

CRAY'S CREEK Pilot
"Welcome to Cray's Creek"
Treatment

Series Logline: After a freak training accident ends his career, a Navy SEAL retires to a small, secluded, mountain community to live out his days in peace until five local brothers initiate a reign of terror.

Pilot Logline: A small town librarian seeks to include a reclusive Navy Seal in the community camaraderie while he's determined to remain excluded.

TEASER

TAGGART "TAG" MCCOY, a Navy Seal who has been forced into retirement due to a freak training accident, finds a small mountain community where he can live detached from the people of the area and lick his wounds.

Unfortunately for him, his plan makes an unexpected left turn when KELSEY WINTERS, the town librarian who recently lost her father to cancer, decides he shouldn't be alone.

Needing to adjust the quarry he's made on his property, Tag sets explosives in the rock to widen the inlet from the river. Kelsey shows up with one of her surprised visits. Delighted at the opportunity to get back at her, he blows the explosives showering her with water and dead fish, ruining her good hair day.

His amusement doesn't last long because the blast also dislodged a dead body with a bullet hole in his head from where it had been stuck in the river. He tries to shield Kelsey from the sight, but she's right by his side wondering what they're going to do about it when he really wants to push the body back in the river and let it turn up on someone else's property so he can regain the solitude he had only six short months ago.

ACT ONE

Tag's Pre-Kelsey Days...

Tag makes regularly scheduled trips to the town's small, but one stop shop until his leg pains him to the point of giving in to the slight relief of aspirin.

Town busybody, CLAIRE VRABLE, is just as surprised as anybody to see Tag in town off schedule and speculates to her husband MAX that he's probably plotting something terrible against the town. That's why he stays secluded in that cabin of his. Max dismisses her fantasies aloud, but he secretly wonders if they may have merit. After all, the guy been a resident for over a year and nobody knows the first thing about him.

VIRGIL PETERS, compulsively neat shop owner who comes off much older than he really is, welcomes Tag to his store and gets him fixed right up. Mr. Peters continues to show himself a friend even in the face of Tag's continued economy of words.

Upon leaving the shop with his aspirin, Tag jogs by a couple giggling kids scampering the other way. Reading the mischief all over their bodies, Tag glances after them. Just long enough to collide hard with something in his path and falls to the sidewalk.

Kelsey works to untangle her limbs from Tag's and yells after the boys who'd just spray painted the library's dumpster. She finally notices who she ran into and apologizes profusely. Aggravated by the collision and Kelsey's weight, the pain in Tag's leg increases to almost unbearable level, but he keeps it off his face. To keep her from seeing it, he stays on the sidewalk a moment to pick up her books then uses his good leg to stand.

Observant, she figures out his injury. To not embarrass him, she offers him coffee to give the pain a chance to subside. It's also the perfect opportunity to finally draw him into the community. Ticked more with himself than her for not hiding the injury better, Tag abruptly refuses.

Determined not to give in to the pain, he jogs off gradually increasing his speed until he's sprinting away from her. Kelsey's short lived victory of actually getting him to speak a couple sentences dissipates as she takes his departure personally and heads into the library.

Ever eager for a chance to gloat, TABITHA MONROE, town flirt plus some and Kelsey's former best friend turned nemesis, struts into the library to rub Kelsey's nose in the rejection. She also wants to mark her territory. Tag is the one man she hasn't gotten to, yet, and she's not about to let Kelsey get him first. Tabitha's amusement is cut short when ALLYSON MEYER, Kelsey's real best friend, rushes in the library to tell her about Rudolph Parish's death and subsequent meeting with the mayor in front of City Hall.

Tag returns to his cabin. Even alone, he won't allow himself to give in to a limp. His one concession to the pain is to cut his training session short for the day and logs on to his secure computer. Immediately he gets a message from CHASE JERGENS, the recruit he was training when his career-ending injury happened. Chase wants him to know that he's going on his first operation.

Tag won't let Chase thank him for getting him in, instead he warns him about other members quirks. Finally allowing a moment of seriousness, Tag tells him to earn his Trident, but come back alive. Chase laments that he won't be under Tag's command, but Tag cuts off the communication. Unable to sit still with the thoughts of what he's lost going through his head, Tag runs outside and dives into the quarry.

Back at City Hall, MAYOR GLOVER HAYES briefs the town regarding Rudolph's death. Everyone is nervous because the man was the only thing that kept his five sons from wreaking havoc all over the community. But more immediate is the concern with how they're going to express their condolences. Not wanting to risk anyone's safety and to ease any guilt trips, Mayor Hayes declares that condolences should be expressed over the telephone only. No one should go out to ranch in person.

Having just lost her father herself, this doesn't sit well with Kelsey at all. They're supposed to be a community. Look out for each other. She goes back to the library where Allyson and Claire remind her how bad the Parish brothers can be. At home that night, Kelsey's compassion gets the better of her. She takes a casserole out to the Parish ranch anyway.

Standing on the porch rethinking her actions, Kelsey finally rings the doorbell. REID PARISH, the oldest of the five brothers who recently returned to town, answers the door. Kelsey desperately wants to run, but she offers up the casserole and her condolences. Reid's not really inclined to accept either given how the townspeople have treated him and his brothers so far that day.

Kelsey admits that the Parish Brothers scare the townspeople. Knowing that she's right, Reid backs down. Wanting someone to talk to, he invites her in. Kelsey's at the end of her bravery and tries to find a plausible excuse to leave. Reid understands her reluctance. Seeing the hurt on his face, Kelsey's compassion overrides her fear and she agrees to stay a bit.

ACT TWO

After getting off to a rocky start, Kelsey and Reid have an enjoyable visit that plant seeds of friendship in the two of them. Kelsey leaves much later than she'd planned and Tabitha, who happens to be in the vicinity of the ranch "comforting" SAM PARISH, the baby boy of the bunch, sees Kelsey leave. She can't wait until she can tattle.

The next morning, Mayor Hayes and a delegation of concerned citizens confront Kelsey about her late night visit to the Parish ranch. Kelsey turns the inquisition back on them saying that they should be ashamed of themselves for letting members of their community suffer such a tremendous loss alone. Tabitha is angry when the mayor agrees with Kelsey. He declares that people should feel free to express their concern in however they feel comfortable.

Not willing to appear more callous than they already do, the townspeople race out to the ranch to offer their condolences. It turns into an impromptu and unwelcome party where they don't notice how their mirth only deepens Reid's sadness. Tabitha saunters in with a specially made cake and flirts with Reid until EDDIE PARISH, the middle brother and biggest trouble maker, comes home with Sam.

Eddie does his best to make the guests uncomfortable so they'll leave. Sam idolizes Eddie and finds his antics hysterical until he suggestively licks the cake at Tabitha. When she doesn't flinch, Sam begins to wonder if she may have been with his brother before him. Reid shoos them both off to the kitchen before anything can get started.

Happy to have done their duty, the guests all scramble to leave. Glad to be rid of them, Reid answers his cell phone. His boss wants to know if everything is still a go. Ticked off at the blatant dislike he feels from the town, Reid assures him it is.

A few days later, Tag is catching up on online financial information when he hears a 21 gun salute. Immediately, it brings to mind the death of his best friend from a sniper bullet as they were clearing a South American jungle. It's not in him to miss paying respects to another fallen military man so he hastily dons his dress whites and heads to the cemetery.

Everyone in town has turned out for the funeral. The brothers insist on doing the 21 gun salute 21 times. Allyson remarks to Kelsey that it's a good thing there're no actual military people in the town because they'd probably be pretty ticked. No sooner do the words leave her mouth than Tag strolls up in uniform shocking everyone. Even Claire revises her opinion regarding his secretive actions in his secluded cabin because he's obviously one of the good guys.

Seeing that the funeral is nowhere near proper military etiquette, Tag questions what's going on. When Sam says Rudolph was never military, but he saw this cool funeral on television, Tag sees red. Reid questions who Tag thinks he is, coming there and interrupting their father's burial like this. Tag doesn't back down and they square off ready to fight.

ACT THREE

Kelsey does her best to muscle Tag and Reid apart. She points out the crowd and the casket and they both stand down. She gets Reid to cut the 21 gun salute thing short and escorts Tag away.

Knowing he's still ticked, Kelsey apologizes to Tag. The brothers don't know any better. Tag refuses to accept the apology and strides away as memories of his best friend's, a man who deserved the honors, funeral wash over him.

After the funeral, Reid goes back to the ranch to sort through his father's finances. All the red ink is disheartening. A friend from his days at Oxford, SHEIK AL-KHALIDI, phones to offer his condolences. Reid takes the opportunity to unload about the lack of finances and the town's disrespect in perfect Arabic.

A few days later, Tag jogs into town for his normally scheduled shopping excursion. The friendly waves, smiles and greetings are totally disconcerting. Claire blocks his path to start a conversation. With no graceful way to extricate himself, he endures her chatter. Until a jealous Max interrupts giving Tag an opportunity to slip away.

When Tag makes it to the store, he finds Mr. Peters okay, but futilely trying to clean up the vandalized store. Tag is perturbed that the shopkeeper knows the Parish brothers did it, but won't report them to the sheriff. Mr. Peters says the whole town was expecting it and there's not much the law can do. That's why everyone was in such a tizzy when Kelsey went out to the ranch by her lonesome. He expects things to settle down once they've grieved. Tag surprises him by helping the shop owner with the clean up.

When Tag finally emerges from the store, ROY RUSTER, the town's resident loon, tries to befriend him over a shared military history. Tag figures all is not right with the man when he refers to Cray's Creek as enemy territory. Despite his age and deteriorating health, Roy keeps up with Tag. Until Tabitha latches on his arm and shoos the older man away. Tabitha invites Tag back to her house for a late lunch and refuses to take no for an answer. But first, she suddenly remembers that she has to pick up a book from the library.

Kelsey is horrified to see Tabitha drag Tag in to the library. To hide her insecurity, Kelsey busies herself stamping the received items. Tabitha complains to Tag about Kelsey's supposed incompetence and casually mentions the lunch date. Irritated, Kelsey "accidentally" stamps Tabitha's hand. Furious, the woman storms off to the bathroom to wash it off.

Seeing Tag's relieved expression, Kelsey figures out Tabitha's act was just that. An act. She points out Tag's freedom. He gives her a grateful look and heads for the door. His escape is blocked by Roy who's waiting for him to come out of the library. Seeing the man outside, Kelsey offers Tag a hiding space under her desk. Tag haughtily informs her that he doesn't run from a woman. Kelsey shrugs, "Your alimony payment."

As Tabitha's heels clack on the floor signaling her return, Tag rethinks his retreat policy. Startling and impressing Kelsey, he vaults over the circulation desk and drops out of sight just as Tabitha comes back. Thinking Tag left, Tabitha taunts Kelsey that she can't even entertain a man for 30 seconds. Thoroughly humiliated Kelsey has no parting shot as Tabitha leaves. Tag stands and expresses his distaste for the woman as well.

Eager for some space, Kelsey pulls out a rickety cart of books she was about to return to the stacks. With Tabitha's hurtful remarks still ringing in her ears she refuses Tag's help and yanks the cart too hard. The handle breaks off and she flies backwards landing on her butt completing her humiliation. She challenges him to fix the cart; which he does in record time. But won't let her drive it anymore and they return the books to the shelves together.

Across town, the Parish brothers minus Reid drink the local bar dry. When the owner tries to close up early, Eddie picks a fight with him. The altercation quickly becomes physical and Eddie wins. He pours free drinks all around daring the owner to protest.

Finished shelving, Tag asks Kelsey for a favor. She immediately refuses. He protests that she doesn't even know what it is yet. She says it can only be

one thing the way he's been buttering her up all afternoon with his Chatty Kathy routine. She will not sleep with him. He should've stuck with Tabitha. Tag is amused at her assumption and says that he doesn't want to sleep with her. Offended, she questions why not? Tag wisely sidesteps the question and asks her to convince the town to leave him alone.

The Chatty Kathy persona deserts Tag as Kelsey questions why should she do what he asks. She agrees that she could do what he's asking, but refuses to. He switches from flattery to intimidation. Kelsey isn't deterred. He finally admits he wants to go back to living out his days in peace and quiet and alone. Kelsey tells him that's exactly why she won't do it. She's afraid he'll give up on life completely if she does. Tag, angry that he can't get what he wants, storms out of the library.

Back at the bar, Eddie is thoroughly drunk, but not quite passed out like everybody else. He staggers out the door.

As Kelsey walks home, she runs into Eddie. She tries to hide her unease as he falls in step beside her. Questions her about her visit out to the ranch. He laments that Reid didn't show her a proper good time, but he's more than happy to pick up the slack. He locks her in an embrace preparing for a passionate kiss.

ACT FOUR

Kelsey does the only thing she can. She head butts Eddie in the nose. He stumbles away as blood gushes from his nostrils. Furious, he backhands Kelsey across her cheek. She stumbles against a tree. Before she can regain her balance, Eddie is on her again. Just before he can complete the next kiss attempt, he's forcibly yanked away.

Tag subdues Eddie and commands Kelsey to get the sheriff. But there's no need. Reid got the sheriff hours ago to help him find his brothers. They'd already gathered the other three and rounded the corner just in time to see Tag pin Eddie to the sidewalk. When Tag demands that SHERIFF TYSON, who is all talk and not a lot of action unless it's somehow beneficial to him, arrest Eddie for assaulting Kelsey he refuses.

Sheriff Tyson says that it looks to him like Tag and Kelsey ganged up on a poor drunk man. They'll be lucky if they're not the ones who'll end up in a jail cell. Eddie sees Reid glaring at him and pathetically pleads his innocence. Reid knows he's lying, but Tyson accepts Eddie's word. Kelsey tries to argue, but Tyson isn't hearing her. Tag throws her over his shoulder and walks away. Reid glares jealously at Tag's back. He grabs Eddie and shepherds him to the ranch truck in which their other brothers are stuffed and drives away.

Tag takes Kelsey back to her house and invites himself in to clean her wound. Mad about the caveman impersonation, she refuses until he swipes blood from her temple and shows it to her. Unattended, Tag quickly explores her home hoping to gather intel to crack her. Seeing her standing in the kitchen, lost and in shock makes him put his objective aside.

As he cleans the wound, he's amused to learn that the blood isn't hers. He gives her ice for the rapidly forming bruise on her cheek. Watching his efficiency, Kelsey puts two and two together. She asks if he was a Seal. Tag ignores the question and heads for the front door. An idea hits Kelsey. She chases him down and throws herself in front of the door to stop him.

Kelsey announces her perfect idea to get him involved in the community. Tag has to run for sheriff. Except, it's not so perfect. It's exactly contrary to his goal of being left alone. She tries to get him to see that the town needs him. He declares that he doesn't need the town before picking Kelsey up and setting her down out of his path.

Undeterred, Kelsey chases him outside. Tells him that he earned his Trident today, but what was he going to do to earn it tomorrow? Anger contorts Tag's face at the low blow. He springs back up on the porch to tower over her. Kelsey shrinks away from him in fear. He fights for control of himself. She doesn't know the first thing about him.

Seeing he won't hurt her, Kelsey presses on. The town needs a sheriff with a backbone and Tag needs a purpose. She reminds him that there's no one who

can control the Parish brothers now that their father is dead. The town needs his protection.

Her argument gets to him. He tells her he will not run for sheriff. Seeing she's not about to let the subject go, he offers teach her how to properly defend herself hoping it'll be enough to distract her from the sheriff nonsense. Tag tells Kelsey to be at his cabin at six the next morning for her first lesson. She agrees. Tag goes home to prepare to train his first person since Chase.

Early the next morning Tag is impressed when Kelsey knocks on his door eight minutes early, but he's not about to show it. He's shocked when he opens the door to see that she's not alone. There are nineteen other women with her. All dressed and ready to learn self-defense. He yanks her inside the cabin to demand an explanation. Allyson pulls Claire away from the closed door when she tries to eavesdrop.

Kelsey explains that the women are his class. They're all paying \$20 a week for the lessons. The money is going into his campaign fund. Tag reiterates his refusal to run for sheriff. Kelsey poo poos his concern. She's certain that once he gets to know the townspeople he'll feel different. The class is a good start. Seeing that Kelsey's determined to have her way, Tag agrees to teach the class. He decides to push them as hard as he can so they won't come back.

Reid sits at his father's desk in the office. CLIFF BARNES, the dead man from the river is very much alive and relaxed enjoying a beer with Reid. Cliff question the sheriff's effectiveness. Reid confirms he's a lame duck. The men toast their plan that's on track to succeed because there'll be no interference from the local law.

THE END