

CHLOE'S DAD CAN BEAT UP YOUR DAD

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RW: *CHLOE'S DAD CAN BEAT UP YOUR DAD* is a heightened portrait of modern parenting.

Think of it like the old *Little Orphan Annie* comic – but with ANNIE as a self-possessed, Gen-Z high school senior, and DADDY WARBUCKS as a Gen-X Tony Stark, both who must juggle their lives and friendships with secret battles against science fictional threats across the Earth, all after having discovered that, for better or worse, they are now each other's family.

JGM: HERE'S HOW IT GOES. WE OPEN ON...

An epic moment of first-contact with an alien species. A dark and spiky spaceship hovers over the Mojave Desert.

On the ground below, there's the full might of the US Army... sort of. The five lead tanks in the military formation look like they've been, well... MELTED. Nearby two GENERALS speak desperately to the PRESIDENT on a sat-phone when suddenly, the leader of the aliens – menacing but humanoid in shape – STEPS UP TO A RAMP, introduces himself as PARAXALA OF AOXOMOXOA(A-ocks-oh-mox-oh-ah) and addresses the soldiers before him: PEOPLE OF EARTH, RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, FROM THIS MOMENT ON YOU WILL SERVE ONLY -

Just then, the poor alien is cut short by the THUNDERING SOUND OF A MAN IN A JETPACK parting the clouds. This jetpacketeer lands in front of Paraxala's ship and removes his helmet to reveal the charming, brilliant and movie-star-handsome (also-potentially-diverse) BLAKE BLACKSTAR.

Cool and confident, Blake takes out his phone - he has an app that allows him to speak to the aliens - and explains that Paraxala's arrival was very impressive, but Perry and his pals aren't the first "aliens" who've come to earth. Not even the 100th. Still, Blake adds, the great thing about Earth is that, since the 1940s, it has welcomed almost everyone who's touched down here, so long as they play by the rules. This means you can't go hunting humans for sport, or use people as hosts for chest-exploding spawn, or anything like that. We cool?

Praxala smiles and responds they definitely won't do any ONE of those things. Because they're going to do ALL OF THEM!

Immediately, the aliens gear up to unleash global horror... but simultaneously Blake whips out a high-tech piece of his own, and emits an energy pulse that (as Blake later explains) causes all of the aliens to shit out their own brains... literally.

The giant hovering ship drops to the ground with a CLANG, all the alien bodies sizzle and fade, and that's it.

As amazed soldiers erupts into cheers, Blake launches back into the air with his jetpack, glancing to the two Generals with a rakish salute: "Tell the President we're still on for poker. On, and you're welcome."

RW: FROM THIS, WE CUT TO A NEWS REPORT talking about none other than Blake Blackstar and his latest *scientific* triumph – apparently he just figured out how to fertilize 100 square miles of the Mojave! (this, we'll get, is the cover story) And how Blake then jetpacked from a photo-op there to Belfast where he played bass for Bono at a charity concert... but then we REVEAL this newscast is on a screen in an empty guard booth at a HIGH TECH RESEARCH FACILITY.

Here, THREE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS take advantage of the guard's absence to break in and document all of the facility's illegal polluting: toxic gasses, tainted water, you name it. All three of these kids are Social Justice Warriors who hate what this company does... and especially hate the man behind the company, BLAKE BLACKSTAR.

And no one hates Blake more than the crew's leader, CHLOE O'ROURKE. A whip-smart 17year old, she thinks Blake is an arrogant, megalomaniacal (meg-a-lo-man-aye-akel) asshole. However, her righteous documentation of his corruption is abruptly interrupted by A GROUP OF RIVAL GEN-Z'ers *also* documenting the facility.

In no time the teens' fight for justice comically devolves into a virtue-signaling Tik-Tok battle over *whose break-in this is* 'cause Chloe thinks SHE should be in charge of it, until the kids' squabble leads to them being spotted and busted by FACILITY SECURITY GUARDS. Chloe nobly allows herself to get arrested so her two comrades can escape.

Down at the station, the local POLICE CHIEF – who is familiar with Chloe’s activism – tells Chloe that, even with the loss of her Mom a year ago, she has used up the last bit of their official sympathy... so now her FATHER is coming to bail her out. Chloe is stunned: her mother never talked about a birth father; she’s never heard his name.

Just then, A MOTORCADE pulls up, with a Lamborghini Urus at the lead. And getting out is Blake *Fucking* Blackstar. That's right: Blake is Chloe’s dad.

JGM: SO THAT’S THE TEASE, NOW WHAT IS THIS SHOW?

We want to do a show that examines coming-of-age and parenthood from a direction you don’t often see on TV: the father/daughter dynamic.

There’s tons of mother/daughter shows out there. Lots of shows on siblings. Father/sons. Uncles/nephews. Daddy issues. But what you don’t see much of is fathers and daughters finding their way toward a healthy relationship. And if ever there was a time when Dads needed a clear path toward being – or in this case, becoming – decent people, the time is NOW.

RW: On top of this, this a story both of us want to tell (and maybe subconsciously been *trying to tell* for a while).

We are both Gen-X dads with established careers... and young daughters (they're both five years-old). And even before I was a dad-with-a-daughter, I tried to explore a unique father/daughter dynamic in my short-lived and, in retrospect, poorly-titled show, *The Mob Doctor*.

Around the same time, Javi dug into a metaphorical father/daughter dynamic in his comic books and TV show *The Middleman*.

So this is a story we both have an affinity for – and which clearly we’re gonna keep trying to do until we get it right. Kinda like how it is raising a daughter.

JGM: SO NOW LET’S TALK ABOUT THE SHOW’S 5 MAIN CHARACTERS:

First, CHLOE O’ROURKE. She’s a high school senior, a Gen-Z Social-Justice activist, and a girl who thinks she knows everything... and while she doesn't, it's not that far off.

Her prodigious smarts – and drive to always be in control with a need for an authority figure to fight – have kept her pretty much solitary (outside her two friends).

Chloe is a self-taught, high-school equivalent of a "jailhouse lawyer," and slightly left of Bernie Sanders in her politics. She doesn't buy new clothes in favor of thrifting... gives every cent she can to good causes, and leads demonstrations which are not always well attended. Think of her as the Sci-Fi version of Hermione Granger.

RW: Next: BLAKE BLACKSTAR. He's Indiana Jones crossed with James Bond, crossed with Elon Musk, crossed with The Most Interesting Man in The World. Orphaned at an early age, Blake is a brilliant, self-educated physicist, economist, historian... and a master of a dozen other academic disciplines, who's also been gifted with a photographic memory. He's a big personality who has an endless appetite for validation, and has used his brilliance to get everything he wants... almost.

For years, Blake has filled his free time – time not spent running one of the largest corporations on Earth – by secretly fighting superhuman threats to the world using science and gadgets of his own invention. Blake likes keeping busy because that helps him avoid facing his demons. He has conquered everything he's faced, except the human heart.

This dichotomy between Chloe and Blake – the engine that will drive their conflict over many seasons of television – is simple: Chloe is always MORALLY right, while Blake is always FACTUALLY right. Meeting somewhere in the middle where both of them can live? That's the arc of the series.

JGM: ONTO THE REST OF OUR CAST...

MOLLY MARTINEZ is Chloe's best friend since elementary school, and is a MUCH bigger fan of Blake than Chloe. Born in Boyle Heights, raised in the Valley by her two dads -- ERNESTO and RODRIGO, who are contractors behind the one ethical building company ON EARTH -- Molly is well-adjusted and smart, but shy by nature.

As parents, Ernesto and Rodrigo have been the gay, Latinx versions of Ward and June Cleaver: fair, kind, giving, never holding back love for their daughter. Since the death of Chloe's mom, they have been hosting Chloe in their home.

Molly is a crackerjack engineer who has an endless curiosity about how things work. In terms of her friendship with Chloe, imagine the girls from *Booksmart*... but with one big LGBTQ wrinkle. Molly is gay, and in love with her best friend, but she hasn't told Chloe about this... yet.

Up until the events of the pilot, Molly's favorite memory was the day she and Chloe both got their acceptance letters to UCLA. Although Molly's Dads have been encouraging her to live her truth and declare her love for Chloe – Molly has been waiting for college to reinvent herself... So, as one might imagine, the arrival of Blake Blackstar in her life is a very mixed blessing.

RW: Next: GARY FROM GLENDALE. GARY is the son of conservative Armenian-Americans; his real last name is "Hartunian". Gary's family fully expects him to go to business school and then manage one of the dozen franchise fast food restaurants they own, as his four brothers have done before him.

Gary, however, wants something different: he loves his family and their culture, and the bling that comes from success in business... but something he can't quite figure out tugs at him. Gary is smart but unfocused, helpful but usually tone deaf; he's the guy who is constantly taking on new identities as he tries to put together who he really is. He's someone who keeps an alternate set of clothes stashed in a box *outside* his house. Anything *not* to toe the family party line when he isn't at home. Palling around with Chloe and Molly has given Gary plenty of avenues for adventure and self discovery; in the process, he has fallen hard for Chloe, too. This is not going to work out.

JGM: Lastly, we have BARNABY "BARNEY" BLACKSTAR who is Blake's older brother and Blackstar Industry's C.O.O. Barney does everything he can to protect Blake as a brand and a person... sometimes to the point of not really caring about anything else. Barney feels that he and Blake built their empire together and is happy where they're at.

Blake, however, is sure that, one day, Barney is going to strike out on his own... but that's because Blake can't understand that his brother doesn't crave accolades like Blake does. Think of Barney as Beard to Ted Lasso... but one who has spent his life building the Blackstar brand and has billions and the ability to launch people into the sun.

But at core, he's all about doing right by his brother – **because that's what this show is examining: not how a dysfunctional family works... but how a *functional* family works when in the face of great peril.**

RW: SO, GETTING BACK TO OUR PILOT EPISODE...

When we left our heroes, Chloe was facing felony charges for the break-in, and had just discovered Blake is her Dad.

Blake bails her out, explains to Chloe that, when she was born, he promised her MOTHER – an investigative journalist with whom he had a brief-but-shockingly-passionate affair – to stay away from Chloe, *no matter what happened*, so that Chloe could “grow up normal.” It was a request that her mom actually reminded Blake of on her deathbed, so Blake has been honoring it. But now Chloe has forced his hand by getting arrested. For breaking into HIS lab. So he wants to know: *why does she hate him so much?* Did her Mom talk crap about him? He deserves an explanation for bailing her out.

Chloe agrees and, as he gives her a ride to Molly's, lays into Blake for all the shitty stuff she thinks he's done.

Blake tries to defend himself -- but his oversized ego gets in the way, resulting in Chloe insisting Blake never see her again. When Blake *mansplains* he's actually her legal guardian until she's 18... so that's not gonna happen, she counters by vowing to get legally emancipated. Tomorrow.

JGM: The very next day, Chloe and Molly and Gary skip school to file Chloe's paperwork at the courthouse – but that's when AOXAMOXOAN (A-ocks-oh-mox-oh-an) ALIENS DISGUISED AS HUMANS PULL UP IN A VAN AND ABDUCT ALL THREE OF THEM!

Blake gets the ransom video sent by PRAXADOR OF AOXOMOXOA. It's on DVD because the aliens are a bit behind in understanding human tech. Anyway, PRAXI is the even-more-arrogant father of the alien that Blake foiled in the teaser and he tells Blake that he has Chloe and her friends and will torture all of them *forever* unless Blake turns over the weapon he used on that first wave of alien troops.

Unbeknownst to them, however, Chloe has already calmed down her freaked out companions, and is now in the process of leading them in an escape from the downtown office building where the aliens have been holding them.

They're almost out when -- who should they run into but Blake and Barney who have now shown up to "save them"?!

To Blake's surprise, Chloe isn't grateful -- she's pissed because she and her friends were already *saving themselves*. The father-daughter argument builds until they look up to see Praxador and his guards surround them. All looks lost!

But obviously, it isn't. Thanks to a combination of Praxador's arrogance, Blake's hubris and a bit of luck, Chloe gets hold of that brain-shitting weapon and greases all of the aliens. Even President Praxador.

RW: Good news is this saves Chloe, and her Dad and everyone. Bad news, as Blake explains, Chloe's act has turned what was a small galactic skirmish into a full declaration of PLANETARY WAR. Chloe is stunned. And pissed. And at a loss of what to do! Blake suggests Chloe can make up for this planetary faux-pas by coming to work for him.

See, over the past couple days, he's come to be impressed by Chloe, and has realized he really wants to get to know his daughter better... What's more, if she works for him for, say, the next year, it'll give her the chance to clean up this extra-terrestrial mess she made -- AND it *won't* mean she'll have to give up UCLA, because he's already convinced the school to give her credit for working with him *in exchange* for his endowing them with "The Blake Blackstar Center for the Study of Diversity and Marginalized Racial, Gender and Social Minorities... It's kinda win-win, right?"

Chloe... tells Blake to fuck off... initially. But then, in an incredibly emotional moment, she discovers a scrap-book (more like a scrap *room*) of keepsakes from Chloe's own life that Blake has collected over the last 18 years that show Blake's affection for her is real, and that maybe he's not *as bad* as he seems. So, after talking with her friends, and her gay godfathers, Chloe agrees to give Blake one year -- so long as he also gives jobs to her two friends, as well.

JGM: Blake agrees and is elated.

Molly is disappointed about having to adjust her coming-out plans, but is glad to be staying close to Chloe.

Gary gives his parents the news, but they are unimpressed: they want him in *their* family business, not somebody else's.

As for Barney, he arranges for Blackstar Industries to "acquire" the alien hide-out where Chloe and her friends were being kept, now to use as the site of Blake and Chloe's new Blackstar subsidiary.

From there, our newly formed team will launch, and accompany, Blake on all of his next-level adventures... and become a family of their own in the process.

RW: SO THAT'S THE PILOT

In case it's not clear, **THE TONE** of *Chloe's Dad* is Dan Fogelman emotion in a heightened genre world, with some *Rick and Morty* insanity sprinkled in for good measure.

This show is a LIGHT ADVENTURE WITH A STRONG EMOTIONAL CORE: think *Tomb Raider* or *Men In Black* as they might have been had they focused on a dad trying to be a good influence on his daughter -- though often falling short... And on a daughter trying to reconcile her beliefs with a father who has a good heart and a great capacity for love that has been stunted by wealth, fame, intellect, and the desire to fly higher, faster and further than everyone.

JGM: This is also a CASE-OF-THE WEEK SHOW. Every week we'll have a great self-contained story with a moral and emotional lesson that our audience can relate to and take into their daily lives. Because **THE THEME** of this show is one that we think will resonate with young and old, parent and child -- and one that the world needs: **No one can go through life alone.**

RW: We need to understand one another and to develop an empathy for those whom we *don't* understand, or don't even like. We need to see that not everyone in our lives needs to be changed or remade in our image. We need the diversity of experience that is the hallmark of humanity in order to *become more human ourselves*. And we don't always get to choose who walks on our journey with us.

JGM: MOVING FORWARD...

Let's get real: Rob just finished Co-Showrunning *Supergirl*, I'm Executive Producing *The Witcher*... So even though our world doesn't have caped superheroes or magical fantasy, both of us are confident we can come up with as many self-standing creature/MacGuffin/treasure hunt/espionage stories we need for multiple seasons.

Blake Blackstar is an international man of science and mystery. That means if they can do it in *Indiana Jones*, one of Dan Brown's *Robert Langdon* books, or *Archer* then we can do it here with our own unique spin.

Still, as we mentioned at the opening, at the core of every episode is an emotional tale of parenting and daughtering, that will grow out of our characters' main personal drives.

RW: CHLOE is trying to save her Dad from himself.

MOLLY is striving to win Chloe's heart.

GARY is pushing to get out from under his family by hitching up with The Blackstar clan.

BARNEY is intent on managing and monitoring this new family expansion as carefully as possible.

And, finally, BLAKE is doing everything he can to win Chloe to his side – while also continuing to defend the world from everything you could imagine showing up in a franchise show like this.

The brass ring, for Blake, is to have the year conclude with the alien threat pushed to a far corner of the Galaxy, and Chloe opting to stay with him for another year.

The brass ring for Chloe is to make her father and his corporation into better citizens of the world. And now that she's been looped in, also to kick some serious alien ass.

JGM: What we're going to find out, is that both of them are willing to do way more than anyone expected to make their desires come true... and in the process, ultimately discover they're not as alone as they thought.

Now, to avoid Zoom fatigue, this is where we end our pitch.

Thanks for you time.

If you want, we can talk sample episodes and season arcs... or we can wait until we meet again.

THE END.

YOU WANT SAMPLE EPISODES?

The parents of our three childhood friends meet for the first time. As a parent, just because you like your kid's friend, doesn't mean you like their parents – especially a blowhard like Blake. And, as a kid, you want to be proud of you folks but it's hard when the dinner gets invaded by Space Sharks.

The Blackstar's brotherly rivalry gets re-kindled when Chloe introduces Barney to a friend as her "cool uncle". Blake's attempt to reclaim his "cool" status results in him re-awakening the brothers' first foe, who has a cosmic WMD.

Molly finally comes out to Chloe and confess her love... only to have Blake try to "help" Chloe process this, with disastrous results.

YOU WANT A SEASON ONE ARC?

In Season One, we'll have three emotional tent poles.

1. As mentioned, Molly comes out to Chloe... then Gary reveals his love for Chloe to Blake... resulting in Blake trying to help manage Chloe's love life.
2. Next, Chloe suspects Blake is spying on her. It's natural for a parent to want to know what his kid and her friends are doing; also a serious invasion of privacy. This will get partially resolved when they discover it's actually Barney who's been doing the spying.
3. Finally, on the verge of our family's battle with The Uber Boss of All Invading Aliens, Blake reveals to Chloe that her mother didn't die of natural causes – she was part alien and *this* Alien Boss is responsible for her death!

But then Blake will let slip his second secret to Barney -- that to keep Chloe close, he's lied about Chloe's mom. She's not dead. She's alive, and closer than any of them thought.

WHAT'S THE END OF THE WHOLE SERIES, YOU SAY?

The series ends when BLAKE finally sees that Chloe has grown up, so is able to let go of both her *and* his grandstanding ego... and when CHLOE realizes that Blake can only be changed so much, but still loves him anyway.