

# **WELCOME BACK, KOTTER**

**PITCH DECK**





# LogLine

**A compassionate teacher and Iraq War veteran, unknowingly puts his life at risk when he returns to the upscale/private highschool of his youth to teach a new generation of trouble making and shady brats.**



# SYNOPSIS

The background of the image is a warm, orange-toned photograph. It depicts a desk setup with a computer mouse and keyboard in the foreground. In the background, a globe is visible, and a person's legs are seen sitting on a chair. The overall atmosphere is cozy and professional.



**“Welcome Back, Kotter” puts a new spin on this classic sitcom through a modern lens that is as dark as it is funny. The spotlight is on Gabe Kotter’s complicated and unwilling return to teach at his former high school, Kaplan Preparatory. As these two worlds collide, Gabe reckons with the power of second chances while navigating the conflicts, emotions, and biases of educating an overly privileged group of students.**

**As a street smart history teacher, when Gabe walks into his class, he strives to infuse charm, a little authority with a dollop of momentum. He is a recently divorced army vet, who served three grueling tours in Iraq, with the reputation of being one of the most lethal snipers in U.S history.**

**Teaching is a way for Gabe to express his real talent. Although, he could never have imagined the level of hate from a former student would destroy everything that he worked so hard to build with his class at McKinley High School. On a crisp morning in the fall, this recently expelled student slipped onto the campus of McKinley with an assault rifle and unleashed a reign of terror inside of Gabe’s classroom. As a former S.E.A.L sniper, Gabe reacted the only way he knew how. When the screaming stopped, two students lost their lives, Gabe was wounded and officially out of job for carrying a concealed firearm on school property. Online, Gabe became a hero, but the school board saw nothing more than an adrenaline addict with PTSD.**

**Gabe’s mother Lynette, former teacher and now the Dean of Kaplan Preparatory swoops in and offers Gabe a job. Teaching at the swanky school where he was once a student is a dreary detour for Gabe. He is convinced that Kaplan Prep is a thorny atmosphere, fully loaded with petty teen politics and a cavern of secrets. To add fuel to this fire, Gabe soon discovers he is teaching the class that was previously taught by an army buddy who has gone missing.**

**Gabe is uncompromising in his convictions; a noble and honest man regarding every aspect of his life. Now, Gabe is back where he does not want to be and is driven to defend his actions and find a brother in arms who is nowhere to be found.**



A person wearing a hard hat and a safety vest is seen from behind, looking out over a vast cityscape from a high vantage point. The city below is a dense grid of buildings and streets, stretching towards the horizon. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall tone of the image is contemplative and expansive.

# Comparables









# Characters





**Gabe Kotter**  
(the son)

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**COOL COWBOY CALM**  
magnetic intensity  
**IN DIRE NEED OF REDEMPTION**



**Lynette Kotter**  
(the mom)

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**Straightforward**  
**TOUGH**  
Moves with a loose swagger



**Marty St. Claire**  
(homeless army buddy)

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Scathing Wit  
*Paranoid Rage*  
**DISRUPTIVE IN NATURE**





**Iris Newberry**

(mom's new girlfriend)

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**Competitive**  
**Delectably Prickly**  
Chafes under pressure



**Detective Maya Calloway**

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Emotions are in hibernation  
Old School Bulldozer  
Smug cynic



**Detective Evie Harper**

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Girlish Vulnerability  
**Persuasive Charm**  
fun and audacious



# The Students



**The Athlete**



**The Perfectionist**



**The Nerd**



**The Badboy**



**The Cheerleader**





# Structural Outline

Season 1



## The Set-Up

A popular teacher and Iraq Army Vet is suddenly out of a job after he defends his class from an active shooter. His mother offers him a job at his old high school, where he is very hesitant to return.

## The Catalyst

Online hero to some; villain to others, Gabe has zero options and must accept his mother's offer to teach at the high school, he hoped to never see again. Upon arrival, he discovers Vincent Barber, a colleague and former army buddy is M.I.A

## Plot Point

While still under investigation for the school shooting, Gabe starts his new gig at his former high school and is immediately challenged by his new students and confronted with unspoken friction.

## Mid-Point

As Gabe gets word from the D.A about the school shooting charges, he begins to suspect his students are sheltering a lot of secrets. And Marty is convinced he has seen a militant and fugitive terrorist, known as "The Creeper."

## End of Season 1

Marty has proof that The Creeper is in town, but it may be too late. Lynette's job is on the chopping block for adding her son to the faculty without notifying the Board. Gabe's skills are put to the test when he and his students become hostages at school.



# Mood & Tone









# Episode List



1  
Still trying to navigate the PTSD and relentless dreams about Iraq, Gabe's life is thrown out of balance when a pissed off student rages war in his classroom. Gabe reacts the only way he knows how; losing two students and his job. Surviving students are interrogated and Gabe endures a blitz attack.

2  
While Gabe reluctantly accepts his mother's offer to teach at Kaplan Preparatory High School, he discovers that his new class was abandoned by an old army buddy. Detectives Calloway and Harper continue their investigation into the school shooting, unmasking some damaging evidence.

3  
Hustling with meetings, tours and orientation, Gabe has yet to meet his new class, which the faculty labled as "the irredeemables." While the D.A has come to a decision about charges in the school shooting, Gabe realizes that his army brother, Vincent did not leave his class, but is mysteriously M.I.A.

4  
Marty believes he has seen a fugitive terrorist. Convinced that something sinister is brewing with his unaccounted for army brother, Gabe bulldozes his way into a full-on investigation, while balancing the unfamiliar personalities of his students.

5  
Gabe is hit with a civil lawsuit just as his hidden agenda to connect with his students exposes a drug ring. Marty struggles to find another friend absent from their camp. Lynette and Iris dispute over a cheating student.

6  
Lynette must answer for her decision to hire Gabe without warning the Board. Despite their protests, Marty's homeless encampment is suddenly and brutally cleared. Gabe must use his skills when he and his students become hostages inside their school.



# Why Make Welcome Back, Kotter?

**GRITTY**

Dark

Unconventional

Explosive

**Distinctive**

Sleek

*Dangerously Cool*

Diabolical

*Soulful*

Boundary Pushing

gut-punch effectiveness

incisive characterizations

**unpredictably funny**

**Building uncertainty**

**STRETCHING OUT THE SUSPENSE**

*perfectly creepy*



The background image shows two soldiers in camouflage uniforms. The soldier on the left is wearing sunglasses and looking towards the camera. The soldier on the right is holding a rifle and looking slightly away. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Welcome Back, Kotter

It's Greater Than a Reboot

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