Yip yip yidooooo.

BRIAN

What?

MARCUS It's just something I do. It's fun. Try it.

Beat.

BRIAN I think I should have to earn that right.

MARCUS

Good call. Oh, I almost forgot. The most important part of changing the kegs is to make sure the CO2 is off before you put in the new one or you'll get beer everywhere.

BRIAN OK. How do I do that?

Stacks opens the keg room door and silently summons Marcus to come with him. Marcus leaves without saying a word.

BRIAN (CONT'D) Must've been more important than me not getting beer everywhere.

Brian leaves the cooler and looks down the hall towards the warehouse where apparently it was Marcus' turn to bat in ice cube baseball.

BRIAN (CONT'D) I was right. Super important.

CARL Are you talking to yourself?

BRIAN Yes. But not right now. Right now I'm talking to you.

Beat.

Carl stares at Brian before leaving him alone.

Marcus yells to the concession stand from his batter's position in the warehouse.

MARCUS Yo! Meeting in the warehouse!

The dozens of employees move slowly to the warehouse. Kevin meets up with Brian along the way.

BRIAN Where have you been? Having fun dancing around as a mascot?

KEVIN I don't want to talk about it.

BRIAN Sounds like you had a rough time. Maybe you should've just pretended to go.

Beat.

KEVIN I don't like your tone.

BRIAN I'll try to change my voice for you.

KEVIN Your voice is fine. Only the tone needs changing.

BRIAN I'll do my best. Do you know what this meeting is for?

### KEVIN

Maybe we get to go home now. We learned pretty much everything there is to learn about making mediocre food for the masses.

The group is milling around.

STACKS Quiet down please. You've done a great job learning today. MARCUS He means I did a great job teaching today.

STACKS I said what I said. Anyway, I think we're all ready for today's game.

BRIAN Wait, there's a game today?

MARCUS You didn't think we practiced making 150 soft pretzels for nothing did you?

BRIAN Kind of, yeah.

MARCUS

In one hour, six thousand fans will walk through those gates.

KEVIN

All of them in exactly one hour?

MARCUS

Yep. It's going to be very impressive, smart guy. Any other questions?

BRIAN

These six thousand people who can instantly walk through a gate at one time, are they able to break any other laws of physics?

MARCUS All of the laws. Yes.

STACKS

Ok, let's just focus on work people. Make work your first law of physics. But in a fun way. Like the laws of physics with chicken tenders.

JOSH (34) enters the warehouse area on the way to his office.

STACKS (CONT'D) Hey everybody. This is Josh. He's my boss, which makes him your boss. He's the worst. JOSH Thanks, Stacks. He's always so funny isn't he? I hope everything goes well for you guys today. If you need anything, my door is always open.

Josh heads into his office, promptly pulling the door shut behind him.

STACKS What a delight. Game time in one hour. Play ball!

KEVIN (to Brian) What does that mean?

BRIAN (to STACKS) What does that mean?

STACKS It means you have 45 minutes to goof around and then get back to work. It's opening day, the customers are going to be hungry.

MARCUS Yip yip yidoo!

STACKS He's not going to keep doing that.

MARCUS I probably will.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

### INT. BASEBALL STADIUM CONCOURSE

Brian is on the phone with Jose to plan out their night.

BRIAN Hey, Jose. Looks like I'm going to be here longer than I thought.

JOSE (V.O.) No problem man. Just hook me up with some free food.

BRIAN Deal. Pick me up at like 11 and I'll give you everything we got.

JOSE (V.O.) Cool. I'll get the poker chips ready for when you get here.

BRIAN Might as well get your money ready too, because it's all going to me.

Will is hovering near Brian's conversation.

JOSE (V.O.) We'll see. I happen to remember a certain set of pocket aces that took you down last time.

BRIAN (distracted) Yeah but you got lucky. On the river...hold on.

BRIAN (to Will) Can I help you with something?

WILL I need to fill up the ketchup.

BRIAN

OK.

WILL You're standing in front of it. BRIAN I'm sorry. I'll get out of your way.

WILL Thanks, because I have to fill the mustard too.

BRIAN I'm moving.

WILL And the mayo.

BRIAN I'm gone. Hey Jose, I'll see you later. I got to go.

JOSE (V.O.) Word. Later, bro.

Brian puts his phone in his pocket and walks away from the area.

WILL All of the condiments.

INT. CONCESSION STAND - GAME TIME

Brian and the rest of the concession staff are at their cash registers and cooking stations ready for the first customers to arrive. Food under heat lamps. Sizzling grease is everywhere.

> BRIAN This is it. This is having a job. This is adulthood.

> KEVIN I just tried to deep fry some ice cubes.

BRIAN How'd that go?

KEVIN Very quickly.

MARCUS Ladies and gentlemen. It's go time. Gates are open. Let me know if you need anything! A customer approaches Brian's register.

BRIAN Hi, how can I help you?

CUSTOMER 1 Yes. I'm very hungry.

BRIAN This is a great place for that. What can I get you?

CUSTOMER 1 Hmm. Do you have fries?

BRIAN Yes we do. Would you like an order of them?

CUSTOMER 1

Umm. No.

Beat.

BRIAN Maybe a hot dog or other classic baseball game fare?

The customer continues surveying the menu above.

CUSTOMER 1 I'm going to need some more time.

## CUT TO:

Brian grabs some fries from under a heat lamp. He hands them to the customer.

BRIAN Here you go. Fresh out of the fryer.

The customer tries one.

CUSTOMER 2 These are cold.

BRIAN I'm so sorry. I'll get another one for you right away. Brian grabs another cup of fries from underneath the heat lamps. The customer tries one.

CUSTOMER 2 These are cold too.

BRIAN I am so sorry. Kevin, I need some hot fries.

KEVIN Don't tell me how to do my job.

BRIAN Just need some fries.

KEVIN Anything for you, boss.

Kevin pulls some french fries straight from the deep fryer and into the fry container. Brian delivers them right to the customer.

> CUSTOMER 2 These are still too cold.

BRIAN We can't make them any hotter.

CUSTOMER 2 Oh I'm sorry, I meant that they're too salty.

CUT TO:

A new customer stand silently in front of Brian.

BRIAN How can I help you, sir?

CUSTOMER 3 just holds out his hand with a tooth in it.

BRIAN Oh my gosh. Was that in your burger?

CUSTOMER 3

It's mine.

BRIAN Was it the food that did this? CUSTOMER 3 I just want my tooth back.

BRIAN I can give you a new burger.

CUSTOMER 3

OK.

INT. STADIUM CONCOURSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Mascot is hanging around with the fans and taking pictures with children. During one picture the Mascot makes eye contact with Kevin in the concession stand and points right at him.

> BRIAN Whoa, Kevin. What was that?

KEVIN The mascot is a monster.

BRIAN

It's a cow.

KEVIN It can smell my fear.

INT. STADIUM CONCOURSE - HOURS LATER

The visiting baseball team strikes out for the last out in the game. Marcus immediately closes up the gates to the concession stand. Several customers barely make it out before they would be locked in.

> MARCUS Game over, team. Let's clean this place up!

Marcus jumps over the counter and pours himself a beer.

MARCUS (CONT'D) Grab the mops, brooms, and rags. Then mop, sweep and...rag.

BRIAN I'll change the kegs.

MARCUS That wasn't one of the three things. BRIAN So I shouldn't do it?

MARCUS No. Definitely do it.

KEVIN I'll change the kegs too.

MARCUS It only works once. Grab a broom or I'll tell that cow where you are.

KEVIN (anxious) I'll do whatever you say.

INT. KEG COOLER - MOMENTS LATER

Brian timidly changes out the empty kegs in the cooler. He struggles to move the full and much heavier kegs.

BRIAN These feel like they're filled with gold bars.

Brian attaches the CO2, which sends foamy beer all over his pants. He peeks out of the cooler to see if he can escape without embarrassment. The coast is clear.

BRIAN

Lucky day.

Brian takes a few steps out of the cooler before running into Kevin.

KEVIN Hey, pee pants, we could use some help with the dishes.

BRIAN Sure, I can help.

KEVIN You heard me call you pee pants right?

BRIAN You know me. Pretended you were being nice.

Brian walks over to the sink to help out Kevin with the dishes but discovers Lindsay is there too.

KEVIN Pee pants, have you met Lindsay yet?

BRIAN I have neither peed my pants nor met Lindsay. Nice to meet you.

LINDSAY Nice to meet you, Pee Pants.

BRIAN It's Brian. And my pants are almost dry and 100% completely free of pee.

Kevin sprays some of the water from the sink on Brian.

LINDSAY Looks like the nickname's going to stick.

BRIAN Where is everybody else?

LINDSAY Pretty much everybody left right after the gates closed. Apparently earning minimum wage isn't a big draw for hard workers.

KEVIN I almost left myself.

BRIAN But we all know you're a hard worker.

KEVIN You better believe it. Plus it's way easier to steal the ice cream when everyone is gone.

Stacks and Marcus walk into the concession stand. They stop to steal some beer from the taps when they notice the three employees working late.

> MARCUS Yo! Staying late? The initiative never stops with you.

Kevin tosses away his ice cream while the three employees agree silently with Marcus' assessment.

STACKS You know what? You're our new star workers. I'm writing down your names. KEVIN I don't like to be on lists. STACKS This is a good list. BRIAN What does the list mean? STACKS I don't know yet. I just came up with the list. KEVIN Maybe it could be a list of employees allowed to eat free ice cream. STACKS No. BRIAN Or a list for potential promotions in the future?

STACKS That's much more likely.

LINDSAY I'd love to be on your list, whatever it is.

Brian immediately responds.

BRIAN Me too, definitely put me on the list.

INT. JOSE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Brian, Jose, and his two roommates PHIL (22) and MITCH (21) are playing poker and enjoying a large container of free chicken tenders and fries from the stadium. The guys are in the middle of a round of betting.

JOSE We love your new job.

PHIL Your new job is delicious. I call. Throws chips into the pot. MITCH Does your new job not have barbecue sauce? I fold. Tosses cards down. JOSE Oh BBQ sauce would be nice. I call. Chips in. Jose deals the flop. Brian gets excited at his chances of winning the hand. BRIAN I could maybe get honey mustard. I'm all in. He moves in all his chips. PHIL Honey mustard is fine. I'll fold. Takes a bit, throws down cards. MITCH Mustard upsets my stomach. I fold too. JOSE Just bring an assortment of sauces. I'll call. Sloppily moves his chips into the amassed pile of chips and cards. JOSE How was your first day? Because I think it's about to get worse when you lose this hand. FLASHBACK TO: INT. CONCESSION STAND - HOURS EARLIER Brian, Kevin, and Lindsay are busy washing dishes. KEVIN

I'll be right back. I'm going to go to the bathroom.

BRIAN Watch out, I think the mascot is out there taking pictures with all the kids. KEVIN Don't joke, Pee Pants. He's dangerous. Kevin walks out of the concession stand. LINDSAY You two are adorable. BRIAN You're adorable. LINDSAY That's a little inappropriate. BRIAN You're a little inappropriate? Silence. BRIAN (CONT'D) I took a risk. Feel free to laugh at my nervous jokes at any time. Lindsay laughs, smiles, and touches Brian's upper arm. LINDSAY Whatever you say, Pee Pants. CUT BACK TO INT. JOSE'S APARTMENT Brian smiles at the time he spent with Lindsay. BRIAN It had its moments. I think I'll go back. Two pair. Brian flips over his cards with confidence.

> JOSE Good thing you liked it. You'll need the money. Full house.

Jose flips his cards and pulls all of the chips in his direction. Brian continues to smile despite his loss.

BRIAN Bravo, you just lost your chicken tender privileges.

Brian grabs a chicken tender right out of Jose's mouth.

BRIAN I'm buying back in.

Brian throws a \$20 bill on the table. He swats Jose's hand away as he tries to grab another piece of chicken.

FADE OUT.

# TAG

INT. KEG COOLER

Brian is attempting to successfully replace the empty kegs. Again, he does not successfully turn off the CO2 resulting in a foamy spray.

> BRIAN Can you just tell me how to do this right?

Stacks and Marcus are revealed to be sitting close by, sipping on beer.

MARCUS This is much more fun.

STACKS It'll be more meaningful if you learn on your own.

MARCUS Like learning how to not pee your pants.

Brian looks down at his wet pants and then back up at Marcus.

BRIAN You literally watched me not pee my pants.

Lindsay walks by the cooler and stops to say goodnight while Brian happens to be displaying his wet khakis to his bosses.

> LINDSAY (smiling) Goodnight, Pee Pants.

> > END OF SHOW