THE MAKE, BREAK & BETRAYAL

Pilot Screenplay

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FADE IN:

EXT. ST IVES HARBOUR - DAWN

Gulls scream above a pale Cornish sky. The tide smacks the rocks in rhythm. The harbour stirs — half beauty, half emptiness.

MARTY (15) watches from the sea wall, hoodie up, eyes distant. A kid caught between wonder and escape.

MARTY

Too small a place for a life this big.

INT. FAMILY KITCHEN - MORNING

His mother irons with silent fury. His father 's coach keys jangle on the counter. The silence between them hums louder than the kettle.

MOTHER

You 'Il be late again.

FATHER

Work 's work. Bills don 't pay themselves.

Marty watches. Learns. Folds into the quiet like it 's part of him.

EXT. ST IVES MARKET - DAY

The Army recruitment van gleams in the drizzle. Posters of soldiers grinning under desert suns. Marty stops, stares.

RECRUITER

You sure about this, son?

MARTY

I am.

A signature turns a restless boy into a soldier.

MONTAGE – TRAINING CAMP (PLYMOUTH BARRACKS)

- Boots pounding mud.
- Rifles disassembled and reassembled blindfolded.
- Drill sergeant 's thunderous voice.
- MARTY, pushed, broken, rebuilt.

INT. BARRACKS - NIGHT

Ben and Charlie — mates from back home — share smuggled crisps. Laughter under the hum of the heater.

BEN

We don 't quit.

MARTY

We stick.

They toast with teacups. A small promise in a world built on orders.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Dust storms. The sound of rotor blades. War hums in the air like a storm about to break.

JACOB

You' re the quiet one. Quiet ones get left alone. Not by me.

Marty grins. They share a bond forged in the fire of fear.

EXT. PATROL ROUTE - DAY

The world explodes. The sound cuts out. Marty hits the ground, dust choking his lungs.

MARTY

Stay with me, Jake! Eyes on me!

Jacob 's hand slips away. Silence where laughter should be.

INT. PLYMOUTH FLAT - NIGHT

Years later. Marty sits in a dim flat above a takeaway. Letters from Veterans UK stacked like unpaid debts. A plant wilts on the sill.

AISHA

We 'II do UC first, then AFCS. I can 't promise miracles.

MARTY

Miracles are banned.

She laughs. The first human sound in days.

INT. SAME FLAT – LATER

Marty stares at the kettle. Steam curls. He whispers to the empty room.

MARTY

If you live, I do.

EXT. PLYMOUTH HOE - SUNSET

The sea glows dull silver. Fireworks crack. Marty hits the ground, shaking. A child 's laughter pierces the panic.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

He writes: 'I ' m back. Settling. Don ' t worry.' The lie folds neatly into the envelope.

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT.