

SIX
THE SERIES
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Teammate of David Broyles on mission over the Atlantic

OVERVIEW

SIX is a ripped from reality, kick in the teeth drama about SEAL Team 6 (aka DEVGRU), America's premiere counterterrorist team. With white-knuckle action, compelling, complex characters, and powerful narrative drive, SIX is about the devastating cost of war and its red-hot fulfillment. It's about the modern warrior, torn between the tribal brotherhood of war and the domestic life at home. It is, above all, about loyalty. Loyalty is the first word of the SEAL creed. Loyalty to your SEAL family, loyalty to your home family, and loyalty to your code. In the high-

stakes, extreme world of SIX, when those loyalties all align, you're unstoppable. But when they conflict, which wins, your SEAL family, your home family, or your code?

Team 6 is the SEALs all-star team, the best of the best. Competition to get in and stay in is fierce. They're at the top of their game, but there are always new guys coming up, and they have to keep proving themselves. Shelf life is limited. Death or disqualification. And there's the pressure of money: they make shit pay, they sometimes can't make ends meet, and the attraction of cutting away to rake in six figures as an independent contractor is real.

They don't go off for extended stays in the war zone and then come back to the home front like warriors have done for time immemorial. Instead, they go and come back, over and over again. They're on-call 24/7, expected to transition seamlessly from mowing the lawn and changing diapers to parachuting onto target a world away, less than fifteen hours later, with fingers on the trigger and lives on the line, and they better be fucking perfect. Then when it's all over and the killing's done, it only takes another fifteen hours to get back, just in time for little Jimmy's baseball game. Warrior one day, dad the next. That's a mind-fuck. Some of them put up walls to keep the two lives apart, and no one can get through them. For others the walls are as full of holes as Swiss cheese.

They may seem like heroes on the job, but at home they deal with the same daily shit we all do, and we'll see those quiet moments, whether it's fishing off the Atlantic with a cooler of beer, waiting in line at the pharmacy, or woodworking a crib for a baby that may never come. These guys are flawed and human and even scared. Yet they still put on their NVG's and high-tech gear to take on the most dangerous missions out there. Why do they do it? Loyalty to the brotherhood. There's nothing like it. It's intense and tribal, with its own codes and customs. We know this life first hand and we plan to tell it like it really is. Because, when it comes down to it, they fight for each other. They'd rather die than let their team-mates down. We want to go where they go and see what they see, the most beautiful, unselfish acts a man can do, and the worst as well, the amazing beauty of it and the darkness too.

This is “inside baseball” at its best and most brutal. When the bullets fly downrange and shit turns kinetic, they can operate at full tilt because the trust between them is—and must be—absolute. A crack in the foundation can bring down the entire structure. And that’s exactly what we’re going to do: we’re putting a crack in the bond of the most elite men in the most high-pressure circumstances.

What happens when a team built on trust and loyalty starts to doubt itself and fracture? And not only in combat, but at home, too. One affecting the other. The line between them too thin. There’s going to be a constant push and pull of loyalty between the SEALs with their brothers at war, with their families at home, and the unrelenting, jagged transitions between them—all anchored in a series of balls-to-the-wall, high risk missions with huge stakes. The government spends hundreds of thousands of dollars teaching these guys how to fight, but they don’t spend a penny teaching them how to stop. They’re the best at what they do, but back home, they’re just as lost and fucked up as the rest of us—except they’re not supposed to show it, ever, and something’s got to give when the cracks start to show and these two worlds collide.

There’s no real analogy to this show. Maybe it’s like The Sopranos in exploring the blurred line between work family and real family. Maybe it’s like Lonesome Dove in exploring the bonds of, yes, love, between very different men who fight side by side and would die for each other in a heartbeat. Or maybe it’s like True Detective in portraying two men with different codes and dark, buried conflicts who can’t solve a case, or complete a mission, without the other. But really it’s just going to be itself, because no show has gone into the same territory before.

THE SEALs

The pumping heart of the show is our four lead SEALs. We’ll go deep into their characters with every dramatic tool we have. The series sets off when former team leader RIP is kidnapped, boiling over an explosive rivalry between top dogs GRAVES and CAULDER, and catching the new guy on the team (CHASE) in the middle. On the

surface, it's a high-stakes pissing contest between two of DEVGRU's best, one a psychopath, the other a poet, battling for control of the team, but dig deeper, and it's a moral argument about how we fight and live, played out between primal opposing forces, with Chase as the psychological human battlefield, and Rip as the morally damaged prize.

Chief Petty Officer John "Bear" GRAVES is methodical, organized, and highly skilled. He's not much for talking—words don't mean that much to him—but his hands are never idle. He carries out the mission objective to its most brutal, violent conclusion, a stone-cold killer with unquestioning, unwavering certainty. That makes him effective, dangerous, and terrifying. He'll fill you with bullets and stick your head on a stake, not necessarily in that order. As team leader, Graves is quietly magnetic. The guys look up to him, trust him, respect him, and yes, they fear him. On the flipside, Graves takes loyalty to the extreme, and would kill for his brothers—and has.

Back home, Graves is a devoted husband and a devout Christian. This makes him a fascinating paradox. For years, he's been able to turn off the kill switch and maintain a clean separation between his home life and his SEAL life, just as comfortable kneeling on a church pew as is he is bleeding out bad guys. But, after the death of Ortiz in the pilot (which Graves feels responsible for) and his inability to conceive a child with his wife, that line will begin to blur, and instead of wielding the darkness, Graves will be haunted by it.

Assistant Team Leader and Chief Petty Officer CAULDER couldn't be more different. He's all Grateful Dead and prayer flags; prickly, brilliant, and unpredictable. A street-smart problem child who grew up with a single mom and a series of disappointing father figures, Caulder is a nonconformist who questions everything and is the closest thing the team has to a loner/outcast—and would be, if it weren't for his legendary reputation on the battlefield. Self-educated to a Harvard level, he's a smart-ass critical thinker to Graves's unquestioning faith.

Caulder joined the SEALs to find a family, and to help people who couldn't help themselves, and while his idealism has been eroded by the reality of the job, he still looks to do good when he can. This can make him a thorn in the side of Graves and the SEAL leadership, but also a powerful, unconventional character. For him, it's about the rush, the challenge of mastering himself in the most extreme circumstances. He's like a kid with ADHD who can only find his pure center when the bullets are flying. If Graves is all blinding white heat in battle, then Caulder is ice cold, never losing his head. He's got a teenaged son by an earlier relationship who's got gender identification issues, and Caulder wants to become more of a father figure, but, hell, he's got to figure out his own life first.

Caulder's years in Six have taken its toll, and away from the crystallizing focus of combat Caulder is a captivating car wreck we just can't turn away from. He uses sex to explore the darkness, to heal, to find meaning—and sometimes it even works. Struggling with chronic service-related medical issues that will threaten his place on the team, Caulder is a straight up wild child torching the candle on both ends, burying the pain inside and out with booze, prescription meds, and endless one-night stands. Caulder is the best the team has, but with his self-destructive behavior, he's a total wild card.

Caught between these two combustible personalities is our new guy, CHASE. Think Ethan Hawke in *Training Day*, but African-American, driven, and cocky; a former college water polo golden boy with a goofy side that comes out when he's comfortable. Coming from West Coast money, Chase has wanted to be a SEAL for as long as he can remember, and a DEVGRU operator for as long as he's been a SEAL. Up until now, life has come easy to him. Chase is a tough son of a bitch, but still with enough innocence that's he got something to lose.

Finally, there's the former SEAL mentor, retired (dishonorably) Senior Master Chief RIP Taggart. He's the cautionary tale whispered in the locker room, the guy who crossed the line in combat and paid the price, losing a part of himself and—worse—

his spot on the team, along with his purpose and self-identity. He's a combustible flashpoint between Graves and Caulder: Graves thinks Rip was wrongly punished for doing his job. That's his code. Caulder, on the other hand, was the one who turned Rip in for crossing the line—that's his code. Graves has never forgiven Caulder for it. That initial conflict between loyalty to code and loyalty to team-mate sets everything in this season in motion. Now, after years adrift, Rip has ended up in Africa with the other lost souls, do-gooders, and thrill-seekers, doing his penance while quietly working away his days at a local school, searching for redemption and trying to forget his past. But, when the school is attacked and Rip is taken hostage along with the students and their teacher, his past catches up with him and punches him in the mouth. With Rip's shot at redemption suddenly turning do or die, Graves and Caulder will be forced to face their own impossible decisions in the effort to bring him home, along with the devastating consequences that follow.

THE WOMEN

Much like in Sons of Anarchy, the women of the tribe will take an increasingly important role as the show develops, both at home and abroad. As wives, girlfriends, or colleagues, they're going to be just as varied as our men.

There's Graves's wife LENA, who runs her home like Graves runs his team. While Graves is still and silent, Lena is constantly in motion: it's how she's dealt with the pain of losing her infant daughter. She dropped out of college when she fell for Graves, and now, five years after her daughter died, she's going back to school to become a counselor, determined to help others out of the darkness which almost consumed her. With that on track, finally, she's ready to try again to have a child. She knows Graves inside and out, she tolerates his quirks and his withheld, private way of dealing with what he does. Their sex together is simple, loving, healing. They both want a new child more than anything, but it's Lena who drives the plan, who brings Graves along, knowing his pain is as deep as hers, and that bringing new life into the world will help him deal with the lethal consequences of his calling. But when nothing goes according to plan, the twists and turns and dashed hopes of constantly

failing to get pregnant puts more and more stress on their marriage, and their pocketbook.

There's Ortiz's wife and now widow, Jackie, a beautiful and statuesque former dancer who gave up her dreams to settle with Ortiz in Virginia Beach—no major dance companies there. Being a SEAL's wife, and Anabel's mother, it was enough. She was happy to work as a dental assistant, a regular, undemanding job. When your husband can't be counted on to do the fatherly duties on a regular basis, the mom has to plan to do it all. That life defined her and gave her an identity. Now, with Ortiz gone, she's been rocked to her core, and is going to show surprising boldness in rediscovering who she is on her own terms, even as she struggles to keep her daughter Anabel dancing and out of trouble. Both Graves and Caulder will try to be helpful, but Jackie is going to respond in surprising ways, and become a flash-point between her two protectors.

Caulder's ex-wife Jeanette will be in and out of his life, cutting him zero slack and being utterly cynical about even his most idealistic plans. There's something there, between them, if only they hadn't screwed it up. Redeemable? We shall see. In the meantime, Zoe, Caulder's latest girlfriend, is a feminist, anti-war veterinarian, a match for Caulder intellectually, sexually, in every way. When they started dating he told her he was a poet and an English teacher—and she fell for it! Now that she knows what he does, she's amazed she's still around. He's supposed to be every thing she hates, but she can't help but fall for the guy anyway. He's just so—different, so real, so in tune with a part of her no man ever reached before.

All these unique personalities, male and female, with their complex desires, conflicts, flaws, and tangled relationships, will drive our stories—and our missions.

But, before we talk about missions, we need to talk about antagonists. Because in SIX, as in true life or death combat, we fight not only the enemy, but also ourselves. That idea is personified in our primary antagonist. He's not some bearded boogiemer quoting the Koran in a language we don't speak, in a far away culture we

don't understand, spewing an anger we can't fathom. No. He's a basketball-loving, slang-talking, PhD-studying American. In other words, he is—most frighteningly—us.

THE ANTAGONISTS

OMAR Watson grew up a huge Lakers fan, and coming from Dearborn, Michigan, he took a lot of shit for it. But, Omar never conformed to or cared for stereotypes, and so he didn't see it as a conflicting interest when, as a casual Muslim, he supported the initial US invasion of Iraq. After all, he was American, and like most kids his age, too busy with school and girls to worry too much about it.

But when Omar was at college, his little brother Jeremy was radicalized and snuck away to Afghanistan to fight, where he took a bullet to the face from Rip, never coming back. Devastated, Omar dropped out of his PhD program and immersed himself in his brother's world, attending his brother's mosque and conversing with his brother's imam. The more he learned, the more angry Omar became. His brother, he was told, hadn't been killed. He'd been murdered by American soldiers. By SEALs.

The realization sent Omar on a search for vengeance that led him to the world's radical hotspots, from Afghanistan and Yemen to Syria and Somalia. With his brilliant mind and driving, insatiable need for revenge, Omar rose quickly in the ranks. Now he's been dispatched to Africa with his terrifying, crossbow-wielding, right-hand man AKMAL, tasked with establishing a utopian Muslim state. He's engineered a series of school kidnappings, using African children as a source of revenue and as the first "citizens" of the new, free Caliphate. These operations, however, aren't cheap, and we'll soon discover that Omar is in bed with the Chinese, who are waging a silent war of influence with the US for control of Africa's future and, more specifically, its rich, untapped oil supplies. It's this connection with China that makes Omar so formidable and different than anything our SEALs have seen. No Taliban junior varsity, he is going to be a new enemy, one that can shoot down our

drones and fight us like we fight him: with NVGs and infrared lasers and the best killing toys the Yen can buy.

When Omar crosses paths with Rip, our ticking clock slams into gear, and it's only a matter of time before Omar discovers that Rip is his brother's killer, and that the SEALs coming to rescue him are Rip's accomplices. Graves and Caulder will have to heal the wounds between them and maybe even go off the reservation to rescue Rip and do right by the girls. Against Omar, it will take everything they have.

STRUCTURE

Every season will revolve around one big A-story mission set in a specific AOR—area of operations. For season one, it's the rescue of Rip, the teacher, and the schoolgirls in Africa. But, it's never as simple as just going in with guns blazing. Because every major mission is intel-driven, and intel is gathered in part by direct-action SEAL operations, there will be a series of intermediate, puzzle-piece B-story missions along the way, all building with twists and turns to the final, climactic objective.

We see this in the pilot, when the SEALs engage in an intense “snatch and grab” of AIDID, a jihadist money man off the coast of Nigeria. But, the CIA will discover Aidid won't talk about Rip's location, not until the CIA threatens to imprison his aging father, who has resettled in Paris. That means our guys will have to go get the old man. And that won't be like any other SEAL mission we've seen. No door-kicking here. Graves, Caulder, and the new guy Chase will be covertly operating in an allied nation without official permission, so if they fuck-up, it's an international incident. And the old man won't be anything like the our guys expect, leading to a morally challenging course of action that will put Graves and Caulder even more at odds, while also testing Chase's commitment to his new team.

Another example further along in the season: the SEALs will train for a daring, urban, high-rise mission in densely populated Nigeria by recreating the parameters

in Chicago. Before they do it for real in Lagos, they'll do it as close to real as possible in Chi-town, complete with assault boats, the Sears Tower after-hours, and a killer post-training party in a penthouse suite with hedge-fund SEAL wannabes and high-class hookers. All part of the job.

That's the big-picture, serialized, overarching SEAL mission. It's going to be the narrative driver of our series. But, the heart of the show is the major emotional season arc rooted in the question of loyalty, and the fracturing of the team, played out in Graves's and Caulder's complex relationship. It starts with their fundamental conflict of loyalties over Rip's actions in the teaser, which they buried for the years that followed. Now it's brought back to the surface by Rip's kidnapping before being totally blown wide open with the death of Ortiz. Ortiz was the buffer between Graves and Caulder. Graves convinced Ortiz to choose loyalty to team and his old team-mate Rip over loyalty to his family, at the cost of Ortiz's life. Losing Ortiz is a seismic shift in the dynamics of the team, and completely destabilizes the status quo.

From this point forward, with their increasingly differing view on what loyalty truly means, Graves and Caulder will build toward a major conflict, straining the cohesion of the team and its families, and threatening the success of the mission to rescue Rip. When the pressure mounts, and the SEALs are stuck at home, waiting for more intel to break on Rip's location, tempers will flare between Graves and Caulder, and the team will threaten to break apart. To blow off steam, and to try to pass his physical, Caulder will develop a painkiller habit and go overboard, losing himself in booze and one too many Percocets. When he does, Graves will carry him home, nurse him back to health, and then turn him—just like Caulder did to Rip. Not because Caulder is breaking any rules, but because Graves thinks he's putting his team at risk. Or at least that's what he says.

With Caulder on administrative leave, and the team reeling, Graves and the rest of the SEALs will be sent to a forward operating base in Africa, hot on Rip's trail. But, there's going to be an intel bust and a tragic mission failure where Rip is killed in an act of sacrifice, redeeming himself. And it won't be until Caulder shows up on his

own, out of uniform, that the team can come together again and make things right by going against official orders and risking everything to rescue the surviving schoolgirls. In the end, Graves and Caulder will realize that, no matter what's gone down between them, the only loyalty that really counts is the loyalty they have to each other.

THE BOTTOM LINE

No one can tell this story like we can. We know these elite Special Ops guys. David Broyles was one. He knows them personally, he knows their wives and families, he knows their girlfriends, their fears, their loves, their fierce pride. He know what it's like to parachute into the ocean at night, and to say goodbye to the people you love, each time knowing you might not come back. He's been in the locker room and the training room and on the missions. He's buried comrades and felt the isolation and strangeness of trying to fit back into civilian life. He's already spent months talking with SEALs and Special Ops guys and their families, visiting their units, and interviewing their commanders. His experience is on every page. William Broyles has his own combat experience in Viet Nam and has been involved in the war-related shows China Beach, Flags of Our Fathers, and Jarhead. We also have Peter Bergen advising us. Peter is CNN's national security analyst, the author of an upcoming book on American jihadists, and the only reporter to have been inside the Abbottabad compound where Team Six killed Osama bin Laden.

We're excited about the possibilities here, and we've got no shortage of fresh ways to put our audience on the edge of their seats, and to put our guys through the ringer to find out what they're made of. This is going to be a groundbreaking show that can run for a very long time.

