

PERFECT ADDICTION

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1 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - NIGHT** 1

HIT - HIT - HIT - HIT

Open on the driving beat of TAPED HANDS hitting a PUNCHING BAG.

INTERCUT:

2 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY** 2

SIENNA LANE (21) tough, smart, charming, trains a MALE FIGHTER in the ring of a Mixed Martial Arts gym.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
I've been training my entire life.

She works him HARD, taking and throwing HITS with command.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
*Putting in countless hours of work
for some inevitable "main event"
that would make it all worth it.*

A BELL RINGS. She applauds her client, and--

3 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - LOCKER ROOM DOORWAY - DAY** 3

Ducks into a corner behind a file cabinet, slides on a mini-skirt, switches tanks, steps into boots like a pro, and rushes to the--

4 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - OFFICE - DAY** 4

Where MMA legend **JULIAN JAMES** (50s) iconic, salty, charismatic, hands her a CHECK.

 JULIAN
Good job this week.

 SIENNA
Thanks, boss.

She races out, pulling on a coat as she pushes through the heavy door--

5 **EXT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY - CONTINUOUS** 5

Sienna wraps a scarf around her neck and pulls out her phone. Calls "**JAX**", as she strides toward the street.

SIENNA (IN PHONE)

Hey! Sorry, my session ran over. I'm picking up your posters and then running to Nutrashop for you, and I'll be home...

HIT - HIT

6 INT. BUS - MOVING - DAY

6

Pressed between the window and a SLEEPING PASSENGER, Sienna balances a check on her knees, snaps a photo in a banking app.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Living in survivor mode, I never really had time to question the Big Picture. Mom left us when I was 12 for some hippie-dippy kite-surfer. Dad spent the rest of our teens gambling away our college savings. I basically raised my little sister and "kept up appearances" so none of the neighbors called CPS.

INSERT ON: Phone, banking app.

She makes a payment for 'RENT'.

Another payment for 'BOOKS'.

Another for 'CREDIT CARD'.

SIENNA (V.O.)

I just wanted us to have a chance at something... Better.

Her balance goes down with each payment, leaving her with **\$87.76** in her account. She cringes.

SIENNA (V.O.)

But I was starting to snap.

7 INT. NUTRITION SHOP - DAY

7

The doorbell chimes as Sienna rushes into a specialized nutrition shop-- not your average GNC. Posters of MXM CHAMPIONS and BODYBUILDERS adorn every wall not occupied by stacks of protein powder.

Sienna swipes three tubs of PROTEIN POWDER from a shelf.

Remaining balance: 21.39

She moves to the counter, behind which a commercial printer spits out several large posters of a muscled and mean fighter, JAX "DEADBEAT" DENERIS, his undefeated record scrawled in bold writing.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Then I met Jax, who introduced me to MMA. He taught me to harness that fire, and I went all in. Spent every waking hour making sure my sister stayed alive. And Jax stayed a champion.

A hard-edged EMPLOYEE rolls the posters up as Sienna swipes her phone over the payment pad.

Remaining balance: 2.43.

She grabs the posters and protein and heads out the door.

8 **OMITTED** 8

9 **INT. BETH AND SIENNA'S APARTMENT - DAY** 9

Sienna pushes into her small but cute apartment, arms full. She comes to an abrupt halt, dropping the containers.

REVERSE TO SEE:

JAX (23) six-foot-five-inches of ripped danger, GRINDING into -

BETH (18) her sister. Note that she appears naked, but her arms obscure her breasts and the rest is clever camera work. *

SIENNA (V.O.)

Until I walked in on said younger sister ass-up with aforementioned boyfriend. *

Beth looks up, a combination of guilt and pleasure. Jax glares at Sienna with twisted, provocative deceit.

10 **EXT. STREET - BETH & SIENNA'S NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT** 10

Sienna walks alone, her breath visible in the frigid air, in COMPLETE SHOCK. Everything she's known is falling apart. Strangers pass in a blur.

11 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - NIGHT** 11

We now see that the hits are coming from SIENNA - murdering a PUNCHING BAG with more power than any girl we've ever seen.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
Now, I'm focused on what I
want: revenge.

HIT - HIT - HIT - HIT

TITLE CARD: PERFECT ADDICTION

12 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - JULIAN'S OFFICE - MORNING** 12

Sienna sleeps in the gym. Her phone ALARM SOUNDS. Quickly silences it with bloodied hands. Looks to see if anyone is around - No one. Nothing. Silence.

Reality sets in. She fights for breath.

She looks at the ring, imagining herself -

13 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - SPARRING RING - DAY (FLASHBACK)** 13

- training with Jax. He kicks her, she blocks, catches his ankle with her forearm, sweeping him to the ground in a series of moves so smooth, you'd miss them if you blinked.

He laughs, pulls her to the ground on top of him. It's a bonding moment, far from...

14 **REALITY - INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - MORNING** 14

Sienna stares at the EMPTY RING, tears in her eyes.

The door CREAKS OPEN - she grabs her stuff and races out.

15 **INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LECTURE HALL - DAY** 15

Sienna hurries into a college auditorium, hidden beneath her black hoodie, a backpack slung over her shoulder. BUBBLY COEDS mill about in a hormonal frenzy.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
School was the last thing on my
mind. But I'm a firm believer in
having a plan B. And C.
(MORE)

SIENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So I stuck with it, despite the fact that my classmates felt like an alien species of TikTok and tank tops. Between class, work, and Jax, friends felt like a luxury. So now, I'm on my own. Well, mostly...

BRENT JACOBS (21) 130 pounds of lanky charm in glasses and a Police Department Cadet shirt, waves her over to a saved seat. He flicks a paper football at her. She catches it in her hand, crumples it.

BRENT

That's what I get for saving you the best seat in the house? I see how it is.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Brent's a good guy-- the kind you instantly vibe with. We don't really hang out outside of class. But he's smart, makes me laugh, and isn't fucking my sister.

She drops her bag, sits, and dutifully pulls out her books. He takes her in, realizing her energy is all off.

BRENT

You okay?

SIENNA

(not okay)

Aces. I caught my sister sleeping with my boyfriend of 3 years in our apartment. Spent the night in the gym. And now I'm bruised, broken-hearted and homeless. How 'bout you?

Brent's eyes go wide. Sympathizing. The **PROFESSOR (MR. COOPER)** starts teaching, writing Principles of Management terms on the whiteboard. *Authority. Discipline. Initiative. Equity.*

BRENT

Beth? Damn. Didn't know she had it in her.

SIENNA

Oh, she had it in her...

*

BRENT

Which one of them do I need to arrest--

SIENNA

Can you do that?

BRENT

Technically, no. Give me six months.

Sienna smiles sadly.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Do you have a place to stay?

She shrugs, holding back the pain.

SIENNA

I can't afford much. There's a wait list for campus housing.

She looks forward, trying to focus. Brent looks at her, feeling her pain. Hesitates - then offers.

BRENT

...I know a guy renting a room near the Commons for like 250 a month?

Sienna looks up. Interested. He shoots her a text:

"KAYDEN WILLIAMS, 7643 McAlpin Ave, Apt.1B."

BRENT (CONT'D)

Just be careful. He's...

SIENNA

An axe murderer?

Brent deliberates, as if to say *kinda*?

BRENT

...Complicated.

16 **INT. BUS - MOVING - DAY**

16

Sienna rides the bus, her head pressed to the window. Just another lost soul.

17 **EXT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY**

17

Sienna checks her phone, matching the address to a run down apartment complex.

CARA (21) bubbly energy in a waitress uniform, trots out of the building, on her way to her car.

CARA

(into phone)

You stayed the night with Daniel?
Jesus, Alex. I was worried sick.

Cara sees Sienna, flashes a friendly smile. Sienna catches the door before it closes and heads inside.

18 INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 18

Sienna goes into the building, looks around, not seeing his apartment number. She notices the names on the building's mailboxes-- below all of the others is a makeshift mailbox, on which is scribbled: K. WILLIAMS -- leave mail on basement stairs.

She turns and sees a doorway into a basement, heads down.

19 INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWAY - DAY 19

She finds her way to the dark bottom unit in the back of the building. Knocks. Seems like no one's home, until...

KAYDEN WILLIAMS opens the door. He's tall, dark and chiseled - with intoxicating eyes that hold years of pain, a chest covered in tattoos mapping a life of mystery, and endearing dimples that hint at a heart of gold.

All that renders Sienna speechless.... Or so she thought.

Fuck me. SIENNA

Excuse me? KAYDEN

SIENNA (V.O.)
*Oops. That was supposed to be my
 inside voice.*

Oh. Um, I didn't mean...

She pulls herself together.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Brent told me you may be looking
for a roommate?

Kayden stops. Looks her up and down.

No. KAYDEN

He slams the door. Her hand blocks it with quick reflexes.

He notices. She eyes the EMPTY ROOM behind him.

No? SIENNA

Her body is now inched between him and the door.

He notices that, too.

KAYDEN
I don't need any distractions.

SIENNA
Who does?

Their eyes lock. He takes her in.

KAYDEN
No offense, but--

SIENNA
Oh, boy.

KAYDEN
What?

SIENNA
It's just, people say that-- 'no offense'-- like it'll absolve them of the guilt of whatever asshole thing they're about to say.

He stares at her, amused but hiding it.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
What was it you were going to say?

KAYDEN
I don't think it'd be a good fit.

She holds his stare. Simmering. Then - swallows her pride and makes one last appeal.

SIENNA
Look. I'm in a really tight spot. I have nowhere to stay and -

KAYDEN
Not my problem.

He slams the door in her face. She takes a defeated beat. Then turns and walks away.

SIENNA (V.O.)
I don't know what was more unsettling. His arrogance. His eyes. Or that, with a single look, he made me question everything I thought I knew...

20 **EXT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY**

20

Sienna throws her bag down and slides down a wall.

A group of GEN Z'ERS passes by-- hip kids with seemingly few cares in the world. One of them jumps onto another one's back. A reminder of Sienna's youth.

SIENNA (V.O.)

To be honest, I didn't know who I was anymore. I'd let myself become completely consumed by Jax.

21 **EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE STREET - DAY (FLASHBACK/3 YEARS AGO)** 21

Sienna, Beth, and Brent drink shakes, walking past food trucks and a few booths. A crowd of COLLEGE STUDENTS mingles. One of the booths, for UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM, has a banner boasting **"MXM LEGEND JULIAN JAMES TRAINS JAX DENERIS V. DAMIAN WELLS."**

BETH

I asked for a recommendation, but he never responded.

SIENNA

Then follow up.

BRENT

Maybe he has it out for her. Guidance counsellors can be--

SIENNA

--Or, it's not a conspiracy theory, and she needs to buckle down.

BRENT

(to Beth)

I tried. You're on your own, B.

BETH

You know, there are other things I'm interested in. I don't have to go to college.

SIENNA

(joking)

Maybe you're right. Why work in an office when you could work the pole?

Sienna does a little shimmy. She and Beth bump hips.

Jax signs autographs, surrounded by his gang of GOONS and a horde of LUSTING GIRLS.

A HOMELESS VET (aka LEO) is passed out in a wheelchair, EMPTY BEER CUP and FULL MONEY BASKET nearby.

TWO STREET THUGS approach. One takes the money from the basket and puts it in his wallet. The other PEES in his cup --

Sienna unflinchingly THROWS her shake on them, grabs the wallet, and gets into the main aggressor's face, threatening.

BRENT
Sienna! Shit.

Beth takes out her cell phone to film it all.

SIENNA
Hey! Want to keep doing that on camera while we wait for the cops? Bet it makes you feel like the big dicks on campus, picking on the homeless.

The vet wakes up. The guys are shocked at Sienna's bravado. So is Jax - who looks up as Sienna gives the vet the wallet and the guys run off. Impressed, he abandons his fans and approaches.

JAX
You a fighter? Or just the most badass girl in Springfield?

Beth, now star struck, references the poster behind him.

BETH
(hardly an aside)
Si! Do you know who that is?

Sienna, playing it cool, answers him.

SIENNA
I'm just a regular girl who hates it when the bad guys win.

JAX
Then you're really going to hate me.

He looks at her with dangerous charm as we CUT TO:

21A **INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (FLASHBACK CONTINUED)**

21A

Jax is in a hospital bed, his leg elevated in a cast, Sienna by his side. He blinks back tears.

SIENNA (V.O.)
Jax was my first everything, and we moved fast.
(MORE)

SIENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A month into dating, he was in an accident that left him nearly paralyzed.

JAX

Si? What if I never--

He cuts himself off, getting choked up. Sienna reaches for his hand, squeezes lovingly.

SIENNA

We're going to get through this.

JAX

You don't have to...

SIENNA

Listen to me: we are a team. Okay?
Rebel champions.

He nods, lifts his hand to cup her face. She leans in and kisses him.

SIENNA (V.O.)

He gave me a sense of purpose.

21B **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (FLASHBACK CONTINUED)**

21B

Sienna leans over Jax, his leg on her shoulder, as she helps him stretch. His face squinches in pain.

SIENNA

That okay?

He nods and she pushes a little further.

21C **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (FLASHBACK CONTINUED)**

21C

Sienna leads Jax, who wears heavy duty knee braces, through an isolation exercise for his kicks. He leans on her as he tries to get his leg parallel to his hip.

SIENNA

Higher, come on. Get it parallel to your hip.

He stops, frustrated, goes to get his bag.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

JAX

What's the point? I can't fight if I can't kick.

SIENNA

You can, if you strengthen your other skills.

JAX

That was my edge.

SIENNA

Then we're going to find you a new edge.

22

INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK CONTINUED)

22

Jax and Sienna train off hours. She holds pads as Jax does punching drills in the center ring. Moonlight shines through the windows. A metronome clicks back and forth.

SIENNA (V.O.)

He liked things about me everyone else told me to suppress. And for a while - made me feel special.

SIENNA

Jab, cross, hook. Again. Harder. Keep the rhythm. There you go. Breathe. You've gotta breathe.

He slows, takes a breather.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

It's not just about power, it's precision.

She does a little jig, shadowboxes circles around him to demonstrate her quickness and precision.

JAX

In the center ring: Sienna Lane, Princess of Rage.

Sienna puts her arms in the air, BEAMING WITH BADASS JOY. He scoops her up, wrapping her legs around him as they kiss.

SIENNA

Careful!

She pulls back.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

And I'm not a princess.

JAX

No? You sure about that?

SIENNA (V.O.)

He encouraged me to open up. And I did. In every way I could...

She holds back stubbornly, but eventually gives in to his charm, laughing as they kiss.

SIENNA (V.O.)

But now...

23 **EXT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY** 23

Sienna looks at her HOME SCREEN PHOTO of Sienna, Jax and Beth.

SIENNA (V.O.)

I don't know who to trust.

After a moment, she picks up her bag. And marches on.

24 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY** 24

Sienna enters the gym. Hides her bag. Only a few fighters train.

SIENNA(V.O.)

*Except Julian. Julian James. 1991
Taekwondo World Game Gold Medalist,
3-time MXM Middleweight Champ.
Julian's approach is about forming
a relationship with nature, "tuning
in", on every level. And in the
brave new world of steroids and
sponsorship, he's a dying breed...*

*
*
*
*
*
*

25 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - OFFICE - DAY** 25

Not your typical meat locker. Books and posters of literary greats line the walls. Lao Tzu, Twain, Herodotus, Hemingway...

SIENNA(V.O.)

*Julian taught Jax to fight and
eventually I joined his team.
Through his wisdom, anyone can
master their own force. He never
saw my being a girl as a deterrent.
And though we don't say it - at
this point, he's the closest thing
to a father I've got.*

*

Next to a PHOTO of Jax and Julian winning a MXM TITLE BELT...

Julian tapes a SIGN UP SHEET for the -

"MEN & WOMEN'S MAXIMUM FIGHTER QUALIFIERS, FRIDAY, JULY 24th." *

SIENNA
Got anyone on the books for me?

JULIAN
'Fraid not. First time in 12 years
UFG won't have anyone fighting in
the big leagues.

He looks at her... Almost baiting.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Guess everyone's abandoned ship.

He nods towards a flyer on his desk, for POWDERKEG, boasting
basement brawls-- \$2,500 winner take all. *

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Basement Brawls are starting again.
More money, less rules. Jax is
fighting. Figured you'd know. Ever
since he left we've been dead. *

SIENNA
Loyalty isn't really his thing. *
(beat, re: money) *
How do we compete with that? *

JULIAN *
We don't. I'd rather lose this *
place honestly than stoop to the *
underground. Not worth someone *
getting killed. *

He eyes her. Wisely quotes *The Art of War*.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
'The expert in battle moves the
enemy and is not moved by him.'

Sienna nods, then returns her attention to the flyer. She
flips it over, sees an image of Jax, superimposed next to none
other than KAYDEN. The advert boasts: "**Underground King KAYDEN**
'THE KILLER' WILLIAMS" VS. 2-Time MXM Champ JAX 'DEADBEAT' *
DENERIS."

SIENNA (V.O.)
Huh. Small world.

JULIAN
You were here before the sun today.
You okay?

SIENNA
Um... Yeah. Training early.

He knows she's lying. He takes out his wallet, hands her a hundred dollar bill. She pushes it away.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
You don't have to--

He holds firm. She finally accepts it.

JULIAN
You know, I have high hopes for you here - if you want them. So you can keep "training early." And if you're in trouble, you can talk to me. But if it gets out I let people crash here - I'll be running a halfway house for every foul-mouthed kid who loves fighting and hates rent. Which is all of them.

She acknowledges him humbly.

26 **EXT. POWDERKEG - PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

26

Crowd barriers block off the street by Powderkeg, housed in a converted building. Food trucks and Escalades obscure a line of JACKED MISCREANTS and their LUSTING DATES waiting to enter a side door.

SIENNA (V.O.)
Nothing feels legal here; because it isn't. Half the police force fights and the other half's placing bets. It's pretty much an untouchable underbelly of Springfield's Steroid and Stiletto Elite.

Masking her nerves in leather and lipstick -- Sienna shows her UFG ID to **THE BOUNCER**. Impressed, he lets her in.

27 **INT. POWDERKEG - BASEMENT - NIGHT**

27

Sienna muscles her way down a dark stairway, into a dungeon of smoke, sweat and blood. She's tough, but this is NOT for the faint.

She passes a makeshift BETTING TABLE. Gets flagged by a cauliflower-eared **BOOKIE**.

BOOKIE
No phones. No weapons. No switching bets. We will find you.
(MORE)

BOOKIE (CONT'D)

We will hurt you...

(beat, to Sienna)

Want in?

She eyes a poster of JAX, hulking above her.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Don't let him get to you. The expert moves the enemy.

The longer she stares, the more irate she grows.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Don't let your anger--

SIENNA

A hundred on Kayden Williams.

She hands over the hundred dollar bill.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Shit.

She pushes deeper into the venue-- there's not a friendly face in the place.

An MC with mutton chops and a silver lame bomber coat takes the stage with authority.

MC

WELCOME TO THE VORTEX, FUCKERS! One Rule: THERE ARE NO RULES. Fighters call. Losers crawl.

She stands alone, packed between ROWDY FANS.

TEXT FROM BETH: *Where are you staying? We should talk.*

She ignores it, then hears a familiar voice--

JAX (O.S.)

Came to watch me, huh?

She stops. Turns. Stares... Angry. Hurt.

SIENNA

I've seen enough.

JAX

Please. She threw herself at me. It just happened... I love you.

Sienna looks at him. Bloody and vulnerable. It's confusing.

SIENNA (V.O.)

There are only a few moves in professional MMA you can't do: groin shots, pulling hair, gouging eyes. All 'finishing moves' that'll lock a victory, but leave serious damage and a win that isn't fully earned.

CUT TO: ALL THE TIMES IN THE PAST JAX SAID "I LOVE YOU":

30 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT ("LOVE YOU" MONTAGE)** 30

Jax kisses Sienna from his MOTORCYCLE, then yells as he drives off with his BIKE GANG, leaving her stranded alone.

JAX

I love you!

31 **INT. MMA RING - NIGHT ("LOVE YOU" MONTAGE)** 31

Jax, MID-FIGHT, COVERED IN BLOOD, fist up high before driving it into his opponent's face - mouths to Sienna from the cage.

JAX

I love you.

32 **INT. BETH AND SIENNA'S APARTMENT - DAY ("LOVE YOU" MONTAGE)** 32

Jax has sex from behind Sienna, who has a collar around her neck. He reaches forward to grab the collar, tightening it against her throat.

JAX

(to the back of her head)

I love you.

JUMP CUT TO:

33 **INT. BETH AND SIENNA'S APARTMENT - DAY ("LOVE YOU" MONTAGE)** 33

Jax ramming into BETH, wearing the same collar. His hand tugs her hair, hard.

JAX

(to Beth)

I...

*Note that scenes 32 and 33 will be shot in an abstract way that emphasizes Jax's toxic masculinity, but without gratuitous nudity.

BACK TO:

34 **EXT. POWDERKEG - BASEMENT - NIGHT - PRESENT**

34

Jax looks at Sienna, pleading. She's conflicted.

SIENNA (V.O.)

That's what it felt like when Jax said he 'loved me.' An unearned finishing move that left me fucked up.

She shakes her head, the absurdity and pain all too much, and laughs out loud.

JAX

...You're the only one who understands me.

SIENNA

No. I don't understand. At all.
Help me do that. Explain to me how you could say you 'love me.' And then...

She trails off, unable to even say the words. He scrambles.

JAX

You started to get - so busy.

SIENNA

(dumbfounded)

BUSY?! Taking care of you.

JAX

No, no, that's not what I-- You know I'm not good at this kind of thing.

SIENNA

For three years, my life has revolved entirely around you: figuring out how to rehab your stupid fucking knee, meal prepping, making sure you could fight again.

JAX

It was a mistake.

SIENNA

A mistake is forgetting to pick up
dinner. Fucking my little sister is
an act of war.

34B IN THE RING

34B

A **CHICK WITH A MOHAWK** mops blood as a **LOSING FIGHTER** is
dragged out.

A **JACKED MC** stands on a bar top, taking the mic.

CROWD ROARS. GLASSES SMASH. THINGS ARE THROWN. IT'S BARBARIC.

MC

Tonight, we have a special treat.
2-time MXM champ, *JAX "DEADBEAT"*
DENERIS, steps out of the
limelight to GET REAL.

*

JAX

Wish me luck.

Sienna rolls her eyes as JAX BOULDERS into the ring. Rips off
his robe, revealing a swath of tattoos celebrating his Polish
heritage. He circles the crowd for show, and beats his chest
like a WILD ANIMAL.

On the sidelines, the gaudy gangster/OWNER of the joint cheers
him on-- as if Jax is his newest prize pit bull.

Sienna suddenly looks ILL, paralyzed by pain. When someone
bumps into her. She turns, relieved to see -

SIENNA

Brent?! What are you doing here?

BRENT

I could ask you the same thing.

Her look: *answer my question.*

BRENT (CONT'D)

I, uh... I'm here with my friend -

EVANS (23), an insecure softie stuck in a big, blue-collar
body, nods 'hey'.

EVANS

Evans. You must be Sienna.

BRENT

(to Sienna)

We're both in training at the
Police Academy.

SIENNA
Isn't it a conflict of interest,
swimming in this sea of criminals?

EVANS
Thank you.

BRENT
(relax)
Half the force is here, placing
bets.

Evans is about to object when- **KAYDEN** emerges from the shadows, hiding beneath a black robe that reads, "KILLER."

MC
And now: The Underground King and
Death's most ferocious doorman:
KAYDEN "THE KILLER" WILLIAMS!

THE CROWD ROARS. But unlike Jax, Kayden enters the ring with razor focus. Completely uninterested in his fans.

THE FIGHT STARTS

From the go, it's an ELECTRIFYING match. BEAST VS MACHINE.

JAX has 3 inches and 15 pounds of brute force over Kayden. But Kayden's shredded body bursts with expert precision.

As Jax enjoys the new crowd - Kayden lands a SURPRISING series of blows up top. ROUNDHOUSE to his side followed by a strategic BACK-KICK - HOOK - UPPERCUT that throws JAX completely off -

The crowd. Is. WILD. As he delivers a last PUNCH --

KAYDEN'S EYES LOCK ON SIENNA - AND FOR A MOMENT - TIME STOPS.

Sienna looks at him. As if in a trance. Time speeds back up. Brent notices.

BRENT
So... today went well?

SIENNA
No... How do you know him again?

BRENT
He's my brother.

Her brow furrows. They look nothing alike.

BRENT (CONT'D)
Adopted. My mom works in the
foster system. He came at 16. My
brother ever since.
(MORE)

BRENT (CONT'D)

I've never missed a single fight.
Even the ones on the street...
Which was a lot of 'em.

Jax levies a powerful series of punches, which Kayden expertly dodges. Then, Kayden surprises Jax, landing another punch. Sienna studies him from the sidelines, impressed.

SIENNA

He's good.

Kayden lands a solid punch, but drops his guard for a beat.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Come on. Get your hands up.

Jax LUNGES, towering over Kayden, lands an OVERHAND RIGHT, knocking him in the temple. Kayden goes down and Jax goes in for a GROUND AND POUND.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

But he's not unbeatable.

BRENT

He was 'til tonight.

Jax begins to RAIL on Kayden, as if every cell in his body was built to kill, and activated.

MC

OH! This could be it for Killer.
His first defeat, at the hands of
DEADBEAT DENERIS.

SIENNA (V.O.)

*Watching Jax fight felt like
witnessing an event of historical
significance. Like seeing the first
nuclei split in the atomic bomb.
Merciless, unstoppable. And, even
if deadly, beautiful.*

But Kayden holds his own, catching him in his guard, his legs wrapped around Jax, immobilizing him. Jax posts up, but Kayden gets him in a TRIANGLE CHOKE. It's a GREAT fight. Neither having fought someone so much their equal.

SIENNA (V.O.)

And he may have just met his match.

MC

And he's back!

Impressed, Sienna studies his moves like a scientist, bobbing and weaving as if she were fighting through him.

Jax is frustrated, not used to this.

While down - Jax SEES SIENNA - AS IF A SUPER POWER KICKS IN --

He ELBOWS Kayden in the face and escapes the triangle. He goes into the mount, putting Kayden in an AMERICANA, twisting his arm behind him, almost BREAKING IT.

EVANS
(re: Jax)
How do you know HIM?

SIENNA
That's my ex.

Evans's jaw drops. Kayden is just about to TAP OUT when--
SHOUTS can be heard outside.

BOOKIE
POLICE!

EVANS
Shit!

MC
It's a raid! EVERYBODY OUT, NOW!

Brent looks to Evans, both of them panicked. Evans grabs Brent and moves towards the exit.

BRENT
Sienna, come on!

The MC drops his mic and hightails it out. The crowd surges toward the door.

IN THE CAGE, Jax looks up at the departing crowd. Kayden gets out from his grasp.

JAX
Bullshit! Let's finish this.

Jax GRABS Kayden and HEADBUTTS him, spits blood in the air like an animal.

Kayden pulls himself up, stumbles from the cage. Jax climbs halfway up the cage, calls after him:

JAX (CONT'D)
Killer! You and me, rematch!

Sienna goes after Kayden, but loses him in the crowd.

35 **EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET/BUS STOP - NIGHT** 35

Sienna turns down an industrial street. Homeless. Alone. It starts to RAIN.

She sees an old BUS SHELTER and ducks inside.

Determined to hold herself together with dignity, she calmly pulls out her sweats, rolls them into a pillow, and tucks herself beneath her hoodie as rain pours around her.

36 **EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET/BUS STOP - MORNING** 36

The sound of construction wakes Sienna. She Takes in the new day's sun, glistening over a hard-working city.

SIENNA (V.O.)

I don't really understand how or why I got here... But I do know - in the cage, when you get hit, you take the punch. Stay present. Wait for the next opening...

She pulls a power bar from her bag, takes a bite with a sense of renewed determination.

SIENNA (V.O.)

...And attack.

37 **INT. POWDERKEG GYM - DAY** 37

Sienna moves through the sleek, nauseatingly-trendy gym, searching. Toned, spandex-clad women do squats in front of men.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Is it just me, or does this feel more like a night club than a gym?

She spots Kayden at a table in the corner, cut on his brow, taping his hands, replaying last night's fight on his phone. She makes a bee line to him.

KAYDEN

I told you I didn't want to see you again.

SIENNA

Technically, you told me I wasn't your problem. - And, you were right. I'm your solution.

He glances up, incredulous.

KAYDEN
(dismissive)
I'm good.

Sienna stares, neither amused nor deterred.

SIENNA
You're good, but not great. Your reflexes are quick, but you've got poor intention. It's your attitude, not your ability, that's holding you back. Your defense is spotty, you telegraph your punches, and you're not using the right hip movement on the mat to offset someone stronger. Which he is. And *that's* why you need me.

KAYDEN
I *need* you?

SIENNA
I'm the only person who can help you beat Jax Deneris.

He stops. Now he's listening.

KAYDEN
Who says I'm going to agree to a rematch?

SIENNA
You're here studying your mistakes while your wounds still bleed.

He shifts. She continues.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
I train for Julian James. I've been in the ring with Jax for 3 years. When he got hurt, I'm the one who brought him back, made him better. I stand before you, a copy of your enemy. I know how he thinks, how he trains, and how he kills. And he will kill you. Unless you let me help you.

Kayden clenches his jaw. His dimples are... distracting.

KAYDEN
You're a girl.

She laughs. Cocky.

SIENNA

I'm also a better fighter than you.
I saw you lose. And I'm the only
thing that can ensure it won't
happen again.

He glares. Considering.

37PB **ON THE PHONE:** Jax HEADBUTTS Kayden then SPITS BLOOD
IN THE AIR.

37PB

Kayden looks directly at Sienna --

KAYDEN

What'd he do to you?

Pause. She can't say it.

SIENNA

Let's just say - I can't press
charges... But I can't let it go.

KAYDEN

What are you offering? Specifically.

SIENNA

I train you, six days a week, from
now through the rematch.

KAYDEN

I train every day. 3-6-5.

SIENNA

Well, that's the first thing I'll
be changing.

KAYDEN

You want me to train *less*?

SIENNA

I want you to train smarter. And
rest days are part of that.

Kayden stares at her, not acknowledging.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

...In turn, you let me stay in your
apartment.

She smiles. He's not sure.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

I bet all my money on you last
night, so you kind of owe me.

He stares for one more second, considering, then softens.

KAYDEN
Alright, Lucky. Grab your things.

38 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

38

Kayden takes his gym shoes off by the door, and pulls out his wallet. Sienna enters. He's anything but hospitable.

KAYDEN
Room's down the hall.

Sienna peers in, sees a mattress on a janky frame, no headboard. A bare bulb sits in a lamp without a shade. In the main room, except for one ripped couch, small table, and PILES of dirty dishes - it's empty.

SIENNA
It's a real Ritz Carlton here.
What's with that?

She indicates a dilapidated wall serving as the main focal point of the apartment. It's badly cobbled together.

KAYDEN
There was a leak, so the plumber
had to tear out the pipes.

SIENNA
You didn't want to fix it? A coat
of paint, a chair. This place could
be a real home.

He shrugs.

KAYDEN
Too busy training.

He puts his wallet in a SAFE full of a large amount of cash.

SIENNA
You're not in school?

KAYDEN
Dropped out.

He closes the safe. She looks at him. The mystery continues.

SIENNA
You know, with all that cash, you
could afford a maid.

KAYDEN
Don't worry what I do.

She notices one of his tattoos-- *"to live is to suffer"*.

SIENNA
What happened to you?

KAYDEN
What happened to you?

He throws it back. They hold a stare.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Bathroom's there. My room's off
limits. Hit the gym at 6?

SIENNA
5:30.

He glares. And turns in. The battle of wills has begun.

39 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - MORNING**

39

Sienna steps out into the living room, pulling on a sweatshirt, ready to run. She looks for Kayden, knocks on his door.

SIENNA
Kayden? Come on, cupcake. Rise and
shine.

She opens his door-- he's ALREADY GONE. She notices a--

NOTE: "*Don't bet on me.*", with \$250 CASH.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Mother fucker--

40 **INT. POWDERKEG GYM - DAY**

40

Sienna blazes through the empty gym as Kayden shadowboxes in a ring.

SIENNA
Hey, asshole.

He pauses for a flash of a second, but continues, ignoring her.

She pulls on gloves and climbs through the ropes to face off against him in the ring.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Hit me.

KAYDEN
No.

She dances around him. Landing a few jabs. He's not having it.

SIENNA
We had a deal. HIT ME.

KAYDEN
I left money, we're even.

SIENNA
I don't want your handouts. I want
to win. We had a deal.

He steps back and extends an arm to keep her at a safe
distance.

KAYDEN
Look: I don't want to hurt you. Find
another project. It's not personal.

SIENNA (V.O.)
WRONG.

She swipes his hand away then -- *KICK-JAB-CROSS!* -- Lands a
HARD PUNCH to his face. -- She is *not* fucking around.

He takes the blow. Shocked. His lip bleeds. He smiles. Then --
starts fighting back.

KAYDEN
Okay...

They SPAR, but it's still a FAIR FIGHT OF MIGHT AND SKILL. He
attacks with force. She blocks every move, and kicks back HARDER.

Finally - she sweeps his leg and adeptly twists him into a LOCK
on the ground. She stands over him, his arm in a hold. Her sweat
drips on his chest, their faces inches apart.

IT. IS. HOT.

SIENNA
It's very personal, to me.

She searches his eyes.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
I don't know what it is that gets
you in the ring. But after spending
a night in that rat-trap you call
home - it sure as hell isn't the
money.

He looks at her. She got him.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
You want to beat him? You just
lost. Do we have a deal?

He tries to get up. She TWISTS his arm harder - until he begrudgingly TAPS OUT.

41 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

41

Jax (wearing knee braces) and Sienna spar in a ring. Julian watches on his way out.

SIENNA (V.O.)

*Jax claimed he didn't want to hurt me
either. At least, not in the ring.*

Sienna jabs him. Pounds his gut, but he's not hitting back.

SIENNA

Hit me! If I'm ever going to fight,
I need to take a punch.

JAX

I need you in one piece. Can't have
both of us limping around.

She flips him over her back, to the ground. Gets him in a headlock. But he won't fight back.

SIENNA

Come on. I could be good.

JAX

You'll be an even better trainer.
Right, Jules?

Julian smiles at Sienna on his way out.

JULIAN

If she can handle you, she can do
anything she wants.

She hops to her feet, playfully dances around the cage, then gives a hand to Jax, hoisting him to his feet. He stands face-to-face with her.

JAX

What do you want?

Sienna looks at him. Smiles sweetly. Innocently. Real.

SIENNA

You. All of you... I want to know
the man behind the beast.

He pulls out BOXING WRAPS and approaches her. The mood darkens.

JAX
I'll show you what I want.

He takes her hands. And slowly ties her wrists to the ring. *

SIENNA (V.O.)
*Not like I'm close-minded. Leather,
lace, gay, trans, tantra, toys. If
anything - I feel powerless over so
much in life, I like to find my
limits, then push past them. Explore
my physical body. But anytime I
wanted to open up, Jax wanted to tie
me up.*

She watches him as he ties her up. *

JAX
You like that?

Sienna swallows, unsure. She nods, trying to go along with it.
He turns her away from him, pressing into her from behind. *

SIENNA (V.O.)
*It wasn't about fun or finding
freedom. It was about pain. Power.
Specifically, his.*

The closer they are physically, the more she feels alone...

KAYDEN
(PRE-LAP)
SIENNA!

BACK TO:

41A INT. POWDERKEG - DAY

41A *

Sienna comes back to her senses, realizing she still has
Kayden's arm twisted in a lock. She lets go immediately.

KAYDEN
I tapped.

SIENNA
Sorry.

He gets up. She's still on the mat, a bit out of it. He
notices something's off with her, extends an olive branch--

KAYDEN
You hungry?

42 **INT. OVER EASY DINER - DAY**

42

Cara carries a tray of drinks to Sienna and Kayden's table, where they sit across from each other.

CARA
Hi neighbors! The usual?

Kayden nods, grunts an affirmative.

CARA (CONT'D)
(to Sienna, re: Kayden)
This one's not much for chatting.
Anything I can get you?

SIENNA
Five egg whites scrambled with a
side of salsa, half an avocado, and
a chicken breast, no oil.

CARA
Ookay. Coming right up.

Cara scurries off.

KAYDEN
You were... (he nods) You brought
out something in me today.

SIENNA
Did you just give me a compliment?

KAYDEN
Sienna 'Lucky' Lane.

She cringes.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
No?

SIENNA
Better than Princess.

She shrugs. Takes off her jacket. - Her toned body and chest visible through her thin tank. He notices.

She notices him noticing her... He averts his eyes, lands on her backpack, next to her in the booth.

KAYDEN
So what're you--

SIENNA
Social Economics and Business.

KAYDEN
Impressive.

SIENNA
I can be.

She smiles, tension brewing just beneath the surface.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
This is gonna be hard.

They both catch the double entendre. He smirks.

KAYDEN
Mhmm.

SIENNA
The hardest you'll ever *train* in
your life. Don't flatter yourself.
I'm never dating another fighter.

KAYDEN
You shouldn't. Especially me.

They hold a stare. Not the response she was expecting. The chemistry between them is palpable, but interrupted by--

CARA
'Scuse me.

Cara sets down a burger in front of Kayden and a giant protein platter in front of Sienna.

KAYDEN
That's what you're having?

SIENNA
That's what you're having.

Without losing eye contact, she scoops his burger to her side, takes a JUICY BITE. Cara's eyes widen. Feeling their weird heat.

CARA
If you need anything, let me know.
Otherwise, enjoy!

KAYDEN
There's no weight class in the
underground. And Jax is bigger.

SIENNA
You don't have to cut, but you
should track your macros. Pack
protein with isolates... And you
better not be juicing.

He nods. Challenging her lead.

KAYDEN
What else?

SIENNA
Julian doesn't want any of his team in the underground, so I come to you. You follow exactly what I say. No drinking, no smoking, no partying.

KAYDEN
No problem.

Definitely moody, he shuts down and quickly eats his prescribed food. When done, he throws down money, eyes Cara, and gets up.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Another thing. You stay in school, keep your job, and don't talk about the underground to *anyone*. The only blood on my hands is Jax.

She takes him in. Sexy, mysterious and *caring*. Killer combo.

SIENNA (V.O.)
Yeah. This is gonna be hard.

43 **INT. KAYDEN AND SIENNA'S BATHROOM - MORNING**

43

Sienna heads to the bathroom in a t-shirt. Kayden shirtless in sweats. They awkwardly pass. She confirms his schedule.

SIENNA
Five miles road work, ropes, and weights. Meet you at Powderkeg at 3.

KAYDEN
Copy that.

44 **EXT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY**

44

Sienna exits, wearing a Community College hoodie and backpack slung over her shoulder. She takes a deep breath, clearing her head as Cara comes out with a stack of psychology books, heading towards a beat-up car. She notices Sienna's hoodie.

CARA
Hey. You go to SCC, too?

Sienna nods.

CARA (CONT'D)
Cara.

SIENNA

Sienna.

CARA

Want a ride?

SIENNA

I'm good.

Cara stops, assesses her studiously.

CARA

Are you? - It's freezing, the bus sucks and we're going to the same place. So either you think I'm lame... OR you have trust issues created by childhood neglect and perpetuated by a cycle of bad relationships.

Sienna glares. Cara makes smiley jazz hands, waiting. Then -

SIENNA

(nailed it)

Yeah.

CARA

Join the club.

Cara smiles, and kicks the door to open her car. Sienna gets in.

45 **INT. CARA'S CAR - KAYDEN'S STREET - DAY**

45

Cara tries to start the car, but the engine won't flip over.

CARA

(re: car)

She's temperamental.

Sienna blushes.

SIENNA

How did you do that earlier? The thing about my childhood, it was...

CARA

Spot on? Doesn't take a Ph.D to assume someone as pretty as you, moving into the basement unit with a low-key psycho, doesn't have much of a safety net.

Sienna laughs. Surprised by her brashness.

CARA (CONT'D)

Sorry, I micro-dosed mushrooms in my Experiential Psych Workshop and forget not everyone wants to talk about feelings.

The car engine finally flips over and they pull away.

46 **EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DAY**

46

Cara and Sienna chat as they get out of the car and approach the school.

CARA

So... you've lived in Springfield all your life but you don't have family here? Or friends?

SIENNA

Not anymore.

CARA

Why not?

Sienna's gaze goes steely as she sees...

REVERSE ON:

JAX KISSING BETH (now in a punk t-shirt, choker, and fish nets) on his motorcycle. IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.

SIENNA

Because THAT is my sister and THAT is my ex-boyfriend.

CARA

(now getting it)
Oh...

Sienna and walks towards them, a heat-seeking missile. Beth pulls apart. Jax eyes Sienna as he drives off.

BETH

Sienna! Can we talk?

SIENNA (V.O.)

For a civilized second, I tried to think of Julian's mantras. 'When they go low, we go high...'

Sienna STOPS. Then turns to walk away. When Beth reaches out -

BETH

Wait! You don't understand.

SIENNA (V.O.)
But the next second, I forgot.

With lightning-fast reflexes, Sienna grabs Beth's wrist, twists, and pulls. Within milliseconds, Beth's arm is behind her back. She grimaces as Sienna applies pressure.

SIENNA
How long?

BETH
- I tried to tell you. But you're -
not the *easiest* person to talk to.

SIENNA
Working round the clock taking
care of you.

Sienna lets go of Beth's arm, pushes her away.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Then you just throw it in my face?
I haven't been able to get you to
come to school in weeks - and now
you come together?

Sienna searches her sister's eyes for understanding.

Doesn't find it. She's about to leave, but she turns back, giving her sister one more chance to take her advice.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
You don't know what you're dealing
with. Jax is toxic and manipulative.
You're not going to 'fix' him. I've
already tried.

Beth looks at her. Gathers courage.

BETH
Well, maybe you should stop trying
to fix everyone else.

Sienna GLARES. Final straw.

SIENNA
Fine. Enjoy each other. We're done.

Sienna turns and walks off. She rejoins Cara, who's a bit scared. And impressed.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Still want to be friends?

CARA
...I definitely don't want to be
enemies.

Sienna grabs her bag and walks inside. Cara follows.

47 **INT. KAYDEN'S APT - SIENNA'S ROOM - MORNING (MONTAGE #1)** 47

Sienna's alarm goes off at 5 AM. She jumps out of bed.

48 **INT. KAYDEN'S APT - KAYDEN'S ROOM - MORNING (MONTAGE #1)** 48

One room over, Kayden groans as his own alarm sounds. He clicks 'snooze'.

49 **EXT. CITY STREETS - MORNING (MONTAGE #1)** 49

Sienna and Kayden go for a jog, the sun not yet up. Kayden slows, out of breath. Sienna jogs in place at his side.

50 **INT. KAYDEN'S APT - KITCHEN - MORNING (MONTAGE #1)** 50

Kayden makes a protein shake, gives half to Sienna.

51 **INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LECTURE HALL (MONTAGE #1)** 51

Sienna sits in class, her phone hidden behind a book, a video of an MMA fight playing on it. Brent peers over her shoulder.

52 **INT. POWDERKEG GYM (MONTAGE #1)** 52

They train HARD: MUAY THAI, WEIGHTS, GRAPPLING AND SPARRING.

Both try to keep it professional, despite obvious attraction. Sienna's fierce and focused. Kayden's powerful and determined.

53 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY** 53

Sienna comes into the much grungier, much emptier gym, looking a bit guilty.

54 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - OFFICE - DAY** 54

Sienna comes into Julian's office, where he's making FLOATING BOOKSHELVES. Drilling in bottom books to the wall. Stacking others on top. Sienna marvels.

SIENNA

Wow.

JULIAN

Good to see you, stranger.

She grimaces.

SIENNA

You, too, boss.

He smiles. Switches drill bits.

JULIAN

Had a few interesting calls today.
Couple training inquiries.

SIENNA

New champ on the horizon?

JULIAN

Could be. Also heard from a
promoter. Asked if you wanted to
fight at Nationals.

*

She looks up. Shocked.

SIENNA

Me?

He nods. Excitement flashes across her face, but it's quickly
replaced by doubt.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Oh!... I'm pretty busy.

He looks at her, disappointed. He calls her on her shit.

JULIAN

Right. With all your clients.

SIENNA

I'm taking twenty credits this
semester.

Julian nods, then--

JULIAN

Your sister called.

SIENNA

Here?

JULIAN
Said you haven't been answering
your phone.

SIENNA
(not sorry)
Oops.

JULIAN
And that you'd moved out.
(a knowing beat)
Sounds like she's worried about you.

SIENNA
That's ironic.

JULIAN
Holding onto anger's like drinking
poison and expecting the other
person to die. It's keeping you
from being your best.

SIENNA
Or maybe it gives me my edge.

JULIAN
You ever notice you've got one
shoulder higher than the other?

She starts to object, then shifts her posture, realizing.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
It's cause you're carrying too
much. And you don't even notice,
cause your focus is out here. On
what everyone else expects of you.

He indicates the world around them.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Set it down, Sienna. Get real with
yourself.

SIENNA
Oh, I see. We're having a Miyagi
moment.

He shakes his head, disappointed at her sarcasm.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
You think I'm... Fake?

JULIAN

I think whatever story it is you're telling yourself isn't necessarily reality.

SIENNA

And what is?

JULIAN

I can only give you the tools, I can't do the fighting for you...

Sienna nods, leans against the wall, resigned.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Keep her close, Sienna.

SIENNA

Easy for you to say.

JULIAN

Is it, now? My dad was... Tough. And my brother was ten times worse. I hated his guts til his last breath -

He drills one more hole into the wall. Looks up.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

- But I would give anything to spend one more day with him.

SIENNA

What would you do if you found him sleeping with your long term boyfriend in your apartment?

*
*

Julian's eyes go wide with this news. Looks at her. Considers.

JULIAN

I'd still spend the day with him. Then probably kill him myself.

Sienna smiles. He stacks a final book on top.

55 **EXT. POWDERKEG - PARKING LOT - STREET - DAY**

55

A few GYM BUNNIES linger around outside the gym, enjoying their social hour, as Sienna-- in stark contrast with sweat and not a stitch of makeup-- rushes in.

56 **INT. POWDERKEG - DAY**

56

Kayden's in the cage, facing off against a **MEATY** sparring partner as Sienna stands outside, coaching his defenses.

SIENNA
Hands up! Hit! For every one, you
give three.

Meaty throws a punch. Kayden counters, tries to get in a
combo. One -- two -- BAM! Meaty knocks him.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Stay in there. Keep going.

Meaty throws another punch, Kayden blocks it.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Be first, be first, be first. He's
in there. You're dropping your
guard - He's got you...

Meaty delivers a SERIES OF JABS. Kayden BLOCKS THEM BETTER.

KAYDEN
Yes!

Kayden pounds his fists, proud of himself -- She's NOT -- She
moves Meaty aside and ATTACKS openings in his defense herself.

SIENNA
NO. Defense is not an action; it's a
given. Your *resting state* should be
impenetrable. No one gets in. No one
can hurt you.

Other fighters gather to watch.

Kayden crosses left. She finds his opening, kicking right --

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Every time someone attacks, they
leave an opening. Find the opening -
Close with a kill. Find the opening -

JAB-HOOK-CROSS-KNEE. She attacks with PRECISION and FURY.

It feels emotional. Because it is.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
- Close with a kill.

A LAST HIT - and she motions Meaty back. He RAILS on Kayden who
NOW MASTERFULLY holds defense while attacking with acute force.

Proof that Sienna truly brings out his best.

LATER:

Kayden, drenched in sweat but feeling good, comes out of the
cage, where Sienna's standing.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Not bad.

KAYDEN

Not bad?

She smirks.

SIENNA

Get your stretching in and we'll head out.

KAYDEN

I was going to do a quick circuit.

SIENNA

You're going to hurt yourself overtraining. Spend that time stretching.

There's a moment between them, but it's broken by--

BETH (O.S.)

Sienna!

Sienna takes a deep breath, trying to calm herself.

She turns to see her sister, who is in a sports bra and gym shorts, with her hair dyed a variety of colors.

SIENNA

Since when do you work out?

BETH

I didn't think you'd be here, but... Can we talk?

SIENNA

Get out of my way, Beth.

BETH

No. Jax told me to stand up for myself.

SIENNA

Did he tell you to dye your hair? Because you look like you fucked the Easter Bunny.

Beth's visibly hurt. Sienna almost softens but--

In the distance, she spots Jax doing one-armed pull ups, trying to impress a few of his GOONS. Sienna nods-- *of course*. She steps forward. Beth puts an arm up for protection, thinking she's about to be punched.

BETH
Please don't...

Kayden watches as Sienna grabs her gym bag and leaves.

As she passes by Jax, they make meaningful eye contact. For a moment, she misses him, but she pushes forward, through the door.

57 **EXT. POWDERKEG - PARKING LOT - DAY - LATER**

57

Sienna leans against the fender of Kayden's car, clearing her head. He walks out. He pauses, giving her space, then proceeds with caution...

KAYDEN
I think I just found an opening.

She smiles, blushing a little. Still somber. He leans against the car.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
You're good.

SIENNA
I have moments.

KAYDEN
More than a moment, Sienna. I doubt there's too many women, even the pros, who'd keep up with you.

*

SIENNA
Hm.

KAYDEN
But you'd rather hide your fight behind others?

SIENNA
Helping others be their best IS my fight.

KAYDEN
If you say so...

He quietly lays down beside her, looking up at the same sky. After a beat -

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry you're hurt.

SIENNA

You didn't--

She cuts herself off, realizing he meant emotionally, not physically. Their eyes meet and she blinks back tears, feeling seen for the first time in far too long.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

And what about you?

In a nice turn of events, instead of getting angry, he jokes.

KAYDEN

What's the giveaway? My furrowed brow and brooding eyes.

She smiles. Jokes back. Their connection simmers.

SIENNA

I was referring more to your self-loathing roadmap of tattoos. **"Pain is my Punishment. Blood, My Redemption."**

KAYDEN

Yeah, well...

He looks back at the sky. Maintaining his mystery. She looks at him, wanting to know more, but he changes the subject.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Was that your sister?

Her expression changes, hardening.

SIENNA

How could you tell?

KAYDEN

The tension.
(beat)
And you look just like her.

SIENNA

She looks like me.

He smirks.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

What?

KAYDEN

Nothing.

SIENNA
Doesn't sound like nothing.

KAYDEN
What's it sound like?

SIENNA
Judgement.

KAYDEN
Look, I don't know your situation--

SIENNA
No, you don't.

KAYDEN
--But family's important.

SIENNA
Yeah? Is that why you're so close
to yours?

He holds her stare. Then gets up and heads to his car.

KAYDEN
Stay in your lane.

She glares, COMPLETELY FRUSTRATED AND CONFUSED by him. After a beat, she grabs her stuff and reluctantly gets in.

SIENNA (V.O.)
*Talk about moody. At least with Jax
you knew you were signing up for
trouble. The lie was telling
yourself you could take it. - Kayden
doesn't tell lies. He doesn't tell
anything. But my instincts, whatever
they're worth, tell me there's more
to him than muscle...*

58 **INT. KAYDEN'S CAR (DRIVING) - NIGHT**

58

Kayden drives while Sienna looks out the passenger window.
They sit in silence, worlds apart.

59 **EXT. RIVERFRONT PARK - MORNING**

59

The sun rises over the Ohio river.

60 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY** 60

Sienna eats breakfast, alone. The calendar on the fridge shows today is a 'MetCon' (metabolic conditioning) day for Kayden.

61 **INT. POWDERKEG GYM - DAY** 61

Kayden powers through a circuit of high intensity conditioning exercises. He's in the middle of a set of alternating jump knees when he notices Jax in the mirror behind him, talking to a woman.

He slows, recognizing... Beth. They're clearly flirting.

He turns, sees Jax grab a handful of Beth's bottom. She squeals and playfully pushes him.

As the realization dawns on Kayden... *Fuck.*

62 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - SIENNA'S BEDROOM - DAY** 62

Sienna's studying when she hears the front door. She looks up, waits. Kayden walks by her room without a word.

She returns to her textbook, though it's clear she's dismayed.

63 **INT. KAYDEN AND SIENNA'S HALL / BATHROOM - NIGHT** 63

Kayden comes out of the bathroom, shirtless, holding an ICE BUCKET. Still trying to avoid one another, Sienna walks past wordlessly, turning on HOT WATER for a shower.

KAYDEN
What're you doing?

He goes back in. Turns the SHOWER OFF. Points to the separate, claw-footed BATHTUB FULL OF ICE. His body touching hers.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Ice bath.

She looks at the ice. Then him. Slides past and leaves.

SIENNA
(not sorry)
Sorry.

64 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT - LATER**

64

Sienna runs a HOT shower, filling the room with steam. Eyes the ICE BATH - still full. She gets in, GASPS at the sting of the chill, then closes her eyes.

She breathes in and out deeply-- taking pleasure in the pain.

KAYDEN (O.S.)
How does that feel?

She opens her eyes to find - KAYDEN emerging from the ice water between her legs. Before she can respond--

STRONG HANDS reach down her body from the steam above and PULL HER OUT into the hot shower. It's **JAX**. Then, through the steam - Kayden joins them in the shower. In abstract shots, they pull her attention back and forth.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Sienna...

SIENNA
Mhmm.

KAYDEN (O.S.)
Sienna?

65 **INT. SIENNA'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

65

Sienna SHOOTS UP in bed, seeing Kayden, sweaty and shirtless after his sunrise conditioning, at her door.

KAYDEN
Good dream?

She's horrified at what he might have seen, when she realizes--

SIENNA
Shit. My alarm didn't--

KAYDEN
Let's go.

She defiantly buries her head in her pillow. He snatches the pillow, then pulls the comforter off her, revealing minimal sleepwear (a tank top and underwear). She groans.

He holds up his phone, the screen showing a text exchange in which he's agreeing to the REMATCH.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Officially confirmed.

She leans up on her elbows, suddenly awake.

SIENNA
You're in?

He nods.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
You're going to do what I say, no
moody disappearing act or quid pro
quo?

He raises his eyebrows, impressed.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
(explaining)
'If you do this, then I'll do
that'.

KAYDEN
I know what quid pro quo means.

SIENNA
So?

KAYDEN
Yes, Sensei.

SIENNA
I'll be ready in five. Put on
sweats. We're going to be outside.

He wrinkles his nose, not enthused.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
I saw that.

He sighs with reluctant agreement. Just before he closes the
door, he calls back to her:

KAYDEN
By the way, you talk in your sleep.

Her eyes go wide with panic.

CUT TO:

66 **EXT. ABANDONED DOCK - DAY**

66 *

Sienna leads Kayden down to a secluded dock in the middle of a
river. *

SIENNA

Come on.

He follows. The view is surprisingly picturesque.

KAYDEN

What is this?

SIENNA

Mixing your M.A. I'll mark attacks.
Grab anything you can.

He raises a flirtatious brow, then concedes. She marks a jab -

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Jax likes to take hold of people.
He'll grab a foot or wrist and
break you any chance he gets.

As told, he grabs her wrist, then expertly twists her arm under his. Indicating how he could SNAP it. He winks. She mugs.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Good. You get in a lock and fight
against it, you get hurt. You've
gotta stay moving, counter it
before it happens. Get ahead of it
to empower your next attack.

He's starting to get the hang of it.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Alright, good. Let's level up.

She PULLS OUT A BLINDFOLD. Both of them register the suggestive nature, but she's all business.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

We'll start with sensitivity
drills. Basic theory: if your
breath is grounded in your body,
and you're in sync with your
opponent, you can overcome them, no
matter the size...

He's rolling with it. She covers his eyes and puts on MUSIC.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Connect to your breath and trust
your body, so no matter what tries
to control you -

His foot slips off the dock, but he recovers.

*

KAYDEN
- Don't fall off and die.

SIENNA
Little dramatic, but sure.

He starts to BREATHE, then moves through drills with calm strength. After a beat - she takes his wrist.

MUSIC evolves as they push and pull along an elevated metal grate. Muscular and connected.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Stay grounded. Feel my next movement, stay one step ahead.

She throws a combo, he dodges, blocks.

Finally - he flips her around his back onto the wooden dock below, pins her, then pulls down his blindfold, to see her beneath him... And smiles.

TIME CUT TO:

67 **EXT. ABANDONED DOCK - EVENING**

67 *

They sit on the side of the dock, their legs over the side, feet dangling into the water.

KAYDEN
You're a unique trainer, Sensei Lane.

SIENNA
I borrowed that exercise from Julian.

KAYDEN
He's a legend.

SIENNA
Big shoes to fill.

He looks at her, questioning.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
We've talked about maybe me running the studio with him some day.

KAYDEN
Seriously? That's-- wow.

He nods, impressed. Sienna smiles. Agreeing.

SIENNA

Yeah. It is. I like the idea of creating a home for a whole new generation of misfits. Like me... Us. Kind of why I'm studying business, so I can help with the books and everything.

*
*
*
*
*
*

He smiles. Then -

KAYDEN

You really never wanted to fight yourself?

She looks out. Pulls apart a weed.

SIENNA

Of course I did... Do. But Jax kept saying I wasn't strong enough, tough enough, good enough. Looking back, I think he didn't want me to take what was his.

KAYDEN

The irony.

SIENNA

And there's a stigma with women. Like we shouldn't get punched in the face, because beauty's our only asset. Whereas men can afford to get busted 'cause you have other valued qualities?

KAYDEN

Not that my opinion matters for shit, but I support you fighting whatever war you think is important... In and out of the cage.

She looks at him, questioning.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

I saw them at the gym. Not the most discreet.

SIENNA

Yeah. Real class acts.

KAYDEN

I can't say much, cause I did plenty of shit I regret. But he should know better.

SIENNA
He's going to...

Off her look of determination,

CUT TO:

68 **OMITTED** 68

69 **OMITTED** 69

70 **INT. POWDERKEG - CAGE - EVENING** 70

Kayden spars with **MADDOX (20s)** a jacked Tae Kwon Do fighter, who executes a SHOWY display of BAITING JUMPS and KICKS. A MODEST CROWD, including Brent and Evans, OOH'S and AHH'S.

SIENNA
Stay in it. He's all show.

NEARBY: Jax PUNCHES a bag relentlessly, clearly (but unsuccessfully) trying to take the attention from the cage.

IN THE CAGE: Kayden is focused, unfazed by Maddox or Jax. He uses grounded muscle with strong BODY BLOWS and LEG KICKS, cutting Maddox's mobility.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
There it is! Come on!

Showcasing their teamwork. With each hit, she prompts to --

SIENNA (CONT'D)
FIND THE OPENING! Hit the holes!

Kayden adeptly executes. As Maddox punches back widely. Kayden DUCKS - HOOKS and PULLS his head into to his knee. DOMINATING.

OUTSIDE THE CAGE

Strong hands slither around Sienna's waist - and Jax breathes into her neck.

JAX
There's my Princess. See me win the other night? KO in 34 seconds.

Sienna tries to escape - but Jax pulls her aside.

SIENNA
Jax, let go, I'm working!

IN THE CAGE, Kayden sees Sienna with Jax - allowing Maddox a BLOW to his face, KNOCKING KAYDEN OVER.

JAX
Wow, shit. This your new guy?
(yikes)
Step down.

Through blurry eyes, Kayden looks up from the mat, trying to see if Sienna's okay. Jax grabs her wrist.

JAX (CONT'D)
Let's go. You're too good to be mixed up in this underground shit.

SIENNA
Since when do you care about my well-being?

JAX
You can't say I don't care. I'm the only one who cared. Paid more attention than your parents ever did. I'm the one who's always believed in you.

Damn. He's good. Their chemistry's as undeniable as unhealthy. She almost buys it, but then--

SIENNA
Bullshit. When I wanted to fight on my own, you didn't believe in me. You shut it down. And when I tried to get closer to you, you cheated.

JAX
(soft)
I got scared. Fight or flight.

She sighs.

JAX (CONT'D)
Si, we're the same. Or-- or, at least we're on the same team. You and me against the world. Right?

SIENNA
You're still seeing her.

JAX
I can stop. She's just... easier.

WOW. She can't believe it. Then again... She can. She turns to see--

IN THE CAGE

Kayden is against the cage, searching for Sienna as Maddox LAUNCHES HIS NEXT ATTACK - about to make lethal contact - when Sienna calls to him-

SIENNA

Kayden!

Kayden SNAPS back - DUCKS under, catching Maddox's legs, and SLAMS him to the ground in a DOUBLE LEG TAKE DOWN! Kayden MOUNTS him and--

Another TRAINER blows a whistle. Kayden hops up, gives Maddox a hand to his feet. Sienna turns back to Jax.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

We're not the same. Not even close.

(beat)

Kayden Williams is the next champion,
and I'm training him to break you.

Sienna pushes into the cage, pats Kayden's shoulder. Jax's eyes IGNITE WITH RAGE.

71 **EXT. POWDERKEG - PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

71

Kayden pulls on a sweatshirt as Sienna rifles through her gym bag. She pulls out gauze, alcohol swabs, and a spray bottle of Dermoplast, tending to his bloody nose. However, he's more concerned about her.

KAYDEN

What'd he say?

SIENNA

It doesn't matter. All that matters
is that we win. Bend down.

KAYDEN

What if we don't?

He pushes her hand off. She calmly returns to his aid.

SIENNA

We will. He knows you're a threat.
Especially now that you have me.
Jax preys on weakness. If you've
got any, he'll find 'em. So we've
got to know what they are. And get
ahead of them.

She finishes cleaning him. He mumbles, almost to himself.

KAYDEN

You... My weakness is you.

*

He looks down. She's hanging on his every word... Until--

JAX (O.S.)
When my girlfriend said you were
begging for sloppy seconds, I
thought she was joking.

They turn to see Jax and his gang of GOONS forming a circle around them. Sienna scans her surroundings, looking for a plan. She spots a woman lighting a cigarette nearby, and a PIPE in the bed of a pick up truck.

KAYDEN
(calm, confident)
You have an interesting definition
of 'girlfriend', if it means
someone you use, gaslight, and
cheat on with their own sister. But
not surprising for someone who
dropped out of the big leagues to
fight below their weight class.

*

The crowd SNICKERS, several people pulling out their phones to record the drama.

JAX
You don't know shit about me, or
Sienna. She's mine. Always will be.

KAYDEN
She's capable of making her own
decisions.

Jax closes in, ready to pounce. He tries to get Kayden in a headlock, but Kayden counters, grabbing Jax's fist and throwing his head backwards to keep Jax from getting the upper hand. He gets Jax's arm behind his back in a HAMMER LOCK, before Jax breaks free, readies himself to attack again.

Jax laughs it off, howls in a show of aggression.

Meanwhile, Sienna grabs the lighter from the smoking woman and breaks Kayden and Jax up by--

LIGHTING THE DERMOPLAST ON FIRE IN A SPRAY OF FLAMES.

SIENNA
BACK OFF, DEADBEAT.

Everyone backs off, on guard and in awe.

JAX
Princess.

SIENNA
Stop calling me that.

JAX
I forgot how sexy you are when
you're angry.

EVANS AND BRENT pull up to the scene in a PICKUP TRUCK. Time to go. But...

JAX (CONT'D)
Almost as sexy as your sister.

SIENNA (V.O.)
What did he just say?

Enraged, Sienna grabs the crowbar and moves toward Jax's motorcycle, parked nearby. Without a second thought, she SMASHES JAX'S HEADLIGHT. Jax is stunned, momentarily frozen in shock.

SIENNA
Go to Hell.

SMASH! SMASH! She beats on the bike until Kayden grabs her.

JAX
Are you fucking kidding me?!

BRENT
Get in!

They RACE for Evans's pick up truck and JUMP INTO THE BACK. Jax and his goons give chase. Evans floors it, narrowly escaping.

72 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - SIENNA'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING** 72

Sienna lies in bed. She picks up her phone-- "**FEBRUARY 14TH. VALENTINE'S DAY.**" She rolls her eyes.

SIENNA (V.O.)
*I never really cared about
Valentine's Day in your basic
Victoria's-Secret, must-have-hot-
rezzies-and-roses, kind of way. But
being alone for the first time in
three years, it hits harder.*

She clicks off her phone and tosses it back on her bedside table.

73 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING**

73

Sienna tiptoes out of her bedroom, into the kitchen, as Brent lies on the couch... Entwined with Evans. A few empty beer cans litter the coffee table.

SIENNA
Valentine's plans?

Brent pulls away, trying to pretend they weren't cuddling.

EVANS
Seriously, Brent?

He gets up, grabs his things from the couch.

BRENT
What? Evans, what's wrong?

EVANS
I'm not doing this anymore. I'm not going to be some shameful secret you keep in the shadows.

BRENT
It's not that-- I'm not ashamed.
I'm just not ready to--

EVANS
We're supposed to be getting married! How much more time do you need?

Brent opens his mouth, but the words won't come out. Evans runs a hand through his hair and leaves.

Brent skulks into the kitchen, where Sienna is making coffee.

SIENNA
You didn't have to hide it from me.
I'll accept you, no matter what.

BRENT
I'm not hiding it, I just... I'd rather not draw attention to it with the Police Department. But he feels like if we're keeping it on the D/L, we're living a lie. And he's not wrong, but I'm scared to put myself out there like that.

*
*
*
*

A beat as Sienna lets this sink in. Then--

SIENNA

Did he say you were getting married?

BRENT

Mmmyeah. In six weeks.

SIENNA

What?! What about your family? Do they know?

BRENT

Most of them, yeah. My mom's known since I was a kid. She works in the foster system, so she's been super cool. She just wants us to be happy.

BRENT (CONT'D)

...I'm still looking to fill out my wedding party, if you're up for it.

SIENNA

I'd be honored.

BRENT

Kayden didn't mention any of this?

SIENNA

Not a word.

BRENT

He's good at keeping secrets.

SIENNA

Yeah.

She leans her head back against a cabinet, frustrated.

BRENT

Sucks when you can't be with someone you have feelings for, huh?

SIENNA

Me and Kayden? ...Not gonna happen.

BRENT

Oh, come on. I really like what you bring out in each other.

SIENNA

We almost started a gang war with my ex-boyfriend.

BRENT

Nothing says romance like a DIY
flamethrower.

(beat)

I should go get him.

She nods. He leaves. Her gaze drifts to the dilapidated wall,
which gives her an idea...

TIME CUT TO:

74 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

74

Sienna paints the apartment in a tank and cutoffs. Furniture's
covered. Music playing. Kayden, having finally woken up, walks in.

KAYDEN

What are you doing? I told you I...

She throws him a roller.

SIENNA

...Convinced yourself that you
don't deserve a home? I know. Just
like I convinced myself that I
don't care it's Valentine's Day and
everyone else is getting loved and
laid while I live in a murder
closet.

She points to the two bright test colors painted on the back
wall. *

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Peach Parfait or Palladian Blue? *

He looks at the PAINT CAN LABEL, back at her, and can't help
but smile. *

KAYDEN

Benjamin Moore was all out of Doom
and Gloom Gray? *

SIENNA

Yep. Along with Brooding Beige.

He bends down, accidentally getting paint all down his shirt.

KAYDEN

Did they have... Annoying Orange?
Or Relentless Red?

SIENNA

They do now.

She takes her brush and PAINTS DOWN HIS FACE AND CHEST. He takes it in shock. Then --

Arkadiusz Fudali
copy created by Zosia Kochan

KAYDEN
You come here. Now!

She fakes him out then RUNS behind the covered couch. He comes for her - she jumps and *SLIPS* --

SIENNA
Ahhh!

-- Landing on her back on the tarp. He stands over her, holding a paint can, enjoying his power.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Don't you dare!

Then starts to slowly drip paint on her.

What starts as payback suddenly becomes extremely erotic.

He starts to drip paint down her neck and chest, runs his hand up her rib cage. She looks into his eyes, pulls up her top as the paint drips lower down her abdomen. She GASPS. Her back arches. He bends down, leaning over her, dripping paint even lower as she tugs at her cutoffs in ecstasy - as if to allow access - WHEN -

HE PULLS AWAY.

She looks up. He stands above. It's hot and heavy, but he sighs heavily, conflicted.

*
*

SIENNA (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

KAYDEN
We can't. I need my head in the game. I almost got myself pinned last night.

He stands up, grabs a towel. Sienna starts to sit up, shocked.

She looks at him, swallowing her attraction.

SIENNA
Then let's get focused. Maybe we need to try something different.

OFF HER LOOK,

CUT TO:

75 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - JULIAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

75

Sienna sits in Julian's office as he paces. Kayden awkwardly sits outside. The door's closed, but he can hear everything.

JULIAN

No! Absolutely not. Do you have any
idea how dangerous it is?

*
*

He looks at her, sees she's well aware. Disappointment registers on his face.

*
*

JULIAN (CONT'D)

That's not sport, it's senseless
destruction. My gym is above that.
If we got caught, I'd lose
everything.

*
*
*
*

SIENNA

You're losing now anyway. We've
been under water for months.

He looks her straight in the eye.

*

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Kayden's the real deal.

JULIAN

Then why does he fight in the
underground?

SIENNA

Why don't you ask him?

She opens the door. Kayden humbly jumps up and enters.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Julian, this is...

JULIAN

I know who he is.

Julian eyes him. Skeptical. He notices the remnants of their painting encounter.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

What's with the paint?

Sienna shoots Kayden a look. Kayden glosses over it, greeting Julian with humble respect.

KAYDEN

It's an honor. I used to watch all
your interviews. If it wasn't for
you I would've never...

JULIAN
...Started beating up men in
basements?

Arkadiusz Fudali
copy created by Zosia Kochan

KAYDEN

I take full responsibility for
that. But you-- you opened my eyes.
Er, my mind.

JULIAN

(not buying it)
I did, did I?

KAYDEN

After every fight you'd have a
quote, from some literary
heavyweight...

Kayden points to a book on a shelf. Quotes from memory -

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

*"The world breaks everyone, and
afterward, many are strong at the
broken places."* Hemingway. Or;
"Heroism is endurance..."

JULIAN

...for one moment more." George F.
Kennan. Underrated.

Julian's trying not to like him. It's hard.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

The mental fight's just as
important as anything else. All
about connection-- mind, body,
spirit.

*
*
*

KAYDEN

I always wanted to go to school.
Didn't work out, but I'd hide in
bars, on the bus, reading anyone you
mentioned.

JULIAN

If you're so enlightened, why stay
underground?

Kayden gets serious. Squares with him.

KAYDEN

It's all I've ever known. And
because... I need to beat Jax, and
that's where he lives.

Julian looks at him. Then turns to Sienna --

JULIAN

That's what this is about?!

SIENNA
(to Julian)
He betrayed me. And you! You have
every reason to--

JULIAN
Sienna--

SIENNA
This could put us back on the map.

JULIAN
Want another quote? *"Never interrupt
your enemy when he is making a
mistake."* - Napoleon Bonaparte. A
short fuck who died.

SIENNA
Listen to me... When Kayden wins,
he'll go legit here. Fighters will
flock here, hoping for the same
thing. You'll have your champ and a
following. Two birds, one stone.

JULIAN
My champ? A following? I'm not in
this for an ego boost, Sienna.

SIENNA
Please.

Julian considers. He looks between Sienna and Kayden, seeing
the spark of hope in their eyes. He sighs heavily.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
We need your help. I need your
help.

JULIAN
Let me be clear, I will never
support the underground, but I do
support you. So you want to train
here, *as professionals*? I'll let it
slide.

He steps closer to Sienna, puts a reassuring hand on her
shoulder.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
You have all the potential to be a
champion. And you can make a
champion.

She looks at him, nods.

KAYDEN

Thank you.

Kayden and Sienna are nearly out the door when--

JULIAN

This thing--

*

He motions between them.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

--That's what they mean when they
say 'the kiss of death'.

Sienna and Kayden side eye each other with concern.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

I'm serious about keeping it
professional. If you're gonna train
here, you need to pick, business or
pleasure? Cause in the ring, a
fraction-of-a-second of distraction
can get you killed.

*

*

76

INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - SIENNA'S ROOM - DAY

76

Sienna finishes packing her things as Kayden stands in the doorway of her room, a lost puppy.

KAYDEN

Maybe I could crash at Brent's.

SIENNA

You can't be training that hard and
sleeping on a couch.

She moves to leave, but stops just in front of him. They're inches apart.

KAYDEN

This doesn't feel right.

SIENNA

It's only for a few weeks. I'll be
fine.

A beat. It's clear they don't want to be separated. She breaks away, leaving him behind.

77 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - JULIAN'S OFFICE - MORNING** 77

Sienna wakes up, groggy, on the leather couch in Julian's office. She stretches her neck to the side, clearly uncomfortable, but dealing with it.

She looks up, sees a poster on Julian's wall: *There is no success without sacrifice.*

78 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY** 78

-- Sienna straps a weighted vest (25 lbs) to Kayden's chest.

-- Kayden does decline push ups with resistance bands, mountain climbers on a bosu ball, pull ups to knee ups, all with the vest.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
*Keep your eye on the prize... And
nothing else.*

-- Sienna coaches Kayden as he spars an OPPONENT.

Julian watches. He talks to Sienna on the sideline. She steps in and shows Kayden a maneuver.

79 **INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DAY** 79

Sienna sits in the lecture hall, zoning out. Brent tries to get her attention.

 BRENT
Psst.

 SIENNA (V.O.)
*The next few weeks were a blur. I
tried to keep up with my other
obligations, but it was almost
impossible.*

 BRENT
(whispering)
Sienna.

She doesn't notice.

 BRENT (CONT'D)
(louder)
SIENNA!

 SIENNA
Oh. Huh? What?

BRENT
You're coming tomorrow, right?

She stares blankly.

BRENT (CONT'D)
To the fittings?

SIENNA
Yeah, of course.

He smiles. She sighs, overwhelmed.

80 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY**

80

Sienna and Kayden do footwork drills while Julian trains a fighter, ATHENA, in the ring.

JULIAN
(to Sienna)
You have a second to give me a hand?

She checks the time.

SIENNA
Sure thing.

JULIAN
What, you got a date?

SIENNA
(cheeky)
Maybe.
(to Kayden)
Keep moving, changing up the angles.

She goes over to Julian.

JULIAN
This is Athena. She's got a fight coming up and it'd be good to get her on her feet, for real.

SIENNA
Yeah, sure.

Sienna grabs her gloves and steps into the ring. She and Athena touch gloves, friendly.

JULIAN
Ready? Let's go.

Both women jump into action, dancing around each other. Athena moves towards Sienna.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Make her come to you, Athena.

Athena backs away, but Sienna holds for a beat, now knowing Athena's impatient.

Athena comes back in, tries to take Sienna down by wrapping her arm around Sienna's torso and sweeping her legs. Sienna expertly gets out of Athena's hold and lands a KNEE to Athena's chest and a quick PUNCH in the face, all while pushing her back against the ropes.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Get out of there!

Athena fights back, trying to get off the ropes. She buries her fist in Sienna's side, but Sienna is relentless, repeatedly kneeing Athena in the leg.

Kayden nears the ring, stops moving to watch.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Push her back!

Athena gets Sienna off her, landing a BRUTAL PUNCH in Sienna's face. Sienna dances back, yells to Kayden-- though she never takes her eyes off Athena.

SIENNA

(to Kayden)

I told you to keep moving.

Kayden laughs, starts moving, while still watching.

Athena comes in with a front kick. Sienna blocks it, lands a punch to Athena's side. Athena throws a punch, but Sienna grabs her arm, sweeps her leg.

JULIAN

Stay outside!

But it's too late-- Sienna has her down on the mat. Athena does an upkick, then latches onto Sienna, her legs wrapped around Sienna's neck. Sienna slams her to the mat, then gets on top of her, doing a SOMERSAULT INTO AN ARMBAR and Athena's DONE!

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Alright, that's it. Good fight.

Sienna immediately lets Athena go and jumps to her feet, then extends a hand to help Athena up.

SIENNA
You're strong!

Athena ignores her, goes to her gym bag for a towel and water and slumps down against the wall.

Julian eyes Sienna.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
What? It was nothing.

JULIAN
It wasn't nothing. She's won all five of her fights this year and just got on the card for a big bout in Vegas. And you just took her down.

Sienna hides a smile. She shrugs like it's no big deal.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
(yeah, right)
Mhmm.

CUT TO:

81 INT. TUX & BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

81

Sienna enters a store with wedding dresses on one side, menswear on another, as BRENT sits with his WEDDING PARTY. In her uniform wife-beater, mini skirt and boots, Sienna stands out among the sea of taffeta.

BRENT
Sienna!

SIENNA
Sorry.

BRENT
Better late than never. You just missed my mom. She's dying to meet you.

Off her look of surprise--

BRENT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Kayden *may* have mentioned you once or twice. Which is more times than he's mentioned anyone else.

SIENNA

No pressure.

Sienna smiles tightly.

BRENT

Come on. The sales lady didn't know quite what to do with a nonbinary bridal party, so we're kind of on our own.

82 **INT. TUX & BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DRESSING ROOM - DAY**

82

Sienna waits in only her underwear and boots. Her body is RIPPED. Brent comes in with two dresses, his breath literally taken away by Sienna's strong, lean muscles and defined abs.

BRENT

Damn. You're more jacked than me.
You next on the card?

He throws a few punches in the air.

SIENNA

Not planning on it.

BRENT

Ah, so there's a chance.
(beat)
You know, the best feeling in the world's when you stop fighting against the current and let yourself be happy.

Sienna faintly smiles as Brent hands her a hideously floofy, magenta dress.

BRENT (CONT'D)

So, here's the dress we picked.

SIENNA

(masking horror)
Oh! Look at that!

BRENT

(hesitant)
Buuuut one of my bridesmaids asked to design the dresses herself.

Brent hands her a SLEEK, BURGUNDY DRESS. *Without question better.*

SIENNA

(genuine)
Uhh... This is gorgeous.

BETH comes in, holding pins and a tape measure.

BETH
I thought you'd look great in that
neck line.

Sienna glares. Shoves the red back and holds up the pink poof.

SIENNA
This one's fine. Better than fine.
Screams: *shotgun wedding*.
(to Brent)
Didn't care to mention this?

BRENT
I'm not getting in the middle. I
love you both and it's my big day,
so deal.

Touché. With that, he leaves. Sienna glares at Beth. Then-

SIENNA
So you're a designer now?

BETH
Maybe? At least... I'm trying.

SIENNA
(not cool)
Cool cool cool.

BETH
Can I talk?

SIENNA
You do everything else you want.

Sienna throws her clothes back on. Beth takes a breath then -

BETH
I'm sorry you feel betrayed, but...

SIENNA
Not the best way to start an
apology, shirking responsibility.

BETH
Okay, I'm sorry *I* betrayed you.
But, Sienna, it's been *so hard*
living in your shadow. You're
beautiful and brave and have the
fastest, funniest responses to
everything, even when things are
tough... I know how much you've
sacrificed to make sure I was okay.
But it's felt *impossible* to find
myself inside that.

SIENNA

So, you found yourself with my
boyfriend inside you?

Arkadiusz Fudali
copy created by Zosia Kochan

BETH

Please. I didn't mean to hurt you.
I'm just trying to figure out who I
am. Jax is the first person to pay
attention. No one ever wanted me.
Or seduced me, or all those things
I see in movies, that you got.

Beth puts the dress down. Sienna notices the **BRUISES** around
her wrists. They're significant.

SIENNA

Like being tied up and degraded?

Beth pulls her sleeves down, shrugs it off.

BETH

He always asks if I want it.

SIENNA

You're 18! You don't know what you
want.

BETH

And you do?

SIENNA

NO! Not at all! But I know there's
a difference between liking it
rough and manipulating women to
serve your ego.

BETH

Sienna, stay out of it. It's not
about you.

SIENNA

It's not about you either! That's
my point. This whole thing is about
him. The pleasure he gets from
taking your power.

BETH

He loves me.

SIENNA

Yeah? Because he said the same to me
last week. After he said you were
naive and easy.

Beth looks devastated, tears welling up in her eyes. Sienna
looks at her, takes a breath.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Beth, *I'm so mad at you.* But I
still care about you.

(MORE)

SIENNA (CONT'D)

More than anyone in the world. But
if you keep seeing him, I can't
protect you.

But it doesn't work. Beth glares, holding back tears.

BETH

Good.

Sienna storms out of the dressing room.

83 **INT. TUX & BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

83

The bridesmaids and bridesmen pretend to be busy on their
phones. Sienna grabs a glass of champagne from Brent and downs
it.

84 **INT. OVER EASY DINER - DAY**

84

Sienna sits alone, devouring a pancake/comfort-food spread. She
looks up and sees Kayden standing by, grinning. Comes and sits.

KAYDEN

(re: pancakes)

What's that?

SIENNA

Don't worry about it. (then) Why
aren't you at the gym? Miss me?

KAYDEN

Put in 8 hours today, supposed to
take the next 24 off. Unless you've
changed your mind about the rest
days...

SIENNA

No, no, definitely not.

KAYDEN

You okay?

SIENNA

Peachy.

KAYDEN

...Yeah?

She takes another aggressive bite, chews. He waits, ready to
listen.

SIENNA

What are we, friends now?

Kayden shrugs-- *Well, yeah.*

KAYDEN

If you need someone to talk to, I'm here.

Sienna takes another bite, sizing him up. She doesn't want to let him in, but she needs him.

SIENNA

Beth and I-- I swear, she's on another fucking planet. Like, in what world does she not see what he's doing?! She saw what he did to me-- gaslighting me, chipping away at my self esteem-- for three years!

She stuffs a massive bite of pancake into her mouth to keep from crying.

He remains silent, giving her space, but his expression makes it clear he empathizes.

KAYDEN

Let me get your dinner.

He stands up and pulls bills from his wallet. A **WORN PICTURE** of a **YOUNG WOMAN** falls out with the bills. Sienna looks at the photo. Then -

SIENNA

Who's she?

She shows him the picture. He **SNATCHES IT**. Instantly upset.

KAYDEN

Nobody.

WOW. That was intense. She looks at him.

SIENNA

Doesn't seem like a nobody.

A beat. He won't crack.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

So I open up to you, but you're still a vault?

Just before he leaves, Cara comes by.

CARA
(to Kayden)
Good to see the dynamic duo back
together. Can I get you anything?

Kayden and Sienna eye each other.

Cara leans against the booth, not letting him get off so easy.

CARA (CONT'D)
I know you two are low-key *Fight-Clubbing* it, and it's kinda cool knowing people who are so hard, but do you have to be so hard on each other?

Kayden looks at Sienna. *Cara does have a point.* Nevertheless, he leaves.

85 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING** 85

Kayden lies in bed, his thoughts keeping him awake.

86 **EXT. CITY PARK - MORNING** 86

Sienna does sprints, as if the faster she runs, the more she'll forget. She hears something, SPINS AROUND-- no one's there. She breathes a sigh of relief, continues running when--

Someone jogs up behind her, getting too close. She braces, ready to defend herself if necessary. A hand reaches out to her shoulder. She turns on a dime, grabbing her assailant's wrist, nearly snapping it.

KAYDEN
Sienna!

She realizes it's Kayden and releases.

SIENNA
I could've snapped your wrist. Have you been following me?

*

KAYDEN
I-- No. I mean, yeah. I just--

He takes a breath, both of them hopped up on adrenaline. Shafts of early morning light illuminate them, lending a magical air.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I got mad yesterday.

SIENNA

It's okay.

KAYDEN

It's not.

He looks at her, wanting to say more, but not knowing how to open up. She's patient, lit beautifully by the sun.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Don't do that to me.

SIENNA

What?

KAYDEN

That. That look.

SIENNA

That's my face.

KAYDEN

I know and...

He sighs, but doesn't look away.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

It's like I'm addicted to you. You're the last thing on my mind at night and the first thing when I wake up. You're the smartest, strongest, funniest, most insanelly stubborn, beautiful force of a woman I've ever met... And it kills me to be apart. But it's even harder knowing that I can't give you everything you deserve.

She moves closer.

SIENNA

Kayden... People are allowed to change. Grow. Make mistakes and then move on. Whatever you've gone through that made the person standing in front of me, is enough.

Her words wreck him. He stares at her lips with such desperate longing - he can barely get out a whisper.

KAYDEN

What do you want?

SIENNA

I can't have what I want.

Inches apart, they search each other's eyes, daring the other to close the gap. Finally, she grabs a handful of his shirt and KISSES HIM.

*

It begins slow, connected and deep. And then - it's RAVENOUS. She pushes herself into him while he throws his arms around her - as if pulling in a part of his own soul.

87 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

87

Kayden fumbles with the keys. Before the door even closes, he pushes Sienna up against the wall and kisses her...

AND IT. IS. ON.

They stumble into the apartment. Laughing. Nervous, but ready. They're unable to take their hands off each other as they peel their layers of clothing off.

They take turns pressing one another against the walls in the hallway. He lifts her up onto the kitchen counter. She pulls his lip between her teeth. He sucks in air, turned on, and swipes her off the counter with him.

88 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

88

Kayden tosses Sienna onto the bed. She pulls him down on top of her, then she rolls out from beneath him and sits on top of him, taking control.

KAYDEN

Tell me to stop and I will.

SIENNA

No way...

Slowly, she unzips her sports bra, tossing it to the side. He swallows, mesmerized.

KAYDEN

You are catastrophically beautiful.

He rolls on top of her, so she's on her back. Slowly kisses her neck, across her collar bone, making his way down...

He goes lower... She SIGHS. Her body trembles... He looks up with big eyes. Guilty. Humbled. Thirsty.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
You have no idea what I want to do
to you.

SIENNA
Show me.

He looks at her, then slowly caresses her hips and slides her
underwear down (implied).

KAYDEN
I want to make love to you right
now. Will you let me?

She looks at him, with soft, unwavering consent. She nods.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Say it.

SIENNA
Yes. Please, Kayden. I want you.

He reaches for a condom. Then, interlaces his hands with hers
tightly over her head, looks into her eyes, and slowly enters
her.

Their bodies meld into one another. Giving and taking control
equally. Deep. Playful. Intoxicating.

It's the kind of loving, connected intimacy both of them have
been craving for so long.

TIME CUT TO:

89 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - EVENING**

89

Sienna and Kayden are spooning under the covers.

SIENNA
Julian's gonna kill us.

KAYDEN
Not if he doesn't know.

SIENNA
...He'll know.

She turns to face him. He traces her face, kisses her softly.
She nuzzles into him, both ignoring the inevitable in favor of
postcoital bliss.

90 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

90

Sienna wakes up, glowing. Until she sees - Kayden is gone.

SIENNA (V.O.)
Of course.

91 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING**

91

Sienna finds Kayden grating cheese while a skillet of veggies and eggs SIZZLES in the background. He pours in the cheese, doesn't notice her as she enters. She tries to be cool.

SIENNA
We can pretend it didn't happen.

He finally looks up, surprised to see her, and noticing she's wearing his shirt.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
If you have... Regrets. Or anything.

KAYDEN
What? No. That was the best day of my life.

SIENNA (V.O.)
I'm listening.

He assembles a bite, blows to cool it down, offers her a forkful.

KAYDEN
It's not ready yet, but try this.

SIENNA
Hot...

She tries to cool it down in her mouth, nods as she swallows.

SIENNA (CONT'D)
Mmm. What is it?

KAYDEN
My take on migas. Homemade tortilla strips, caramelized onions, peppers, eggs, cheese. Whatever else I feel like putting in. You like cilantro, or..?

SIENNA
Mhmm.

As he explains, he plates the dish, garnishes it with tortilla strips and cilantro.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

I didn't realize you were such a chef.

KAYDEN

That was what I wanted to be when I grew up. Just isn't the same, cooking for one.

Sienna nods, takes a bite, savoring.

SIENNA

You're really good at it.

A beat as he watches her eat.

KAYDEN

I woke up and realized I don't want just one night with you. I want all of them.

She swallows.

SIENNA

...But?

He contemplates. There's clearly something on his mind, but he smiles, shakes his head, gives her a kiss.

92 **EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - STREET - DAY**

92

Kayden pulls up, dropping Sienna off at school. She looks back over her shoulder as she walks away, neither of them wanting to be separated.

SIENNA (V.O.)

The next week was like a fantasy I always wanted but didn't think was "on brand" for someone like me. Like the part in a Norm-core Rom-com where everything becomes bike rides and rainbows. Except ours were ropes and rings...

93 **EXT. CITY PARK - EVENING**

93

Kayden does sit ups on an incline bench, catching a weighted ball as Sienna throws it to him. On one rep, he keeps hold of the ball, luring her in. He kisses her, then pulls her on top of him. They laugh.

94 **INT. KAYDEN AND SIENNA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT** 94

Sienna and Kayden are pressed against the glass door of the shower, opaque with steam. He holds her hand above her head, their fingers leaving prints in the condensation a la Titanic. It's hot.

SIENNA (V.O.)
And the occasional shower.

95 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - JULIAN'S OFFICE - EARLY MORNING** 95

Sienna sneaks in, throws some clothes on the floor to make it look like she's still staying at the gym.

Moments later, Julian flips on the lights in the gym, visible through the window of his office.

96 **OMITTED** 96

97 **EXT. BRIDGE - LATE AFTERNOON** 97 *

Sienna and Kayden walk together across an industrial-looking suspension bridge. She runs her hands across the chain link, he admires her. They're lost in their own little world together. He scoops her up, gives her a piggy-back ride. She raises her arms like she's flying, smiles. *

She wraps her arms around his neck, nuzzles into him. *

SIENNA
 I like this. *

Kayden turns his head so they're just a breath apart. *

KAYDEN
 Me, too. *

SIENNA (V.O.)
Once he opened up, everything felt effortless with Kayden. And so different than Jax. It was a dialogue, not domination. When I was in Kayden's arms, I forgot about revenge. I was happy. But we all know that doesn't last...

He sets her down and they walk for a beat, their arms brushing. She wraps her pinky around his. Then, he turns.

*
*

KAYDEN

You saved me, Lucky. Before, I was just buying time 'til I died. Now - everything feels different... I love you.

*

He looks at her, more earnest than any man she's ever known. He searches her eyes, waiting for her to respond in kind, but

SHE FREEZES, terrified.

She opens her mouth to say the words, but she can't. Instead, she squeaks out...

SIENNA

Thanks.

She awkwardly kisses his cheek. He smiles, not sure what to make of it.

SIENNA (V.O.)

FUCK. ME. He tells me exactly what I've wanted to hear and I choke? This is some post-traumatic bullshit; Jax made me distrust the words 'I love you.' Then stop trusting myself. Which meant he was still winning.

CUT TO:

98 **OMITTED**

98

99 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY**

99

Julian's training Athena in the ring. He sees Kayden and Sienna walk in, gym bags slung over their shoulders, and shakes his head.

*

JULIAN

You're late.

SIENNA

Sorry, we--

JULIAN

Got caught up in each other and forgot what you're supposed to be doing?

Sienna starts to object, but he cuts her off.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
If you aren't going to take this seriously, find somewhere else to train.

SIENNA
What?! No!

Julian drops his pads, comes over to look Sienna in the eye.

JULIAN
I told you the conditions, to keep it professional. You didn't do that, did you?

She opens her mouth to speak, but he warns:

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Think before you lie to my face.

She stares at him, defiant but guilty.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
You ask my advice and then ignore it, cause you're too damn impulsive. Fighting is strategic.

SIENNA
Please don't do this to me. I really do need you.

JULIAN
You don't know what you need and someone's gonna get hurt, Sienna. I won't have that on my conscience.

Sienna looks down, embarrassed.

KAYDEN
Sir, this is on me as much as--

JULIAN
This is between us.

Kayden nods, averts his eyes. Sienna looks at Julian, blinks back tears as she pleads...

SIENNA
I'm sorry.

Julian stares at her, sussing her out. He nods, accepting her apology, and turns back to Kayden.

JULIAN

You see Jax's bout the other night?

Off Kayden's look--

JULIAN (CONT'D)

It's all over the internet.

He hands his phone to them, presses play on a video.

ON SCREEN:

100 **INT. POWDERKEG - CAGE (PLAYBACK ON PHONE)**

100

A raucous crowd CHEERS for Jax-- DEADBEAT, DEADBEAT, DEADBEAT-- who rips off his shirt and CLIMBS the walls of the cage, allowing women to touch him all over.

THE FIGHT STARTS. Jax dances a little. Then with -

ONE DEVASTATING HIT Jax KNOCKS his opponent down and OUT.

MC

Hey-Oh! Looks like we have a K-O!

ONLY JAX DOESN'T STOP --

HE KEEPS BASHING his opponent's head, earning his nickname: DEADBEAT.

The MC and Ref have to pull Jax off. BLOOD POOLS around the motionless fighter. CHAOS as everyone wonders if he's dead.

Finally the Ref signals he found a pulse.

MC (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Deadbeat's earned his name tonight,
and it looks like he's just getting
warmed up to go head-to-head with
Killer Kayden in the battle of the
century!

Jax looks into the camera, as if looking directly at Kayden,
mouths: 'you're next'.

BACK TO:

101 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY**

101

Kayden's chilled to the quick.

JULIAN

You sure you wanna do this? He
could kill you.

Kayden swallows, nods. Julian redirects to Sienna.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

And you're good with that?

She looks to Kayden.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Don't look at him. I want to know
how you feel. You've got one week.
Are you ready to send him into
that?

She takes a long beat, then nods, confident.

SIENNA

We'll be ready.

Julian raises his eyebrows in surprise, smiles.

JULIAN

(to Kayden)

Maybe she should be called Killer.
(beat)
You buckle down, you can stay. But
this is my only warning.

102 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING (MONTAGE #3)** 102

Kayden's alarm goes off at 5 AM.

103 **EXT. STREETS - MORNING (MONTAGE #3)** 103

Kayden runs outside with Brent.

104 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 104

Kayden punches a bag, starting slowly, then ramping up so that
his fists are moving so quickly, it's hard to even see.

Sienna and Julian stand nearby, impressed.

- 105 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 105
- He scratches through the day on a WALL CALENDAR. Only 4 days left until FIGHT NIGHT. The day before the fight is marked WEDDING.
- 106 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (MONTAGE #3)** 106
- Kayden falls into bed, staring, forlorn, at the empty space beside him.
- 107 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING (MONTAGE #3)** 107
- Kayden's alarm goes off again.
- 108 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 108
- Kayden practices kicks. He does a combo, ending with a spinning back kick.
- SIENNA
Again. I want it perfect.
- He does it again and again. And again.
- 109 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 109
- Kayden scratches through the next day on the calendar. Three days left.
- 110 **INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 110
- Kayden practices punching combos with Julian, getting better with each repetition. Sienna shows him a modification. He takes the note, visibly improving.
- 111 **INT. KAYDEN'S BATHROOM - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 111
- Kayden sits in an ice bath, breathing through the pain.
- 112 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY (MONTAGE #3)** 112
- Another scratch. Two days left. Then, one-- the wedding.

113 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

113

Kayden gets ready for the wedding. He stands in front of his mirror, trying to tie his tie. He messes it up, grows frustrated. Sienna sees through the doorway.

SIENNA

Need a hand?

He looks up and sees her. She's stunning in the dress Beth made for her.

She enters his room, stands before him, and takes either end of the tie in her hands, loops it. It's a mess.

KAYDEN

You know how to do this?

SIENNA

Not really. But I YouTubed it.

They laugh. She tries again, gets it pretty close, then adjusts so that it's centered. Both of them feel the intimacy of the act. Before they get carried away, she steps back.

KAYDEN

Thanks.

She nods.

114 **EXT. SPRINGFIELD RIVERSIDE HOTEL - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

114

An upscale, but Midwest-cozy, hotel stands out on the riverfront.

115 **OMITTED**

115

116 **INT. SPRINGFIELD RIVERSIDE HOTEL - BALLROOM/DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT**

116

Brent and Evans make the rounds, talking to guests. Beth laughs with a FEMALE FRIEND.

Sienna smiles as she and Kayden dance, their arms wrapped around each other.

SIENNA

I'm glad you stayed for the reception.

KAYDEN
(sarcastic)
Slink off into the dark when things
get social? That's not me.

SIENNA
No, never.

She laughs. Brent and Evans join them, dancing nearby.
Kayden holds Sienna closer, whispers in her ear.

KAYDEN
I've missed this.

SIENNA
I'm here.

KAYDEN
Forever?

She pulls back just enough to look in his eyes, gauge his
intent.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'm serious.

SIENNA
You - really see us going there?
The whole, Happily-Ever-Taco-Night?

KAYDEN
Go big or go home, Lucky.

He pulls her in and spins her around. They hold each other
close, just another happy couple on the dance floor.

117 **INT. SPRINGFIELD RIVERSIDE HOTEL - BATHROOM - NIGHT**

117

Sienna exits to a wash area, checking herself in the mirror.
JAX appears behind in the mirror. Drunk. It feels dangerous.

JAX
Look at you. Clean up nice, princess.

She ignores him.

JAX (CONT'D)
Ouch. Not even gonna say 'hi'?

SIENNA
Did Beth invite you?

JAX

Who? (beat) I'm kidding. Lighten up.

He chuckles.

SIENNA

Ha-ha. Women are disposable. You're a real comedian.

JAX

Aw, Si, that's what I love about you. Never afraid to tell it like it is. I miss that fire.

He stumbles a little. Sienna cringes.

JAX (CONT'D)

What? I do. Maybe this is making me sentimental, but being here-- this was supposed to be us. You and me, rebel champions.

He smiles. As if he likes that. Moves in closer.

SIENNA

Rebels stand for something. You can't even stand up.

JAX

That's okay. I like you lying down.

SIENNA

You need to go home.

JAX

Come on, Sienna. I know I wasn't perfect. Neither of us were. But we were good together. And we could be great. I know it.

He steps closer, leans in to kiss her. For a moment, it seems like she may give in - but at the last second, she blocks her face - HITTING HIS LIP. He wipes his mouth, sees blood on his fingertips.

SIENNA

How many times do I have to tell you-- *I'm done*.

JAX

Kinda mixed signals, when you keep coming back.

SIENNA

Well, consider this me breaking the cycle.

Kayden approaches, sees Sienna and Jax close together.

KAYDEN

Sienna, what's going on?

Sienna backs away from Jax, caught between him and Kayden.

JAX

You realize she's just using you to get me back right? *All of this*. For me.

Kayden takes a deep breath, looks to Sienna for reassurance.

JAX (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. You fell for it. You thought there was something more? That's not how she operates. She may look like she's on the sidelines, but she's the one making the calls.

SIENNA

Jax...

JAX

You're a pawn, dude. I'll prove it right here. Fight me, Killer. Let's get it over with, see if she sticks around.

Kayden tries his best to remain composed.

KAYDEN

I'm not going to fight you, man. We're at a wedding. Let's respect the families, save it for tomorrow.

JAX

What do you know about respecting family? Didn't you kill yours?

EVERYTHING CHANGES. Sienna looks to Kayden, confused. Kayden's entire body tenses.

JAX (CONT'D)

Your mom, right? Damn. That's a real sad story. It's too bad she didn't have someone around to prote-

BOOM! Before he can even finish, Kayden SLAMS his fist into Jax's face. AND IT'S ON.

A TASTE OF THE FIGHT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR -- ONLY A DAY EARLY -- AND AT BRENT'S WEDDING.

Jax rushes at Kayden, grabbing him around the waist. They go back and forth, each getting in a few brutal hits.

118 **INT. SPRINGFIELD RIVERSIDE HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT** 118

The boys CRASH INTO THE BALLROOM, getting caught in a decorative sheer, pulling down the curtains on their way in.

A CROWD forms, including Brent and Evans -

SIENNA

STOP!

BETH

Jax-- what are you doing here?

But it's too late. Kayden THROWS Jax into the dessert table. A PYRAMID OF CHAMPAGNE FLUTES and THE WEDDING CAKE go flying.

Furious, Kayden jumps up and retaliates, landing HARD BLOWS, exposing his own deep ANIMALISTIC RAGE. Both men bleed profusely, their crisp, white dress shirts a mess.

Brent and Evans jump into the fracas, trying to separate the guys, but it's no use. Jax elbows Evans in the face, breaking his nose with a gush of blood.

BRENT

Evans!

Jax grabs a chair, breaks it over Kayden's head. He goes down hard, but Jax isn't done with him. He grabs a metal chair and holds it above Kayden--

BETH

JAX, NO!

Jax brings it down, CRACKING KAYDEN'S RIBS like a nutcracker. Kayden reels in pain - Sienna GASPS.

Unrelenting, Kayden musters up his last energy and comes at Jax, taking him off guard. Kayden locks him on the ground, CHOKES HIM with one hand and raises the other in a fist -

When Jax looks up and smiles beneath his bloody grip...

JAX

There he is. Show Sienna who you truly are, Killer. Do it. Kill me.

SIENNA

Kayden!

Finally Kayden looks up at her, and the horrified crowd. Drops Jax, who COUGHS BLOOD all over Brent's wedding suit.

The photographer SNAPS A PHOTO.

Devastated, Kayden looks at the ruin he caused.

KAYDEN
I'm sorry.

He takes off. Sienna calls after him as Beth rushes to tend to Jax, in a heap on the ground.

SIENNA
Kayden, wait!

BETH
Sienna!

Beth reaches out, grabs Sienna. Sienna pulls away and Beth stumbles backwards. Sienna stares at her for a beat, eyes full of rage and betrayal, before she goes after Kayden.

119 **INT. SPRINGFIELD RIVERSIDE HOTEL - SERVICE AREA - NIGHT** 119

Sienna follows Kayden into the bowels of the hotel, passing KITCHEN AND CLEANING STAFF as he rushes toward the exit.

SIENNA
Kayden! Are you okay?

He turns around, bruised and bloodied.

KAYDEN
Fuck that guy! I didn't sign up for
this drama, digging up--

SIENNA
So, what? You're just going to run
away, the night before your fight?

KAYDEN
Cause that's all that matters.

SIENNA
Kayden!

He walks away. She pulls him back.

KAYDEN
He knows nothing about me or my
mom, or my life.

SIENNA
Neither do I! Tell me.

*
*

*

*
*
*

*
*

Kayden takes a breath, looks into her eyes.

KAYDEN
You really wanna know?

As much as he wants to walk away, he fights through it, rolls up his sleeve to show the tattoo we saw earlier.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
That's my mom... I killed her.

Sienna tries to mask her horror. She stays silent, waiting for him to continue.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
She raised me by herself, working three jobs to make ends meet and I was a shit. One night, I got wasted at a party, called her. She left work to come pick me up and on the way... She was t-boned by a drunk driver. Just like that. Gone.

He can hardly get the words out.

SIENNA
...You were just a kid. You couldn't have known--

He looks up, his eyes full of pain.

KAYDEN
--After everything she did for me, that's how I repaid her. And now? I'm a high school dropout who gets beat up in underground fights for money. She must be proud, right?

He wipes his face. She looks at him with sympathy.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
The only 'decent' thing I've done since is giving most of my winnings to Brent's family. Keep fighting, keep food on their tables for all their kids 'til I'm not a burden for them anymore.
(MORE)

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

*

SIENNA

Kayden, you're not... I'm sorry, I didn't know--

*
*

KAYDEN

No, see, that's exactly what I'm trying to avoid. Pity. Especially yours, seeing how you pity yourself so much it keeps you chasing *that* asshole.

*
*
*
*
*
*

SIENNA

Excuse me?

*
*

KAYDEN

You pretend to be so tough, but you're just hiding.

*

She looks at him. SEETHING.

SIENNA

Oooh, says *the brave hero*, locked up in a basement, haunted by your own ghosts, waiting to die.

KAYDEN

You're the one who forced your way into my life. I don't need you.

*

SIENNA

Really? Because the last fight before me YOU LOST.

He clutches his ribs, clearly in pain. Sienna moves to his side, puts a caring hand on him as she realizes the extent of his injury. He pulls away.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Kayden--

KAYDEN

Don't. I'll do this on my own.
Don't come tomorrow.

SIENNA

What? You can't fight like that.
Your ribs are broken!

*
*

KAYDEN

What's it matter to you if I lose?

SIENNA

It matters to me if you die.

KAYDEN

Does it? We don't have anything
after tomorrow anyway. Do we?

Ouch. He looks at her, waiting. She's too upset to speak...

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

(thought so)

Yeah. I don't know what you're
fighting for Sienna. But *this* isn't
how we win.

SIENNA

Great. Have fun on your suicide
mission!

LIVID, he storms off down the hallway. She watches him go. She collapses backwards against the wall, covers her mouth and SCREAMS into her arm. With that release, she stares ahead, numb.

SIENNA (V.O.)

*I didn't know what I was fighting
for anymore. All I knew, is I was
losing.*

120 INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - EVENING

120

Sienna wails on a punching bag. She's exhausted, but pushing through, using up her last reserves.

JULIAN (O.S.)

You heading out soon?

She looks over her shoulder at him, then turns back to the bag and punches.

JULIAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You're a professional, Sienna. We
don't abandon our fighters. He
needs you.

She takes a deep breath, puts her head against the punching bag in thought.

121 INT. POWDERKEG - BASEMENT - FIGHT AREA - NIGHT

121

The FINAL SHOWDOWN is here. In a single move, the camera snakes through a packed house of raucous FANS, then down to the CAGE. The MC, wearing a pirate hat, stands on a table, commanding attention like Captain Morgan himself.

MC

First rule of POWDERKEG: DO NOT
TALK ABOUT POWDERKEG! Nahhh. Who am
I kidding? Everyone's gonna talk
about it!

The crowd goes WILD.

122 **INT. POWDERKEG - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT**

122

Kayden waits alone in the janitor's closet-turned-locker room. He does a few exercises to warm up his muscles, but he's in pain. A massive bruise surrounds his cracked rib.

OUTSIDE Jax is introduced. His death-chant beats like a pulse.

CROWD (O.C.)

DEAD-BEAT! DEAD-BEAT! DEAD-BEAT!

Julian enters with a new robe. Kayden looks up, surprised.

KAYDEN

Coach. I thought you didn't want
anyone to know about this?

JULIAN

Fuck 'em.

Kayden smiles. Julian slips the robe on him. Noticing the bruise, he stops, feels Kayden's rib. Kayden winces.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

That's cracked... The hell
happened?

Kayden cuts him off, ignoring his question.

KAYDEN

Pacquiao's done it. I'll be fine.

JULIAN

He gets a hit in, it could puncture
a lung. That'd be fatal.

KAYDEN

Then I better not let him land a
hit.

Julian's skeptical, but he nods.

MC (O.C.)

Next up - THE KILLERRRRRRRRR!

KAYDEN

Any words of wisdom?

JULIAN

Win.

Kayden looks at him. Pounds his fists and heads out.

123 **INT. POWDERKEG - BASEMENT - FIGHT CAGE - NIGHT**

123

Jax and Kayden enter the cage. Jax is bruised but more amped than ever. READY TO KILL.

Their eyes meet. The tension between them is electrifying...

The MC raises his hands - AND BEFORE HE OFFICIALLY STARTS --

-- BAM!!! Jax SLAMS A HOOK INTO KAYDEN'S CHEEK - with deadly force --

Somehow, Kayden takes it - IMMOVABLE. He retaliates with a CROSS-UPPERCUT that sends Jax's tooth FLYING.

IT. IS. ON. THE RE-MATCH OF THE CENTURY, an unabashed battle of GOOD VS. EVIL.

Jax leaves nothing behind. And Kayden dishes back with precise power... But Kayden is weak from the night before, and Jax knows it. After what feels like eternity -

Jax eyes Julian - then strategically drops guard, creating an opening. Kayden falls right into his trap, throwing a punch -- only for Jax to GRAB HIS WRIST, pull him in, and --

DOES A SPINNING BACK KICK INTO KAYDEN'S BROKEN RIB.

He goes down in pain. THE CROWD ROARS.

Julian jumps to the edge as Jax peacocks around the ring.

Kayden looks up, his face battered. Through blurred vision, he sees Sienna in the audience.

SIENNA (V.O.)

Like Julian. I couldn't leave my gladiator to battle alone... And I had one finishing move left.

She looks straight at Kayden and finally says, "I love you."

Just before the MC calls it, Kayden pulls himself off the mat and CHARGES JAX WITH SUPER-HUMAN FURY, driving Jax back into the cage. His crew BOOS in upset.

Then - Kayden flies through the air to KICK Jax --

Jax GRABS KAYDEN'S LEFT FOOT.

Only, Kayden's prepared. He uses the leverage to

DO A JUMP SPINNING BACK KICK, LANDING ON JAX'S JAW, returning the favor from earlier.

JAX. GOES. DOWN.

His eyes in the back of his head, he's completely out. Kayden goes after him, but the Ref intercepts, calls a KO.

KAYDEN IS DECLARED THE WINNER. THE CROWD ERUPTS. Julian applauds. Kayden turns, and immediately looks for --

Sienna races into the cage, Julian on her heels. She jumps into his arms...

SIENNA
You did it!

KAYDEN
We did it.

He looks in her eyes, smiles through the pain and KISSES HER. For a moment, everything slips away...

And love feels victorious.

UNTIL -- Jax - delirious - MAD - stumbles over, winds back to COLD-COCK Kayden. Sienna steps in to block him --

JAX HITS SIENNA IN THE FACE.

SHE GOES DOWN, HER HEAD HITTING THE SURFACE, HARD.

SOUND DROPS OUT -- TIME SLOWS -- **SHE. IS. OUT.**

SCREAMS OF TERROR sound as Sienna lies MOTIONLESS in the ring. Julian races over. The Ref checks her eyes with a light, then looks to Kayden-- *it's not good.*

Kayden looks up at Julian, then Jax. Jax is *terrified*.

JULIAN
CALL AN AMBULANCE!

MC
We only got fight medics. Closed all the streets. It could take 30 minutes for an amby to get here, and when they do, we'll all go to jail.

Without hesitation or regard for the pain of his broken ribs, Kayden picks up Sienna in his arms and pushes his way through.

Juilan follows. Jax grabs his arm--

JAX

Julian--

Julian turns back and LEVELS HIM WITH A SINGLE PUNCH.

Julian goes into the crowd, after Kayden and Sienna.

Kayden continues to push through, amped with adrenaline and choked up with tears.

KAYDEN

Come on, Lucky. Don't you give up.

You're a fighter.

(to crowd)

OUT OF MY WAY!

A hush falls over the crowd as the gravity of the moment sinks in. They part to let him carry her out.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

124 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

124

Kayden sits next to a hospital bed, where Sienna is out, hooked up to machines.

He holds her hand, which twitches in his.

KAYDEN

Si? Can you hear me?

She doesn't respond. He exhales deeply, his hopes crushed.

KAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Si. If you can hear me,
I'm sorry I put you through this.
Everyone I love gets hurt, and I
don't know why... But if-- *when* you
get through this, cause you will,
cause you're a fighter, I can't
risk hurting you again. You've got
too much living left to do. I love
you, Sienna. You're one of the
great ones.

He takes a pad of paper from her bedside table, writes a note to her. Then, he kisses her gently on the forehead.

124ALT **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

124ALT

Kayden stuffs the last of his clothes into a duffel bag, his closet empty aside from naked hangers.

He sits on his bed, scrawls a note to Sienna.

125 **INT. HOSPITAL - DAY - 2 DAYS LATER**

125

Sienna blinks awake slowly, sees tubes and an IV line attached to her. Brent and Evans sit in the distance.

BETH

She's up.

Sienna sees Beth in a chair next to her bed. Brent gets up, rushes to her side.

BETH (CONT'D)

Sienna? Are you there? You've been out for 3 days.

Sienna strains her eyes. Searching the room for -

SIENNA

Kayden?

She grows panicked, scanning the room again. Her eyes land on Julian, now standing by the door. He shakes his head.

JULIAN

He waited 'til you were in the clear and then...

BRENT

--Can we get anything for you?

Sienna looks from Julian to Brent. Processing the events.

SIENNA

(apologetically)

...Go on your honeymoon.

BETH

We got her. Go.

Brent smiles and squeezes Sienna's hand before leaving. She stares at her limp hand.

Sienna looks up to Julian, tears in her eyes.

JULIAN

You're gonna get through this.

SIENNA

What about...

JULIAN

He left this for you.

Julian crosses, hands Sienna the note from Kayden. Sienna reads it, then folds it back up and closes her eyes, the emotional pain far outweighing the physical. Beth sits next to her, holding her hand for comfort.

125A INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

125A

A NURSE changes Sienna's IV bag. Sienna lies in bed, miserable, when Jax knocks on the door frame. Sienna looks at him, swallows her anger, looks away.

JAX

Guess our roles are reversed.

SIENNA

(sarcastic)

So are you going to nurse me back to health?

JAX

(earnest)

If that's what you want, Sienna, I will be here for you every day.

SIENNA

Seriously? You could've saved yourself the trip.

JAX

No, actually, that's not why I came, but you asked, so...

SIENNA

Saw an opening?

He gives a shit-eating smirk.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

You're relentless.

JAX

So are you.

(beat)

I, um... Came to say I'm sorry. It was an accident. I didn't see you. And then when I did... The thought that I could have killed you...

He's getting a bit choked up, but she cuts him off, addressing him with a new calm.

SIENNA

Yeah. You could've. But I forgive you. For everything.

He can't believe it.

JAX

God, I love you.

SIENNA

(plain)
No you don't.

He's taken aback.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

You took my anger and tried to control me with it. Called that love. But that's not what love is.

His jaw clenches.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Doesn't mean you can't find it, but you have to look at yourself first. Fix what's broken inside and stop trying to break others to make yourself feel whole.

JAX

You think there's still a chance for me... To be redeemed?

SIENNA

No one's beyond redemption.
(beat)
But I wouldn't bet my money on it.

Jax laughs, still loving her attitude, but knowing he's lost her. He slips a cookie from a 'get well soon' arrangement in her room, takes a bite.

JAX

Yeah, you're probably right.

Sienna enters the apartment. Everything of Kayden's is gone.

SIENNA (V.O.)
*Kayden paid the rent for six
months, so I didn't have to worry
about it.*

127 **INT. KAYDEN'S BEDROOM - DAY**

127

Sienna is curled up in Kayden's bed, staring out the window.

SIENNA (V.O.)
*But home isn't a place. It's a
person. And my home was gone.*

Hands on a clock tick by *TICK - TICK - TICK*

SIENNA (V.O.)
*No matter how many times you've
been punched, nothing hurts like
heartache.*

128 **EXT. SPRINGFIELD CITY SCAPE - TIME LAPSE**

128

Over the course of several days, clouds roll in over the city,
the sun goes down, comes back up.

129 **INT. KAYDEN'S APARTMENT - THREE WEEKS LATER**

129

Sienna sits at the kitchen counter as Beth, who sports a
shorter, sportier hairstyle, pulls groceries from a bag and
puts them away.

Sienna rifles through a stack of mail, flips through to see
several bills from her extended hospital stay.

The microwave DINGS and Beth pulls a TV DINNER out, hands it
to Sienna with a fork.

SIENNA (V.O.)
*But the longer I stayed there, the
clearer it was that I was the one
who'd created this mess. And I was
the only one who could fix it. I'd
let myself believe it was Jax who'd
been limiting my potential when I
was holding myself back. I'd been
consumed by my need for revenge
and, worst of all, I'd hurt people
I cared about.*

BETH
*It's not homemade, but it's the
thought that counts, right?*

SIENNA

Thanks. I like your new hair.

Beth smiles.

BETH

It's very 'me', right? I think everyone else hates it, but--

SIENNA

Screw them.

Beth laughs, then grows serious.

BETH

I ended things with Jax.

Sienna raises her eyebrows.

BETH (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to say "I told you so"?

SIENNA

I'm proud of you.

Beth's eyes light up, Sienna's approval meaning a lot to her.

SIENNA (V.O.)

But maybe this was all part of my training. Maybe I just had to wait for my next opening...

TICK - TICK - TICK - - - HIT - HIT - HIT

CUT TO:

130 -138 OMITTED

130 -138

139 INT. UNIVERSAL FIGHT GYM - DAY

139

The **MXM QUALIFIERS SIGN UP SHEET** hangs on the wall, still blank. The gym is a ghost town.

Sienna does quick combos as Julian holds pads. Speed, precision, and power-- she's got it all.

JULIAN

Okay, okay. Take it easy, killer.

SIENNA

I'm not Killer.

JULIAN

Well, I wouldn't call you Lucky.

SIENNA

Exactly. It's ironic.

(beat)

Go again?

JULIAN

Slow and steady.

He holds up his pads, moving them as she jabs, blocks. Out of the corner of her eye, she catches sight of a familiar FIGURE, backlit in the doorway of the gym.

She gets knocked in the shoulder with a pad, which brings her focus back to Julian. He puts the pads down, follows her line of sight as Kayden steps into view.

KAYDEN

Sorry to interrupt.

He pulls off his beanie cap, reaches to shake Julian's hand.

Julian hesitates, looks at Sienna. She gives a slight nod, giving Julian the okay to shake.

JULIAN

I'll let you two have a minute.

A beat as Sienna and Kayden make eyes, then look away, awkward.

KAYDEN

You look good up there.

SIENNA

Heard you were in Philly.

KAYDEN

Yeah. I have an uncle there. It was nice. Got to rest, cleaned up. Fed a lot of pigeons...

SIENNA

I'm glad it worked out for you.

KAYDEN

Crossing state lines was basically the only way to keep me from you.

She stops. Looks at him, processing.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Seeing you like that brought up everything with my family and I just couldn't live with myself if I was the reason you-- I thought you'd be better off if I weren't there to fuck everything up.

SIENNA

(riiiiight)

How selfless.

KAYDEN

No, I know-- or, *now* I know... Running away was exactly the wrong thing. I was being a coward, just up and leaving. I'm sorry I wasn't there for you when you needed me. And if you can't forgive me, that's okay, too. I just want what's best for you, even if it's harder for me.

She looks up at him-- *is he saying what I think he's saying?*

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

I love you, Sienna. And I finally understand what that means now.

A long beat. Neither makes a move, until--

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're doing better, Si. I'd wish you luck, but who needs it when you've got your skills?

He smiles and backs away towards the door.

SIENNA

I read your letter... I'm not going to lie, I was so mad at you leaving, I could've--

She mimes strangling him.

SIENNA (CONT'D)

But I was wearing that anger, pretending I wasn't hurt. And it was holding me back. So maybe-- I don't know. I should be thanking you? I mean, *no*... But you get what I'm saying.

KAYDEN
You almost died.

A long beat.

SIENNA
So did you.

KAYDEN
(conceding)
The doc *did* say if he'd hit an inch
over it would've punctured my
heart.

He gives her a cheeky smirk. Their faces drawing closer.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'm not doing the underground thing
anymore. I applied to school in the
fall.

SIENNA
Really? That's great. In Philly,
or..?

KAYDEN
(hesitant)
Springfield.

She looks up at him, a flash of hope.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Soooo if you know of anyone renting
a cheap room...

He traces her lips with his eyes, their faces inches apart.

SIENNA
...Looks like you'll have to cross
an ocean next time.

And with that, he kisses her. Slowly, deeply. Two souls
reunited.

Julian clears his throat loudly and they pull apart.

JULIAN
Am I interrupting your happily-ever-
after moment?

Sienna looks at him devilishly. Kayden straightens.

KAYDEN
How's it going?

JULIAN

Still slow. I appreciate you leaving me what you did. Wasn't really a fight I wanted credit for, but it's been keeping the lights on. Putting off the inevitable, I suppose.

SIENNA

Not if you have a champion.

JULIAN

(to Kayden)

You looking to go pro?

Kayden shakes his head, confused.

SIENNA

Not him.

She pulls out a Sharpie and--

Signs her name on the MXM sign up sheet.

Dramatic PUSH IN to a CLOSE UP on a newly-determined Sienna:

SIENNA (CONT'D)

Me.

Julian and Kayden exchange a look. Julian tosses Kayden his pads and motions towards the ring.

JULIAN

Let's get to work.

Sienna and Kayden step into the ring. She dances around him, waiting for an opening and WHAM -- PUNCHES straight to camera.

SLAM TO BLACK.

THE END.