

BOATHOUSE DRUMS

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

WORKERS are preparing the gym for the tournament as early SPECTATORS begin to fill the stands. An intense SONG begins to build.

On one wall is a podium and a banner which reads: "2000 ARIZONA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS -DIVISION 5A"

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

WRESTLERS from different schools prepare for the state finals.

The locker room doors open and two wrestlers dressed in plain clothes walk in. We don't see their faces.

As they pass rows of lockers the other Wrestlers take notice. The SONG intensifies in unison with the collective heartbeat of everyone else in the room.

MAC -18- leads. His jet black hair partially covers his face. As he passes beneath a low hanging light we get a glimpse of something dark and distant in his eyes.

SMYTHE, Mac's opponent, -17- reaches out his hand to wish him good luck. Without looking at him or breaking stride, Mac brushes past.

SEAN -18- follows. Light glances off one side of his face, partially accentuating his strong, handsome features. His demeanor is cool, calculating. He knows something you don't and it makes you nervous.

SEAN (V.O.)

I know you're in here. I can feel the dampness of your cold sweat. I can hear your heart pumping doubt through your veins faster and faster. I feel the air being sucked out of the room as you choke down a deep breath and tell yourself it's not me your afraid of, it's the unknown.

Sean's opponent, GARRISON -18- tough looking, is dressing alone. He looks up as Sean passes. Their eyes meet for a split second.

SEAN (V.O.)

I am the unknown.

Sean disappears behind the next row of lockers.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOCKER ROOM -MOMENTS LATER

QUICK CUTS of Sean and Mac dressing in their uniforms.

Sean is lean and ripped, slightly taller than Mac.

Mac is built like a brick wall and tattoos adorn his back and arms. We never get a good look at their faces.

Sean puts a ski cap on and puts his hood up.

Mac puts his headphones on, cranks up the volume and puts his hood up.

Sean and Mac walk out together.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The stands are full now. The REFEREES make last minute preparations with the STUDENTS manning the scorer's tables.

All of the Wrestlers are warming up on the mats. All except for two.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING ROOM -NIGHT

A single emergency light shines down in the far corner of the otherwise dark room. Sean and Mac spar on the mats.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

All stand for the NATIONAL ANTHEM. The Wrestlers are lined up across the mats from their opponents.

When the Anthem concludes all of the lights in the gym turn off and two spotlights located above the two mats light up. The Crowd CHEERS as the wrestling begins.

As the one-hundred and twenty-five pound matches begin, Mac recedes into the far corner of the gym, faces the wall and prepares himself mentally.

Sean stands motionless, studying Garrison who is sparring with a TEAMMATE across the gym.

SEAN (V.O.)

I know you. I know your first move, your weak position, your strong side. I know you can't finish to your left.

I know your wrist is still sore from your last match and how much weight you dropped to get here. I hear the question playing over and over in your mind and the answer is yes...

Garrison takes a drink of water and looks over at Sean.

SEAN (V.O.)

...you're about to lose.

The one-hundred and thirty-three pound matches conclude. Mac slaps himself a few times and walks up to Sean. They tie up forehead to forehead.

SEAN

Everything you've got. Six minutes. Be smart.

Mac nods and Sean slaps his headgear.

Mac walks to his corner where COACH WHITSON -45- a large, battle-hardened man, is waiting.

Mac peels off his sweats and puts his headgear on. As he steps into the light we see his face for the first time. If looks could kill, everyone in the gym would be dead. He's mean, no doubt.

As the REFEREE -50- balding, and Smythe wait in the center of the mat, Mac walks slowly around the out-of-bounds circle.

The buzzing sound of a faint whisper echoes through Mac's mind and his anger grows.

The Referee signals to the scorer's table.

REFEREE

Warning, stalling, green!

The crowd cheers. They have seen this before.

Mac circles the mat a second time as the BUZZING continues to intensify. Again the Referee signals to the scorer's table.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Stalling, green! One point, red!

Again the crowd cheers. Mac decides he's ready and steps to the center of the mat.

Mac slaps Smythe's hand and looks into his eyes. The Referee blows the WHISTLE and the match begins.

Mac tears into Smythe with a vengeance. His assault is violent and relentless. Mac wrestles angry, almost out of control. He doesn't want to win, he wants to hurt.

At the end of the second period Mac throws Smythe to the mat and pins him. The Wrestlers return to center and Mac slaps Smythe's hand without looking at him. The Referee raises Mac's hand.

Mac walks to his corner where Sean is taking off his sweats. Again they tie up.

MAC

They can't touch us. Rip his fuckin'
head off.

Sean nods and Mac slaps his headgear.

As Coach Whitson loosens Sean's shoulders, Sean scans the crowd searching for someone who isn't there.

Coach Whitson slaps his headgear and Sean returns his attention to the task at hand.

The MUSIC reaches a fever pitch as Sean steps out into the light. His look is intense. The crowd cheers.

SEAN (V.O.)

When you step onto the mat you don't have
the past, you don't have the future...you
have six minutes.

Sean steps to the center, shakes Garrison's hand and the WHISTLE blows.

Sean puts on a take-down clinic. His style is smooth and methodical.

Sean hits a duck-under and takes Garrison down and pins him in a suicide cradle. The crowd goes crazy.

Sean returns to center and shakes Garrison's hand and gets his hand raised. Sean's face is expressionless, searching.

BLACKOUT

The music stops and the only sound that remains is a wooden boat gently KNOCKING against the walls of a boathouse.

TITLE: BOATHOUSE DRUMS

INT. BOATHOUSE -DAY

FLASHBACK

We see and hear a small, wooden fishing boat KNOCKING against the walls of the old, two-slip boathouse.

The opening at the far end of the boathouse frames the silhouettes of YOUNG SEAN -4- and his GRANDFATHER -55- fishing off the end of the boathouse dock.

GRAMPA

Reel in a little.

Young Sean does as he's told.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

That a boy.

YOUNG SEAN
Is it very far away, Grampa?

GRAMPA
See those mountains?

As we move closer to them we see a beautiful mountain lake in the background.

Life outside the boathouse is moving very fast. The occasional fluffy white cloud scurries across the sky, the gentle breeze hurries over the glassy surface of the lake and the sun marches triple time across the sky.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)
It's just on the other side there.

YOUNG SEAN
What's it like?

GRAMPA
It's whatever you want it to be.

YOUNG SEAN
Are there any fish?

GRAMPA
Sure there's fish. Great big ones.

YOUNG SEAN
As big as the whole wide world?

GRAMPA
As big as the whole wide world.

The sun now begins to set behind the mountains and the sky is painted a brilliant orange-red. Young Sean lays his pole down and rests his tired head on his Grampa's lap.

YOUNG SEAN
I don't want you to go.

GRAMPA
I know. But you're a big boy now. I want you to be brave. Can you do that?

Young Sean nods.

A tear runs down Young Sean's face as he closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep. The stars turn overhead.

Young Sean lies asleep alone on the end of the pier as the sun appears in the eastern sky. He opens his eyes without lifting his head. He sees the morning sunlight dancing through a ship-in-a-bottle that sits next to his head.

Young Sean looks out across the lake and sees his Grampa walk

across the water and disappear into the morning fog. As he looks into the ship-in-a-bottle the sunlight grows intense until he sees a flash-

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -PRESENT DAY

The morning light cascades through the ship-in-a-bottle which now rests on a night stand between two framed pictures.

The first picture is Sean and Mac as little boys -6- standing with Sean's GRAMPA. Sean and Mac are wearing wrestling singlets and holding up their first medals.

The second picture is Sean as a little boy -5- and his Grampa standing in front of the boathouse near the mountain lake. They are holding up a large trout together.

Sean is asleep in a chair with his head resting on the bed next to his Grampa, now old and very frail. Grampa is connected to a number of life support machines which BEEP and HUM.

The light wakes Sean from his dream. He wipes the tear from his eye, looks at his Grampa and takes his hand in his own.

SEAN

OK.

INT. MAC'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM -DAY

Mac is bent over the sink washing his face. He looks into the mirror at his badly bruised and swollen eye.

Mac dries his face and walks out.

INT. MAC'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM -DAY

Mac walks through the cluttered room wearing a pair of dark sunglasses.

Mac's father, JACK -40- a large, scruffy construction worker is passed out on the couch surrounded by beer cans.

Mac walks through the room and out the front door without taking any notice of him.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -DAY

Mac enters the room carrying a bag of fast food and a magazine. DR. WHITING -55- and the nurse KATE -30's- are checking Grampa's charts and vital signs.

MAC

Looks like a party. Where's Sean?

Kate points to the open balcony door.

MAC (CONT'D)

Hey old man.

Mac kisses Grampa on the forehead and lays on the bed next to him. He shows the magazine to Grampa.

MAC (CONT'D)

New swimsuit issue. I was gonna get Playboy but I didn't want Kate to think we were dirty.

KATE

Too late for that.

Kate walks out.

MAC

She's feisty. Right up your alley.
(to Dr. Whiting)
How's he doin' today?

DR. WHITING

Can I talk to you for a minute?

Mac shows a picture in the magazine to Grampa.

MAC

Check those out. I'll be right back.

Dr. Whiting follows Mac across the room.

DR. WHITING

He's going on eight months now with no sign of improvement. I think we have to be realistic.

MAC

He looks good today.

DR. WHITING

He's dying, Mac. I know how difficult this is. It's a terrible decision for anyone to have to make but-

MAC

Is there a chance he'll wake up?

DR. WHITING

Even if, by some miracle, he does wake up he'll never take another breath on his own. He'll never be the person you and Sean remember.

MAC

But there is a chance.

DR. WHITING

Medically speaking, I'd say there's less than one percent chance he'll ever regain consciousness. Practically speaking, that's no chance at all. I think you should talk to Sean.

MAC

One percent may be nothing to you but it's all Sean's got.

Mac starts to walk back to Grampa.

DR. WHITING

Mac. Put yourself in his position. Would you want to live like that?

MAC

Put yourself in Sean's position. Could you kill the only family you've got? Do your job.

EXT. HOSPITAL BALCONY -DAY

Sean is sitting against the wall staring out across the endless grid of the Phoenix suburbs. Mac comes out with the bag of fast food and sits next to Sean.

Mac keeps his sunglasses on to hide his eye as he hands out the food.

MAC

They were out of sausage so I got you an egg sandwich. Don't ask me how a breakfast establishment runs out of fuckin' sausage. I got you a hash brown but I ate it. It was good.

SEAN

I miss him, Mac.

Mac is taken off guard by Sean's statement.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Sometimes I miss him so much I can hardly breathe.

MAC

Yeah, me too.

SEAN

I still look up before each match and expect to see him sitting in the stands.

MAC

He'll be back.

SEAN

No, he won't.

MAC

Don't say shit like that.

SEAN

I had a dream last night. We were at the lake fishing together. He looked really good. He told me he was ready to go.

MAC

It was just a dream. Eat your fuckin' sandwich.

SEAN

It's time to let him go.

MAC

Don't do that. Don't you give up on him. How can you listen to these people? They don't know him, they don't give a shit about him! They just want their fuckin' bed back so they can make more money! Shit!

Sean is silent.

MAC (CONT'D)

We're his family, Sean. We're supposed to take care of him, protect him. Like he always did for us.

SEAN

I know.

They sit in silence and Mac hands Sean his drink.

EXT. CEMETERY -DAY

A small group of mourners including Sean, Mac, Coach Whitson and Mrs. Whitson -40- are gathered around Grampa's grave as the PRIEST gives the benediction.

SEAN (V.O.)

My Grampa told me once that life is a journey, and home is the destination. I thought I had it all figured out, but things change.

TIME LAPSE

The group of mourners grows smaller and smaller until Sean and Mac stand alone next to Grampa's casket. Mac gives Sean a hug.

Sean notices Mac's eye. He reaches to lift Mac's sunglasses but Mac pulls away.

Mac walks away leaving Sean alone.

SEAN (V.O.)

I woke up this morning and nothing felt familiar, nothing fit. Now, the only thing I know for sure is that if there is such a place as home, it's a million miles from where I'm at.

Sean lays the ship-in-a-bottle on the casket as it is lowered into the ground and walks away.

SEAN (V.O.)

I know it's out there somewhere. I just don't know where to start.

As dirt is shoveled down on the casket, the ship-in-a-bottle shatters, releasing the ship.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SITE -DAY

Sean walks through a house being framed, still wearing his funeral suit. He picks up a piece of wood on his way.

He enters a back room where Jack is framing a wall.

SEAN

Hey Jack.

JACK

Yeah wha-

As Jack turns around, Sean hits him in the face with the piece of wood. Jack falls to the ground bleeding.

JACK (CONT'D)

Shit! What the fuck...

SEAN

Hurts, doesn't it?

JACK

You're fucking dead, you little-

As Jack starts to get up, Sean hits him in the knee with the piece of wood. Jack falls back to the ground.

JACK (CONT'D)

Son of a bitch! What the fuck do you want?!

SEAN

Mac'll be staying with me. Don't come looking for him.

JACK

He's my son!

SEAN

Not anymore.

Sean tosses the piece of wood at Jack and walks out.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE -DAY

People are scattered about the small, lower middle class house as the funeral reception winds down. Everyone is eating and socializing.

We follow Mac through the house and out the back door to the patio where Sean is talking with Coach Whitson.

COACH WHITSON

What are you gonna do with the house?

SEAN

I don't know.

Mac walks out and sits.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll turn it into a whore house and pimp Mac out.

MAC

No good. Chicks around here can't afford me.

Coach Whitson pulls two envelopes out of his pocket and hands one to each of them.

COACH WHITSON

This may not be the right time but, congratulations.

Sean and Mac look over the papers.

MAC

Holy shit.

COACH WHITSON

I talked to Coach Ortiz at ASU last night. He's offering each of you a full ride, free dorm, meal ticket, the whole nine.

MAC

Holy shit.

COACH WHITSON

This is a big deal, gentlemen. ASU is going into the season ranked in the top five. Mac, if you can get back down to

forty-one you're gonna have to knock off
Reas. He's a buzz saw but you can take
him.
Sean, forty-nine is yours for the taking.
Look those over. I told Coach Ortiz he'd
have your answers by the end of the week.

MAC

Fuck yeah. Sorry Coach but our answer is
fuck yeah.

COACH WHITSON

I'm proud of you, both of you. Your
Grampa would be too. You earned this.

Mrs. Whitson steps outside.

MRS. WHITSON

I hate to break up the party boys but we
better get going.

COACH WHITSON

Yeah.

MRS. WHITSON

(to Sean)
You OK?

SEAN

Yeah.

MRS. WHITSON

You sure?

SEAN

Yeah, I'm fine.

MRS. WHITSON

OK. I left some dinner in the fridge.
Just heat it up. And if you need
anything, you give us a call anytime.

SEAN

I will. Thank you.

Mrs. Whitson gives Sean a hug.

MRS. WHITSON

(to Mac)
And you, stay out of trouble young man.

MAC

Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Whitson gives Mac a hug.

COACH WHITSON

(to Sean)
Come see me.

SEAN
I will.

Coach and Mrs. Whitson leave. Sean and Mac sit.

MAC
I look good in maroon.

Sean's thoughts are elsewhere.

SEAN
Why don't you stay here for a while.

MAC
(defensive)
I can handle it.

SEAN
I know. It's just that it's gonna be
kinda quiet around here. You're a pain
in the ass but I could use the company.

MAC
Maybe a couple of days.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -DAY

Sean, Mac and two other CONSTRUCTION WORKERS are roofing a house as the sun comes up. Sean stops working and watches the sun rise.

MAC
Kenny's having a party tonight. I told
him we'd stop by.

Sean takes his tool belt off and slings it over his shoulder.

SEAN
I'll see you at home.

MAC
Where ya goin'?

Sean makes his way off the roof.

SEAN
I'll see you at home.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL WEIGHT ROOM -DAY

Coach Whitson is in the middle of a bench press set when Sean enters the room. Sean sits on a bench next to Coach's.

SEAN

I turned down ASU.

COACH WHITSON

I know.

SEAN

I accepted the scholarship to Western.

COACH WHITSON

I heard.

Coach Whitson racks his weight.

COACH WHITSON (CONT'D)

They're gonna want you to go forty-one.
That's a lot of weight.

SEAN

I was light at forty-nine. I'll make it.
Just tell me I'm doing the right thing.

COACH WHITSON

No can do, kiddo. But I know this isn't
just about wrestling. So you go do what
you gotta do.

Sean nods.

SEAN

Keep an eye on Mac for me?

COACH WHITSON

I will.

Sean shakes Coach Whitson's hand and starts to walk out.

COACH WHITSON (CONT'D)

Hey. You're a champion. Doesn't matter
where you're at.

Again Sean nods and walks out.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE -NIGHT

The house is packed with TEENAGERS partying. Sean walks
through the house looking for Mac.

He walks into the dining room where Mac is sitting on a bar
stool making out with COURTNEY -18- dangerous. Sean sits on
the stool next to them.

SEAN

Let's get outa here.

MAC

I'm busy.

Mac and Courtney continue to make out.

SEAN

(to Mac)

You get that rash on your penis checked?

Courtney looks at Mac and walks away.

SEAN (CONT'D)

She was hot.

MAC

She has a ring of fire tattooed around her left nipple. I dig that in a chick.

SEAN

They're all the same, man.

Mac pours two shots and hands one to Sean.

MAC

I know. I love 'em all.

Mac toasts.

MAC

Sun Devils.

They both down their shots.

SEAN

I'm not going.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNY'S HOUSE/FRONT YARD -NIGHT

Sean and Mac are in the yard as PARTIERS come and go.

MAC

You wanna know what I think?! I think anyone who gives up a full ride to one of the best wrestling programs in the nation to go to sheep fucker Oregon on some soul searching field trip is a fucking retard, that's what I think! Jesus Christ!

Sean waits for the second round.

MAC (CONT'D)

What do you thinks gonna happen?! You're gonna go up there, surround yourself with squirrels and pretty flowers and everything will be perfect again?! Well it's not! Your Grampa's gone Sean and he's not coming back and that fucking sucks! But ya know what, he raised me

too! I miss him too but you don't see me
grabbing my nuts and running for the
fucking hills!

SEAN

You done?

MAC

Fuck you! We've been working for this
our entire lives! All of a sudden you
get a wild hair up your ass and burn the
mother fucker to the ground!

A neighbor, MR. HORSLEY -65- comes out of his house in his
pajamas.

MR. HORSLEY

Hey! Quiet down over there! It's two in
the morning for Christ's sakes!

Mac picks up an empty beer bottle and throws it at Mr.
Horsley. The bottle shatters on the sidewalk.

MAC

Mind your own fuckin' business!

MR. HORSLEY

I'm calling the police!

Mr. Horsley scurries inside his house.

MAC

They can't touch us, Sean. When we're
together, no one can touch us. You and
me, that's the way it's always been.

SEAN

That's not gonna change, Mac. But I have
to do this. I need you to be OK with it.

Mac looks at Sean and walks away. He knocks some trash cans
over and disappears down the street.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is sitting at the old, upright piano lazily tapping out
a scale, lost in his thoughts.

Mac walks in the front door and sits on the piano bench next
to Sean, facing the opposite direction.

MAC

I'm still pissed.

SEAN

I know.

MAC

And I still think this whole deal is a big fat pile of shit.

SEAN

I know.

MAC

Oregon's a long way away.

SEAN

Yeah, I know.

MAC

Here.

Mac pulls out a nipple bar and hands it to Sean.

MAC (CONT'D)

It's a going away present.

SEAN

What is it?

MAC

It's a nipple bar. Spartan warriors pierced their nipples as a sign of strength, brotherhood.

SEAN

Thanks. This is really cool but, no way am I sticking this through my nipple.

Mac is silent.

SEAN (CONT'D)

This is a fucking lug nut.

Still Mac says nothing.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm not doin' it.

INT. PIERCING SHOP -NIGHT

ROACH -25- a professional tattoo and piercing artist who has obviously practiced on himself extensively, calmly cleans and sterilizes his piercing utensils.

ROACH

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Half human, half turtle reptilians who possess super human powers and dwell underground. G.I. Joe, protector of the human race, carries on the struggle against a secret organization bent on world domination. This dark force is headed by a super

villain known as Cobra. There was a fuckin' serpent in the garden of Eden controlling the minds of our ancestors. Coincidence? No fuckin' way, man. We as a people need to open our minds to the reality that permeates every aspect of our spoon fed, pre-packaged lives and that reality is this; the human race was spawned by reptilian extraterrestrials and this extremely intelligent, technologically advanced, shape shifting serpent race has controlled this planet for thousands of years and continues to do so today. These lizard-like humanoids are pushing the buttons and pulling the strings of every governing power of every nation on the planet. Scary shit. Who's first?

Sean and Mac are sitting on a seventies style sofa processing what they have just heard. Sean looks at Mac.

INT. PIERCING SHOP -MOMENTS LATER

Mac is lying on the table with his shirt off. Roach is sitting next to him preparing his needle. Sean watches.

ROACH

On one you'll feel a pinch, on two you'll feel a slight prick and on three, purification through pain.
One...two...three.

On three Mac cringes. So does Sean.

SEAN

Oh, shit.

ROACH

All done. Piece a cake.

Mac sits up.

SEAN

How's it feel?

MAC

Fine.

As Mac starts to stand up he faints and falls to the ground. Sean and Roach just look down at him.

SEAN

You're kidding me right now. That's perfect.

ROACH

He's out.

SEAN
Spartan warrior my ass.

INT. PIERCING SHOP -MOMENTS LATER

Sean is now lying on the bed with his shirt off. Mac is lying on the sofa recovering.

ROACH
One...two...three.

Sean cringes.

INT. BUS STATION -DAY

Sean and Mac are standing at a gate as PASSENGERS walk out the door and board the bus.

SEAN
Stay at my place as long as you want.

MAC
You sure about this?

SEAN
No. I'll call as soon as I get there.

Mac nods. They tie up forehead to forehead. Sean walks out the door and boards the bus.

As the bus pulls away Mac walks away down the station bumping into people as he goes.

EXT. HIGHWAY -DAY

Clips of the bus rolling up the California coast.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS -NIGHT

Sean is asleep with his head propped up against the window.

EXT. CEDAR GROVE, OREGON -DAY

On a small road winding through tall pine trees the bus passes a sign which reads: "WELCOME TO CEDAR GROVE".

INT. CAR -DAY

MAYA -19- an innocently beautiful small town girl is sitting at the wheel next to BRADLEY -21- handsome, well dressed.

BRADLEY
You sure this is what you want?

MAYA

Yeah.

BRADLEY

I suppose it doesn't matter that I'm completely in love with you.

MAYA

Of course it does, Bradley. You know this isn't easy. I just need some time to figure things out, OK?

BRADLEY

I guess it has to be.

The Greyhound bus pulls up across the street. Bradley gets out of the car and walks around to Maya's window.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

I'll call you.

Bradley gives Maya a kiss on the cheek and walks across the street with his bag. As Bradley starts to board the bus, Sean steps off.

The bus pulls away and so does Maya, leaving Sean standing with his bags on the side of the road.

Sean looks around as the sun comes up in the sleepy little town. He tosses his duffel bag over his shoulder and begins walking down the street.

Sean walks through town and stops to ask directions from two OLD MEN sitting on a bench in front of the store. They point him in the right direction.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -DAY

Sean walks across the beautiful campus with its ivory covered halls and tree-covered courtyards.

INT. WESTERN CAMPUS/DORM ROOM -DAY

There are only a few strands of sunlight seeping into the room through the window blinds. There's a KNOCK at the door.

After a moment the door opens and Sean stands in the doorway. He looks at the disaster area of a room.

SEAN

Oh my God.

Sean makes his way across the room and opens the blinds and the window. He hears a moan and turns to find OLEG -22- a gargantuan red-neck of Russian descent, asleep face down in one of the room's two beds.

OLEG

Shut...the fucking...blinds.

SEAN

I'm Sean. New roommate.

Sean clears off the spare bed and sets his stuff down. He looks around the room.

OLEG

I'm gonna roll over in a minute and if you're still in my room, I'm gonna rip your nuts off and toss 'em out that open window.

Sean opens the fridge which is stocked with beer and pulls out two bottles. He grabs a chair and sits next to Oleg's bed.

As Oleg rolls over Sean hands him a beer.

Oleg sits up with his eyes still mostly shut and drinks his beer. He is wearing underwear and unfortunately nothing else. His black hair is out of control.

Oleg takes a moment to gather his thoughts.

OLEG (CONT'D)

Who are you?

SEAN

Sean Slayton. New roommate.

OLEG

Oleg. Heavyweight, team captain, spiritual leader. You a freshman?

SEAN

Yeah.

OLEG

Well...shit on me. What weight?

SEAN

Forty-one.

Oleg nods still mostly asleep.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Smells like shit in here.

OLEG

Yeah.

Oleg gets up and walks to the bathroom and leaves the door open as he takes a leak.

OLEG (CONT'D)

We're going to a party tonight. You're gonna puke. Dress accordingly.

INT. WESTERN DORMS/HALLWAY -DAY

Sean dials a number on the pay phone and it begins to ring.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE -DAY

Sean's phone rings but no one answers.

INT. WESTERN DORMS/HALLWAY -DAY

Sean hangs up the phone.

INT. MAC'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM -DAY

Mac is throwing everything he owns in a bag. Suddenly, he hears the front door SHUT.

INT. MAC'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM -DAY

Mac heads for the front door. Jack is sitting in a chair drinking a beer and watching TV.

Mac reaches the front door and stops.

Jack remains focused on his beer and the TV as Mac sits on the sofa. They watch in silence for a moment.

MAC

I got a full ride to ASU. One-forty-one.
I'm moving into the dorms.

Jack doesn't respond.

MAC (CONT'D)

I'll get a schedule. Maybe you could
come to a match sometime.

Jack never looks at Mac.

JACK

College, huh. Shit. What the hell ya
gonna study, recess.

MAC

I don't know yet. My counselor said I
didn't have to know right away. She said
they have programs to help you decide
what you want to do though so...ya know,
maybe I'll find something I'm good at.

JACK

Someone took a shit in your head and
called it smarts, boy. I don't blame
you, you got stupid from your mother.

You won't last a month.

Mac's eyes well up as he remains focused on the TV. After a moment Jack looks over at Mac for the first time.

JACK (CONT'D)

You still here?

Mac grabs his bag and heads for the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

Get the fuck out.

Mac walks out and shuts the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

Just like your mother.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -NIGHT

Sean and Oleg are walking across campus. Oleg is decked out in all black with a black leather trench coat.

OLEG

We're about to walk into a room filled with future lawyers, brain surgeons, astronauts, astro fuckin' physicists and they all have one thing in common, they all want to be us. Why?

SEAN

No idea.

OLEG

Because no one gives a flying fuck who gets the highest score on their SAT's or who has the highest GPA. That shit doesn't inspire. People don't pack the gym to the rafters every Thursday night to watch a fucking spelling B. They come to see the greatest show on Earth. They come to watch us step out onto the mat and face man's greatest fear, another man who wants to do you harm. In five years they'll all be pulling down six figure salaries and making the world a better place to live and we'll be taking out their fucking garbage. But right now we're heroes. We're everything their parents wanted them to be and every one of them would trade in a lifetime of nine to five mediocrity to be us for five minutes.

They reach the door to the dorms and Oleg stops.

OLEG (CONT'D)

You're a wrestler and around here that's as good as gold. Put your game face on, walk on water and don't take shit from anyone. How do I look?

SEAN
You look like a pimp.

OLEG
Beautiful.

Oleg waits for Sean to open the door for him and they both enter.

INT. WESTERN DORMS/HALLWAY

The entire floor is decked out for the first party of the year. The MUSIC is pumping.

Sean and Oleg walk down the hall which is packed with STUDENTS and alcohol. Oleg leads and remains stone faced. Everyone in the hall moves out of the way as they pass. Oleg is a celebrity.

A line of people extends out of one of the rooms into the hallway. Oleg and Sean enter the room. The room is packed with PARTIERS.

Oleg introduces Sean to some of the other WRESTLERS. SPARKS, the one-eighty-four pounder who's built like the Incredible Hulk and MONTANO, the one-sixty-five pound "pretty boy."

Oleg sees KODI across the room sitting on a couch with a couple of GIRLS. Kodi is a tough looking twenty-one year old wearing his leather cowboy hat and bear claw necklace.

OLEG
That's Kodi. One-forty-nine pound All American. He's a fuckin' Alaskan. Dudes got a bad case of cabin fever or mad cow or some shit like that but he's tough as nails. You don't want to meet him until you have to.

Oleg leads Sean to the front of the shot line where BOZLEY, the teams one-twenty-five pounder is pouring the shots.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Boz, this is Sean. He's a freshman.

BOZLEY
What's up brother.

OLEG
(to Boz)
He's thirsty.

BOZLEY

No problem.

Bozley grabs a pail hanging on the wall and starts BANGING it. He yells over the MUSIC.

BOZLEY (CONT'D)

Hey! Listen up! This is Sean! He's a freshman, he's a wrestler and he's thirsty! Let's show him a little Oregon hospitality!

Bozley pours some shots into the bucket and hands it into the crowd. As the bucket makes it's rounds everyone contributes a little of whatever they're drinking; beer, mixed drinks, shots, whatever.

OLEG

(to Sean)

You're gonna love this.

The bucket is passed back to Sean. The concoction looks like muddy water.

CROWD

Drink! Drink! Drink! Drink!

OLEG

I think you better drink that.

Sean empties the bucket. Everyone cheers and the party resumes.

OLEG

Welcome to Oregon!

INT. WESTERN CAMPUS/DORMS -LATER

Sean is sitting on the couch glassy-eyed as the party rages on around him. He looks out the window at the moon shining through the trees. A sadness comes over him and he walks out of the room.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -NIGHT

Maya is sitting on a bench near a large fountain. We can't see who she's talking to.

MAYA

You think I made a mistake with Bradley. Maybe you're right. I just felt...I don't know...trapped, ya know? Haven't you ever felt like that? Like the world isn't big enough. Like you're missing something. Probably not. You strike me as more of a level headed bird. You think I'm a mess, don't you?

Maya leans in close to whoever she's talking to.

MAYA (CONT'D)

But honestly, just between you and me,
don't you ever just want to spread your
wings and fly away?

As Maya waits for a response from a duck asleep on the ledge of the fountain, she sees Sean across the way. He has a beer bottle in one of his hands.

Maya watches as Sean tosses a penny into the fountain. She sees something very sad in Sean's eyes as he stares into the water.

Sean walks away and Maya follows him across the courtyard.

Maya turns a corner and sees Sean enter the Gym through a side door which has been left unlocked.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -NIGHT

Sean enters the room and turns on the lights. He staggers onto the mat.

INT. WESTERN GYM/HALLWAY -NIGHT

Maya watches through the small window on the door as Sean slowly walks the out-of-bounds circle on the mat.

Maya is transfixed as Sean stops in the center of the mat and lays on his back. Sean closes his eyes and falls asleep.

INT. WESTERN DORM/HALLWAY -DAY

Sean opens the door and looks into his room. He is still wearing the clothes from the night before and a severe hangover has taken control of his body.

There are open beer bottles everywhere and a GIRL in bed with Oleg. Sean shuts the door and staggers back down the hallway.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -DAY

Maya and TIFFANY -18- a cute granola type, are taking a break behind the counter during the mid-morning lull. They are both studying something across the room. Maya is munching on raisins.

TIFFANY

Stuffy, emotionally needy, beneath the
intellectual facade lies a mental twinkie
with a small penis. Decaf mocha
cappuccino.

MAYA

Complicated, sensitive, always walks on the outside. A little boy trapped in a grown ups life. Nice butt. Hot chocolate with marshmallows.

TIFFANY

He hasn't twitched in an hour. I think he's dead.

Across the room Sean is passed out on a table next to the window. He's wearing sunglasses.

Maya throws one of her raisins at Sean. It bounces off the window and lands on Sean's table, inches from his head.

The second raisin glances off Sean's back. Maya and Tiffany wait for a reaction. Sean doesn't move.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

He's dead.

Finally, Sean lazily swats at the nuisance.

MAYA

Poor guy.

TIFFANY

Well, that's about all the excitement I can handle for one day. See you tomorrow.

MAYA

(fixed on Sean)

Bye.

Tiffany takes off her apron and leaves.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -MOMENTS LATER

Maya walks up to Sean's table carrying two mugs.

MAYA

Hi.

SEAN

Hi.

MAYA

Rough night?

Sean nods.

MAYA

What's your name?

SEAN

Sean.

MAYA

I have an important question for you, Sean. Are you the stuffy, intellectual, decaf mocha cappuccino type, or are you more of a free spirited hot chocolate kinda guy?

SEAN

Hot chocolate's good.

MAYA

Good choice.

Maya sits across from Sean and gives him one of the mugs. Sean painfully lifts his head off the table.

MAYA (CONT'D)

I put some marshmallows in it. I hope you don't mind.

SEAN

Perfect. Thanks.

MAYA

You're a wrestler.

SEAN

What gave me away?

Maya thinks quickly, not wanting Sean to know she saw him the night before. She points to her ear, referring to Sean's mild case of cauliflower ear.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Right. Fat ear. Occupational hazard.

MAYA

That's too bad.

SEAN

It still works.

MAYA

No, I mean it's too bad you're a wrestler.

SEAN

Why's that?

MAYA

Wrestlers just don't it for me.

SEAN

That is too bad. I think I could have made you really happy.

MAYA
I'm already happy.

They share a smile. The first we've seen from Sean.

After a moment Maya reaches across the table and takes Sean's sunglasses off. The light hurts his eyes.

After his eyes adjust he sees Maya for the first time. She's beautiful.

MAYA
Ya know, beneath all the red lines, the puffiness and the sleep...

Maya reaches over and wipes the sleep from Sean's eye.

MAYA (CONT'D)
...you have really pretty eyes.

SEAN
Thanks.

MAYA
You're welcome. The eyes are the window to the soul, ya know. The one feature of a person that never lies.

SEAN
Really?

MAYA
Come here.

Sean and Maya lean closer together and Maya studies his eyes.

SEAN
Anything?

MAYA
You're desperately trying to hide the fact that, even though we just met, you're crazy about me.

SEAN
That's true. Anything else?

MAYA
Way in the back in that place, that place you don't let people go, there's something very sad.

Sean is affected by Maya's comment.

SEAN
I guess you've got me all figured out.

MAYA
No. Not yet.

Maya smiles compassionately.

SEAN
Thanks for the hot chocolate.

MAYA
Anytime.

Sean puts his sunglasses on and walks out.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -DAY

We move down through the trees into the Western campus where STUDENTS are milling about between classes.

Sean is sitting in a courtyard studying. He packs up his things and enters the stream of STUDENTS heading to class.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -DAY

It's the first wrestling practice of the year. Sean, Oleg and the other Wrestlers are in a circle around the mats holding a push-up position inches from the ground.

Their faces look tortured, their arms are shaking with fatigue and they are all drenched in their own sweat.

COACH SYKES -50- stalky and mean, walks around the inside of the circle. He has a whistle around his neck.

COACH SYKES
What you're feeling is not pain, it's pride! It's not the breaking down of muscle tissue, it's the forging of steel! You will not know what it means to be a champion until you embrace the belief that if a thing does not kill you it makes you stronger!

Coach Sykes BLOWS his whistle and the Wrestlers finish their push-up and return to a straight arm position.

WRESTLERS
Forty-eight!

Again Coach Sykes BLOWS his whistle and the Wrestlers lower themselves within a few inches of the ground.

COACH SYKES
The body will do and feel what the mind tells it to! Wrestling is ninety-nine percent mental, gentlemen! The match is won or lost before you step on the mat!

As Coach Sykes is talking, one of the Wrestlers runs to a trash can in the corner of the room, throws up, and returns to his push-up position.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)

Brute strength alone won't get you past the first round in a college tournament! Know your opponent! Know his strength, know his weakness, crawl inside his mind and defeat him from the inside! It's the ability to adapt and overcome that makes a good wrestler great!

Coach Sykes BLOWS his whistle and again the Wrestlers complete their push-up.

WRESTLERS

Forty-nine!

Coach Sykes BLOWS his whistle and the Wrestlers lower themselves again.

COACH SYKES

We have two weeks until our first match! We will be ready! Starting tomorrow at five-thirty a.m., you will meet on the south side of the gym every day for a five mile run! This is not an option! You don't run, you don't wrestle! They say a chain is only as strong as it's weakest link! I wonder who it is!

Coach Sykes walks out of the room leaving the Wrestlers holding the half push-up position. They hold the position for a few seconds, struggling not to be the weak link.

Suddenly one of the Wrestlers collapses and everyone else immediately follows.

INT. WESTERN LOCKER ROOM -DAY

Coach Sykes is recording the Wrestler's weight.

COACH SYKES

Forty-one!

Sean steps on the scale. Kodi looks over Sean's shoulder. Coach Sykes gives Sean a look as he steps off the scale.

Sean walks to his locker after taking a shower. Oleg and some of the other wrestlers are nearby, including Kodi.

KODI

Fifteen pounds. Lotta weight. You better get your ass down to forty-one where you belong. You might get yourself

hurt playing with the big boys.

Sean ignores him and starts to open his locker. Kodi notices his nipple bar.

KODI (CONT'D)

Is that a faggot bar? It is a faggot bar. Look at that. Freshman has himself a cute little faggot bar.

Kodi puts his cowboy hat on and leans on the lockers close to Sean. Oleg and the other Wrestlers watch to see what Sean will do.

KODI (CONT'D)

That's real pretty. Your boyfriend get you that? Huh? I bet your boyfriend got you that for your anniversary or somethin'. That's real sweet.

Kodi gets in Sean's face.

KODI (CONT'D)

Nothin'? Maybe if I get my nipples pierced you and me could go out sometime. If you're good, I'll let you suck my-

Sean slams his locker door into Kodi's face and he falls backwards. As Kodi lunges for Sean a couple of the other Wrestlers, including Oleg, hold them back. Kodi's nose is bleeding.

KODI (CONT'D)

Get off me! Let me go!

Coach Sykes walks in and pushes his way to the middle of the scuffle.

COACH SYKES

What the hell's goin' on in here?!

OLEG

Kodi just bumped his head, that's all.

COACH SYKES

(to Sean and Kodi)

You two in my office, now!

Everyone breaks up. Kodi smiles at Sean as he wipes the blood off his face.

KODI

I'm gonna hand you your ass.

Kodi bumps into Sean as he passes.

INT. COACH SYKES OFFICE -DAY

Sean and Kodi are sitting in chairs in front of Coach Sykes desk.

COACH SYKES

It stops right here. One more problem and you'll both be on my shit list and it's a list you don't want to be on. Save it for the mat. Got it?

KODI

Yes sir.

SEAN

Yes sir.

COACH SYKES

Now, we have a little problem.

(to Sean)

One-fifty-six. That's fifteen pounds off the mark. What were you gonna do, cut a leg off?

SEAN

I was planning on going forty-nine until Christmas and then drop.

COACH SYKES

Is that right? You may have been tough shit in High School but this is a whole new game and until you prove yourself on the mat you don't add up to a puddle of warm piss. You don't make the plans around here, I do. Is that understood?

SEAN

Yes sir.

COACH SYKES

(to Kodi)

How do you feel about all this?

KODI

If he wants forty-nine he'll have to rip it out of my ass.

COACH SYKES

That's what I thought. This is what's gonna happen. You'll both wrestle up a weight class for our first match. I didn't like the fifty-seven match up anyway and I'm not gonna have you two go at it until you're both in shape. You'll wrestle off the following week. If Kodi wins you both have two weeks to make weight. If Slayton wins, you wrestle up

until Christmas and then drop. Do either
of you have a problem with that?

KODI
Can't wait.

COACH SYKES
Good. Get out of here.

Kodi and Sean start to leave.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)
Slayton! From now on your weight
fluctuates more than an ounce I want to
know about it. You take a dump you run
and tell me first and wipe later. Do we
understand each other?

SEAN
Yes sir.

COACH SYKES
Good. Welcome to Western.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is laying on his bed wearing his reading glasses doing
homework. Oleg is sitting on the couch playing Nintendo.
Sean's half of the room is clean, Oleg's is still a cesspool.

Sean has the pictures of him and Mac and him and his Grampa
on the window sill above his bed. Sean looks up from his
book.

SEAN
I met a girl the other day at the coffee
shop across the street.

OLEG
Maya.

SEAN
I don't know her name.

OLEG
Her name's Maya. Forget it.

SEAN
How do you know it's her?

OLEG
Two chicks work at the coffee shop. Maya
and Tiffany. Tiffany's cute but she's
not your type so it had to be Maya.
Maya's hot, she's been hot since she got
her braces off in the fifth grade and
she's cool as shit. Not to mention she's

a child psych major which translates into fat meal ticket. Hot, cool and smart, a rare combination in females around here. Bad news is she's been dating a prick named Bradley for the past two years. There's a better chance I'll shit a golden twinkie than there is of you getting anything more than a cinnamon twist and a hot cup of coffee from that girl. Move on.

SEAN

Thank you very much.

OLEG

No problem.

Sean looks over at Oleg's side of the room in disgust.

SEAN

You need to clean your shit up. The stink is making my eyes water.

OLEG

My ma always said inspirational shit like that. Then she'd beat me bloody with the heel of her work boot and lock me in the fuckin' cellar. Wrinkly old whore.

Sean is speechless. He goes back to his reading.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Later that night Oleg is asleep on the couch with the Nintendo still on. Sean is asleep, tossing and turning as a nightmare haunts his dreams.

Sean is ripped from his sleep and sits up in his bed. He looks at the picture of him and his Grampa.

Sean gets out of bed and puts some clothes on.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -NIGHT

The campus is asleep as Sean wanders aimlessly. He comes to the music department and walks in an open door.

INT. WESTERN AUDITORIUM -NIGHT

There are only a few lights on in the small auditorium. Sean is on stage pecking the keys of a piano, lost in his thoughts.

The night janitor, LEROY -60- African-American, enters with his broom.

LEROY

Hey! What the hell you doin' in here,
boy?!

SEAN

The door was open.

LEROY

Ain't nobody allowed in here past ten.
Says so right on the door. Can't you
read?

SEAN

Sorry.

Sean gets up and starts to walk off stage.

LEROY

Hold on there. You know how to play that
thing?

SEAN

A little.

LEROY

Make you a deal. You play somethin'
worth listenin' to and I'll let you stay
awhile.

SEAN

Alright.

Sean sits down and starts playing something classical.

LEROY

What kinda nonsense is that?

SEAN

Beethoven.

LEROY

That's no kinda music at all. Play
somethin I can move to. Somethin' with a
little soul to it.

Sean hammers out a jazz lick and looks at Leroy.

LEROY (CONT'D)

That's more like it. Well, go on.
Everybody knows I work better with a
little music in my ear.

Sean continues to play and Leroy dances with his broom.

EXT. WESTERN AUDITORIUM -NIGHT

Leroy let's Sean out a door.

LEROY
I'll leave the side door unlocked. You
come back and play anytime.

SEAN
Thanks Leroy.

INT. WESTERN LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

An intense SONG begins to build. MONTAGE.

Sean and the other Wrestler are getting dressed for their first match. Sean puts his ski cap on, puts his hood up and walks out with the Team.

INT. ASU LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

Mac dresses for his match. He puts his headphones on, puts his hood up and walks out with his TEAM.

INT. WESTERN GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The crowd goes wild as Sean and his Teammates enter the gym where the visiting TEAM is warming up on the mats. Sean is focused and intense.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The match is under way and Mac is off in the corner of the gym pumping himself up. As we draw nearer to him we hear the BUZZING of a faint voice tormenting Mac's mind.

As the voice taunts Mac he grows angrier.

INT. WESTERN GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

As the one-thirty-three match rages on, Sean stands behind his bench staring at his OPPONENT -21-.

SEAN (V.O.)
I know you. I know you're a backyard
scrapper with a little-man's complex.
You live by the tie-up and die by the
outside single. You know I'm a freshman
and right now you're looking past me to
your next match. I hear the question
playing over and over in your mind and
the answer is yes...you're about to lose.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The one-thirty-three match concludes with a win for ASU. Mac slaps himself in the face, teetering on the edge of out-of control and walks to the mat. Mac takes off his sweats and steps onto the mat.

Mac does his walk around the out-of-bounds circle as the voice intensifies. Mac steps to the center where the REFEREE and his OPPONENT are waiting.

INT. WESTERN GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

Sean steps to his corner and takes off his sweats. Before he steps onto the mat he scans the crowd. He doesn't find what he's looking for but he spots Maya in the crowd cheering for him.

Sean steps onto the mat.

QUICK CUTS between Sean and Mac both battling their OPPONENTS. At the end of the match both of them get their hands raised as the CROWDS CHEER.

After the duel meet is over and Western has recorded their first win of the season, Sean makes his way to the stands where Maya is sitting as the crowd filters out. Sean loses Maya in the crowd.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP -NIGHT

Sean stands outside watching through the window as Maya cleans up for the night. After a moment he goes inside.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -NIGHT

Maya is grooving to Reggae as she cleans. Her back is turned as Sean walks up to the counter.

SEAN

I thought wrestlers didn't do it for you.

Maya turns, happy that it's Sean.

MAYA

They don't. I just wanted to see if you're as good as they say you are.

SEAN

What's the verdict?

MAYA

Not bad. You looked a little sluggish in the second period but it's early in the season so I took conditioning into account.

SEAN

Thanks.

MAYA

You're welcome. So, what brings you to our little corner of the world tonight? Shouldn't you be out picking on computer

engineering majors or defecating on
public property with the other hooligans?

SEAN

I got all that done this morning. I was
in the neighborhood.

MAYA

You live in the neighborhood. So I
figure you're either dying for a cup of
hot chocolate with marshmallows or,
there's something dangerously
irresistible about me you can't explain
and you came to ask me out tonight
because you can't stand one more second
of not knowing what it is.

SEAN

I'll take a hot chocolate.

Maya smiles and gets Sean a hot chocolate. Sean tries to
hand her some money.

MAYA

It's on the house.

SEAN

Thanks. Would you like to go out with me
tonight?

MAYA

I can't. I have to close.

Sean smiles.

SEAN

Right.

Sean turns and heads for the door with his hot chocolate.

MAYA

That's it? That was pathetic. Whatever
happened to persistence, fighting against
all odds, not taking no for an answer?

Sean stops at the door and turns the sign around to CLOSED.

SEAN

I was gonna help you close up, if it's
alright?

MAYA

Oh. Yeah.

INT. COFFEE SHOP/BACK ROOM -NIGHT

Sean and Maya are doing the dishes together. Maya is

washing, Sean is rinsing and stacking.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -NIGHT

Sean is walking Maya home on a clear night. A light breeze rustles through the ancient Oak trees which line the street.

MAYA

My Mom, she's amazing. Somehow she managed to juggle a career, raise four children and beat cancer, and still find time to be my best friend. And my Dad, my Dad is probably the biggest nerd you'll ever meet. But that's what's so cool about him. He's got the kind of laugh that's contagious, ya know? His jokes are terrible but you end up laughing at him laughing at his own joke. It's hilarious.

Sean smiles, maybe at Maya's story or perhaps at the thought of having a perfect family. They walk in silence for a moment.

MAYA (CONT'D)

You don't seem like the wrestling type.

SEAN

No? Why not?

MAYA

You don't have that angry, adolescent Neanderthal quality most wrestlers exude.

SEAN

I have it, I just didn't think I'd need it tonight. But I'm mean alright.

MAYA

No you're not.

SEAN

Yes I am. I love pain. I'm a loose cannon.

MAYA

You're so full of crap.

Maya stops walking in front of a cute little house with a big porch.

MAYA

This is me. Are you going to be OK by yourself or should I walk you back home?

SEAN

I think I can find my way.

MAYA

OK.

Maya walks up the steps to her porch.

SEAN

Is your boyfriend gonna mind if I ask you
over for dinner tomorrow night?

MAYA

It's really none of my ex-boyfriends
business where I eat dinner.

SEAN

How's seven?

MAYA

Seven's perfect.

SEAN

I'm in Deitz Hall-

MAYA

Room three-twenty-four with Oleg, I
know. I'll bring some desert.

SEAN

OK.

Maya watches Sean walk away under the street lights.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE -DAY

Sean and the rest of the Wrestlers are jogging up Cemetery
Hill on a chilly, clear morning. The trees are beginning to
change into their winter colors. They reach the top and
disappear over the other side. We see the town below.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -DAY

The entire Team is gathered around the center mat after
practice. Sean takes a drink from a water bottle.

OLEG

Watch yourself. He's still a little sore
about the locker you stuck in his face.

SEAN

You think I'm gonna lose?

OLEG

I think you have an angry Alaskan whore
dog on your hands.

Sean steps to the center of the mat where Coach Sykes and
Kodi are waiting. Everyone is cheering for Kodi.

Coach Sykes BLOWS his whistle and Kodi attacks hard and fast putting Sean on the defensive.

Sean counters his moves successfully until Kodi ties him up and hits a slick duck under and scores the first take down. He lets Sean up.

KODI
Stay down there.

Kodi returns to the center of the mat. Sean gets up and follows.

Again Kodi attacks hard and again Sean is put on the defensive. They battle hard.

Kodi tries another duck under but Sean stops it. Kodi immediately re-shoots and gets a hold of Sean's leg and scores another take down as time runs out in the first period.

Kodi stays on top of Sean for a second.

KODI (CONT'D)
This is gonna hurt all day long.

COACH SYKES
Four to one.
(to Sean)
Up, down or neutral?

Sean signals for neutral. He walks up to Oleg.

SEAN
If I win you clean the room tonight.

OLEG
If you win I'll clean the room in my birthday suit and kiss my own ass when I'm done.

SEAN
Deal.

They shake on it.

COACH SYKES
Slayton, get your ass in here!

Sean returns to center and Coach Sykes blows the whistle. This is a whole different match. Sean attacks, throwing Kodi off guard.

Sean is smooth and relentless, keeping Kodi on his heels. Sean fakes a snap down to his right side and as Kodi reacts Sean changes direction and tosses Kodi in a beautiful

fireman's carry.

Once on the mat Sean makes short work of Kodi, hitting a wicked cross face, running the cradle and pinning him.

Coach Sykes slaps the mat and everyone in the room is stunned, including Kodi.

OLEG
Holy shit.

Sean walks out of the room leaving everyone wondering what just happened.

INT. DORM HALLWAY -NIGHT

Maya knocks on Sean and Oleg's door. She hears Oleg ranting inside.

OLEG (V.O.)
(to Sean)
Don't move ya little hostess! I'll get
the fuckin' door! It's probably your mom
again.

Oleg answers the door in his underwear. Oleg and Maya are both surprised. Oleg straightens his hair.

OLEG
Maya. How's it goin'?

MAYA
Good...Oleg. You're not wearing any
clothes.

Oleg looks at himself.

OLEG
Yeah. I was just cleaning up.

MAYA
Is Sean around?

OLEG
What for?

MAYA
He invited me over for dinner.

Sean finally comes to the door.

MAYA (CONT'D)
(to Sean)
Hey.

SEAN
You look great.

MAYA

Thanks.

Maya hands a bottle of Vodka to Sean.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Desert.

SEAN

(to Oleg)

Why don't you go put some clothes on.

OLEG

I will. Thanks.

Oleg walks inside.

OLEG

Ya little shit.

SEAN

Come on in.

INT. SEAN AND OLEG'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Maya is in the living room picking out the music as Oleg and Sean talk in the kitchen. Oleg is mixing drinks.

OLEG

So what's goin' on?

SEAN

What do you mean?

OLEG

The girl every boy in town has been
masturbating to every night since puberty
is in our living room and she's not here
to see me. What's goin' on?

SEAN

I don't know. She's really cool.

OLEG

No shit.

Oleg hands Sean a large drink.

SEAN

What is it?

OLEG

Texas tea. It'll grow some hair on your
ass.

SEAN

I could use some more hair on my ass but
I can't drink tonight.

OLEG
You touched it last. You have to drink
it.

SEAN
We have to be up and running in six
hours.

Maya dances into the kitchen, takes one of the drinks and
starts chugging it.

SEAN (CONT'D)
I have a weight check tomorrow.

Sean and Oleg watch in awe as Maya finishes the drink and
dances back out of the room.

SEAN (CONT'D)
I'm drinking tonight, aren't I?

OLEG
'Fraid so.

INT. SEAN AND OLEG'S DORM ROOM -LATER

The music is off, the room is dark and HALLOWEEN is playing
on the TV. Oleg is passed out in his bed snoring up a storm.

We move around the room past a coffee table cluttered with
drinking glasses, empty beer bottles and a clock which reads
2:45 a.m.

We come to the couch where Sean and Maya are spooning
together. Maya is asleep but Sean is awake. Sean gets up,
covers Maya with a blanket and watches her sleep.

Sean moves the hair out of Maya's face and goes to bed.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -DAY

Tiffany is scurrying around behind the counter drowning in
the early morning rush.

Maya comes flying through the door. She hurries behind the
counter and puts on her apron.

TIFFANY
Well, well, look what the cat dragged in.

MAYA
Sorry I'm late.

Maya looks at one of the tickets and starts helping Tiffany
with the orders.

TIFFANY

Late night?

MAYA

Yes.

TIFFANY

Any hanky panky?

MAYA

That's none of your business. I fell asleep on his couch.

Tiffany sets an order on the counter.

TIFFANY

There you go Hank.

HANK, a chubby, mid-fifties local walks up to the counter.

HANK

Thanks Tiff. Hey Maya.

MAYA

Morning Hank.

Hank grabs his contraband and walks out.

TIFFANY

(to Maya)

With or without him?

MAYA

I fell asleep with and woke up without.

TIFFANY

So he's either a gentleman or he's gay.
Or he's a wounded bird which is my vote.
So, how is it?

MAYA

I don't know. Complicated.

Maya sets two coffee drinks on the counter.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Two decaf vanilla mochas!

A LADY comes up and grabs her drinks.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Have a good day.

TIFFANY

Complicated good or complicated bad?

MAYA

Complicated good, I think. I just can't figure him out. He's a complete mystery.

Tiffany writes something on a piece of paper.

TIFFANY

Who's your friend?

MAYA

You are. Why?

TIFFANY

I was working late in the music department the other night and stumbled across something I think you'll enjoy.

She hands Maya the piece of paper. Maya studies it, completely confused.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

You can thank me later.

Tiffany walks into the back.

INT. MAC'S DORM ROOM -DAY

Mac is asleep in bed next to a GIRL. The phone rings and he sluggishly answers. It's Sean on the other end. We see both sides of the conversation.

MAC

Yeah?

SEAN

Where have you been?

MAC

Hey man, what's up.

SEAN

I've been calling all week. You ever check your messages?

MAC

Relax, man. I'm just busy with school and shit. How's Mayberry?

SEAN

It's a little backwards but it's cool. How's everything there?

MAC

Same shit different day.

SEAN

Coach said you're goin' forty-nine.

MAC

Yeah. I figured if you're not gonna be here to take it why cut the weight.

SEAN

It's a good move. I heard you beat up on Cante. He's tough.

MAC

He's a little pussy. Listen, I'm on my way out the door. I'll give you a call later.

SEAN

Alright.

They both hang up wishing they hadn't. Mac lays back in bed.

EXT. MUSIC BUILDING -NIGHT

The lights are out and there's nobody around. Maya tries the glass doors but they're locked. She studies the piece of paper Tiffany gave her and looks at the building number.

Maya begins knocking on the doors.

After a few minutes Leroy comes to the door. He stands there, looking at Maya through the door but makes no effort to open it.

LEROY

Can I help you, miss?!

MAYA

Are you Leroy?!

LEROY

Yes ma'am! Been so my whole life!

MAYA

Could you open the door for a second!?

LEROY

No ma'am! No one comes in or out past ten! That's the rules!

MAYA

Please!?

Leroy looks around to make sure Maya is alone.

LEROY

You ain't up to no good are ya?!

MAYA

No!

Leroy opens the door and sticks his head out.

LEROY

What's a young girl like you doin' out here all by herself?

MAYA

I'm not really sure. I'm supposed to tell you that I'm here for the concert, whatever that means.

LEROY

Concert? There ain't no concert tonight. You must have your p's and q's all mixed up.

Maya shows Leroy the instructions.

MAYA

I don't know. My friend said there was a concert here tonight-

Leroy looks at the instructions and suddenly a light bulb goes off in his head.

LEROY

Oh, you're here for the concert. Well then, you must be Maya.

MAYA

Do I know you?

LEROY

Do now. I'm Leroy. Come on in outa the cold.

Maya walks in and Leroy locks the door.

INT. MUSIC BUILDING/HALLWAY -NIGHT

Leroy leads Maya down a hallway.

LEROY

He was right. You're just as pretty as a picture.

MAYA

(confused)
Thank you.

They come to a set of wooden double doors and Leroy opens one. We hear the muffled sounds of a beautiful SONG being played on a piano.

LEROY

Enjoy the show now.

Maya enters and the door closes behind her.

The room is dark and Maya navigates carefully toward the sound of the piano.

A couple faint lights become visible and Maya realizes she is behind the stage in a small auditorium. On stage she sees Sean sitting at a piano making it sing.

Sean's fingers dance effortlessly across the Ivory. He plays with intense emotion.

Maya stands motionless in awe. In her eyes we see that she falls in love with Sean then and there.

Sean finishes the song and Maya claps. Sean turns, not expecting an audience.

SEAN

What are you doing here?

MAYA

I heard it was standing room only so I came early to get a good seat.

As she walks out on stage toward Sean she looks out at the empty seats.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Looks like I'm a little late.

SEAN

Do you have a back stage pass?

MAYA

Of course. All the cool people have a back stage pass.

SEAN

I'm gonna have to see it.

MAYA

It's right here.

Maya kisses Sean on the cheek. Sean scoots over and Maya sits on the bench next to him.

MAYA

I didn't know you played.

Sean starts playing softly.

SEAN

My Grampa always said there were three things a boy needed to grow up right: push-ups, piano, and fishing, and the

greatest of these is fishing.
But he made sure I had a healthy dose of
the other two.

MAYA
Do you ever play for real people?

SEAN
Not much.

MAYA
Why not?

SEAN
The wrestling is for everyone else. This
is mine.

MAYA
You're amazing. To be able to play like
that, it's a gift. You should share
that.

SEAN
I'm sharing it with you.

Maya lays her head on Sean's shoulder as he plays.

MAYA
Why are you so afraid of me?

SEAN
Because every time you smile you make me
feel something I have no right to feel.

MAYA
What?

Sean plays for a moment.

SEAN
Forgiven.

Maya doesn't understand but realizes Sean has just let her
behind his curtain and it's enough for now. She pulls Sean's
face toward hers and kisses him.

As we move away we hear the sound of a wooden boat KNOCKING
against a boathouse.

The knocking becomes the soft, powerful beat of DRUMS which
are accompanied by a PIANO. The SONG plays through the
following scenes.

INT. SEAN'S KITCHEN -NIGHT

Sean, Maya and Oleg are sitting on the floor carving
pumpkins.

Maya throws a string of pumpkin guts at Sean and hits him in the face. Maya and Oleg start laughing and Sean scoops up a handful of juicy guts and retaliates. Soon, all three are engaged in a no-holds-barred pumpkin-gut food fight.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -NIGHT

The pumpkins are lit and sitting in Sean and Oleg's window. The three artists stand in the courtyard and admire their work.

INT. WESTERN'S GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

Sean is wrestling a home match. Before he steps onto the mat he scans the crowd and sees Maya.

Sean wins the match and gets his hand raised. Maya, Tiffany and the rest of the crowd explode out of their seats cheering.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -DAY

Sean and Maya sprint through the torrential rain on their way home from school. Sean takes Maya's hand and stops under a tree. He takes her in his arms and kisses her.

INT. MAYA'S LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

Rain washes down the window as the storm rages outside. Firelight flickers on the wall and we move across the room past a two-person tent pitched near the fireplace.

We come to Sean and Maya kissing and roasting marshmallows over the fire.

INT. MAYA'S LIVING ROOM -LATER

Sean and Maya are in the tent making out. Maya is on top.

MAYA
Is this wierd?

SEAN
What do you mean?

MAYA
Rolling around with a girl instead of a bunch of sweaty guys.

SEAN
It's pretty much the same. Except with a girl there's more cuddling afterwards.

MAYA
The guys won't cuddle with you.

SEAN

Some do but not as long as I'd like.

Maya takes Sean's shirt off and sees his nipple bar. Maya laughs.

SEAN

What's so funny?

MAYA

You have a bar through your nipple.

SEAN

It's a promise to a friend.

MAYA

Who's the friend?

SEAN

My friend Mac back home. He's more like a brother. We grew up together. He wrestles for ASU.

MAYA

What's the promise?

SEAN

Not to forget about what's important, I guess.

MAYA

You're just full of wonderful surprises, aren't you?

Sean rolls over on top of Maya.

SEAN

I've got one more surprise for you.

MAYA

Bring it on, tough guy.

Sean takes Maya's shirt off as we move outside the tent.

The firelight casts Sean and Maya's shadows on the side of the tent as their silhouettes become one.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE -DAY

Maya and Sean are walking hand-in-hand around a lake, much like the one in Sean's dream, as the song FADES OUT. A thin layer of snow covers the ground and it's snowing lightly as they walk.

In the background we see a pier jut out into the lake and a small, wooden boat tied to it. We can faintly hear the boat KNOCKING up against the pier.

MAYA

It's so beautiful here.

SEAN

This reminds me of a place I used to go
fishing when I was little.

Sean stops and takes Maya's other hand.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

MAYA

Why?

SEAN

Trust me.

Maya closes her eyes. They stand for a moment in silence.

MAYA

Now what?

SEAN

Shh, listen. What do you hear?

MAYA

The wind in the trees.

SEAN

What else?

MAYA

A boat hitting the pier.

SEAN

Yeah. When I was little I was always
scared of the dark. So each night my
Grampa would tuck me in and prop my
window open with a little ship-in-a
bottle so that I could hear the boats
knocking around in the boathouse.
He said they were playing a song for me
on their drums, and if I could hear them
playing I wasn't alone, and it was safe
to go to sleep. Hearing the boats made
me feel like everything was OK, ya know?

Maya pulls Sean in and puts her arms around him.

MAYA

I love you.

SEAN

I love you too.

They kiss and resume their walk.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -DAY

Sean is in the room alone tossing the wrestling dummy over and over with his left hand. Maya enters.

MAYA

Hey, sexy! I don't know if anyone told you but practice was over an hour ago.

Sean keeps throwing the dummy.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Ya know, that guy you're wrestling, he isn't real. So if your waiting for him to wrestle back you're going to be here for a while.

Maya comes up to Sean.

MAYA (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Sean stops.

SEAN

The Idaho trip was cancelled. We're going to ASU.

MAYA

Oleg told me. I thought you'd be happy about going home for a couple days.

SEAN

I'm gonna wrestle Mac.

MAYA

Maybe not. It's a big tournament.

SEAN

If we both win we're gonna wrestle sooner or later.

MAYA

Maybe he'll lose.

SEAN

Mac doesn't lose. He's the best wrestler I've ever seen.

MAYA

Besides you?

SEAN

I guess we'll find out.

MAYA

Why don't you get cleaned up and we'll talk about it over dinner.

SEAN

You better go ahead. I have two days to come up with something he's never seen before.

MAYA

You sure?

SEAN

Yeah.

Maya wipes the sweat off Sean's face and gives him a kiss.

MAYA

Call me later.

SEAN

I will.

Maya leaves and Sean continues throwing the dummy.

INT. ASU LOCKER ROOM -DAY

The room is filled with wrestlers preparing for the tournament. Sean walks into the room with the rest of his Team.

As he walks through the room, Sean sees Mac dressing with his Team. They share a quick smile.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM/HALLWAY -DAY

Wrestlers, Coaches and spectators mill about the hallway before the tournament begins. Sean studies the brackets hanging on the wall.

Mac walks up and stands next to Sean. They both study the brackets.

MAC

I thought you were goin' forty-one.

SEAN

I'm dropping after Christmas break. Keep an eye on Woods. He'll pick-pocket those skinny-ass legs of yours all day.

MAC

You gonna bake me some fuckin' cookies too? I'll see you in the finals.

They knock fists and Mac walks away.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM -DAY

QUICK CLIPS of Sean and Mac fighting their way through the tournament. There are no easy wins and each of them takes their blows.

Before each of his matches, Mac walks the out of bounds circle one time as the voice haunts him. Sean Studies his OPPONENTS.

Sean is the recipient of a head-but in his second match which sends a stream of blood down his face. After the TRAINER -21- female, stops the bleeding, Sean pounds the GUY into submission.

We also see Oleg and Kodi progressing through the tournament.

Sean watches Mac's matches, Mac watches Sean's.

INT. ASU LOCKER ROOM -DAY

Sean stands in the shower letting the water cascade over his sore body.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The gym is quiet as WORKERS set up for the finals. Sean enters and walks to the center of the mat. After a moment he looks up and sees Mac sitting up in the stands alone.

Sean walks up and sits next to Mac.

MAC

I was kidding about that, "see you in the finals," shit.

SEAN

If you would have lost to Woods like you were supposed to we wouldn't be in this mess.

MAC

That was impressive, wasn't it?

SEAN

It was alright.

MAC

Have you gone to see Grampa?

SEAN

No. Not yet.

MAC

You should go see him.

SEAN

I will.

They both sit in silence for a moment.

MAC
You know how this has to go down.

SEAN
I know.

MAC
This is some messed up shit.

SEAN
Yes it is.

INT. ASU LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

Sean dresses alone. He puts his stocking cap on, puts his hood up and walks out.

Mac dresses alone. He puts on his headphones, cranks the MUSIC, puts his hood up and walks out.

INT. ASU GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

As the finals begin Mac retreats into a dark corner of the gym and prepares for the match. We hear a voice whispering in Mac's mind over his music as he grows angrier.

Across the gym Sean watches Mac.

SEAN (V.O.)
I know you. Every move, every gesture,
every set up, every thought. Your
strength is your unpredictability and
your weakness is impatience. I hear the
question playing over and over in your
mind and the answer is yes...

In the stands, Coach Whitson watches in anticipation.

As the one-forty-one pound matches conclude Mac comes out of the corner. He looks up to the stands and sees Jack sitting in the nose bleed section.

Sean and Mac walk to their corners and undress. Sean scans the crowd.

The noise of the CROWD, the REFEREE, Coach Syke's last instructions all seem to be filtered through a tunnel as Sean steps out onto the mat.

Sean puts on the green anklet and waits in the center as Mac steps out and walks the out-of-bounds circle.

SEAN (V.O.)

When you step onto the mat you don't have
the past, you don't have the future, you
don't have friends...you have six
minutes.

Mac comes to the center and puts on the red anklet. The two
wrestlers shake hands and the war begins.

The match is a classic battle between a thrower and a
shooter. Each wrestler seems to know what the other is going
to do before he does it.

Although the contest is nonstop action, the scoreboard reads
0-0 at the end of the first period.

Mac chooses down to start the second period and quickly
scores a one point escape. The war continues as both
wrestlers fly out of bounds numerous times.

At the end of the second period the score is 1-0 in Mac's
favor.

Sean chooses the down position to start the third period and
quickly ties the score at 1-1 with an escape.

Mac surprises Sean with a duck under and gets a single leg
and picks it up in the air. Sean grabs Mac's head and pulls
him over his body sending both wrestlers to the mat. After a
short scramble for control they come up neutral.

As the clock winds down Mac attacks Sean and drives him out
of bounds.

The Referee brings them back to center and BLOWS his whistle.
Again Mac drives Sean out of bounds.

REFeree
(to the scoring table)
Warning Green, stalling!
(to Sean)
Work toward center, green.

They return to center again. Sean looks at the clock and
sees that there's five seconds left.

The Referee BLOWS the whistle and both wrestlers fight for
control. It seems as though Mac has the upper hand as he
drives Sean towards the edge of the mat once again.

At the edge of the mat Sean hits a head throw with his left
hand catching Mac off guard. Both wrestlers fly out of
bounds but Sean's toes remain in and he is awarded two points
for the take-down as the clock expires.

Sean tries to help Mac up but Mac slaps his hand away. As
Mac rises to his knees defeated, he looks to the stands and
sees Jack walking out.

Both wrestlers go to the center and the Referee raises Sean's hand. Everyone cheers and Sean's Team comes out to congratulate him. Sean sadly looks at Mac as he walks off.

Coach Whitson looks on.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -DAY

Maya enters and finds Sean lying on his back in the center of one of the mats staring up at the ceiling. She lays down with her head next to his and her feet pointing in the opposite direction.

MAYA

You wanna talk about it?

SEAN

I won.

Maya looks at Sean.

MAYA

Can I ask you a question?

SEAN

Yeah.

MAYA

Why do you wrestle?

SEAN

I'm a wrestler. It's what I'm good at.

MAYA

You're good at everything you do, Sean. When you play the piano your eyes light up. It's like I'm listening to you laugh and cry and scream and love. I feel like I'm listening to all the things you keep trapped inside and it's beautiful. When you wrestle you step onto the mat, you go through the motions and get your hand raised. Like it's a job you hate going to every day. You can be anything you want. So why do you wrestle?

SEAN

Because for six minutes all the craziness stops. Inside the circle is the only part of my life I have any control over. Even if it's just for six minutes.

INT. RESTAURANT -DAY

Mac and Coach Whitson are sitting at a table across from each other.

MAC

Sean send you down to check on me?

The WAITRESS sets a hamburger down in front of Coach Whitson.

COACH WHITSON

You want anything?

MAC

No.

The Waitress leaves.

COACH WHITSON

Rumor has it you're dropping down to
forty-one for regionals.

MAC

If that's the rumor it must be true.

COACH WHITSON

You have a shot at a national title at
forty-nine.

MAC

But not at forty-one.

COACH WHITSON

I didn't say that.

MAC

Even if I take forty-nine I still come in
second and you know it. Second place is
like kissing your sister, isn't that what
you always said? I have to beat Sean.

COACH WHITSON

Is it worth ruining a friendship?

MAC

Yeah, it is. Tell Mrs. Whitson I said
hi.

Mac leaves.

INT. COACH WHITSON'S OFFICE -DAY

Coach Whitson is talking to Sean on the telephone.

COACH WHITSON

I talked to Mac. He's chasing you down.

INT. SEAN AND OLEG'S DORM ROOM -DAY

Sean is on the phone.

SEAN

Thanks.

Sean slams the phone down a few times and walks out.

EXT. WESTERN LIBRARY -DAY

Sean ducks into the library out of the pouring rain.

As Sean looks up a book on the reference computer he glances up to the second floor and sees Maya sitting at a table talking. Sean can't see who she's talking to.

Sean heads up the stairs.

INT. WESTERN LIBRARY -DAY

Maya and Bradley are sitting across the small table from each other. Behind them a huge window overlooks the campus. The trees are barren now.

BRADLEY

I've thought about you every single day.
I came to get you back. Whatever it
takes.

MAYA

Bradley...things are different now.

BRADLEY

I'm not asking you to marry me. Let's
just spend some time together and see
what happens, OK?

As Bradley talks, Maya sees Sean coming toward the table.
She's trapped.

MAYA

(to Sean)

Hey. What are you doing here?

SEAN

I came to check out a book. They still
do that here, don't they?

(to Bradley)

How's it goin'? I'm Sean.

BRADLEY

(immediately defensive)

Bradley.

Sean shoots a look at Maya who avoids his eye contact.

SEAN

Bradley, Maya's told me a lot about you.

BRADLEY

Really?

MAYA

Sean's a good friend of mine.

An uncomfortable silence ensues.

BRADLEY

Sean, it was nice meeting you.

Sean's glare goes right through Maya.

SEAN

Yeah, you too.

Sean walks away.

BRADLEY

Maya, all I'm asking is that you give us
a chance. We can make this work.

Suddenly, Sean plops a chair down at the table and sits as
though he's part of the conversation.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

We're having a private conversation here
if you don't mind.

SEAN

I don't mind.

BRADLEY

I think you should leave. Right now.

Sean smiles at Bradley, welcoming a little conflict.

MAYA

(begging with her eyes)
Sean...please?

Sean looks at Maya and his smile dissolves. Sean gets up and
walks out.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE -DAY

Sean and the rest of the Team are jogging down a country road
on a cold, overcast morning.

INT. WESTERN GYM/HALLWAY -DAY

The Wrestlers file out of the wrestling room after practice.
Maya is waiting in the hallway as Sean walks out.

MAYA

Can I talk to you for a second?

SEAN

No.

Sean walks into the locker room with the other Wrestlers. After a moment Maya follows him in. The other Wrestlers heckle Maya as she looks for Sean.

Maya walks up to Sean.

MAYA
Just let me explain, OK?

Bozley heckles Maya.

BOZLEY
Yeah, baby! Take it off!

SEAN
Shut the fuck up!

The Wrestlers quit yelling.

OLEG
Everybody out, let's go!

All the Wrestlers leave Sean's row except Kodi.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Kodi, move your Eskimo ass out the door!

KODI
I think maybe I'll stick around and watch the show.

Oleg steps up to Kodi.

OLEG
The only show is gonna be my foot stuck in your ass if you don't move.

KODI
Relax big man.

Kodi shuts his locker.

KODI (CONT'D)
(to Sean)
Looks like you got yourself a match you can't win.

Kodi smiles at Sean and walks out with Oleg.

Sean pulls his bag out of his locker and starts changing.

MAYA
I'm sorry. I didn't know he was coming. He just showed up on my doorstep and I didn't know what to do.

SEAN

Did you tell him we're together?

Maya doesn't say anything.

SEAN (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

MAYA

Sean please, he's only going to be here for a week. I'm going to tell him, I promise.

Maya stops Sean and takes his hand.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Hey, you can trust me ya know.

Sean takes his hand back and picks up his bag.

SEAN

What you did...I would never do that to you. And I already have plenty of friends.

Sean walks out.

INT. MAC'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

The phone rings and Mac's answering machine picks up.

MAC'S MACHINE

Leave a message.

SEAN (V.O.)

Mac, it's Sean, pick up the phone. Pick up the phone, Mac. I guess I have the wrong number. I'm looking for a friend of mine. We grew up together. He's a hundred and forty-nine pound pain in the ass, but he's all I've got. If you see him, tell him I don't want it to be like this. Tell him I'm asking him, as a friend, not to go forty-one.

As we hear Sean hang up the phone we see Mac sitting in a chair looking at the answering machine with tears in his eyes. He gets up, hits the erase button and walks out.

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT -DAY

Sean and Oleg are picking out a tree. Oleg proudly pulls out a Douglas Fir.

OLEG

This is our boy right here. Huh? What

do you think?

Sean looks at the scraggly tree and shakes his head no.

OLEG
(frustrated)
I'm tryin' to be jolly here and you're
pissin' on my parade. Picky little
bitch.

Oleg puts the tree back and continues the search.

SEAN
Anyone call today?

OLEG
No, she didn't call.

SEAN
It's been four days. Maybe something's
wrong.

OLEG
She's over there bangin' dip shit, that's
what's wrong.

SEAN
That's not funny.

Oleg disappears behind some trees.

OLEG
Damn right it ain't funny. You know I
love Maya but this situation ain't right.
If I was you I woulda gone over there and
punched a hole in his head.

Sean turns a corner and Oleg is standing in the aisle proudly
holding up a Blue Spruce.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Huh? Talk to me.

SEAN
Nice tree.

OLEG
Tell me you love it. Tell me you love
this tree.

SEAN
I love that tree.

OLEG
Fuckin' A. Pay the man.

Oleg picks up the tree and heads for his truck. Sean walks

over to pay the CASHIER.

CASHIER

Blue Spruce. That'll be fifteen dollars.

Sean hands the Cashier some money and as he waits for change he sees Maya looking at a tree across the lot with Bradley.

Bradley sees Sean out of the corner of his eye. He puts his arm around Maya's waist and leads her away from Sean.

BRADLEY

This is nice, being together again.

Sean is too far away to hear what is being said but he has seen enough. Bradley looks back and grins as Sean walks away. Maya moves away from Bradley.

MAYA

We're not together, Bradley.

BRADLEY

OK. I'm sorry.

Maya walks away and Bradley follows.

INT. WESTERN WRESTLING ROOM -NIGHT

The Wrestlers are warming up before a match. Coach Sykes comes in.

COACH SYKES

Bring it in!

The wrestlers take a knee around him.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)

This is our last match before break,
gentlemen! We win this, we break into
the top ten! That's a place this team
has never been before! This is gonna be
a battle!
Every match counts, every point counts!
Nobody beats us in our own home! Let's
do this!

INT. WESTERN GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

The crowd cheers as the wrestling gets under way. Sean stands motionless searching the crowd.

Boz loses a close match and comes off the mat. Sean takes off his sweats and looks to the crowd one last time.

COACH SYKES

Mitchell's a stud. Stay out of the tie
and go to work on his legs.

Sean nods and walks onto the mat. He is obviously distracted.

The match begins and Sean wrestles poorly. Sean's opponent, MITCHELL -20- scores the first take down. Sean gets an escape and the score is two to one in Mitchell's favor at the end of the first period.

Sean starts the second period in the down position and quickly scores an escape. The score is tied at two at the end of the second period.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)
(to anyone listening)
What the hell's he doin' out there?

Mitchell chooses neutral to start the third period.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)
(to Sean)
Hey! You gonna wrestle today or what?!
Let's go! Get in this!

The third period begins and neither wrestler seems to have an edge. Mitchell shoots and gets in deep on Sean's legs. Sean gets out of bounds and they return to center.

KODI
Stick a fork in 'em boys. He's done.

OLEG
Shut the fuck up!

Oleg explodes out of his seat as Sean and Mitchell return to the center.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Slayton! Pull your head out of your ass
and finish this little fucker!

The crowd cheers. The REFEREE BLOWS his whistle.

REFEREE
Technical foul! Unsportsmanlike conduct!
One point for the visiting team.
(to Coach Sykes)
Coach, one more outburst like that and
I'll forfeit the match!

Coach Sykes motions to Oleg to sit down and Oleg sits.

The match resumes and Sean is his old self, attacking relentlessly. The crowd cheers.

With fifteen seconds left Sean catches Mitchell in a hip toss and both wrestlers fall to the mat in a tangle. Sean lands

on top but something is obviously wrong.

Sean gets two points for the take-down but immediately calls time and limps to his corner. He is met by Coach Sykes, the Trainer and Oleg. Sean sits and they surround him. The crowd is silent.

Sean is in extreme pain. The Trainer starts to unlace his shoe.

COACH SYKES
What happened?

SEAN
My shoulder...it popped.

The trainer, confused, starts to check Sean's shoulder.

TRAINER
Let's have a look.

SEAN
Keep checking the ankle.

TRAINER
What?

COACH SYKES
(to the Trainer)
He's gonna attack whatever's hurt. Wrap the ankle.
(to Sean)
Is it bad?

SEAN
Yeah.

COACH SYKES
Can you finish?

Sean is in too much pain to answer.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)
Sean, you know how important this match is. We need these points. Can you finish the match?

OLEG
This is bullshit. Throw it in. We'll make up the points.

COACH SYKES
(to Oleg)
Shut your mouth.
(to Sean)
There's ten seconds left. Let him go and stall out. Finish this.

REFEREE
(to Coach Sykes)
Times up Coach.

COACH SYKES
He's ready.

They help Sean up and he limps to the center and takes his position on top.

The whistle BLOWS and the clock starts ticking. Sean let's Mitchell up. Mitchell immediately attacks Sean's taped leg.

Mitchell shoots and Sean blocks.

The clock winds down. 8,7,6...

Mitchell shoots and gets in on Sean's leg. Sean fights.

4,3,2...

In a desperate attempt to get away Sean pulls Mitchell's head down and dives away, breaking free as time runs out. Sean wins by a score of four to three. The crowd goes wild but Sean is badly hurt.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY -NIGHT

Sean comes out of a room with his arm in a sling. Coach Sykes and the DOCTOR -45- Iranian, walk out with him but stop to talk. Sean and Oleg walk down the hall.

OLEG
How is it?

SEAN
Not good.

OLEG
How long?

SEAN
Six to eight weeks. I'll be back in four.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is laying on the couch watching TV. He looks broken physically and emotionally. There's a KNOCK at the door.

Sean walks to the door with a great amount of effort. He opens the door and sees Maya standing there.

MAYA
Hi.

SEAN

Hey.

Maya sees Sean's arm in a sling.

MAYA

Oh my God, Sean! What happened?

Maya reaches for Sean but he pulls away.

SEAN

It's fine.

MAYA

You got a tree. It looks great.

SEAN

Listen, if this isn't anything important-

MAYA

I'm sorry I haven't called. I wanted to a thousand times I just...I was trying not to hurt either of you and ended up doing exactly the opposite. I don't know if you knew this about me but I'm a total klutz. Anyways, I'm sorry. And I missed you.

Sean remains stoic.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Oh, and I got you something.

Maya pulls a wrapped present out of her coat.

MAYA (CONT'D)

I saw it in a little gift shop and it made me think of you. You don't have to open it now but you can if you want.

Maya offers the present to Sean.

SEAN

You shoulda called.

Sean shuts the door. Maya sets the present on the doorstep and walks away stunned.

INT. MAYA'S HOUSE -NIGHT

Maya walks in the front door and hangs up her coat. Her cheeks are streaked with tears. Bradley is sitting in the living room drinking a beer.

BRADLEY

Where have you been?

MAYA
I went for a walk.

BRADLEY
Nice night out for a walk. Where'd you go?

Maya walks to her bedroom.

MAYA
Don't be here when I get home tomorrow.

Maya shuts the door.

INT. WESTERN CAFETERIA -DAY

Sean, Oleg, Kodi, Boz and a couple other Wrestlers are sitting at a large table. Everyone is eating except Sean, who has his head down and appears to be asleep.

Bradley walks in and looks around. He spots Sean and walks over to the table.

BRADLEY
(to Sean)
We need to talk.

OLEG
What's the matter with you? Can't you see he's asleep.

BRADLEY
This is none of your business.

OLEG
(standing)
I'm about to make it my business.

Sean lifts his head, still groggy.

SEAN
It's alright, man. I got it.

Oleg sits back down.

BRADLEY
(to Sean)
We need to talk.

SEAN
Yeah, I got that part. So talk.

BRADLEY
I think we should go someplace a little more private.

SEAN

I think you better say what you came to say before I go back to sleep.

BRADLEY
Maya's mine.

SEAN
Congratulations.

Sean lays his head back down. Bradley leans over and whispers in Sean's ear.

BRADLEY
You two may have had your little fun, but the fact is, one of us is going to get laid tonight and one of us isn't. She's mine.

In one fluid motion Sean flies out of his chair, pulls his arm out of the sling and throws Bradley onto the table sending food flying everywhere.

Sean takes a hand-full of Kodi's mashed potatoes and smashes them on Bradley's face. Bradley gasps for air as Sean holds him down by the throat.

SEAN
You ever disrespect her like that again and I'll rip your fucking heart out!

Sean walks out leaving Bradley lying on the table gasping for air as the Wrestlers mock him.

KODI
(to Bradley)
I was gonna eat those potatoes.

EXT. WESTERN CAFETERIA -DAY

Sean leans up against the wall holding his arm in obvious pain. He puts the arm in the sling and walks away.

INT. WESTERN WEIGHT ROOM -DAY

Oleg enters the room where Sean is doing special exercises to strengthen his shoulder. Sean is struggling with the exercises.

OLEG
How is it?

SEAN
Gettin' there. You takin' off?

OLEG
Yeah I was just on my way out. Ma's roasting a pig for Christmas dinner this

year. It pissed her off. There's plenty to go around.

SEAN
Thanks, but I better stick around and work out the kinks.

Oleg sets the wrapped present from Maya in front of Sean.

OLEG
I found this on the doorstep.

Sean throws it back to Oleg.

SEAN
Keep it.

OLEG
She called today. Said she's goin' up to her parents for Christmas. I know it's none of my business but I hate seein' you two crossways like this. Maybe you should-

SEAN
Thanks, man. Tell your mom I said Merry Christmas.

OLEG
I will.

Oleg gets up and shakes Sean's hand.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Stay out of trouble.

SEAN
Yes sir.

Oleg walks out.

EXT. WESTERN GYMNASIUM -NIGHT

Sean walks out of the gym. He zips up his coat and steps out into the rain.

There are Christmas lights on the houses near by. As Sean walks away a Christmas SONG begins and continues through the following MONTAGE.

INT. MAYA'S PARENTS HOUSE/LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

The tree is glowing, the fire is blazing and the walls are covered with festive decorations as Maya opens presents with her FAMILY on Christmas Eve. Everyone is having fun except Maya who is staring off at nothing in particular.

INT. MAC'S APARTMENT -NIGHT

Jack is passed out on the couch in front of the TV. Mac sets a present on the coffee table and walks out.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Sean lays on his couch holding the wrapped present Maya gave him. He unwraps the present and it's a ship-in-a-bottle.

INT. ASU SAUNA -DAY

A tiny square window on the sauna door reveals the red light inside muffled by the steam which fills the room. There is movement inside.

We cut through the steam and find Mac wrapped in plastics and sweats jumping rope. Sweat is dripping off his body.

INT. WESTERN LOCKER ROOM -DAY

Sean checks his weight. The needle doesn't drop. He slams the scale against the wall and walks away.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -DAY

The clouds hang low as Sean does bleachers alone.

INT. WESTERN DORM ROOM -NIGHT

The room is filled with Wrestlers and STUDENTS partying on New Years Eve. Sean and Oleg are standing in a group of PEOPLE talking. Everyone is laughing and having a good time except for Sean who seems preoccupied.

Sean looks up and sees Maya standing in the middle of the room looking amazing. Their eyes meet and they share a smile.

Sean walks to her. He takes Maya's hand and they begin to dance slow.

MAYA

Happy New Year.

Maya gives Sean a kiss and rests her head on his shoulder.

For a split second we see Mac in the crowd watching them dance.

As they turn, Maya lifts her head and looks into Sean's eyes. Maya puts her hands on Sean's face and he closes his eyes.

We move behind Sean and as we emerge on the other side, Maya has disappeared and Sean opens his eyes to see his Grampa standing in front of him wearing his hospital gown, frail and sick.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is asleep in his bed. He wakes from the dream shaken.

Sean looks out the window at the few students who remain on campus ringing in the new year with fireworks and noise makers.

INT. WESTERN AUDITORIUM -NIGHT

Sean is on stage playing the piano. Maya is in the back row in the darkness watching Sean play. Tears stream down her face.

The MUSIC stops.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -DAY

Maya and Oleg are sitting at a small table. Maya is visibly upset.

MAYA

How is he?

OLEG

He's good, ya know. His weight's down, his shoulder's gettin' better... he's a fuckin' train wreck. The two of you need to sit down and work this shit out.

MAYA

I don't know what to do. He won't return my calls, he won't even talk to me. Look at me. I'm a mess.

OLEG

You're not a mess, you're just in love.

MAYA

I don't want to be in love anymore.

INT. COLLEGE GYMNASIUM -DAY

Sean and the rest of the Team walk through the gym as it's being set up for the tournament. They pass the three level podium where the winners receive their medals. A WORKER is putting them together.

Oleg tests the first place podium.

OLEG

(to the Worker)

Make sure this one's sturdy.

INT. COLLEGE LOCKER ROOM -DAY

Mac is dressing. Sean walks up and stands behind him.

SEAN

Why are you doin' this?

MAC

I'm gonna win a national championship.
You're in my way. Nothin' personal.

SEAN

I didn't want it to be like this.

Mac stands and faces Sean.

MAC

You're the one that bailed, remember? We
coulda done this together but you had to
go and fuck everything up.

SEAN

That didn't have anything to do with you.

MAC

I know.

Mac closes his locker.

SEAN

I'm not gonna wrestle you again.

MAC

Yes you are.

Mac walks away.

SEAN

If it comes down to you and me I'm
throwin' in the towel.

Sean walks away and Mac follows him.

MAC

Don't do that! Sean, don't you fuckin'
do it! Hey!

Mac grabs Sean from behind and slams him against the lockers.
There's a desperation in Mac's eyes.

MAC (CONT'D)

This is all I've got! It's what I am!
Don't take that away from me!

Mac lets Sean go.

MAC (CONT'D)

Six minutes. That's all I want.
Everything you've got for six minutes.

INT. COLLEGE GYMNASIUM -DAY

Sean and Mac progress through the tournament. Neither loses a match.

Coach Whitson is on hand to watch the action.

INT. COLLEGE LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is sitting in the locker room alone before the match. He has an ice bag on his shoulder. He hears the door open and hides the ice. Coach Whitson comes in and sits next to him.

COACH WHITSON
Looks like Mac gets his rematch.

SEAN
Yeah.

COACH WHITSON
How's the shoulder?

SEAN
How'd you know?

COACH WHITSON
I've been watching you wrestle for five years. I know when one of my boys are hurt.

SEAN
I've played this over in my head a thousand times, Coach. I don't know how to make it come out right. What am I supposed to do?

COACH WHITSON
You go out and wrestle. You go hard for six minutes, you leave it all out on the mat and when it's done you shake hands. That's the way the game is played. You know it and Mac knows it.

Sean nods.

INT. COLLEGE LOCKER ROOM -NIGHT

An intense SONG begins to play.

Sean dresses in the dimly lit locker room with Kodi, Oleg and the rest of his Team.

Mac dresses in the locker room with a couple of his Teammates.

Sean puts on his stocking cap and puts his hood up.

Mac puts on his headphones, cranks up the music and puts his hood up.

Sean walks with his Team through the locker room. As in the beginning, a shadow seems to follow him through the room.

Mac walks through the locker room shrouded in shadow, plagued by the voice that torments his mind.

Sean walks through the double doors leading into the gym.

Mac walks into the gym.

The crowd cheers as the wrestlers enter.

INT. COLLEGE GYMNASIUM -MOMENTS LATER

All stand for the NATIONAL ANTHEM. Sean glances over at Mac.

The lights go out and the spotlights above the two mats come on.

Wrestling begins. Mac recedes into the corner of the gym.

Sean stares at Mac.

SEAN (V.O.)

I know you. I know every time you step
onto the mat you wrestle a father who
can't love you. I know you're hurting in
a place that the outcome of this match
can't fix.

I know you're the only family I've got.
I hear the question playing over and over
in your mind and the answer is yes...

Mac slaps himself a few times and comes out of his corner.
Sean and Mac both go to their corner of the mat and take
their sweats off.

Coach Whitson sits in the stands watching nervously.

Sean looks into the stands and walks out onto the mat.

SEAN (V.O.)

When you step onto the mat you don't have
the past, you don't have the future, you
don't have friends...you have six
minutes.

Mac walks out onto the mat and does his walk around the out
of-bounds circle as the BUZZING sound plagues his mind. He
looks angry.

Mac steps to the center where Sean and the Referee are

waiting. The Referee makes them shake hands. Mac avoids Sean's stare.

For a split second as they stand toe-to-toe their eyes meet. They both know what's at stake.

The whistle BLOWS and the war begins.

Mac comes out of the gate like a runaway train. Sean lets him come, countering every move.

Although the first period is non-stop action with both wrestlers taking their turns at offense and defense, it comes to an end with neither wrestler scoring.

Mac chooses the down position to start the second period. Sean lets him go and Mac scores the first point.

The second period plays out much like the first with neither wrestler making a mistake. As the clock ticks down in the second, Sean hits a beautiful fireman's carry and gets in deep on Mac's legs.

Mac counters by dropping his hips and hitting Sean with a strong cross face. Sean can't finish the move and time runs out.

The Referee calls time so Sean can clean the blood streaming from his nose. Sean goes to his corner and Coach Sykes stuffs a piece of tissue in his nose.

COACH SYKES

Keep working his legs. Be patient.

Sean returns to the center and starts in the down position for the third period. Sean gets an escape and the score is tied one-to-one.

Sean is angry about the cross face and attacks Mac with a vengeance. Sean hits a combination of moves and drives Mac to the edge of the mat. Sean surprises Mac with a beautiful duck under, gets behind him and scores the take down as they fall out of bounds.

Sean leads three-to-one.

They return to center. The whistle BLOWS and Sean lets Mac up, now leading three-to-two. Toward the end of the third period the two wrestlers lock up and battle for control.

Mac gets Sean's injured shoulder in an over-under and starts to torque it. Sean pulls the tissue out of his nose and lets the blood stream out forcing the Referee to call time.

Sean walks to his corner trying not to show his pain. Coach Sykes stuffs another piece of tissue in his nose.

COACH SYKES (CONT'D)

Twenty seconds. Stay out of the tie and
attack his legs. Be smart.

As Sean listens he betrays his injury by holding his arm
close by his side. Mac sees the mistake as the voice echoes
relentlessly through his mind.

They return to center and the match resumes. This time Mac
goes straight for Sean's shoulder, getting the over-under and
cranking it as hard as he can.

Sean fights for control but Mac keeps attacking the shoulder.
Finally the pain is too much and Sean falters. Mac seizes
the opportunity and throws Sean to the mat hard. Mac scores
the take down as the time runs out and wins by a score of
four to three.

Sean is in a great deal of pain and is helped off the mat as
Mac gets his hand raised.

INT. COLLEGE TRAINING ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is sitting on a table as the DOCTOR checks his shoulder.
Oleg and Coach Sykes are in the room.

DOCTOR

I'll have to run some more tests but
you're done for the season. I'm sorry.

Sean looks up and sees Mac watching from the other room.
Their eyes meet. Oleg sees Mac and shuts the training room
door.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE -DAY

Sean is at the lake he and Maya came to together. He's
sitting on a bench at the end of the dock staring out across
the lake, listening to the sound of the boat KNOCKING against
the dock.

Sean's arm is back in the sling.

Behind Sean we see Oleg walk down the dock. He sits next to
Sean.

OLEG

You're a hard man to find.

SEAN

So how'd you find me?

OLEG

I looked everywhere else. Maya said you
might be up here. She's worried about
ya.

SEAN
I'm leavin'.

OLEG
What are you talkin' about, leavin'?
You're not going anywhere. You're gonna
get that shoulder patched up good as new,
patch things up with Maya cause you're
crazy about each other, win a national
championship, get married in a few years,
I'll be the best man cause I look tits in
a tuxedo, squirt out a couple kids and
we'll all grow old together watching your
rugrats mow the lawn and telling them how
cool we were when we were their age.

They sit in silence for a moment.

OLEG (CONT'D)
You really leavin'?

SEAN
Yeah.

OLEG
How come?

SEAN
I came here lookin' for something I'm not
gonna find. Not here.

OLEG
What?

SEAN
A home.

OLEG
Maybe this is it. Maybe you just need to
ride out the shit storm, ya know? Let
things settle.

SEAN
I've always dreamed of living in a place
like this. Problem is it's not real.

OLEG
Whaddya mean?

SEAN
You ever been to Disney Land?

OLEG
Once, when I was a kid.

SEAN
That's what this place is like. The

second you walk through the gate,
everything is magic. Animals talk,
people fly, and for a while you forget
about where you came from or where you
were going. While you're there
everything is perfect. But if you stay
too long you start to figure out how
everything works, and it isn't magic
anymore. And the second you walk back
out the gate, everything you left behind
is still there, waiting for you. I think
I stayed too long.

OLEG
When ya leavin'?

SEAN
End of the week.

It starts to snow.

INT. SEAN'S DORM ROOM -NIGHT

Sean is folding his clothes and packing them in his bag.
Oleg is sitting on the couch pretending to watch TV, sinking
deeper into depression at the thought of Sean leaving.

Oleg gets up and puts his coat on.

SEAN
Where ya goin'?

OLEG
I'm gonna drink myself into my happy
place. I'll see ya in the morning.

Oleg leaves and leaves the door open. As Sean packs we see
Maya stand in the doorway behind him. She watches him pack
for a moment.

Maya walks up and without a word starts helping Sean fold his
clothes and pack.

MAYA
I know you feel like I betrayed you, but
I didn't. I made a mistake. People make
those all the time, right.

(beat)
When I heard you were leaving I wanted to
hate you. I wanted to be angry and
scream and cry...but most of all I just
wanted you to stay. But then I
remembered the first time I saw you
smile, how beautiful it looked on you,
and how it made me feel special, that you
chose to share it with me. That's when I
realized that this isn't about you and

me, it's not about wrestling or your shoulder or Mac...it's about that sadness you keep behind your eyes. You lost your smile, and you have to go find it.

(beat)

I don't know how to say goodbye to you, Sean. So I'm just going to give you a hug and pretend that your going for a walk, and when you're done walking you'll come back and I'll be here waiting for you, OK?

Maya gives Sean a hug and they both hold on tight.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Tell me you forgive me. Tell me it's OK.

SEAN

It's OK.

MAYA

I love you.

Maya pulls back and sees a tear streaming down Sean's face. She wipes it away and keeps her hand on his face.

SEAN

I'm sorry.

MAYA

I know.

Maya steps into the hallway and shuts the door. She leans against the wall and breaks down.

EXT. BUS STOP -DAY

Sean gives Oleg a hug and gets on the bus. Oleg waves as the bus rolls away.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR -NIGHT

CU of the needle puncturing the skin on Mac's back repeatedly.

Mac's face looks tortured as Roach works but not from the pain of the needle. He welcomes that pain.

EXT. BUS STATION/PHOENIX -DAY

Sean's bus rolls in. Coach Whitson is waiting as Sean steps off. They shake hands and Coach Whitson takes Sean's bag.

COACH WHITSON

Welcome home kiddo.

Coach Whitson rubs Sean's head as they walk into the

terminal.

INT. CAR -DAY

Coach Whitson is driving and Sean is riding shot gun. Sean watches the city pass by outside the window.

COACH WHITSON
Have you heard from Mac?

SEAN
No.

COACH WHITSON
I got a call from Coach Ortiz last night. Mac pulled a vanishing act. No one's seen him since regionals. I checked every place I could think of but he's dug in pretty good. I was hoping he talked to you.

SEAN
I'll find him.

COACH WHITSON
Do it quick. He's got a week and a half before nationals. If he blows this he won't get a second chance.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE -DAY

Sean gets out of the car with his bag and walks into his house.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE -DAY

Sean walks in the door and looks around the room. The walls are covered with painful memories.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM -NIGHT

Sean is unpacking. He pulls the two pictures he had on the window sill out of his bag and places them on the dresser.

Next he pulls out the ship-in-a-bottle and searches it for answers. He places the ship between the pictures exactly as it sat in his Grampa's hospital room.

EXT. WESTERN CAMPUS -DAY

Maya is sitting on a bench near the fountain on a cold winter's day. The duck has flown south for the winter leaving her all alone. She tosses the penny into the fountain and walks away as the ripples spread across the pool.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR -NIGHT

Sean walks into the piercing room and finds Roach smoking something illegal and working on his own tattoo.

ROACH

Sean. Brother. You're looking for Mackenzie.

SEAN

Have you seen him?

ROACH

He was in a few days ago. Real tense, uneasy. Physical manifestations of spiritual unrest. Made me give him a new tat. I tried to tell him it's like trippin', ya know. The trip depends on the mind set and he was wading through the dark side. Bad juju brother. The dude's not right.

SEAN

Ya know where he went?

ROACH

Wouldn't say. I told him he could crash here but you know Mackenzie. Can't bottle the tempest.

SEAN

Thanks.

Sean starts to walk out.

ROACH

His dad, man. His dad's a reptile. Can't run from 'em. Their like a fuckin' cancer, eating away at you from the inside. Only one way to purge the beast. Call it out, stand toe-to-toe and go to war. Blood sweat and tears, brother. Blood sweat and tears.

Sean walks out.

EXT. STREET CORNER -NIGHT

Mac walks down the street with a half empty Jack Daniels bottle in his hand. He comes to a stoplight and waits as the DON'T WALK sign flashes red and traffic passes by.

Across the street RICK -30's- and KIM, also in her thirties, exit a bar followed by a group of FRIENDS. Rick and Kim are arguing.

RICK

(to Kim)

What the hell was that all about! Huh!?

KIM

What are you talking about!?

RICK'S FRIEND

(to Rick)

Come on man, cool down.

RICK

(to his Friend)

Shut your mouth!

As Mac watches the sign flash, Rick's words echo through his mind.

RICK

(to Kim)

I'm sick and tired of your bullshit!

Suddenly Rick's voice sounds like Jack. The sign flashes. Mac grows angrier.

JACK (V.O.)

You make me sick! You worthless piece of
shit!

Mac glances over as Rick grabs Kim by the arm and shoves her. Suddenly Mac snaps. The sign changes to "walk" and Mac crosses the street and heads for Rick.

Mac pulls Rick away from Kim and starts to punish him. Rick's friends join in and it's three to one. Mac punishes them all.

KIM

Please, Stop! He didn't mean it!
Please?!

Mac throws one of the guys over a parked car and as he attacks Rick again he sees a little BOY -5- staring at him from inside the parked car. The Boy looks exactly like Mac as a boy.

Mac is frozen as he stares at the Boy. Suddenly one of Rick's friends knocks Mac to the ground and starts beating him. Mac remains focused on the Boy who looks on sadly. Mac takes a hit.

BLACKOUT

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE -NIGHT

A cab pulls up to Sean's house with Maya in the back. Maya looks at the house nervously but doesn't move.

CAB DRIVER

You want me to wait?

MAYA

No. Thanks.

Maya gets out and the cab pulls away. She walks to the front door and knocks but no one answers. After the third knock a voice comes from the shadows.

MAC

You can huff and you can puff but you
can't blow the house down. So go away.

Maya can't see who the voice belongs to. She searches the darkness.

MAYA

I'm sorry. I'm looking for Sean Slayton.
Does he live here?

MAC

That depends. Who are you?

MAYA

I'm Maya. I'm a friend of his from
Oregon. Who are you?

MAC

Me? Nobody.

Mac gets up and stumbles into the light. He looks beaten and a small stream of blood trickles from a cut above his eye.

MAC (CONT'D)

Just a bad dream.

MAYA

You're bleeding.

Mac leans against the wall to steady himself. Maya helps him.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

Mac is sitting on the couch and Maya is cleaning his cut.

MAYA

Sean talked about you all the time. I
feel like I know you.

MAC

You don't know me. If you did you would
have left me in the yard.

MAYA

You can't be all that bad. Sean always
said you were his brother. He's a pretty

good judge of character.

MAC

Brother. Traitor. Same fuckin' thing.

MAYA

How did you and Sean meet?

MAC

Kindergarten, super hero day. I didn't have a costume so I wrapped myself in tin foil and scotch tape. The other kids laughed at me. At lunch I was sitting by myself and Sean came and sat by me in his Batman costume. It was a cool fuckin' costume. He gave me his cape and said we could be the Dynamic Duo. Our super power was no one could see us or touch us when we were together. And that's how it was. No one could touch us. Brothers.

Maya glances at the pictures on the walls.

MAYA

I don't see any pictures of Sean's parents.

MAC

There aren't any. His mother died when he was born and he never knew his father. His Grampa raised him. He raised both of us. He was a tough old man. John Wayne tough, ya know? He died last year and Sean has been lost ever since. And his brother, the one person in the world who's supposed to protect him, betrayed him. I was all he had left. There's no forgiveness for that.

Maya and Mac sit in silence letting Mac's last comment sink in. It cuts deep into both of them.

Maya finally realizes where Sean's anger toward her is coming from.

MAYA

Do me a favor. Don't tell Sean I was here.

Maya leaves and Mac falls asleep.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM -LATER

Sean enters the house and finds Mac passed out on the couch. Sean sits next to him and watches him sleep, relieved.

Sean gets a blanket and puts it on Mac. Mac wakes, still

drunk and groggy.

MAC

You're home.

SEAN

Yeah, I'm home. Where have you been?

MAC

I'm sorry. I'm so fucking sorry.

SEAN

Don't worry about that now. Get some sleep.

MAC

I'm sorry.

Mac falls back to sleep.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN -DAY

Sean is sitting at the table eating cereal when Mac comes in suffering from a severe hangover. Mac gets a glass of water and a bowl.

SEAN

What happened to your face.

MAC

I don't remember.

Mac sits at the table and pours a bowl of cereal.

SEAN

One of these days you're gonna have to hit the right person.

They eat in silence.

MAC

I'm sorry. If I could take it back I would. I swear to God.

SEAN

I wouldn't let you. We both stepped on the mat to win. That's what we do. I would have done the same thing.

MAC

No you wouldn't.

SEAN

I hear their holding nationals in Iowa in a few days. What do you say we drop in and win a national championship.

EXT. IOWA COUNTRYSIDE -DAY

The morning sun casts a brilliant red-orange across the eastern sky and a light fog hangs low over the rolling farmlands. The only sound we hear are birds CHIRPING.

INT. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER -DAY

The Activity Center is empty and lit only by sunlight which streams through the windows. Banners adorn the ceiling, paying tribute to Iowa's dominant wrestling history.

A banner hanging in the center of the room reads: 2001 NCAA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -DAY

A quiet tension fills the air as Wrestlers weigh in and prepare for the tournament. Sean is looking over the brackets and Mac is getting dressed.

SEAN

You've got Rafferty first. He's a freestyler. Work him from the outside.

Mac nods.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You good?

MAC

Yeah, I'm good.

SEAN

Alright, I'll see you upstairs.

Mac continues dressing. The voice in his head begins to buzz. He puts his headphones on and turns up the volume to drown out the voice.

As Sean walks through the locker room Kodi walks up in his street clothes, leather hat and bear claw necklace. He stops in front of Sean.

KODI

You can take the warrior out of the battle, but you can't take the battle out of the warrior.

Kodi holds out his hand and Sean shakes it.

SEAN

Good luck.

Oleg walks up to Sean.

OLEG

They'll let anyone in this dive!

SEAN

What's up big man?

Oleg picks Sean up and shakes him, not concerned about Sean's injury.

OLEG

Damn it's good to see ya.

SEAN

You too.

OLEG

You gettin' all your shit worked out?

SEAN

Workin' on it. How are things in the Grove?

OLEG

Just another day in Disney Land, brother. You ain't missin' nothin'.

SEAN

How's Maya?

OLEG

Call and ask her.

Sean avoids the subject. He refers to the brackets in his hand.

SEAN

Fifth seed, huh. You gettin' soft?

OLEG

They can measure wins and losses but they can't measure heart. Besides, I like to play the long shot. Makes for a better show.

SEAN

I'll be watching. Walk on water.

OLEG

Turn water to wine, baby.

INT. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER -DAY

The Activity Center is packed and the wrestling has begun. Sean and Coach Whitson are sitting in the stands watching the action and Mac is off in a corner.

Coach is looking at the brackets.

COACH WHITSON
He has a good draw. He won't meet
Rathman until the third round.

SEAN
He's tough.

The one-thirty-three pound matches conclude and Mac comes out
of his corner.

SEAN
Here we go.

Sean walks down to the floor and ties up with Mac.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Take it to him on the whistle. Circle to
his left and set up your shot.

Mac nods.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Everything you've got. Six minutes. Be
smart.

Mac walks the circle as the voice plagues his mind. He walks
to the center and the match begins.

QUICK CLIPS of Mac wrestling his first match. He fights for
every move, every point and gets his hand raised.

Oleg wins his first match, gets his hand raised and points to
Sean as he walks off the mat.

Mac wins his second match and gets his hand raised.

Kodi loses his first match.

In his third match against RATHMAN -20- tough, Mac is winning
four to two with fifteen seconds left in the third period.

Mac is on top. Rathman hits a strong switch and almost
finishes it as the two wrestlers go out of bounds. The
REFEREE brings them back to center.

Before returning to center Mac looks to Sean. Sean signals
for Mac to let him go and attack his left leg.

The match resumes with Mac on top. He follows Sean's
instructions and scores a takedown, winning the match six-to
three.

Oleg loses his second match.

INT. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER -LATER

Sean is on the floor with Mac before his semi-final match.

SEAN

Coach said Morao's got a sore right leg.
Push him early and test it. Get through
this one and you're in the finals.

Quick clips of Mac beating Moreo -19-.

With thirty seconds left in the match Mac scores a takedown
and is leading by a score of four-to-one. Moreo is injured
and obviously defeated.

COACH ORTIZ

(to Mac)
Ride it out!

SEAN

Alright. Ride it out.

The voice in Mac's mind becomes overwhelming. Suddenly, Mac
lets Morao up and the score is four to two.

COACH WHITSON

What's he doin'?

SEAN

I don't know.

Mac attacks Moreo with renewed intensity. He smells blood
and goes after it. As the buzzer sounds, Mac tosses Morao
off the mat and onto the hardwood floor.

The REFEREE comes over and pulls Mac away. Morao doesn't
move and Mac looks at his defeated foe.

There's a spattering of BOOS from the crowd as Mac gets his
hand raised.

Mac grabs his sweats and heads for the lockers. Coach Ortiz
grabs Mac by the arm.

COACH ORTIZ

What the hell was that?! I told you to
ride it out!

MAC

I won.

Mac pulls away from Coach Ortiz and walks out. Sean leaves
the stands and follows him.

INT. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER/HALLWAY -DAY

Mac is putting his sweats on when Sean bursts through the
double doors.

MAC

I don't wanna hear it-

Sean walks up and punches Mac in the face and pins him against the wall. Mac is stunned.

SEAN

You want to hurt somebody!? Huh!?

Sean throws Mac to the ground. Mac gets up and the war is on. Both land punches. This battle is better than any we've seen on the mat.

Sean holds Mac by the throat and gets in his face.

SEAN (CONT'D)

That's not Jack out there! You get that!? It's not Jack!

Mac knocks Sean off and delivers a strong blow that sends Sean reeling.

MAC

Fuck you! When was the last time you paid your respects to your dead grandfather?! Remember him!?

Mac's comment cuts deep.

MAC

You turned your back on him! You turned your back on me! Fucking coward.

Sean attacks Mac again. They are both growing weary from the battle. They are both bloodied. There is a pause in the fighting.

SEAN

He'd be ashamed of you today. I won't be part of this.

Sean starts to walk out and Mac tackles him from behind and they both fall to the ground. Neither can get back to their feet.

Sean spits out some blood and both of them prop themselves up against opposite walls. They look at each other and let out a muffled, painful laugh.

They sit in silence for a moment.

SEAN

I'm sorry I left.

MAC

You didn't kill him ya know. He got sick and died. That's what people do. It wasn't your fault.

SEAN

I know.

They sit for a moment.

MAC

Every time I step onto the mat I hear
Jack's voice...I see his face...and I
can't stop it. I need you to be there.

Sean reaches out his hand and Mac takes it. They help each
other up.

SEAN

One condition.

INT. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER -NIGHT

The National Anthem concludes and the lights go out as the
finals begin. Mac recedes into a corner of the gym. Sean
and Coach Whitson are sitting in the stands.

COACH WHITSON

That should have been you out there.

Sean doesn't respond.

COACH WHITSON (CONT'D)

But I guess things work out the way their
supposed to.

SEAN

Yeah.

COACH WHITSON

You're not goin' back, are ya?

SEAN

No.

COACH WHITSON

What's your plan?

SEAN

I don't know. I was thinking about
music.

COACH WHITSON

Music, huh? I can see that. Seems like
a damn waste of God-given talent, though.

SEAN

I was never a wrestler, Coach. I was
just a kid who could wrestle.

COACH WHITSON

Yeah, I know. I expect free tickets to your concerts. Front row center.

SEAN

I'll see what I can do.

Mac slaps himself and comes out of his corner. He steps to his corner of the mat and takes his sweats off.

Before meeting in the center Mac walks the circle. The voice intensifies and Mac begins to lose control.

Mac steps to center. He looks angry, out of control. Mac glances into the stands and makes eye contact with Sean. He closes his eyes and takes a deep breath, hushing the voices.

Mac steps on the line and shakes his OPPONENT'S hand. The whistle blows and the two wrestlers collide.

EXT. CEMETERY -DAY

Sean and Mac get out of Sean's car. Sean is holding flowers. He stops and looks across the cemetery.

MAC

Go talk to him.

SEAN

I don't know what to say.

MAC

You don't have to say anything.

Sean walks to his Grampa's grave and Mac waits at the car. Mac watches as Sean sets the flowers on Grampa's head stone and sits in the grass.

Sean starts to cry.

INT. BAR -DAY

The hole-in-the-wall bar is dead on a weekday evening. Mac walks in and sits next to Jack who is working on a beer and a cigarette at the bar. The bartender, BARRY -35- is crunching numbers at the end of the bar. He comes down as Mac sits.

JACK

Look what the cat dragged in. Barry, this is my kid. Second best wrestler in the country. That deserves some sort a consolation prize, don't it?

BARRY

Congratulations. What can I get ya?

MAC

(to Jack)

Third best wrestler in the country. And
I didn't come here to drink.

Barry goes back to his business.

JACK
Well, I know you didn't come down here to
spend quality time with your old man. So
what do you want?

MAC
I came down here to kick your ass.

JACK
Is that right?

MAC
That's right.

Jack finishes his beer.

JACK
Barry!

Jack shows Barry his bottle and holds up two fingers.

MAC
I had it all planned out. I was gonna
walk in the door, grab a pool stick on my
way past the table and crack your head
open with it. While you were on the
floor bleeding I was gonna bitch slap
you. Once for every time you knocked me
down. When I figured we were square I
was gonna finish your beer, walk out and
never think about you again.

JACK
Sounds like a good plan. What happen,
you lose your nerve?

Barry sets a beer in front of each of them.

MAC
I realized I'd be slappin' your drunk ass
around for eighteen years and I have shit
to do.

Jack laughs and toasts with his beer.

JACK
Shit...best laid plans.

They sit for a moment. Mac pulls a worn ticket stub out of
his pocket and lays it on the bar.

MAC

Nineteen-eighty-seven. Flyers vs. the Red Wings. I was five years old when you took me to that game. We sat center ice, four rows off the glass and you explained the game to me. I don't remember what the score was or who won but as we were walking out you put your hand on my shoulder and said, "real men play hockey". I spent the next three weeks in the driveway with a broom and a can practicing my slap shot. You never even looked out the window. My whole life, all I ever wanted was to make you proud of me. Why couldn't you let me do that?

Jack looks at Mac in the mirror behind the bar.

JACK

You remind me of your mother.

MAC

Yeah, well she left me too. So fuck you.

Mac sets his beer on the ticket stub and slides it over to Jack and walks out.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -NIGHT

Sean walks into the coffee shop. The radio is playing but no one is there.

Sean walks into the back room where Maya is doing the dishes. She is wearing her apron and yellow dish gloves.

Sean knocks on the wall and Maya turns around.

SEAN

Hey.

MAYA

Hey.

SEAN

I was just taking a walk and saw your light on.

MAYA

They don't have hot chocolate in Arizona?

SEAN

Yeah, they have hot chocolate. But they don't have you. Or those little colored marshmallows.

MAYA

Let's say, hypothetically, that you're trapped in a blizzard way up in the

mountains somewhere and all you have to keep you warm is a cup of hot chocolate and hypothermia is setting in; which one would you rather have, me or the marshmallows?

SEAN

You...smothered in marshmallows.

They share a smile. Sean's smile dissolves.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

MAYA

I know.

SEAN

Last year my uh....my Grampa got really sick and he died.

Sean gets choked up.

SEAN (CONT'D)

He was my uh...he-

MAYA

It's OK.

SEAN

No, it's not. After he died I started running and I couldn't stop. And when I finally did stop I looked around and realized I had left everyone I cared about behind. It's not an excuse, I just needed to tell you that. And that running away from you was one of the worst things I've ever done. So I'm sorry.

MAYA

OK.

Maya has tears in her eyes.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Is there any chance you'll get over here and kiss me soon?

Sean walks to Maya. She throws her arms around him and they kiss. Maya looks into Sean's eyes.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Wow. You're really crazy about me, aren't you?

SEAN

Yeah.

Sean and Maya kiss again. As we move away Maya gives Sean some gloves and they start doing the dishes together. We hear the sound of the BOATHOUSE DRUMS grow.

SEAN (V.O.)

Life is a journey, and along the way we meet people who save us; from losing our way, from giving up, even from ourselves. It took me a long time to realize that home isn't just a place of origin or a collection of walls to hang our memories from, it's that place in our soul where we finally find peace. If I ever feel lost or alone in this world I just close my eyes and listen to the sound of the boathouse drums leading me back to a place called home.

THE END