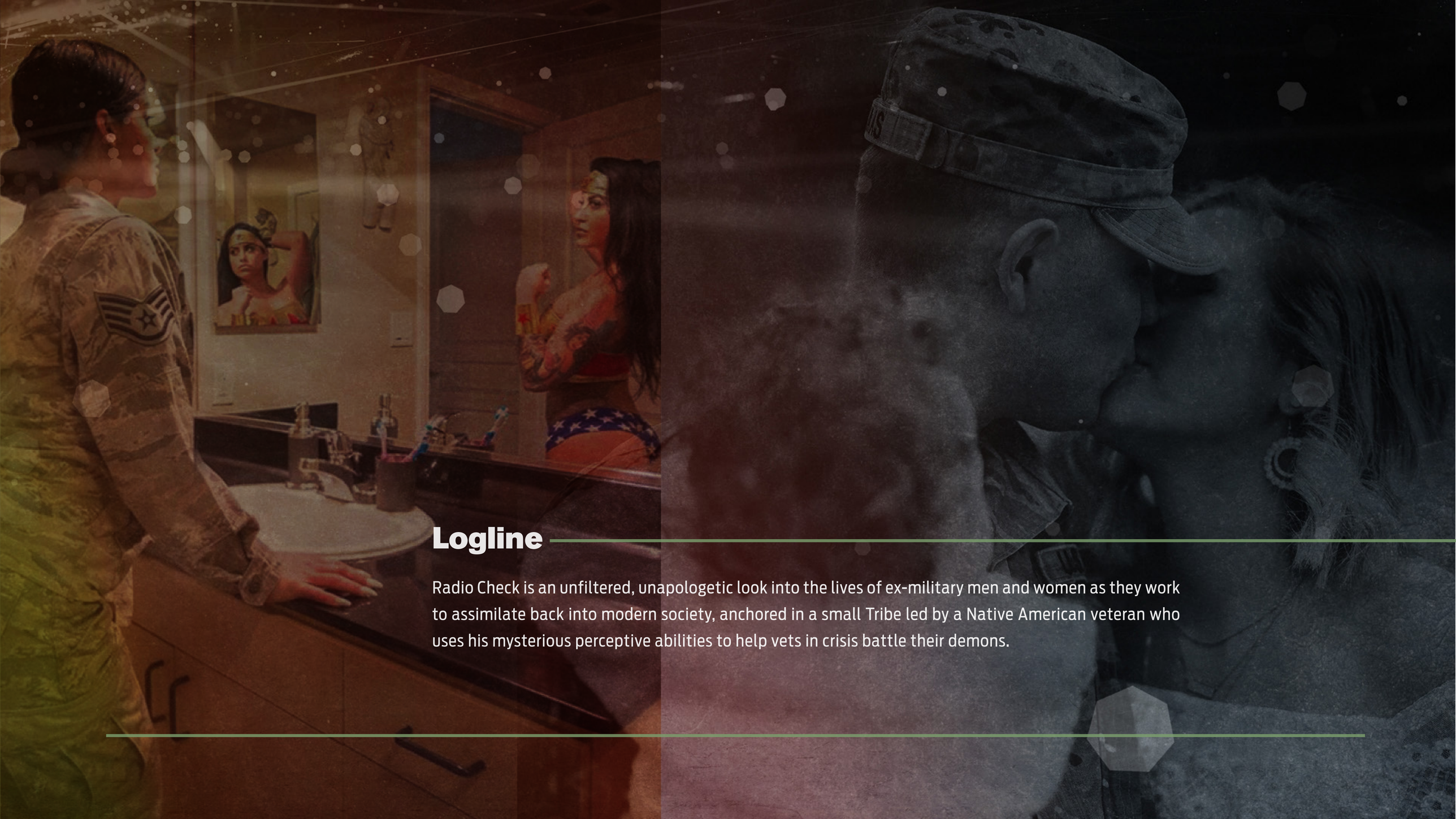

RADIO CHECK
THE WORST PART OF WAR SHOULD NOT BE COMING HOME
SERIES PITCH BIBLE

“Good Will Hunting” meets “Generation Kill”

Radio Check is an unfiltered, unapologetic look into the lives of ex-military men and women as they work to assimilate back into modern society, anchored in a small Tribe of veterans led by a Native American veteran who uses his mysterious perceptive abilities to help veterans in crisis battle their demons. “Radio Check” is the spoken acknowledgement through comms from one battle buddy to another to ensure that all are secure. Radio Check makes the unseen battle - mental warfare - visible. Character stories will reveal the demons that veterans grapple with – in their attempts to crash the comms and isolate the veteran.

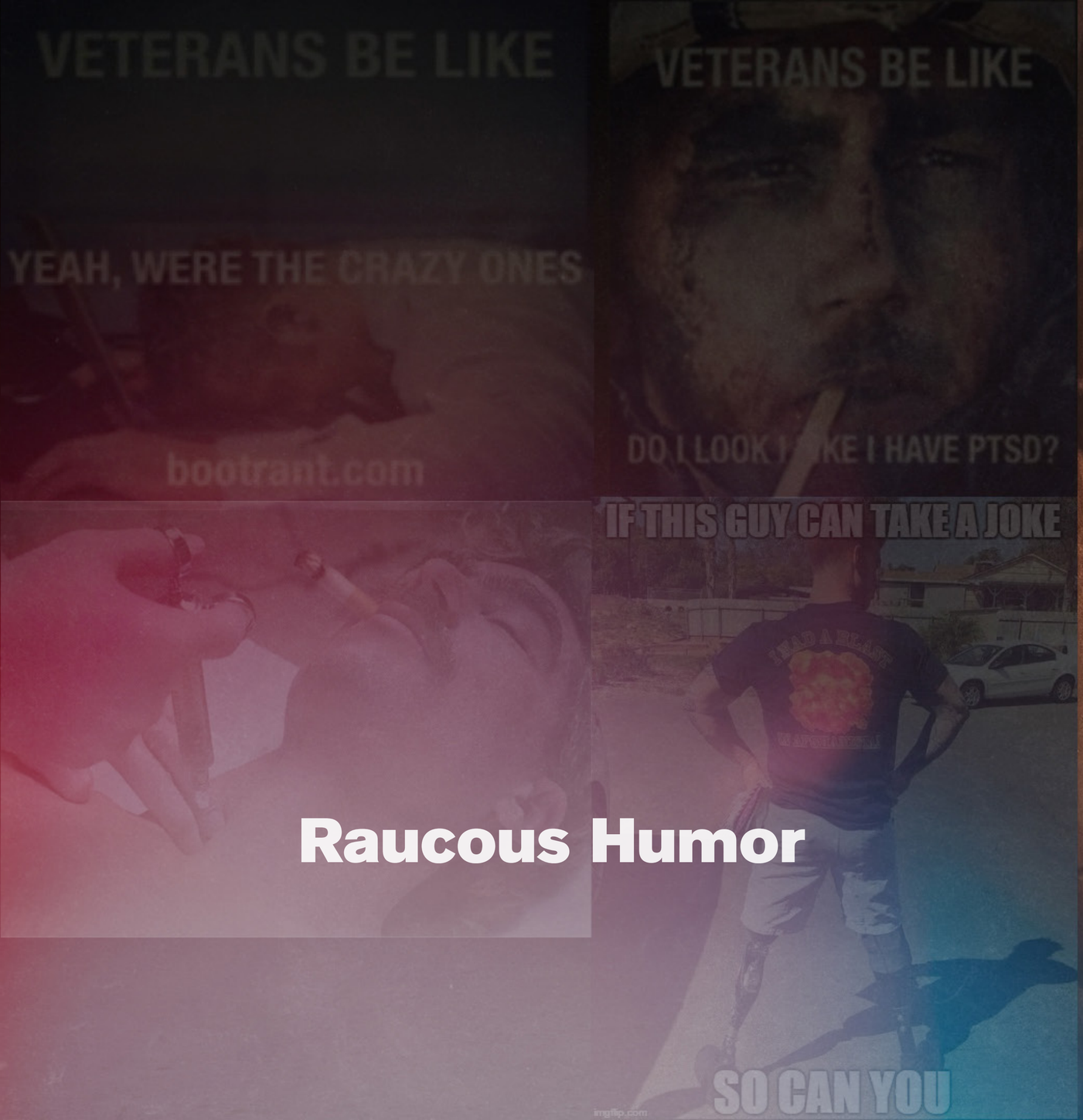
As a Seasonal Anthology, Radio Check follows the story of a small tribe of veterans and healers in an Outreach Center for Veterans on Chicago’s South Side. Radio Check presents the post-war ambiguity and untouched messiness of modern conflict through a wide variety of additional characters featured in each episode. They are a cross-section of humanity - intelligent and dim-witted, panicked, sensitive, racist, comic, homicidal and brave.





Logline

Radio Check is an unfiltered, unapologetic look into the lives of ex-military men and women as they work to assimilate back into modern society, anchored in a small Tribe led by a Native American veteran who uses his mysterious perceptive abilities to help vets in crisis battle their demons.



Raucous Humor

The Setting












SUCCESS
RISK
GRIT
DRIVE
HUSTLE
VISION
SACRIFICE
DISCIPLINE
COURAGE
DEDICATION
LATE NIGHTS
REJECTIONS





Each episode focuses on a different Veteran or group of Veterans, with the main connective thread not only being thematic commonality, but the same physical help line the Veteran's call when in need of support or guidance. This call center is the life source for all our characters and affords us a home base in Chicago, as we bounce around to different locations.

The picutres we have selected for this pitch are mirror images reflecting back what the veteran sees. In some cases it reveals hope and in others the demons of self-desctruction poised to claim victory over the veteran's solitary battle with ghosts, not all of which die.



Synopsis

Radio Check is a hybrid ‘Seasonal Anthology’ and ‘Traditional Anthology’ series. , every episode presents its own self-contained story, rf_r gq n_aicb ugrf j_sefrcp* q_blcqq _lb fmnc,, often a morality play, involving veterans who face unusual, localized or life-threatening circumstances.

Across the larger narrative arc, we follow the story of two veterans, Niles and Joc. Niles, early 40s, is a Native American veteran who saw the Twin Towers fall that dreaded day and, like so many others, quickly re-enlisted for love of God and Country. Niles takes freshly-discharged Joc, mid 30s, under his wing.

Each episode starts and ends with a veteran’s journey as Niles helps veterans to reintegrate back into civilian life. Joc’s own journey from “hell no” to “how can I help” reveals that helping others with their struggles is the way to find his “lost Tribe”





More often than not, the stories we come across have a direct correlation and impact on Joc's life and help shape the way he handles the pressure of assimilation. Joc also experiences guidance not only from Niles, but the 'everyday man', who also greatly impacts his decisions and demeanor throughout the series. Incorporating the 'everyday man' opens up the door for great cameo spots from established national leaders and celebrities.

Through the civilians he encounters, Joc learns that he is never truly alone, and, through Niles, that the only way he can stare down the demons and survive, is to be of service to others. Via these phone calls and interactions, we quickly and effectively reveal pivotal details that guide us into new narratives aka The Set Up, which in turn leads us to our episodic conflict and resolution at a much quicker pace. Every resolution for our anthology characters, is a stepping stone for our seasonal characters.

Each episode will end with a real veteran on camera briefly recounting his/her story of struggle and triumph, to offer a real life profile of hope, reminiscent of the interviews by warriors / survivors in the series, The Pacific.

NILES

Our protagonist, NILES, early-40s, is a Native American Marine Corps veteran who now serves as a peer support coordinator at the Outreach Center. Niles' originally served and saw combat in Somalia in the 90s but re-enlists after seeing the Twin Towers fall on 9/11. While deployed to Afghanistan, Niles is injured in an IED attack.

As a result of the blast, Niles endures a traumatic brain injury that leaves him with two conditions: Synesthesia and Hyperthymesia — his sensory pathways are co-mingled. He now forgets nothing and sees things in certain colors, all while the din of tinnitus dials up and down depending on his interactions. While science has diagnosed his experiences, Niles' strong beliefs in the spirit guides of his Tribal ancestors lead him to believe his "gift" has greater meaning.

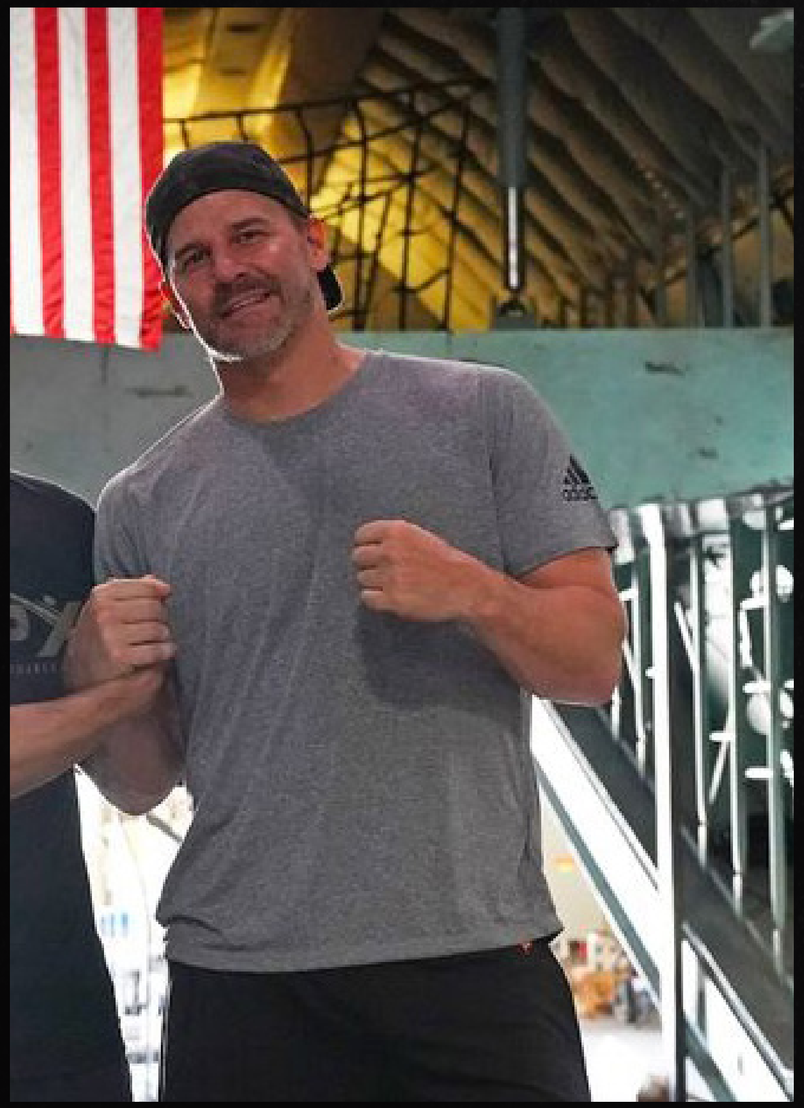
Through the character of Niles and his mysterious hypersensitivity, we unlock the hidden stories that veterans bury in the vault of their psyche. As these stories unfold, we accompany Niles through a no-holds-barred look into the surreal, weird, and inevitable private and personal repercussions of combat...on home soil.



CHAPS

Chaps is a Marine chaplain, unconventional is his approach and radical in his mannerisms, smoking and cursing with the best of them. He personifies the struggle warriors face between murder and killing. Chaps and Niles, brothers in arms and brothers to the end, forge a pact to serve and protect those who come home to a country that moves on. Theirs is a war that follows the combat weary home.





JOC

JOC is as big as he is bad. A freshly-discharged Navy SEAL—a warrior's warrior in his mid 30's—who's been hollowed-out by his hidden trauma. Joc feels disconnected from civilian society—like a stranger in a strange land. Niles takes Joc under his wing to try and help him get a handle on his bouts of uncontrollable rage.



MACE

MACE is a stunning quick-witted aquatic animal trainer in her early 30’s with a passion for Ducatis who once dated Joc and moved to Chicago to train seals and dolphins for the prestigious Shedd Aquarium Marine Program.

TORRI

TORRI is a homeless African-American Army veteran and a single mom of two young children. Struggling with reintegrating into civilian life after serving as a Navy fire controlman, Torri buries a secret about her military sexual trauma.





ZEUS

ZEUS is Niles' best friend, companion, and service dog who wandered onto an overseas base as a mangy and malnourished creature and won the hearts and minds of some of the Nation's hardest warriors. Zeus uses his canine sensory abilities to recognize and identify distraught veterans and diffuses the situation with his unconditional love.

LEILA

LEILA: At first just a voice over the phone, she is a Veteran Resource Coordinator who helps Niles link veterans to available programs and resources. Leila is a connector who personifies compassion and empathy for others. Leila eventually becomes Niles' love interest. But Nile's for all his Spydy-Senses, is as dumb as a door when it comes to all that relationship stuff...





DOC

DOC - is the female civilian doctor at a local Community Care Clinic who has won the respect of the military veterans and they have dubbed her DOC vs doctor because they have accepted her as one of the Tribe. Oh, and she’s fluent in “Marine.”

MIGUEL

MIGUEL immigrated to the US from El Salvador years ago and immediately opened a food truck that has become a secret local favorite taco spot. His love and pride for his new country are only matched his love and support for its veterans.





PETE

PETE is a bartender at the hotspot for Niles and his crew of veteran volunteers down the street from the local firehouse. A native of Boston with deep Irish roots and a raucous, irreverent sense of humor, Pete is also a Marine RECON veteran and a below-the-knee amputee who will never let that define him. In fact, he can break dance with the best of them.

DR. SHARPE

DR. SHARPE is a psychiatrist at the Community Care Clinic who engages veterans as the “expert” in the room. Rather than looking at his patients during sessions, he often appears disinterested and rushed—even completing his notes in-real-time with his back to his patients. A brilliant jazz musician who lights up when he performs, his cold persona and demeanor alienates his patients and staff alike.



SEASON 1

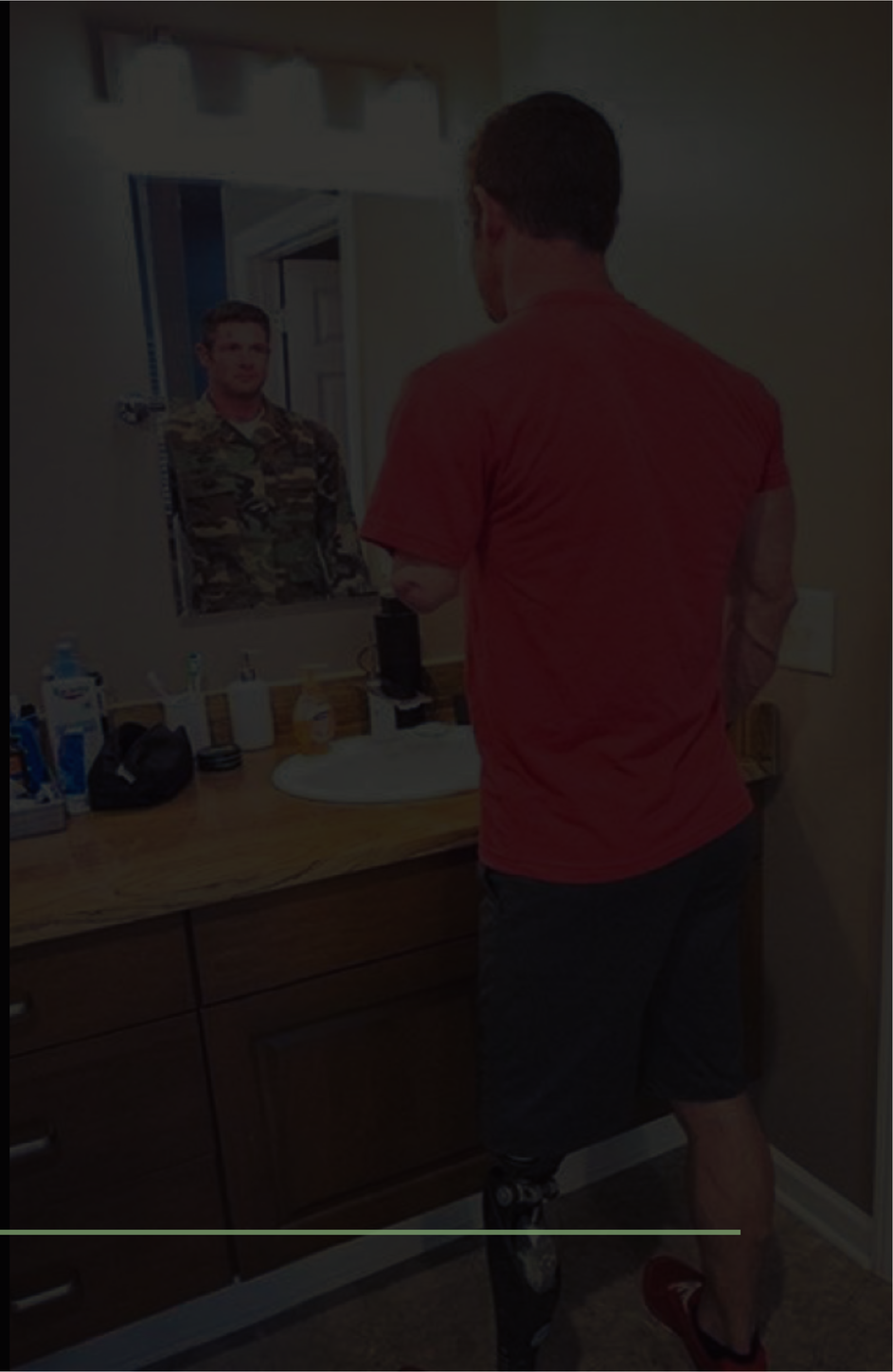
In Season 1, we see Niles as having a mysterious gift of perception, which is both a blessing and a curse to him. He also develops relationships and creates “Tribe” with other main characters, including Joc, Torri, Leila (who becomes his love interest in season 3), Doc, Miguelito and Pete, who each provide a safe space for healing conversations.

Torri crosses the threshold from homelessness to permanence and belonging. Though Joc and Mace both end up in Chicago, destiny plays a game of near misses, until they finally collide. Body armor might have been a good idea...

The cliffhanger leaves us all wondering and guessing about the nature of Niles’ mysterious ability. Some people including Dr. Sharpe think they have a read on the situation, and a diagnosis that could threaten Niles’ position as the leader of the Veteran Outreach Center.

Cross-season arc (5 season plan)

The greater narrative arc is centered on the “Hero’s Journey” of the character of Niles, a Marine Corps veteran. Through flashbacks to his past, we see that Niles has been shaped by two forms of warriorship. As the son of an “Old Corps” Marine leader, he has been formed in the crucible of the Marine Corps mentality. In addition, his warrior identity has been deeply influenced by his Native American grandmother, a black belt in martial arts, who learned to fight and survive in the “Indian Residential Schools.”



SEASON 2

In Season 2, we explore Niles' Native American culture and roots and learn more about the nature of Niles' mysterious gift.

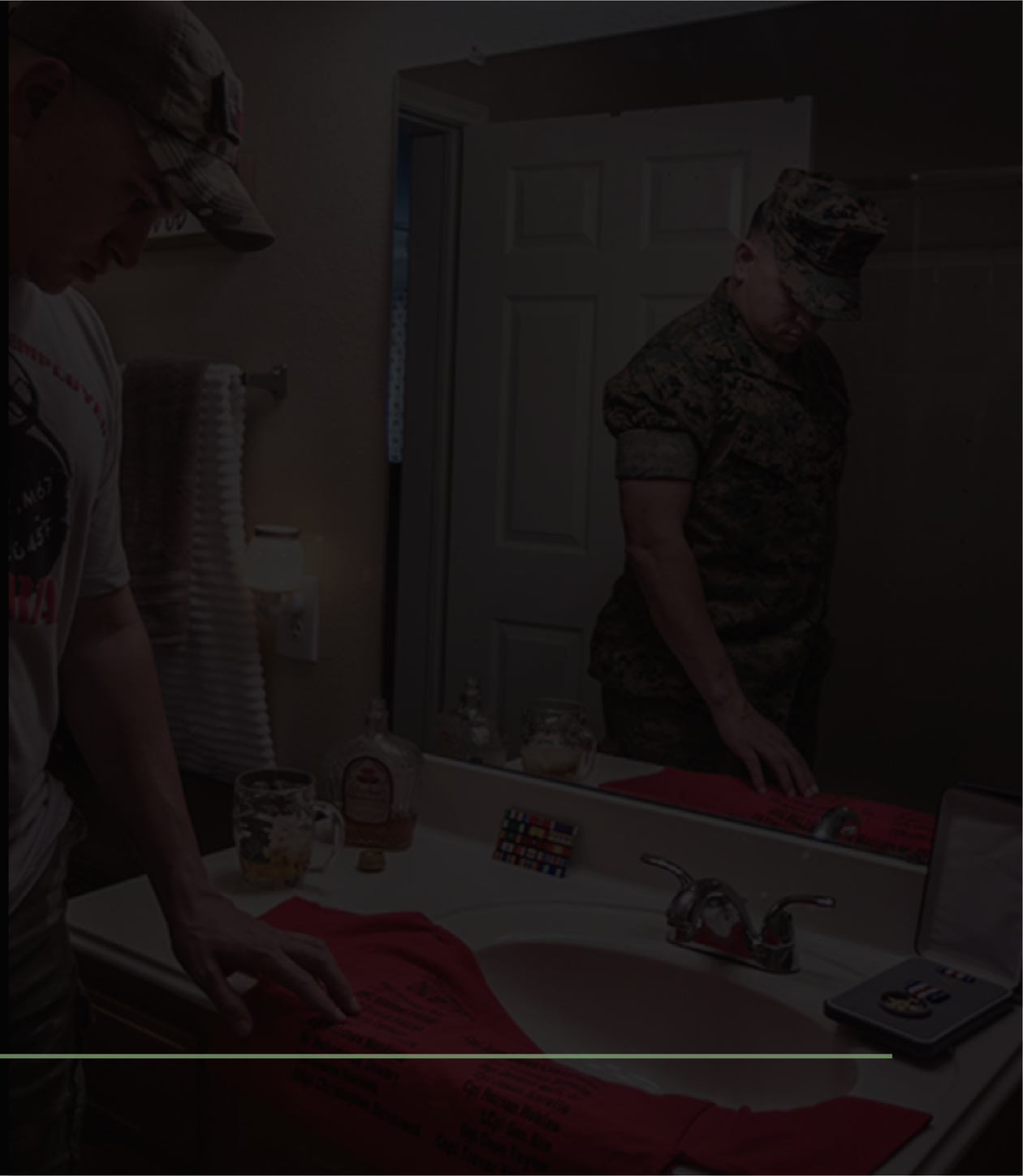
Undeterred by his failed attempt to have Niles removed, Dr. Sharpe continues his campaign against Niles as we see very different approaches to healing from Dr. Sharpe and Doc.

Joc and Mace continue to collide, reminding us all that the opposite of love is not hate - it's indifference.

The potential for a romantic attachment between Leila and Niles begins to emerge but Niles is totally oblivious to Leila's cues. Torri settles in and becomes permanent fixture of the Outreach Center.

Pete decides to participate in the Warrior Games but an infection at his amputation point threatens his dream.

The cliffhanger for Season 2 leaves us at the peak of their unspoken romantic tension when Joc runs into Mace, triggering a violent outburst. What follows could jeopardize Joc's future and all of the progress made for the outreach center.



SEASON 3

In Season 3, Niles and Leila finally “see” each other and become intimate.

It is revealed that Niles is driven by deep and unresolved trauma: the suicide death of his father, a larger-than-life “Old Corps” Marine leader (as unfathomable as the “Great Santini” dying by his own hand).

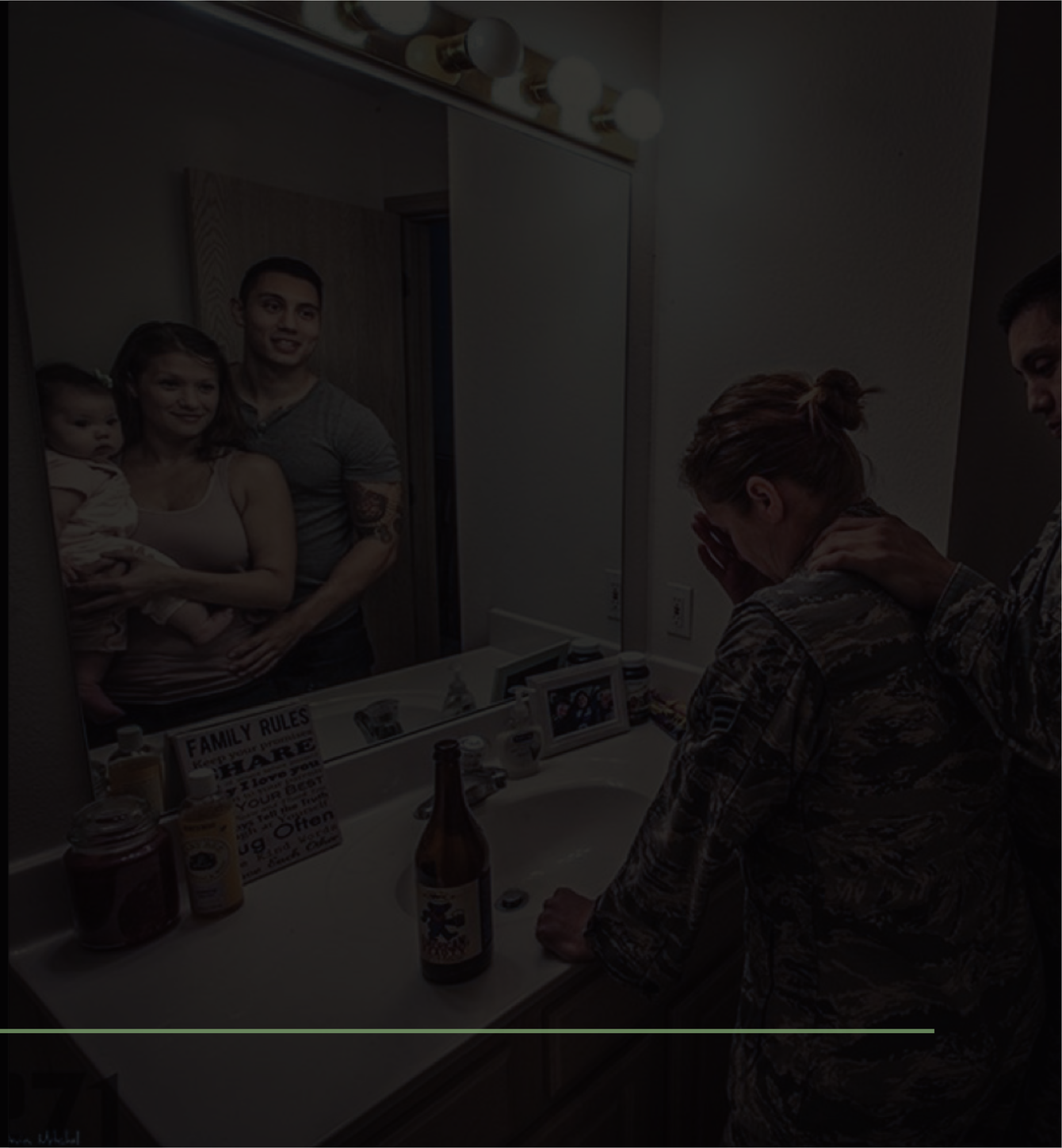
Torri’s transformation continues as she transitions from a job to a career and begins to explore dating. Mace and Joc flirt with the boundaries of friendship.

Miguelito gets caught up in an ICE immigration raid and Pete rallies the troops to rescue him.

Torri battles the violence of Chicago’s Southside for the safety of her younger son.

Dr. Sharpe represents a hidden “class” system present in the entire medical field. Doc resigns her position at the clinic and feels a new freedom to fulfill her purpose.

The Season 3 cliffhanger presents an ambiguous suicide death of a character that Niles was trying to help.



SEASON 4

In Season 4, the suicide death is confirmed and Niles subsequently begins to spiral.

Niles' distress culminates in something unimaginable when he confronts Dr. Sharpe, whose hypocrisy takes center stage after his conduct falls under the spotlight.

Unresolved trauma is chipping away at Niles' foundation and he does the thing he warns against - he cuts off his Tribe. They immediately grow concerned when their radio check to Niles isn't answered. Bad Comms triggers panic revealing aspects of their own struggles and bringing new insights.

Torri complicates her life by enrolling in college to finish her degree in social work. She tells her boyfriend the truth about her military sexual trauma and finally faces her demon: her former commanding officer.

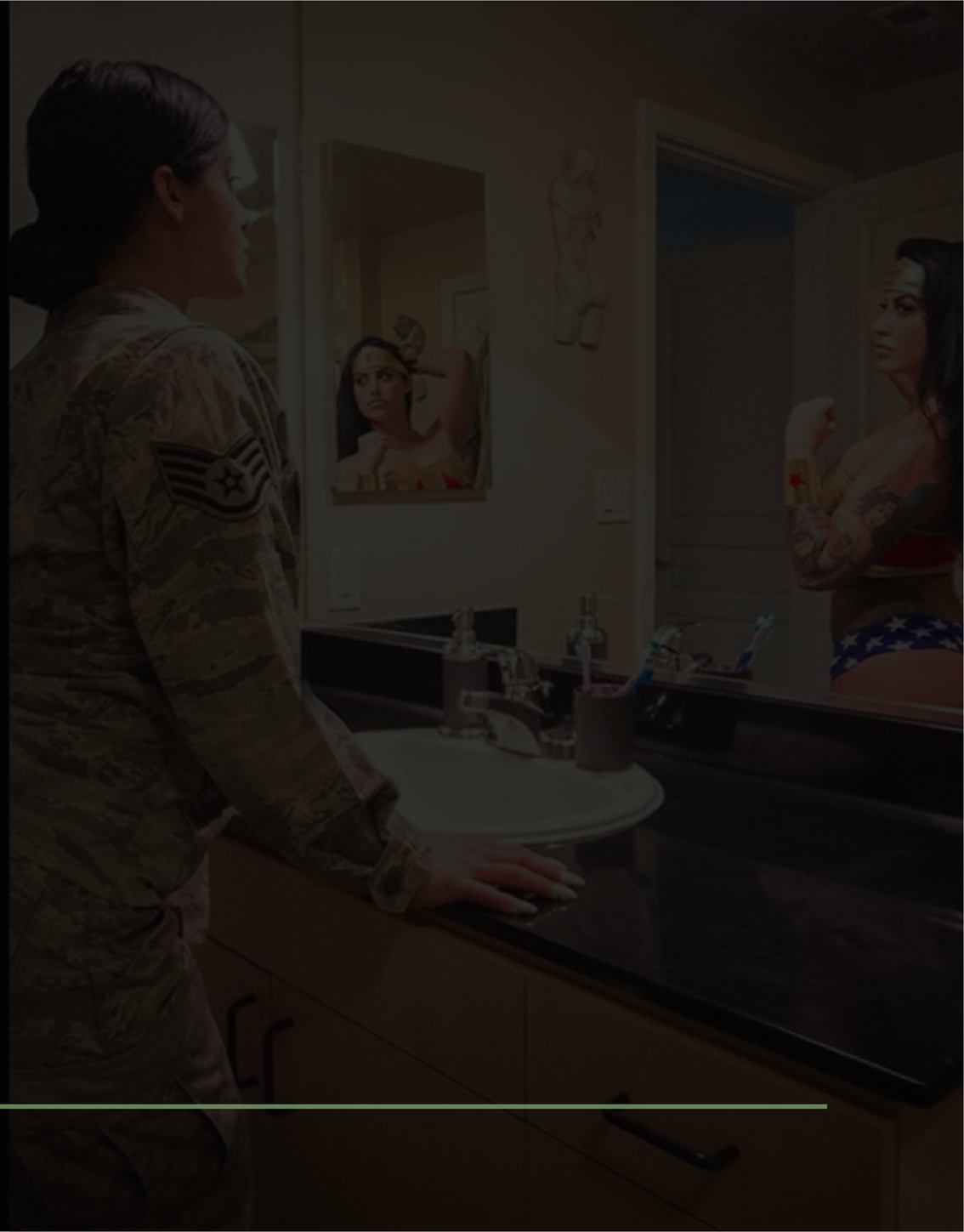
Joc learns that he must step up to support Niles as a leader in the Tribe.

Pete steps into a vetrepreneurial opportunity and as a VOSB (veteran-owned small business owner).

Miguel buys a lottery ticket, wins against all odds, and decides he won't become a statistic like so many others who lose everything when they win massive lottery amounts. He keeps everything exactly as it is... except for maybe one thing...

Doc struggles with what it means for her as a healer if Niles dies by suciide.

The Season 4 cliffhanger makes the viewer wonder if he too has fallen by his own hand.



SEASON 5

In Season 5, it is revealed that when Niles hit rock bottom, it was Torri who yanked him back from the brink and manages to get through to him. And while Niles attempts some alternative and controversial therapies in an attempt to stop the bleeding, it is Torri who urges him to also call on Doc as a last ditch effort to find hope.

Joc and Mace have come through so much together, apart and together again. What we come to learn is their road will unfold as life always does, unpredictably and messy, but it will be their road.

Torri finishes her degree and transitions into a new and more hands-on role at the Center.

A supportive politician loses an election and with him goes the funding he had promised and earmarked in his budget for Nile's facility. Someone anonymously donates funds for Nile's new center for excellence to support local veterans. It's an absolute mind-blow and nobody can figure out who would do such a generous thing... well, almost no one...

A major personal loss reveals the source of Dr. Sharpe's attitudes and feelings about his work.

Doc continues to build her tribe of like-minded partners of to break down the class system in medicine.

Niles' pilgrimage to Angel Fire takes on a new meaning once his truth is revealed.



There are minor character arcs for each of the main characters that are revealed as the seasons progress.

Joc's personal journey from "hell, no" to "how can I help?" as he comes to see that helping others with their struggles is a way to find his lost tribe and stare down the demons of crushing isolation and bitter disenfranchisement.

Torri comes in from the cold - literally - on a freezing night in Chicago - to find warmth and protection at the Outreach Center. She and her two kids become part of the Tribe. She works through the layers of trauma from being sexually assaulted and transforms into someone who helps heal others through her lived experience

Doc evolves her approach to supporting warriors, and develops her identity as a healer. She questions many of the standard clinical approaches, and ultimately leaves the clinical setting entirely to become a trusted "consiglieri" in off-the-grid places where warriors gather to face their grief and trauma head on, together.

Dr. Sharpe's analytical and closed-minded indifference towards his patients stands at odds with Niles' compassion and curiosity. Threatened by how the veterans respond to Niles and fueled by his distrust and disapproval for Niles' methods, Dr. Sharpe hunts for ammunition that will have Niles removed from the Center permanently.



EPISODES



Episode 1 (PILOT): Cave Canem (Beware of the Dawg)

When the echoes of multiple combat tours become too much, Navy SEAL Joc makes a desperate phone call to the Veteran Outreach Center after another teammate takes his life and reaches Niles, a veteran with a mysterious perceptive ability that he uses to help veterans in crisis. A visit to Chicago to see an old teammate turns into a funeral when Joc's battle buddy commits suicide. After a rude welcome to the Windy City, Mace starts a new job at the Shedd Aquarium and makes some new friends. Zeus finds Torri, a homeless sailor and single mom with two young kids living in their car, struggling with an impossible choice that she made in the Navy.

Episode 2: The Bar Lock Inn (aka REMI)

The fiancé of a Marine, recently killed in action, enters a raucous Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the Bar Lock Inn and learns that "Always Faithful" is far more than a motto. Joc's rage makes an unwelcome appearance after he arrives in Chicago and Doc offers a lesson on the difference between thinking something and doing it. Mace finds that new jobs often come with the same old problems. While trying to find a doctor for her sick child, Torri's car gets booted and her situation goes from bad to worse.

Episode 3: The Tunnels (aka JAMISON)

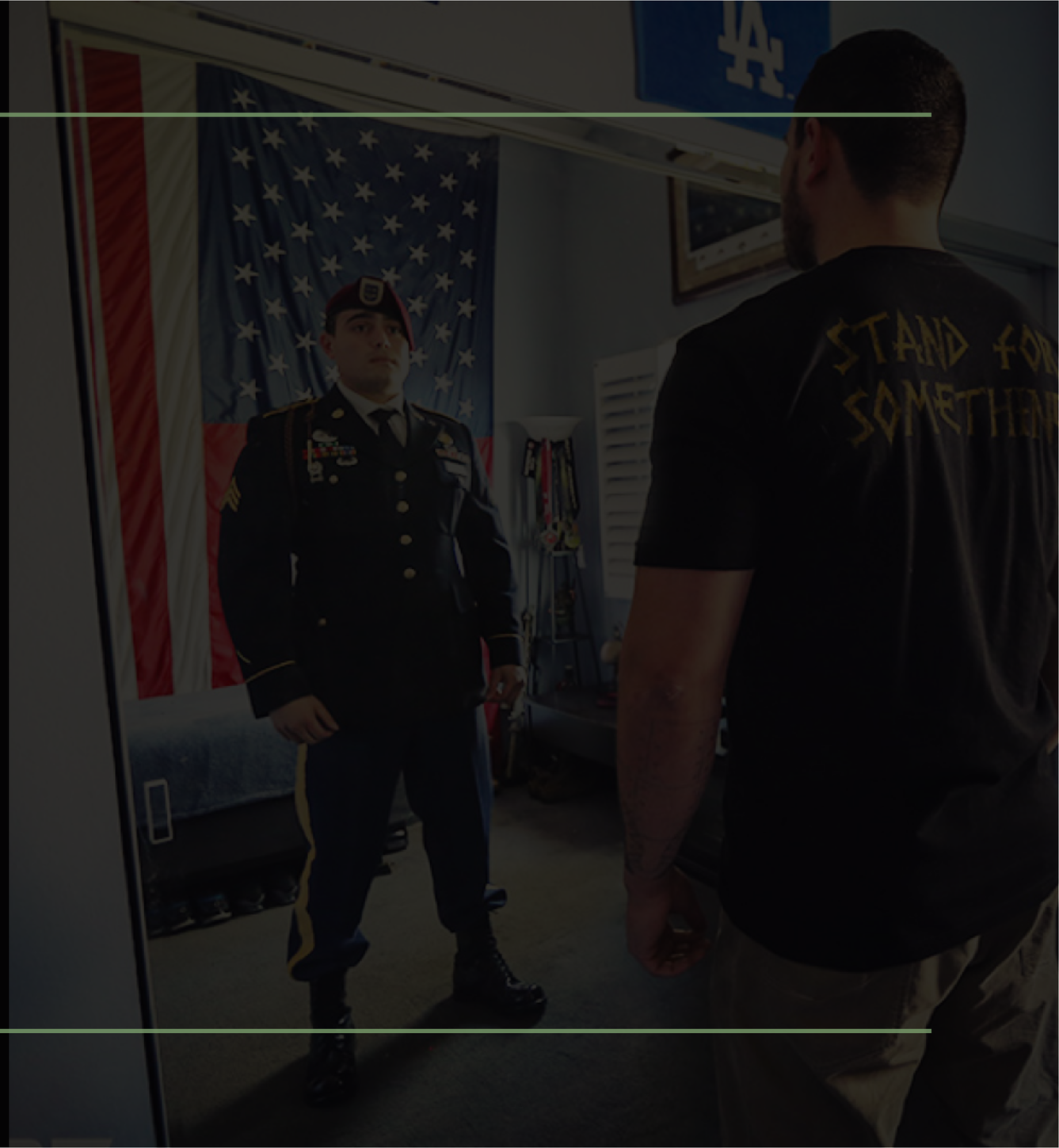
After a pilgrimage to a veteran's memorials in Angel Fire, NM, what happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas once Niles meets a veteran living in the tunnels beneath the City of Sin. Niles calls an old friend to help the once doting father who, after losing his family and mind, is trying to put his life back together while living with his "family" of underground misfits. Torri learns the difference between "Doc" and "Doctor" while navigating the Center's onboarding. Tempers flare when Pete pours salt on some of Joc's old wounds.

Episode 4: Hell Becomes Zeus

When Zeus suddenly falls ill, Mace rushes to the rescue but the clue to saving his life lies somewhere along his path to Niles. Dr. Sharpe presses Joc for information about Niles and earns himself a crash course in SEAL patience and loyalty. After a job interview goes awry, Torri trusts Pete with a painful secret and he makes her an offer she can't refuse.

Episode 5: Radio Silent (aka BAM BAM)

Joc goes camping and forgets to let anyone know but when another veteran also goes radio silent, the team fears the worst. Niles and Leila organize a tour of Chicago on the Navy Veteran's Chicago Fire Boat that ends with a behind the scenes tour of Shedd Aquarium led by Mace. Once word comes back on the missing veteran's status, Doc has her hands full.



Episode 6: Shoot Like A Girl (aka JESS)

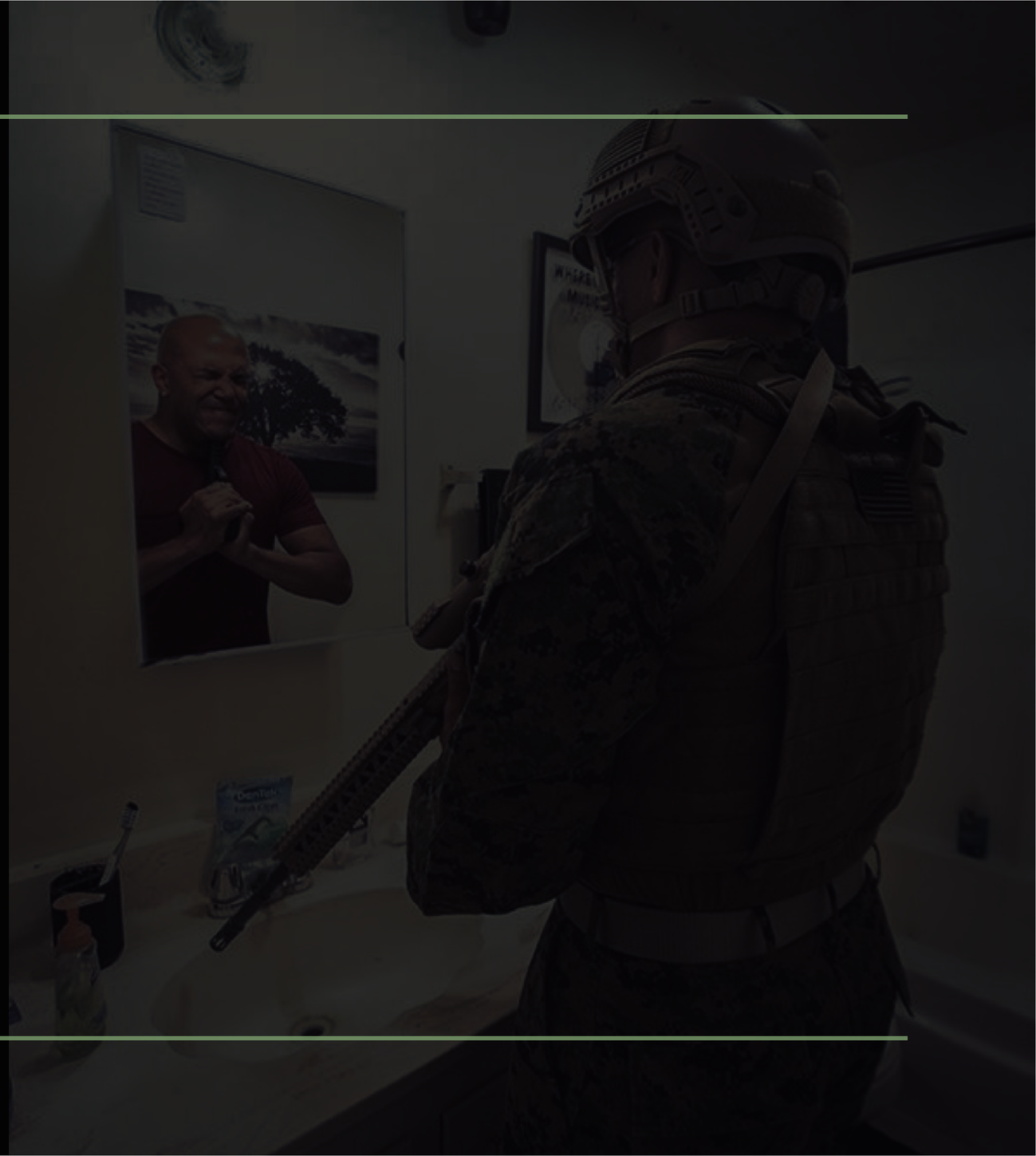
The veterans at the Center explore their creative sides after a group ruck when Leila convinces Niles to bring in a veteran with a traveling art studio whose military experience hits a little too close to home for Torri. In the wake of Bam Bam's death, Dr. Sharpe confronts Doc about his suspicions about Niles. Miguel has the last laugh when Pete and Joc raise the stakes on a friendly wager.

Episode 7: Easy Day Hemp (aka JASON)

After hearing Dr. Sharpe's opposition to medical cannabis, Pete ignores the dosage recommendations and his first experience with edibles goes haywire. Niles brings in a veteran turned CBD-entrepreneur to the rescue. When Torri's 8-year-old son is bullied by some kids in the neighborhood, Joc offers a little tactical support. Mace tiptoes into the Chicago dating pool only to find it disappointingly similar to the one she left.

Episode 8: Tattoo Parlor (aka STEVEN)

The tattoo parlor of a wheelchair-bound SEAL becomes a veteran rally point and hangout so Niles and Zeus decide to take Joc on a road trip. When a Navy veteran addicted to pills stops in to get a tattoo, it strikes a painful chord in Joc's memory. Torri gives in to Doc's requests and goes to therapy with a group of female veterans who throw axes together afterward. Leila invites Mace to a "girls night" at the Bar Lock Inn where a photo of Joc on the wall turns her world upside down.



FINDING EACH OTHER AGAIN AFTER WAR



Episode 9: The Comedian (aka XAVIER)

It's all hands on deck when Niles turns the outreach center into an open mic night to help a homeless veteran, armed with his service dog, fulfill his dreams of becoming a standup comedian. Niles enlists the help of a veteran turned standup comic to help the soldier find his voice. When Mace turns up at the show, Joc runs smack dab into the one that got away but she isn't as friendly as he remembers. After a veteran overdoses in the bathroom during the show, Dr. Sharpe thinks he has all the ammunition he'll need to have Niles removed from the Center.

Episode 10: Mr. Radiation (aka EDWARD)

A Marine Corps veteran and 6-time head and neck cancer survivor from chemical exposure known as "The Most Radiated Person on the Planet" is invited to sing the national anthem at Wrigley Field. Niles and the Outreach Center crew participate in a music therapy program to help him prepare for the big event. Niles invites Mace to join them at Wrigley where the fireworks between Joc and her threaten to steal the show. Dr. Sharpe makes good on his threats to bring in the regulators to investigate Niles.



THE GHOSTS OF WAR








THERE IS
HOPE
THERE IS HELP

RAUCOUS MILITARY HUMOR







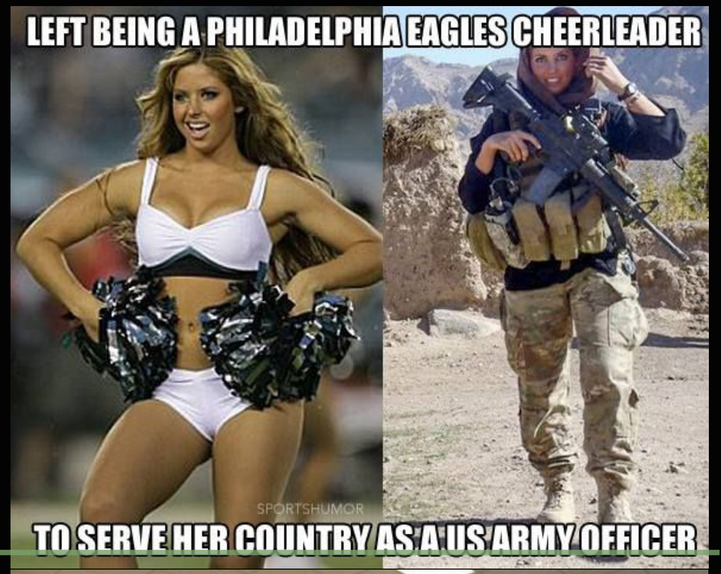












WARRIORSHIP HAS NO GENDER

Tell her to get in the kitchen…
…I dare you…



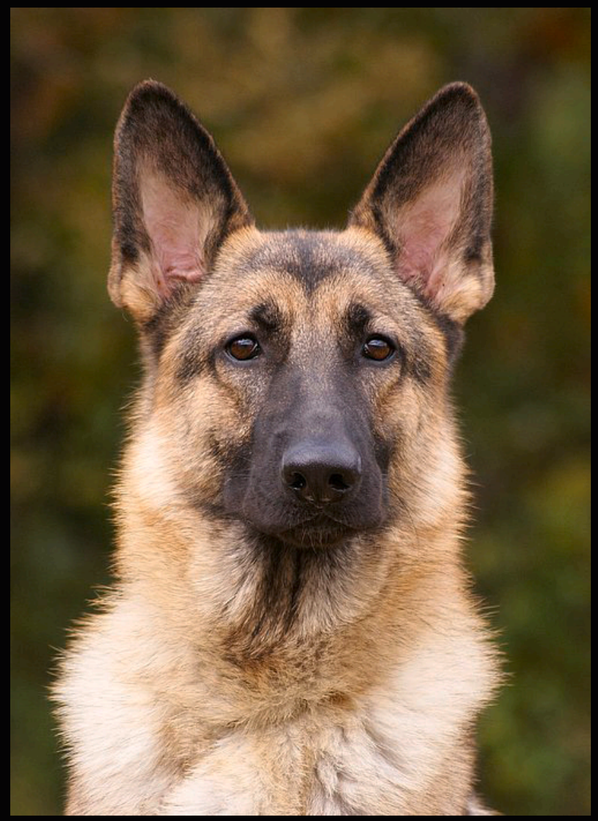


THE WISDOM OF THE ELDERS









DEDICATION & LOYALTY









HOMEFRONT TRIBE















GRIEF

The Grief they carry weighs a thousand pounds
and when they carry this love forward,
it can fuel their purpose as warriors.

– ***Doc Shauna Springer***



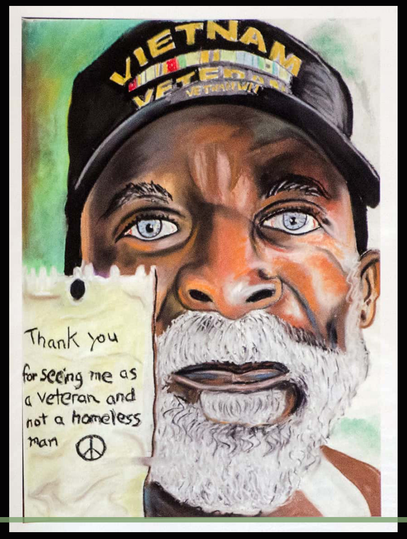




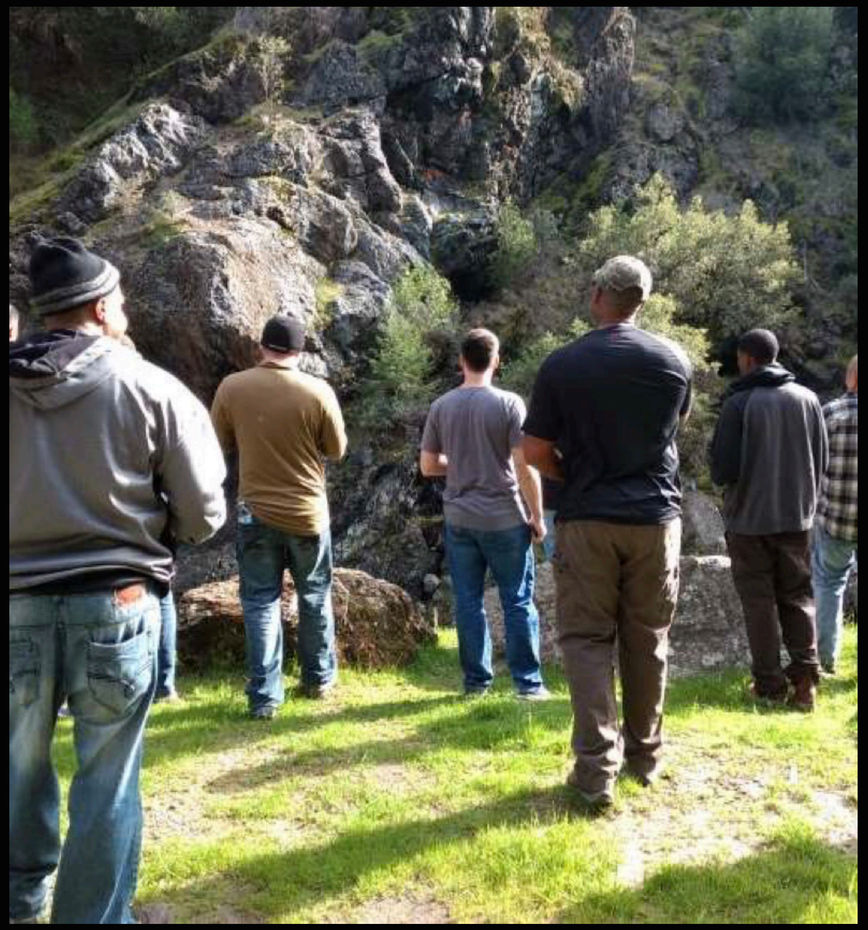
CREATIVE OUTLETS












MARINES
FIRST IN - LAST OUT

