

## The Profile: Silicon Valley's most secretive dealmaker & the drone warriors

Good morning, friends.

It's Father's Day, so here's a quick story about my dad. I recently found a letter that he gave me on the day of my college graduation. In it, he recounted the story of when he, my mom, and I moved to the United States from Bulgaria. When we came 18 years ago, my dad was a 33-year-old with a master's degree in chemical engineering and more than a decade of work experience. But in the U.S, he was nobody.

In the letter, he wrote:

*"I was working at Marriott, and the money I was making was not enough to cover the bills for the first few months we lived here. I begged my manager to give me extra shifts so we could pay rent. At that time, we literally had nothing. My dream was to be able to buy you something to make you happy, so you could see that the U.S. is a happy place.*

*For better or worse, you remember everything we went through in those first few years, but please never forget that I've always loved you more than anything in the world."*

With the letter, he enclosed a check so I could buy something I want now that he couldn't buy me then.

This inspired me to compile a list of seven very different stories about dads. They explore complicated familial relationships, the sacrifices of parenthood, and the grief that comes with losing a father.

[Read them here.](#)

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There were a *lot* of fire profiles this week:

### LINKS

- [The drone warriors](#) (\*\*HIGHLY RECOMMEND\*\*)
- [Silicon Valley's most secretive dealmaker](#)
- [The woman behind the 'female Viagra'](#)
- [The binge factory](#)
- [The startup helping Trump build a wall](#)

### PEOPLE TO KNOW.

**[The drone warriors:](#)** Targeted drone killings have become the centerpiece of U.S. counterterrorism policy. Often, those doing the killing sit in windowless rooms thousands of miles away from the action. But “kill chain” drone analysts are exposed to more graphic violence — looking at dead bodies or human remains all day — than most Special Forces on the ground. As a result, many of them suffer from acute “moral injuries,” which are defined as inner conflicts that weigh on the conscience for long periods of time. This is a heartbreaking, must-read. [Tweet this.](#)

*“I’d literally just walked out on dropping bombs on the enemy, and 20 minutes later I’d get a text — can you pick up some milk on your way home?”*

**[Silicon Valley’s most secretive dealmaker:](#)** When Steve Jobs died, his wife Laurene Powell Jobs inherited a fortune worth about \$20B, making her the sixth-richest woman on the planet. In the last seven years, she’s been making private investments through her secretive organization, The Emerson Collective. This profile explores the future of philanthropy, social change, and the role of humility in mega-funding. [Tweet this.](#)

*“Change doesn’t happen quickly. It happens slowly, slowly, and then all at once.”*

**[The woman behind the ‘female Viagra’:](#)** Cindy Eckert is back at the helm of Sprout Pharmaceuticals, the company behind female libido drug Addyi. This marks Eckert’s second round as CEO after she sold the company for \$1 billion to Valeant, sued the pharma giant, and then got it back for free. This is a dizzying story about one of the most relentless, outspoken, and controversial entrepreneurs in healthcare. [Tweet this.](#)

## COMPANIES TO WATCH.

**[The binge factory:](#)** This is one of the most candid, behind-the-scenes looks at streaming giant Netflix. The profile delves deep into the mysterious operations of the company, documenting some of the key conversations between executives and showrunners. Here’s the big secret: Netflix knows you better than you know yourself. It knows exactly what you like, what you’re likely to binge watch, and what type of little square graphic photo you will click on. This one is scary interesting. [Tweet this.](#)

*“A wise investor once remarked to us, ‘If Jesus were a stock, he’d be Netflix. You either believe or you don’t.’”*

**[The startup helping Trump build a wall](#)** Oculus founder Palmer Luckey co-founded a secretive defense tech startup called Anduril Industries last year. The company is pitching its technology to the Department of Homeland Security as a complement to — or alternative for — Trump’s promised physical wall along the border with Mexico. The company has helped customs

agents catch 55 unauthorized border crossers during a 10-week test period. Oh, and it might be able to target & kill people in the future. NBD. [Tweet this](#).

*“If Luckey has his way, the border wall of the future will be Anduril’s.”*

...**And if you want even more:** [A Company Built on a Bluff](#) (*New York Magazine*), [With a Coach Who Pulls Teeth to Relax, Iceland Becomes a Contender](#) (*New York Times*), [Meet Erik Finman, the teenage bitcoin millionaire](#) (*The Guardian*).