

EKKO PILOT SYNOPSIS: “Follow the Stones.”

An A/V technician named **CHAD JOHN SINGLETON**, or **CJ**, (28) a man who’s just about broken, is tossing around in bed, troubled by flashbacks of a deadly stage accident that sent his life and a high-level career down the tubes just six years ago. This comes a decade after being accused of killing his parents, though he was never even questioned about tossing the man who murdered them off a cliff.

His alarm rings at 9:00 pm, and though awake, he rises and gets dressed. A few minutes later he’s out the door with his tool bag.

At a live-music rock club on the NYC piers, CJ backs into a corner, a dark hoodie over his head. He secretly taps his phone – a super-charged phone with a homemade adapter attached, one of the many auditive devices he uses to manipulate sound. With a scroll of his thumb he distorts the audio frequencies and creates havoc with the sound system. From the dark corner he watches the club’s soundman fumble, unable to fix the sound. When it seems all hope is gone, CJ conveniently appears to magically master the gear and save the drowning band onstage. It’s a shady means of making a buck, but given the entire industry associates him with death, it’s a routine that allows him to keep working while staying under the radar.

A music executive named **SARA**, (29) a sneaky and somewhat controlling wine drinker, is in the venue scouting talent. She recognizes CJ and starts getting snoopy.

Late that night, as CJ tucks his cash away and exits the club, a ghostly spirit follows. This is **NIBEL**, (50) in d’artigan clothing who reports to the Grande Dame of the spirit world.

Sara learns that CJ’s working under the name of Curt, so she cunningly adds Curt to the list of A/V candidates being considered for an upcoming tour.

Back home at his acoustic studio in NY, CJ works on his homemade adapter - when - control knobs start moving on their own. Curious, he runs tests on his equipment, and that’s when a sudden and unusual, tonal blast comes through his sound system, causing the amulet he’s worn since birth to glow a brilliant blue. He’s fascinated and investigates further, discovering that a specific, low frequency pulse is causing the otherworldly glow. Noted.

He drives to Boston where his oldest pal and fellow soundman, **DEBUSSY**, 27, a bipolar Cherokee Indian, pleads with CJ to stop scamming clubs and get back on the professional bandwagon. DeBussy adds that CJ’s ex-girlfriend, **RADINE**, (29) burgundy hair, a well-built, tough loving black woman, who’s also DeBussy’s friend and boss, might have something to do with him if he’d just clean up his act. And CJ does miss her something bad.

Instead, though, CJ once again pulls his ruse at a club in Boston to earn some cash, this time involving DeBussy in the plot. As both work late night on the repairs, Nibel appears before CJ and insists they have a talk, something they obviously did when CJ was a kid.

CJ refuses to cooperate, telling Nibel that he and the other spirits abandoned him when his parents were killed. Now he wants nothing to do with them. During their intense discussion, DeBussy has an accident and calls out for help, but CJ is too involved with Nibel to heed the cries. By the time CJ and Nibel finish arguing, DeBussy is dead.

CJ tries to call his ex, Radine, but his timing couldn't be worse because she's in bed with another man.

CJ flashbacks to the time when he and DeBussy first met in Juvii-Jail. DeBussy, an orphan, was there while CJ watched from the sidelines as his parent's funeral went on without him, and they've been brothers since.

The next morning Radine arrives at the hospital to find CJ in the waiting room, head hung low. She, too, is heartbroken over DeBussy, and despite her feelings for CJ she tears into him mentally and physically. As she calms, she hands CJ a FedEx - a job offer from a promoter - and firmly tells CJ to take the job and go away.

Late that night, CJ breaks into the club where DeBussy died, and there he calls on Nibel to appear. The discussion starts off calm until Nibel explains that CJ's parents are in danger, and according to Nibel, CJ is the only one who can travel to the spirit world and help them. In return, Nibel is offering CJ redemption for killing someone when he was a kid - even if the wicked man had just murdered his parents.

CJ's parents now hide from that wicked man, and Nibel, who isn't being too honest about his intentions, tells CJ that everything he needs to cross over is at his home in the forest. Nibel pleads with CJ to hurry, to go there now and **FOLLOW THE STONES**.

Sounds like a load of crap to CJ, and even though Nibel has succeeded at yanking his heartstrings, CJ refuses to play nice. He gets tough with Nibel and uses a sound weapon to vanquish Nibel's shoulder. The meeting takes a turn for war, and just as it commences, **DEAN AUTRY**, (50) British Indian music producer, and Sara's boss, calls from New York, ready to discuss the upcoming tour. While furious Nibel chases CJ around the club, CJ manages to let Dean know - now is not a good time.

As CJ drives back to New York, he's tortured by the thought of his parents in peril. He spaces out and barely dodges a roaring semi, then pulls over to do a reality check. Standing in the headlights before him is a beautiful brunette, **CLARISE**, a spirit from the 900s, who runs in front of another passing semi.

CJ is starting to break.

A disheveled CJ gets home and rushes to his desk, and there he pulls out a deed to the family cabin, a real sore spot because it represents family, the one thing he desires more than anything. He sees an old picture taken at the cabin decades ago, and behind the people are five stones in a straight line. He buckles down and heads for the cabin in New Hampshire.

Nibel has a boss too, and her name is Janine Binchois, the ageless and timeless Grande dame of the spirit world. Nibel appears at an abandoned theater where Janine, aka: **JANIE B**, hangs out. Nibel reports that CJ is belligerent and can't handle the mission.

While in New Hampshire, Dean and CJ discuss the tour, and CJ thanks Dean but declines the job. Dean hands up to face **E**, the aging lead singer for a band called **NATHAN JUJU**. E whines about getting the soundman he wants, which narrows down to someone he can manipulate. Dean reluctantly complies with the egomaniacal singer.

At the cabin, CJ unearths some family secrets and changes his mind about the tour. He calls Dean, but the position has already been filled.

Radine calls CJ with details about DeBussy's funeral, but CJ makes it clear he's not going; that he's buried too many people and this time he's not saying goodbye to his closest pal.

CJ bleaches his hair and heads to New Orleans one day ahead of the tour, and there he meets the spirit he saw on the road, Clarise, who's nothing short of a handful. Initially they share a burning desire, but the feelings soon become distrust and they battle. Clarise gets the upper hand and takes CJ to **ARTHA**, the place where spirits first arrive after leaving their human bodies behind.

CJ wasn't aware Clarise had inadvertently helped him cross over, but once he's there CJ is eager to begin the search for his parents. The two eventually find some common ground and she decides to help, but there's something she has to do first. Clarise leaves CJ in Artha to wait for her return.

There's an airplane headed to New Orleans, and on board are E and **BRANDON**, the assistant A/V and a real shit-happens magnet. E has strong-armed Brandon into hacking Sara's email, but after Brandon reads more than he should, he decides to take matters into his own vindictive hands. A few rows up is Radine, who's had a change of heart and has decided to bring CJ home for DeBussy's funeral.

While CJ waits in Artha for Clarise, a man appears behind a bright lantern, and he wants CJ's amulet. CJ refuses until his childhood dog, Pitch, runs up to him, distracting CJ long enough for the man to snatch the amulet. Before the man leaves, he reveals himself as DeBussy, and man is he pissed about being dead. DeBussy declares it his personal ghostly mission to get in CJ's way, and with a flash of light, DeBussy sends CJ back to New Orleans.

Dean Autry arrives at the club in New Orleans looking for the soundman he'd hired. Lying onstage is a man he doesn't know, and he roughly asks, "Who the hell are you?"