

Chuck versus Domestic Bliss  
(and the LeBaron)

This episode is a homage to Bake Edwards and Henry Mancini

Suggested for Season 4 Episode 1

writers guild #

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SET UP — A STRING OF FIVE HAPPY COUPLES + ONE — 10:30 PM:

### 1. INT. CHUCK AND SARAH'S BEDROOM

Chuck and Sarah— cosy, sharing a crossword in bed, late night television audience laughter coming from the tube. They're a picture of domestic contentment.

CHUCK (holding the crossword)

Let's see ... eight across: okay, what's a five letter word for an amazing, beautiful, international spy?

SARAH

Laughter.

CHUCK

Starts with an "S"... ?

### 2. INT. BEDROOM NEXT DOOR

Morgan and Ana are playing treasure hunt in bed. Morgan has his tie on his head, Ana is under the covers doing something to his toes, and making Morgan alternately look startled, laugh, and shout out "Oh woman, that's cheating!"

(Morgan and Ana are back together — for a few episodes until the Morgan/Casey's daughter liaison heats up.)

### 3. INT. BIG MIKE'S BEDROOM

Big Mike — relaxed, reading the *Employment Opportunities* section in bed, his arm around Morgan's mother's shoulder. She's on the phone giving her daughter cooking instructions.

MORGAN'S MOM

... after you sprinkle hot chilies, tabasco and garlic over it, drop it a pot of oil for about 10 minutes and boil. That's it — Tia's brisket recipe.

### 4. INT. UNDERGROUND — PARTIALLY CHARRED TEAM BARTOWSKI HEADQUARTERS

Jeff and Lester on the couch watching *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* — Jeff has his head back, snoring, Lester is leaning forward in rapt attention, eating fast, vast amounts of cheese balls. (A chain link fence hasn't kept Jeffster away from scavenging the remains of the BuyMore.

They've discovered the team's underground headquarters and are squatting there and watching a stack of scrounged DVDs— having figured that the underground was an elaborate GameBoy set- up for BuyMore management.)

### 5. INT. DEVON AND ELLIE'S BATHROOM

Together they are flossing their teeth, smiling at each other in the mirror — you can almost smell the scented candles that are glowing behind them.

### 6. INT. COLONEL CASEY'S LIVING ROOM

And then there's Colonel Casey — cleaning his guns while watching a cooking show, with a wistful look in his eyes. We think "This guy could really use a girlfriend."

The phone rings.

CASEY

Captain Westin, good to hear from you sir. How are you? Yes, it's been a long time.

How's ... Oh, yes sir. (Casey sits down — hearing the bad news that a close friend has

been killed in the line of duty.) When did it happen?  
Arlington. I understand.  
And sir, please give my sympathies to Danielle. Thank you, sir.

INT. CHUCK AND SARAH'S KITCHEN — MORNING

Sarah is setting the table — aromatic steam is spilling out of the waffle iron. Chuck enters.

CHUCK

(Taking a peak at the waffles.) Mmmmm! Is this part of our new monday regimen?

SARAH

Hand me the mits ... I don't know. Chuck, have we become predictable?

CHUCK

Waffles — check, girlfriend — check, new safe but boring tech job at the CIA — check.  
Honey, I think this might actually be the American Dream!

Knock on the door. Chuck swings door open to Casey.

CHUCK

Waffle Haus, can I help you?

CASEY

Hello love birds, it's 9:00am — remember? It's time for the briefing.

(Chuck yawns) CHUCK

Yeah. Right. Let's get to it.

They gather around his laptop.

GENERAL BECKMAN

Greetings, Chuck, Agent Walker, Colonel Casey.  
Now that the Ring has been caught, I trust you've all enjoyed having some comp time?

SARAH

It's definitely been a lot quieter ...

GENERAL BECKMAN

And Chuck, you are adjusting to your new desk job?

CHUCK

Yes General, it's taken a little um, you know, getting used to — the ah sitting, and the security clearance scans, and ah ... — but I like my cubicle! I can really concentrate there and I thi ..

GENERAL BECKMAN

Alright, I'm glad you're settling in.

COLONEL CASEY

General Beckman, Ma'am, I'd like to ask permission to go on leave. A friend of mine was killed in the line of duty — I need to go to Arlington for the funeral.

GENERAL BECKMAN

Colonel Casey, leave won't be necessary. I have some good news for all of you: Team Bartowski is receiving a commendation for the excellent work you did — busting the Ring and capturing the Gang of Five. You are all to go to Washington this week to receive your commendations. Congratulations Team Bartowski.

Colonel Casey, you can use the opportunity to attend the funeral.

(And on a personal note, I'd like to thank the three of you for the work you did to secure my release — although unorthodox, the strategy was *thankfully* a success.)

COLONEL CASEY

Thank you, General.

GENERAL BECKMAN

You're welcome. Have a good trip. Good bye.

CHUCK

Wow, this is awesome! We can check out the museums, have a picnic on the Capitol Mall. Have you guys seen the Smithsonian exhibit on the first PCs? I hear it's very cool!

SARAH

Chuck you've been to Washington before.

CHUCK

Yeah —but not with you! This is going to be great!

MORGAN

Will you water these (plants I'm going to DC to receive an award.

INT. THE AIRBORNE PLANE TO DC

The team sit three in a row. Casey pulls out a photo and gazes at it.

SARAH

He was your friend — the one who was killed?

CASEY

Yeah. Scott. Major Scott Moreland. We were in Nam together. Both recruited into the CIA special unit together. Six years of operations — he was the best. He had my back. He always had my back ...

CHUCK

And who is this? (Pointing to the beautiful woman with them in the photo.)

CASEY

Danielle. Scott's wife. The three of us go back a long way. She's an amazing woman — but Scott got there first ...

CHUCK

Colonel Casey, do I detect some non-military issue feelings?!

Casey looks away.

CASEY

She never knew we were Special Unit — always thought we were straight Army straight-up Marines. Scott did that to protect her. I don't know what he was working on before he died; it must have been pretty big. The guy didn't make mistakes ...

(In the final episodes of the season it will be revealed that Danielle knew all along about Scott and Casey's CIA status and that part of the reason she came to California was to keep an eye on Casey because she was worried that what Scott was involved in might pull Casey down too. This comes out at Casey and Danielle's Scottish themed wedding with Casey wearing a kilt and bagpipes featured prominently.)

CHUCK

Well, at least he died risking his life for something important. I kinda miss the doing something I knew really made a difference.

SARAH

Well, you haven't been "missing" ANYTHING.

CASEY

You're telling me ...

SARAH

Chuck, you promised Ellie you'd take a safe, stable job and you did. What you're doing is important too.

CHUCK

Guys, ... there is this one thing ... my father left me something ... — it would totally freak Ellie out if she knew. He um, he um left behind this secret, massive vault of archives. Guys, I think there's more, *way more* to the Intersect than what we think we know.

Chuck theme/credit splash

EXT. DC BOULEVARD — AFTERNOON

Sarah is driving the team in an open convertible up to the Armed Forces building. Chuck is a happy camper with binoculars.

CHUCK

Honey, look! There's the IRS building! And the J. Edgar Hoover building!  
And the famous Justice Department topiary!

CASEY

I'd like to see that. (Reaching for the binocs as they pull up.)

INT. ARMED FORCES BUILDING LOBBY (aka US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE)

Chuck is socially bubbly and bumbling with the lobby concierge, the stoic guards, the giant potted philodendron, and General McCafferty who is presenting them with their commendations.

CHUCK (To the immovable guards at the lobby entrance)

I bet you guys see a lot of world leaders here? Heads of State? Famous military heroes?

CHUCK (To the Concierge)

Is that a famous Head of State over there?

CONCIERGE

Oh, I'm not really at liberty to say, sir.

SARAH

It's this way, Chuck.

CHUCK

Excuse me, we have to go receive a commendation — nothing really, just in the line of ...

CASEY

Chuck.

CHUCK

Gotta go!

INT: GENERAL MCCAFFERTY'S WELL-APPOINTED OFFICE

The General tolerates Chuck and seems to be sizing up Casey. She hands them each a box with a seal containing their commendation papers.

CHUCK

Thank you so much, General McCaferty! This is such a great honor.

SARAH

Thank you, General.

CASEY

Thank you, General.

GENERAL MCCAFFERTY (To Casey)

I understand you were in the Asian Operations Delta Division?

CASEY

Yes Ma'am.

GENERAL MCCAFFERTY

Some of our finest. Are you still in touch with your team?

CASEY

We're never out of touch.

GENERAL MCCAFFERTY

Yes. Very good.

agents Casey, Walker, and Bartowski, congratulations on a job well done. Enjoy Washington while you are here.

CHUCK

Thank you.

After the team leaves the General makes a call.

GENERAL MCCAFERTY

There's a risk Colonel Casey knows too much about Scott Willard's death.  
I'm taking care of it.

INT. ARMED FORCES BUILDING LOBBY

The team is leaving. X-ray close-up of a small device (a bug) implanted in Casey's box that is giving off a signal.  
(General McCafferty could be a nemesis during the season with Willard's death being part of a large industrial military sabotage effort).

EXT. ARLINGTON CEMETERY

View of Casey walking up to the funeral group gathered under a huge oak. He sees Danielle, goes over to say hello, she takes his hand for a moment, then the group takes their places as the funeral starts. Scene fades to sound of twenty-one gun salute echoing out over the cemetery landscape.

DANIELLE'S PARENTS' HOUSE— LATE IN THE EVENING

Casey, staying at Danielle's parents large colonial house (family photos on his guest room wall) after funeral reception, unpacks and gets into the shower. There's a knock on the door. Casey steps one foot out of the shower, grabs a towel and instinctively his gun, and opens the door part way. It's Danielle, in her robe.

CASEY

Danielle. Just a minute — I'll ...

DANIELLE

(putting her hand on his to stop him from retreating)

John, I ... wait. If this tragedy has taught me anything — it's that we don't get a lot of second chances. I ... I loved Scott, but, you must have known ... I loved you too.  
I've always loved you, and now ... now I need you.

With a hint of a smile, he silently takes her arm and draws her into the shower with him. (Contrast Casey's manly, adult relationship style with Chuck's).

INT. MEANWHILE AT THE BUYMORE UNDERGROUND

Jeffster has contacted Morgan to ask him to bring supplies. (They are on the lam — accused of blowing up the BuyMore.) Morgan arrives bringing food. The Jeffster's have scavenged a large stack of videos, games and snack food from the remains of the building. Lester is transfixed by a wall of screens filled with the video What's Up Tiger Lily. He's wearing a pink buttondown and an ascot, and simultaneously playing an X-Box game based on The Pink Panther jewel heist.

MORGAN

Okay, here's everything. Toothbrushes, Six pairs of Fruit of the Loom underwear,

(small and large), toothpaste, three six packs of Tuskers, Polaroid film, an ice pick. How long are you guys thinking you might be, you know, crashing?

JEFF

Until hell freezes over, my man! Or until the corporate overlords find us here. Dude, if we had known they built this giant Game-Boy simulation down here before, we would have TOTALLY TAKEN THIS HOLE!

MORGAN

I see you've made yourselves at home.  
(Bending down to look at the videos) These all made it through the fire — that's amazing! You guys didn't *actually* torch the BuyMore, did you?

JEFF

WE ARE VERY POWERFUL. It's all in the mind. All right here.

MORGAN

Okay ...  
Lester, how you doin' man? (Lester remains transfixed.)  
(To Jeff) He looks a little shaken.

JEFF

Yeah, he's been like that since Saturday.

MORGAN (psychoanalyzing )

What with the stress of losing his job, the fireball that was the BuyMore, running from numerous law-enforcement agencies — I think the world of international intrigue and tall, scan dinavian women in mukluks and negligees has lured him into an alternative reality. He's gone over to other side.

JEFF

Well, yeah! ...

MORGAN

If only we could reach him, enter his world ...  
Maybe with some kind of intervention ... ?

INT. SATURDAY MORNING AT SARAH AND CHUCK'S FLAT.

Knock on the door. It's Casey, he looks uncomfortable.

CASEY(To Chuck)

Can I talk to you for a minute? (They step out into the courtyard.)

CASEY

Never tell anyone what I'm about to tell you.

CHUCK

You've got my word. Top Secret.

CASEY(embarrassed)

I never thought I'd be asking you this, but ...  
... I need some relationship advice.

CHUCK

Oh, wow John, we *did* bond on the trip. This is cool!

CASEY

Danielle wants to move out to Burbank; she wants to move in.

CHUCK

Well, okay, that's great right? She needs you — you need her ...

CASEY

It's complicated. She doesn't know that I'm CIA.

CHUCK

But you still like her right?

CASEY

Yeah, I think I'm in love with her.

Thinking Casey is just shy, advises Casey to have her come out, and then start slow, take her on a date.

CHUCK

Well, have her come out and you know, then start slow ... take her .. out to a movie and dinner. You've got to get out there and date. Give love a chance, man. You're a stud. You can do it!

CASEY

You think?

SARAH

(Breaking up the strategizing by calling from the bathroom window where she is running a bubble bath.)

Bath's ready.

CHUCK

That's my woman. Life is good!

Camera pans over into Casey's flat to the commendation box on his desk and the signal it is ominously emitting.

INT. GENERAL MCCAFFERTY'S DC OFFICE — LATE AFTERNOON

General McCafferty on the phone, being told the explosives are set to detonate at the Biltmore hotel event bringing together many of Heads of State hosted by an Indian Princess (ala Pink Panther) at 0 200 hours. "Good."

INT. BILTMORE KITCHEN — EVENING

A giant ticking cake sits in the middle of the pantry — a bell hop makes a call: "Did someone order a cake?"

INT. SARAH AND CHUCK'S PLACE — MINUTES LATER

Computer screen lights up — it's General Beckman.

GENERAL BECKMAN

There's a bomb threat at the Biltmore. Chuck your expertise in this field would be helpful, I'd like you think you could go along and add technical support. (IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE FOR CHUCK BACK INTO SPY WORK.)

They suit up, Casey arrives and they head to the weapons and equipment vault at the BuyMore.

THE BUYMORE UNDERGROUND — MINUTES LATER

The team enters the underground in full spy gear to see it has been transformed into a swinging Blake Edwards-inspired nightclub party scene. Henry Mancini music is playing. Everyone is dressed as 1960's jetsetters.

The team is intercepted by Big Mike, Morgan, Jeff, Ana and ex-employees.

ANA

Hey you guys are in the wrong era!

JEFF

Man, didn't you get the memo?!

BIG MIKE

But people — it's real good that you came to support Lester. It shows solidarity.

MORGAN

Okay, so the whole idea with this intervention is: by not fighting — but joining him, we think we can break the hold of the magnetic force of the X-Box.

CHUCK

Morgan, okay, just for a minute.

The team is temporarily roped into playing along; they dance, clink some martini glasses together. There is a brief skirmish with someone dressed as Kato. Then they slip out to intercept the cake bomb.

THE BILTMORE KITCHEN — MINUTES LATER

The kitchen is filled with food in preparation for the evening. Chuck, Sarah, and Casey enter accompanied by two hotel employees.

(Chuck has to dig the bomb out of mountains of whipped cream and cake. A chase, kung-fu, and a whole lot of frosting ensues, during which time Chuck also flashes on Joy of Cooking's diagram of cake construction, with the specs of a timed explosive superimposed inside that.)

CASEY(referring to the cake/bomb)

There it is. Let's start the audio scan.

They set up a device to listen to it.

SARAH

Well, there *is* a real explosive in there.

CHUCK

I can't flash if I can't tell what kind of bomb it is.

CASEY (Walks up to the cake, swipes his finger for a taste.)  
It's strawberry, Chuck.

CHUCK  
Oh, really. Thanks, that's great Colonel Casey. I appreciate your expert help.

SARAH  
Chuck, you're going to have to start digging the ordinance out.  
(Turning to the hotel staff) We need to evacuate the hotel.

MAËTRE D  
I understand.

CASEY  
Have all your staff report to the lobby now.

SARAH  
(As she exists) Be careful Chuck!

Casey and Sarah immediately head to the lobby — catching sight of the security camera monitor room where there is a body on the floor and four “bellhops” watching a screen of Chuck intently digging into the cake — Casey and Sarah give chase. The action involves luggage, hotel guests, Heads of State, an Indian Princess, and a large decorative urn. The chase brings them all back through the kitchen where Chuck is interrupted. There's a Kung-Fu food fight with shades of the pie scene from *The Great Race*. Meanwhile Chuck. With the bellhops subdued, Chuck finishes digging out and decommissioning the bomb. (During which time Chuck also flashes on The Joy of Cooking's diagram of cake construction, with the specs of a timed explosive super-imposed inside of it.)

THE APARTMENT PATIO — EVENING — AFTER DARK

Danielle arrives with her bags. Casey opens the door. Love, lust and concern spill across his face as he helps her in.

Pan to see a group of men in dark suits watching them from the far side of the patio. They call General McCafferty.

SUIT  
She's there.

GENERAL MCCAFFERTY  
Okay, take them out.

THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE APARTMENT — THE NEXT MORNING

Chuck walks up to Casey who is cleaning up his Lebaron (his second Lebaron).

CHUCK  
I met Danielle -- wow, she's beautiful, man. And so nice!

CASEY

Yeah.  
I'm taking her on a date, like you suggested.

CHUCK

You go, man! That's great! Put yourself out there man!  
Hey, the car -- the car looks great.

CASEY

Check these out. (Shows Chuck some spy special features he's installed.)

CHUCK

Wow.

CASEY

It took four months, and some major favors by a couple friends of mine at the Secret Service.

CHUCK

Hey, you know, have you thought about a sound system? Or one of those keyless door lock units?

CASEY

That sounds good.

CHUCK

I know these great electronics guys — I can totally set you up.

CASEY

Great. Thanks.

#### THE PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF THE COMPETITION: THE GIANT BOX STORE MAXOUT

The van slowly pulls up with Jeff, Morgan, Ana and a blurry-eyed, grizzled Lester slumped in the front seat. They sit and look up at the massive store — sizing up the challenge. (Think Sergio Leone soundtrack)

ANA

You can do this Lester!

MORGAN

Yeah, man — you are bigger than they are! Take back your soul! Take back your gonzo, man!

JEFF

Yeah. Bring the Ster back!

Slowly Lester sits up, his eyes brighten, he gains strength. Grasping the door handle, he swings it open and heads toward the MaxOut with resolve. The others follow. Inside Lester eyes the Guitar Hero demo area. He approaches the platform.

Cut to Lester on the Guitar Hero platform. Morgan is next to him on the Dance Hero stage — a crowd has gathered.

QUICK CUTS of employees and customers on the two platforms with Jeff and Lester riffing to

an original Jeffster track with the crowd rocking out.

ANA (Shouts to Morgan)

He's cured!!

MORGAN

My work here is done.

EXT. CASEY IN LEBARON WITH DANIELLE — EARLY EVENING —

On the date, Casey spots suits tailing them in the rear view mirror.

CASEY

Do you have any idea what Scott was working on?

DANIELLE

No. I just know that he was traveling — a lot. Places he didn't usually go. It didn't make sense.

CASEY

Do you remember where?

DANIELLE

Why would the Marines send him to Cairo? And Pakistan or Chad?

CASEY

I'd like to check into it— is that alright with you?

DANIELLE

I'd like you to.

Casey surreptitiously makes a few turns to see if they are really being tailed. They are. They arrive; he parks the car. Looking over his shoulder, they go into the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT— MINUTES LATER

Chuck worried about Casey's date going well, gets Sarah to go with him to the restaurant and sit at another table. Casey tries to indicate that he was followed and for Chuck and Sarah to go check it out — but Chuck interprets his maneuvering as nervousness and interferes more with dinner. Hijinks ensue.

CHUCK

Oh Hi guys what a surprise, we won't bother you — we'll just sit over here.

more here.

EXT. RESTAURANT — AFTER DINNER, Casey gets Chuck and Sarah to stall Danielle while he goes to check out the suits parked down the street. They bolt. There is a chase, and Sarah and Chuck arrive to help fight and subdue the men.

CASEY RETURNS TO DANIELLE STANDING AT THE CURB. He decides to use the new automatic door opener from a distance to open the LeBaron. This triggers the bomb that the suits planted while the group was at dinner. There's a big explosion.

Chuck and Sarah come running up too see Casey is crest fallen holding the automatic car remote.

CHUCK They tell DanIelle

It was probably a bad gasket.

DANIELLE

Ah, honey, don't worry, we can go down to the auto mall tomorrow and find something nice and reliable.

(Next time we see Casey in a car, it's a Ford Wagoneer. -- This gag -- Casey's car exploding -- could be repeated another time during the season.)

SARAH AND CHUCK'S APARTMENT

Four couples: Chuck, Sarah, Morgan and Ana, Ellie and Awesome, Casey and Danielle -- all over for dinner. Clinking wine glasses, home cooked meal,

CHUCK  
Sound's like  
ELLIE

DEVON  
cat on a hot tin roof!  
CHUCK

sitting down to a game of Charades.  
Morgan gives clues to his team.

MORGAN

With Danielle sitting beside him, Casey leans back on the sofa --stretching arms behind his head surveying the scene -- and kinda liking it.