

Isle of Man

by
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Don't turn the page until you've watched the following...

This is a world that must be seen to be known.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtZlm9Lp7q4&index=7&list=PL6B7401494F26ED83>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y07yt87lhEA&index=6&list=PL6B7401494F26ED83>

EXT. IRISH SEA - MORNING

The massive, twin-wakes of a high-speed ferry shoot 20 feet into the air as it cuts through the Irish Sea.

EXT. FERRY - CONTINUOUS

COLIN McMILLAN, a weathered-looking 42, stands on the furthest rear deck of the catamaran. He stares back at the open water behind him. Nothing but dark sea as far as you like. His eyes hold the same.

Behind him, though, it's a very different world. We float up to the main deck to reveal hundreds of excited motorcyclists and their bikes being transported across the sea. But this is not Sturgis. The owners of these machines are not Harley riders. Not a single chap, open-face helmet or bandana in the bunch. Everyone wears one-piece, modern racing suits.

We hear German, Italian, French, Australian, Portuguese and Spanish being spoken - all of it passionately. It feels more pilgrimage than sporting event. Indeed, the place they are going is Mecca for sport-motorcyclists.

EXT. REAR DECK - CONTINUOUS

Colin CLIMBS OVER THE RAILING and looks straight down at the churning water below. Arms behind him, he holds himself over the massive wake. He just needs to let go of the railing.

VOICE

There it is!

The voice pulls him out of the darkness. He turns to look...

The camera soars up and over the ferry to reveal the *Isle of Man*. It's ancient. Rocky cliffs give way to the sea. Verdant fields run right up to the edges where sheep graze. A large Mountain rises from the inland in the distance.

EXT. FERRY TERMINAL - DAY

Colin exits the ferry in DOUGLAS with all his fellow pilgrims. Unlike everyone else around him, though, Colin's excitement (if it exists at all) is muted. Bikes pass him on both sides as he walks off the boat. He carries a large backpack - graphite tent poles protrude from the top.

A makeshift amusement park has been set up on the promenade. Rides and gaming booths are crammed onto the boardwalk. A massive LCD screen shows TT races from previous years.

40,000 people come to the Isle for the TT. All are drinking, eating and breathing bikes.

Imagine a two-mile-long block party made up entirely of motorcyclists. Colin is unique in being alone here. This is very much a communal gathering.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Colin walks on a two-lane road passing a campground on his right. It's quickly filling up.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - LATER

Colin has staked out a small piece of grass and is just finishing making camp among hundreds of other bikers and spectators. He stands back and looks at his tent.

VOICE

Looks good, mate. Now let's go
watch Superbike practice!

A small but rowdy group walk past Colin. The ringleader, MARK, waves Colin to come with. And he does. Without a word. He walks with them, leaving all his possessions behind.

EXT. SMALL STREET - LATER

Colin and the group end up on a small street in Douglas.

WOMAN

You don't have any mates with you?

Colin shakes his head, no.

WOMAN

You just came alone, then?

Colin nods.

MARK

Tell your new friend to pipe down.
He's driving me mad.

Everyone laughs. Colin smiles politely. The group head down an alley between two rows of attached homes. They climb under a broken fence then squeeze between a wall and a garage for a 30-foot shimmy and finally find themselves in...

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

...a quaint little yard behind someone's house. A tiny, old lady, NANCY, appears holding a garden hose.

NANCY

Mark, dear.

MARK

Hello, Nancy. How are you? Brought some friends with me this year. Hope that's alright.

NANCY

Of course. Would you all like some tea?

She's gone before they can answer. They walk around the house onto the front lawn facing Bray Hill - a very narrow, steep, two-lane road with walls on either side. Colin suddenly comes alive. He finally looks engaged.

MAN

Do you know where we are?

COLIN

Bray Hill.

MAN

That's right. So, you know the course?

COLIN

Years of watching those Duke videos. On TV it doesn't look this... narrow.

MAN

Just wait. That's not the only thing that doesn't translate.

Colin moves toward the edge of the elevated lawn, looks over onto the street four feet below. Nancy comes out with tea.

MARK

So, who do you like then, Nancy?

NANCY

McGuinness will break the 134MPH lap but I'm keeping me eye on Connor Cummins. I think this might be his year.

Then, a faint noise in the distance. Colin's head snaps up.

WOMAN

Here they come.

Colin strains to see up the hill as the sound gets louder and louder until...

A Superbike comes SCREAMING down Bray hill at 175MPH. It goes by so fast that by the time Colin turns his head the bike's already at the intersection 200 yards away where the it BOTTOMS OUT spectacularly, SPARKS shooting off the exhaust can. It roars up the next hill. Gone.

Colin's face goes blank, only this isn't a muted feeling. This is pure shock. He looks at his arm - it's covered in GOOSE-BUMPS.

MARK

That's Donald. Bloody fast through here, ey? Especially for an Aussie.

The next bike comes screaming down the hill and the scene repeats itself. Colin is mesmerized...

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

Colin walks back alone when he sees a crane-truck pass with CRASHED BIKES stacked like cord-wood. They aren't race bikes. They're street bikes with lights and turn signals. Colin turns and watches the truck drive off.

EXT. PROMENADE - EVENING

Colin passes the massive monitor we saw earlier. He stops dead in his tracks. On screen is a racer, wearing a distinct yellow helmet, tearing around the Isle back in 2000. This is **JOEY DUNLOP** - the greatest TT racer of all time.

Colin stands there silhouetted against the screen watching Joey win at the age of 49.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - LATER

Every square foot of the field is now covered with tents. Colin makes his way through the maze. He finally spots his own tent and reaches for the zipper.

VOICE

Sod off!!

Wrong tent. And off he goes, albeit, with a new understanding of the phrase.

INT. TENT - LATER

Colin lays out in his tent. He reaches into his bag and pulls out his iPad to watch *The Roadracers* - a black-and-white racing documentary from the 70's. A young Joey Dunlop, with long hair, prepares his race-bike in a garage that could double for a barn.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While Frank whittles money from his sponsor, Joey has to take a precious day away from his bikes to keep body and soul together. It's a perfect day with a drying wind and time for the family to harvest the peat that will keep them warm in the winter.

Shot of Joey cutting peat out of the earth in Ireland. When Joey is on-screen everything else stops for Colin.

FADE OUT.

SHORT MONTAGE:

EXT. START/FINISH LINE - DAWN

The street in front of the grandstands, empty save for a lone street-cleaner.

In the paddock, mechanics wheel bikes toward the scrutineer garages.

On another part of the Island, marshals begin the huge task of roping off every intersection that intersects the course.

Fans start to gather at viewing sites, setting up chairs.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - MORNING

Colin is already drinking coffee as everyone else rises for the day's races. The sound of the first bike going out for practice fills the air and everyone pauses.

Colin turns, following the sound until it's gone.

EXT. PADDOCK - MORNING

Colin walks through the paddock which is laid out on a hill. The first row is filled with factory teams. They sport large tents with logos with the semis that brought the bikes over from the mainland, parked just behind. The riders have brand new leathers and the mechanics wear matching, branded clothes. Still, it's nothing like a NASCAR event. It's more like the Woodstock of motorcycle racing.

As you move down the hill, the factory teams give way to smaller outfits. The semis are replaced by small trailers similar to what your gardener uses. The riders are suiting up here as well, only their leathers have duct tape on them - mending from previous falls.

Their crew and mechanics are comprised of friends and family members. The bikes themselves have seen battle. Bodywork is bruised and battered.

These are the *privateers* and they make up the bulk of the entrants at the TT. Fans roam the paddock and are free to talk to any of the racers. Access is plentiful.

INT. PIT AREA - MORNING

Colin passes a mechanic working on a bike. A small radio is playing Starship's "*We Built This City*."

MECHANIC

Hey, mate. Give us a hand?

Colin jumps right in.

MECHANIC

Would you grab the...

But Colin already sees what's happening. The mechanic is changing the rear wheel but has left the axle just out of arm's reach. Colin grabs it but instead of handing it to the mechanic, he gets on the ground to help him insert it.

COLIN

Brake caliper's off the hangar.

Colin places it back then sends the axle through the wheel with a satisfying thunk. Colin knows bikes. More importantly, we see it's something he cares about. He's actually talking.

MECHANIC

Thanks, mate.

COLIN

Never seen a brake-reservoir safety-wired before.

MECHANIC

Yeah. Safe than sorry. Only nut Malcolm has to worry about is himself. This course, you wouldn't believe what it's capable of shaking loose.

MALCOLM, the racer riding this bike, walks up.

MALCOLM

Nice work, Sean. See you converted someone else to the cause.

(shakes Colin's hand)

I'm the nut, apparently.

SARA
Finally. We're calling it what it
is. Refreshing.

MALCOLM
(points to the safety wire)
Glen Duff is wicked bumpy. You
think your fillings are gonna come
out. Can't see straight. Just
bucking you off everywhere.

MECHANIC
I've seen exhausts come loose, rear-
sets, even a clutch basket cover.

COLIN
You have the steering stabilizer
max'd out?

MALCOLM
Nah. Can't afford to give up the
turn-in for the faster corners. All
those high-speed direction changes.
Setup here is just one big
compromise.
(studies Colin)
You a racer?

COLIN
No.

MALCOLM
What do you do back in the States,
then?

COLIN
I'm in I.T.

MECHANIC
Well, you know a fair bit about
racing for a computer nerd.

Malcolm's wife, SARA, shows up with their three kids and her
friend, KATHLEEN. She's late 30's, beautiful in spite of her
decisions on wardrobe and hair this morning. If she ever
tried, someone would be grievously injured.

MALCOLM
You bring the water?

SARA
Shit. Sorry, babe. Kids are driving
me fookin mad. Who's this, then?

MALCOLM
A good Samaritan.

SARA
I'm Sara, this is Kathleen.

COLIN
Hi. Colin.

Kathleen and Colin have instant heat. It's uncomfortable and great and entirely not up to you.

SARA
Come to see the races, then?

COLIN
Yes. Been wanting to come here for a long time.

SARA
You and the 40,000 other people on the Isle right now. Welcome to the madness. What do you make of it so far?

COLIN
It's insane.

SARA
(to Kathleen)
Smart one. Maybe he can talk some sense into Malcolm.

KATHLEEN
Good luck with that.

"We Built This City" ends and the Manx Radio TT announcers come on the air.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Welcome back to Manx Radio TT. One hour until the roads close for the Superstock race. If you have somewhere to be, time to get there.

KATHLEEN
Alright, I have to be going. Get a pint at Colours tonight?

MALCOLM
Can't. Got a service call in Ramsey.
(to Colin)
Where you gonna watch from?

COLIN
Someone told me about a farm by Barregarrow.

MALCOLM

That'll be good. Fast turn there.
Blind. You best get moving. It's a
45 min drive.

COLIN

I don't have a car. Was gonna
hitch.

Kathleen thinks for a beat before speaking. Fuck it...

KATHLEEN

I'm heading that way. I can drop
you there.

EXT. PADDOCK - LATER

Kathleen and Colin make their way out toward the parking lot.

COLIN

He has to make a service call? What
does that mean?

KATHLEEN

He's a plumber.

COLIN

And he's taking a job *tonight*?

KATHLEEN

These aren't Grand Prix racers with
sponsorship deals.

COLIN

Right, but he's gonna fix a toilet
the night before the TT?

KATHLEEN

You take the work when it comes.

INT. CAR - LATER

They turn left onto the main road and drive by the
start/finish line. They make their way past Nancy's house.

COLIN

(recognizing it)
That's where I was standing
yesterday.

KATHLEEN

That's good. Now you're thoroughly
familiar with 800 feet out of 37
1/2 miles.

COLIN
You know a lot about the TT.

KATHLEEN
If you live here, you know a lot
about the TT.

EXT. TT COURSE - LATER

Traffic is now moving as they make their way along the course. You know we're on the course because the road is lined with spectators. Miles and miles of them.

It's quiet and charged between them. They take turns stealing furtive glances.

EXT. BARREGARROW FARMHOUSE - LATER

A gravel road brings them to this working farm that doubles as a campground during the TT fortnight. They park in front of an open garage where a group of men sit and sip tea and smoke cigarettes as Manx Radio plays.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
10 minutes until roads closed.

KATHLEEN
Okay. I have to run. You can get a bite here. Then, walk back down to the road. You can watch the race by the wall across from the church.

COLIN
How can I see you again?

She takes a beat. Measures him.

KATHLEEN
When do you leave?

COLIN
Day after tomorrow.

It relaxes her to know he's *not* staying.

KATHLEEN
Call me later.

She scratches down her number on a scrap of paper.

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks onto a small porch that has sandwiches, cake and tea set up. A group of WOMEN tend the food.

One is elderly, two are middle-aged and one is in her 20's, hot in a Jersey (as in New) sorta way. She eyes Colin.

Colin peruses the food selection. Tuna or egg. The stereotype held regarding English food is nothing compared to the culinary crimes committed on this Island.

OLD WOMAN
What you got there, love?

COLIN
Egg sandwich and a coffee.

OLD WOMAN
That's... 3 and 65.

Colin fumbles through the coins in his palm.

OLD WOMAN
Here, let me help you.

She picks the amount from his hand as he politely smiles.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Colin and a few other spectators approach the course from above. They pass through a gate and into a field that is completely EMPTY. Colin looks back at the sheep-filled field just above them. He turns to the man walking next to him.

COLIN
Why are there no sheep in this field?

SPECTATOR
Few years ago a rider crashed and they flew in the heli. Landed in one of the fields and spooked a horse. He jumped a fence and ran onto the course. Another rider hit him at 180. Cut the thing in half. Killed himself, too. Now it's law. All livestock two fields back. Little breathing room.

EXT. BARRAGARROW - LATER

This is a 150mph, blind left with a Church on the corner. Colin's found a place on the stone wall near the exit of the corner along with hundreds of other spectators. Colin looks over at the woman next to him. Her shirt has come up revealing a tatoo on the small of her back that simply reads: *Harder, Faster, Longer*. Colin just nods to himself. Noted.

Then, that *sound* again. You can hear the bikes coming from very far away here. And with it, all other thoughts instantly disappear. In fact, everyone stops talking and cranes to see.

The sound grows louder and louder until the first bike comes through. The rider nails the apex by the church then lets the bike drift out on exit, right to the wall Colin is leaning against. He actually moves away before returning.

EXT. FIELD - LATER

Colin sits high above the course. The Irish sea, just beyond. Below him, bikes go by but without the fury of the sound and smell and exploding air it seems almost magical. The speed feels even more unreal at this distance.

INT. PUB - LATER

It sits on one of the faster bends outside of Crosby. The place is packed. Colin exits with a pint in his hand.

EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS

The patio literally touches the road. A bike comes by at an impossible speed. You can barely focus. Colin stops in his tracks.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And Ian Hutchinson has just broke
the outright lap record with a
134.1 MPH lap.

A cheer goes up on the patio. Colin's lost in thought.

EXT. PATIO - LATER

Colin has found a spot in the corner. He's in his own world now. Soaking it all up. But he's not just a spectator like those around him. There's a bit more behind those eyes now.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
With the Senior TT halfway finished
McGuinness leads followed by Ian
Hutchinson and Michael Dunlop.

A bike comes around the bend that sounds WAY OFF TUNE - it's rider going no more than 80MPH. Compared to the speed of the other bikes he might as well be walking next to it. He's looking down at his instruments trying to figure out what's wrong. Water temp? Oil? Out of gas?

Another rider comes around - wide open throttle. At 170MPH you are traveling *one football field per second*. By the time you realize what's happening it's already over.

The CRASH is deafening. The bikes DISINTEGRATE on contact. The debris field goes on forever. Marshals run out onto the course. YELLOW FLAGS come out to alert approaching riders. Neither of the riders is moving. One of the bikes is on fire, burning in the middle of the road.

The sound of a glass can be heard dropping somewhere on the concrete patio as everyone goes silent.

Colin turns away from the crash before anyone and walks away.

EXT. PICKUP BED - LATER

Colin sits in the back with some farming tools. He stares out at the countryside, wind blowing across his face.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - AFTERNOON

Colin walks by the grandstand as awards are handed out. John McGuinness stands on the top step of the podium with 2nd and 3rd on either side of him. A huge crowd cheers.

EXT. PADDOCK - AFTERNOON

Colin walks past Malcolm's pit - the racer they spoke with earlier. The team are all packing up very quietly. It's morbid. Malcolm's mechanic sits in a chair and just stares straight ahead. Sara and the children are nowhere to be seen.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Colin lays on his back with the tent door still unzipped. He stares out at the stars, mind working overtime. He sits up straight and starts to gather his things.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Colin stands inside the old-school booth. Colin is on the phone, Kathleen's number in front of him.

COLIN
Hi. It's Colin.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Hey.

COLIN
I'm really sorry about your friend.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Where are you?

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - LATER

Colin stands on the corner when Kathleen's car pulls up.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

The pair sit in the back of a small pub. TT memorabilia line the walls. They sip on pints of Guinness.

COLIN
How's Sara?

Kathleen's look is answer enough.

KATHLEEN
The whole thing is insane. We all
say it's insane. No one denies it.
Then, come May, we just forget that
small detail and we do it again.

COLIN
I saw it happen.

KATHLEEN
You were there?

COLIN
Yeah.

KATHLEEN
What happened?

COLIN
Other rider came way off the pace
but stayed on the racing line.
There was no way to avoid him. It
wasn't Malcolm's fault at all.

KATHLEEN
Does it matter?

COLIN
No, I guess not.

Colin reaches across the table and covers her balled fist with his hand. She relaxes and tenses at the same time. She looks long and hard at him.

HARD CUT:

INT. KATHLEEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

They fuck in the back seat. Don't let the location define this for you. It's about as intimate an encounter as you can imagine. Eye contact for days. It's tender and animalistic all at once. They have the kind of chemistry that allows them to move seamlessly between the two.

INT. KATHLEEN'S CAR - LATER

They lie there, spent. Then the realization of what's just happened sets in. Intimate or not, Kat just fucked a strange man in the back of her car. Social norms require a reaction.

KATHLEEN
I have to get going.

Stings a bit but he rallies.

COLIN
Yeah. Okay. Can you drop me back at the campsite?

KATHLEEN
Of course.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - LATER

Colin, out of the car, leans down and kisses Kat through her window. She doesn't really kiss him back. Not like before.

COLIN
Hey. Come back for one second.

She relents, kisses him deeply. There's something there and it's the last thing she wants to deal with right now.

KATHLEEN
(nervous)
Nice meeting you. Good luck.

COLIN
With what?

KATHLEEN
I don't know. I have to go.

She drives off.

EXT. DRAGON'S TAIL - MORNING - FLASHBACK

A forested road that sits on the border of Tennessee and North Carolina, *The Dragon's Tail* is known for packing 318 turns into 11 miles. It's not unlike the TT course.

A Honda CBR1000RR tears into frame. Its rider dispatches one sport-bike after another. He's in total control.

A State Police car perched on a fire-road sees the rider passing a Ducati on the outside. The trooper hits the lights and spins his tires on the dirt as he pulls out.

The rider turns to see the police car coming after him and TAKES OFF. If you thought he was pushing before you were wrong. He now treats the road as if it were a racetrack - knee down in every corner.

INT. POLICE CAR - CONTINUOUS

The Trooper grabs for the radio.

TROOPER
10-31 in progress on the Tail. Red
motorcycle. Honda I believe.
Heading south past mile 5 marker.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Do you have a license plate?

TROOPER
Uhhh, negative.

The Honda very quickly disappear into the distance.

EXT. STORAGE FACILITY - LATER

Those places you see off the interstate. 100 garages lined up in rows. The Honda pulls up to one, rider jumping off and opening the sliding garage door. He hustles the Honda inside, SLAMS the door shut, and removes his helmet...

Colin.

Though only a few years younger, he looks demonstrably healthier/happier here. He's also giggling like an adolescent at the moment. He gets a hold of himself, then succumbs to the laughter once more, still buzzing from the chase.

Colin hits the light-switch revealing a makeshift motorcycle shop. Immaculate. Professional. Old racing-suits hang from the ceiling. One poster - it's *Joey Dunlop*. Yellow helmet, mid-turn on a stone-lined road on the Isle of Man.

At the bottom of the poster it reads: 1952 - 2000

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - LATER

Colin pulls up to the semi-attached tract home. Colin, now dressed in gym clothing, opens the trunk of his car and pulls out a RACQUETBALL RACKET.

He catches a glimpse of himself in the car window - he still has helmet hair. He stops and removes a WATER BOTTLE from the car, pours some of it over his head, mussing it up.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks in to find his kitchen filled with SMOKE. His daughter, Melissa (Mel), 15, huge nerd, but recently aware of her attractiveness (and more importantly how to use it) is failing spectacularly at making a tuna melt.

MEL

Hey, Dad. How was racquetball?

COLIN

Yeah. Good. What did you do?

MEL

I cooked. Never a good idea. I'll be the first to say it. But if you're gonna be late, I'm still gonna need to eat. It's just the natural order of things. You're lucky I'm not a minor or they'd probably take me away for this.

COLIN

Why you think I never left you alone as a kid? Couldn't find a baby-sitter who could keep up.

Colin moves in closer. One side of the tuna-melt is burned beyond recognition. Mel is removing the burnt piece of bread.

MEL

Can you tell me a story about how Mom was just as useless in the kitchen but you didn't care because she was just so damn hot?

COLIN

Your Mom was a pretty decent cook. Sorry to disappoint. Mel. Open a window. I'm gonna go take a shower.

MEL

Hey, Dad...

Her tone and look instantly change with these two words.

COLIN
No.

MEL
I didn't even ask yet.

COLIN
Yeah, but it's coming. I can feel it.

MEL
Dad!

COLIN
Go ahead. What?

MEL
Need you to sign an authorization letter for me.

COLIN
To do what?

MEL
Scuba diving class.

COLIN
We're 400 miles from the Atlantic, babe. Where you scuba diving?

MEL
We start in a pool. Then we get our certification in a quarry.

COLIN
In a quarry? How deep?

MEL
I don't know. Deep. 100 feet?

COLIN
No way. That's insane.

MEL
Dad! The school is offering it as part of the phys-ed program. I'm not climbing a fence and sneaking in with my girlfriends.

COLIN
Let me think on it.

MEL
You're kidding me... If I were a boy you'd let me go in a second!

COLIN

If you were a boy I'd chain you to
a radiator and not let you out of
the house until you were 30.

MEL

This is bullshit, and you know it!

She storms out of the room. Colin's conflicted. The outburst
visibly hurts him. He's trying. Single dad shit.

EXT. PADDOCK - MORNING

The circus is packing up after another year. Colin walks past
the vendors selling their last wares. He watches two OLDER
MEN push a race-bike into a lorry with great care. One of
them looks up, notices Colin, basically does a double-take.

MAN

Colin McMillan?

The other man looks up. Squints. Colin looks around. It's as
if he doesn't want anyone to see this exchange.

MAN

(elated)

I can't believe it. It is you! I
was at the race at Sears Point in
2005. The one. I was there.

(to his friend)

He beat Miguel Duhamel, who was on
a factory bike. 15 passes on the
last lap. Every corner. Back and
forth. Best race I've ever seen in
me whole life.

COLIN

That was a hell of a battle.

MAN

What are ya doing here?

COLIN

I came to see the TT.

MAN 2

What'd you think?

COLIN

Incredible. Nothing like it.

MAN

It's our Everest, really, isn't it?

Colin smiles and nods. Quiet beat.

COLIN

Well, I have to get going. Plane to catch. Nice meeting you fellas.

He shakes their hands and walks off.

MAN 2

What happened to him?

MAN

No idea. He disappeared after that season. People talked about him being a future world champion, then nothing.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - MORNING

Colin, bags packed, sits on the top row. He can see the Mountain in the distance, paddock below him and a cemetery across the street. He gets up and starts down the stairs. Slowly at first, then two steps at a time.

EXT. THE MAGIC CHAIR - MORNING

A small, high-end children's furniture store in Asheville, North Carolina. A black man in his 40's, FISH, is on the phone intensely pacing the showroom floor.

FISH

What do you mean you're staying?

INT. PHONE BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

COLIN

I'm staying. I'm moving here.

INT. THE MAGIC CHAIR - CONTINUOUS

Fish stops in his tracks, goes silent. A rich mother-and-daughter try to get his attention.

WOMAN

Excuse me, we're looking for the Bonnet armoire in black. We went to PoshTots but they only...

Fish waves them off, sits down on a race-car bed.

FISH

Staying to do what?

Colin says nothing. We watch the realization creep across Fish's face - equal parts terror and Christmas morning.

COLIN
Fish?

FISH
Yeah. I'm here.

COLIN
You think I'm crazy.

FISH
Whenever I think of the Isle of Man
I think of those old, grainy NFL
films. "The snow on Lambeau field
would not stop Brett Favre on this
day. This day was destiny."

COLIN
You know what? It actually *feels*
like that here. It's real. I stood
on the wall at Barregarrow.

FISH
So, what, you're gonna take a leave
from work?

COLIN
I quit.

FISH
When?

COLIN
10 minutes ago.

Fish lays back on the race-car bed.

FISH
How you gonna learn the course?

COLIN
I have a whole year.

FISH
They say it takes three.

COLIN
Remember how long it took me to
learn Road Atlanta? I was
competitive after two practice
sessions.

FISH
Road Atlanta is 2 1/2 miles long,
not 37.

COLIN
37.73.

FISH
You're going racing again.

COLIN
Yeah.

FISH
At 42.

COLIN
Yeah.
(more silence)
Joey was 49 when he won in 2000.

FISH
They say age actually helps over there. Can't be a loose cannon.

COLIN
You sayin I'm old?

FISH
I am. Yes.

Fish takes a beat. He thinks things through for a moment.

FISH
It's an insane idea. I just need to say that. People die there. Four racers just this past week. You know. You were there.

COLIN
Everyone dies sometime.

FISH
Oh, now you're Lee Marvin all of a sudden?
(beat, serious)
Wait. Did you mean that?

Colin gets quiet. Embarrassed.

COLIN
No. I was kidding, Fish.

FISH
Sorry. I worry about you.
(changes the subject)
Alright. What do you need from me?

COLIN
Sell everything. My truck, the bike, stands, trailer, genny, everything. Need enough to get a new bike, parts and a built motor.

FISH
Alright.

COLIN
And mail my kit.

FISH
Your *kit*?

COLIN
Leathers, boots, gloves, helmet.

FISH
Oh, your kit. Right. Look who's
learning the local language.
Cheers, mate. Just don't show the
Father your shillelagh.

They take a beat.

FISH
You sound different, brother. You
sound good.

It wasn't meant to hit hard. It does. Colin deflects.

COLIN
Thanks for buying my plane ticket.
I never would have come on my own.

FISH
Yeah, well, you're staying on your
own.

INT. RENTAL CAR OFFICE - DAY

The WOMAN behind the desk hands Colin a set of keys.

RENTAL WOMAN
You familiar with left-side drive?

COLIN
Yeah. Been here a couple weeks now.

EXT. RENTAL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Colin is pulling out of the driveway. He looks mistakenly to his left and turns right into the path of an ONCOMING TRUCK.

The truck BLARES ON THE HORN as it SWERVES around Colin's bumper. Close. The driver is swearing at him as he goes by. Colin looks over his shoulder to see the rental girl waving at him from inside the office. Strong start.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Colin's on the TT course in a Ford Fiesta. Of course, he's pushing the little econo-box as fast as it will go when a bike blows by him going at least 140MPH.

EXT. GLENLOUGH FARM - AFTERNOON

Colin pulls off the main road onto a long drive that ends in front of a modest farmhouse. Colin steps out of his car and looks around. It's not long before a sheep dog comes running at him barking like mad.

JON (O.S.)
Can I help you?

JON MCCOWLEY, late 60's, comes around the car wearing wading boots. He looks like he works for a living.

COLIN
Hi. Yeah. Your niece, Mary, sent me over.

JON
You a friend of Mary's?

COLIN
Not exactly. Rented a car from her this morning and told her I was looking for work. She said you might need someone.

JON
She said that, huh? She fancy you?

COLIN
What?

JON
Probably. American and all. Seems exotic I guess. Who the hell understands women, anyway?

COLIN
Umm...

JON
You ever work on a farm before?

COLIN
No.

JON
When can you start?

COLIN

Umm...

JON

Be here tomorrow at 4:00.

COLIN

Yeah, I guess I can do that. That gives me the day to get...

JON

AM.

Colin just stands there. Jon doesn't wait for an answer.

JON

Alright, I need to get cleaned up.

With that, Jon is off and gone leaving Colin standing there in the drive with the dog still looking up at him.

A sharp WHISTLE from Jon sends the dog running.

EXT. IOM CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

Colin's tent is now the only one left. It glows in the otherwise large, dark, empty field.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

A lantern illuminates the interior. Colin holds a map of the TT course which he begins to study with renewed interest.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAWN

It's still dark as Colin packs up his tent and belongings.

INT. RENTAL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Colin passes the grandstand on his way to work. He slows down on Bray Hill and looks at the lawn he stood on a few short days ago. There's no one on the road now. He gets on the gas and crosses into the oncoming lane like the racers did to square off the corner at the bottom of the hill.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAWN

Colin drives up and parks. Jon's wife BRIDGET walks out of the farmhouse and shouts.

BRIDGET
Morning. You must be Colin.

COLIN
Yes.

BRIDGET
Bridget. They're in the fields.
Follow that path there.

Colin waves and heads off on foot.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jon works the sheep with his dog. Through a series of WHISTLES the dog runs around the herd and pushes them where Jon wants them. It's a near art-form.

Jon's younger brother by a year, PETER MCCOWLEY, herds the errant sheep that the dog misses.

COLIN
Morning, Jon.

JON
This is the lad I was telling you
about. No idea what his name is.

COLIN
Colin.

PETER
Hi. Peter.

Peter's somewhat more affable than his brother.

PETER
I'm gonna have you start over in
the barn. We're going to be
bringing in all the silage today so
we need the floor cleaned up.
Broom's inside.

Colin heads toward the large, three-walled structure.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Well used. A lone cow stands inside. Colin approaches her.

COLIN
(petting her head)
Hi, sweetheart. What are you doing
in here all by yourself?

She walks off. Colin turns to the task at hand. The floor is a mess - an ugly mix of old hay and cow manure. Colin looks down at his brand-new Nikes. No way.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON: Colin's Nikes, now fully wrapped in plastic bags as he cleans.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - LATER

Colin sits with Jon and Peter at a picnic table eating cheese sandwiches. Colin does not look put together anymore. He's filthy now, sneakers destroyed, but happy.

COLIN
(mouth full)
I was in I.T.

Jon and Peter look at one another. No clue. Colin finishes chewing then answers again.

COLIN
I was in I.T.

Still nothing.

COLIN
Information technology.

...and still nothing.

JON
Did you get sacked?

COLIN
No.

PETER
So, what are you doing here?

Colin takes a beat before answering. It will be the first time he says it out loud.

COLIN
I'm training for next year's TT.

This gets both brother's immediate attention. They look at one another, and not in a good way.

PETER
You do any racing back in the States?

COLIN (CONT'D)
Yeah, back in the day. AMA series.
It's not like here with the TT,
though. It's all...

JON
...short circuits. Yeah, we know.
What class? Superbike, Supersport?

COLIN
(surprised)
Jesus. Does everyone here know...

PETER
Man, woman and child.

COLIN
Superbike.

JON
You could be a bloody, MotoGP
rider. Wouldn't help you here. Not
one bit. Racing the Mountain is not
a transferrable skill-set, as it
were. Real different, this.

PETER
Takes three years just to learn the
course.

COLIN
(dismissive)
Yeah, I've heard that. I think I'll
be alright.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DUSK

They are all washing up at an outdoor basin.

COLIN
So, what do people do around here?
Seems dead with the racing gone.

PETER
There's a great potential for
boredom.

JON
Darts is very popular.

COLIN
Darts? Like, what you play at a
bar?

JON
Pub.

PETER
Everyone watches.

COLIN
What do you mean 'watches?'

INT. HOUSE - LATER

Jon, Peter, their wives, the dog and Colin sit in the living room watching darts on TV. It's exactly what it sounds like. They go to commercial and Colin stands.

COLIN
Well, thanks very much for dinner.
I'm gonna get going. Bridget, okay
if I use the phone for a sec?

BRIDGET
Of course, love.

JON
Best be local. Don't be calling
America from the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Colin is on the phone leaving a message.

COLIN
Hey, Kathleen. It's Colin. Left you
a message yesterday. Hope you got
it. Anyway, I decided to stay a bit
longer. Wondering if you were
around. I'd really like to see you
again. Alright. Well, good night.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks outside and takes in the clear night sky.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Driving along, Colin sees a pub up ahead. He pulls in.

INT. PUB - LATER

Colin walks in the front door. It's packed. The same darts match is on the TV here as well. He walks to the bar.

COLIN
Grapefruit juice, please.

BARTENDER
What with?

COLIN
Just grapefruit juice.

Bartender pops open a small can. Not happy.

Two obviously DRUNK GIRLS at the end of the bar are watching this exchange, laughing. One of them, RYAN, we recognize as the girl from the farmhouse at Barregarrow. They approach.

RYAN
I know you.

COLIN
I'm sorry. I don't...

RYAN
You were at the family's campsite for TT. Me Gran had to show you how much three pounds sixty was.

BARTENDER
Here's your fruit drink.

GIRLFRIEND
What you got there? Looks strong.

RYAN
Shane. Do you have an umbrella for our mate's drink, here?

GIRLFRIEND
Next thing you know, he'll be asking for tapiz.

She means tapas.

RYAN
What the hell are tapiz?

GIRLFRIEND
You know, Tapiz... tiny, little Mexican foods.

She ignores her friend and goes back to her prey.

RYAN
Not much of a drinker, are ya?

COLIN
Not really.

She cozies up to him.

RYAN
Picked a hell of a place to visit.

COLIN
Yeah, I'm getting that.

INT. PUB - LATER

Colin does a shot with the two girls. He's completely SHIT-FACED, playing darts. Ryan shows him how to throw. She stands right behind him holding his arm up. She whispers into his ear and we see her TONGUE dart out. Colin stops playing and turns toward her, holds her gaze.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan, SLAMMED against the graffiti-strewn wall of one of the stalls. She and Colin are feverishly making out. It's sloppy.

INT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

An irate man walks in the bar.

MAN
(to bartender)
Where is she?

The bartender points to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

They pull away from each other for a moment. Colin has lipstick smeared across his face.

RYAN
Sweet, shy boy, huh? What a crock.

VOICE (O.S.)
Ryan!! Get out here!

RYAN
Shit! Stay here. Let me fix this.

INT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

Ryan walks out of the bathroom to find her boyfriend there.

MAN
What you been up to, love?

RYAN

Nothin.

She walks around him, tries to draw him away from the bathroom. He follows her but looks over his shoulder.

MAN

I hear ya been messin around in a very public way.

RYAN

What do you care? You been doing the same with Alice for months now!!

Colin walks out of the lady's room, lipstick and all.

RYAN

Ahh, shit.

Colin sees the guy clocking him and instead of diffusing the situation... let's the alcohol talk.

COLIN

What are you looking at?

Colin walks by the guy who grabs him by the arm. Colin instantly swings, smashing his nose. There is RAGE there that we have not seen. His BUDDY grabs a BEER BOTTLE off a table and swings it at Colin's head. LIGHTS OUT.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A modern, large building and a real contrast to the architecture found on the rest of the island.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colin sits on a table wincing as Kathleen, stitches his head. Colin yells out as she pulls the thread through his scalp. She grabs a syringe and injects more anesthetic.

COLIN

I didn't know nurses were allowed to do this.

KATHLEEN

They aren't. I'm a PA.
(off Colin's look)
Physician's assistant.

COLIN

Never heard of that.

KATHLEEN
They have them in the States. Two
extra years of school.

COLIN
Why not just be a doctor, then?

KATHLEEN
(stops working)
I don't know. Why shag some local's
girlfriend in the bathroom of a pub
and then get your clock cleaned?
Things just happen I guess.

COLIN
I didn't shag her.

Kathleen moves to grab some gauze. He turns to watch her and
we see that she's SHAVED A GOOD SECTION OF HIS SCALP.

KATHLEEN
(annoyed)
What are you even doing here? I
thought you were leaving.

A nurse walks in disrupting the moment. Kathleen leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL - ADMINISTRATION DESK - LATER

Colin is filling out paperwork when Kathleen walks by. Colin
runs after Kathleen who wasn't exactly waiting for him.

ADMIN
Wait. Your receipt.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Colin runs up next to her.

COLIN
Do you want to go get a coffee?

KATHLEEN
(points to lipstick)
I think you've had enough female
companionship for one evening.

COLIN
(wiping it off)
It was a strange night. Not my
usual thing.

KATHLEEN
Right. Got it.

She walks to her car. He lets her go.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Mel, running around preparing to leave for the day, takes a sip of her coffee then yells upstairs.

MEL

Dad! Mug or thermos?

COLIN (O.S.)

Mug. Have a coffee with me before you leave.

MEL

I'm gonna be late for school.

Colin walks in. Mel hands him his coffee. Colin adds three sugars and enough milk to fill a cereal bowl.

MEL (CONT'D)

I will never understand how you can drink it like that.

COLIN

And I'll never understand how a 16yr-old high-school girl drinks black coffee like she's a foreman at a steel foundry.

MEL

High school I get, but what does my being a girl have to do with anything?

Colin stumbles for a sec. She's right.

COLIN

I just meant that...

MEL

I'm messing with you. It is weird. I think I worked in a steel mill in a past life. But not as a foreman. I was the one with the space suit and the pole standing in front of the molten metal thing'y.

She kisses him on the cheek and starts to head out.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Mel. Hang on a second.

She turns back. His voice warrants it.

MEL

No.

COLIN

What? I didn't even ask yet.

MEL

Yeah, but it's coming. I can feel it.

COLIN

I was gonna ask if you wanted to drive the Alfa to school. But that's cool. Another time.

MEL

(genuine shock)

Are you kidding? I don't know if you're kidding.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

A 1981 GTV6 sits in the dark. The door opens letting the sunlight spill across the red car.

INT. ALFA - CONTINUOUS

Mel drives her father's car, smiling ear to ear. Colin looks at his daughter as much as he does the road. It's a stick and she rushes the 3rd to 4th shift, hanging it up a little.

MEL

Shit. Sorry.

COLIN

It's okay. Just think of it as two shifts. Down to neutral then down again to fourth. Don't rush it.

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT - MORNING

Small but clean. Low ceilings and barely furnished. Colin looks around. The realtor is there with him.

REALTOR

There's not really a big pitch. What do you think?

COLIN

How far are we from Glen Vine?

REALTOR

Not close at all. Why?

COLIN
That's where I work.

REALTOR
Oh. Well, I have flats a lot closer
than this.

COLIN
No. I want as long a commute as
possible.

REALTOR
Okay... I can show you a few places
in Belfast if you're interested.

INT. WESTERN UNION - DAY

Colin picks up an envelope of cash. A note inside simply
says, "Go Packers."

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Colin rips open the box with his racing suit in it. He holds
it up, smells it. Reunited.

EXT. TOMMY LEONARD'S HONDA - DAY

Colin gets out of a cab holding his helmet and wearing his
racing-suit hanging off his waist.

INT. TOMMY LEONARD'S HONDA - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks through a showroom of brand-new sport-bikes. A
salesman approaches.

SALESMAN
Can I help you?

COLIN
Yeah. I need a bike.

SALESMAN
And a barber.

Takes Colin a second to remember his hair.

COLIN
Oh, right. Long story.

SALESMAN
What are you riding now?

COLIN
I don't have a bike. That's why I'm here.

SALESMAN
(laughs)
Coming in wearing the full kit kind of puts you at a disadvantage as far as the negotiation goes, don't you think?

Colin thinks about this for the first time.

EXT. GARAGE - LATER

Colin and the salesman stand outside in front of a brand-new idling Honda Fireblade - a 1000cc super-bike.

SALESMAN
Break her in slowly. You've got the time, so. Engine will be in better shape come April when you rebuild it for the TT.

Colin gets on, blips the throttle, clicks her into gear.

SALESMAN
And don't forget, it's left-side drive here.

Colin smiles, flips his visor down and pulls into traffic.

EXT. TT COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin's on a bike riding the TT course. Finally.

He rides briskly, passing every car he comes upon as he makes his way around more than once. The sunlight fades as we begin to learn the course with him.

Start/Finish line. Union Mills, Crosby, Doran's Bends, Glen Helen, Barregarrow, Ramsey, The Mountain Section...

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - SUNSET

Colin stands looking at the life-size bronze sculpture of JOEY DUNLOP on his Honda. Joey sits there, immortalized, overlooking the course as the sun sets over the Irish Sea.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: MAP - Glen Vine has been highlighted with the word: *Farm*. Across the map, another highlighted circle: *House*

Colin's moved his few things in. The place looks better. He's changed out the fluorescents for tungsten bulbs. Warmth. The Joey poster from his garage now resides on the kitchen wall.

We find Colin sitting just below it, quietly eating a sandwich, watching a TT documentary. A medic is being interviewed.

MEDIC

It's a celebration of the human spirit. Really, there is no rationale for doing this. It's just human beings exploring their environment. Pure human spirit.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

Colin shops for vegetables in the large open-air market. A sign on the wall proclaims: *CLOSED TUESDAYS EXCEPT TT WEEK.*

He comes around a corner and sees Kathleen going through a pile of potatoes. He hesitates before walking up to her.

COLIN

You don't want those.

She recognizes him this time around, and she can't help but let loose a brief moment of not only recognition, but also joy. Not to worry. It quickly disappears.

KATHLEEN

No? Why not?

COLIN

(points to another stall)
Because there are new potatoes over there.

KATHLEEN

Good. Someone can finally explain this to me. What exactly are new potatoes?

COLIN

They're potatoes that have just been plucked from the plant. Lots of nutrients.

(picks up a potato)

Long-stored potatoes get pulled up with the whole plant from the ground and then they're cured in a warehouse. They can last 6 months that way. Not as good. Not as good for you.

KATHLEEN

This how you picked up that girl
who's boyfriend beat you up? Gave
her some veg advice? Origins of
broccoli?

COLIN

Asparagus.

KATHLEEN

Much sexier.

COLIN

I was hoping to get you at heirloom
tomatoes but you were just
lingering here with the starch.

Kathleen finally breaks, laughs out loud, then walks off.

INT. PUB - AFTERNOON

Kathleen and Colin sit at a table.

KATHLEEN

What do you do back in North
Carolina?

COLIN

I'm in I.T. Work for an insurance
company. Network administration.
Email support.

KATHLEEN

And you like it?

COLIN

Not really. I'm good at it, though.

KATHLEEN

And so, you're taking a sabbatical
to follow your true passion of
potato farming?

COLIN

Just trying something different. I
do like working with my hands,
though. I guess that describes your
job, too, huh?

KATHLEEN

Yeah, it does. I don't think I've
ever described it that way, but
it's true. It is very hands-on.

COLIN

You like your work?

She's not asked that often. Guard comes down a bit more.

KATHLEEN
I do. I like it a lot.

COLIN
That's good because you would make
the worst hairdresser of all time.
I still can't leave the house. But
I guess that's what you wanted.

Kathleen has that moment where a woman realizes she likes a man, then wonders what's wrong with him if he's single.

KATHLEEN
You married?

COLIN
I was.

KATHLEEN
What happened?

COLIN
She's gone.

KATHLEEN
I'm sorry.

COLIN
It's okay. Long time ago.

KATHLEEN
Any kids?

COLIN
(smiles)
Yeah. One.

KATHLEEN
Boy?

COLIN
Girl. Melissa.

KATHLEEN
How old?

COLIN
16.

KATHLEEN
And she's back home?

COLIN
Yeah. In Asheville. What about you?

KATHLEEN
Not married. No kids.

COLIN
You want some?

KATHLEEN
Is that an offer?

Colin laughs. Nervously.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)
Relax. You're too old for me.
(beat, serious)
You like being a father?

COLIN
Yeah. Best thing I've ever done
with my life.

INT. KITCHEN - DAWN

Colin's up at sunrise, drinking coffee in his racing suit.

EXT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He comes out of the house and walks into the middle of the street. From afar he hears the SOUND OF A RACE-BIKE.

It's JOEY. Yellow helmet on a Honda RC51. Unmistakable.

Colin spins 180 degrees as Joey screams by, but there's nothing. Only Colin and his fantasy.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Colin re-defines the work commute as he blasts through the Manx countryside at triple-digit speeds. He carefully chooses when to use the whole road, otherwise staying in his lane.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Colin pulls up on the new bike. Peter greets him.

PETER
That's a piece of kit.
(yells toward house)
Jon, come have a look! He hasn't
seen one of these newer ones up
close I don't think.

Jon ambles out and we see a small but noticeable flash of joy cross his face, then quickly disappear.

PETER
Looks the business, ay?

JON
Looks like a tart's handbag.

The three men stand there looking at the bike. Jon looks at Colin. You can tell he's worried about him.

PETER
You find a place?

COLIN
Yeah. In Ramsey.

JON
That's pretty far.

COLIN
By design. I'm gonna learn the course riding to work. Go over the Mountain and up through Douglas. Then go north and ride the other half of the course on the way home.

Jon and Peter glance at one another again.

COLIN
(annoyed)
Why do you guys look at each other like that every time I mention the TT? Like they're about to release the Kraken? It doesn't help, you know - the drama. If you have something to say, then say it.

Neither brother answers him. They head toward the barn.

EXT. TT COURSE - AFTERNOON

Colin is standing on the side of the road at the Bends outside of Glen Helen. Colin takes notes on an iPad alongside a sketch he's made of the corner.

CLOSE ON: Colin's iPad.

Mile 16. Glen Helen Bends. Double left. Take them as one. Turn in at large white wall. Get as close as possible. Keep it on longer than you think. Opens up at exit.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

All of Colin's sketches of the different corners are taped to the walls along with a large, marked-up map of the course.

Colin sits in front of the TV playing TT Super-bikes on his X-Box - a very realistic video game of the course. He crashes frequently as he tries to memorize the 264 corners encountered in a single lap.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Colin is flying down Sulby Straight and begins to slow for Ballaugh Bridge - one of the few places on the course the bikes get airborne. At 25 mph you would leave the ground here, but Colin is doing 50.

Right at the moment he hits the jump, he realizes his mistake and backs off the throttle. Too late. Colin is thrown forward and comes down on the windscreen, SHATTERING it. He slowly lowers himself back onto the seat. This is what racers call "having a moment."

EXT. DOORSTEP - AFTERNOON

Colin stands at the front door of a modest home, helmet in hand. A woman opens the door. She's a sprightly 68; pretty with sharp eyes. This is Kathleen's mother, MEREDITH.

MEREDITH

Hi. You must be Colin. Come on in.

COLIN

(nervous)

Hi. Nice to meet you.

MEREDITH

Relax. This isn't a "meet her mother" situation. Kat asked me to get the door. I'm on my way.

She moves toward the hall closet where she grabs a sweater.

MEREDITH

Good luck getting her on that fucking bike, though.

She takes a good look at Colin before she walks out the door.

MEREDITH

I get it now.

Kathleen catches the last bit and just looks on in wonder, smiling at her mother's forwardness. Then, serious...

KATHLEEN

Mum. What are you doing?

MEREDITH
Living a life. Give me a break,
would ya?

Meredith leaves. Kathleen points to the helmet.

KATHLEEN
She's right about one thing. You
can leave that here.

He walks over and grabs her. They kiss. It's still there.
Meredith walks back in. They jump away from one another.

MEREDITH
Shit. Sorry. Forgot me lunch. Carry
on, then. I'll only be a second.

EXT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Kathleen notices Colin's smashed windscreen.

KATHLEEN
Glad to see my instincts are still
intact.

COLIN
That? No. That... wasn't even. I
don't know how that happened.

INT. KATHLEEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Colin and Kathleen drive through the countryside. *We Built This City* plays on the radio.

COLIN
Can you tell me why this song plays
every day, 12 times a day?

KATHLEEN
You've been here a little while
now. Isn't it obvious that Douglas
was built on Rock N Roll?

They pass over a small bridge and Kathleen looks toward it.

KATHLEEN
Hello fairies.
(beat, waiting for Colin)
Say hello to the fairies.

COLIN
Uhh, no.

Kathleen SLAMS the brakes hard enough to lock Colin's belt.

KATHLEEN

You have to say hello to the
fairies at the bloody fairy bridge.
People been doin it for 500 years.
It's tradition.

COLIN

Hello, fairies. Hello, fairies!
Christ, you're more superstitious
than half the racers I know.

This gets her attention. She turns and looks at him.

KATHLEEN

You a racer?

COLIN

Used to be. Not anymore.

No response here. She just keeps on driving.

EXT. MAUGHOLD HEAD - LATER

A bluff overlooking the sea with a lighthouse perched on the
edge. They park by a church just down the road and walk
through an old cemetery. Neither speak until...

COLIN

Was it the fairies? I promise I'll
say hello from here on out.

Kathleen ignores him. Keeps walking.

EXT. CLIFF - LATER

Kathleen guides them up toward a rise with some large
boulders. On the other side is a cliff with a 1,000ft
vertical. Birds fly at different altitudes below them
creating a dizzying visual. Colin grabs at the rock wall.
Kathleen might as well be in her living room.

KATHLEEN

I've got a question for you. The
racers that come into hospital -
well the ones that make it there,
anyway... I treat them. Horrific
injuries. Compound fractures,
missing limbs, massive internal
bleeding. They die here. Every
year. 248 since this madness
started. I know everyone loves the
TT and it's good for the economy
and all that shite, but, really,
it's enough already.

COLIN
Was there a question in there?

KATHLEEN
Right. Are you here to race?

COLIN
I am.

KATHLEEN
You have a daughter and a career.
Why risk it? What's wrong with you?

COLIN
Why do anything? Why climb Everest?
It's human beings exploring their
environment.

He's spitting back the line he heard in the doc.

KATHLEEN
That's your answer? It sounds like
something you read off a Patagonia
jacket.

Colin says nothing.

KATHLEEN
So, you came here to die?

COLIN
No. I came here to live.

KATHLEEN
(laughs)
Oh, right. Been slowly dying on the
inside all these years but this is
your chance to finally live fully
for the first time in your life.

COLIN
Something like that. Yeah.

KATHLEEN
Yeah... you got the wrong woman.
Should have just told me up front.
Could have saved us both the time.

EXT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Colin stands outside. Kat comes out and hands him his helmet.

KATHLEEN
Thanks. I had a nice time.

She walks back in leaving him standing there in the driveway.

INT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Meredith peeks her head out of the kitchen.

MEREDITH
What happened?

KATHLEEN
He's here to race the TT.

Meredith instantly understands what this means.

INT. BARN - DAY

The three men are bringing hay bales in and stacking them.

PETER
You alright, lad? Awfully quiet today.

COLIN
I met someone.

PETER
Well, that's nice.

COLIN
She doesn't want to see me again.

JON
Sensible woman, then.

Ignoring Jon, Colin points to a large, stainless-steel harness hanging on the wall.

COLIN
What's that thing?

PETER
It's a calving jack. For ratcheting a calf out.

COLIN
Why would you ever do that?

PETER
They can get stuck sometimes.
Especially the Belgian Blue's.
Narrow hips.

COLIN
That's so technologically advanced of you, Jon. I can't believe you even allow it on the property.
(MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)
I figured you just pulled the calf
out with your teeth while wearing a
kilt.

EXT. TT COURSE - DUSK

Colin's going much faster now. He treats the road like it's
closed for TT - crossing into the oncoming lane of traffic on
every corner. Coming down off the Mountain Colin slows his
pace and within seconds a POLICE BIKE comes up behind him.

EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

The cop, KEVIN FENDER, 50, is a large man. He's upset as he
looks at Colin's paperwork.

FENDER
So you come for the TT and stay on
for a few extra weeks to play
racer?

COLIN
I'm not *playing* anything. Learning
the course for next year.

FENDER
You race back home?

COLIN
Used to.

FENDER
AMA?

Colin nods.

FENDER
What class?

COLIN
Superbike.

FENDER
So, you like the Fireblade?

COLIN
(surprised at turn)
Yeah... A lot.

Fender nods, then begins to write him up.

COLIN
Wait, you're still giving me a
ticket? Are you kidding me?

FENDER

It's a summons. And I'm giving it to you because I don't want to see you get yourself killed. Takes three years to learn the course.

COLIN

You don't say. Haven't heard that before.

Fender looks up.

FENDER

You taking the piss?

COLIN

No, sir.

FENDER

Slow down. Three moving violations here as a non-resident and they take your driving privileges away. They can even boot you.

COLIN

Boot me?

FENDER

Send you packing, laddy. Back to the States as it were.

Fender hands him the summons.

FENDER

And that's your Uncle Bob.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Colin's having lunch with Jon and Peter. Jon is looking at the summons. Bridget is tidying up at the sink.

PETER

I'm gonna make tea.

COLIN

I got it. Let me do something.
(to Jon)
Do you know him?

JON

Yeah. Used to race himself. Pretty quick. Top-10 finish one year. 8th I think.

Jon watches Colin like a hawk as he assembles all the necessary items for tea.

COLIN
Can you talk to him?

JON
He strongly dislikes me.

COLIN
(sotto)
You're kidding.

Colin places the tea-bag in the mug then goes for the water.

JON
Hey! Milk in first.

COLIN
Huh?

JON
Milk. In. First.

Colin turns and looks at him.

COLIN
I actually don't know if you're
joking.

BRIDGET
He's not joking.

JON
Put the hot water in first and you
get a mixture. If you put the milk
in first, then the hot water, you
end up with an emulsion; which is a
far better result.

Colin does it the way Jon says, brings tea over.

JON
He's right, though. What he said.
You can't learn the course this
way.

COLIN
I *am* learning it.

JON
No. You think you are but you're
not - which is even more dangerous.

Colin, annoyed, waits for further explanation.

JON
It's impossible to learn properly
when the road's open to traffic.
You'll never get the right line.
(MORE)

JON (cont'd)

There's straightaways that become long sweepers at 170MPH, and linked bends that become straights when you're riding down the center of the road. Not to mention it's not flat like a short-circuit. It's crowned for drainage and such.

COLIN

So?

JON

So you finish every bloody corner off-camber. How many corners are there in one lap of the course?

COLIN

264.

JON

Right. And you're gonna have to re-learn every one of them come June.

COLIN

I'm not trying to learn the line from the saddle. I'm learning it from the roadside - stopping and studying each corner. And you would be surprised how accurate the video game is. Every corner is perfectly modeled...

JON

The video game?? Colin. You got no business here. I tell you this because I don't want to see you hurt.

COLIN

There's only one fast line around a circuit. This one's just gonna take more time. It's science, Jon.

JON

That's the last thing it is. Black science, maybe; but it's closer to witchcraft if you want to know.

(matter of fact)

You'll die before you learn the course this way.

COLIN

Thanks. If I need any more racing advice from a farmer I'll be sure to come back to you.

Colin gets up and walks out the back door.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Big, beautiful home on a tree-lined street. The door of the house is open and we see a middle-aged couple standing in the doorway, their teenage son just behind them.

Colin and Mel are quickly moving away from the door toward Colin's car parked in front. Mel can't get there fast enough.

MEL

Did you call Michelle's parents?!

COLIN

No. I went to her house.

MEL

Oh my god!! Dad!!! What the fuck!??

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Mel gets in the passenger seat, keeping her face turned away from the house, the front door still open.

COLIN

Do you have any idea how terrified I was when Mrs. Oliver told me you weren't there? I didn't know where you were.

Mel starts crying.

MEL

Just go! Drive!!

COLIN

What do you care so much about what they think? I don't give a shit about these people.

MEL

Or me, obviously!!
(beat)
I need to find Mom. She'll understand.

EXT. ROAD - EARLY MORNING

Colin rides through a small town. It's early still and the traffic is light. ANOTHER BIKE comes flying past. Colin immediately gives chase. This rider is experienced and fast. Knows his way around. Colin's taking chances to keep up.

EXT. BALLACRYE - CONTINUOUS

Colin has never come through here at speed before. At anything less than race-pace the rise at Ballacrye is a benign hump in the road. You wouldn't even know it was there. At 160mph IT'S A RAMP. Colin isn't ready for what comes next.

Colin's bike TAKES OFF. As he sails through the air the bike's wheels come out of alignment. When he lands they are on different axis. The result is the bike SNAPPING itself straight, throwing Colin up in the air like a bucking bull.

He squirms back into the saddle just as a car PULLS OUT of a driveway. Colin SHOVES the bars to avoid the car, which he does. But it sends him hurtling toward the opposite side of the road. He leans the bike back as hard as he can. Almost makes it, too; but his front tire just kisses the curb.

The bike instantly FLIPS UP in the air and CARTWHEELS down the road, tearing itself to pieces.

Colin slides across the road and SLAMS into the curb, feet first. His heel SHATTERS on impact. He's then thrown up in the air and TUMBLES across a yard until he is violently stopped by a STONE WALL. He crumbles into a heap and lies still. His bike sits in the middle of the road, SMOKING.

CLOSE ON: Colin's face. The sun dapples through the trees into his eyes which are now tearing up. He passes out.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kathleen walks through the normal bustle of a weekday morning in the ER when the doors to the ambulance-bay slam open. Colin is pushed in on a gurney by two EMT's. She doesn't realize that it's him. A doctor rushes over.

EMT

Motorbike. Hit a wall. Really weak pulse.

DOCTOR

How much time since the wreck?

EMT

15, 20 minutes.

DOCTOR

Was he conscious when you got to him?

EMT

No.

DOCTOR
Let's stabilize him and get a cat-
scan.

Kathleen rushes over to a medical cabinet for supplies.

DOCTOR (O.S.)
Name?

EMT (O.S.)
McMillan. First name Colin.

Kathleen, hands full, stops moving and stares straight ahead.

INT. HOSPITAL BED - NIGHT

Colin opens his eyes and surveys himself. He's a mess. Barely lifting his head he's able to see PINS AND RODS sticking out of his foot and a tube going into his chest cavity. The last thing he sees before passing out is that he's lost the PINKIE FINGER on his left hand.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Colin walks down the hallway where he sees a group of Mel's friends standing in a circle. Some are crying, others speak in hushed tones. When they see Colin, they turn to face him and everyone goes quiet. One friend speaks up.

FRIEND
Mr. McMillan...

He walks right past her.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - NIGHT

Kathleen stands at the desk, phone in her hand.

KATHLEEN
Yes. I'm calling on behalf of Colin
McMillan. I'm trying to find
Melissa. His daughter. We can't
find a number for her.
(beat)
What?

Kathleen stares straight ahead as she listens.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Colin is frantic, looking into different rooms. A DOCTOR standing at the nurse's station notices him.

DOCTOR
Excuse me. Mr. McMillan? Excuse me.

Colin ignores him. Keeps looking.

DOCTOR
Are you Mr. McMillan?

COLIN
(turns)
Where is she? Is she here? I just
wanna see her before you say
anything.

DOCTOR
Mr. McMillan...

COLIN
Is she here??

DOCTOR
No.

COLIN
Is she dead?

DOCTOR
Why don't you come sit over...

COLIN
Is she dead?

DOCTOR
Yes.

Colin loses his legs, sliding against the wall until he's
sitting on the white, epoxy floor. A detective comes forward.

COLIN
What happened?

COP
A drunk driver hit her on Rt 26.
Crossed the double yellow. Four
times over the limit.

Colin considers this.

COLIN
Where is he?

COP
She. Died at the scene.

Colin has no other questions.

FADE OUT.

INT. HOSPITAL BED - MORNING

Colin is awake, staring out the window. Kathleen walks in.

KATHLEEN

Quite a move to get me to see you
again. You're a massive idiot.

She reaches for his chart, but he rattles it off for her.

COLIN

Broke three ribs, punctured my
lung, shattered my heel, chipped my
pelvis, lacerated my kidney. Didn't
know you could actually pee blood.
(holds up left hand)
Oh, and I have one less finger.

He's all smiles until he realizes what he's just described is
him. His smile disappears, replaced with fear.

KATHLEEN

Didn't realize you were such a
winge-bag. I'll check in on you
later.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kathleen walks out of the room, leans against the wall and
does everything she can not to break down.

FADE OUT.

MONTAGE

Colin in bed: eating, sleeping, staring out the window.

Colin FaceTiming with Fish.

Peter, Jennifer and Bridget visit Colin - no Jon.

Kathleen sitting with Colin at night, reading to him.

END MONTAGE

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Colder now. People are wearing overcoats and sweaters. It
never snows here but it gets chilly and wet this time of
year. There's a Christmas tree in the lobby.

INT. REHAB ROOM - DAY

Colin is lying on a gurney with electrical stims attached to his feet and hand. Kathleen comes in.

KATHLEEN
Doctor said the x-rays look good.

COLIN
Better than new.
(points to his leg)
Titanium. Can't afford it for my
bike but I got it in my foot.

Kathleen is standing next to the bed. Colin takes her hand in his. She stares back at him until she can't - pulls away.

KATHLEEN
Are you going to stop racing?

COLIN
On public roads in the middle of
rush hour? Absolutely.

Kathleen studies him for a moment.

KATHLEEN
When a farmer comes in to see me,
here, I take them very, very
seriously. They're not setting foot
in a doctor's office unless
something massive has happened. You
lot are no different.

COLIN
Racers are the same as farmers?

KATHLEEN
Basically. Farmers don't want to
admit what's happened. Racers don't
want to admit what's going to
happen. Either way, you're dealing
with a delusional man. I can't be
with you if you're going to race. I
told you that from the beginning.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - NIGHT

Colin sits at one of the desktop computers used for billing and admissions wearing a hospital gown.

CLOSE ON: Computer. Colin is online shopping for replacement parts for his bike. Windscreen, exhaust canister, etc.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Colin's watching *V-Four Victory* - an old, grainy motorcycle race film from the 70's detailing Joey's victories on the *Isle of Man* with Honda.

Jon knocks on the open door and sticks his head in the room. Between Colin's surprise and Jon's awkwardness, it's clear this is the first time he's paid Colin a visit.

COLIN

Jon. Hey.

JON

Jennifer asked me to bring this over. It's pot pie, I think.

He shakily sets it down on the table. He's been drinking.

COLIN

Thanks.

JON

Sorry I haven't come round. Things have been real busy at the farm.

COLIN

Yeah, of course. No worries.

JON

You alright, then?

COLIN

Yeah. Much better. Should be out of here in the next week or so.

JON

Been thinking about the crash, then?

COLIN

Every minute.

JON

Well, at least you learned your lesson.

Colin touches on angry but keeps it in check.

COLIN

Oh yeah? What lesson is that?

JON

Come on, lad. I've been telling you for months now, you can't learn the Mountain by drawing pictures from the side of the road.

The anger begins to surface.

COLIN
So, what? I should just pack it in
and go home now?

JON
You're lucky you get to go home at
all, really. Lucky as hell. Yeah, I
figure you're done here.

COLIN
I hadn't really thought it through.

JON
Of course you have. Do you good to
listen to it.

COLIN
Listen to what?

JON
(leans in close)
The fear. It's just trying to save
you. It's okay to be afraid.

COLIN
You're drunk. Get out.

JON
I don't understand. Did you really
think you could just waltz in here
and race the TT? How?

COLIN
Get out of my room, Jon.

JON
...by playing video games?

COLIN
Jon...

JON
Look at you. You're done.

COLIN
Get out!!

A nurse comes in and stands there trying to figure out what's
happening. Jon leaves before being asked again.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Colin is wheeled out by Peter and Bridget, then helped into
the waiting car. He looks back at the hospital.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Colin is finally back home. Peter stands near the door watching him hobble around.

PETER
You sure you don't want me to stay
and help you get settled in?

COLIN
No, I'm good. Thanks.

PETER
Okay. I'll check in on you tomorrow
after work.

Colin stands there looking at his marked map of the course. He raises one of his crutches and swings it at a pile of DVD's SMASHING them to the floor.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Sitting at the table, Colin makes his tea exactly as Jon explained. He drinks while staring at the poster of Joey.

EXT. STORAGE UNIT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Garage door open. That same poster of Joey on the wall.

It's a warm night and the glow from inside surrounds him as he stares at his bike, perched in the center of the room. Fish sits in a lawn chair.

FISH
You know, you can leave it at the
house now.

Colin's not ready to hear it. Fish quickly backtracks.

FISH (CONT'D)
Also fine to leave it here.

Colin slowly lowers himself into a folding chair and lights a cigarette. He looks broken here, as low as we have seen him.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Kathleen walks up to the house. Jon is outside.

JON
He's in the barn.

KATHLEEN
Hi, Jon. Nice to see you, too.

JON
Hello, Kathleen. He's in the barn.

KATHLEEN
Heard they brought the bike back.

JON
Yeah...

KATHLEEN
Where is it?

JON
Why?

She's maybe the only person on the Isle who isn't intimidated by Jon. She just looks at him until he breaks.

JON (CONT'D)
Second shed on the right.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

The destroyed bike looks like a big-game trophy not yet mounted. Grass still stuck in the wheels, gouges from the pavement, instrument cluster hanging down like a broken neck.

Kathleen GRABS A SCREWDRIVER off the bench and inserts it into the suspension adjuster on the fork tube. She turns it counting the audible CLICKS. She does the same for the shock. Her movements are efficient and sure. She knows her shit.

Jon walks in, not surprised to see her holding a tool.

JON
You check the settings?

She nods.

JON
And?

KATHLEEN
Way off. Short-circuit set-up.
Super stiff.

JON
Apparently, he was well-quick back
when he was racing in the States.

KATHLEEN
That's almost worse. False sense of
security.
(beat)
You gonna help him?

JON
I don't want to have anything to do
with it. Why don't you?

KATHLEEN
No way. I'm not doing this again.

COLIN (O.C.)
What are you two doing?

Colin hobbles in. Kathleen discreetly places the tool back.

KATHLEEN
Looking at this machine that almost
killed you.

COLIN
Amazing I walked away from it, huh?

KATHLEEN
You didn't, though. Remember?

Kathleen walks out.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - LATER

Jon, Peter and their wives and a few of their GROWN CHILDREN
are all getting into a packed car. Everyone crowds around
Colin except Jon who busies himself with loading the car.

PETER
You know where the antibiotics are?

COLIN
Shed on the north side of the barn.

BRIDGET
And you have our number in
Ballymoney if you need us.

PETER
Back in two days. You need
anything, just call.

The family drives off leaving Colin to himself.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Colin is out in the field with the dog, herding sheep from
one field to another. His whistles are getting better and the
dog and he are starting to communicate. He stops, kneels down
and puts his four-fingered hand in the soil.

EXT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Kathleen leads Colin, using a cane now, to the garage. He has a blindfold on. A brand new BICYCLE sits in the drive. Her mother and the COP from earlier, Fender, are there as well.

KATHLEEN
(pulling blindfold)
Okay! You can look. Happy
Birthday!!

Colin sees Fender before he sees the bicycle.

COLIN
What's he doing here?

KATHLEEN
That's my uncle.

COLIN
You're kidding me. That's your
Uncle Bob?

KATHLEEN
What? No. Uncle Kevin. What are you
talking about?

FENDER
Happy Birthday, mate. Still need to
stay on your side of the road,
though.

MEREDITH
Look at your present already!

He's not happy. He tries to put a good face on it.

COLIN
It's beautiful. Thank you...

KATHLEEN
(annoyed)
What? You can't explore your
environment on a push-bike?

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Colin pulls a hay-bale off the back of an ATV to feed the cows. He's in pain but fighting through it. In the distance we see a delivery truck pull up to the house. The driver waves to Colin and points toward the front door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DUSK

Colin is completely drenched in sweat as he limps up to the house. There, on the front steps are six boxes of bike parts.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Colin eats his Manx dinner alone. Chicken and potatoes. The boxes outside sit right in his eye-line. He stares at them.

INT. SHED - LATER

Colin hauls the last box of parts in with great effort then sits on a crate and stares at his destroyed bike. Instead of beginning the work he gets up, shuts the light and walks out.

EXT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

Colin, cane in hand, limps back toward the house. It's dead quiet. Then, a SOUND. He stops, waits to hear it again. And there it is. The unmistakable sound of an animal in pain. Colin moves as fast as he can.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Colin finds one of the cows in the midst of labor. Her water bag has already come out and she is straining.

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin careens into the kitchen, grabbing for the phone and dialing the number pinned to the wall.

COLIN

Hi, uh, I'm looking for Jon or Peter McCowley. Yes, I know. It's an emergency. Find them and tell them to call me! Colin. Colin!!

Colin grabs his iPad off the table and heads back out.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Colin is rubbing the cow's head.

COLIN

It's gonna be okay, Heather. You're gonna have a beautiful, healthy baby. Just keep pushing.

Colin begins to clean the area she's in. He rakes away all the old, wet hay and lays down a fresh, dry bed for her, then sits on a wood crate and searches the internet on his iPad.

COLIN

'During the first stage of labor the cow will become restless and often want to separate from the herd...' We're way past that... cervix, vagina and vulva all dilate and cervical mucous plug released...

Colin looks at Heather's rear and sees a wet nose and a hoof now sticking out.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm gonna say that happened already, too.

(Heather strains)

I hear you, baby. Okay, okay. Second stage. 'Duration of this stage lasts from a half hour in a cow to two to three hours in a heifer. A heifer should be given no more than one hour after the water bag appears before being checked to see if she needs help.'

Colin gets up and stands near the cow's face.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Are you a cow or a heifer?

She cries out in pain. Colin jumps up and grabs a few things from around the barn - a large pail of warm water, a bottle of cleaning solution. He washes his hands thoroughly then moves around to Heather's rear and grabs the calf's hoof.

He pulls. Hard. Nothing. Heather strains but she can't get the calf's shoulders past her hips. She cries out again.

COLIN

God damn-it!! Not you, baby. Not you. Come on. Come on!

Back to the iPad.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Traction... Okay. Here we go. '...must be able to see three things before traction is applied.' (looks and counts) Head and... two paws. That's three. Okay... Calving jack usage... Tie a loop above the fetlock with a half-hitch below it.'

Colin grabs the calving jack off the wall. He ties two clumsy knots onto the calf's hooves, then hoists the whole apparatus onto Heather's rear haunch where he sees the calf's tongue is starting to TURN BLUE.

COLIN (CONT'D)
No. No. No.

As soon as Heather goes into another bout of straining Colin begins to RATCHET the lever. The legs of the calf PULL TIGHT but the animal is still stuck. It won't budge.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Come on, Heather! Push! You gotta help me here. Push!!

Colin continues to ratchet until he hears a dull SNAP. Heather yells out as her calf comes tumbling out, seemingly intact but not breathing. Colin stands there looking at it in silent panic. He grabs for the iPad once more.

COLIN (CONT'D)
'...place a piece of straw in the nostril of the calf.'

Colin grabs a piece of straw off the floor and sticks it in the calf's nose, which instantly starts him GASPING for breath. He settles into a nice, healthy rhythm and Colin collapses next to him - both exhausted.

Colin looks up to see Heather is now laying down on her side, barely breathing. He BROKE HER HIP with the jack. He drags the calf over and places him by Heather's head, who begins to lick her calf clean. Colin then moves him to her udder from which he immediately begins to feed.

The phone begins to ring but Colin just sits there on the floor. He strokes Heather's head as her breathing becomes fainter. She closes her eyes soon after.

FADE OUT:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

A taxi drives up with Jon, Peter and their families. They head right for the barn leaving their bags in the driveway.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

We follow Jon and Peter through the barn. All the cows have been fed and the stalls cleaned. They find Colin sitting on the floor, newborn calf in his lap sucking from a bottle. Heather lies dead, a few feet away. Jon goes to inspect her, notices the calving jack. Peter and the other family members surround Colin, who seems catatonic.

COLIN
I tried everything.

JENNIFER
It's okay.

COLIN
I literally did everything it said
to do.

BRIDGET
It happens.

COLIN
What does that even mean? What
happens?

PETER
Colin...

COLIN
What? What happens? That you do
everything you can and shit still
goes south? Because I did.
Everything. He wouldn't come out.
He was dying. What else was I
supposed to do?

JENNIFER
Colin. It's okay.

COLIN
No. I'm actually asking you. Tell
me. What else was I supposed to do?

Jennifer kneels down and takes his head to her shoulder.
Colin cries deeply, fully.

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Colin stands outside looking at a car full of Mel's friends
parked outside. Mel comes out holding a weekend bag in one
hand and a snorkel and flippers in the other. She stops and
looks at her worried father. She softens for him.

MEL
It's okay, Dad. I'm okay. It's all
okay.

Colin nods quietly.

COLIN
Will you call me after the dive.

MEL
We're going on like, 25 of them.

COLIN
Jesus. Then call me at the end of
each day. Can you do that?

MEL
Yes.

COLIN
I'm serious.

MEL
I will call. Hey. Try and remember
that I'm *your* kid. Means I got mad
skills. Get on board.

COLIN
I don't know what that means.

MEL
Yeah, you do. You were listening to
Young Thug on Spotify last week.
For some reason you like pretending
you're older/less cool than you
are. I know you're just trying to
be a good dad and all. And you are.
But come on...

Colin mulls this over for a moment, then...

COLIN
How did you know what I was
listening to Young Thug?

MEL
It's on your public playlist.

She runs to the car and jumps in.

COLIN
Don't forget to call me!

MEL
Go ride your motorcycle. It'll make
you feel better.

COLIN
What? What motorcycle? What are you
talking about?

Colin is the worst liar on earth. Ever. She laughs at him.

MEL
Bye, Pops. I love you.

They drive off.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

Half asleep, walking to the bathroom, Colin trips on the still brand-new bicycle leaning against the wall. He kicks it to the ground with his one good foot and continues onto the bathroom. He then stops and turns back to look at it.

EXT. COLIN'S APT - DAWN

Colin walks outside with the bike. He looks clumsy with it.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Colin is on the bicycle, working hard when he's overtaken by four sport-bikes. The wind blast moves him over a few feet.

INT. PUB - LATER

Colin walks in with his modern bicycle gear - spandex, clip-on shoes - and orders a tea. A table of farmers stare at him.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

It's POURING now. Colin is fighting up a hill and fading badly. Head down, he's pushing. But it's too much. He finally dismounts and begins to limp home, leaning on the bike for support, clip-on shoes just audible over the downpour.

EXT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's completely dark outside now. Colin looks beat as he walks down the steps with the bike on his shoulder.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Colin sits in the tub, shivering.

EXT. FARM - EVENING

Jon walks alone toward the shed.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

Colin's inside battling with the handle-bars on his bike.

JON
You can push and shove all you
like.

(MORE)

JON (cont'd)
Those clip-ons are the wrong size.
That's why they won't fit round the
fork tubes. You need to machine the
clamp, take some material off.

Colin looks up at Jon for a moment, then goes right back to
trying to fit the square peg in the round hole.

JON
Come with me.

EXT. FARM - CONTINUOUS

The pair walk toward an old, dilapidated structure. Jon pulls
out a key ring and searches through them. Been a while.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

Inside is a well-equipped machine shop. You'd never know.
Colin looks surprised by its existence.

JON
Let's have that piece, then.

INT. SHED - LATER

Colin sits on a stool watching Jon set up.

JON
You've never worked a lathe?

COLIN
No. Let me guess. You got one for
your 3rd birthday and machined a
set of billet triple clamps for
Mike Hailwood in '61.

Jon takes a paternal tone we have not yet heard from the man.

JON
Colin. Do you know the reason
Heather died?

COLIN
(quietly)
It was a legitimate manual from
Colorado State's veterinary school.
Had it on my iPad right in front of
me. I did everything it said, word
for word.

JON

I'm sure you did. But that iPad can't teach you how to match the ratcheting to the contractions. It can't teach you how to feel when the tension on the line is too great. You learn these things by doing them. Come here.

Jon positions Colin at the lathe and makes him do the work.

JON

Take some material off the inside of the clamp. Do it evenly. Slowly.

Colin begins to run the machine.

JON

Used to be most people in your country and mine lived on farms. There was no one to call if something broke. You put your hands on it until it worked again. That's how we won the war. If you knew how to weld a plow you could rivet an airplane wing. If you worked on a tractor motor you could figure out a radial aircraft engine. Now, what do people know? Apps? Video games? There's no craft. No feel for things. Joey wasn't an IT guy in the off-season. He was a farmer.

While Jon moves to a small sink to wash up, Colin returns some of the tools then opens a door into another room.

JON

Don't go in there...

Too late. Colin already sees it. A COVERED MOTORCYCLE. He looks back at Jon who relents by simply nodding. Colin pulls the dusty sheet off to reveal a beautiful MV Augusta race-bike from the mid-60's. Jon's name written on the corner of the windscreen. Colin looks dumbstruck.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Jon makes tea for Colin and himself. He does it right.

COLIN

I should have known. The tea business was a dead giveaway. Only racers are that specifically annoying.

He brings the tea over to the table.

COLIN

So what, you just never thought to tell me about it?

JON

Not much to tell. Couple of top-20 finishes. Enjoyed me-self.

COLIN

Did you know Joey?

JON

Yeah. Not me best mate but we knew each other by name. Shared a pint.

COLIN

You had a beer with Joey Dunlop... You ever race with him?

JON

I was on the same course as him but I don't think it would be fair to say we raced. Joey didn't race with anyone but the Mountain. Not that she didn't get her licks in, too. Took his finger. You share that.

COLIN

Why'd you stop?

JON

Saw one too many friends lose their lives. I knew Kathleen's dad, you know. We were close.

Stops Colin in his tracks.

COLIN

Kathleen's dad was a racer?

JON

Yeah. Fast bloke. Podium'd a few times. She didn't mention it?

Colin is processing.

JON

Whole family lived it for years. Kathleen would come to every practice session. She'd be up at dawn with everyone just to walk the bike through scrutineering. Then Chris passed and... that was that.

COLIN

How?

JON
Outside of Ballacraigne. He hit the
wall. They all gave it up after
that. I did, too.

INT. RAMSEY POOL - DAY

Colin and Kathleen are standing on line at the cafeteria.
There is an indoor public pool behind them. "We Built This
City" plays on the PA system. They both seem entirely unhappy
with each other. Neither smile or even make eye contact.

KATHLEEN
(to server)
Can I have the steak-kidney pie?

COLIN
Same, please.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

They sit at a long table eating with people all around them.
No one says anything for an uncomfortable amount of time.

KATHLEEN
Bridget told me you've been working
on the bike day and night.

COLIN
Yeah, so?

KATHLEEN
Not sure what you're all pissed off
about. You're the one going off and
trying to kill yourself.

COLIN
You're amazing. You got some nerve
asking me not to race. Lying to me
this whole time.

KATHLEEN
I've never lied to you.

COLIN
But you left out some really big
parts.

KATHLEEN
You got something to say, boy?

COLIN
Yeah. I'm really very sorry about
your Dad but I'm not him.

Kathleen looks rattled but it only lasts a moment.

KATHLEEN
No, you're not. You're alive. But
yes, my father was a racer. And
yes, I don't want you to end up
like him. Dead. Crazy, I know.

She picks up her things and walks out.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Colin hobbles out chasing after her.

COLIN
Kat! Wait!! Wait one second!

She turns as he hobbles toward her. He tries to find the words. Can't. They just stand there in the grey drizzle.

KATHLEEN
Why didn't you tell me?

COLIN
What?

KATHLEEN
Melissa. Why didn't you tell me?

The color drains from his face. Thinks hard before answering.

COLIN
Because I didn't want you to know I
have nothing to lose.

This lands with her. Breaks her heart, in fact. She's still hurt but has no more anger for him. She's just exhausted. She gets in her car but Colin just stands there. She rolls down her window, waiting for him to say something.

COLIN
You drove me here.

INT. KATHLEEN'S CAR - LATER

They are parked on a cliff, overlooking the Irish Sea.

KATHLEEN
And the mother?

COLIN
Lolo. She was an umbrella girl.
(off her look)
Gimme a break. I was 23.

KATHLEEN

Yeah, alright. You get a pass. So, you knocked her up.

COLIN

Second time we ever slept together. I knew we weren't right for each other. I told her as much. I even asked her to...

KATHLEEN

Terminate?

COLIN

She said no way. Said she was having the baby with or without me.

KATHLEEN

And where were you with your racing at that point?

COLIN

Halfway through the season. 1998.

KATHLEEN

You had a sponsored ride?

COLIN

No. Privateer. I was chasing contingency money on a stock bike. But I was finishing on the podium. Consistently. Even won a few races. Came in 5th in the championship. I got noticed, got a factory ride with Honda. I was on my way.

KATHLEEN

And you couldn't make it work with her?

COLIN

I tried. I married her. We bought a house in Asheville. But she didn't want that life. She was a party girl. She didn't want to be a Mom. I think she may have had the baby just to try and hold onto me.

KATHLEEN

Ya think? Okay, so she's a shitty Mom. Most of the burden falls on you.

COLIN

All of it. She took off.

KATHLEEN

She left?

COLIN

Yeah. Said she needed to get clean and was going home to stay with her folks in Atlanta. I heard she went to New York. Thing was, I was winning everything that season. I had a real shot. And she just picked up and left us.

KATHLEEN

What about your parents? They couldn't help raise her?

COLIN

Mom died when I was 15. Dad's old, in a retirement home. No way he could take care of a baby.

KATHLEEN

So, you raised her alone.

COLIN

I had to. I had no choice.

KATHLEEN

(realizing)

You quit racing for her...

COLIN

(quietly)

I had no choice.

She moves to him. Kisses him deeply. Gets more intense. Clothing starts coming off.

COLIN

Are we ever gonna have sex in a bed?

KATHLEEN

You live in a basement. I live with my Mother. Take your pants off.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DUSK

Colin is in his brand-new Alpinestars racing-leathers. Peter wheels the completed bike out of the shed. You can tell this is not the same bike he was riding earlier. It's loud now, throaty. It's a TT-ready Super-bike.

PETER

It's really best to wait until practice starts next week.

(MORE)

PETER (cont'd)
 You got no lights, no signals. It's
 completely illegal.

JON
 How the hell's he not gonna take it
 out? Be sensible, Peter.

Bridget comes out of the farmhouse and heads for the laundry
 line, fully-loaded with drying clothes. She looks up at the
 sky. Could go either way. She starts to pull the clothing
 off. Jon and Peter see this near-disaster and stop it.

JON PETER
 Bridget! No!! Are you insane?!?

She sighs then turns and heads back to the house. Doesn't
 even bat an eye.

BRIDGET
 Are we back to this, then?

Jon and Peter look at one another, shrug. Guess so. They
 hoist Colin onto the machine as he can not do it himself yet.
 Colin adjusts his gloves, then snicks the bike into gear.

COLIN
 Any advice?

JON
 Yeah. Mind the turns.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Colin is flying through Kirk Michael - 30MPH zone. Sure
 enough a COP ON A BIKE pulls out behind him and flips the
 lights. Colin makes a split-second decision and GASSES IT.

They fly through the countryside. The cop is fast enough to
 just barely keep him in sight. Colin puts the hammer down
 through Quarry Bends, finally creating some distance.

EXT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin rides into Meredith's driveway and hides the bike
 behind the house. There is no kick stand on it anymore so he
 balances it against the wall. Rush job. It TOPPLES OVER as
 soon as he hobbles away. Windscreen shatters.

COLIN
 Son of a...

INT. KATHLEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin limps into the house through the side door.

COLIN
Meredith? You here?

They meet in the living room. She's cool in her reception.

MEREDITH
Kathleen's not here.

COLIN
No, I know.

MEREDITH
So, what then?

COLIN
Oh, I was just in the neighborhood.

MEREDITH
Trying to make points then, are ya?
Might think about losing the
leathers next time, ya prat.

COLIN
Shit.

Meredith turns and sees a police bike pulling up.

COLIN
I'm not here. Please! I get another
ticket and they'll throw me off the
Isle.

MEREDITH
So, this is how I get rid of you,
then. Perfect.

COLIN
Meredith...

She opens the door as Colin limps around the corner.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The cop removes his helmet and sure enough, it's Fender.

MEREDITH
Mike. Nice to see you. What do I
owe this visit to?

FENDER
Hello, Love. You seen Colin?

She takes a beat.

MEREDITH
No, can't say that I have. Why?

FENDER

Just need to talk to him. Thought
he might have come this way.

Meredith just shakes her head no. They stand there looking at
one another for a moment. Fender decides to leave it.

FENDER

Alright. Well, I'll see ya Sunday
for the BBQ. Kids are excited.

Fender walks away but turns before she can get the door shut.

FENDER

Meredith.

MEREDITH

Yeah?

FENDER

Tell Colin he's getting into Quarry
Bends too early. Needs to turn in a
bit later so he can carry more
speed through the exit. Get a
better drive onto the straight.
He's losing a lot of time through
there.

Fender turns away. She closes the door. Colin steps out.

COLIN

Thank you.

He gets nothing. She leaves him there.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - LATER

Colin is straightening the bent mirror as Kathleen drives up.
She gets out and sees the shattered windscreen.

COLIN

That's not even.. what you think.
What happened was...

KATHLEEN

It's fine. Colin. Listen. About the
other day. That was a mistake. I
mean, it was great. I loved it, but
it was a mistake. I can't do...
(points at bike)
...this with you. I just can't.

She starts to walk toward the house.

COLIN

You're so full of shit.

KATHLEEN

Excuse me?

COLIN (CONT'D)

Just be honest right now, okay?
We're two adults looking back with
20/20 vision. Can you really say
that you wish your Dad hadn't
shared that part of his life with
you?

KATHLEEN

If it means I get to have him here
now? Yeah. I could give a shit
about the racing. I'd rather have a
boring dad who plays darts than a
dead one I can tell stories about.
Any day.

COLIN

I don't believe you.

KATHLEEN

Okay.

COLIN

You loved every second of it.

KATHLEEN

I didn't say that I didn't love it!

Meredith peeks her head outside.

MEREDITH

Hey. You guys wanna take this
inside? We have neighbors.

They both ignore her.

COLIN

You got to share something with him
that very few people ever get to
share.

KATHLEEN

And you deprived your daughter of
the exact same thing!

COLIN

Which was a huge mistake! I thought
it would protect her. It did
nothing! I should have shared it
all. Every second of it. Let her
see that her dad had something he
loved aside from her.

Kathleen processes this. Gets quiet.

KATHLEEN
Can't you see that I just don't
want you hurt?

They stand there for a beat. Kathleen goes into the house.

INT. RONALDSWAY AIRPORT - DAY

It's a mob scene as the TT begins in a day's time. Racers, fans, media. One gear bag after another pops out onto the conveyor. Seems everyone is holding a helmet.

EXT. RONALDSWAY AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Colin stands outside leaning against an old panel-van wearing a plaid, wool coat. Fish walks out holding a large duffel.

FISH
Holy shit! Look at you! You look
good. Local. Like the guy on the
sardine can.
(bear-hugs him)
Smell alright, though.

INT. VAN - LATER

Fish is mesmerized. Same look as Colin had last year.

FISH
I can't believe I'm actually here.
I'm driving on the TT course.

Colin smiles. They enter a unique-looking intersection.

FISH
Union Mills! This is Union Mills!

COLIN
Very good. Now you're thoroughly
familiar with the first 800 feet
out of 37 1/2 miles.

Fish looks at his pal.

FISH
Someone said that to you, didn't
they?

COLIN
What?

FISH
Yeah, they did. You've been
waiting, like, a whole year to say
that to someone. It's cool. I can
be that for you.

INT. VAN - LATER

Colin slows as they approach the "fairy bridge."

COLIN
Hello, fairies. Say hello to the
fairies, Fish.

Fish just stares at him. Not sure if it's a joke until...
Colin HITS THE BRAKES.

COLIN
Old tradition here, pal. Bad luck
if you don't say hello.

FISH
You can take me back to the airport
right now if you want but I'm not
saying hello to any fairies.

Someone behind them HONKS. Colin drives on.

COLIN
God, you're good. I folded in like
a half a second.

EXT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Colin and Fish drink beers on his stoop. It's quiet.

FISH
What time do we start tomorrow?

COLIN
Dawn.

FISH
Bike's already there?

COLIN
Jon and Peter are gonna bring it
over and meet us at the paddock.

More silence. Fish looks at his friend.

FISH
So, how's it been? Riding here? You
have any moments?

COLIN

You mean besides the one that put
me in the hospital for two months?
(beat, thinks)
Actually, yeah. A few others.

Fish laughs out loud - anxiety/excitement/fear cocktail.

FISH

Let me see it.

Colin shows him the stub he has left for a finger. Fish
stares for a good long moment.

FISH

You don't need to go nuts tomorrow.
Just get acclimated. They say it
takes...

COLIN

...three years to learn the course.
Yes. I know. Lookit, Fish. I asked
you here to wrench for me, not
whisper dire warnings in my ear. I
already get plenty of that.

FISH

Oh, you met someone?
(no answer)
I was kidding. Who is she?

COLIN

She's not talking to me right now.

FISH

Oh, good. Same skill-set I see. I'm
glad it translates overseas.

EXT. PADDOCK - MORNING

The TT fortnight has begun. Everyone is setting up shop -
mechanics to cooks. Colin and Fish walk up to find Jon and
Peter drinking coffee at a small breakfast stand along with
scores of other racers and mechanics. People notice Jon in a
meaningful way. He hasn't been here in a long time.

COLIN

Morning, fellas. You're early.

JON

Prepared.

COLIN

Jon, Peter, this is Fish.

You can see the brothers are surprised that Fish is black.

PETER
Heard tons about you. Good to
finally meet.

JON
Where are your spanners?

FISH
(to Colin)
Spanners?

COLIN
Your tools.

FISH
Colin said I could use yours.

Jon grunts. They immediately don't like one another.

PETER
We should get the pit set up.

EXT. PIT AREA - CONTINUOUS

A 20x20 piece of grass with a tarp thrown up as cover. Fish and Peter work on the bike while Colin meticulously applies tear-offs to his helmet. He looks nervous, lost, alone.

Jon approaches holding a bright, ORANGE VEST.

JON
Newcomer's vest. Put it on.

COLIN
(covering)
I didn't know there was a Red
Lobster on the Isle.

JON
Every first-timer has to wear one
during practice. It's so everyone
else knows who to look out for.
Don't worry, you get to take it off
for the race.

Jon walks off and Colin gets down on one knee next to the humming bike. He whispers something to the bike we can't hear then stands and tries get on the bike himself. The pain is still too great. The boys hoist him on and rides off toward the gathering group of orange-vested riders.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

We are looking down at the starting grid from above. A
CONTROL-RIDER leads a line of orange vests - maybe 20 in all.

EXT. START/FINISH LINE - CONTINUOUS

Colin tightens the Velcro on his gloves as he waits.

CONTROL RIDER

Last thing I'll say is this.
There's two ways you can leave the
Isle. You can leave ecstatic,
telling everyone who'll listen that
the TT was the greatest race of
your life.

(beat)

Or... you can go home in a box.

The control rider picks up his hand and they take off as one long train, passing volunteers holding LARGE SIGNS - *Visor Locked? Helmet Strap? Cold Tires!*

Colin tugs at his helmet strap. The last sign has the current track/weather conditions - *Damp Patches Throughout.*

EXT. COURSE - CONTINUOUS

The control rider moves at a decent clip and it's quickly clear who did their homework. Colin is about 15 riders back in the group. His lines are clean, thought-out. The rider in front of him looks sloppy. After one lap around, the control rider pulls off into pit lane leaving the newcomers to fend for themselves. Colin immediately begins to move forward.

He passes the rider in front of him with ease heading down Bray Hill, then quickly dispatches the next one coming into Braddan Bridge. The rider charges back, out-braking Colin for the following corner. Only he BRAKES TOO LATE, leans the bike into the corner and loses the front and CRASHES.

Colin picks off one rider after another until he's got nothing but road in front of him. He sets off searching for the lamp-posts that serve as brake-markers, the cattle-gates that signal turn-in points, the walls that mark apexes.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

From the air. We watch Colin bond with the Mountain. He quickly outpaces the camera screaming off into the distance.

EXT. HOT PIT - LATER

This is where riders make pit-stops during the race for fuel and tires. Colin rides to his allotted box where Jon, Fish and Peter wait. He pulls in, kills the motor and slowly removes his helmet.

Peter throws the bike up on a rear-stand, Jon adds fuel and Fish begins to install a new rear tire. Even as they work, everyone stares at Colin, waiting...

FISH

So? Are you gonna say something???

This breaks Colin out of his stupor.

COLIN

It's... beautiful. It's really beautiful.

Fish looks confused, but Jon smiles. Like a familiar smell in a strange kitchen that takes you back to a moment in your past, so does Colin's reaction do for Jon.

PETER

Were you pushing?

COLIN

No. Not at all. Can't imagine my times were competitive at all.

He looks to Jon who holds a clipboard and a stop-watch.

JON

No. Not yet. But you're the fastest newcomer by a country mile.

COLIN

Am I good to go?

FISH

Unless you want me to make some suspension changes.

COLIN

Not yet.

Colin fires the motor back up and pats the gas-tank.

COLIN

Let's see what she can do first.

EXT. KIRK MICHAEL - CONTINUOUS

Colin approaches Ballacrye, the place where he had his massive crash. He lets off the throttle for just a moment and three other bikes come past him like he's standing still.

Colin pushes to catch the train of Superbikes ahead of him. Entering a fast but bumpy section right before the town of Kirk Michael, he turns the bike into a corner going a bit too fast and instantly LOSES THE FRONT END.

We see this in SLO-MO as the front tire skips laterally across the pavement instead of rolling forward. But Colin SAVES IT, grinding his knee-puck into the ground, he alleviates the pressure on the tire until it regains traction. He throws a hand up, then pulls off the racing line and slows considerably, confidence shot.

EXT. HOT PIT - LATER

The guys all wait for him.

JON
There he is.

Colin pulls the bike into the pit box and just sits there on the bike, shaking. He's scared and that just makes him angry.

FISH
(running up)
You okay?

COLIN
Lost the front near Ginger Hall.
Saved it on my knee. This close.

FISH
Well, let's make some changes. Were
you trail-braking or was it mid-
corner?

Colin just sits there. Doesn't answer.

FISH
Col.

COLIN
Yeah. Just gimme a sec.

He thinks for a moment than stands back up.

COLIN
Just top off the tank.

FISH
You just said you had a moment.
Let's make some set-up changes.

COLIN
No. Fuel it up. I'm going back out.

Fish just stands there. Has no idea what to do.

COLIN
(goes for can)
Okay, I'll do it myself.

FISH
Okay! Okay!

Fish nods to Peter who begins to fuel the bike.

Peter finishes fueling and slaps the gas cap closed.

JON
Listen to me, lad. It's just the
first day. No need to...

Colin revs the motor and goes, cutting him off mid-sentence.

EXT. TT COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin exits the pits and immediately slots in behind another faster rider as they scream down Bray Hill. Colin looks stiff. He grits his teeth as they navigate the dip at the bottom. This is a flat-out, 170mph corner.

The other rider gets through okay. Colin's rear shock BOTTOMS OUT in the depression and the rear wheel comes OFF THE GROUND as he runs out of suspension travel. When the tire reconnects with the ground it goes into a series of oscillations that almost throw Colin off the bike - at 160mph.

Once under control he SLAMS the gas tank with his left fist. His fear translates directly into his riding. You can see it. He looks stiff, lacking fluidity. *A race-bike is like a horse - it knows if you're afraid.*

We see a SHORT MONTAGE of Colin making mistake after mistake.

INT. PUB - AFTERNOON

Kathleen and Meredith are drinking pints in a packed pub. They are surrounded by TT fans.

TT FAN
I think this is the last session.

TT FAN 2
No, there's still Superstock
practice before the roads open.

TT FAN
I don't think so. You have the
program?

Kathleen can't take it anymore. She answers to shut them up more than to help.

KATHLEEN
Superbike practice finishes in 12
minutes.
(MORE)

KATHLEEN (cont'd)
 Then there will be a 30 minute
 Supersport session, then roads
 open. Superstock is tomorrow
 morning at 11:00.

TT FAN
 Thanks.

Kat turns back to her mother.

KATHLEEN
 I just don't understand how you can
 say that. After what happened to
 Dad? And anyway, I thought you were
 against him racing?

MEREDITH
 I was. Until you fell in love with
 him. You're a half-wit for doing
 that.

KATHLEEN
 Wasn't exactly a decision, Mum.

MEREDITH
 So, you are in love with him?

KATHLEEN
 God damn-it. Yes.

A drunk local approaches. He doesn't even get a word out.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
 Sod off, Charlie.
 (back to Kat)
 Look, he's doing this either way
 now. With or without your support.

KATHLEEN
 I can't believe you're telling me
 this.

MEREDITH
 At the end of the day a man who
 doesn't follow his dreams is not a
 man you want to be with.
 (long beat...)
 Not to mention he'd quietly blame
 you the rest of his life.

Another bar patron comes up to them, this one considerably
 less drunk. MIKE, a regular, early 60's.

KATHLEEN
 Hey, Mike.

MIKE

Heard your friend had a real moment today.

KATHLEEN

What happened?

MIKE

He lost the front at Barregarrow.
Saved it on his knee, apparently.

The look on her face says it all. Caring is not a choice for her to make any longer. She looks to her mother once more.

MEREDITH

When you choose a man, you choose his story.

EXT. HOT PIT - LATER

The boys are all waiting for him. They look anxious. Jon checks the stop-watch.

JON

Should have been back by now.

Colin finally appears by pit-in but instead of going to his crew, he pulls off and heads back to the paddock without even a sign. The boys grab their tools and quickly follow.

EXT. Paddock - MOMENTS LATER

Colin pulls in, throws the bike up on the rear stand by himself, takes off his helmet and SLAMS it on the ground. The boys come running up.

FISH

What happened?

COLIN

Everything. Rear shock keeps running out of travel - levered itself off the ground three times. Had a nasty tank-slapper coming into Kirk Michael. Front end was shaking like a dog trying to shit a peach pit!

FISH

Alright. We'll make some changes.

COLIN

Listen, Fish... we can't experiment with set-up here.

(MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)

It's too god-damn dangerous to find out what doesn't work, and we only have a few more practice sessions assuming the weather holds.

FISH

We're not experimenting. We're doing what we always did. You ride, you give me feedback, I make changes.

COLIN

Well it feels like we're walking around in the dark right now!

FISH

Col. We're working off a base set-up I got from a good mechanic that Jon knows. I'm not saying the bike is perfect but we're not playing pin the tail either.

(beat)

What are you doing right now? You know the drill. We work toward the set-up. You wasted two laps by charging out without giving me any feedback or letting me touch the bike. Let's make some changes and get you back out there.

Colin looks to Jon.

JON

You need to find someone who knows road circuits. When I was racing...

FISH

No offense, Jon, but when you were racing, inverted forks hadn't been invented. You don't know squat about setting up a modern litre-bike.

JON

What do you know? You just got off the bloody ferry five minutes ago...!

PETER

Guys! Cut it out!

Colin grabs his bag and walks away.

EXT. PADDOCK - NIGHT

Camera moves past the many racers eating, drinking and telling stories. We end at Colin's pit-area, which we expect to find dark for the night. It's not. A work-light is on. Kathleen, wearing her hospital scrubs, squats next to Colin's bike, working on the rear suspension. She's not happy.

VOICE (O.S.)

Kathy?

Kathleen looks up to see an Irishman in his early 70's with a beer in his hand - BILLY.

KATHLEEN

Hey, Billy.

BILLY

My god. You look exactly the same, love.

KATHLEEN

Thanks.

BILLY

Didn't think I'd see you working on a bike again.

KATHLEEN

Me neither. Hey, Billy, how much do you weigh?

EXT. PADDOCK - CONTINUOUS

Billy is now sitting on the bike wearing Colin's racing-suit. Kathleen is taking measurements of the suspension. She has a small pad and pencil and makes notes as she goes along.

KATHLEEN

11 millimeters of sag?!? I mean read a book or something. You're coming to race the bloody TT for god's sake.

BILLY

(disciplinary)

Kathy.

KATHLEEN

Sorry.

(she starts to move him)

Alright, off you go.

She then measures again with him off.

BILLY
What about the shock?

KATHLEEN
Set up for Silverstone. They had
the rebound off by a mile.
Compression was fuc... wrong, too.

After each adjustment she stands up and shoves down hard on
the forks to see how they behave. Billy just watches.

BILLY
How's your mother?

EXT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Fish sits on the stoop drinking a cup of coffee when Kathleen
drives up and gets out. Fish stands to greet her.

KATHLEEN
Morning. You must be Fish.

FISH
Kathleen?

KATHLEEN
Yes.

We notice a good scrape on the back of her outstretched hand.
Fish foregoes the handshake and just pulls her into a hug.
She immediately likes him.

FISH
How are you even awake?

KATHLEEN
I worked a night shift. I'm just
headed home.

FISH
Thanks for taking care of him. He's
had a hell of a year.

KATHLEEN
Yeah. He has. Where is he?

FISH
Inside. Taking a shower.

KATHLEEN
How is he?

Fish shrugs.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)
Right.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kathleen pours herself a cup of coffee as Colin walks out of the bathroom. He's dressed but his hair is FULL OF SHAMPOO he forgot to rinse from the shower. He's surprised to see her.

COLIN

Hey...

KATHLEEN

Hi.

COLIN

(sees scrape on her hand)

What happened?

KATHLEEN

Oh, I was just doing some gardening yesterday.

COLIN

You should put something on that.

KATHLEEN

I'm okay. Thank you.

COLIN

So, what's up?

KATHLEEN

I just wanted to check in and see how you were. Heard you had a rough day yesterday.

He can barely look at her.

COLIN

Nah, not really. I'm good. Ready to get back out there.

KATHLEEN

Yeah?

COLIN

Yeah. Just don't have a lot of time to talk. Gotta get moving.

KATHLEEN

You sure you're okay?

COLIN

Yes! I'm sure! Jesus... Between you and Fish.

Kathleen points at her own head. Colin touches his, coming away with a handful of shampoo. He walks back into the bathroom to rinse it out.

EXT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Kathleen sits on the stoop. Colin comes out, sits down.

KATHLEEN

You don't have to nail your colors to the mast here, you know. It's not like it is with these other lads, where they got nothing else they can do. You have a career, a skill-set. You have a life outside this place.

COLIN

You think that's why they race? Because they got nothing else they can do? Come on. You know better.

KATHLEEN

I'll tell you what I know. I know your head isn't in it. And I know that's how you get hurt here.

Colin starts to spin out from here forward. Kathleen stays perfectly calm, straight through.

COLIN

Yeah? Okay. You know me so well, then tell me, where's my head?

KATHLEEN

I have no idea. You're a vault. I just know what a TT racer looks like the morning of practice, and it's not this.

COLIN

And what does a TT racer look like the morning of practice?

KATHLEEN

Excited. Joyful.

COLIN

Uh-huh. And how do I look?

KATHLEEN

You look scared and angry.

COLIN

What am I supposed to do with that?

Kathleen puts her hand on his shoulder. He recoils from her touch, stands, raises his voice.

COLIN

I gave all this up for my kid 20 years ago. Why do you think I'm here? Back at it? Because this is what Mel would have wanted. She knew better than me. She went after it. She got a hold of it. She tried to show me, but I was too scared to see. I shut her down. Over and over.

KATHLEEN

She sounds lovely. I'm sorry I won't ever get to meet her. But Colin, you couldn't bring yourself to tell me she was gone. You couldn't say it out loud. It's been two years now. Have you ever said the words, 'My daughter died?'

Colin is silent.

KATHLEEN

I'm not trying to be cruel. I'm not. I'm just trying to help you make peace with this. Because you haven't. You even lied to me. You told me she was still in North Carolina.

COLIN

She is. She's still there. It's where we buried her.

KATHLEEN

Oh my god, you poor man. You are breaking my heart. Colin. Look at me. Hey...

He finally looks up at her.

KATHLEEN

I came here this morning to tell you I'll get behind you if you want me to. I'll do that for you. And not in that "do what you want but really I hate you for it" bullshit way. I am stunned by my own scars. I'm terrified at how much I love you. But I'll only be risking my heart, not my life. If you're gonna do this, you need to do the same. You have to give yourself over to this thing that you love. Not in memory of someone else. Mel doesn't give a shit if you race in her name. She just wants you to be happy. If that means racing, fine.

(MORE)

KATHLEEN (cont'd)
But don't sit here and tell me it's
what *she* would have wanted. Tell me
it's what *you* want! You can't run
the TT angry and in pain. That
won't work. You'll kill yourself.
You have to love it. I'm not saying
don't race. I'm saying don't race
like this.

Colin looks at her. It's really something to be known. He
nods at her. She's right. He knows it.

KATHLEEN
I just want you to have that same
look me Dad had when he came in
after a fast lap.

She heads back to her car, stops before getting in.

KATHLEEN
You're the most exhausting man I
have ever met. I'm going to bed. I
have to sleep. Please don't die
this morning. I'd like to see you
later and get properly shagged if
possible.

INT. COLIN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks into the kitchen in a daze and sits down at the
table under the Joey poster. Fish is in the bathroom singing
We Built This City pretty much at the top of his lungs.

Colin pours himself a black coffee and drinks it.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PADDOCK - MORNING

Colin kneels next to his bike, going through his ritual.

JON
What *is* that?

FISH
You talk to your fairies. He talks
to his bike.

JON
Right. I guess so.
(beat)
You know you're my first black
friend?

This is as close to an apology as the man is capable.

FISH
I didn't realize we were friends.

JON
Yeah, well, we are.

FISH
Cool. Cool.

EXT. GRID - CONTINUOUS

Colin is sitting on his bike. They're in queue, waiting for morning practice to begin. Jon stands next to him.

JON
Go easy first lap. They're calling for damp patches all through Glen Helen and Sarah's cottage out to the 11th milestone.

Colin doesn't respond. He's swaying back and forth with his eyes closed, riding the course in his mind.

EXT. START/FINISH LINE - MOMENTS LATER

The starter watches the last pair of riders disappear over the rise down to Bray Hill. He signals Colin and the other rider and the pair scream off the line together.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Colin tip-toes through a few corners bringing the tires up to temp. He lets the other rider lead for a bit. Then, something happens. Colin begins to pick up the pace. He dispatches the rider in front of him and disappears into the distance.

CLOSE ON: Colin's face inside the helmet. He's smiling.

EXT. PIT LANE - LATER

Fish, Jon and Peter wait for Colin to come in. He flies right past them without slowing for pit-in.

PETER
Guess he's not coming in.

Jon and Fish hit their respective stopwatches. Both smile.

FISH
Just dropped 28 seconds from his best lap.

Everyone stops at this.

PETER
From a standing start!! What's he
gonna do on a flying lap?!?

JON
About bloody time.

EXT. PADDOCK - LATER

Colin pulls into the pits and starts yelling before the bike is even stopped. They can't hear him because he hasn't even bothered to flip up his visor.

JON
Take off your lid, mate!

Colin yanks his helmet off.

COLIN
Yes. Just yes. All of it.

He grabs Fish, hugs him. Fish is beaming.

COLIN (CONT'D)
It's a whole different bike, Fish.
Whatever you did, it worked.

Fish kneels down next to the bike and checks the settings a bit more closely. He looks a little lost as he begins to examine the bike. This is not how he left it yesterday.

Kathleen rolls up. Colin is beyond excited to see her. He grabs her and picks her up.

COLIN
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

KATHLEEN
Okay, okay. Put me down. Now, what?

PETER
14th place on the practice sheets.
They're talking about him on the
radio.

Colin notices Fish near the bike.

COLIN
What are you doing? Don't touch the
bike! It's perfect. Get away from
it. Don't even go near it.

FISH
I'm just marking it so we'll have
the settings recorded. Relax.

COLIN
Copyright em, ya bald bear!!

Fish looks at Kathleen. He knows, and she knows he knows.

INT. VILLA MARINA THEATER - NIGHT

The theater is packed with fans and racers alike. The most famous racers come on stage and play games in front of the crowd. It's a vaudeville variety show. Colin sits next to Kathleen at a table along with Meredith, Fender, Fish, Jon, Peter, and their wives. They are a racing family once more.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

A teenage girl, JESS, rummages through some cardboard boxes.

JESS
Oh my god. He kept all of your baby clothes, and the boxes are actually organized by age. 2 to 4, 5 to 8... It'd almost be creepy if he weren't so hot.

Mel, across the room foraging on her own, looks up. *She looks younger here than the last time we saw her, 15 or so.*

MEL
Ewwww.

Mel finds another box, buried deep in the back of the basement. Unlike every other box down here, it isn't labeled. It's sealed shut but she opens it, anyway. VHS tapes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mel, alone now, is connecting an old VHS player to the TV. She inserts a videotape into the antique and sits on the floor to watch.

An old Vidal Sassoon commercial plays. Mel presses the fast-forward button until she sees bikes racing around a track.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Well, it was a wild start here at Mid-Ohio. Mixed conditions kept the teams guessing all weekend but the sun came out for the Superbike race today and boy, did we get a show. Colin McMillan started on the third row but worked his way through the field. It all came down to the last lap and he and Miguel Duhamel went at it!

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (cont'd)
Four passes in one lap with
McMillan making a very brave move
into the last corner and taking the
win. With three rounds left,
McMillan is now up to fourth in the
championship. Incredible results
from a privateer.

The footage moves to the podium celebrations where Colin
holds a 3-yr-old Mel in one hand and a trophy in the other.
Mel looks at her Dad with a wonder that only daughters look
at fathers with. It doesn't exist anywhere else.

Mel freezes the frame here and just stares.

EXT. PADDOCK - MORNING

Colin is getting ready. Everyone is there, Kathleen included.

JON
Last day of practice. We race
tomorrow. You're already in a
really good position so don't push.

KATHLEEN
If the race results were based on
yesterday's times, you'd have
finished 19th. Newcomers don't
break into the top-40. Doesn't
happen.

FISH
So, go easy today.

PETER
Steady, mate. Steady does it.

Colin watches his people grab tools and gear as they head off
toward the grid. It's a lot to feel this supported and we see
him overwhelmed with emotion. He motions to Jon.

COLIN
Hang back a second. I wanna have a
word. I just need to tell you...
I'm just really...

Jon sees the emotion and it's way too much for him. The Manx
don't do feelings. He gets out as fast as he can.

JON
Oh, Jesus. Let's just get on with
it. It's not a BBC2 program.

Jon starts pushing the bike toward the grid.

JON (CONT'D)
 Bloody Americans. Probably wants a
 cuddle now.

Colin just smiles and follows the man with his bike.

HARD CUT:

EXT. COURSE - MORNING

Colin is riding like a man possessed. He is simply flying.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

Colin tears by the timing tower completing his first lap.

EXT. PIT AREA - CONTINUOUS

Peter and Fish watch him go by in a flash. Fish clicks the
 chronograph in his hand and just stares down at the number.

FISH
 You're not gonna...

INT. MANX RADIO TOWER - CONTINUOUS

ANNOUNCER #1
 ...believe this but newcomer Colin
 McMillan just put in a blistering
 129MPH lap.

ANNOUNCER #2
 That moves the American up into the
 top 10 for Super-bike practice.

ANNOUNCER #1
 8th to be precise. What a showing
 by Colin McMillan.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

Jon walks up as Fish and Peter are just shy of jumping up and
 down like a couple of school girls.

JON
 What now?

EXT. COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin flies across Braddan Bridge headed for Union Mills.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

This one sits right on the course. A large group watch the racing from the front yard. There is a lull in the action and it goes quiet momentarily. A small BLACK CAT crosses into the road as we hear the sound of a bike getting louder and louder. The cat HESITATES in the middle of the road.

EXT. COLIN'S POV - CONTINUOUS

Colin comes flying around the corner and tries to steer around it. But the cat darts forward and Colin hits it square on. HE LOSES THE FRONT OF THE BIKE IN AN INSTANT. No one could have saved it. He's ON THE GROUND... SLIDING.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Colin's sliding toward a bus stop as his bike hurtles toward a stone wall right next to it. The bike hits first and SNAPS IN HALF.

Colin hits the padded side of the bus stop but jumps up and tumbles himself over the low stone wall to avoid getting hit by another bike. Track marshals stand in the road vigorously waving yellow flags.

COLIN'S POV: Blue sky and a large steeple directly overhead. His POV turns to the side and there on the calf of a large man is a TATOO OF JOEY DUNLOP'S FACE.

EXT. CHURCH YARD - CONTINUOUS

Everyone has gathered around and is just staring at Colin. He sits up slowly and looks at the tatoo, then up at its owner.

TATOO MAN
You alright, then?

COLIN
Yeah. Think so. Nice ink.

Relief. They all surround him offering well wishes and tea and biscuits. He's one of them now. Racing for racing's sake.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

Kathleen walks up to find a worried looking Jon, Fish and Peter. She can smell something's wrong from a mile away.

KATHLEEN
What is it? What happened?

PETER
He should have been around by now.

KATHLEEN
Come on.

They run across to a small office opposite pit lane. There is a computer screen in the window that gives the status of every rider on the course.

CLOSE ON: Computer screen- **COLIN MCMILLAN - RETIRED.**

INT. RACE DIRECTION OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kathleen runs inside. There, TWO WOMEN work the walkies.

WOMAN
Which rider?

The other woman recognizes Kathleen and is obviously surprised to see her here.

KATHLEEN
Colin McMillan. #37

The 1st woman looks down at the sheet in front of her.

WOMAN #2
Hey, Kat.

KATHLEEN
Shelly.

WOMAN
He's crashed.

KATHLEEN
Condition?

WOMAN
Haven't received word yet.

Kathleen sprints out.

INT. PUB - LATER

Colin, pint in hand, is hanging with the locals when Kathleen runs in with Fish, Peter and Jon in tow. She stops dead in her tracks when she sees him. It's impossible to describe the look on her face because it is too many things at once. She walks straight up to him and SLAPS HIM ACROSS THE FACE.

Then, before he can say anything, she KISSES HIM with all the passion she would normally reserve for their bed.

The locals have a reaction.

INT. RACER'S TENT - LATER

We find Colin and company in a corner. They are surrounded by many of the other racers. JOHN MCGUINESS, the previous year's TT winner, approaches. If you met him on the street you'd never know he's one of the fastest men on earth. He's still wearing his leathers which instead of his name across the back say "Mc" and then the image of a PINT OF GUINNESS.

MCGUINESS
Hey, Jon. Peter.

JON
How are ya, mate?

MCGUINESS
Good. Good.
(to Colin)
Yeah, just wanted to say hello. You
went good today.

COLIN
Thanks.

MCGUINESS
Not too banged up?

COLIN
No. I'm okay.

MCGUINESS
Lucky it was just a cat.

COLIN
Yeah, a horse would have been a lot
worse.

MCGUINESS
Heard about that, did ya? And the
bike?

JON
Binned it. Frame broke right in
half.

Fish arrives with beers, sees McGuiness, stops in his tracks.

FISH
Holy shit. John McGuiness.

Everyone looks at him.

FISH
Did I not just use my inside voice?

EXT. COLOURS - LATER

Closest thing the Isle has to a night club. It's packed. Everyone surrounds Colin. They're all in really good spirits considering what happened.

JENNIFER

Fastest newcomer? Are you bloody joking me? You believe this?

KATHLEEN

129MPH lap.

BRIDGET

What about tomorrow?

JON

Bike's done.

FISH

If it were a pair of clip-ons or an exhaust can... but who brings an extra frame?

A drunk man approaches Colin. His girlfriend is trying to pull him away. It's the SAME GIRL Colin kissed a year ago in the pub, and the same boyfriend. Colin visibly tenses up as the man approaches. The man throws his arm around Colin like they've been friends forever. What a difference a year makes.

DRUNK MAN

Colin. You're fookin mad!! First year qualifying top 10!!

The guy's girlfriend sees that this is actually going okay and relaxes a bit.

GIRLFRIEND

(semi-flirty)

Hi, Colin.

And just like that, boyfriend snaps and PUNCHES Colin in the face, laying him out. Pandemonium as Fish jumps on the guy, pummeling him. The girlfriend jumps on Fish and now Kathleen is yanking her off Fish by her hair. Fun.

INT. COLOURS - LATER

Everyone is full-on. Colin, tissue in his nose, dances with Kathleen. Fish, Bridget and Jennifer dance with them as well. Jon and Peter stand to the side and sip their pints.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

We hear the announcers on Manx Radio as we move through the streets and villages of the waking Island.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Good morning everyone. This is Manx
Radio TT broadcasting on this, the
110th running of the TT.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Looks beautiful out there, if a bit
nippy still.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Weather does indeed look good for
the 11:00 Super-bike race. John
McGuinness looking very sharp,
indeed.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Definitely the favorite here today.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
The question everyone is asking is
will he be the first man to break
the 134MPH lap?

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
I think he will.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Yes, but what do you know? You
haven't thrown a leg over a
motorbike in 30 years.

EXT. BARREGARROW FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Kathleen and Colin drive up to the farmhouse that Colin
visited a year earlier.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks in to find the same group of women as he did last
year. He buys a couple of sandwiches and teas.

OLD WOMAN
That's, let's see, two sandwiches,
tea, umm four quid and thirty
pence.

He hands over the right amount of money. A few guys recognize
Colin and a handful pat him on the back.

EXT. BARREGARROW - LATER

Colin and Kathleen are sitting on the berm watching the end of the sidecar race. They eat their sandwiches and drink their tea. Colin has a small radio tuned to Manx radio.

ANNOUNCER #1 (O.S.)
And Dave Molenxaury is back to winning form after that terrible crash a few years back, taking the side-car race here today.

ANNOUNCER #2 (O.S.)
One hour to the start of the Super-bike race and... I've just been handed a note. If Colin McMillan can hear this or someone near him can, he needs to get to the paddock immediately. Says they've a bike for him to run.

ANNOUNCER #1 (O.S.)
Well, Colin, you'd better get a move on.

Colin and Kathleen look at one another.

KATHLEEN
Whatever you want, love.

COLIN
(shrugs his shoulders)
I mean I'm here, right? Might as well.

Kathleen bursts out laughing.

COLIN
(out loud)
Does anyone have a bike I can borrow?

Everyone in the vicinity has been eavesdropping and YELL OUT when he asks this question.

EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Colin and Kathleen stand in front of a classic 1950's Honda. A middle-aged man is holding the keys out to him.

Colin hops on. Kathleen moves toward the bike as well.

COLIN
Whoa! Whoa! Where you going? You don't ride pinion, remember?
(MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)
Wait here and I'll come back and
get you after the race.

KATHLEEN
Get bent.

She grabs the spare helmet and gets on. Colin rides down the
short road to the course. A MARSHAL stops him.

MARSHAL
Road's closed for the race, sir.

BYSTANDER	CROWD
(screaming)	Let him pass!!!
It's Colin McMillan! He's	
racing! Let him go!	

MARSHAL
Didn't recognize you under the lid
there, Colin. Good luck.

KATHLEEN
Will you just ride slowly, please?

He tears off wheelying the bike for a good 100 feet, Kathleen
slapping his helmet as he goes.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

They are the only two people on the road as it is completely
closed down for the start of the race. They pass the
thousands of spectators lining the roadside.

EXT. PADDOCK - LATER

Fish greets them as soon as they ride through the gate.

COLIN
What did you do?

FISH
Wasn't me.

Colin turns his palms up. Who, then?

FISH
McGuinness.

COLIN
No way.

FISH
Yes way. Factory frame, plus some
extra bits. Trick shit, dude.
Unobtanium, sign an NDA type shit.

EXT. COLIN'S PIT AREA - LATER

Colin's pit-area currently resembles a bedouin flea market. People are coming and going carrying parts and tools. Racers we've never met bring parts and help assemble the bike.

Fish, Jon and DAVE HAGAN, Colin's engine builder are placing the original motor into the new chassis. Colin is transfixed. John McGuinness walks up.

MCGUINNESS

You were going too bloody well. I hope you don't mind.

COLIN

Thank you.

MCGUINNESS

Alright, well, tell Jon to stop drooling on the frame and put the bloody motor in it.

JON

Sod off, McGuinness.

Laughs. They're excited and nervous. And running out of time.

COLIN

The engine was okay, Dave?

DAVE

Just case-covers which Bobby threw in. Internally, it was mint.

Colin looks confused and overwhelmed.

FISH

Go get changed. Race starts in 10 minutes.

COLIN

Who's Bobby?

A RACER we've never seen with his suit halfway around his waist stands up, shakes Colin's hand.

BOBBY

No worries, mate. Good luck!

COLIN

Thank you. Whose forks are those?

JON

Tuxworth owed me one. Ohlins. Full Super-bike spec.

Another fully-suited racer we've never met runs up with a new exhaust. He drops it at Fish's feet. He has a pack of cigarettes taped to his chest protector under the suit.

RACER
Gotta run. Good luck, Colin.

PETER
Go get changed.

COLIN
What about the set-up? I need you to dial those same settings in, Fish.

FISH
Yeah, about that. Look, Colin...

Kathleen senses the impending confession and cuts him off.

KATHLEEN
For Christ's sake, babe. Go get changed! He'll get it right for ya.

He just stands there. In shock.

JON
You're starting to piss me off, lad.

He finally leaves. Though not without looking back. Twice.

KATHLEEN
(to Fish)
You're his mechanic. He trusts you. He needs to know that it's you.

Fish nods. They both converge on the machine.

FISH
Plus, if he knew it was your set-up he might ask you to marry him.

KATHLEEN
Yeah, definitely don't tell him, then. How'd you know, by the way?

FISH
Cut on the back of your knuckle.

KATHLEEN
You didn't buy the gardening story?

FISH
I actually found it insulting.

KATHLEEN
(laughing)
Hand me the 5mm Allen.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

The sell-out crowd sits in the Spring sun.

EXT. PARC FIRME - CONTINUOUS

This is the pre-staging area right next to the start/finish line. It's basically a huge parking lot where all 80-odd bikes and their riders/teams wait for the call to the grid.

Kathleen, Fish, Jon and Peter are all standing around the now-completed bike which is sitting with tire-warmers on. Colin walks through the gate and stops short when he sees it.

COLIN
What do you think?

FISH
I'm not crazy about the wheel color.

JON
Nor I. Let's not do this.

PETER
Best not.

Jon, Fish and Peter begin to walk away. Kathleen bursts out laughing. One of the officials walks through with a sign that reads *2 Minutes*. With this, every bike starts its engine. 80 bikes with open pipes. You feel it as much as you hear it.

FISH
We're gonna go get the pit-box ready.

COLIN
Yeah, go ahead.

They all hug Colin. One after the other. Slowly and meaningfully. Kathleen kisses him on the lips.

KATHLEEN
Have fun.

She means it. He knows it. It's a fucking gift.

EXT. GRID - CONTINUOUS

Every rider is now lined up waiting for their turn. No more pairings. Every rider is alone now. The opponent is the Mountain, not the man in front or behind. Fastest time wins. Doesn't matter if you start first or last.

Jon and Colin begin the slow walk to the starting line. Jon pushes the bike along. Riders are let off in 10-second intervals. They look like a line of gladiators waiting their turn to enter the coliseum.

JON
How you feeling, lad?

COLIN
Little nervous. Haven't turned a single lap on this thing.

JON
You were bloody quick yesterday and this is just your old lady with new clothes on.

COLIN
I never figured out Ballacrye. Still lift every time I go through. Not sure about Kate's Cottage, either. I'm on the racing line but then I can't see the entrance to the next corner until it's right...

Jon puts his hand on Colin's arm.

JON
It's time to let it go, Colin. You've done all you can to prepare.

Colin calms and listens.

JON (CONT'D)
You know which way the road's going now. Close the book and just ride.

EXT. PIT AREA - CONTINUOUS

Peter and Fish prepare the pit-area as Kathleen organizes the tool box and affixes the tear-offs to the spare helmet. They are scrambling to get ready for Colin's first pit-stop.

EXT. GRID - LATER

Colin now has three bikes in line in front of him. He kneels down at this point and whispers to his machine.

Jon helps him get on the bike, pats him on the back and leaves. One more rider in front of him. Colin inches up to the start/finish line. He closes his shield and feels the starter's hand rest on his shoulder. It's FUCKING HEAVY. Colin has the 1,000-yard-stare working now.

He REVS THE PISS out of the bike holding the clutch in, and waits. The starter looks at his watch. The hand comes off and Colin drops the clutch. The bike SPUTTERS and almost STALLS!

EXT. PIT AREA - CONTINUOUS

Colin's crew watches him at the line.

FISH
Slip the clutch!!

PETER
What happened??!!?

FISH
He's never done a race start on the thing.

EXT. COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin gets the bike going and once he does, none of it matters. The bike hits its power-band and the front wheel comes right off the ground as he screams toward Bray Hill.

EXT. COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Colin is riding carefully. He sets up every corner perfectly but there is a stiffness that was not there yesterday. He passes the section of road where his accident occurred a day earlier. He can't help but have a quick look in both directions as he comes around the corner.

No cats.

EXT. CHURCH YARD - CONTINUOUS

The crowd erupts as he comes through. They're with him. Manx Radio comes through on a loudspeaker in the church yard.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Colin McMillan has just come through the first timing split. He is down 18 seconds on the leader putting him in 26th place.

ANNOUNCER #2

Bit disappointing. What with the times he posted earlier this week we all expected him to do the business.

ANNOUNCER #1

It's early still. And the man's coming off a massive get-off only yesterday. You always been this pessimistic?

ANNOUNCER #2

It's me wife I think.

EXT. BALLACRYE - CONTINUOUS

Colin approaches the high-speed jump. The riders in front of him take to the air. Colin LETS OFF the throttle at the last moment. The issue is the loss of momentum. That one second off-throttle costs him hundreds of yards down the next straight. Riders who did not let off come by him. Momentum.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Colin comes off the pace when he sees a marshal frantically waving a yellow flag. Around the next corner lies a downed bike. The rider is nowhere to be seen. It's a rattling sight.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

Colin's crew sit on the wall waiting for him. Colin screams by and they all pump their fists and cheer him on. Fish holds his timing board out for him.

JON

(looking at stopwatch)
He's way off yesterday's pace.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Colin is overtaken by the rider behind him at Windy Corner and still another one coming into Kate's Cottage. The road suddenly seems narrow and the camera shows us the edge of the track and the steep drop-off for the first time.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Colin comes in way too hot to this extremely slow corner. Rookie mistake at the TT. He LOSES THE FRONT but saves it on his knee. The crowd GASPS as he picks it back up.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

Colin comes flying in and they attack the bike. Fuel goes in and, rear tire is changed, helmet and wind-screen cleaned. A scrutineer walks around the bike checking to make sure it's continually track-worthy.

FISH
What is it? Is something wrong with the bike?

COLIN
No. It's fine. Times off?

JON
35 seconds from yesterday.

COLIN
I don't know.

FISH
Just want to make sure it's not the bike.

COLIN
It's not the bike!

Kathleen leans in close. Her mouth is almost inside his helmet. No one else can hear her.

KATHLEEN
You love this, remember? More than anything. Like Joey did. Like me Dad. Let go and love it.

Colin stares at her. She's right.

Peter gives the clear sign as the wheel is tightened. They start the bike, Colin revs it, drops the clutch and STALLS!! Colin hits the starter button. Nothing. Fish and Jon start pushing the bike down pit-lane to jump-start him. It works.

FISH
(screaming)
Flywheel, asshole!! Slip the god-damned clutch!!!

Colin starts LAUGHING inside his helmet. He slips the clutch perfectly and screams down pit-lane and onto the course.

JON
Was he just having a laugh?

FISH
(annoyed)
Yeah.

KATHLEEN
I'm gonna say, good sign.

EXT. BRAY HILL - CONTINUOUS

The Colin from yesterday begins to peek out. He screams down the hill without lifting the throttle. The crowd sees. They have a big reaction - mouths open, hands on heads.

ONE CONTINUOUS SHOT:

We now ride on-board with Colin looking directly out the front of the bike. This is done in real time. No CGI. Buildings blur with trees, people and walls. Speed.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

The crew sits and waits for Colin. They listen to Manx Radio which is being played through large speakers.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Colin McMillan finally showing
signs of life.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Here he comes in for his second pit
stop. And... he just turned a
130MPH lap!

The crew crane their necks to see where he is. The siren goes off and here's Colin.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Incredible. Fastest lap ever for a
newcomer, obliterating Peter
Hickman's 2014 lap.

Colin comes flying down pit-lane. Fish moves out into the road so Colin can see him. He's taped an AMERICAN FLAG to his chest. Colin guides the bike into the pit, cuts the engine and... THE SOUND GOES OUT. ALL OF IT. NOTHING BUT HIS BREATH.

The crew work feverishly on the bike and while they're all talking to Colin, he hears nothing. Kathleen pulls his face shield. Jon cleans the windscreen. Fish muscles the rear wheel off. But for all this racket we hear only Colin's even, measured breath. Kathleen gets the new face-shield on and as soon as she slaps the visor down...

THE SOUND COMES CRASHING BACK.

JON
...especially through Ramsey. Made
a ton of time up! You got two more
laps. No more pit-stops.

Colin hasn't heard a word.

The impact-driver hammers the rear axle-nut home and Peter pulls the rear-stand, dropping the bike back onto the ground. Engine starts and Colin's off. Clutch no longer an issue.

EXT. BRAY HILL - CONTINUOUS

Colin is now a man on a mission. We've never seen him this loose, this committed. He comes down Bray Hill so fast that the belly-pan of his bike bottoms out and sparks off the pavement at 170mph. The bike goes into a CRAZY WOBBLE but he just accelerates harder to quell it. No big deal.

EXT. QUARTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Colin backs it into this sharp, right corner while passing someone. It's a hairy, short-track move. He makes it stick.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
I'm gonna go ahead and say I've
never seen anyone back it into
Quarter Bridge while simultaneously
overtaking.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
No words for that. Need a minute.

EXT. BALLACRYE - CONTINUOUS

Colin approaches the jump once more. Two riders in front of him take to the air. This is the jump he always lets off on. The jump that put him in the hospital.

CLOSE ON: Colin's throttle hand twists the grip to its stop.

COLIN HITS THE JUMP FLAT OUT. We see this in EXTREME SLOW-MO. The wheels spinning, the bike sailing through the air at 140 MPH. Colin keeps it straight and lands it perfectly screaming away down the following straight.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Knee down on every corner, Colin might as well be on a Grand Prix circuit. He's passing people everywhere. He runs the bike out to the LAST INCH of pavement on one exit. Close.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Wow! That was inches from disaster.
Inches.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
This is real short-circuit stuff
here from McMillan.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Might need a knicker-change after
that one.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
You or McMillan.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)
Can only speak for me-self.

INT. MANX RADIO - CONTINUOUS

Inside the studio we are with our two announcers.

ANNOUNCER #1
Colin McMillan has somehow found
his way into 12th place with one
lap to go.

ANNOUNCER #2
Found his way? It's a bloody forced
entry.

ANNOUNCER #1
He's coming through the start/
finish line right now. Waiting for
a time...

EXT. START/FINISH LINE - CONTINUOUS

Colin screams past the pits as his entire crew leans over the
pit wall screaming their heads off. Fish is holding a pit-
board over the wall that says: -16 Hutchy.

INT. MANX RADIO - CONTINUOUS

The announcer looks at the screen in utter shock.

ANNOUNCER #2
Well? Let's have it, then.

ANNOUNCER #1
I don't want to misreport this but
it looks like Colin McMillan just
broke the lap record.

ANNOUNCER #2
For a newcomer.

ANNOUNCER #1

No.

They both cover their mics so the listeners can't hear them.

ANNOUNCER #2

That must be a mistake. What speed?

ANNOUNCER #1

134.1 MPH.

The two men look at one another. They take a moment. They compose themselves and go back to work. Professionals.

EXT. COURSE - CONTINUOUS

We cut to a few different locations where spectators are gathered and we listen to the news with them.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)

Well folks, never a dull moment on the Mountain. It seems we are reporting history here at the TT. Colin McMillan has in fact broken the all-time lap-record here with a blistering 134.1 MPH lap.

And the crowds go crazy!!

ANNOUNCER #1

McGuinness is not going to be happy with that.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)

I imagine not, being that he supplied him the bike to do it with.

ANNOUNCER #1

Quite a ride for the American in this, his first year on the Isle.

ANNOUNCER #2

Irish-American.

ANNOUNCER #1

(happy to get on board)
Yes! Quite. The Irish-American Colin McMillan on a flying lap.

EXT. PIT AREA - CONTINUOUS

One of the factory teams is currently trying to find the right letters to spell McMillan for their rider's pit board.

They had all of the usual suspects name's prepared - McGuinness, Anstey, Dunlop, Hutchy. All useless right now.

CREW
(to no one in particular)
...because we don't have one with
bloody McMillan written on it!!

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

We see Colin from a helicopter. It's quiet and surreal from up here. They're moving the same speed.

INT. ANNOUNCER'S TOWER - CONTINUOUS

ANNOUNCER #1
Colin McMillan is on his way to
what looks like a top-10 finish
here at his first visit to the
Isle.

ANNOUNCER #2
Certainly doing the business now.

ANNOUNCER #1
Man on a mission.

ANNOUNCER #2
Martin is well ahead on the road
but only 12 seconds ahead on the
clock. You can be sure they're
giving him the hurry-up sign.

EXT. UNION MILLS - CONTINUOUS

Colin races toward his own apartment. There in the distance is what looks like a man standing in the middle of the road. He's doing 180MPH so it comes up fast.

It's the image of himself from that first morning when he felt the bike coming toward him at sunrise.

Colin motors right through his own ghost and turns the throttle to its stop.

EXT. BALAUGH BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Colin sails over the small jump but on landing the right foot-peg SNAPS CLEANLY OFF. Colin's foot comes off the bike and hits the ground. It throws him and he slows dramatically looking down to see what's happened. He quickly finds a spot for his heel on the swing-arm of the bike.

EXT. BALLACRAINE - CONTINUOUS

The crowds wait for Colin to appear. Everyone is caught up in the drama of his last lap.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)
Whoa!! It seems Colin McMillan has
lost a foot-peg!

Colin comes flying by a moment later. The crowd goes absolutely wild. His foot is angled out from the swing-arm but he has picked his pace right back up.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

The big-screen shows the replay of his peg snapping off.

KATHLEEN
For Christ's sake. Can we get a
break here?

JON
Be tough to ride like that. No
question. He won't be able to stand
for the bumpier sections now.

EXT. PIT LANE - CONTINUOUS

John McGuinness passes the start/finish and slows for the U-turn that takes him back toward the podium. The people that line the narrow path all reach out to slap him on the back, but many other are craning to look at the jumbotron. Even John stops to watch on his idling bike.

INT. ANNOUNCER'S TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The two announcers are looking at the times on-screen.

ANNOUNCER #1
Well, this is a first. Have you
ever seen this?

ANNOUNCER #2
Can't say that I have. Always know
the finishing order by this point.
McGuinness will take the win with
Hutchinson looking sufficiently
ahead for a strong second. But
third is too close to call at the
moment.

ANNOUNCER #1
Colin McMillan turning things on
their head this week at the TT.

ANNOUNCER #2

Well, we'll all just have to wait
and see what Mr. McMillan can pull
out of his hat this last half-lap.
A podium finish is theoretically
still possible.

EXT. BALLACRYE - CONTINUOUS

Colin flies over the jump again. No hesitation at all. We see
it at speed this time and it's breathtaking. His foot comes
off the peg on the landing, however, and we see it TWIST BACK
grotesquely.

Close on: Colin's face contorted in pain.

INT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

ANNOUNCER #1

I think something happened on that
landing. He's slowed up.

They watch the landing in slow-motion and see the leg twist.

ANNOUNCER #2

My god.

ANNOUNCER #1

Had to have torn something. He
should not be continuing on.

EXT. MILNTOWN - CONTINUOUS

Colin's going through one of the bumpier parts of the course
heading into Ramsey. He can't stand up and so he absorbs
every bump right on his ass. He's being tossed around like a
rag-doll. Once he emerges into Parliament Square the crowd
goes bananas.

EXT. PODIUM - CONTINUOUS

The race-officials have placed the bikes of McGuinness and
Hutchinson in their respective podium positions - 1st and
2nd. But the 3rd spot is left open.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Colin, now on the smooth pavement of the Mountain section is
no longer bucking about, but must now deal with the fact that
he can't stabilize himself on the right turns. He bends the
bike into one of the faster rights only to have his FOOT COME
OFF THE SWING-ARM.

His boot hits the ground and just barely misses being run over by the rear wheel. He yanks it up and jams it back into the swing-arm. He's on the edge of traction on every corner. He's spinning the rear up on every exit. He passes Joey's statue where everyone is now on their feet.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Last corner. Colin slows for the sharp right and then motors down the final straightaway.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

Colin screams past the finish line. Every single person watches the board and waits to hear the announcers call the time. It goes strangely quiet.

INT. ANNOUNCER'S TOWER - CONTINUOUS

They both look at the timing screen waiting for the total elapsed time to show. And then there it is.

ANNOUNCER #1
(calmly)
He's done it.

EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS

The place erupts. Colin slows for the U-turn and gets the same treatment as McGuiness on the ride up toward the paddock. Only people are climbing over the fence. This is history. The crew meets him halfway. He still doesn't know...

He almost drops the bike as he collapses off of it. Fish steadies the bike as Peter and Jon prop him up between them. There's blood coming out of his suit by his boot. Colin notices everyone cheering.

COLIN
What is it? Did I break the top-
10???

FISH
No.

COLIN
What, then?

JON
You made the bloody podium! Third!!

Colin can't believe it. He just can't. He fumbles to get the helmet off and is absolutely mobbed by everyone. Fans, racers, friends. Kathleen kisses him.

EXT. PODIUM - CONTINUOUS

Colin stands up on the box next to McGuinness and Hutchinson, trophy in hand. McGuinness has to hold him up. The entire paddock and grandstands are on their feet cheering for Colin.

This is the moment you wait a lifetime for. Right now.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Colin, no longer limping, walks toward one of the barns with a beer in hand. The kitchen door opens and Jon comes out after him. He looks SLIGHTLY NERVOUS.

JON
Where you going, lad?

COLIN
Just wanted to check on my cow.
That alright?

A light on inside Colin's work-shed pulls him away from the barn. He approaches the door with curiosity, even a bit of caution.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

Colin walks in to find Kathleen working on his bike. He stands there in total shock.

COLIN
What are you doing here?

She looks at him like he's as stupid as he sounds.

KATHLEEN
I'm ironing your shirts. Give me
that beer, please.

He hands it to her, scrambling, trying to put it all together.

COLIN
I don't understand. The whole time?
You were doing this all along?

KATHLEEN

Hand me the 8mm and get out of my
light.

He does, then sits down next to her and watches her wrench.
Stares with a mix of awe and love. Like a Labrador puppy.

KATHLEEN

Oh, Christ. Fish said this would
happen.