

Never Give Up
by Xueying Liu

May 10 2021

©Xueying Liu
All Rights Reserved

xueying.liu1@stu.bmcc.cuny.edu

INT.THE NATIONAL STADIUM'S INC RINK.DAY

WANDA,18, a white female and a champion short-track speed skater, crosses the 500 meters finish line, ahead of all other SKATERS. The crowd is in an uproar! WANDA kneels on the ground and kisses the ice. The COMMENTATOR's excited face appears on the big screen of the stadium.

COMMENTATOR
Congratulations to WANDA for breaking
her previous world record for the
fifth time with a time of 42"89.

EXT. THE SQUARE OUTSIDE OF THE NATIONAL STADIUM.DAY

WANDA walks out of the stadium. Many REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS scramble to interview WANDA and take photos.

REPORTER
What's your goal for next year's
Olympics?

WANDA
Champion is my mission.

YANG, 40 years old, stands in the middle of the crowd, thumbs up to WANDA. WANDA exciting beckons to him. PETER, wears a suit with a "Sun Club" logo on the left chest, eagerly pushes YANG out of the way, squeezes out of the crowd ,and faces the cameras. PETER urgently grabs WANDA to face the media and lets the PHOTOGRAPHER take pictures.

INT.SUN CLUB GYM.DAY

WANDA sits on the bicycle and rides to accelerate to the fast speed. The sun shines on WANDA's face, it is very dazzling.

INT.SUN CLUB GYM.NIGHT

WANDA turns on the stretch cord's belt, resists the pressure, and runs back and forth according to fixed points on the ground several times.

INT.SUN CLUB ICE RINK.DAY

WANDA and her TEAMMATES skate on the ice track. One of the TEAMMATE tries to pass her but fails. They are skating faster and faster. Suddenly, WANDA collides with her TEAMMATE who glides behind her and tries to overtake her. WANDA falls to the ground. The TEAMMATE's ice skate cuts WANDA's right ankle.

EXT.OPERATING ROOM.DAY

The "operating" light on the operating room's door turns off.
The NURSE pushes WANDA out.

EXT.HOSPITAL CORRIDOR.DAY

PETER and other club TEAMMATES come up from the lobby and
squeeze outside the door of the ward to see her.

INT.HOSPITAL RECOVERYROOM.DAY

WANDA tries to sit up from the bed, her face is grimacing.
The DOCTOR pushes the ward's door, comes in. The door is
open. PETER comes in.

WANDA
Will I be able to skate again?

DOCTOR
There's no guarantee. You need another
surgery. I don't know if the insurance
will cover it.

PETER jaw drops when he hears the Doctor. Yang hurriedly
opens the door.

YANG
Just do it, Wanda.

EXT.OPERATING ROOM.DAY

The "operating" light turns on the operating room. Only YANG
waits outside.

INT.HOSPITAL RECOVERYROOM.DAY

WANDA sits on the bed. The TV shows a video of her winning
the championship. WANDA lowers her head, with a gaze on the
ground. YANG walks in with lunch. He turns off the tv.

WANDA
I don't think I can recover like that.

YANG
It's just a new start for you!

INT.HOSPITAL WARD.DAY

The DOCTOR uses a cast saw to help WANDA take off her cast.

EXT.HOSPITAL WARD.DAY

WANDA slowly walks toward the physiotherapy department while holding a handrail in the corridor. She falls to the ground; a NURSE passing by, stops and helps her up. She continues to walk forward to it.

INT.HOSPITAL PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT.DAY

WANDA uses a resistance band around her toes, and she holds it to move her ankle into dorsiflexion, inversion, and eversion. Several times later, sweat appears on her face.

THERAPIST

Don't push yourself too much! Step by step!

INT.SUN CLUB.DAY

WANDA walks towards PETER's office. People pass by all points to her and gossip. She ignores those people, stands outside PETER's office and knocks on the door.

INT.SUN CLUB PETER'S OFFICE.DAY

WANDA sits opposite PETER.

WANDA

I used up all my savings. Can I pay for training expenses after I get the next gold medal bonus?

PETER

I don't think you will be able to win the final against other competitors.

WANDA gritting teeth and stands up

WANDA

Come on, peter. I have been with you for the past five years, helping the club win so many medals.

PETER

I am sorry, it's just business! If you can't pay the bill now, just leave.

WANDA icy stare PETER, presses her lips firmly together, leaves PETER's office.

INT.WANDA'S HOME.NIGHT

The sky starts to turn dark outside the window. WANDA runs on her home 's treadmill and accelerates. She runs faster, slides off the treadmill exhausted, and falls to the ground. She looked up at the ceiling. The tears burst out of her eyes. She cries loudly.

INT.WANDA'S HOME.NIGHT

WANDA's home doorbell rings. She opens the door. YANG comes in. WANDA collapses on the sofa, and faces the ground, eyes puffy.

WANDA

I don't need your sympathy.

YANG kicks WANDA. WANDA stands up reluctantly.

WANDA

Listen, I need your help, Yang.

YANG

I have taught you everything I can teach 6 years ago, you can ask Peter for help.

WANDA

You know you are the only one I could trust now.

Yang is silence for a while, looks lost in thought. Then he raises his head, and faces Wanda.

YANG

Fine.

INT.YANG'S CLUB GYM.DAY

The watch on the wall shows 6 am. WANDA does hamstring curls. Then, she does leg lifts; her clothes are soaked; she wipes off her sweat and increases the weightlifting pounds.

INT.YANG'S CLUB YANG'S OFFICE.DAY

YANG and WANDA watch the broadcast live of the Olympic short-track speed skating final on TV. YANG hugs WANDA.

YANG

You still have the chance.

WANDA

I will never give up!

INT.YANG'S CLUB ICE RINKS.DAY

WANDA stands on the ice rink wears ice skates and tries to skate, but she falls over on the rink. She takes off the skates difficulty. YANG snatches her skates over and looks at the angle of the skates. He sits next to the rink to help her adjust the ice skates. Then, he lets her put on skates to try and adjust it several times. She stands on the ice rink and starts to slide.

INT.YANG'S CLUB ICE RINK.DAY

WANDA wears ice skates, stands on the ice rink. YANG holds a timer in hand. WANDA rushes out. After four laps of 500 meters, YANG presses the timer, and the watch shows 47 seconds.

YANG
Too slow! Focus on the centrifugal
pull on your body and leg strength.

INT.YANG'S CLUB GYM.DAY

WANDA puts the belt wraps around her waist and provides the heavy resistance using her own body weight. She pulls sideways in a low crouched position and keeps practice.

INT.YANG'S CLUB STAIRCASE.DAY

WANDA stands on the staircase, does sideways individual leg hops with graduate sequential height jumps of one step, three steps, and five steps for stair workout exercise. WANDA does multiple single-leg hops sideways.

INT.YANG'S CLUB ICE RINK.DAY

After WANDA four laps of 500 meters, YANG presses the timer, and the watch shows 42.6 seconds.

YANG
Welcome back!

INT.THE NATIONAL STADIUM'S INC RINK.DAY

The national speed skating final is writes on the huge screen. WANDA stands on the ice track, gunshots sound that she is the first to rush out. She is also the first one to cross the finish line. She rushes to the coaching platform excitedly, kneels on the coaching platform, and hugs Yang tightly.