

MELBOURNE'S FINEST

"Pilot"

by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. CHELSEA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Morning light shines onto the sleeping eyes of JOEY, 25 a child in a man's body. A shadow pushes the light off his eyes.

He smiles as he slowly blinks awake.

Above him stands, CHELSEA, 23 she's hot, she's grudge holding, and at the moment, she's pissed.

JOEY
(barely awake)
Hey, sweetie.

Chelsea SLAPS Joey in the face. Joey jerks awake.

JOEY (CONT'D)
What?

He struggles awake, fully naked on the living room couch.

The place is trashed with beer cans and cups thrown everywhere, red wine stains on the carpet and DVDs out of their cases flung all over the floor.

Joey's clothes are all over the place.

CHELSEA
Where the fuck were you last night?!
You left a voice mail on my phone
telling me to fuck myself. And then
I come home from Sydney to find the
house in this state and--

She looks down at the floor and sees a G-string.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
Who's is this?

JOEY
(still dazed)
Umm. I don't know.

CHELSEA
You just can't say no, can you? Fuck
this and fuck you.

Joey jumps up from the couch.

JOEY

Babe, I don't even know whose this is.

Chelsea starts pushing him towards the open door.

CHELSEA

Stop trying to make excuses; you're an absolute germ. I'd rather eat a dick-shaped piece of shit then spend another minute talking to you.

Chelsea keeps pushing Joey out the door. As he is about to slide out he grabs the closest thing to him to cover himself up: a framed picture of Chelsea and him.

EXT. CHELSEA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Chelsea pushes joey out the door and down the steps.

JOEY

Babe, you're over reacting! Paul must have put it there to stir some shit when he dropped me home.

The two stop as they hear the GRUNTS and MUTTERS of a young half naked girl climbing out the front window.

CHELSEA

You piece of shit.

Chelsea SLAMS door.

JOEY

(to girl)
Points for trying.

The girl runs off with her clothes.

Joey looks over and sees his neighbours, a young Asian couple with a small child. Joey waves at them, confused. They cover the child's eyes and wave back.

Joey sits down in front of the house, the picture still covering his genitals.

As he sits down, the door flings open and before he can say anything, his phone and some pants are thrown at him.

He picks up the pants and slides them on, grabs the phone, looks through it, and makes a call.

JOEY (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Paul, I need you to come and pick me up.

PAUL (V.O.)

(over phone)

What happened?

JOEY

Chelsea has kicked me out.

There is YELLING coming out the window as clothes and other things are flung on the ground.

PAUL (V.O.)

(over phone)

What did you do this time?

JOEY

Just come and get me.

Joey hangs up and sits back on the ground watching as his possessions get thrown all around him.

SMASH CUT:

MELBOURNE'S FINEST

ACT ONE

INT. MELBOURNE AIRPORT - MORNING

In bold print on a sign: INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS.

Beneath the sign a small flow of arriving passengers. Among them, a backpacker with untamed beard and slight grin.

He struts confidently up to a DRIVER holding a sign reading: ZACH MORRIS.

DRIVER

Zach Morris?

ZACH, 28 the guy that would shout a round for everyone at the bar because he has more money than he knows what to do with, nods and follows the man out of the Airport.

EXT. MELBOURNE AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

As he walks he gets his phone out of his pocket. The bars on his screen load up as he connects to the Australian Network.

A new message pops up from "JENNY."

Zach swipes it open. It reads, "It was your brother."

The message before it: "Who was he? Please tell me it was someone I didn't know" He looks up with a sense of hurt in his eyes.

The driver and Zach arrive at the limousine. The driver takes his bag for him.

Zach deletes the message and then deletes the number. He sighs, and gets into the waiting limo.

EXT. CHELSEA'S HOUSE - MORNING

A cream coloured van that looks like it could break down at any second pulls up to the curb in front of the house.

Joey walks over with a few of his belongings as Chelsea continues to yell and throw stuff out the window. Joey gets in the van.

INT. PAUL'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

In the driver seat is PAUL, 24 the type of guy who'll buy you a pint even if he can't afford it.

PAUL

What did you do this time?

JOEY

I'm going to need to stay with you for a few days.

PAUL

Umm. Don't know. Not sure if Paul would be too happy with that.

JOEY

Don't you think it's a bit fucked up that both you and your brother are called Paul?

PAUL

No, because we're step brothers.

JOEY

You'd think your parents would change one of your names, you were young enough.

PAUL

I was like 12.

JOEY

So?

PAUL
The fact is I don't think you're
going to be able to stay

JOEY
Please mate! Just until I get things
sorted out. I think this is the end
of Chelsea and me.

PAUL
Really? You both seemed fine the
other day.

Joey and Paul both look out the window as Chelsea continues
throwing things out.

JOEY
Things change I guess.

Paul puts the van in gear and they take off.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

It is a modest, but nice apartment decorated with Ikea
furniture.

Paul and Joey enter the apartment as PAUL 2, Paul's older
step brother, 30 very uptight and highly strung, comes out
of his room. Joey throws himself onto the couch.

JOEY
Hey, Paul.

Paul 2 checks his watch.

PAUL 2
Woah, is that Joey -insert last name-
awake before 1 p.m.?

PAUL
Chelsea kicked him out.

PAUL 2
She finally came to her senses, I
guess.

Paul heads for the bathroom.

PAUL
I said he could stay here for a couple
of nights until he gets things sorted.

Paul begins peeing with the door open.

Paul 2 is left standing there staring at Joey lounging on the couch changing channels and making himself at home. Paul's PEEING is audible in the background.

PAUL 2
So. Got kicked out, he?

Joey keeps his eyes glued to the tele.

JOEY
Yup.

PAUL 2
Yeah, that's too bad man. So look, it's great and all that Paul said that you could stay here, you know. And I would be on board. I just wish we had a spare room. Uhhh, but we don't. So it just looks like--

JOEY
Paul said I could sleep on the couch.

Joey flips through the channels.

PAUL 2
Oh yeah. I mean, you could, but we throw a lot of parties and stuff, so--

JOEY
I've never been to one.

PAUL 2
Well, they're pretty low key.

JOEY
You've got a spare bathroom. Probably just stay in there.

Paul 2 lowers his brow, confused and disgusted. Paul returns from the bathroom.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Hey Paul.

Paul and Paul 2 respond at the same time.

PAUL 2	PAUL
What?	Yeah?

JOEY
Don't you think it's fucked up you're both called Paul?

PAUL 2
(passive aggressively)
No, we're step brothers.

Paul 2 nods his head to the kitchen.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)
(to Paul)
Can I talk to you in here for a
second?

Paul complies and the two head into the kitchen.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Paul 2 keeps his voice low.

PAUL 2
He can't fucking stay here.

PAUL
Yeah I know, but this is just for a
little while until he gets things
sorted.

PAUL 2
Well you know what's going to happen.
He's going to get too comfortable
here and stay. I don't want that.

Paul grabs some materials to make a sandwich.

PAUL
What do you suggest we do?

PAUL 2
Well--

Paul 2 pauses as Joey walks into the kitchen and proceeds to
open the fridge and get out the milk. He jumps on the bench
top and starts to drink out of the carton.

JOEY
What are you two talking about?

PAUL 2
Can you get a glass please?

JOEY
Oh. Yeah, mate. Just hate cleanin'
dishes.

Joey heads to the cupboard to get a glass and walks out with
it and the carton.

PAUL 2
He's fucking out.

Paul spreads some mayo onto the bread.

PAUL
He's got no place to go.

PAUL 2
Not my problem.

Paul waves the knife at Paul 2.

PAUL
Hey, you're not the only person who
pays rent. He's staying here until
he can find a new place or him and
Chelsea hopefully work things out.

PAUL 2
It'll take weeks for him to find a
new place, and he doesn't look too
motivated if you ask me.

Paul cracks the door open. Joey is visible sitting on the
couch zombified by the tv.

PAUL
Well then I guess we better hope him
and Chelsea sort things out.

Paul 2 moans.

PAUL 2
Alright, well come help me talk to
him.

PAUL
You talk to him. I have to get ready
for work.

PAUL 2
For fuck's sake.

Paul 2 groans as he leaves the kitchen. Paul continues making
his sandwich.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paul 2 approaches Joey who is now swiping through his phone.

PAUL 2
So it's really over?

JOEY

Yup.

PAUL 2

No chance of you getting back together?

JOEY

Probably not.

PAUL 2

So what are you going to do now?

JOEY

Dunno.

This interaction starts to visually infuriate Paul 2.

PAUL 2

Well, you know, all relationships have their rough patches. I've found it's best to just fight through those tough times.

JOEY

I didn't think you ever had a girlfriend.

Paul 2 is caught off guard with the accurate accusation.

PAUL 2

What? Of course I have. Plenty. Just kinda got over the whole thing. Bachelor's life is a bit more fun. Well for me, definitely not for you though.

JOEY

(confidently)

Name one.

PAUL 2

Psssh. I mean. Where to begin? Honestly. Mate, look the important thing is that you and Chelsea, you belong together. Bad things happen. Maybe you should ask her out on a little date. Take her out, try to make things work.

JOEY

Haven't really got any money.

PAUL 2

Take her to OnTop, you wouldn't have to pay for anything.

Joey looks up at Paul 2 for the first time.

JOEY

You want me to ask her out to the bar? Not exactly romantic.

PAUL 2

The place doesn't matter. What matters is getting you two together.

Joey stops and thinks about it.

JOEY

Look, if you can convince her to meet me at OnTop tonight, I'll talk to her, but I'm not spending the next two weeks chasing her around.

Paul crosses through the living room, sandwich in hand.

PAUL 2

That sound good to you Paul?

PAUL

What?

Paul grabs his backpack off the floor and throws it on.

PAUL 2

Joey's gonna meet up with Chelsea at the bar.

PAUL

Really?

JOEY

Yeah, why not?

PAUL

Cool, I'll set up a table upstairs.

PAUL 2

See this is all coming together.

Paul swings the door open and heads out.

PAUL

Alright, see you guys tonight then.

EXT. ONTOP BAR - DAY

Zach, with his bag, is dropped off by his driver outside of OnTop Bar, a two story grey building on the corner of a busy street with large windows looking out to the road.

Zach heads for the door.

INT. ONTOP BAR - DAY

Inside is a large front room, littered with chairs and tables, with a bar in the back left corner.

Paul is working behind the bar.

Zach walks in and puts his bags down.

ZACH
Cheapest beer on tap, please.

PAUL
A schooner?

ZACH
Is that an IPA?

PAUL
You're not from here.

Paul begins pouring a scooner.

ZACH
States.

He finishes pouring and places it in front of Zach.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Cheers!

Zach cheerses to Paul and drinks nearly the whole thing.

PAUL
Slow down there, mate.

ZACH
I thought you Aussie's liked to drink.

He finishes the beer.

PAUL
Another? Bigger one?

Zach nods.

PAUL (CONT'D)
So, pretty big bag. Got your whole
life in there I reckon?

ZACH
Yeah. But I've got this system. I
make sure I always have access to
eight very specific things with me
at almost any time. I call it the
"Essential Package."

Zach pulls out a 24-pack box of Budweiser cans from the bag.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Say hello to item number one. Customs
was a bitch, tell you what.

PAUL
You know we have Budweiser in
Australia?

Paul turns around revealing a few Budweiser bottles in the
fridge behind him.

ZACH
Well shit.

PAUL
Mate, I think we're gonna get along.

INT. PAUL 2'S CAR - DAY

A silver sedan, a bit plain to match Paul 2's personality.
Joey and Paul 2 are parked outside Chelsea's office building.
Joey stares down at a handwritten note.

JOEY
Do I need an note? Can't I just ask
her?

PAUL 2
Yeah, you could. Girls just like
notes, you know? Look at me, mate.

Joey looks up and Paul 2 quickly fixes his hair.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)
There. How's your breath?

Paul 2 unwraps and offers Joey a stick of gum.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)
Gum?

JOEY

No, thanks.

Paul 2 puts the gum in his mouth instead.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Look I don't think I can do it.

PAUL 2

Yes you can mate, it's for the best.

JOEY

You know what, you do it. If she sees me she'll kill me.

Paul 2 hesitates.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Just go to the 5th floor and ask for Chelsea.

PAUL 2

(sighs)

Okay. Yeah, no problem.

EXT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Paul 2 hops out of his car with the note and proceeds up the steps mumbling to himself.

PAUL 2

(imitating Paul)

"You're not the only one who pays rent."

INT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Paul 2 paces through the lobby past a cafe and to the elevator bay.

He presses the "up" button, note in his hand.

DING! The elevator doors in front of him open.

Inside, a couple is making out. They quickly stop as they realise the doors have opened. It's Chelsea with a MYSTERY MAN 18, young and handsome in a barista uniform. Paul 2 quickly turns and pretends to read the directory.

PAUL 2

(to self)

Fuck.

CUT TO BLACK:

ACT TWO

INT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Paul 2 reads the directory as Chelsea and the Mystery Man flirtingly part ways.

MYSTERY MAN
Thanks for riding down with me.

CHELSEA
My favourite trip of the day.

MYSTERY MAN
See you later on?

CHELSEA
You bet.

The Mystery Man takes off. Chelsea stays in the elevator.
Paul 2 continues reading the directory with intense scrutiny.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
Do you need any help?

PAUL 2
Huh?

He looks over at Chelsea, she holds the door to the elevator.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)
Oh. Uh. No, no. I think I got it.

Paul 2 walks over to the elevator and joins Chelsea.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Paul 2 and Chelsea stand in the elevator. An awkward silence.

PAUL 2
(almost inaudible)
Chels?

CHELSEA
I'm sorry?

Paul shakes his head.

PAUL 2
Hmm? I didn't say anything.

They both look straight ahead.

DING! The doors open to the fifth floor.

Chelsea steps out of the elevator. Paul 2 blurts out.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)

Chelsea?

She turns around.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)

You're Chelsea Plesnik, right?

CHELSEA

Yeah.

PAUL 2

I'm Paul's older brother. Joey's friend Paul?

Chelsea is skeptical.

The door tries to close. Paul 2 stops it.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)

I'm meant to give this to you. Just a little note or something, I don't even know what it is.

Paul 2 hands her the note.

She opens and reads it.

Paul 2 watches on with hope.

The door tries to close again. He stops it.

Chelsea looks at the paper as if the words weigh heavy with her.

Paul 2's spirit lifts, and then she quickly scrunches it up, throws at his forehead, and walks off.

The doors close on Paul 2. DING!

INT. PAUL 2'S CAR - DAY

The door slams SHUT as Paul 2 enters the car.

JOEY

How did it go?

PAUL 2

Yeah really good mate, she said she'll be there.

EXT. ONTOP BAR UPSTAIRS - DAY

Paul is setting a fancy table, white tablecloth and all, on the not-so-fancy upstairs deck of the bar.

Zach stands next to him in a tuxedo fixing up the flowers, his unkempt hair now slicked back.

Paul 2 bursts through the door.

PAUL 2
We have a big fucking problem!

PAUL
Fuck, what happened? Where's Joey?

PAUL 2
Woah, shit. This looks nice!

PAUL
(flattered)
Thanks. Wait, what's the problem.

PAUL 2
Who's this?

ZACH
I'm Zach. I'm playing the waiter.

PAUL 2
Where'd you find a tuxedo?

ZACH
It's a part of "The Essential Package." Bad ass right?

PAUL
Wait, what's the "big fucking problem"?

ZACH
I'm gonna go grab that ice bucket.

Zach walks downstairs.

PAUL 2
Oh shit, yeah. Chelsea's cheating on Joey.

PAUL
What?

PAUL 2

Yeah I went to her office and there she was macking on with some guy who works at the cafe.

PAUL

Fuck, poor Joey.

PAUL 2

What? Poor Joey? Poor us!

PAUL

How did he take it?

PAUL 2

Who?

PAUL

Joey.

PAUL 2

What? I'm not gonna tell him. It'll ruin everything.

PAUL

It's already pretty fucking ruined. Where is he?

PAUL 2

Back at the house getting ready.

PAUL

Why? We have to call it off.

PAUL 2

Nah, we can still save it.

PAUL

Dude, she's cheating on him.

PAUL 2

I mean. What even is cheating?

PAUL

You said she was "macking" on some guy.

PAUL 2

Yeah, I mean. Oh, you thought I meant like "macking", like making out.

Paul is confused.

PAUL 2 (CONT'D)

No, no. I meant like "macking".
Like flirting. You know what I mean?
Like, she's making her way onto a
rebound. Definitely nothing serious.

PAUL

So, she's still coming?

PAUL 2

Well, not quite. I mean, she just
needs some more convincing I think.
You know she doesn't know me very
well.

PAUL

Joey didn't talk to her?

PAUL 2

He was too nervous.

PAUL

So what? You think I should go talk
to her? I'm working right now.

Paul 2 ponders for any other options.

Zach returns upstairs.

PAUL 2

I mean, we have to get her here at
all costs. I can cover for you.

PAUL

I just don't know how much I'll be
able to do.

ZACH

Can I come along?

PAUL

Sorry?

ZACH

The girl doesn't want to show anymore?
I'm down. Let's go get her. I'm
good at this type of stuff.

PAUL

I guess it's our only option. Yeah
sure, you can come along. Paul, you
mind setting up the rest of this?

PAUL 2

Yeah. Just make sure she's here.

ZACH

Fuck yeah.

EXT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - EVENING

Paul's van screeches to a stop.

INT. PAUL'S VAN - EVENING

Zach and Paul peer out the window of the van into the cafe.

Chelsea is waiting at the cafe twirling her hair and flirting with the Mystery Man behind the bar working an espresso machine.

PAUL

Holy shit, he's hot. Alright, let's do this.

ZACH

What's the plan?

PAUL

Plan?

ZACH

Yeah we've got have a plan, like in Prison Break or Narcos.

PAUL

What? We're just here to talk to her.

ZACH

I got you. Let's do it then.

EXT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - EVENING

Zach and Paul walk up to the doors of the lobby.

Zach has the Budweiser case in his hands.

PAUL

What is that for?

ZACH

In case they have cameras.

PAUL

I don't know what you think is going on, but you need to just keep it cool.

ZACH
Oh yeah, man. I'm sorry. I'll keep
it cool.

PAUL
Alright, then.

Paul exhales and opens the door for Zach.

INT. CHELSEA'S OFFICE BUILDING - EVENING

Zach puts the box over his head. Two eye holes and a mouth
hole have been roughly torn out.

He violently flips over a table.

ZACH
Alright motherfuckers! Everyone on
the fucking ground!

Everyone in the cafe screams and panics.

PAUL
What the fuck re you doing?!

ZACH
No one fucking move! I've got a
gun! I've got a gun!

There's no gun in his hands.

Zach bolts towards Chelsea.

Mystery Man stands next to her behind the register with his
hands in the air.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Are you Chelsea?

MYSTERY MAN
You can have all the money.

Zach slaps him in the face.

ZACH
Shut up, lady!

Chelsea punches Zach in the gut/balls. He winces falling
over. Chelsea tries to run off, but he grabs her ankle before
she can.

PAUL
God dammit Zach!
(to panicked customers)
I'm so sorry.

Chelsea begins kicking Zach with her heels poking holes in the cardboard. Zach is able to get to his feet, grabs Chelsea and throws her over his shoulder.

He catches his breath and then begins running towards the door.

ZACH
I've got a gun! I'm fucking serious!
Paul get the doors to the van!

Paul runs outside.

ZACH (CONT'D)
If any of you tell anyone about this
I'll murder your fucking family.

Zach and Paul flee.

From inside the customers look on as the two struggle to get Chelsea in the van.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Get the doors!

PAUL
Where the fuck are the keys!

ZACH
You had them!

Paul unlocks the doors and Zach throws Chelsea in the back.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I'm driving!

PAUL
No, you're not!

The Mystery man slowly comes to as the van SCREECHES away.
He picks up a phone and dials "000"

000 OPERATOR (V.O.)
(over phone)
Triple zero what's your emergency?

MYSTERY MAN
I would like to report a kidnapping.

INT. PAUL'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Zach struggles driving on the left side of the road.

PAUL
Are you okay, Chels?

CHELSEA

Paul? What the fuck is this?

PAUL

Sorry. It wasn't supposed to happen like that. So, you still down to have dinner with Joey.

CHELSEA

You fucking idiots, I don't want to meet Joey.

ZACH

Well you are now, bitch.

CHELSEA

Who the fuck is this guy?

ZACH

I'm Zach.

CHELSEA

You've got fucking problems. Take me back!

PAUL

We will once you talk to Joey.

CHELSEA

I'm not talking to him. I already told you, you piece of shit. Now take me back!

PAUL

But he really misses you. Please just hear him out and if you don't like what he has to say then he will leave you alone forever.

CHELSEA

(sighs)

Well. I don't have much of a choice do I?

EXT. ONTOP BAR UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Chelsea walks up the stairs, Zach and Paul follow behind. The deck is decorated with lights and is set up for a romantic dinner for two. She gasps.

Joey is standing next to the table in a nice suit holding a rose and a jewelry box.

She walks over to Joey, looking as though she is in love.

Police SIRENS can be heard off in the distance as she walks up to him.

He hands her a rose and the box.

CHELSEA
(playfully)
You really think this type of stuff
works on a girl like me?

JOEY
It's worth a shot.

CHELSEA
You're friends kidnapped me.

He looks over at Paul and Zach. They avoid eye contact and step away back downstairs.

JOEY
I had nothing to do with that, I
swear.

CHELSEA
You probably could have chosen a
nicer venue, too. Maybe one that
didn't smell like a toilet.

JOEY
Times are tough.

The SIRENS are just downstairs. FOOTSTEPS and SCUFFLES are heard entering the building.

Chelsea cracks a grin and slowly opens the box.

She is repulsed.

CHELSEA
(fuming)
It's a piece of shit.

JOEY
Shaped like a dick.

CHELSEA
You asshole!

Chelsea throws the box of shit at Joey hitting him in the face and on his nice suit.

Joey smirks.

The police rush through the door.

A leading POLICEMAN steps forward.

POLICEMAN
Joey -insert last name-?

JOEY
Yes.

The Policeman heads towards Joey.

POLICEMAN
You're under arrest for kidnapping
and false imprisonment.

Joey doesn't resist at all as the policeman cuffs him and reads him his rights.

Joey is led downstairs, he looks back smirking.

EXT. ONTOP BAR - NIGHT

Joey is escorted outside where a crowd has gathered.

He is put into the back of the police car where Paul and Zach are waiting.

JOEY
Kidnapping?

PAUL
Yeah look sorry mate.

ZACH
We tried.

PAUL
What's on your face?

JOEY
I gave Chelsea a box of shit. She's
been seeing some guy at the place
she works at.

PAUL
You knew the whole time, didn't you?

Joey nods as the police car drives off into the night with the sirens flashing.

ZACH (V.O.)
Nice suit!

PAUL (V.O.)
Yeah it is a nice suit. I didn't
think you owned one.

JOEY (V.O.)
Your brother had heaps, didn't think
he would mind.

FADE OUT: