

REMOTELY WORKING

"Caught"

Pilot Webisode 1:1

Phil, Kate, Chloe, Anna, and Nav are introduced as the Remotely Working team. Phil thinks their online staff meeting is audio only, but it isn't!

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COLD OPENFADE IN:INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A bedroom door is barely open enough to reveal the silhouette of a mid-twenties man as he puts on his pants.

PHIL (O.S.)

I love you Baby, but you gotta leave.
Don't give me that pouty-face! You
have your space, I have mine. It's
better that way. I gotta start work!

The man's bare foot kicks out a DOG. It's a scrawny female white Malta-poo. Her dog tag reads "Baby."

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please! Get out of my OFFICE!

The door SHUTS.

The Dog scratches the door.

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No!

She scratches the door again.

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No!

The door fully opens.

PHIL, an Anglo hipster, attired in adult "Ninja Turtle" pajamas, throws out a greasy pizza box.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I'm trying to WORK!

He returns to his "bedroom office" and shuts the door.

The pizza box contains one leftover pizza crust.

The Dog devours the crust.

She turns and notices something on her tail, but she can't reach it. She chases her tail in a circle.

She spins and spins and spins and spins and spins.

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONEFADE IN:EXT. URBAN STREETS - MORNING

A Prius speeds through the gentrifying "Hill" neighborhood of St. Louis. The storefronts are an eclectic mix of old Italian restaurants and hipster coffee houses.

An OCTOGENARIAN WOMAN, in a muumuu, is asleep in a folding chair outside an old pizza parlor.

The coffee houses are filled with millennials typing on their laptops and reading their cell phones. Some people are on their phones and laptops at the same time.

The people walking up and down the street are all phone zombies. No one takes their eyes off their screens.

EXT. SUBURBAN SCHOOL - MORNING

The Prius pulls up (too fast) to an upscale parochial elementary school. A seven-year old girl, KELLY, and her five-year old brother KYLE, pop out. They look back inside the car and wait.

A woman's hand (with a wedding ring) tosses each child a juice box and a twenty-dollar bill.

The Prius pulls out (too fast.)

INT. KATE'S PRIUS - MORNING

KATE, late-thirties Anglo blonde with a big smile, switches on her blue-tooth headset.

KATE

Yes, I'm the call administrator. Yes, audio for now, but when I get to my desk, how do I switch it to video? Control F, Shift U. Got it. FU. Bye.

A lanyard hangs from her rear-view mirror. It's her employee photo badge. Kate's picture on the badge is a mess. Her long blonde hair is disheveled. Her "smile" looks like she broke a tooth biting a lemon.

The company logo for her employer PARANA is a big fish (made of black ones and zeros) eating a smaller fish (made of green dollar signs) eating a smaller fish (made of stars and stripes colored like the American flag.)

INT. PHIL'S KITCHEN - MORNING

PHIL, still in his "Ninja Turtle" pajamas, opens a microwave to get his re-heated cup of coffee.

His COFFEE MUG reads "#1 Dog Dad."

His refrigerator door features several magnet-photos of Phil's mixed race mid-twenties roommate with an attractive Asian woman. Phil's only photo shows him holding his dog.

A handwritten note, taped to the door, reads:

"PHIL - RENT DUE YESTERDAY. YOU IGNORED MY TEXTS! VENMO ME! SEE YOU SUNDAY. DON'T SMOKE IN THE HOUSE. KEEP THE DOG OUT OF MY ROOM! THX. MARQ."

Inside the refrigerator is a spartan collection of single-guy food: cold pizza, Chinese takeout, several types of craft beer, and a gallon jug of milk that is two-thirds empty.

Phil takes the top off the milk, sniffs it, recoils, and pours it down the drain.

DING! Phil looks at his phone.

PHIL

Oh snap!

Phil grabs his coffee mug and bolts back to his bedroom.

INT. CHLOE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

CHLOE, an early-twenties, mixed-raced, slender built, computer savant, types feverishly on her keyboard. Her headphones fill her ears with 80's Metal-Rock music.

DING! An animated character starts to dance across her computer monitor screen. It's a cartoon caricature of Kate.

KATE CARTOON

(On monitor) Parana, Parana, let's play Parana.

The Kate Cartoon stops dancing. She wags her large cartoon finger at Chloe.

KATE CARTOON (CONT'D)
(On monitor) Probation, probation,
it's Chloe "vestigation." Play Nice!

Chloe logs out of her program, takes off her headset, turns on the face-chat app, and grudgingly delivers a forced smile.

INT. HYDERABAD, INDIA, CALL CENTER - NIGHT

The moon is full over the gritty congested streets of Hyderabad, India.

NAV, a tall late-thirties Hyderabad native, in a wrinkled business shirt and blue tie, looks out his office window at the people passing on the streets below.

Everyone walking on the street has their eyes fixed on their cell phone screens.

The Parana logo on Nav's office wall has its smallest fish adorned in the orange, white, and green flag of India.

On his desk is a framed photo of Nav, his wife, their two teenage Indian daughters, and their ten-year old son, a blond-haired blue-eyed Nordic. The Son wears an NFL charity T-shirt that reads: "Atlanta Falcons Super Bowl LI Champions."

Nav walks out of his small glass-lined office and stands on an interior balcony overlooking the "Floor" of an old warehouse re-purposed as a PARANA CALL CENTER.

The "Floor" hosts rows and rows of identical cubicles. Each cubicle has a monitor, a keyboard, a headset, and a frustrated Indian call technician.

DING! NAV looks at his phone, then walks back to his office.

Nav puts on his headset, clicks a few strokes on his keyboard, stares at his screen, and waits.

The screen reads: "Parana staff call. AUDIO ONLY."

EXT. PARIS STREET CAFE - DUSK

An international eclectic group of shoppers, workers, and business types walk the evening streets of Paris. Each person's eyes are fixed on his/her cell phone screen.

ANNA and her husband SAM are sipping wine at a table in an outdoor Paris bistro.

Anna is a tall mid-thirties dark-haired German beauty. She wears a sleek black pencil skirt, a white silk blouse, a black blazer, and a gold necklace. Her diamond wedding ring is large and bright.

Sam, a professional soccer player, is a tall athletic Hispanic in a finely tailored dark business suit.

DING! Anna looks at her phone. She plugs in her earbuds.

ANNA

Sorry, I have another "office" conference call.

SAM

Why does every call have to be in the middle of dinner? The rest of the planet is not on American time!

ANNA

It's fine dear. Just order for me. I need to listen to the new "team building" goals that I'll ignore.

SAM

Your "office" isn't a team, it's just five individuals wearing the same logo. It's like "team" golf.

Anna nods her head in agreement.

EXT. URBAN STREETS - MORNING

Kate's Prius carelessly and dangerously weaves through St. Louis traffic.

INT. KATE'S PRIUS - MORNING

KATE

(Audio static) Good morning everyone.
It's Kate.

NAV (O.S.)

Good evening. It's Nav.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Chloe in HotLanta. Sup?

ANNA (O.S.)
It's Anna. Good evening.

They wait for Phil. Silence. Kate adjusts her phone.

KATE
(Audio static) Phil, are you there?
Where's Phil?

She focuses on the call, not her driving.

EXT. URBAN STREETS - MORNING

The Octogenarian Woman is at the corner of an intersection in front of the historic St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church.

She gets the "Walk" Signal.

She looks both ways. She takes one step off the curb.

Kate's Prius speeds through the red light at the intersection.

Kate comes RAZOR CLOSE TO HITTING the Octogenarian Woman.

The Octogenarian Woman JUMPS back on the curb in shock.

OCTOGENARIAN WOMAN
ASSHOLE!

INT. KATE'S PRIUS - MORNING

Kate (and everyone on the call) hears the loud insult.

CHLOE (O.S.)
That reminds me, I need to call my
Mother.

NAV (O.S.)
Kate, was that our VP?

Kate looks in her rearview mirror. The angry Octogenarian Woman gives Kate "the finger."

KATE
(Audio static) Let's focus people. We
need to win this competition, or we're
all screwed. Hey, where's Phil?

INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Phil sits in his bedroom at his desktop computer. The walls are barren. The bed is a mess. A dead cactus plant is on his night-stand. The dead cactus is covered with cobwebs.

His closet holds eight different pairs of pajamas neatly hung up. Every other piece of his clothing is piled in a mound of laundry in the corner.

Three empty beer bottles clutter his desk. He tosses them in the trash. He fixes up his vape pipe and takes a long drag.

Phil clicks on his keyboard. He switches websites on his screen. He is puzzled. He can't find the Parana Group-Chat.

As each website window on his screen closes, we see in sequence: Porn, baseball, porn, fast-food coupons, porn, used-cars, porn, and finally the Parana logo website.

INT. KATE'S PRIUS - MORNING

KATE

(Audio static) OK, lets start without him. It's audio now but we'll switch to video when I get to my desk.

ANNA (O.S.)

Are you still driving?

KATE

(Audio static) No, I mean yes. I had to take my kids to school. My husband is traveling. The cat was sick. I'm a... let's get back to business.

NAV (O.S.)

Kate, your line is stat-icky.

CHLOE (O.S.)

It's hella noisey.

Kate pulls up to a red light and stops. She fumbles with her phone and her bluetooth connection to improve the sound.

The light turns green. HONK!

Behind her in a pickup truck, a TEENAGE BOY driver and his TEENAGE GIRLFRIEND are stuck.

HONK! HONK! Kate ignores them.

HONK! HONK! HONK! The frustrated teenagers drive around her.

TEENAGE BOY
HEY IDIOT! HANG UP YOUR PHONE!

TEENAGE GIRLFRIEND
GET A ROOM!

KATE
(Clear Audio) Are we good now?

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - MORNING

Kate's Prius RACES into her driveway (too fast.)

BANG, CRASH, she knocks over her recycling bins and scatters bottles and papers throughout her neighborhood.

Kate runs into her house.

One of her black pumps falls off but she leaves it behind.

She throws her remaining shoe at the wall.

She nearly trips over her fat gray tabby CAT.

She keeps running until she reaches her modestly decorated small home office.

Her desk is covered with papers.

The amber light on her desk-top printer blinks excessively.

She sits down, OUT OF BREATH, at her desktop computer.

Her screensaver is the PARANA AMERICAN LOGO.

FADE OUT

ACT TWOFADE ININT. HYDERABAD, INDIA, CALL CENTER - NIGHT

Nav's screensaver is the PARANA INDIAN LOGO. Nav's computer screen changes to show only 14 of a maximum 300 lines lit up.

NAV

Something's wrong!

There is a disturbance in the rows of call technicians.

One call technician is cooking a pot of rice on a hot plate.

Three are asleep at their desks.

Five are engaged in a gambling card game.

Seven are gathered around a screen watching a cricket match.

NAV (CONT'D)

Are the servers down?

INT. SUBURBAN HOME (OFFICE) - MORNING

KATE

No... everything is fine... I mean, I don't know....

CHLOE (O.S.)

Six servers are down, five are up. One is being repaired. Just saying.

ANNA (O.S.)

So what's the purpose of this meeting?

KATE

Team building. Do you have any issues?

ANNA (O.S.)

Yes, but I blame my parents.

PHIL (O.S.)

I'm here. Sorry. Did I miss anything?

Kate's desk clock indicates it's 8:10 a.m.

KATE

Anna, give us a report on the European region's upgrade.

EXT. PARIS STREET CAFE - DUSK

Anna holds her hand up, signaling her FRENCH WAITER to stand by and hold her plate while she focuses on the call.

ANNA

It's an upgrade. That concludes my report.

The unamused French Waiter looks at Sam. Sam rolls his eyes.

KATE (O.S.)

Anna, I realize you didn't ask to join this team, none of us did, but we have to make it work.

Anna sits back and "allows" the French Waiter to place the plate in front of her.

INT. HYDERABAD, INDIA, CALL CENTER - NIGHT

KATE (O.S.)

Nav, tell us about the call centers.

NAV

Well, Saanvi had her baby but Arjun still says he's not the father...

INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nav drones on.

NAV (O.S.)

Vihann's mother came by to give us some good news. The spider bite was not poisonous, but we need to fumigate the annex.

Phil stares at his screen. It's now 8:42 a.m.

He pulls up last night's baseball scores. New York beat Seattle 9-0.

PHIL

Damn!

NAV (O.S.)

What?

PHIL

Sorry. How's Reyansh?

Phil pushes a keyboard button. The screen reads "MUTE ON."

NAV (O.S.)

Reyansh is back from the hospital,
everyone is happy it wasn't cancer,
just an STD!

INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Phil's dog pushes open his bedroom door.

She JUMPS on Phil's lap.

The Dog paws the keyboard. The screen changes to "MUTE OFF."

PHIL

Oh Baby, not now please.

She JUMPS away and KNOCKS OVER PHIL'S COFFEE MUG.

HOT COFFEE SPILLS ON PHIL'S LAP!

PHIL (CONT'D)

BITCH!

Phil removes his pajama shirt and uses it as a towel on his crotch to sop up the coffee.

PHIL (CONT'D)

OUCH! This is gonna leave a mark!

The Dog sniffs the spilled coffee but she doesn't like it.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I should make you lick it!

The Dog goes prone on the floor with her head down.

Phil vigorously RUBS HIS CROTCH with his shirt.

EXT. KATE'S HOME OFFICE - MORNING

Kate has two buttons on her computer screen: BLUE for "audio only" and RED for "video."

She CLICKS THE RED button.

INSERT: FOUR-WAY SPLIT SCREEN ON KATE'S COMPUTER MONITOR

Anna shows her phone to Sam. Chloe clicks "screen save."

Nav sits at his office desk laughing.

Phil, bare chested, continues to RUB HIS CROTCH with his shirt.

PHIL

(On monitor)

Baby, you're a bad girl!

KATE

Um, Phil, are we interrupting?

Phil fumbles to shut off his camera, but he can't do it.

He offers only an EMBARRASSED GRIN.

INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Phil is back at his desk. His coffee mug is turned upside-down. He wears a wrinkled button down white shirt and jeans.

His monitor has a split screen. Kate is on half the screen.

In the foreground, Kate sits at her home office desk. In the background, her five-year old son Kyle tries to stick a fork into a wall socket.

The other half of Phil's screen is AKIHIRO, a mid-forties Japanese man with dark balding hair. He wears a Parana corporate badge.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

In HR, it doesn't matter what you think you were doing, it only matters what it looks like. If it's on a screen, it's true.

PHIL

I'm really sorry.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

You're on probation.

KATE

(On monitor)

With Chloe.

The Kate Cartoon animation dances across Phil's screen.

KATE CARTOON

(On monitor)

Probation. Probation. It's Phil
"conflation!"

Phil clicks on his screen and deletes the Kate Cartoon.

Then a SERIES OF MEMES pops on Phil's screen. Each meme features an image of bare-chested Phil with his hands on his crotch. The tag-line changes with each meme.

MEME #1: "LADIES, IF YOU LOVE THIS WEBCAM MODEL, CLICK DONATE."

He deletes it, but it's replaced by...

MEME #2: "DUDE, THE NSA CAN SEE YOU!"

He deletes it, but it's replaced by...

MEME #3: "HEY GUYS, YOU THINK IT'S A HOT CHICK ONLINE, BUT IT'S JUST PHIL!"

He deletes it, but it's replaced by...

MEME #4: "SEXUAL HARASSMENT? GET LEGAL HELP! CALL GLORIA ALWEED (314) 555-6969."

He deletes it to hear...

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

You must issue a PERSONAL VIDEO APOLOGY to each co-worker who witnessed "the incident."

PHIL

Yes Sir.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

On all future face-chat conferences, your co-workers must see each of your palms at all times.

PHIL

What if I have to type something?

KATE

(On monitor)

Phil, don't push it.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

Parana has enough "hostile work environment" issues, we don't need yours! Do you understand?

PHIL

Yes Sir.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

One more thing, you are now required to dress "appropriately."

Phil looks over at his collection of neatly pressed pajamas.

PHIL

Define "appropriately."

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

Kate will give you the list of official Parana "probation attire."

Phil's dog jumps up on his lap.

AKIHIRO (CONT'D)

(On monitor)

Is that your "Baby"?

PHIL

Yes.

AKIHIRO

(On monitor)

Phil, we can't have another episode like this one. The dog thing only works once. Goodbye!

Phil's video monitor goes black.

FADE OUT

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. KATE'S HOME OFFICE - MORNING

Kate is at her home office computer.

Her son Kyle is behind her peeling paint off the wall. He eats the paint chips.

INSERT: SPLIT SCREEN ON KATE'S COMPUTER MONITOR

Kate's computer screen displays three video streams of Nav, Chloe, and Anna.

Nav eats dinner at his desk.

Chloe types on her keyboard.

Anna is in her hotel room. She wears a heavy sweater and no bra. She purposely smudges the face-chat camera to obscure her image.

KATE

Phil, let's go!

Kate's screen splits into four images. Phil's image joins the other three.

Phil, sitting at his desk, WEARS A TUXEDO. He doesn't move.

KATE (CONT'D)

Phil, do it!

INT. PHIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Phil stands up. He WAVES HIS HANDS LEFT TO RIGHT, PALMS OPEN, like a blackjack dealer.

PHIL

BETS OPEN!

CLOSING CREDITS