



## \* Character Study ❖

*Tired of Dallas getting all the sudsy fame, Fort Worth has teamed up with major studio executives to launch its own self-titled soap opera. However, the pilot might have too many characters for viewers to keep track of. The scenes do not appear to be in the right order, but it does not seem that any sequential order would make sense either. It's almost as if each character is experiencing a different timeline.*

SCENE 1: Mr. Frazier arrives at First Stockyard Bank to set up an account for the deposits he expects. Clint Campbell, customer service representative, assists him but is suspicious. Afterwards, Frank exits the bank, holding open the door for Agent Holland, whom he recognizes from the photos he is using as blackmail. Honaw, having just left his married lover at the hospital, is at the bank to get a loan for an engagement ring. Clint recognizes him as his last arresting officer and darts to the back room, seeking a painkiller to calm his nerves, but his pill bottle is empty. He texts his acquaintance Greg to find out if he's on shift at the hospital today. Greg, having just gotten out of his AA meeting, confirms that he is, realizing full well the reason for the text.

SCENE 2: Jasmine takes the pregnancy test into the bathroom. She comes out moments later with a stick showing "positive." She is horrified. The only possible father is the married man she just ended an affair with.

SCENE 3: Jasmine waits for her unborn baby's father outside his law firm. She hears a gunshot from inside and someone in a ski mask bolts out the front door. The criminal fires the gun while running away, and the bullet strikes her.

SCENE 4: Frank Frazier, widower, sits at his desk staring at the bills in front of him. His late wife, killed by a hit-and-run driver, had suffered from a gambling addiction. Now he is facing an insurmountable debt and realizes he has only one option: get "help" from the woman who enabled his wife for years. He gives Beverly a call while looking at the photos from her illicit affair. Beverly picks up, and he tells her he'll need "help" to ensure that her husband does not see the photos.

SCENE 5: Honaw returns to the hospital, frustrated that he lost sight of his target on the highway. As he gets off the elevator, he is nearly run down by Frank arguing with a lawyer as Frank heads to the locker room to change back into his personal clothes and leave. He notices Clint suspiciously rifling through what looks like a woman's wallet. He is about to say something, but Clint, aware he is being watched, turns to Daya, his ex-girlfriend, who is passing by on her way to the nurses' station. Clint is aware that Daya does not remember him, so he pretends to return her wallet as they turn the hallway corner.

SCENE 6: Antoine Adams receives a call from an unknown number. He picks up, but it is just heavy breathing on the other end.

SCENE 7: [Short clip of cattle at the stockyards]

SCENE 8: Daya, upset by her unintentional assault, calls the number on the scrap of paper next to her bed. She speaks to her supposed brother and says that she is ready to go home immediately. She gets up to visit the nurses' station about getting discharged.

SCENE 9: Frank wakes up in a hospital bed. The nurse in the room informs him that he suffered a concussion and has been unconscious for several hours. He begins to worry about the inevitable hospital bill. He passes out again.

SCENE 10: [Helicopter pan over the suburbs of Fort Worth]

## \* Character Study (cont.) ❖

SCENE 11: [Video of bartenders pouring drinks in a nightclub]

SCENE 12: Elliot pulls out a nip from her side pocket and considers taking a swig from it. She manages to resist and throws the bottle into a trash can. She tells herself that she just needs to get to her car, parked near the ER, and go home.

SCENE 13: An attorney representing Fort Worth Sacred Heart enters Frank's hospital room and pressures him to sign a waiver absolving the hospital for responsibility for his injury. Realizing their fear of litigation puts him in a position to dodge the bill for his stay completely, he refuses to sign and demands to be discharged.

SCENE 14: Jasmine Jacobs, oncologist, exits the women's bathroom after having just thrown up again. She literally runs into her friend Clint, who is heading to the ER to wait for his potential source of painkillers. Jasmine admits that she is late, and he convinces her to take a pregnancy test. Izzy and Elliot walk by, accidentally brushing Clint's arm. Clint, feeling on edge from his withdrawal, yells at them, and Izzy apologizes profusely. Elliot nervously grips the small bottle of whiskey she has in her jeans pocket.

SCENE 15: Antoine ducks into a meeting room at Fort Worth Sacred Heart to call the mental institution holding his twin brother, whom he suspects of the disturbing call earlier in the day. He is still on hold when Izzy Ibarra, Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor, comes in with Honaw Holland, co-sponsor and undercover FBI agent, who tell him that he has to leave. As Izzy arranges chairs, she reflects on her argument this morning after finding marijuana in her teen daughter's bedroom but is snapped out of it by the door opening. Elliot Evans, detective for the FWPD, enters and nervously takes a seat: this is her first meeting, but it has been court-mandated due to her DUI. Next, Greg still shaken up from his ambulance ride, enters. Several extras fill the room. Honaw looks disappointed as Izzy goes to shut the door so the meeting can begin, but then Beverly enters at the last minute, to Honaw's excitement.

SCENE 16: Agent Holland gets in his car after the AA meeting and waits until he sees Greg. After Greg exits the hospital, putting away his phone from texting, Honaw begins following him. He answers his phone headset as he drives, telling his director that he is hot on the trail of someone about to make a drop-off for the mob.

SCENE 17: [Tense music plays as the camera spins around Fort Worth Sacred Heart hospital]

SCENE 18: Beverly stops at a vending machine after the AA meeting to get a soda, but she cannot find her wallet in her purse. From down the hallway, Clint notices her cursing and rifling through her purse. He's already given the wallet to his ex-girlfriend (minus the cash), so he darts the other way. Honaw comes up to help, and soothes her by paying for the drink. As they pass a janitorial supply closet, he slyly suggests that she may have left her wallet in there. They go in but, rather than searching, they begin kissing passionately. They do not notice Antoine, who is bound, gagged, and unclothed behind a shelf.

SCENE 19: Greg Gardner, ambulance paramedic, helps unload a patient into the ER. He recognizes the wounds: this patient was attacked by hitmen for the mob, the mob that Greg himself owes a large sum of money to. Immediately after, he is accosted by Clint, who has been waiting at the hospital since his retail shift. He demands that Greg score him some prescription painkillers. Recognizing this golden opportunity to chip into the debt he owes the mob, Greg agrees, provided Clint can get him a sizeable chunk of cash for the pills.

## \* Character Study (cont.) ❖

SCENE 20: Daya Diaz, amnesia victim, sits in her hospital room, looking through a photo album. Frustrated, she hurls it at the door, which Frank opens a split second too late for her to stop. Daya gasps as the album clocks his head.

SCENE 21: Antoine, talking in a custodian's closet to Sunwell Mental Institution, learns that his unstable brother hasn't been using the phones; he's outright escaped. As he yells at them, he doesn't hear the door crack open. Someone hits him over the head with a gun, and he falls to the ground unconscious.

SCENE 22: [Close-up shots of teller registers at the bank]

SCENE 23: Beverly Banh, runway model, kisses her husband goodbye as he drops her off at the hospital for her AA meeting. She pushes away memories of her ongoing affair and tries to convince herself that she loves the naïve man. Not watching where she is going, Beverly bumps into Clint and spills the contents of her purse. He helps her pick it up, but sneakily takes her wallet.

SCENE 24: [Time-lapse video of highway traffic]

SCENE 25: Frank arrives at the hospital after his small errand to begin his janitorial shift, a second job he has picked up to try to make ends meet (without much success). Detective Evans, in her car, sees Frank sadly walk to the entrance, and she recognizes him from his photograph in the paper: the husband of her hit-and-run victim. She momentarily expresses relief that nobody managed to link her to the accident, but then guilt overtakes her. Elliot finds a small flask in her glove compartment and takes a gulp.

SCENE 26: [Closing credits]

