

RESTORATION

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DRAFT SIXTEEN  
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Fade in:

1 INT. CK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1

CK ERWIN, mid 40's, sits on the edge of the bed, his back to us. Except for a small lamp on the bedside table; he sits in darkness.

The room is eerily quiet and still.

Then swiftly he pulls a pistol to his temple. His hand shakes. His breathing quickens.

His two children, daughter and son, stare at him from the picture on his night stand.

The gun in his hand obstructs our view of his face, but it's obvious he's having second thoughts.

He lowers the pistol to his lap and pops the single bullet out of the chamber in to his palm.

He rolls the bullet between his fingers, still contemplating.

2 EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DUSK 2

Feet, clad in running shoes, pound the pavement in fading daylight.

Dog tags clang together around SAMANTHA "SAM" COLLINS, 16, neck as she runs down the road, her sporty ponytail bouncing behind her.

3 EXT. POP'S HOUSE FRONT STEPS - DUSK 3

Sam approaches the house and stops at the front porch and takes a seat on the steps. She checks the time on her watch and her face shows that she's room for improvement.

She takes a large gulp of water and the dog tags around her neck clink together, catching her attention, as they usually do.

She runs her fingers over the etched lettering of the dog tags. It reads:

CAPTAIN DANIEL COLLINS US ARMY

The door opens behind her and her mom KAYELYN COLLINS, 39, steps out.

KAYELYN

Hey Sam, dinner is ready. Come on  
in and get washed up.

SAM

Ok, thanks mom, I'll be in in a  
minute.

Kayelyn knows to give her some space and shuts the door.

Sam turns back to her dog tags. She kisses them and turns to  
go inside.

4

INT. POP'S HOUSE KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

4

Pop's house is warm and inviting. You can tell by the large  
kitchen and dining room table, that Pop likes to fellowship.

POP, a sweet older man, opens his house to people and  
families who are in need or going through a rough patch in  
their lives. He's a guy you can't help but love.

The dinner table is where they all gather to tell stories  
from their day. You never know what band of misfits will be  
present.

This evening, Pop, Kayelyn, Sam, ABBIE, 5, and ZEKE, 30's and  
a little goofy, sit around the table. A nice country feast is  
spread in the middle of the table and everyone passes plates  
of food around.

KAYELYN

Who is he?

POP

He's our new mechanic!

SAM

He must know his stuff to gain your  
approval, Pop. Not everybody knows  
how to work with those old cars.

POP

You might say he passed the "Pop"  
quiz with flying colors.

A collective GROAN from everyone except Sam who is a little  
more dry.

SAM

I see what you did there.

POP  
(nudging Abbie)  
You get it? POP quiz!

Abbie, with eyes down, does not respond. Pop sighs at another failed attempt.

KAYELYN  
What's his story?

POP  
Just a man looking for work.

KAYELYN  
What about family?

POP  
Don't know.

KAYELYN  
Is he a Christian?

POP  
Don't know that either.

KAYELYN  
Pop, what do you know?

POP  
I know enough. He had strong references.

KAYELYN  
Do you know anything about his past? Do we need to Google him right now?

POP  
Listen. Sometimes you can tell everything you need to know about a man by the way he shakes your hand.  
(aside to Abbie)  
Or a lady.

She nods shyly accepting a handshake. He grins at the small success.

ZEKE  
Don't worry about a thing. I'll keep an eye on this fellow. Remember, these hands are registered weapons of mass destruction.

Zeke does a karate move and knocks over his plate along with some flying food landing on Sam.

SAM

Zeke!!

Zeke immediately grabs a napkin and starts wiping her down.

ZEKE

Sorry! Sorry! Normally do that move standing up, you know.

Sam gives him the eye as he continues cleaning up the mess he made.

POP

We agreed to a two month trial basis. He'll work at the garage and help me run errands here and there. Other than that, well, he's a private person and I agreed to respect his privacy.

KAYELYN

Sounds, secretive. Like he's hiding something.

POP

No, dear. I think if CK wants to share more about himself with us, we must first prove that we are trustworthy ourselves.

Kayelyn takes out her iPhone.

KAYELYN

So he goes by CK? Why do I feel like those initials may not stand for charming and kind?

SAM

Are you seriously checking the National Sex Offender website?

KAYELYN

No! What? No. Shoo.

POP

Bottom line, I really feel that God is placing him here for a reason, Kayelyn. Just like he brought each of you here for a season. I just don't know what that reason is yet.

5 EXT. POP'S GARAGE - MORNING

5

It's a bright sunny day for CK's first day at work. The garage doors are wide open letting the oily greasy smell out, and fresh air in.

6 INT. BREAK ROOM - MORNING

6

Zeke and a good ol' country boy named RAY, mid-40s, are sitting in the breakroom waiting for Pop to start morning devotions. Pop walks in with a bearded CK.

POP

Good morning all! I'm really excited to introduce you guys to Mr. CK Erwin. CK this is Zeke and Ray. They have been with me a number of years and they do tremendous work. At least that's what they tell me. More than that, they are like family to me.

CK

Gentlemen.

They all shake hands. Some more vigorously than others.

ZEKE

Welcome to the gang CK!

RAY

Glad to have you!

POP

Okay! Let's get started!

CK turns to check out the shop and where he needs to begin working. Pop pulls out a bible and sits across from Zeke, Ray and CK.

POP (CONT'D)

Okay, today's devotional comes from Matthew 18:12-14.

CK turns back around caught off guard by the sudden change in direction. He respectfully sits down, but slightly removed from the group.

POP (CONT'D)

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these ones should be lost." Break it down.

ZEKE

God is concerned for everyone.

RAY

He will go after the lost like a heat seekin' guided missile.

ZEKE

And it gives him great joy to find the one that wandered off.

Ray makes a small explosion sound.

POP

Yes, and we should do the same. Look for opportunities to guide people that are lost to the truth. Amen. Let's have a great day.

Pop, Ray and Zeke jump their feet and head to work.

CK is very much out of his natural environment with the devotional. Everyone has left the room.

CK

What have I gotten in to?

7

INT. POP'S GARAGE - AFTERNOON

7

CK leans neck deep into the engine of an old vintage car when Pop walks up.

POP

How was the first day?

CK

Can't complain. About to wrap this job up.

POP

That's great. I know Zeke and Ray already like having an extra set of hands around here.

ZEKE (O.S.)

Amen, Brother!

CK

They seem like good guys.

POP

Quirky, but good. Hey, I want you to meet my family tonight if you don't mind.

CK

Oh, Mr. Hodge, I don't know -

POP

Already have plans tonight?

CK

Well, no, but-

POP

Perfect!

CK

Mr. Hodge, really, I can't.

POP

I tell you what. You come tonight and I promise I won't ask again if you don't like it.

CK sighs. Trapped!

CK

I'll go get cleaned up.

POP

Now you're talking!

8 EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - EVENING

8

CK and Pop pull in to a parking space at the high school.

9 INT. SCHOOL GYM - EVENING

9

CK and Pop walk into the gym. Wrestling matches are already in progress on the floor.

POP

Kayelyn's two daughters, Abbie and Samantha, attend school here. They moved in with me a while back. Going through some rough patches in life. Sam is on the high school wrestling team. She's a great little athlete. Look, they're saving us seats.

Pop begins to walk to the bleachers. CK doesn't move. He looks at two young guys in a match. One looks similar to Max.

CK

Mr. Hodge, I don't think -

POP

Nonsense! They're saving us seats. Come on!

10 INT. SCHOOL GYM BLEACHERS - EVENING

10

CK and Pop make their way up the bleachers to sit with Kayelyn, Abbie, Zeke and Ray. The guys are wearing "SAM SLAM CLUB" t-shirts.

ZEKE

Ya'll just barely made it! The Saminator is up next.

RAY

Sambo!

POP

My fault, I'm sorry. Kayelyn, this is Mr. CK Erwin. CK, this is Kayelyn and her lovely daughter, Abbie.

CK and Kayelyn nod at each other, courteous, yet guarded. CK notices Abbie's hand is held out for a hand shake. He smiles and takes her hand. The start of something special.

11 INT. SCHOOL GYM WRESTLING FLOOR - EVENING

11

Sam walks around the mat loosening up for the match. She looks up to the Sam Slam gang in the bleachers. She's not looking confident. She takes in a few words of advice from her coach and PIC, her high school friend, and then steps up to the mat.

12 INT. SCHOOL GYM BLEACHERS - EVENING

12

The Sam Slam Club watches Sam take her position on the mat. CK watches, but seems a bit uncomfortable.

ZEKE

Okay! Sam is up! Come on Sam-I-am!!

POP

Sam has been wrestling for years now. Finished in the middle of her conference last year and is determined to be first this year.

(yelling)

Come on Sam! Show them what you've got!

(back to CK)

This is a big match. Her opponent Alex won conference last year.

The match starts. Sam starts off doing well, but her opponent begins to frustrate her with some shady moves and throws her off her game.

Round two starts and Sam is well behind in points. She's frustrated and unfocused.

CK watches Sam struggle on the mat against Alex. He looks to the bench and sees Max looking up at him.

CK shakes his head and leaves the bleachers without saying a word. The others look at each other in confusion.

The match ends and Sam loses. She rips her head gear off and throws across the mat in anger.

ZEKE

It's okay, Sam-a-lama-ding-dong!  
Keep your head up!

KAYELYN

Ooh boy. Zeke you're gonna want to dial that back a notch or she may throw you in a headlock.

13 INT. SCHOOL GYM WRESTLING FLOOR - EVENING

13

Sam sits on her bench in defeat. Alex approaches.

ALEX

Stick to playing with girls before you get hurt.

Sam snatches her gear from Alex who smugly turns and walks away. She tosses her gear at her bag by her feet. The dog tags, attached to the bag, rattle and draw her attention.

SAM  
(to herself)  
I'm trying.

14 INT. SCHOOL GYM BLEACHERS - EVENING

14

Pop and the gang watch Sam gather her things from the bench.

KAYELYN  
I know she has to be so  
disappointed.

POP  
We need to help her keep her head  
up. Alex is a strong wrestler.

ZEKE  
She can lose a few matches and  
still win conference right?

POP  
Maybe, if Alex changes weight  
class!

KAYELYN  
What's up with CK?

POP  
I'm not sure. He seemed a bit  
uncomfortable.

KAYELYN  
Mm. I don't like him.

POP  
Oh, he's fine Kayelyn. Probably  
just needed some fresh air.

KAYELYN  
Humph! Oh! I almost forgot. Sam's  
car wouldn't crank again this  
morning. Can you give her and Pic a  
ride home? I have to pick up  
Abbie's new medicine then run a few  
errands.

POP  
Sure, no problem.

15 INT. CK'S CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

15

Sam and Pic ride in the back seat arguing. CK drives while Pop contemplates the world flashing by outside the window.

SAM

Are you saying my attitude is bad?  
You haven't even seen "bad" yet.

Pic waves the Bible in Sam's face.

PIC

All I'm saying is that reading this  
will help. Psalms? Job, perhaps?

SAM

Give me that!

Sam rips the Bible from Pic's hand.

PIC

Gladly. Hurry up and get started.

Sam gives him a mean look.

PIC (CONT'D)

Just trying to help.

POP

Park right over there if you don't  
mind, CK. We'll run Charles up to  
his house. It's not a great  
neighborhood, but you'll be safe  
here. We'll be right back.

16 INT. CK'S CAR - ROADSIDE - NIGHT

16

CK sits by himself waiting on the others to return. He looks at his watch and looks around anxiously.

He drums his fingers on the steering wheel. He can't wait any longer, so he gets out of the car and walks after the others.

17 EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

17

CK rounds a corner and finds Pop and Sam trapped by some young THUG. CK startles them all when he walks up.

CK

Everything okay here?

THUG  
Mind your own business.

POP  
(evenly)  
We're okay, CK. Just a little  
misunderstanding that's all.

THUG  
The only misunderstanding here is  
you not understanding what's going  
to happen to you if you don't hand  
over that wallet.

Pop stands his ground and doesn't budge an inch.

CK  
Listen, we'll just be leaving now.

THUG  
Perhaps you didn't hear me or the  
old man. Mind your business or...

CK  
I heard you. I'm just not  
listening. Mr. Hodge, Sam, let's go  
to the car now.

CK reaches to grab Sam's hand but the thug cuts in front of  
him and pushes him back.

THUG  
You and me about to have a real  
problem.

CK  
I doubt that. Sam? Mr Hodge.  
Please.

THUG  
Man, you disrespecting me?!! What  
part of this are you not  
understanding.

Thug pulls out a knife.

THUG (CONT'D)  
Now I'm going to take your wallet  
as well as the old man's. And I  
really want you to try something.  
You listening now, homie?

POP  
Look, that's not necessary. Here,  
take what I have.

Pop pulls out his wallet and begins to pull some cash out.

CK holds up his hands showing he doesn't want any trouble.

CK  
We don't want any trouble.

THUG  
Too late for that!

The thug swipes his knife at CK, who backs away outside of range. Pop pulls out his phone and dials 911.

POP  
I need the police department  
please, quickly.

The thug aggressively steps toward CK, lunging the knife towards him. CK performs a trap block with a punch to the thug's stomach. He twists the thug's arm forcing the knife out of his hand.

Sam's eyes are wide. She's impressed. She leans over and whispers to Pop.

SAM  
Tell them they can take their time.

POP  
Yes, I'd like to report  
a...attempted robbery.

CK  
Pop, you and Sam get in the car.  
I'll be just a minute.

Pop hurries Sam towards the car.

CK (CONT'D)  
Say, I didn't catch your name.

THUG  
None of your...

CK twists his arm.

THUG (CONT'D)  
Maurice! Man, ease up!

CK leans close to his ear.

CK

Look Maurice. I'm actually really a nice guy. The police will be nice as well when they get here. But, just to be sure you and I do understand each other, if I catch you anywhere near my friends again I won't be so nice.

(beat)

Is that clear?

THUG

Crystal!

18 INT. CK'S CAR - ROADSIDE - NIGHT

18

CK opens the door and sits back down in the driver's seat. Sam eyes him from the backseat.

POP

That was quite a bit more excitement than we usually run into when we take Charles home. Terrible neighborhood for a young person. I've been trying to talk his mother in to moving in with us. Maybe this will help convince her.

CK looks at Sam through the rear view mirror; locking eyes.

SAM

I could have used some of those moves in my match today.

(beat)

Where did you learn to...

CK

It's personal, not important.

SAM

You have a pretty special skill set for a mechanic.

CK looks in the rear view mirror and locks eyes with Sam.

POP

Sam, Mr. Erwin likes his privacy. He prefers to keep his past, well, in the past.

CK

When I was younger, Sam, I decided  
I wanted to do something to make a  
difference. Make things better. I  
knew that sometimes in life to be a  
peacemaker you have to make peace.  
So I made sure I had the tools to  
do the job when necessary.

They all sit in respectful silence. CK cranks the car.

POP

Well, they sure came in handy  
tonight, and we are much obliged.

CK gives the slightest of nods.

19 INT. MAX'S ROOM - NIGHT

19

Wrestling medals, trophies and pictures line the wall. CK  
stands in front of them as he gets lost in the memories. He  
downs his glass of "Jack".

He reaches in to his pocket and pulls out the bullet. He  
rolls it around between his fingers. Debating.

20 INT. BREAK ROOM - AFTERNOON

20

Zeke, Ray, Pop and CK sit around a table eating pizza.

POP

Kayelyn makes the best pizza!

RAY

Amen to that! I could eat it every  
day!

ZEKE

So, we heard about you taking down  
some bad guy last night.

CK

Wasn't a big deal. Just a young  
punk.

POP

Hopefully, this will convince the  
police to patrol that area a little  
more often.

ZEKE

You know I was almost a police officer. Yep, I got pretty natural detective like instincts.

RAY

Yeah right Zeke. You have to actually be able to detect to be a detective

ZEKE

What are you trying to say?

RAY

If you can't figure it out, I think I just made my point.

ZEKE

I have you know I would have made a great detective. I see myself as a cross between Leroy Gibbs, Matlock and Magnum PI.

RAY

More like Barney Fife. Except there's no way I'd give you a bullet for your gun.

Zeke rolls his eyes at Ray.

POP

Actually Zeke came very close to making the police force. It was your eyesight that kept you out if I remember correctly.

ZEKE

That's right. I'm legally blind in my right eye. I can see just fine. But they said it was not good enough.

POP

Well it's their loss. You would have been a fine police officer.

ZEKE

Thanks Pop.

CK notices Zeke looks a little saddened.

21 INT. POP'S GARAGE - DAY

21

CK cleans out a carburetor at a work table. Pop walks in.

POP  
Afternoon CK. We missed you at  
devotions this morning.

CK  
If it's alright with you Mr. Hodge,  
I'd rather not intrude on your  
devotion time.

POP  
Oh no intrusion at all! We love  
to...

CK  
I mean, it's not really my thing.

POP  
Okay, I understand. No pressure CK.  
If you ever feel like you want to  
join us you are more than welcome.

An atrocious sound pulls up in to the garage's parking lot in  
the form of Sam's car. It's an older car and has many special  
quirks.

CK  
What in the world?

POP  
Oh, that's Sam. She brings Abbie by  
in the afternoon during wrestling  
season.

CK  
Sam?

POP  
Yep. She refuses to let me help her  
get that thing in to proper running  
condition. She insists on working  
on it herself.

CK  
She an aspiring mechanic?

POP  
I don't think so. It's something  
her and her dad were working on  
before he was deployed to  
Afghanistan.

CK glances at Pop, guessing the worst about Sam's dad.

Sam and Abbie climb out of the car and walk up to the bay.

POP (CONT'D)  
How's the car, Sam?

SAM  
Humperdink is running. Which is  
better than us walking.

POP  
Where's Pic?

SAM  
He's still in the car listening to  
music.

POP  
Come on Abbie, let's get started on  
your homework. See ya Sam.

SAM  
See you later Pop.

Pop leaves CK and Sam alone in the bay. CK has gone back to  
working on his part.

SAM (CONT'D)  
So, what did you think of my match  
yesterday?

CK  
What makes you think I thought  
anything about it?

SAM  
Some things you just know deep in  
your knower.

CK  
Knower?

SAM  
Your gut. Instincts. I could see it  
in your eyes. Plus it's obvious you  
have some sorta special forces jedi  
training. Amiright?

CK  
Personal.

SAM

Right, I forgot. Well, asking what you thought about my wrestling is not personal is it? I'm just curious.

CK looks up at her; then back down to his work.

SAM (CONT'D)

Come on! I would really like to know.

CK

Persistent aren't you?

CK looks past Sam and sees Pic sneaking in to the garage. Pic signals him to not say anything.

SAM

That's part of what makes a good wrestler.

CK

Your wrestling was fine.

SAM

That's it?

(beat)

You did notice that I lost the match, right?

CK continues to work on the car.

CK

You lost. He didn't beat you. There's a big difference. The attitude didn't help.

SAM

I just really hate to lose.

CK

Another part of what makes a good wrestler.

CK sees Pic in the background sneaking ice cream out of the freezer and on to his ice cream cone.

SAM

Absolutely! So you do know something about wrestling! Did you wrestle when you...

CK  
Personal.

SAM  
Oh, come on!.

CK  
I need to get back to work.

SAM  
Sure. Sure. Just looking for a  
little advice.

Pic drops the freezer door and it slams shut with a loud  
bang.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Charles!

PIC  
Yes ma'am?

Pic spins around with his hands and ice cream behind his  
back.

SAM  
You know that is Abbie's ice cream,  
and only Abbie's ice cream.

PIC  
Yeah, everyone knows that. Off  
limits. No confusion here. No  
ma'am.

Pic fumbles with the ice cream cone and manages to stick the  
ice cream cone in the back of his pants.

SAM  
Let me see your hands.

Pic holds up one hand.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Both hands.

Pic shows both hands. Sam has a brief moment of confusion  
before the chocolate ice cream falls between his legs and  
plops on the ground.

PIC  
Oops!

A few more drops of ice cream plop to the ground.

SAM  
Are you finished?

Plop!

PIC  
Yeah, I think so.

Sam roles her eyes.

PIC (CONT'D)  
I'll just clean this up real fast!

Pic grabs some napkins and begins cleaning up the ice cream.

SAM  
Can't take him anywhere.

Pic leans over the mess on the floor mopping it up with a rag.

PIC  
Hey Mr. Erwin.

CK  
Hello Charles.

PIC  
Oh don't call me Charles. That's what she calls me when she is, you know, not happy with me. I told you my friends call me Pic.

SAM  
Pic, you've got ice cream all over the back of your pants. Go clean up because you're not getting back in my car like that.

PIC  
Yes ma'am.

Pic runs off to clean his pants.

SAM  
So how about it? Some wrestling advice?

CK lets out a sigh as he gives in.

CK

Tonight at home find a quiet place. Relax, close your eyes and replay everything about the match in your mind, and really focus on what you were thinking, how it impacted every move you made. Every detail. Every thought. You'll be able to figure out what I thought of your match.

SAM

Okay, how do you know I will figure out what you--?

CK

Some things you just know deep down in your knower, right?

SAM

Riiiiiiight.

(beat)

Well I'm off to practice.

Sam turns to leave. CK turns back to his work. Sam looks back hoping for something more.

She gets nothing.

22

INT. POP'S OFFICE - DAY

22

Abbie sits in a chair reading a book while Pop talks on the phone.

POP (ON PHONE)

Yes, this is James Hodge. I need to speak to someone regarding a parts order that we have not received.

Abbie takes a huge puff of an inhaler.

POP (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

You okay Abbie?

Abbie nods her head "yes".

POP (CONT'D)

Yes ma'am the part number is NP30857. Yes, two day delivery. Sure I can hold.

Abbie slides off the chair and sneaks out the door.

23

INT. POP'S GARAGE - DAY

23

CK is now on a roller under a car. He sees Abbie's little feet walk up and stand next to the car.

CK rolls out from under the car and Abbie stands over him. She smiles and waves. He waves back, and a big drop of ice cream falls on his face.

Abbie holds her hand to her mouth and giggles. CK's demeanor warms up, but only a couple of degrees.

CK  
Mmmm. Vanilla, my favorite. Usually  
I prefer it in a bowl.

Abbie giggles again.

ABBIE  
Sorry.

CK sits up as he wipes the ice cream from his face with his dirty rag, removing the ice cream but smudging grease all over his face.

CK  
That's all right.

ABBIE  
Your face!

CK notices the dirty rag he used by habit. He wipes his face again, but only succeeds in moving the grease around.

CK  
How's that?

ABBIE  
You look funny!

CK  
Thank you.

CK gives a small smile and a moment of silence falls between them, but neither seem uncomfortable by it.

ABBIE  
You like cars?

CK  
Yes, very much.

ABBIE  
Me, too.

CK  
I bet you really enjoy coming to  
the shop, then.

ABBIE  
It's one of my favorite places. I  
like to see broken things get  
fixed.

CK  
Yeah, that's pretty neat, isn't it.

Abbie thinks for a moment.

ABBIE  
Sam said you're a hero. She said  
you were strong and saved them last  
night.

CK  
She's exaggerating just a bit.

ABBIE  
My daddy is a hero. He died.

This bit of information is dropped like a ton of bricks right  
in to CK's lap.

CK  
Your daddy was a soldier?

ABBIE  
A hero.

CK smiles.

Pop rounds the corner.

POP  
There you are. I should have known  
you'd be in to that ice cream.

Pop smiles at CK's dirty face.

POP (CONT'D)  
You two working or playing around  
in here?

Abbie lets out a shy giggle.

POP (CONT'D)  
You better head back up front. Your  
mom is getting off early today and  
on the way to get you.

Abbie runs to the door. She stops and turns to wave at CK. CK smiles and waves back.

Pop looks surprised.

POP (CONT'D)  
There is some soap and clean rags  
in the cabinet.

CK  
Pardon?

CK remembers the dirt on his face.

CK (CONT'D)  
Oh, right. Thanks.

POP  
Hey, you're still welcome to come  
over Sunday for lunch.

CK  
I appreciate the offer, but I've  
got plans.

POP  
Okay then. I'll see you next week.

Pop nods goodbye and heads back to his office. CK reflects for a moment and then rolls back under the car.

24 INT. ERWIN KITCHEN - NIGHT 24

CK throws a frozen dinner in to the microwave and watches it cook.

25 INT. ERWIN HALL - NIGHT 25

CK sits on the floor at the entrance of Amera's girly bedroom with the frozen dinner in his lap.

26 INT. ERWIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 26

A small "couch fort" has been built out of sheets, pillows and other easily accessible household items. A small glow comes from a light inside the fort; casting a shadow of CK and Amera on the sheet.

AMERA (V.O.)  
I wish you would go with us.

INSIDE TENT

CK brushes Amera's loose hair out of her face.

CK

We have the entire rest of the day  
to spend together when you get  
back.

Amera doesn't seemed appeased.

AMERA

I'm going to keep bugging you until  
you go to church with us.

CK

So, you're teaming up with your  
mother then?

AMERA

Why don't you believe in Jesus?

CK thinks for a moment, about to give a cheap answer for a  
child, but thinks better of it wanting to give Amera an  
honest answer.

CK

Too many questions and not enough  
answers.

AMERA

It's kinda more of a faith thing,  
dad.

CK

As an FBI man I can't just operate  
off of faith. I have to have  
evidence. Facts.

AMERA

Yes, but don't you have to seek the  
answers to find them?

CK begins to respond, but realizes she has a point.

CK

How did you get so smart?

AMERA

Mom says I got it naturally from  
her.

CK  
Oh yeah? And what does she say you  
got from me?

AMERA  
(beat)  
Hard headedness.

CK  
Really?

AMERA  
And that's why I'm gonna keep at it  
until you come around!

CK  
I tell you what. You give me the  
proof and facts on why I should  
believe, then we'll discuss it.

AMERA  
I accept the challenge!

Amera reaches out her little hand to shake for the agreement.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna write a book for you!

CK  
Really? Already talking book deals.  
My you are convincing!

CK begins tickling Amera and her giggles fill the room.

AMANDA (V.O.)  
Okay you two. Amera it's time for  
bed.

Amera pokes her head out of the fort.

AMERA  
Do I have to?

AMANDA  
Yep! To your bed missy.

Amera sighs as she climbs out of the fort and begins to run  
upstairs. CK sticks his head out of the fort.

CK  
Hey!

She gives him a smile knowing what he's about to do. He grabs  
her hand and scratches three times on her palm.

She giggles and kisses him on the cheek before running upstairs. CK climbs out of the fort and helps Amanda clean up the room.

AMANDA

You guys are so much alike it scares me.

CK

Hard headed, as I understand it.

AMANDA

She wasn't supposed to tell you that.

CK

She's becoming quite the little evangelist.

AMANDA

She's going to convince you one of these days.

CK

Listen, you know I'll never stand in your way or object to you and the kids going, but I'm pretty set in my ways and don't see anything changing my mind.

AMANDA

Not even our precocious little girl?

(beat)

That means clever.

CK

Yes, I know what it means. She didn't get all her smarts from just you!

AMANDA

Oh, she told you that too?

They both smile at each other. A quiet moment passes as they clean up.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Sure you won't go with us?

Flashback ends and...

27 INT. ERWIN BEDROOM - MORNING 27

CK's eyes open from another dream. He blinks the sleepy out of his eyes and lets out a sigh.

28 INT. CHURCH - DAY 28

Pop and his family attend a small country church.

PASTOR

In conclusion, "Blessed is the man that believes in, trusts in, relies on the Lord and whose hope and confidence the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters and that spreadeth out its roots by the river.

29 INT. ERWIN KITCHEN - DAY 29

CK walks over to the pantry; still in his clothes from the day before. He opens the cabinet to find only a box of cereal.

He opens the fridge and it's the same. Only a drop of milk left.

PASTOR (V.O.)

It shall not see and fear when the heat comes, but it's leaf shall be green. It shall not be anxious and full of care in the year of drought, nor shall it cease yielding fruit."

30 INT. CHURCH - DAY 30

The pastor leans in on his podium to hammer the message home.

PASTOR

Heat, drought and storms will come while we are in this fallen world. The word of God is clear that there will be trials and difficulties. It rains on the just and the unjust alike.

31 INT. ERWIN KITCHEN - DAY

31

CK pours the few drops of milk in to his cereal bowl. It's not enough so he puts water in it.

He grabs a liquor bottle and pours some in a plastic cup. He downs the cup and throws it across the counter and grabs the whole liquor bottle. He walks over and sits down at the kitchen table to start eating his breakfast.

PASTOR (V.O.)

But again, in those times the word is clear that all things will work together for good to them that love God and are called according to his purpose. God will show up.

(beat)

Let's remember that all around us we have family, neighbors, friends and co-workers that don't have this comfort of faith.

32 INT. CHURCH - DAY

32

The pastor has now stepped down off the platform on to the same level as the congregation.

PASTOR

I pray that we all will keep our hearts and eyes open for those divine appointments and opportunities to show the love of Christ to a world in so much need of truth.

These words hammer home to Pop. He's beginning to grasp the reason God has put CK in to his life.

33 INT. POP'S OFFICE - DAY

33

Ray pokes his head in the door, very concerned.

POP

What is it Ray?

Ray just motions behind him to the garage. Pop steps around the corner and sees Cecil poking around. He lets out a big SIGH.

RAY

What's he doing back here?

POP  
I'm sure we're about to find out.  
Where's Zeke?

RAY  
Where else? Hiding in the bathroom

POP  
Just continue what you were working  
on. Everything will be ok.

Cecil nears as Ray scoots out to continue working on an engine.

CECIL  
Ray. No hug for me, man?

Pop steps in front of Cecil.

POP  
Cecil. I'm very surprised to see  
you back here. It's been a while.

CECIL  
I'm a little surprised myself.  
Nothing's changed.

Pop leads him back into the office and closes the door.

POP  
Are you well, Cecil?

CECIL  
Hoooo, cutting straight to the  
chase.

Cecil perches on the edge of the desk and picks at some manifold piece sitting there.

CECIL (CONT'D)  
So, I just finished my promotional  
tour, maybe got some endorsements  
lined up --

POP  
That's funny because I read the  
other day you tested positive on  
drug charges and have been banned  
from the MMA Cage Association.  
Again.

Cecil drops the facade.

CECIL

Always so negative with you, Pop.  
It was just one party and --

POP

From the day you began running with  
that gang of thugs, it was only a  
matter of time before you ended up  
dead or in jail.

Cecil mindlessly rubs his wrist tattoo.

CECIL

Family, Pop. Not thugs. And they've  
given me everything I needed to  
succeed. They are my brothers. My  
family.

POP

We were your family Cecil. We still  
are if you want us to be.

CECIL

That's not why I'm here, Pop.

POP

Then why are you here? Money?

CECIL

Issues, Pop. I've got some issues  
hanging over my head. Run into a  
little bad luck.

POP

How much?

CECIL

It's not like that!

POP

How much!?

CECIL

\$75,000.

Pop rubs his eyes under his glasses, exasperated.

CECIL (CONT'D)

It's just a loan. In 2 months, I'm  
back on my feet and I pay you back  
no problem.

Pop stands and gets right up into Cecil's face, studying him.

POP

Cecil, you're not even clean right now? You're right back where we started.

CECIL

Don't judge me!

POP

Not judging. I want to help.

(beat)

We've been down this road before Cecil. Why are you trying to go down it again? You know nothing good comes out of it.

Cecil reflects for a moment. Rubs the exhaustion and stress from his face. Then returns to his mission.

CECIL

You can help by loaning me some money.

POP

Not in your condition. I give you money and you just flush it --

Cecil explodes.

CECIL

You have no idea what they'll do to me! None! You live in this naive little oasis of family dinners and bible devotionals and you have no clue what life is really like.

POP

Cecil --

CECIL

Are you gonna help me or not? I know you've got enough cash stored up.

POP

No, not like this. You need to be back in rehab --

Cecil storms over to the door --

CECIL

Nice! Real nice, Bible man! Chalk another one up for Christian charity.

-- and SLAMS the door behind him. Pop EXHALES deeply like he's just dodged a bullet.

34 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - NIGHT

34

CK walks into the garage with a liquor bottle in hand. Weak light from a work bench illuminates the room.

Wrestling matts lean against the wall. The far end of the garage is occupied with a covered car. Dust floats around the punching bag hanging in the middle of the room.

He walks over to the bag and stands in front of it for a moment. He pulls the bullet out of his pocket and studies it in his hand.

MAX (V.O.)  
Looking good --

CK spins around.

35 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

35

MAX is standing at the doorway that connects the house to the garage.

MAX  
You know we've been working on this car over two years now.

CK  
Has it been that long already?

MAX  
You know, it sure would make a great sixteenth birthday present for your respectful, loving, wonderful, incredible son.

CK  
Good try, but this is MY car.

MAX  
Oh come on dad! It's got just as much of my blood, sweat and tears as yours.

CK gives Max a stern look.

MAX (CONT'D)  
...but none of my money, right?

CK

Maybe I'm a little old fashioned  
but I still think it's a big deal  
that you pay for your first car.

MAX

At the rate I'm saving money it  
will take me ten more years!

CK smiles and watches Max as he walks over to the hanging bag and gives it a couple of punches and kicks. CK puts a few tools away in his toolbox. He turns and Max is out on the mini wrestling mat that is set up on one side of the garage.

MAX (CONT'D)

One quick take down challenge  
before supper?

CK smiles again and walks toward the mat. They start circling each other on the mat.

MAX (CONT'D)

This is the year I take you off  
your feet.

Max makes a quick move that CK quickly fends off.

MAX (CONT'D)

Not bad for an old...fashioned  
opponent.

CK smiles. They circle, embrace a few times, separate and then Max makes his move. CK does an awesome defense reversal take down and pins Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

No fair! What was that move!?

CK

It's from back in the day. Old  
fashioned, I believe you'd call it.

MAX

Oh! He's got moves AND jokes!!

CK rubs his son's head and they both lay back on the mat beside each other. Max seems to be reflecting then changes the subject.

MAX (CONT'D)

How long is your up coming  
assignment?

CK

Several months. No contact on this one, so I need you to be the man of the house and look after your Mom and sister.

MAX

You can count on me.

(beat)

I hope you make it back before wrestling season, coach. I want to win state this year. And take you off your feet.

CK

Strength of mind, heart and these.

CK points to Max's biceps.

CK (CONT'D)

Keep hitting those weights!

Door opens and Amanda sticks her head in.

AMANDA

Supper's ready!

MAX

Great! I'm starving!

Max runs into the house. Amanda pulls the door closed as she steps in to the garage.

AMANDA

How's the car coming?

CK

It'll be ready.

AMANDA

I can't wait to see his face when you give him the keys on his birthday.

36

INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

36

Present day CK stares at the half covered car.

CK

Yeah, me too.

37 INT. BREAK ROOM - MORNING

37

Pop and the gang are praying in the breakroom. CK walks by with a glance and no interest.

38 INT. POP'S GARAGE - AFTERNOON

38

CK is busy working on a vintage car in his bay. Pop is talking to Ray by another car.

Sam's car SQUEALS into the lot and parks in front of the open bay.

She hustles out of the car and Abbie struggles to keep up. Sam is obviously irritated.

SAM

Come on Abbie! Hurry Up!

POP

Well hey Sam, Abbie. Everything okay?

SAM

Yes. No. Don't worry about it. I'm late for practice. If you can even call it that.

Sam drops Abbie's bag on the ground by Pop and Ray and storms back to her car.

She SLAMS the door shut and tries to crank the car. A terrible and painful SOUND erupts from under the hood and the car refuses to crank.

Sam, even madder, jumps out of the car. Slams the door, and marches back to Pop and Ray; who are watching, slightly amused.

SAM (CONT'D)

Ray. Can you give me a ride to practice?

RAY

Sure, I'll --

SAM

Great. Let's go.

POP

Now, hold your horses young lady! What is the problem.

SAM

Pop. Where do I start? Coach Owens is leaving cause his wife is Army and they're being transferred. Yay, America. So they've made the Physics teacher who knows absolutely nothing about wrestling or sports in general...he's the new coach. So basically I can kiss winning conference goodbye. And now this.

She throws a hand gesture toward her car, which CK is now checking out.

ABBIE

And she spilled yogurt on her shirt.

SAM

Thank you, Abbie. But yes. Yogurt.

She picks at the pink spot.

POP

When it rains, it pours, sweetheart. First off, it's all gonna be okay.

SAM

No, Pop. You don't understand. The physics teacher came in with a wrestling for dummies book! No joke!

POP

That is pretty bad. Look, it's gonna be okay. Get your head in the game and we'll work out the rest.

This has the intended soothing effect on her before --

RAY

Has anyone seen my car keys?

SAM

ARRRRRRRRRR!!!!

CK walks up wiping his hands on a rag.

CK

I can take her. If you guys can pull the car into the empty bay.

POP

Done. Go.

CK

Come on, Sam.

They head for his car.

39

INT. CK'S CAR - TRAVELLING - AFTERNOON

39

CK drives as Sam applies saliva to the Yogurt stain on her shirt. She tries to throw this out as nonchalantly as possible...

SAM

You know, they take volunteer coaches. I could --

CK

Not gonna happen.

She's thought about this a lot. Begins gushing her opening arguments...

SAM

I know you know a lot about wrestling and with your help I'd actually have a shot at winning conference. I'm a quick learner and you are awesome! Please!?

He starts to speak but she moves in for the kill...

SAM (CONT'D)

I want to win conference, CK. Just one time. For my Dad.

The car pulls up to the school gymnasium. CK puts it in park.

CK

Sam, you don't know what you're even asking of me.

Sam waits.

CK (CONT'D)

I don't have anything to give.

SAM

For what it's worth, I think you have a lot to give.

CK looks over at her and she smiles.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Some things you just know in your  
knower, remember.

CK smiles back. Sam pops the door and starts to climb out.

CK  
Hey, that's not a yes.

SAM  
But it's not a no!

She closes the door before he can respond.

40

INT. POP'S GARAGE - DAY

40

CK tinkers elbows deep beneath Sam's car. He notices a familiar pair of psychedelic Sketcher kids shoes blinking lights. He slides back out. She giggles and hands him some plastic bowls.

ABBIE  
I brought these for you.

CK  
Bowls?

ABBIE  
So you can have some ice cream when  
you like.

CK  
Thank you!

ABBIE  
You're welcome. Can I watch?

CK  
Sure, let me get you a chair.

CK slides a toolbox over for Abbie to sit in. She brushes it off and plops down sweetly and then starts coughing.

CK (CONT'D)  
You okay?

ABBIE  
I have asthma. Sometimes it's hard  
to breathe. I just took my  
medicine. I'll be okay.

CK smiles. Abbie seems a little more grown up than her age.

ABBIE (CONT'D)  
So can you fix Humperdink?

CK  
Fix who?

ABBIE  
Humperdink? Sam's car.

CK  
Well, she's in pretty bad shape.  
Might cost more to fix than she's  
worth.

ABBIE  
What do you mean?

CK  
Sometimes things are just not worth  
fixing.

ABBIE  
I hope you can fix it. I don't want  
her to be more sad. She lost her  
coach.

CK  
I heard about that.

CK starts working on the car again hoping this line of conversation will fade away. After a few moments of silence he glances back at Abbie who is still staring at him.

ABBIE  
Will you help her? Please Mr. CK.  
She said you know a lot about  
wrestling.

CK  
Well, that was a long time ago.

CK starts to work again. Silence settles in again. Abbie is still staring at him.

ABBIE  
I'll let you have all the ice cream  
you want.

CK  
You sure do drive a hard bargain.

ABBIE

She's my sister and I have to look out for her.

Kayelyn rushes in to the garage.

KAYELYN

There you are Abbie! It's time to go. I'm sure you've been bothering Mr. CK long enough.

CK

No bother at all. We've just been talking shop.

Kayelyn is a little surprised.

KAYELYN

Abbie, why don't you go wait for me with Pop.

Abbie runs off.

KAYELYN (CONT'D)

We haven't really had the chance to meet each other.

CK

Pop thinks very highly of you and the girls.

KAYELYN

He thinks a lot of you.

CK doesn't respond. Awkward silence.

KAYELYN (CONT'D)

My girls seemed to have taken to you as well.

CK

You have a wonderful family Ms. Collins.

KAYELYN

I'm surprised Abbie has opened to you. She's barely spoken to anyone since her father died.

CK

She told me about your loss. I'm so sorry.

KAYELYN

He was a great man. Loved his girls.

(beat)

Thank you for spending time with them. They need it.

(beat)

You have any family Mr. Erwin?

CK goes back in to his shell.

CK

I'd rather not talk about it Ms. Collins, if that's all right with you.

KAYELYN

Oh, yes, I'm sorry I didn't mean to intrude.

CK

No problem.

CK fiddles with some piece of engine.

KAYELYN

Well I better go. See you around.

Kayelyn walks away. CK watches her go and lets out the long breath he was holding. He runs his hand through his hair trying to calm the storm churning inside him.

41 INT. AMERA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

41

CK sits on the bed in Amera's room; a stuffed teddy bear in his hand. He gets up and walks across the room to return the stuffed animal to its resting spot on the desk. In the process he knocks over Amera's bookbag and a handmade book falls out of it. CK bends down to pick it up and the cover reads:

WHY I BELIEVE IN JESUS AND WHY MY DADDY SHOULD TOO

CK thumbs to the first page. He reads the first few lines.

AMERA (V.O.)

Daddy, you taught me to test what I believe and to seek wisdom and truth. You asked me to show you the proof. The evidence. And I did. My Sunday school teacher helped me to...

CK slams the book closed. So many emotions rage in his eyes. Hurt. Anger. Loss. Sadness. Loneliness. Hatred.

AMERA (V.O.)  
Daddy! Daddy!

42

INT. ERWIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

42

CK sits in his recliner. A quart of ice cream sits on the table next to the recliner.

Amera climbs up in to his lap, favorite teddy bear in tow.

AMERA  
Here, Dad, I've got an idea. Since you have the laryngitis, and can't tell me how *beautiful* I am everyday or how much you love me; we'll just have to come up with some other way.

CK watches the ideas forming in her head.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
I got it. Let me see your hand.

CK holds out his hand and Amera grabs it gently with both of her hands. She uses her index finger to scratch three times in the middle of his palm.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
I - love - you.

They look at each other and smile.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
See? You do the same to me.

CK scratches Amera's palm three times.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
(giggling)  
I love you too daddy!

Amera puts her arms around his neck and squeezes hard.

AMERA (CONT'D)  
That will be our secret code, daddy. When we can't talk to each other; we'll still know that we love each other.

43 INT. AMERA'S ROOM - MORNING 43

CK's eyes open. He has fallen asleep on the floor in Amera's room. Amera's book under his head. He lets out a sigh and drops the book on the table.

44 EXT. POP'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - NIGHT 44

CK, hefting a large box, trails behind Pop.

POP  
I appreciate it, CK.

Pop takes the box from CK and sets it down just inside the door.

CK  
I'll see you tomorrow Mr...uh, Pop.

POP  
Night, CK.

Pop shuts the door and CK turns back to the car but notices Sam sitting on the far end of the porch on a swing.

CK  
Hey Sam. What are you doing out here?

SAM  
Just thinking.

CK  
What about?

SAM  
Life.

CK  
Narrowing it down a bit?  
(beat)  
Mind if I join you?

SAM  
Sure.

CK sits down next to her and there's a moment of silence just listening to crickets CHIRP. He notices the unicorn key chain she plays with.

SAM (CONT'D)

So are all the king's horses and  
all the king's men gonna be able to  
put Humperdink together again?

CK

It's not looking so good. Told Pop  
you might be better off trading in  
for something, although it's not  
worth much in its current  
condition.

SAM

Hmph! Worth. All relative. Right?  
One man's junk is another's  
treasure? You see this? I found her  
today. You might find this hard to  
believe but I was big time into  
Ponies and Rainbows and Unicorns  
and stuff. This little guy went  
with me everywhere.

CK

You, Sporty Spice?

SAM

Yeah. Seems like a long, long time  
ago. At some point it lost its  
worth to me. Same toy, yet not.

(a beat)

I set a goal for myself, not long  
after Dad died, to be the first  
female wrestler to win conference.  
I really thought this was the year.

(beat)

I'm afraid that he'll lose worth in  
my life. That I will forget him.

CK

I know what you mean.

Sam looks at him quizically.

CK (CONT'D)

You are very talented, Sam. That's  
why I have considered your offer.

Sam looks at CK with equal parts confusion and anticipation.

CK (CONT'D)

I couldn't possibly replace your  
dad. Wouldn't want to even try.  
That's not what I'm offering. You  
understand?

(MORE)

CK (CONT'D)

(beat)

But, I will coach you. That is, if you still want me to.

SAM

Are you serious?

Sam tackles CK with a bear hug.

SAM (CONT'D)

Thank you! Thank you! I promise I will work hard and do whatever you tell me!

CK

Okay, settle down. Don't get too excited just yet. There are a few prerequisites first.

SAM

Okay, I agree to them!

CK

(laughing)

Wait, a minute I haven't even told you, yet.

SAM

Okay, what are they?

CK

First, your mother has to approve.

SAM

Not a problem.

He gives her a look.

SAM (CONT'D)

Got it. Okay.

CK

We'll train at my house. You will need to bring Pic with you for every training session.

SAM

Ooh, a twist.

(off his look)

Also, not a problem. Pic has no life. He's ours to toy with.

CK  
 Lastly, this stays between us. I  
 don't want the whole world knowing  
 our business. It's --

TOGETHER  
 Personal.

SAM  
 Got it.

CK  
 Also, I can't be at your matches.  
 No questions.

SAM  
 Why not?

CK  
 Sam!

Sam accepts that excuse for now.

SAM  
 I promise you won't be  
 disappointed.

CK stands up and reaches his hand out to Sam for a handshake.

CK  
 We start tomorrow. After work.

Sam stands up and grabs his hand.

SAM  
 I'll make you proud.

45 INT. POP'S HOUSE KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

45

Kayelyn and Pop are putting away the last bit of groceries.  
 Abbie helps with the smaller items. She looks a little pale  
 and sweaty. Her breathing is a little constrained.

KAYELYN  
 You okay honey? Where's your  
 inhaler?

ABBIE  
 In your purse.

Kayelyn digs the inhaler out of her purse and hands it to  
 Abbie. She pushes the pump down and inhales deeply. Her  
 demeanor seems to lighten a bit.

KAYELYN  
Feel better?

ABBIE  
Yes ma'am.

KAYELYN  
Good. You have to be careful  
sweetie. Let mommy know when you're  
not feeling well.

Abbie nods her head in compliance.

KAYELYN (CONT'D)  
Now run upstairs and get ready for  
bed. I'll be up in a minute.

Abbie runs upstairs leaving Kayelyn and Pop in the kitchen  
unloading groceries.

POP  
She's doing so much better.

KAYELYN  
The inhaler seems to help.

POP  
No, I meant she seems to be opening  
up.

KAYELYN  
(beat)  
I think we have CK to thank for  
that.

POP  
I believe so. She's really taken to  
him. Sam as well.

KAYELYN  
I appreciate him willing to help  
Sam with wrestling, but I just hope  
it's good for her.

POP  
What do you mean?

KAYELYN  
She doesn't show it as much, but  
she's really struggling with losing  
her dad. And it's obvious CK has  
some baggage of his own. I just  
don't want to see her set back.

POP

True, but I think he's a good man,  
just something in my knower.

KAYELYN

Still, we barely know him.

POP

I believe CK is here for a reason.  
And this is a great opportunity for  
us to share God's love with him.  
Maybe this time will be good for  
everyone.

46 EXT. ERWIN HOUSE - AFTERNOON

46

Sam, Abbie and Pic pull up to CK's house. They get out of the  
mini van.

PIC

Are you sure this is the right  
house?

SAM

I'm sure.

They walk up to the door and ring the door bell. CK opens the  
door.

CK

Hey guys. Come on in.

47 INT. ERWIN HOUSE FRONT DOOR - AFTERNOON

47

Pic, Abbie and Sam step in to the house. It's obvious CK has  
cleaned up the house. It's brighter and fresher. New life is  
in the house.

CK

We'll be training in the garage.  
This is the living room. Bathroom  
is down the hall. Upstairs is off  
limits.

PIC

I found the kitchen.

Pic makes his way in to the kitchen and Abbie follows him.

CK

Come on. I'll show you where you'll  
be training.

48 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

48

CK flips on the switch illuminating the garage. CK has finished cleaning up the garage and turning one side into a training area. The other side sits the car; under a tarp.

CK  
It's not much, but it's all you  
really need.

SAM  
It's perfect! I wish Pop would let  
me turn his garage in to a training  
center!

Sam makes her way in to the garage checking everything out.  
She notices the car.

SAM (CONT'D)  
What you got under here.

She goes to lift the tarp but CK jerks it back down.

CK  
Personal!

SAM  
No. Sorry. Didn't mean to snoop.

CK  
Stretch out and get warmed up. I'll  
check on Pic and Abbie.

49 INT. ERWIN KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

49

Pic's head is buried in the fridge.

PIC  
There's nothing in here!

CK  
I haven't been to the grocery store  
in quite some time.

Pic shuts the fridge door.

PIC  
I'd say! Look, I don't know about  
you but I need some sustenance!  
It's only fair that I get something  
for sacrificing my time here in  
this little arrangement.

CK

There is some ice cream in the freezer for you and Abbie but first, you're going to be sacrificing more than your time. Sam didn't tell you? You're the guinea pig!

PIC

Say what!? I ain't nobody's guinea...

50

INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

50

SMACK! Pic's face hits the mat hard. Sam grabs his arm and twists it.

CK

Perfect! Now lock it out!

Sam pushes harder on Pic's arm, Abbie giggles from the corner of the room.

PIC

UNCLE!! UNCLE!!!

Sam lets Pic get up.

PIC (CONT'D)

Remind me why we're friends?

CK

You're doing great Pic. Couldn't do this without you.

PIC

Tell that to my shoulder!

CK

Take a break Pic.

PIC

Gladly! Come on Abbie, help me put some ice on this shoulder.

Abbie follows him out of the garage.

SAM

Let's go! Teach me another take down! This is awesome! That's like ten new moves I've learned so far!

CK

Slow down. It's not how many moves you know. It's how many you perfect.

SAM

Got it coach!

CK

And wrestling is as much mental as it is physical.

SAM

I figured out what you thought about my match. I got frustrated, lost my focus, made mistakes. My thinking was the problem. Right?

CK

More specifically what you thought before the match. You didn't think you could win.

SAM

He's so strong. No. No I didn't. How did you know?

CK

I could see it in your eyes when you walked on the mat. So could he. Right thinking, strength of mind is the key to success. You have to become a champion in here  
(points to her head)  
before becoming one on the mat.

SAM

Dad always said the same thing. Thinking determines actions, which determines character, which determines success.

Sam grabs her water and takes a long drink.

SAM (CONT'D)

I want to honor the things he taught me. Be as good as I can. Beating the boys really appeals to me too. A lot. Get tired of hearing what a girl can't do.

CK

What are you willing to do to make your goal a reality?

SAM  
Whatever it takes.

CK  
A lot of people make commitments.  
Very few follow through. Especially  
when it gets tough. When the body  
can't take anymore and the mind  
sees no finish in sight.

Sam looks at CK challenging him.

SAM  
I'm not afraid of hard work, or  
pain.

CK  
Good, because both are necessary to  
shape you in to who you need to be.

SAM  
We still talking about wrestling  
here?

CK  
What do you mean?

SAM  
My dad taught Sunday school. Just  
reminded me of one of his lessons.  
Something about gold going through  
the furnace to be refined. God does  
the same with us. He tries the  
heart in order to shape us to who  
we need to be.

CK  
(beat)  
Is He really God if that's His only  
method?

SAM  
What do you mean?

CK  
I mean, does the only way to shape  
Samantha Collins in to who she is  
supposed to be, have to involve her  
father's death?

CK pushed to hard. Silence falls in to the room as Sam looks  
to the floor. CK lowers his head realizing his attitude.

CK (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry Sam, I --

SAM  
Very few follow through. Especially  
when it gets tough. When the body  
can't take anymore and the mind  
sees no finish in sight.

CK  
(beat)  
How did you get past it?

SAM  
I haven't. Not yet.

51 INT. POP'S GARAGE - DAY 51

CK kills the ENGINE of the vintage car he's been working on.  
When he does, he hears Pop and another LOUD VOICE from the  
offices. He heads that way to investigate.

52 INT. POP'S OFFICE - DAY 52

CK steps in to the office. Cecil is there. Very agitated.  
Pop coolly holds his ground.

CK  
Pop. You okay?

POP  
I'm fine CK. Cecil you need to  
leave now.

Cecil addresses CK.

CECIL  
Get out! This has nothing to do  
with you.

POP  
We're okay CK. Cecil is just  
leaving.

CK  
He's not driving all doped up like  
that is he?

CECIL  
I told you this is none of your  
business.

CK takes a step toward him.

CK  
My boss, my workplace, my business.

CECIL  
I ought to break you right now.  
You...

POP  
Cecil! I am calling the police!

Pop picks up the phone and starts dialing. Cecil grabs the phone from his hand and slams it down. The room goes silent.

CECIL  
(evenly)  
The way you can help me is to give me the loan.

POP  
You know I can't do that.

CECIL  
Can't? Or won't.

Cecil throws a bunch of books and papers off the desk in anger and stalks out of the office, shoving past CK.

CK  
Pop, you sure you're okay?

POP  
Yes, thank you. I am fine.

CK  
He looks pretty messed up. You know him?

POP  
Shame to see so much talent go to waste. I've tried hard to help him in the past with his drug addiction. He stayed with me for a while, but he just couldn't let go. Afraid it's not going to end well.

CK  
You can't win them all, Pop.

POP  
Doesn't mean I won't try.

CK

I'll make sure he found his way out  
and let everyone in the shop know  
that everything is okay.

POP

Yes, please do that. And CK, maybe  
we could drive up to Kayelyn's  
place? I could go for a decent cup  
of coffee to settle my nerves.

CK

I'll get the car.

53

INT. KAYELYN'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY

53

CK and Pop sit at a table drinking their coffee. Kayelyn is  
topping off Pop's cup.

KAYELYN

There you go, Pop. Enjoy gentlemen.

Kayelyn walks back to the counter. Pop takes a sip of his  
coffee.

POP

Ah, perfect!

CK

Nice place.

POP

Yes it is. She has been working  
very hard to make it successful.

CK

How long have they lived with you?

POP

Almost two years now. Known them  
their whole lives. They have become  
like family.

CK

Sam and Abbie seem like pretty  
special kids.

POP

Very dear to me.

CK

They seem to be doing well.

POP

God has been good to them.

CK almost chokes on his coffee.

CK

Sorry, Pop, I don't mean to be rude, but, are you serious?

POP

Sometimes it's hard to find the good; to find God in a situation.

CK

I fail to see how God is any good if this is the way He operates.

POP

(beat)

It's like a refiner refining gold --

CK

Save it Pop, I've heard this one, and I don't buy it.

(beat)

There's too much pain in this world. Doesn't make sense. Crime, disease, natural disasters.

(beat)

Destroyed lives.

(beat)

Why? Where is a good God in all of that?

Pop's brow furrows as he takes a sip of his coffee.

POP

Vietnam messed me up pretty badly. Hard to depict in words. Extremely emotional.

CK

(beat)

How long did you serve?

POP

Seven years. Two of them spent in a POW camp.

CK

Two years!? How does one survive two years of that hell.

POP

You had to have something to believe in. Something to hold on to. I wasn't a Christian when I joined the Army. I grew up a little on the rowdy side.

CK

Vietnam changed that?

POP

No. It was Corporal Shaw.

(beat)

He was captured with us. Had indelible faith. A faith so real you could touch it. When he talked about God, it was like he was talking about his best friend in the whole world. And in the midst of such suffering, too, even right up until the very end.

CK

Pop, you don't have to share...

POP

We had food brought to us. They slid it under the door. It was slop, but it was food, you know?

(beat)

One day a guard comes in and just dumps all Shaw's stuff in my cell. He had died the night before. None of us knew what happened.

(beat)

My rations were smaller after that. And that's when I realized Shaw had been giving me his portions. It wasn't enough food for one person. He'd literally given his life to give me a chance to get home.

(beat)

In his stuff was his personal bible. CK, I read that book from cover to cover twenty times.

(beat)

I had to know what was in it that could explain a man like Shaw. And there it was in Jesus, who had given his life to give me a chance to get home.

(beat)

So, Vietnam didn't change me.

(MORE)

POP (CONT'D)  
It started with Shaw, and the Word  
finished it.

A quiet moment passes as both men reflect.

CK holds his mug up.

CK  
To Corporal Shaw. May we all be  
lucky enough to have one in our  
lives.

Pop lifts his mug.

POP  
To Corporal Shaw. Eternally  
grateful.

Pop CLINKS their mugs together.

54 INT. POP'S GARAGE - AFTERNOON

54

Zeke walks in to CK's bay. He seems a little anxious. CK  
continues to work, waiting on Zeke to initiate.

ZEKE  
What you working on?

CK  
Car engine.

ZEKE  
Well yeah. I kind of picked up on  
that. Detective like skills you  
know.

CK smiles and keeps working.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Look, I just wanted to say I really  
admire your bravery. You know,  
dealing with Cecil and all.

CK  
It was really no big deal.

ZEKE  
Are you kidding me? Do you know who  
he is? He's like the greatest cage  
fighter ever!  
(beat)  
He's killed a few guys in the cage,  
you know?

CK pauses a moment, then continues his work on the engine.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You're pretty brave, or you have a death wish!

CK stops and turns to Zeke. Holds his gaze for a moment then grabs a new tool off the shelf.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Ah, I'm going to go with brave.  
Yep!

(beat)

I, uh, have a confession to make. Just thought you should know. That story about my eyesight being the reason why I didn't make the police force? It's not true.

CK gives up on his work and gives Zeke his full attention.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I just told everyone that because I didn't want to be embarrassed. To get accepted you have to pass an evaluation with another officer on the streets.

(beat)

We got called to a robbery in progress. I froze up. Couldn't move, breathe or draw my weapon. I was so afraid. I've been that way my whole life. I thought the uniform would change that, but it didn't. Nearly cost me and my partner our lives. That's why I didn't make the cut.

CK

At least you tried, Zeke. A lot to be said for that.

ZEKE

I guess. Just wish I could do what I saw you do. The way you dealt with Cecil. No fear.

CK

I was afraid.

ZEKE

What? No way! You were the picture of courage.

CK  
Courage is just a choice, Zeke.  
It's only courage if you are  
afraid.

55 INT. SCHOOL GYM WRESTLING FLOOR - AFTERNOON

55

The gymnasium is full of rowdy students and parents.

The Sam-Slam Club is present and accounted for complete with signs and Sam-Slam memorabilia.

Sam is loosening up on the edge of the mat. Her concentration is epic.

Pic steps up next to her.

PIC  
You ready for this?

SAM  
I have to be.

Pic turns her to face him.

PIC  
It's all up here. Just like CK  
taught you.

Pic points to her head.

SAM  
I wish he was here.

PIC  
I know. Just stay focused on the  
task at hand. One at a time.

The referee steps on the mat calling the wrestlers to place.

Sam steps up to the mat; her opponent approaching from the other side.

PIC (CONT'D)  
Let's go Sam!!

He steps back to the bench.

The Sam-Slam club is going crazy.

The whistle is blown and the two wrestlers begin circling one another, sliding and dodging around each other as they test each other's weaknesses.

SAM

Alright Henry, you ready to be beat  
by a girl?

HENRY

Let's see you...

Sam lunges toward Henry and takes him by surprise. She takes him to the ground and almost gets him in to a head lock.

Henry slides loose and they both jump back up in to their starting stance. But before Sam can get planted Henry takes her legs out from under her.

She hits the mat hard.

PIC

Come on Sam! Get in the game!

The referee calls time for the first round.

Sam jogs over to PIC.

PIC (CONT'D)

Not bad. Be careful he's a big guy.  
You have to be smart with this one.  
He can beat you with size, but he  
doesn't look like much in the brain  
department.

Sam looks over and sees Henry squirt water from his bottle but misses his mouth and hits his face instead. The referee calls the wrestlers back to the mat.

PIC (CONT'D)

Be quick on your feet! Stay  
focused.

Sam hustles back to the mat and in to place.

The second round starts with a whistle blow and the two players circle each other.

Sam hops around. Her face intense and focused.

Henry takes the upper hand in this round. He consistently takes Sam out of her game.

The round ends with a frustrated Sam who storms over to her bench.

SAM

He's too big! Too strong.

PIC

Look at me Sam! He's a big ogre!  
Don't be distracted. Focus! Think!  
Know you can win!

This gets Sam's attention. The referee blows his whistle calling the wrestlers to the mat for the final round.

Sam leaves the bench with a nod and takes her place on the mat.

The round starts with new intensity. Both wrestlers probing for weakness.

Henry lunges to take out Sam's legs. She's too quick and she uses Henry's momentum to bring him to the ground. She pins his arm in an awkward position.

The referee calls it a pin, and Sam jumps up with a huge smile.

Our view spins around the room to Pic who is grinning with his hands in the air.

Our view continues to spin around to the crowd who is cheering and we do a complete 360 back to...

56

INT. SCHOOL GYM WRESTLING FLOOR - ANOTHER DAY

56

...the mat.

Sam is circling the mat making probing gestures towards AUSTIN.

The two seem evenly matched. They circle a few more times then lock arms.

Sam forces him out of bounds gaining new points.

Round ends and both wrestlers make their way to the bench.

PIC

Looking good Sam. Watch him when he goes for your upper body. He opens up every time he pulls back.

SAM

I got this one Pic.

PIC

Excuse me Miss Confident. Just doing my job.

SAM  
No, it's not that. Austin has a  
crush on me.

Pic looks over his shoulder to the opposite bench at Austin who is staring, love struck, at Sam. His coach is yelling in to his ear, but nothing is sticking.

Pic rolls his eyes as he looks back at Sam.

PIC  
Oh brother.

SAM  
He's liked me for the past two  
years. He always lets me win.

Sam grins at Pic who rolls his eyes again.

PIC  
Pathetic. Be careful, he might try  
to kiss you in a pin.

SAM  
Gross.

Sam jumps up and makes her way to the mat.

Austin gives her a sheepish grin as the ref blows the whistle.

Sam lunges in to action taking Austin to the ground.

The ref calls a pin and Sam jerks upright and slaps Austin.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Gross!

Austin holds the side of his face and smiles as Sam walks away.

57 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

57

The practice crew is in the garage. Sam and Pic face each other on that mat. Pic performs a take down move and Sam messes up the counter move. She seems very disinterested and unfocused.

CK  
Come on Sam! We've been over this a  
hundred times. You have to defend  
the take down and counter better.  
Focus. Now do the move.

Sam doesn't respond. She seems distracted. She lines back up with Pic. He makes the move and Sam messes up again.

CK (CONT'D)

Stop. Ok, what's wrong with you?

SAM

Nothing.

CK

Could have fooled me. Don't get lazy now that you've won a few matches.

Sam glances over to Pic.

PIC

He's right. I'm thinking even Abbie could handle you today.

SAM

I'm just not in to it today. Should have stayed home. I'm going in to check on Abbie.

Sam leaves with an attitude.

CK

What's wrong with her?

PIC

She's a girl. Who knows.

(beat)

Oh shoot! What is today?

CK

Thursday, the 5th. Why?

PIC

I'm such an idiot! Today's the anniversary of her dad's death. Dang! How could I forget? It's always a rough week for her. Abbie too.

This hits close to CK. He knows this pain. It's very familiar.

Abbie is sitting on the couch with her knees curled up under her arms. Sam walks in and sits next to her.

SAM  
What you doing Abs?

Sam sits down next to Abbie. She leans over and rests her head on Sam's shoulder. Abbie runs her finger over Sam's dog tags.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Yeah. Me too.

CK stands in the doorway watching the scene.

59 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

59

Pic waves flirtatiously to some passing CO-EDS who stop to talk.

PIC  
Did I tell you ladies I'm runnin' a  
Pic Special on Senior Portraits.  
You ever heard of Ansel Adams?  
Thomas Kincaide? Tom Wolfe?

Sam walks by, grabbing his jacket and pulling him along behind.

SAM  
Let's go Pic! I've gotta pick up  
Abbie!

PIC  
But...hey...!!!

SAM  
C'mon, Pic.

Pic waves a reluctant goodbye. Blows a kiss, even. They make their way through the parking lot and toward the car.

PIC  
That was the girl I was telling you  
about a few days ago -- Wendy. We  
are going to the dance together.

SAM  
Art Wolfe.

PIC  
What?

SAM  
 Art Wolfe was the famous  
 Photographer. Thomas Wolfe was a  
 writer.

PIC  
 Oh! Speaking of Poets--

SAM  
 Not a poet.

PIC  
 --I heard Ethan Wright is thinking  
 of asking you.

Sam SCREECHES to a halt and Pic almost runs into her.

SAM  
 Asking me what?

PIC  
 To the dance with him!

Pic flinches, maybe expecting to be slugged in the arm.

SAM  
 Are you serious?! Ethan Wright.  
 Football dude. The one that can  
 actually read and write. Ask me to  
 a dance? I don't think so.

She starts walking again. Pic struggles to keep up.

SAM (CONT'D)  
 He obviously does NOT know me. I  
 don't have the time or the desire  
 to be dealing with boys right now.  
 Especially his type. I don't dance  
 with boys; I body slam them.

As if to illustrate, she punches Pic in the arm.

PIC  
 Owwww!

SAM  
 I'll tell you this. If he doesn't  
 want to get embarrassed in front of  
 his friends he better think twice  
 before asking me to --

She turns back around and ETHAN WRIGHT steps right in front  
 of her.

ETHAN

Hey Sam.

Sam freezes in her tracks. Blood drains from her face. Pic elbows her.

SAM

Hi.

ETHAN

I - I, well, I was wondering if you were going to the dance.

She stares at him as if he just spoke a strange language. Pic elbows her.

SAM

No.

ETHAN

Would you wanna, like, go with me?

She's a deer in headlights. Pic elbows her.

SAM

Uh-huh.

ETHAN

Yes? Great! How about I'll call you tonight and we'll make our plans.

She's overwhelmed. Pic elbows her.

SAM

Good.

ETHAN

Okay. Awesome. Well, I've got to run. Talk to you later.

PIC

Later, Ethan!

Ethan runs off.

PIC (CONT'D)

Wow, Sam. I'm so impressed! You reeeeeally put Ethan in his place. I'm just glad his friends weren't here because when you nailed him with that "uh huh" it would have devastated his ego for sure.

SAM  
What? I said "yes"?

PIC  
You said "yes". This is gonna be  
fun. Ooh...we should totally double  
date. I'm an awesome dancer.

He is not. And the little spinning dance move he does proves  
it.

SAM  
Oh, this is bad. This is very bad.  
She grabs Pic's jacket and yanks him along again.

60

INT. POP'S GARAGE - AFTERNOON

60

CK is working on a car when Sam runs in, frantic...

SAM  
Pop! Pop!

CK  
Pop's not here. You okay?

SAM  
This is not good. I've made a  
terrible mistake! What am I going  
to do?

CK  
About what? What happened?

SAM  
I have a major problem.

CK  
Problem?

PIC  
Our girl Sam here was just asked to  
the fall dance.

SAM  
I said "yes".

CK  
That sounds fun.

SAM  
What was I thinking? That's just  
it. I wasn't thinking.  
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

You would think, because you actually think, that after all our training I would at least be thinking and using...

CK

Calm down. Breathe. What's wrong with going to a dance?

SAM

Are you serious?

CK shrugs a yes.

SAM (CONT'D)

First, it's this weekend. Second, I need a dress. A dress! Right! Do I even own a dress!? Third, and the biggest issue, I have never even been on a date much less a dance! What am I going to do?

CK

Well, there's a first time for everything. Sounds like you'll get a few of your first times all out at once.

SAM

CK, do you understand that at a dance they expect you to dance?! You know, two people close and doing choreography and stuff. I don't know how to dance! I wrestle boys. I don't dance with them. What have I done?

PIC

Well if you think about it Sam, wrestling is just like dancing, but more of this --

He mimics a tango.

PIC (CONT'D)

-- la la la la. And less like --

He slams himself to the ground.

PIC (CONT'D)

-- PEOPLE'S ELBOW!! ARRRRR!!!

CK sees the growing concern on her face.

CK  
 Okay, Pic. Chill. Sam.  
 Breeeeeeeathe. Okay, let's take it  
 one step at a time. Pun intended.  
 First, I'm sure your mom can help  
 with the dress.

SAM  
 (beat)  
 Yeah, but dancing is a father's  
 job.

An awkward silence falls on the group. Pic breaks the ice.

PIC  
 Fortunately for you, dancing, just  
 happens to be my forte!

It's not. Not even close. Pic bobs and weaves around like a  
 chicken.

PIC (CONT'D)  
 I'll teach you everything you need  
 to know. Stick with me and you'll  
 be fine.

CK  
 Charles.

PIC  
 Yes sir!

CK  
 Stop.

PIC  
 Yes, sir.

CK  
 We're gonna need some music.

CK and Pic leave Sam standing alone and terrified.

SAM  
 But, what about wrestling  
 practice!?

Pic jacks his iPod into the stereo and cranks up some  
 BLUEGRASS HOEDOWN song. CK frowns. Pic laughs and then  
 toggles to a nice slow song.

Sam and CK stand on the wrestling mat; Sam is still a bit sweaty from practice.

CK holds his left hand up.

CK  
Right hand up here.

Sam places her hand in his. He takes her other hand and places it on his shoulder. Then gently holds the small of her back guiding her into position.

CK (CONT'D)  
Now the count is Step, 2, 3, Step,  
2, 3...we'll start with my right  
foot, your left. Ready?

They begin to move in time with the music. Awkwardly at first but then better, until she gets overconfident and all tripped up.

CK (CONT'D)  
Okay, now see what happened there?  
You can't have two leaders on the  
dance floor. One person leads.  
That's my job. One person follows.  
That's your job.

PIC  
Easy Peasy, Sadie Robertson! You  
dancin' with the stars, now!

CK releases her and waves Pic over.

CK  
Alright, Pic. Your turn.

PIC  
Whoa, no, Mr. CK! I'm cool,  
broseph. I'm a-okay just --

CK  
I'm not asking --

Pic GULPS and steps up to Sam and fills in like CK had done.

CK (CONT'D)  
That's right. Now, Pic, you're  
gonna start off on your right foot,  
got it?

PIC  
I don't know about this.

Pic is concentrating so hard his head could explode.

CK  
It's better if you relax. Not so  
stiff. Annnnd, Step, 2, 3...Step,  
2, 3...

And slowly the couple lumbers into motion. It's not art.  
It's not even Step Up 3D. But it's a fine first dance. CK  
claps appreciatively.

PIC  
I'm doing it! I'm doing it!

CK  
There you go!

PIC  
I'm a dancing machine!

The music blends into a faster mix.

PIC (CONT'D)  
Alright! Freestyle!

They break apart. CK and Sam do the twist, Pic sticks with  
the chicken jerk.

Abbie rolls on the floor laughing.

62 INT. ERWIN KITCHEN - NIGHT

62

CK walks into the kitchen. He grabs a cup and a bottle of  
liquor. He pours some into the cup and brings it up to his  
mouth, but he stops short.

Slowly lowering the cup back to the counter, He pours the cup  
down the sink, followed by the rest of the bottle.

He chucks the empty bottle into the recycle bin and walks  
out.

63 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - NIGHT

63

CK clicks on the garage light. He walks past the wrestling  
mats and punching bag. He stops beside the car.

He pulls the cover off and runs his hand across the shiny  
hood.

CK  
One step at a time.

He walks around to the front and pops the hood. He grabs a few tools from his toolbox and begins tweaking a few things on the engine.

64

INT. POP'S HOUSE KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

64

Kayelyn and Pop are sitting at the table having coffee and Sam is pouring herself a drink when Zeke comes busting in the door. He has workout clothes on, a head band like the Karate Kid and a gym bag over his shoulder. He is overly excited and comes into the kitchen and drops the bag.

ZEKE

I am so excited!

POP

Where have you been? It's late!

KAYELYN

And you missed supper. He's never missed supper before.

ZEKE

Training! I started taking self defense classes. It was awesome!

Zeke starts practicing some moves.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

The instructor said I'm a natural and fast learner.

KAYELYN

Self defense? But what about those weapons of mass construction.

She does an awkward karate move.

SAM

Mass destruction mom. And I think that has been exaggerated, right Zeke?

ZEKE

Maybe so, but not anymore! Come over her Sam and let me show you some moves.

POP

What in the world has gotten you all of sudden interested in self defense?

ZEKE

Well, see it's good for you. Builds your confidence and teaches discipline and courage.

KAYELYN

But fighting is not good and not something you should want to do.

ZEKE

Fighting is a last resort and self defense could save your life in the real world. Let me show you. Say I'm at the teller machine and someone comes up and puts a guns in my back. Sam, try to rob me.

Zeke pretends he's at the teller and Sam puts her finger in his back like a gun.

SAM

Give me all your money!

Zeke spins and blocks and does a reverse arm bar pretending to remove the gun.

POP

Hey, that was very good. Impressive.

ZEKE

Told you. I'm a natural. Here's another move. Say some crazy person takes a swing at you.

He puts Sam in to position.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Okay, Sam, act like you're getting ready to take a swing.

Sam puts her hands up. Then Zeke holds his up in the defensive posture.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I don't want any trouble. See, trying not to fight or tip off that I've got skills. Okay, Sam, go ahead and take a swing.

SAM

Are you sure? One night of training doesn't make you an expert.

ZEKE

Samantha.

Sam looks at him funny. She doesn't like anyone but her mom calling her Samantha. It's too girly.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Trust me on this. I trained with professionals for over two hours. They said I was a quick learner. Now come on. Go for it. Just like a real fight. Throw your best punch and I'll show you a simple block technique that works every time.

SAM

Okay.

Sam holds her arms up and makes a face like a bad guy. Zeke counters by raising his arms again to the defensive position. Kayelyn and Pop sip coffee and watch intently.

ZEKE

I don't want any trouble.

Zeke nods at Sam to take the shot. She nods her head and throws a hard straight left jab. Zeke throws up his left to block a right cross but Sam's left jab catches him flush on the jaw and straight down to the floor he goes.

KAYELYN

Samantha!

Kayelyn and Pop jump to their feet and rush to Zeke.

SAM

He made me do it!

They all help Zeke up to his feet.

POP

You alright ol' boy? Just where was the defense part of that self defense?

ZEKE

Very funny. You were supposed to throw a right. We just practiced blocking right hand punches.

SAM

But I'm left handed. I didn't know.

POP

Might ought to tell the bad guys to  
just use their right hand for the  
time being.

65 INT. POP'S GARAGE - DAY

65

Nice, fancy girly shoes make their way across the garage  
floor.

They stop by CK and the car he's working under. He notices  
the oddly placed shoes beside him.

SAM (O.S.)

CK?

CK rolls out from under the car and sees a beautiful, girly  
version of Sam. She's all dressed up for the dance. Abbie  
stands beside her, grinning ear to ear.

SAM (CONT'D)

Well?

CK

Oh, Sam! Stunning! Absolutely  
gorgeous!

SAM

Really? You don't think it makes me  
look too much like, you know, a  
girl.

CK

No, not at all. A young lady  
however, yes.

SAM

So, you really think I look okay?  
Not too much make up? I mean, this  
is actually the first time I've  
ever had make up on.

CK

Sam, I think you look perfect. In  
fact, for your wrestling match  
Tuesday you should come out in this  
dress and your opponent will be  
blown away. Quick pin and done!

SAM

I'm nervous.

CK puts a clean towel over the bench so they can sit.

CK

Have a seat.

(beat)

You're gonna do great, Sam.  
Regulate your mind, your body will  
follow. Breathe, just like we  
learned in wrestling practice. Keep  
to the basics. Nothing fancy.  
You'll be fine, as long as he's not  
expecting a good night kiss or  
anything.

SAM

A what? Oh my gosh! I didn't even  
think of that! And that's a thing,  
too! Oh no, no, no, no! Not going  
to happen. I'll punch his lights  
out! I'll body slam him right there  
on to the...

Sam is back on her feet, wringing her hands. CK grabs her  
shoulders to steady her.

CK

Hang on! That wouldn't be very lady  
like and we certainly wouldn't want  
to mess up that nice dress.

SAM

That's it. I'm not going. It's  
over. I knew I should have never  
agreed to this date. This is going  
to be a disaster!

CK

No it won't. Listen to me. This is  
exactly how it's going to happen...

66

EXT. POP'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

66

Sam and ETHAN walk up the front porch and stop at the door.

CK (V.O.)

...First he's going to walk you up  
to the door.

Ethan opens Sam's car door and they walk towards the porch.

CK (V.O.)

He'll be really nervous or trying  
to act overly cool, but either way  
you can bet a kiss is on his mind.

SAM (V.O.)

Well how do we keep it on his mind  
and off my lips? A body slam seems  
appropriate here.

CK (V.O.)

No body slamming. I'm going to  
teach you another move. You're  
gonna have to let him in close,  
though.

SAM (V.O.)

Whhhhat?

They get to the porch and Sam gets to the door and turns  
around.

CK (V.O.)

Don't make that face you'll wound  
him for life.

SAM (V.O.)

A body slam will only hurt for a  
few days.

Ethan touches Sam's arm gently, talking about who knows what  
the whole time. He steps closer. Sam is nervous.  
Anticipating.

CK (V.O.)

Sam, focus. Now you're gonna have  
to relax. Things will be moving in  
slow motion. Your hands might be  
sweaty. And then he's gonna make  
his move.

Very slowly, Ethan closes his eyes and leans in for a kiss.

SAM (V.O.)

I think I'm gonna vomit.

CK (V.O.)

Why? You've got him right where you  
want him. He leans in and you...

Sam turns her head to the side and Ethan's kiss lands  
squarely on her cheek. At the same time she reaches for the  
door knob.

CK (V.O.)

It'll catch him off guard.

Ethan opens his eyes, surprised, as Sam slides through the  
doorway and in to the house.

CK (V.O.)  
And once you're in the door, don't  
forget --

SAM  
Thank you, Ethan. I had a wonderful  
evening.

Ethan smiles, sheepishly. Sam waves and closes the door.

67 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

67

CK moves the mats to their position. Sam hugs the punching  
bag dreamily.

SAM  
Only that's not how it happened.

CK  
No? Do tell.

68 EXT. POP'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

68

Ethan walks Sam up to the porch. Ethan gets to the door first  
and turns around. Sam is a wreck. Finally she reaches up,  
grabs his shoulders and spins him around exchanging places.  
Ethan is really confused so Sam starts talking.

SAM  
Wow! This sure is a nice porch  
isn't it? They just don't make them  
like this anymore!

Ethan moves in closer and puts his hands on Sam's arms.

ETHAN  
No, they don't. I had a really good  
time tonight, Sam. I hope we can do  
this again, soon.

Ethan moves in closer and Sam panics. She looks at her hands.  
Sweaty. She wipes them on her dress. Reaching back for the  
door knob she finds it is LOCKED. She turns to make certain,  
but it's not budging. She turns back to Ethan and runs right  
in to him, mouth to mouth.

Her eyes widen and she blinks a couple of times before he  
begins to pull away. That wasn't so bad. She raises her hand  
to her lips, which are all smiles.

Ethan pulls away as Kayelyn opens the front door.

KAYELYN  
Hello, Ethan.

ETHAN  
Hi, Ms. Collins. We, uh, I mean I  
was um just leaving.

Ethan turns and runs into the railing. Readjusts, and makes his way to the car.

Sam turns and walks in past her mom.

SAM  
Hi mom. Good night, Mom.

Kayelyn smiles knowingly as she shuts the door.

69 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON

69

CK SNAPS in front of Sam's face.

CK  
Alright. Congratulations. You've  
had your first kiss. Now you're  
gonna need to focus here or the  
next thing you're gonna kiss is the  
gym floor.

He thunks her on the head.

SAM  
Ow!

CK  
Focus! We've got a big match this  
Tuesday. Stop hugging that bag and  
start working it!

Sam smiles as she puts her fists up and begins to work the bag.

70 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

70

Sam finishes her last set of sit-ups. She's sweaty after a long good workout.

She's alone for the moment. She grabs her water bottle and chugs it down. It's quiet. No sign of CK.

The covered car on the other side of the garage calls at her.

She sets her drink down and walks over to the car.

She runs her hand over the cover. She takes a quick look over her shoulder to see if CK is about to pounce on her.

She slides the cover off the hood and runs her hand over the smooth shiny surface.

CK  
She's beautiful isn't she?

Sam almost jumps out of her shoes.

SAM  
I'm sorry CK. I just wanted to -

CK  
It's okay. I want you to see it.

CK steps in to the garage from the doorway. He rips the rest of the cover off the car.

SAM  
It's beautiful CK.

CK  
My son and I used to work on it together.

A smile crosses his face.

CK (CONT'D)  
He wanted it to be his so bad, but I kept telling him it was mine.

SAM  
You were going to give it to him weren't you?

CK  
That was always the plan. I just never got the chance.

SAM  
(beat)  
Funny how God takes our plans and makes them His.

CK  
Ruining one life after the other.

SAM  
I guess it could seem that way sometimes. I guess sometimes you just have to dig your way through the sadness to find the good.

CK  
Where did you find the good?

SAM  
My faith.  
(beat)  
And here. In this place, with you.

CK lets out a half laugh as he looks to the ground. His sarcastic smile fades. He looks back up at Sam.

A beat passes, then CK leans in to the backseat of the car and pulls out a small box wrapped in pink paper with a fluffy bow.

He holds it in front of Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)  
(sarcastically)  
Awww, my favorite colors!

CK  
I knew you'd like it.

SAM  
What is it?

CK  
It's a gift.

SAM  
I figured that much out Sherlock.

CK  
It's a gift for you.

SAM  
What for?

CK  
It doesn't have to be for anything.  
It's just because.

Sam eyes him curiously.

CK (CONT'D)  
Because I'm proud of you.

A warm smile spreads across Sam's face. She takes the box and tears the paper off.

She pulls the top off the box and rustles through the tissue paper.

Her eyes shoot up in shock as she feels what's inside.

SAM

CK!

This time a smile spreads across CK's face.

CK

I thought it was time for a new  
humperdink in your life.

Sam slowly pulls out the keys to the refurbished car.

SAM

CK. Why?

CK shrugs. Not sure how to put his real feelings in to words.

CK

You need it more than I do.

SAM

I can't take this.

Sam tries to push the keys and box back in to CK's hands.

CK

You can and you will.

SAM

No, CK. It's too much. I couldn't  
possibly pay you...

CK holds her hands in his as he slowly pushes the keys and  
box back towards her.

CK

Sam, it's a gift. You don't have a  
choice in the matter.

(beat)

It's a special car for a special  
girl. I know you'll take good care  
of it.

Sam can't hold back her smile. She throws her arms around him  
and holds him in a tight hug.

CK doesn't quite know what to do at first, but eventually his  
arms settle down around her shoulders.

The gang is gathered around the Sunday dinner table.

KAYELYN

I just can't believe he gave you that car! I mean, I'm glad to have my van back, but we barely know the man!

SAM

He wouldn't take no for an answer. He said it was something he and his son were working on.

KAYELYN

His son? I've tried asking him about his family, but it seemed like a sore subject for him. I wonder what happened?

POP

He's a private man.

KAYELYN

You're nearing the end of your two month run with CK. You thinking about keeping him on?

POP

If he'll have us I'd love to keep him. He does excellent work. I was planning on offering him a full time job next week.

KAYELYN

I have to say, he's grown on me, despite some of his funny ways.

ZEKE

And maybe one of these days will get him to join us for Sunday lunch.

RAY

Judging by the way he avoids morning devotions I'd say this would be the last place he would want to be on a Sunday afternoon.

SAM

I think you'd be surprised.

POP

What do you mean?

SAM  
He's a different person than he was  
when he first got here.

POP  
I think we're all a little  
different since Mr. Erwin's arrival  
in our lives.

72 INT. SAM'S NEW CAR - CEMETARY - AFTERNOON

72

Sam leans forward with her arms on the steering wheel. She  
staring intensely at something out the window.

ABBIE  
Why are we following Mr. CK?

Abbie sits in the passenger seat getting a bit bored.

SAM  
Checking in on a hunch.

Sam scans the cemetery and finds a lone figure at a group of  
graves.

SAM (CONT'D)  
There! I knew it! Stay here Abbie.  
Lock the car and don't leave until  
I get back.

Sam jumps out of the car and heads toward the figure at the  
graves.

73 EXT. CEMETARY - AFTERNOON

73

CK stands in front of his family's graves. His emotions and  
thoughts are a hurricane pulsing in his mind.

Sam approaches unnoticed behind CK.

SAM  
How did it happen?

CK isn't startled by her presence.

CK  
Car accident.

SAM  
I'm sorry.

CK stands in silence.

Sam realizes this will be difficult. She walks up to be closer to him. She looks at the names on the tombstones.

SAM (CONT'D)

My dad always said he believed that all suffering contained at least the opportunity for good. It was just up to the sufferer to decide.

CK

Sam, I'm sorry, but I'm not looking for God.

Abbie walks up beside CK.

SAM

Abbie! I told you to stay in the car.

CK looks down at Abbie as she looks up at him. This manages a small smile on CK's face.

Abbie walks up to the tombstone and runs her fingers over the names.

SAM (CONT'D)

Abbie. Don't do that. I'm sorry CK.

Abbie comes across the marker with one date.

ABBIE

Why does this one only have one date?

Both girls look to CK.

SAM

Oh, no. I'm so sorry CK.  
(beat)  
I know God...

CK

(aggravated)  
Sam!

Sam steps in front of him and looks him in the eyes.

SAM

You keep looking for a shaft of light or writing on the wall to explain all of this. You always preach think, think, think, but this is something you have to see with your heart. It's here.

She puts her hand over his heart. Then places her hands over his eyes.

SAM (CONT'D)

Not here.

(beat)

If you're just operating by sight  
and not by faith, all you will see  
is the pain.

Abbie's small hand grabs CK's hand.

ABBIE

I know how you feel.

CK looks at both girls, feeling slightly guilty.

CK

I know you do. Both of you.

CK, Sam and Abbie stand hand in hand.

74

INT. CECIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

74

The refrigerator door swings open, revealing a few lonely and sad items. Cecil grabs the last beer from the shelf; cracks it open and stakes a swig.

He hears a sound coming from the front door and he stops in his tracks. He shuts the refrigerator door and slowly walks through the house to find a welcoming party at the front door.

Cecil slowly turns to face the intruders as BORIS, an ugly scarred up mobster, strolls in the door, whistling and picking his nails with a tactical knife.

Just behind Boris a fourth mobster enters, slams the door shut and post himself with folded arms at the door. All have serious scowls upon their faces. Boris, advancing toward Cecil, breaks into a smile.

BORIS

Cecil! My man!

Boris pauses his advance.

BORIS (CONT'D)

What? You don't lock the doors?

Boris turns to the door guard and nods. The guard quickly locks the front door and resumes his stance as an evil smirk crosses his face. He then produces a black, riot shotgun and rests it in his arms.

CECIL

What do you want Boris.

Boris resumes his slow advance towards Cecil.

BORIS

It's okay. We don't want any trouble. We just want our money.

Boris stops in front of Cecil and puts his knife away.

CECIL

I'll have the money to you soon. I told Yuri -

BORIS

You told Yuri lots of things. Now let me tell you something.

Boris gets nose to nose with Cecil.

BORIS (CONT'D)

If Nikolay doesn't have his money by the end of the week -

CECIL

I know you'll -

Boris snatches Cecil's jaw in to his hand and jerks his head back.

BORIS

Don't be cocky with me boy. You may be king in the cage, but out here you're just a mut.

Boris pushes Cecil away with a violent thrust. Cecil's anger returns.

CECIL

I'll get you the money.

Boris explodes in fury, jams a revolver against Cecil's forehead and cocks it back.

BORIS

A quarter million by Friday. Or you're a dead man.

Boris pushes the gun in one last emphasis, then withdraws it.

He motions for his men to leave, He looks back at Cecil and notices the beer bottle Cecil has been holding the entire time. Boris slowly lifts the bottle from Cecil's hand and gestures a toast. A smile grows on Boris' face as he stares into Cecil's eyes.

BORIS Nastrovia.

Boris turns and walks to the door as the door guard unlocks and opens it. Boris saunters out whistling.

Cecil watches as the last thug backs out the room. We can see the ringed shaped impression the gun barrel has left on Cecil's forehead. He rubs his jaw.

The new blares in the background. Cecil slowly takes notice.s

REPORTER (V.O.)

In a wonderful local sports story, Samantha Collins has qualified for the conference high school wrestling championship tomorrow night. Sam Collins will have the home mat advantage this Saturday afternoon at the conference championship. Go Sam! Get one for the girls! Bill, back to you.

The reporter's voice fades to the background as a crazy scheme develops in Cecil's head.

75

INT. CK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

75

A shiny FBI medal stares back at us from its case. CK moves it around in his hand making the medal gleam in the lamp light.

CK closes the case and looks up in to the mirror that's in front of him. He has a huge black eye, cuts and bruises all over his face. His right arm is in a sling. He's been beaten badly and it's obvious from a mile away.

He begins to hear sobbing coming from the bathroom.

CK

Amanda?

CK quickly moves to the bathroom door to check on Amanda.

76

INT. ERWIN BATHROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

76

A pregnant Amanda is on the floor, tears streaming down her face. CK rushes to her side.

CK

Amanda! What's wrong honey?

AMANDA

I can't do it anymore CK! I just can't!

CK

I know...

AMANDA

No! You don't know! CK, you almost died on this last operation.

CK

Amanda I...

AMANDA

What am I supposed to do? I can't raise three kids on my own! I can't do it without you.

CK moves closer to her, forehead to forehead.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

You've been the FBI's long enough. We need you to be ours now.

CK

I am yours.

AMANDA

We need you here CK. We need you home.

CK

What do you want me to do?

AMANDA

Retire. Spend more time with your family. Get a simple safe job like, working in a pillow factory.

CK chuckles and a small laugh breaks through Amanda's tears.

CK

Pillow factory?

AMANDA  
You know what I mean.

CK  
Okay.

Amanda looks in to his eyes.

AMANDA  
Okay what?

CK  
I'll put in my notice. I'll get a  
safe job, probably not pillows, but  
working on cars sounds fun.

She smiles at him.

CK (CONT'D)  
I'll spend more time with my  
family. You are my world.

77 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT

77

CK and Abbie are buried in an engine. Abbie tightens a bolt  
of some type.

CK  
Tighten it up! Nice job!

CK closes the hood and then gets in to the driver's seat.

CK (CONT'D)  
Let's test her out. You get to do  
the honors!

Abbie climbs on his lap. She sticks her tongue out of the  
corner of her mouth as she twist the key in the ignition. The  
engine roars to life.

CK (CONT'D)  
Another successful restoration. We  
sure do make a great team.

Abbie and CK high five. Abbie starts to cough and take deep  
breaths.

CK (CONT'D)  
You okay? Where's your inhaler?

ABBIE  
It's in Pop's office.

CK

Why don't you go take your medicine and wash up. I'll clean up here and then we'll go watch Sam win the championship.

ABBIE

You're coming to her match?!

CK

Thought it would be a good surprise for her. I told Pop and your mom to keep it a secret.

ABBIE

Yay!!

CK

We better hurry! We need to leave in the next ten minutes.

Abbie spins around and runs towards Pop's office and out of the garage.

78 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 78

The bleachers are full and the crowd is chanting. Sam and Pic stand by their bench, both with worried faces.

OFFICIANT

Alright Miss Collins step to the mat!

Sam turns to Pic.

SAM

I'm nervous Pic. I've never beaten Alex.

PIC

Focus Sam. Take this one round at a time.

Sam looks to the mat and Alex and the officiant stares back waiting for her.

79 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS - NIGHT 79

Pop, Kayelyn, Zeke and Ray fill out the Sam Slam Club section.

POP

There she goes! On her way to  
conference champion!

KAYELYN

I sure hope so!

ZEKE

Don't worry Kayelyn. She's got this  
in the bag.

KAYELYN

She looks nervous.

POP

She's focused.

KAYELYN

Didn't you say CK is coming with  
Abbie?

(looks around)

Have you seen them?

POP

(looking around)

Now that you mentioned it. I  
haven't seen them anywhere. I'll  
give him a call and see where  
they're at.

Kayelyn scans the crowd with a hint of worry on her face.

80

INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT

80

CK drops a tool in his box and is wiping his hands. He wipes  
one final little spot off the hood and then throws the rag in  
to his tool box.

CECIL

You missed a spot.

CK whips around to find Cecil holding Abbie. She's been  
gagged and is visibly struggling to breathe.

CK

Abbie!

CK quickly moves toward Abbie and Cecil.

CECIL

Easy chief.

Cecil pulls up a pistol and aims it at CK who stops dead in his tracks.

CK  
Please, put her down. She's having trouble breathing!

Cecil lays Abbie's body on the ground and fishes for something in his pocket.

CECIL  
She couldn't find her inhaler.

Cecil pulls the inhaler out of his pocket and throws it towards CK. It clatters to the floor in front of his feet.

CK  
Please don't do this.

CECIL  
You know, you're just another sap that's fallen for Pop's garbage.  
(beat)  
I know. I used to be you.

Cecil moves closer to CK. Gun still pointed at him.

CECIL (CONT'D)  
I really do wish there was some magical being up in the air that cared about us. Someone that could right all our wrongs. But the truth is we're all on our own.  
(beat)  
I'm doing what I have to do.

CK  
Not like this.

CECIL  
I always remember this one thing my coach told me over and over again. Cecil, he said, train hard because no matter how good you are, there will always be someone better in the cage.

Cecil moves close to CK.

CECIL (CONT'D)  
You know what I learned Erwin?  
(beat)  
He was wrong.

Cecil slaps the gun across CK's face and CK is knocked to the ground.

81 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS - NIGHT 81

Pop is on his cell phone and hangs it up.

KAYELYN  
Still no answer?

POP  
No. He doesn't usually answer his  
cell phone though.

KAYELYN  
The match is starting. CK and Abbie  
are going to miss it!

POP  
Zeke, why don't you run back to the  
shop and check on them.

RAY  
Take your car, it will be faster  
than running.

ZEKE  
Har har! I'll get 'em Pop.

POP  
Hustle, or all three of you will  
miss the whole thing.

82 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 82

Sam and Alex square off on the mat. Both trying to intimidate the other.

THE WHISTLE BLOWS and Sam and Alex lunge towards each other as the crowd erupts.

83 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 83

Cecil steps on Abbie's inhaler and it crunches in to a hundred pieces.

CK shakes his bloody head as he struggles to his knees.

Cecil turns back to CK with the gun pointed at his head.

CECIL

I figure I can get a hefty ransom for her. Pop has a lot of cash hidden away. He wouldn't loan it, so I have to take it.

CK

Just let me help her!

CECIL

You know, I've killed guys in the cage before. Funny, this doesn't really feel any different.

Cecil cocks the gun and as he does CK pushes the gun out of his face and punches Cecil in the groin.

Cecil fires the gun as he falls to the ground in pain.

CK struggles to his feet. He's seeing a blur. Three Cecil's on the ground.

Cecil rolls over to his hands and knees and makes his way to his feet.

CK starts moving towards Cecil to finish him. Cecil is up in a flash and charges CK, slamming into him and pinning him against the car he was working on.

84

INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT

84

The buzzer goes off as Alex slam Sam to the mat. Sam gets up from the mat and trudges to the bench.

SAM

I can't breathe.

PIC

You're doing great, Samma-lamma ding dong.

SAM

Not now Pic.

PIC

He's stronger and quicker than you are Sam.

SAM

Encouraging.

PIC

You knew that going in to this. You  
have to be smarter.

85 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS - NIGHT

85

Kayleyn is still looking around for CK and Abbie. Pop hangs  
up his phone.

POP

Still no answer.

KAYELYN

Great, they're all going to miss  
it!

POP

Maybe not. I'm sure they're on  
their way.

86 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT

86

CK and Cecil are in the middle of a battle royal. Their  
bloody faces strain as they struggle against each other.

Abbie's body lays lifeless as small raspy breathes move in  
and out.

CK is out matched in size, but is holding his ground. Our  
view spins and our world swirls in to -

87 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT

87

- Sam's world in the middle of the second round against Alex.

They are both circling each other. Sam makes her move and  
gains a point against Alex.

Reset. Alex makes his move and gains a point.

Reset. Point to Alex.

Reset. Sam losing focus. Point to Alex.

Pic looks nervous.

PIC

Come on Sam. Strength of mind! You  
can do it!

88 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT

88

Cecil is really putting a beat down on CK. Both fighters look exhausted.

89 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT

89

Alex and Sam step up to the mat.

OFFICIANT

Last round wrestlers! On my mark!

The whistle screams and launches Alex and Sam in to action. Alex has turned on the nitrous and Sam can barely keep her feet on the ground.

The match begins to pick up speed and Alex sneaks in a cheap elbow to Sam's nose. She grimaces in pain as blood runs down from her nose.

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)

Time! That's a point for unsportsmanlike conduct!

Sam cuts Alex an evil eye as she makes her way to her bench.

Sam holds a towel to her face. Pic dances around her trying to help, but only succeeds in being in the way.

SAM

I'm fine, Pic.

PIC

Look, Sam. Forty seconds left. What are you gonna do? Play time's over.

SAM

I don't know. I need CK. What do you think I should do?

PIC

Dang it, Sambo! I'm a dancer, not a wrestler! Come on! If you're not gonna do it for you, do it for me! Wendy is over there watching and if we win she'll probably go out with me again.

SAM

Worst. Coach. Ever.

Officiant approaches.

OFFICIANT  
We okay over here?

PIC  
Fine and dandy!

The officiant looks Sam over examining her nose.

OFFICIANT  
The bleeding appears to have  
stopped. You get another gusher and  
I have to call the match.

SAM  
I'm good sir.

OFFICIANT  
Alright, to your spot.

Sam looks to Pic for anything.

PIC  
Okay, Pep talk pep talk, sports  
analogy pep talk. Every man dies  
but not every many truly lives.  
Deep thoughts, Rainbows and  
Unicorns. Go Team. God Bless  
America! Ready Break!

Sam rolls her eyes.

SAM  
Worst speech ever.

Sam begins walking toward the mat. Pic calls out and she  
stops and turns back to him.

PIC  
Hey Sam, your dad would be proud.  
(beat)  
We're all proud of you.

Sam looks away for a moment. Wipes a small tear from her eye.

PIC (CONT'D)  
Win or lose. We're here for you.

SAM  
Thanks Pic.

She turns one last time and marches towards her place on the  
mat.

90 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS - NIGHT 90

Pop begins chanting "Sam Slam!" Then the row joins him, then a whole section chimes in.

91 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 91

Sam looks to the bleachers. Part surprise and part awe. It's like a scene out of a movie! She looks to Pic on the sideline. He's grinning ear to ear.

PIC  
Sam Slam time.

She nods and looks to Alex, who is ready to end this.

The chants begin to fade and muffle as Sam brings herself in to laser focus. Eyes locked on Alex. Her mind races back in time to CK's training -

92 INT. ERWIN GARAGE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK 92

CK and Sam are in the middle of training.

CK  
There's a move from the down position that is unstoppable when an opponent is overly focused on pinning you.

SAM  
Teach me.

CK  
Requires a lot of strength Sam. You have to be able to lock out your hands.

SAM  
Am I strong enough?

CK  
Physically? I don't know. But in here.  
(points to her heart)  
You are. I'll teach you.

93 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 93

Sam has fire in her eyes.

SAM

Gotta lock out my hands.

The whistle blows and Sam launches towards Alex.

94 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 94

Cecil knocks CK hard against one of the cars. CK is bleeding and woozy.

CECIL

I'm doing you a favor Erwin.

Cecil pulls out a switchblade and slowly moves toward CK.

CK's vision blurs and mixes into -

95 EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 95

Blurry images of flashing emergency lights and a wrecked vehicle fill our vision. Everything is moving slowly as our POV moves towards the vehicle and emergency personnel.

96 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 96

CK sees the knife in Cecil's hand; moving towards him slowly. CK tries to focus on Cecil's face but sees-

97 EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 97

The world in slow motion. A young girl, Amera, in a stretcher, is being wheeled towards an ambulance. We follow the stretcher as some of the emergency personnel seem to be speaking directly to us.

98 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 98

Cecil moves closer and begins his forward thrust with the knife.

CK doesn't seem to see it. He focuses instead on-

99 EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 99

-the ambulance pulling away revealing another ambulance behind. We move towards the second ambulance and find Amanda Erwin lying in the stretcher.

As we get closer the stretcher is hoisted in to the ambulance and the doors are shut on us and we see CK's distraught reflection in the glass of the ambulance door.

We reverse and are now looking at CK directly. He's distracted by something low and to his side. He looks down and sees Abbie holding his hand.

100 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 100

The knife moves at sonic speed towards CK and CK's flashes in to a trained response and grabs Cecil's forearm, twisting it until the knife falls to the ground.

Punches to Cecil's kidneys and a chop to the throat send Cecil reeling backwards.

CK lurches forward with fire in his eyes.

101 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 101

Sam flips around Alex's lunge and brings him to the ground in perfect position for the lockout.

They struggle against each other. Sam's hands reaching to lock it out.

102 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 102

CK dodges some punches and manages to get behind Cecil and put him in a headlock, slowly cutting off the blood flow to the head.

Cecil scrambles around knocking CK in to cars, walls and anything solid in attempt to free himself.

103 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 103

The crowd goes wild as the clock counts down and Sam strains to lock out her hands.

104 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 104

Cecil falls to his knees as CK strains to hold on to the choke hold.

105 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 105

Sam's fingertips touch and begin to draw her hands together.

106 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 106

CK's sweaty and bloody hands begin to lose grip on the choke hold. He strains with all he has to hold on.

107 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 107

Sam locks out her hands and the officiant calls a pin just as the buzzer rings!

108 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 108

Cecil falls to the floor unconscious. CK staggers over his body and fumbles towards Abbie who is still laying on the ground.

CK  
Abbie! Abbie!!

CK struggles to make her wake up without success.

CK (CONT'D)  
You can't do this again! Don't take  
her from me!

CK tries to give Abbie mouth to mouth. She doesn't respond.

CK (CONT'D)  
Why!

CK's tears stream down his face.

109 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 109

The Sam Slam club are jumping up and down as the buzzer rings out. Pic is going crazy on the sideline! Everyone is celebrating Sam's win, except for Sam. She knows better.

She watches the officiant turn back from the scoring table.

OFFICIANT  
Time expired before the pin!

Sam doesn't seemed surprised, just a little disappointed.

Pic is hopping up and down screaming foul!

The Sam Slam club all watch in despair.

110 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 110

CK is frantically trying to wake Abbie.

A large shadow looms in the background over CK's shoulder.  
Cecil is awake.

Cecil stoops low and picks up the pistol that is on the ground.

111 INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GYMNASIUM WRESTLING FLOOR - NIGHT 111

The officiant motions the crowd to quiet.

OFFICIANT

By score of 15 to 8, the winner and  
still conference champion, Alex!

112 INT. POP'S GARAGE - NIGHT 112

CK hears the gun cock and turns to face Cecil. Murder burns  
in Cecil's eyes. CK sees no way out.

BAM!

A 2x4 slams across the back of Cecil's head knocking him out  
cold and revealing a trembling Zeke holding the piece of  
wood.

CK

Zeke!

They share a moment of disbelief, both wide eyed. Then they  
snap back to it. CK scoops Abbie up in to his arms.

CK (CONT'D)

Get the car!

113 INT. HOSPITAL ED LOBBY - NIGHT 113

CK busts through the doors carrying a limp Abbie in his arms.

CK

Help! I need a doctor! Somebody!!

Nurses rush around to attend to a frantic CK. A doctor shows  
up followed by someone pushing a stretcher. CK lays Abbie on  
the stretcher and is quickly pushed out of the way.

CK (CONT'D)  
 She has asthma and has not been  
 breathing! She's not breathing!

NURSE  
 Sir! Please stand back!

The stretcher is wheeled away from CK and through a set of double doors that close on us and CK. CK's reflection stares back at us from the small window in the door as he watches Abbie being wheeled down the hall.

114 INT. ABBIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

114

Abbie lays unconscious on the hospital bed. The room is quite and still. Then we see someone lay Amera's teddy bear beside Abbie.

CK stands next to the bed with a box of items from Amera's room.

POP (O.S.)  
 I know she appreciates that.

CK is startled by Pop who has shown up in the doorway. CK looks back to Abbie without a word.

Pop walks over to CK.

POP (CONT'D)  
 It's been two weeks.  
 (beat)  
 You've been here everyday with out  
 a break.

Pop peers in to the box. He notices the handmade book by Amera. He picks it up and flips through a few pages.

POP (CONT'D)  
 Kayleyn, Sam and the others went  
 down to grab some dinner. I'm  
 headed that way if you want to join  
 us.

CK  
 I'll stay.

Pop contemplates a moment, then sets the book on the bed by Abbie's feet.

POP  
 Okay.

CK's stare doesn't break away from Abbie. Pop realizes its a loosing battle and walks to the door and stops and turns one last time.

POP (CONT'D)  
It's not your fault CK.

CK looks from Abbie to Amera's book. He picks it up gently and opens it; ignoring Pop. Pop turns and leaves.

Rage builds in his eyes. He slams the book shut and launches it across the room.

CK  
It's YOUR fault!! You're worthless!  
All you do is take! I hate you!

CK collapses to his knees, almost in a praying position. Abbie lays motionless in the background.

CK (CONT'D)  
Not again! Please. Not again.  
(beat)  
Prove it. Show me. I need a  
miracle. I need you to be real.

CK remains on his knees. He holds his breath in anticipation; waiting for God to show up.

Nothing happens.

CK lets a long sigh out. Despite his hope, he's not surprised.

CK (CONT'D)  
I thought so.

CK stands up and reaches in to his pocket and pulls out a familiar bullet. He clenches it in his fist and walks to the door, leaving everything behind.

And then - a small cough comes from Abbie's direction.

CK stops in his tracks. Overwhelmed. Hoping against all hope that this is not his imagination. He turns towards Abbie, who is rubbing her eyes as if she just woke up from a really long nap.

CK (CONT'D)  
Abbie!

CK rushes to her side and back to his knees.

CK (CONT'D)  
How do you feel sweetheart?

ABBIE  
I feel fine. How do you feel?

CK can't help but laugh. He's overwhelmed with emotion.

CK  
I'm fine. I'm just fine.  
(beat)  
I'll be right back sweetheart. I'm  
going to get your mother and the  
doctor.

ABBIE  
Wait! I have to show you something!  
He told me to tell you.

CK  
What are you talking about  
sweetheart? Who told you what?

ABBIE  
You have to see.

Abbie sits up and gently takes CK's hand and opens his  
clenched fist with her tiny fingers.

The bullet sits in his palm. CK's heart begins to quicken.

Abbie lifts his hand causing the bullet to fall to the  
ground. She positions his hand so that his palm is facing  
towards her. CK's eyes begin to water and widen as he  
realizes what is happening. His focus is locked on his hand.

She takes her little index finger and slowly scratches three  
times on his palm.

CK's breath catches as he looks up from his miracle and right  
at us; seeing for the first time.

THE END