

Be Brave and Don't Look Back
Code Red Playwrights
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CAST: 2 male (+ 1 offstage voice)

OFFICER DEREK (male, middle-aged)

SERGEANT FABIAN (male, middle-aged)

CHILD'S VOICE (male or female – age 7-10; DEREK'S child)

LIGHTS up on a police station in Boulder, CO.
DEREK is just reporting for duty.

FABIAN

Talley, I'm looking at my phone records. You called me seventeen times yesterday. I don't really need to know how many cheeseburgers you had for lunch.

DEREK

Just like keeping you in the loop.

FABIAN

Nor do I need to know who you beat at one of your 400 board games that you play every night. Especially when it's your kid. Who tries to score an easy win from an 8year-old?

DEREK

It's important that my kids know that *when they do* beat me – in the very far future – it's a true win. Not a "Daddy let me win" win. And ...I'm going to keep calling you until you play me one of these days. Or are you afraid you can't win?

FABIAN

I don't want to break your winning streak. And no more phone calls about the Millennium Falcon.

DEREK

It's much cooler than the Enterprise.

FABIAN

The Enterprise is tried and true.

DEREK

The Enterprise hasn't changed in thirty years. Can't *Star Trek* update their ship?

FABIAN

It's not broke. Why fix it?

DEREK

The designers know they can't come up with anything approaching the sleek coolness of the Falcon. Even your villains could use an update.

FABIAN

Spock's ears are classic.

DEREK

They take one body part and elongate it. How original! Now look at Yoda –

FABIAN

Creepy for a good guy.

DEREK

Cuddly and wise. Who in *Star Trek* is cuddly and wise? Another win for *Star Wars*!

FABIAN

The physics is more accurate in *Star Trek*.

DEREK

And we all know people watch these movies for the physics – NOT!

FABIAN

Go to work. And don't call me.

DEREK

Light sabers!

FABIAN

You're on duty. Head to Main Street.

DEREK

Classic good versus evil! Saving the galaxy from the dark side's galaxy domination!

FABIAN

You're on the clock!

DEREK

May the force be with you!

FABIAN

You are only allowed to call me ten times in one day. I don't need to know what you're buying at King Soopers at the end of your shift. Got it?

DEREK

Yes, sir! Got it, sir! On duty, sir!

(DEREK exits and goes around the corner.
FABIAN'S phone rings.)

FABIAN

Derek ...

DEREK

I thought you might like to know that I need to go to the bathroom first.

FABIAN

You only have nine more phone calls left for the day. Get in your car. (Beat.) The force will be with you.

(THEY hang up. Lights dim. Maybe bagpipes play
"Amazing Grace." Lights dim some more.)

FABIAN'S VOICE

He was the first to arrive at King Soopers and just marched right in. A father of seven children, Derek's former claim to fame was rescuing ducklings from a drainage ditch. Derek was a protector of life – all life – and he lost his doing just that.

DEREK'S VOICE

And what does Shmi Skywalker say to her young son at the end of the scene?

CHILD'S VOICE

"Now be brave and don't look back." That's you Daddy.

DEREK

That's all of us.

END OF PLAY