THE KENTUCKY DERBY

by

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It is one of the blessings in life that few people see visions, and dream; dreams. A chance of a lifetime with the odds so high, the Kentucky Derby. The stakes are high.

Screenplay by Scarlett Fox
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The Kentucky Derby is the fastest horse race in American history. The two minute race has a track which is a mile and a half long. It is located at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. People enter their fastest horse from all states. They come once a year, the first Saturday in Kentucky. They dress formal and the ladies wear elegant hats. They enjoy a steak burger and a Mint Julip cocktail, which allows them to take home a souvenir of all the horses names and numbers on the back of a glass. The final derby runs at 4:00 and is televised. The winner of the horse derby gets a string of roses and the purse or jackpot is two million dollars. They play My Old Kentucky Home by Stephen Foster and during the race the song Run for the Roses by Dan Folgelburg is the theme. People can bet on a horse and it has a very large jackpot. The Kentucky horse tradition goes on for years. It’s the states fun and celebration.
THE KENTUCKY DERBY  logline:        A heartwarming story of a gal who entered her horse in the Kentucky Derby. Her horse wins gracefully, and she saves her family through hardships and from losing their farm in Kentucky.

ACT.  I.  A Kentucky Home with barn Song: My Old Kentucky Home
Katie Morgen, a young gal lives on a horse farm in Kentucky, and one day her horse gives birth to a beautiful colt. She names her new colt Sparrow after a little bird whose been keeping her company in the barn. The colt had the same coat as the little bird, and he soon became her pet Sparrow.
Her mom and dad are saving money for her college to become a veterinarian. One day Katie’s dad hired a derby jockey trainer to teach Katie to run in the Kentucky Derby. Brian, the horse trainer falls in love with Katie and together they become a couple. They attend horse races at the off bet derby club where they won a lot of money. A tragedy strikes home when Katie’s grandfather was injured while he was cutting down an apple tree. He soon recovers and he and Katie’s father build her a horse track which is the same distance as the Kentucky Derby’s track at Churchill Downs.

Act II.
Katie enters her horse in the Kentucky Derby. Sparrow soon becomes popular in his small town of Versailles. He wins races often and is in the county fair. Katie loves Sparrow and is excited about being trained to become a jockey.
Brian enjoys Christmas with Katie’s family and welcomes a Christian heart. They decorate the tree and make Christmas cookies. The Morgens are enjoying Brian and encourage them to date. Katie soon gets accepted to the University of Lexington to study Veterinarian Science. She continues to train to run Sparrow in the Kentucky Derby. Brian’s brother is a cadet in the United States Air Force and invites the couple to a ball. Katie meets the Governor and enjoys dancing with Brian. Falling deeper in love with him she can’t believe it is happening to her. Later that week Brian takes her to the off bet horse track races and her horse she bet on won, and she received $500,000.000 thousand dollars, a half a million dollars. She saves the farm and is able to see herself through college.
They exchange Christmas gifts at the Morgens house and Brian gives Katie a special ring claiming her as his girlfriend. They reminisce about past derbies and grandfather reveals a secret. Katie’s excited about her win and they reminisce and plan for the future by the fire. Katie passes her coursework in college, and enters a Master’s degree program in Veterinarian Science.
Act III.

The night before the Kentucky Derby the Morgens are all packed and ready for the big day when a bobcat threatened Sparrow and the other horses in the barn. Sparrow survives as Mr. Morgen shoots the bobcat. The big day begins when the Morgens load up their horse trailer and drive out of their horse ranch to Churchill Downs. They attend the Derby festival and enjoy 4th street in Louisville with all the bars and festivities. The live bands were excellent. The carnival was fun for gramps and mom and dad. The next morning before the derby Brian proposed to Katie giving her a very large diamond ring. It had tiny emeralds outlining a diamond heart! She of course said yes and before she could catch her breath the Kentucky Derby fun was about to begin! Brian went to get a coke and never came back. The Kentucky Governor was about to shoot his pistol. We’re off to the Derby, 2018. 131st running of the Kentucky Derby. Katie panicked ‘cause Brian had disappeared. All she could do is jump on Sparrow and run in the Kentucky Derby! The song “Run for the Roses” by Dan Folgelberg played loudly on the speaker, the derby horse. She had the biggest reward when she won and received the roses around her neck. Brian and her family join her at her side. Sparrow’s eyes twinkled and looked spunky as he got his picture taken with Katie, his owner.
THE KENTUCKY DERBY

A Kentucky Homestead with mountains surrounding Katie’s home and barn where her horse is about to have a baby.

Scene 1. Katie Morgen’s home with a big red barn in the back and a song on the radio blaring “MY Old Kentucky Home” Katie’s inside her home in bed. Sleeping, awakened by her dad’s voice.

CUT TO:

HORSE BARN                   MOMENTS LATER                       MORNING

DAD
Wake up Katie Shiloh’s having
Her baby COLT!

KATIE
Oh my GOODNESS it’s a boy,

MOM
Look at his MARKINGS, white
with brown spots!

DAD
It’s about TIME Shiloh has her
baby. I’ve been waiting for this
day for TWO months! Let’s get some HAY for Shiloh, and her baby colt.

MOM
Oh my goodness he’s so cute! white with BROWN spots, he’s so ALERT and little, a summer gift!

KATIE
Oh mom, my OWN baby colt. look, he’s standing up!

DAD
His legs are strong! He made it! His EYES are clear too.

MOM
Look he’s NURSING from the mother! He’s so CUTE.

DAD
If we’re BLESSED, he’ll soon be running in the Kentucky Derby! Ha-Ha

KATIE
It’s all INSTINCT, being competitive. And to fight or flee. I hope he feels LOVED.
DAD
We’ll have PLENTY of time
to NAME him, Let’s go in
the house and eat breakfast.

MOM
I fried the bacon, and was
just about to SCRAMBLE the
eggs. When I heard your dad.

KATIE
I had the alarm set to get up
And shower, jog and go to the
MOVIES, when I awoke to dad.

Hugging each other as they walked back to the house.

FADE TO:

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN MOMENTS LATER MORNING

KATIE
I’m the LUCKIEST GIRL in the
world! My COLT is here and
God has blessed me with him.
I LOVE our HORSE FARM.

DAD
YES, God is good to us!
KATIE
The BREAKFAST is delicious, but I need to get back to the BARN.

DAD
(drinking his coffee and eating His eggs and toast)
Yeah, We had better go so we Can enjoy this good SUMMER Day, a new ADDITION to our HORSE farm.

MOM
I’m baking a HOMMADE PIZZA For lunch, so be back by NOON.

KATIE
PEPPERONI and sausage?

MOM
Your FAVORITE! With root beer!

DAD
I can’t wait ‘till noon.

EXT. CON’T IN THE BARN MINUTES LATER MIDMORNING

KATIE
He’s feeding off Ms. SHILOH.

DAD
Hey little GUY you sure are
safe here with us.

KATIE
I love raising horses dad. I HOPE to INHERIT this big horse farm someday, and have a 100 horses running FREE in the fields.

DAD
I hope it goes that way, Hey you’re going to keep me around for awhile aren’t you? I’m not TOO OLD yet.

KATIE (giggling)
Oh daddy of course I LOVE YOU. I want you around forever. I enjoy raising HORSES with you dad.

DAD
Good, I want you to GROW up and become a horse JOCKEY. You can enter your horse in the KENTUCKY DERBY.

KATIE
You have big DREAMS for me dad. I also want to go to VETERINARIAN school. If I get accepted at University of KENTUCKY.
DAD
Of course I’ll get some grain and fresh water.

KATIE
I don’t think SHilOH is going to get up. She is WEAK from birth.

DAD
Let her get up ON her own she is going to get up. She’s weak and SORE. She’ll come around.

KATIE
I’ll gather some hay and FEED, and fetch her a BUCKET of water from the SPICKET. Here you go Shiloh eat well.

FADE TO:

Katie petting her baby colt and beginning to walk back to the house with dad, arm in arm. Chickens running all over the yard.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE                LUNCH                NOON

MOM
How’s the BABY COLT?
DAD
He’s HEALTHY and stood up.

KATIE
The PIZZA smells good. Dad said we’re going to ENTER him in the Kentucky Derby.

MOM
Oh dear that’s a DREAM. That’s a long way, and this baby colt has to reach three years old. He needs vitamins to DEVELOP his bones, and you’ll need RIDING lessons to become a jockey to ride him in the DERBY.

KATIE
I will. I’ll get LESSONS to enter the colt in the DERBY and be my own JOCKEY!

DAD
Besides riding lessons you’ll be applying to several colleges. You said you wanted to be a VETERINARIAN.

KATIE
Oh I’d like to BECOME one! I absolutely adore animals.
MOM
But these animals will be SICK, and you have to get them well.

KATIE
I know I can do that.

CLOSE TO:

FIELD ON THE FARM NEXT DAY MORNING

DAD
I’m building a horse RUN so you CAN run the baby colt around in THIS CIRCLE. He’ll need exercise, to have strong bones.

KATIE
THANK YOU dad for putting this fence up for my COLT. I like the circular fence.

DAD
Have you WRITTEN to any of the University’s to be accepted at their College?
KATIE
I wrote the University of Kentucky.

DAD
Good, I’ve been saving a third of my PAYCHECK to send you. I pray every night you get accepted.

KATIE
Me too. I’ll STUDY hard too and open a practice right here in Versailles!

DAD
Let’s get that COLT in this FENCE and see if SHILOH will run her.

KATIE
I don’t know dad we may be hoping For a MIRACLE. It’s just been a week

The horse and colt begin to get up and stood up for an hour they try to trot, and the sunset in the meadow was gorgeous with the horses. They pray ‘till sun goes down.

CUT TO:

RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN          WEEKS LATER           AFTERNOON

DAD
Katie you received a LETTER from the University of KENTUCKY. Get down here!
KATIE  
(RIPPING THE LETTER OPEN)  
YES I got accepted to the University of KENTUCKY! My dreams are coming TRUE.

DAD & MOM  
(hugging Katie with excitement)  
Oh honey, Congratulations!

CUT TO:  

HORSE BARN    LATER THAT DAY    EVENING

Katie is watering her horses and notices a little sparrow ever since her colt was born still laying on her eggs in her nest. The cute little bird jumps up and down noticing Katie watching her.

KATIE  
What am I going to name you my little colt? SPARROW that’s what I’ll call you. (giggling)  
She runs and HUGS the baby colt, I’ll name you Sparrow! your coat is white with specks like my little BIRD in the nest.
Mr. Morgen enters the barn with excitement from the day.

KATIE
Dad, I named my little colt Sparrow. His coat is like the bird that’s been NESTING in the BARN since SHILOH had him that day. I remember.

DAD
That’s the CUTEST name! I like it, ok Sparrow it is. Now guess what, I’ve SIGNED you up to take lessons from a former derby jockey. His name is Brian, he won the last TWO YEARS at the Kentucky Derby. he’ll be coming here to train you to Sparrow in the derby. I bought a TRAILOR to transport Sparrow back and forth to CHURCHILL DOWNS when you practice with Brian.

KATIE
REALLY? A Real Kentucky horse trainer, the former JOCKEY that won two derbies?

DAD
That’s right, I hope you enjoy him, he’s about your age.
KATIE
Oh dad, you’re the best! I can’t
Thank you ENOUGH !

DAD
Maybe if you ride Sparrow every
day, he’ll catch on AND if you race
him with BRIAN’S horse, he’ll learn
to pick up SPEED and GLIDE through
the track.

KATIE
I feel BLESSED with Sparrow dad.

DAD
Well good because the EVENT is
On May the 6th, 2018, coming up.
We have fall, winter, SPRING and
Summer to train him.

KATIE
He’ll almost be TWO, a gelding dad.

DAD
After the get too old, they don’t win
as much.

KATIE
I’m so excited! The Kentucky DERBY.
And my very OWN trainer.
CLOSE TO:

FOLLOWING MONTH  ON FARM  AFTERNOON

DAD
Grandpa is coming over to help me CUT the ole apple tree down and we plan to make you a TRACK to practice running your horse. It’ll be the same mile and a half like the DERBY.

KATIE
There’s gramps now in his truck, Let’s go GREET him and hug him.

FADE TO:

FIELD ON FARM APPLE TREE  MOMENTS LATER  AFTERNOON

DAD
I brought this CHAIN saw to Cut this ole apple tree down.
Thirty minutes later the two men begin to push the tree to one side. Timber dad calls out!

DAD
TIMBER!

All of a sudden a tragedy occurs when the tree falls on top of Gramps, cause he couldn’t move over. He’s pinned under the tree.

KATIE
(screams gramps is hurt)
Dad what should we DO?

DAD
(immediately uses the power saw to cut the tree limbs off his father)
take the ROPE and let’s tie it to the Sparrow and you RIDE him and drag him from under the tree.

KATIE
(moving fast with the rope she ties it to the HORSE and gramps feet, she mounts Sparrow and pulls grandpa out from under the tree.

DAD
It WORKED Gramps is alive!
GRAMPS
I couldn’t move AWAY fast enough.

KATIE
I’ll call an ambulance! I have my CELL PHONE with me.

DAD
Hurry, I think we CAN save his LIFE.

The ambulance came immediately and the EMTs put grampa on a stretcher, and take him to the hospital.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL                  MOMENTS LATER                  EVENING

DAD
Well you didn’t break your back, just a few RIBS is all. Good News: you’re going to walk again. REST UP.

GRAMPS
Nothing can kill me, I just Broke a FEW ribs.
I bet I gave you a good scare!

KATIE
I was so SCARED grampa!
Grampa we need you.

CUT TO:

FARM    WEEKS LATER    MORNING

Early morning sunrise, Katie watching as the men grate the field into a
Big circle to ride the gilding.

KATIE
Sparrow will love it dad.

DAD
Ride sparrow as fast as you
can it’s a MILE and a half. He
needs to build stamina get-
ting him faster each TIME.

GRAMPS
Katie don’t FALL put your
feet in the STIRRUPS.
KATIE
Ok, this DERBY TRACK is excellent. It’s dirt track will be perfect for Sparrow to get used to the ride. I meet my derby TRAINER tomorrow I’m going to have a positive outlook on the WHOLE thing. I wonder how much he would CHARGE to ride Sparrow in the Kentucky DERBY?

DAD
We could ask him and SEE.

KATIE
Oh I KNOW I’m dreaming.

CUT TO:

RACE TRACK ON FARM NEXT DAY MORNING

KATIE
Hey he’s here, Brian the JOCKEY, his truck pulled up, Let’s WELCOME him.
Katie runs to his truck and gives him a warm handshake. Introductions and hugs were exchanged.

DAD
Welcome BRIAN, I am Katie’s Dad, John Morgen.

BRIAN
Hi, I finally FOUND the farm.

KATIE
We’re way out in the COUNTRY.

BRIAN
So you want to become a HORSE Jockey, huh?

KATIE
I’m so EXCITED! I have a young colt Named SPARROW and he is fast.

BRIAN
Yeah, Kentucky is known FOR fast women and WILD horses!

KATIE
HA-ha-ha I guess that’s right!
DAD
Show Brian what YOU have in Sparrow as far as SPEED Katie.

KATIE
Yeha, Sparrow LETS get on around the RACETRACK.

BRIAN
WOW, a minute and a half for a MILE and a half. That’s great.

KATIE
SPARROW, flies like a bird.

DAD
What do you THINK Brian?

BRIAN
I think I’m going to get my horse out of the TRAILER and race you.

KATIE
1,2,3 Go (the two horses race)
I won in a MINUTE and a half.
I believe my HORSE caught on!

DAD
Is this one of the horses you raced in THE DERBY?
BRIAN
No, they are SOME friends that won.

BRIAN
Your Horse has SPEED and I think you’ll BE ok to RUN in the KENTUCKY DERBY!

KATIE
He’s a baby yearling, and I Believe he IS COMPETITIVE.

BRIAN
That MAKES him run FASTER.

KATIE
He only WEIGHTS 123 lbs.

BRIAN
Don’t let him OVER INDULGDE

KATIE
I had him JUMPING over hurdles Last week.

BRIAN
Be careful, ok! Let’s KEEP him on TRACK.
KATIE
You want to RIDE him?

BRIAN
Yeah let’s SWITCH.

KATIE
Uses a SWITCH to hit Sparrows bottom, the Horse took off running as FAST as he could around the TRACK.

BRIAN
YEHAH! I think he likes me. Hey it’s mud just like the derby at CHURCHILL DOWNS.

KATIE
DAD built me this track, it’s good PRACTICE.

BRIAN
Make sure you PRACTICE in the rain too. Oh the KENTUCKY rain It always rains at the derby, and the HORSES have to run in the mud.

KATIE
Sparrow will MAKE it in the Kentucky RAIN!
BRIAN
It’s the DEAD of WINTER and we’re out here practicing with SPARROW.

BRIAN
Yeah Katie LEAN down on the HORSE when you run it makes YOU go FASTER.

KATIE
I believe Sparrow knows THIS is a SERIOUS race. He looks proud.

Katie’s dad drives up with a large sled pulling a Christmas tree. He carries it in the house.

DAD
Looks like it might SNOW for CHRISTMAS. This pine tree SMELLS so good. It’ll touch the CEILING in the HOUSE.

KATIE
Well, I just had my first lesson and I’m IMPRESSED with it.

The two continue to run the horses around the track racing them and training Sparrow and Katie.
MOM
Come and EAT Dinner is
Ready.

INT. TO KITCHEN   MOMENTS LATER   EVENING

KATIE
THIS is my MOTHER she
Is the best cook in the world!

BRIAN
Good, cause I’m STARVING.
I really WORKED up an APPETITE.

DAD
Brian seems to think Sparrow
has a lot of POTENTIAL.

BRIAN
He’s FAST and he’s attractive.
Sparrow is a young colt he’s
the right age to enter in the
Kentucky DERBY.

DAD
I hope Katie CATCHES on
quick.
BRIAN
She’s as light as a FEATHER and that’s a plus for WINNING.

KATIE
I’ve been jogging and exercising.

BRIAN
Good, you NEED to remain the same size, and weight for the fastest SPEED. The horse gets tired.

DAD
I’ve been FEEDING Sparrow the same amount for two years now. she weighs 123 lbs. I GUESS she’ll do for size and SPEED.

MOM
How many lessons will KATIE need?

BRIAN
Until she can handle the track with Sparrow, and WIN in two minutes flat.

KATIE
How much will you CHARGE to ride Sparrow in the Kentucky Derby?

BRIAN
REALLY, you want me to ride your horse in the derby?

KATIE
Yes, I like you and FEEL comfortable With you. I enjoyed the DAY.

BRIAN
Oh, I’d feel PRIVILEGED to ride Sparrow in the Kentucky Derby!

KATIE
You would? You won’t TAKE half our farm?

BRIAN
If I win I will charge 2% of the purse. If I lose I WON’T charge you anything.

KATIE
Ok, you have a deal.

DAD
How did you WIN the last two Derbies in Kentucky and FLORIDA?

KATIE
Oh my goodness mom he accepted! Give him seconds. He’s HUNGRY.
BRIAN
No seconds I NEED to keep my Weight down.

MOM
We have APPLE PIE.

DAD
I wouldn’t MISS it for the world!

BRIAN
Ok, I’ll take a SLIVER. I can exercise TOMARROW.

DAD
I need to exercise too, I will Get the old stationary bike out.

KATIE
You can ALWAYS try walking it helps you to REDUCE. Start walking then break into a trot. then exercise for an hour every NIGHT.

MOM
Speaking of walking I SAW some COYOTES the other morning.

DAD
Why didn’t you TELL me? They
could of got Sparrow and the other horses. I’ll have to get the shotgun, and SHOOT them!

KATIE
Let’s get up early and see if THEY come back. And then we can shoot them.

BRIAN
Oh, you’d better BE careful!

KATIE
They eat our chicken and all of our EGGS and we enjoy selling our produce.

MOM
I didn’t have any eggs to sell for the CUSTOMERS today.

DAD
Their destroying OUR farm, chasing the BABY calves and goats. The cattle ranch is how we make our LIVING, and the horse ranch brings a PRETTY penny when we sell them.

BRIAN
You MUST get up at daybreak and shoot those COYOTES. Keep
Sparrow up in his PEN. Close the barn at night.

   DAD
    Yeah that’s what I must do.

   MOM
    Let’s move into the LIVING room, I have a SURPRISE for you guys.

CUT TO:

LIVINGROOM MOMENTS LATER EVENING

   KATIE
    Oh dad, the CHRISTMAS tree smells like pine! I love it. It’s very big and LOOKS full.

   MOM
    Help me with the lights and the GARLAND and we’ll put the Ornaments on QUICKLY.

   BRIAN
    I’ll put the TINSEL on the tree.

   DAD
    Let’s all PITCH in!
The Morgens tree is soon complete and they turn on the lights. It was gorgeous. Brian climbs a ladder and places the star on the top.

**BRIAN**
The tree is complete. I’ll help with the tinsel.

**KATIE**
Prettiest tree we EVER had. I like the STAR. Let’s all hold hands and say a PRAYER around the Christmas TREE.

**DAD**
(Leads with a prayer) I thank you God for this good life we’re LIVING on the Ranch you PROVIDED for us. I THANK you for Brian he’s a good match for Katie.

**BRIAN**
This is the WARMEST Christmas I ever had. Such a Christian FAMILY. I have FAITH that I will WIN this years DERBY.

**DAD**
I’ll NEED you to come often. I’ll pay you well and we will have a GOOD DINNER each time.
I can’t pass a DEAL like that up! But now I must thank you for the day and BEAUTIFUL dinner. The tree is so pretty.

Katie walks him to the door and they go outside and look at the sky full of stars.

CUT TO:

FARMHOUSE NEXT DAY AFTERNOON

DAD
Katie, you received a letter From Louisville, KENTUCKY.

KATIE
(runs downstairs and rips open the letter) Good news dad! Brian entered my HORSE for the 131st running of the Kentucky Derby It’s OFFICIAL we’re in. We’re a TEAM!

DAD
We couldn’t do it without Brian if you keep up the good LUCK at UK you’ll GRADUATE with a veterinarians degree in a few years.
that’s a big CAREER for a young lady LIKE you!

KATIE
I know, I just have to continue
to prove that WOMEN are succeeding in a man’s world with BIG careers.

DAD
Your uncle Bob’s daughter became an AIR FORCE PILOT and is a success in the middle east WAR.

KATIE
I just have to SUCCEED after all these HARDSHIPS I’ve put you THROUGH. I just want a LITTLE office barn to put some animals in and PROVIDE me an Income.

DAD
Oh I guess we can RENT the old vets place. I heard he’s RETIRING in three years. You just have to keep studying if you want it bad enough. Any career that MAKES a lot of MONEY is going to be difficult.
KATIE
I’ll pass dad I PROMISE dad. I won’t let you down.

DAD
I know honey, I’m selling cattle so FAST to pay your tuition.

KATIE
I know, I’m SINKING the FAMILIES bank account!

All of a sudden a hard Kentucky rain pours on the tobacco crop. Dad runs outside and notices a dead calve the coyotes dragged to the crop.

DAD
The COYOTES are back! PRAY I shoot them, let Me get my SHOTGUN.

MOM
Be-careful DEAR!

KATIE
I can’t stand it, I WISH we would of gotten up at 5AM this morning and KILLED the coyotes.
Instead of BREAKFAST I Should of SUGGESTED it.

KATIE
I’ll PLUG my ears!

Two shots rang through the farmhouse, rocking the dishware.

MOM
I heard the coyotes WIMPER yours dad’s a good SHOT.

DAD
(comes back in house)
I SHOT two COYOTES. The rain has ruined the tobacco crop, hail tore the leaves.

KATIE
With our good FAITH, we’ll survive. AT CHURCH this weekend we learned to ask God for our wants and needs. I pray the sun RESTORES our plants.

DAD
I’ll get a BANK LOAN.
RACETRACK \hspace{5em} NEXT DAY \hspace{5em} AFTERNOON

Brian brings his horse in a horse trailer and Katie runs Sparrow competitively on the muddy race track.

\textbf{BRIAN}  
You’re the PRETTIEST gal with your long dark hair and dark eyes. You look GOOD in your red COWBOY hats and boots. you look like a REAL cowgirl.

\textbf{KATIE}  
Compliments will MAKE me win!

\textbf{BRIAN}  
My brother is a CADET in the Air Force and he invited us to a ball. It’ll be a big dance with a dinner. then an AWARDS banquet after dinner.

\textbf{KATIE}  
I’d love to go to the BALL, What will we WEAR?

\textbf{BRIAN}  
I’ll rent a TUX, and you’ll buy an EVENING gown.
KATIE
Oh a real ball with the United States Air Force! I can’t wait. mother and I will pick out a GOWN

BRIAN
You’re lucky, this is a huge ball, the Governor of Kentucky will be there. It’ll give you a CHANCE to meet him before the Derby when he fires the first SHOT of the race with a GUN.

KATIE
Oh my how PRESTIGIOUS what will I say?

BRIAN
A warm HANDSHAKE will be enough. unless you want to tell him to FIERCELY Kentucky with you.

KATIE
That will be quite a HERITAGE!

BRIAN
IT could only help you to meet him. your family is a LANDOWNER of a very large ESTATE, with both a horse and a CATTLE farm, and a candidate in the derby, and not to mention a student at U.K. A VERY pretty student!
KATIE
(modestly replies)
GEE thanks. I needed that.

BRIAN
It’s my pleasure to ESCORT you to the BALL.

KATIE
(trotting off on Sparrow)
Catch me if you can!

BRIAN
(his horse gallops to catch up with her and Sparrow)
Hey, there’s still a lot of LESSONS to becoming a HORSE JOCKEY.

KATIE
I’ll need every one of them. I’m SERIOUS about this Kentucky Derby.

BRIAN
What do you want for Christmas?

KATIE
An EVENING GOWN.

BRIAN
You got it. We’ll go to a Woman’s BOUTIQUE tomorrow at 2:00 PM ok

KATIE
You mean it, my own evening GOWN, and a chance to meet the Governor and his wife?
At the KENTUCKY DERBY!

BRIAN
Yeah, let’s get you a long silky gown to show YOUR good figure, RED, pink, blue?

KATIE
Red, a SCARLETT O’Hara gown something BREATHTAKING and southern, low CUT and sexy.

BRIAN
Let’s race!

KATIE
(you go) I won!

MOM
(yelling from the kitchen door)
Dinnertime!

FADE TO:
Brian and Katie are at a boutique shopping for an evening dress.

BRIAN
Try this one on. It looks
Like you, a scarlet RED
dress.

Katie
It’s my color. Red COMPLIMENTS
my dark hair and olive skin tone.
I like the way it fits.

Brian
You look STUNNING with your
dark features, red really LOOKS
good on you. I’ll simply GIVE
a damn Ms. Scarlett.

KATIE
Oh me should I? It’s $350.

BRIAN
I can AFFORD it.

KATIE
Oh my God I love it!
BRIAN
We’ve got to practice ‘till
Sparrow wins in a TWO
minute run or less.

KATIE
He’s about got it EACH time.

BRIAN
I want to WIN the triple crown.
your horse in FULL speed like
we’re SAILING. The fresh air
will hit your FACE, now go !

KATIE
What will we do if we WIN
all that money?

BRIAN
Probably CELEBRATE !

KATIE
It’ll sure help pay my tuition
at the University of Kentucky

BRIAN
Are you still a STUDENT?
KATIE
Yeah, I hope to become the Next COUNTY veterinarian. I want to be the only vet within TEN counties.

BRIAN
WOW, a veterinarian! You’ll be RICH.

KATIE
Dad talks about fixing the barn into an OFFICE and putting FENCES and cages in to keep animals.

BRIAN
Yeah, that’ll be good your office across from your HOME, That’ll be great.

KATIE
All’s I need is a Kentucky Veterinarian LICENSE and dad and mom will be my RECEPTIONISTS. Dad will make a great vet assistant.

BRIAN
That’ll come in time. If you keep studying.
KATIE
Oh I will, If you want something bad enough YOU’LL get it. And if you don’t tell anyone and PRAY. Pray very hard to get it.

BRIAN
Do you ever want a FAMILY of your own someday, husband kids, big HOUSE?

KATIE
Yeah someday.

BRIAN
Yeah ME too someday.

KATIE
I study all the TIME. The dance will be the first date I’ve ever been on. I CAN’T wait. I showed mom and dad my red GOWN. They TOOK some pictures They’re excited for me.

BRIAN
I can’t wait, I guess I’ll get a white tux with a red shirt and TIE to compliment your DRESS.
KATIE
That’ll work, I can PICTURE us.

BRIAN
(on his horse reaches over
to kiss Katie)
Uhmmmm.

KATIE
It’s a date!

BRIAN
You’re great, and pretty
TOO.

They begin to trot their horses around the race track. Katie’s dad grated for her. Katie notices gramps driving up to the field.

KATIE
HOWDY gramps what’s up?

Gramps
Oh just came over to round up some CATTLE to take to the market.

KATIE
Dad’s inside. Guess what gramps? Brian is a Kentucky HORSE jockey he’s going to train me to run in the derby someday. His name’s Brian Kessler. Brian this is my grandfather, Less Morgen.
Men exchange greetings and handshakes.

GRAMPS
Yes so pleased to MAKE your acquaintance. I’m so excited!

KATIE
He’s taking me on my first DATE.
we’re going to the USAF BALL.

GRAMPS
A ball ! I bet that WILL be exciting!

BRIAN
ME too, we’re a good match for.
we have a lot in COMMON, two years apart. We both love horses!

GRAMPS
It’s a go. I WISH you the best time
and dance all night, boy your granny sure could dance!

BRIAN
Ok if you need someone to HELP
you round up the cattle for the MARKET just yell for help.
GRAMPS
You LOOK like a Real cowboy!
with that cowboy HAT and
those COWBOY boots

KATIE
We better PRACTICE for
the Kentucky Derby it’s only
FIVE months away!

BRIAN
We have to enjoy Christmas
FIRST.

KATIE
It’s SUPPOSED to snow.

CUT TO:

FIELD WITH CATTLE             MOMENTS LATER         MIDAFTERNOON

GRAMPS
Well there’s forty COWS
ready for the market.

DAD
That’s Katie’s TUITION for
SPRING, Maybe after Christmas
BRIAN
Oh yeah, LIFE goes on.

DAD
I liked the evening GOWN you SELECTED for Katie. thanks for asking her TO the BALL. When is the date?

BRIAN
December 22, Sat. at 6:00 at the AIR FORCE BASE.

DAD
I used to FLY for Vietnam.

BRIAN
Oh I’m TOUCHED, that’s quite an accomplishment ! That EX-PLAINES it big ranch house, big farm, good wife, EXCEPTIONAL daughter.

DAD
Why thank you.

GRAMPS
I fought the KOREAN war.

BRIAN
Oh, a MILITARY family.

GRAMPS
Yeah how about that, a horse JOCKEY for my Katie, and her first DATE.

KATIE
We need to put these horses in the BARN, and practice a waltz. So we’ll look GOOD at the BALL.

GRAMPS
Your mom went out to BUY some film to take our picture.

BRIAN
(walking their horses back to the barn) Maybe your mom has some WALTZES we can dance to and get some practice.

KATIE
Let’s not turn it so LOUD so we Can practice dancing.

BRIAN
Gramps and your dad left with a
KATIE
What other kind of MUSIC will they have at the officers club?

BRIAN
I bet POP ROCK to fast dances too.

KATIE
I’ll turn on the STEREO. the MONSTER MASH is playing, and it made them dance fast.

BRIAN
I’ll give us an A plus for best dance. What’s the Halloween SONG playing for It’s Christmas!

KATIE
Oh here comes MOM now with a camera and film.

BRIAN
This is FUN as he takes Katie’s hand in the Monster MASH.
KATIE
This is the MOST fun I’ve ever had with you.

BRIAN
I’m excited I like the way we FEEL dancing together.

KATIE
I think after TONIGHT we’ll be ready.

BRIAN
I’m tired I need to REST.

Soon watching t.v. on the couch, Brian lying down in Katie’s lap.

NIGHT FADES

NEXT DAY  KATIES HOUSE  NIGHT TIME

KATIE
I’m back from school. I’m STARVED.

BRIAN
(talking with Katie on phone)
I’m going to FIX you dinner Friday, then we have the ball on SATURDAY. Look charming see you soon.
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BALL ROOM          EVENING

BRIAN
You look ELEGANT, and your hair looks GOOD. The dress is very BEAUTIFUL on you. Like Scarlett O’Hara your dark hair!

KATIE
I feel like a MILLION bucks!

BRIAN
Places a GIFT in her hand, and Kisses her on the CHEEK.

KATIE
(ripping it open)
A diamond necklace ! oh it’s SPARKLING. It’s so pretty .

BRIAN
(fastens the necklace behind her)
You’ll love wearing and remember this night always.
KATIE
Oh honey, I LOVE YOU!

BRIAN
Your eyes are sparkling!

The Ball room is decorated with Christmas ornaments and trees, And the couples are all seated at a few tables.

Katie
(seated at a table with some couples)
Are you ENJOYING the ball?

BLONDE GAL
Yes, but my feet hurt from dancing.

KATIE
Is your husband in the Air Force?

Yes, he’s a Captain, Is your husband in AIR FORCE?

KATIE
I’m a student at UK TRYING to become A VETERINARIAN.

BLONDE GAL
Oh, that’s GOOD, a vet huh?

KATIE
And my date, BRIAN is a horse jockey Running for the ROSES in the Kentucky
BLONDE GAL
(laughs loudly at Katie)
The KENTUCKY DERBY? Do you know what the odds are for WINNING the Kentucky Derby? More less becoming a Veterinarian? They only let five in the state.

KATIE
(giggling)
Oh, hold your BREATH, and meet my date, Brian Kessler. He already won the last two RUNNINGS at The Kentucky Derby!

BLONDE GAL
I thought he looked FAMILIAR! Excuse me!

KATIE
As far as a career, I’m PASSING my COURSEWORK to become one!

BLONDE GAL
Oh I’m just a little ole HOUSE-WIFE of a CAPTAIN in the Air Force.
KATIE
I think that’s good enough!

BRIAN
The Governor is walking right to us, so be SWEET.

KATIE
(shakes hands with governor)
Hi, are YOU enjoying the evening?

KENTUCKY GOVERNOR
Yes, I am, CONGRATULATIONS on Your two Derby winnings. HOW did You do that? Two in a ROW.

BRIAN
Lots of practice and knowing the HORSE. I plan to ride Katie’s COLT in this year’s derby RACE.

KENTUCKY GOVERNOR
Oh how WONDERFUL, rich dad too you had better latch on to her. better MARRY her before I do! it’s good to see some women take BIG careers.

KATIE
Oh thank you, I HOPE Brian takes a HINT.
KENTUCKY GOVERNOR
Well I had better go MINGLE with the OFFICERS. Take care. Brian, don’t forget what I tell you.

BRIAN
You two ladies about FELL off the HORSE what happened? THE two of you can’t stop laughing.

KATIE
Oh nothing hon, Just my new friend NEVER met a real horse jockey.

BRIAN
well now that she’s MET one let’s, see who they are.

CAPTAIN
Just a CAPTAIN in the Air Force.

BRIAN
I’m PROUD of you!

CAPTAIN
I’m a RECONNASICENCE Pilot.

BRIAN
I’m very impressed. The TWO men Continued to talk. KATIE and the Blonde gal WALK over to where the BAND is playing and request a song.
Everyone gets up to dance with their partner.

FADE TO:

DRIVE HOME                FULL MOON                NIGHT TIME

KATIE
That was a very ENJOYABLE evening. I feel like I’m going to TURN into a PUMPKIN and I’ll soon be back to my rags ha- ha

BRIAN
Pinch me if it’s REAL. I feel like a PRINCE tonight. You danced WONDERFUL on the ballroom floor.

KATIE
Oh I LOVED it, my first date that I’ll TREASURE always.

They park and walk out by the dirt track the horses are in the barn. The moon is full and the sky full of stars. Katie holds his hand and she turns her head to be kissed so cutely. The two kiss and the night fades.

FADE TO:

PHONE RINGING               KATIES DEN                MORNING
KATIE
Hey Romeo, I want to thank you
For a beautiful EVENING. You looked
Like my PRINCE in shining armor.

BRIAN
I was wondering if I COULD get me
another DATE. There’s an off bet
track race CASINO club I’d like to
take you TOO.

KATIE
WHEN? I mean I’ll get ready! Yes.

BRIAN
Good, I’ll PICK you up at 2pm, we’ll
go to the off BET track casino club.
it’s inside, wear COMFORTABLE clothes.
dress casual.

KATIE
Ok, I’ll wear some NICE slacks and a
silk TOP What color of shirt will you
wear. So we can MATCH.

BRIAN
Blue, a ROYAL blue shirt.

KATIE
Ok, I can find a BLUE blouse, I’ll
Get ready!
The club had several tables and people everywhere. There were several T.V. monitors with the horse races. A program with the horses numbers and names so the people could bet on a horse. The atmosphere was dark and in red tones.

BRIAN
Let’s bet on a HORSE. The purse is $500,000,000 thousand DOLLARS. THAT’S half a MILLION dollars!

KATIE
Oh teach me how to BET.

BRIAN
See THAT T.V. monitor right there. PICK a horse OUT and see what the ODDS are at winning . Write DOWN the horses name AND number and place your bet in the SLOT.

KATIE
OK I’ll bet on number FIVE. He looks fast like my Sparrow.
BRIAN
Ok, I hope I can BEAT him in this years derby. It’s the MOST exciting TWO MINUTES in sports

The “run for the ROSES” The song will play by DAN FOLGEL-BURG. The WINNER will receive A blanket of ROSES. And a gold trophy.

KATIE
I love that SONG. I want to win so bad. Look my horse I bet ON is AHEAD.

BRIAN
(orders some cocktails)
try this mint Julip, it’s the drink they serve AT the Derby.

KATIE
It really TASTES like MINT the liquor in this drink it’s STRONG.

BRIAN
Isn’t this FUN, watching a derby and Being able to BET on a horse.

KATIE
Yes, this is right UP my alley!
BRIAN
I thought you would like IT.

KATIE
Look my horse is AHEAD! Go
Number FIVE, GO COBALT!
Run, run, RUN! Mines winning!

BRIAN
GO EXCALIBRE # 8 win come on!

KATIE
MY horse is ahead! Go Cobalt!

BRIAN
I’m TAILGATING yours!

KATIE
My HORSE just won!

BRIAN
Listen, THEIR calling your name!
Your horse YOU bet on won and
Now you have to go to the CASHIERS.

KATIE
Oh my God, a half a MILLION
Dollars! Where do I collect the
MONEY?

BRIAN
Let’s hurry BRING your purse
And get to the cashiers.

KATIE
Will it be CASH?

BRIAN
Yes, cash! I can’t BELIEVE it!

EXT. CASHIERS OFF BET HORSE CLUB MOMENTS LATER DAY

CASHIER
Are you Katie MORGEN?

KATIE
YES, I’m Katie! I WON!

CASHIER
COUNTING five hundred thousand dollars in Katie’s hand.

KATIE
I am so RICH! I can’t BELIEVE it!

BRIAN
WOW, you’re a lucky LADY! what WILL you so with that kind of MONEY?

KATIE
Pay my Tuition! help my DAD get out of debt! Pay off the bank
NOTE on our cattle. We’ve been through some HARDSHIPS!

BRIAN
I’m sure with that KIND of money you can do all that and have CASH to SPARE. I hope I helped through some of the HARD-SHIPS.

KATIE
I know, let’s get out of HERE! We need to head TOWARDS the bank, LOOK at my purse! Make sure no-one FOLLOWS us out of here.

BRIAN
This is a lot of CASH let’s count it again, before we leave the cashier.

KATIE
It’s $500.000.000 hundred THOUSAND dollars (as she shoves the money back in her purse.)

The Kentucky State Police follow them out the door and behind their car with their blue lights. Katie winks at the officer.

BRIAN
I feel PRIVELEGED!
KENTUCKY STATE POLICEMAN

Just part of my JOB!
I’ll ESCORT you to the
Bank.

KATIE
I’m RICH, Daddy will be so
PROUD of me!

BRIAN
I can’t wait to see his FACE.

At the bank minutes later Katie deposits the money and talks to the cashier. The Kentucky Police leaves.

KATIE
ALL my money is my checking account.

BANK Cashier
Katie, it’s only a fraction of what you will MAKE as a veterinarian.
when weren’t you RICH Ms. Morgen?

KATIE
I have GOOSE bumps a Kentucky state trooper escorting US to the bank.
BRIAN
Yeah how about that, LET’S head to your HOUSE and tell your parents.

KATIE
(tears run down her face)
This is the LUCKIEST day in my life!

CUT TO:

RANCH HOUSE  MOMENTS LATER  EVENING

KATIE
DAD! Guess what? Brian took me to the OFF bet horse racing club, and the horse I bet ON won the JACKPOT. I won a half a MILLION dollars.

DAD
What is this April FOOLS day?

MOM
Is this a joke? I read about the horse CASINO we were getting in the paper. It JUST recently opened.

KATIE
Yes, that one, I made a BET on a horse named COBALT and won. I won a half a million DOLLARS
look at my BANK receipt.

MOM
That’s a lot of MONEY you depositeed
Into your account! I wish I had it
In my ACCOUNT. Don’t spend it

DAD
This Brian has brought YOU good
LUCK!

KATIE
Yes, for a HORSE TRAINER to have won
Two Kentucky Derby’s I was LUCKY to
Get him. Oh DAD what if you would of
Never called him THINK of all the hard-
Ships we would of SUFFERED.

DAD
Yes, and I bought a HUNDRED head
of black ANGUS cattle the other day and
I put our FARM up as a lien at the bank.

KATIE
WHAT? The farm is now a lien, you
bought some CATTLE just to put me
through COLLEGE! Oh daddy now I
clear the LIEN!

DAD
Yes, take care of me if I HAVE a heart
attack and can’t work, we’ll lose our
KATIE
ALL cause of my TUITION!

DAD
My Air Force RETIREMENT check doesn’t
Cover everything!

KATIE
Daddy, listen I’m getting you OUT of
DEBT.

BRIAN
Our LUCKY day! All that MONEY has
cleared your daddy’s bills and got you
out of debt.

KATIE
You’re just MAGIC!

BRIAN
I just love you and your FAMILY
I thank you people for having ME
in YOUR life. This is the BEST CHRIST-
mas I ever HAD. Let’s hang these
candy CANES on the tree.

MOM
We love HAVING you and I can’t
believe all the LUCK my daughter
BRIAN
Yeah! My good GIRLFRIEND I’m lucky
to have you too!

KATIE
Let’s PRAY. I want to thank the LORD
for Brian coming into my LIFE. And
for this LUCKY day. The money will
shelter us and SAVE our HERITAGE!

EXT. MORGENS HOME DEN CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT

BRIAN
(handing a gift to Katie’s mom)
I hope you enjoy this. It’s from
both of us.

MOM
(tears open gift wrap)
A HOUSECOAT! It’s gorgeous,
How DID you know I needed
a new BATH coat.

DAD
Here’s a gift from us to Brian and
one FOR KATIE.

KATIE
A sled! I love it we’ll go sledding
this evening, taking TURNS.

BRIAN
(opens gift)
Looks like you’re PUTTING me to Work. With this buffalo vest and
gloves. I’ll make a GREAT cowboy and cattle RANCHER.

KATIE
Open this one Brian, It’s a gift for you.

BRAIN
Hey what a great PICTURE of you and I in FRONT of the Christmas tree and HEARTH in the background. I like it!

MOM
A gift for Katie open it with LOVE dear.

KATIE
Oh mother you shouldn’t of, A book all about VETERIANRIANS and every Pet including farm animals! I’ll NEED this!!

DAD
Katie this is for you, I love to Hear you SING.
KATIE
A red GUITAR! Oh so very pretty!
I can strum and sing along!

MOM
We’ll get you some guitar LESSONS
and you’ll become MUSICALLY in-
clined. Let’s sing and play the PIANO
and I’ll STRUM along.

BRIAN
The family sings CHRISTMAS carols
and Brian HANDS Mr. Morgen a gift.
I hope you ENJOY it.

DAD
A book about BLACK angus cattle
and how to raise them on my FARM!

KATIE
THIS gift is so little, A diamond ring!
does this MEAN we’re engaged?

BRIAN
No, it’s just a going steady RING.
I know diamond is your BIRTHSTONE.
We’ve been together for TWO seasons.

KATIE
Yes, I’ll be your GIRL! I have enjoyed
the last TWO months more than my
whole LIFE! Here’s some gifts for dad and GRAMPS too.

The men open their gifts and Katie strums her guitar to Jingle bells. The Morgens are very happy. They continue To exchange gifts. When there was a knock at the door.

DAD
It’s Uncle BEN! Get in here and Warm up by the FIREPLACE.

UNCLE BEN
HO-HO-HO I’m out playing Santa Clause in the SNOW and thought I’d bring over your GIFTS. I can’t Stay long, we’re supposed TO Get 4 INCHES of snow tonight.

MOM
(serving uncle Ben a plate of turkey)
I hope all your family is DOING well.

BEN
My girl just made CAPTAIN in the United States Air Force. She’s a pilot and got PROMOTED.

KATIE
So women do BELONG in a man’s career. Let’s pray for her, that she
is SAFE in the Middle East war.

BEN
Thank you. This FOOD is so delicious.

NIGHT CLOSES: CUT TO:

RIDING STABLES TWO MONTHS LATER AFTERNOON

KATIE
Come on Sparrow, let’s RIDE faster! You have to work up stamina.

BRIAN
Hey Katie we may need to ride to TOWN and pick up some feed for the horses. FIFTY horses and their starving. I need to FILL the SILO up.

KATIE
We can RIDE into town after we Race, mom is frying up SOME chicken and MASHED potatoes and gravy.

BRIAN
I’m gaining weight eating here!

KATIE
I’ve been getting UP early in the
morning and WALKING for an hour.

BRIAN
Be careful, your gramps saw some BOBCATS

KATIE
EEEKS that’s all I NEED. I’m so Scared of the BOBCATS and the COYOTES.

BRIAN
(riding his horse Magic around the track) Hey wait up Let’s DO something tonight.

KATIE
Like what?

BRIAN
Go to a show, or out for COCKTAILS.

KATIE
THEIR playing LASSIE at the movies!

BRIAN
I know you love Lassie cause I SAW in your BEDROOM. You have some pictures and STATUES of collies.

KATIE
Brian you’re NOT supposed to be in My bedroom! That’s a girls PRIVACY.
BRIAN
SO I snuck in there it MADE me love you more seeing your ROOM!

KATIE
Ok, Let’s go to the MOVIES tonight.
I’ll cry my EYES out about LASSIE.

FADE TO:

VALENTINES DAY   KATIES KITCHEN   WEEKS LATER   MORNING

MOM
Katie, get up I made BREAKFAST!
I made BACON and eggs!

KATIE
( running in the kitchen in pajamas)
let’s bake the men some valentine COOKIES. And make some homemade VALENTINE CARDS. I bought a vintage assorted gift card packet for VALENTINES at the gift shop.

MOM
Ok let’s eat and make some CUPCAKES And cookies, then the CARDS for them. Brian and your father are GOING to take Some CATTLE to the MARKET.
KATIE
I was so LUCKY to get him. I’m glad He’s helping dad. He’s so CUTE and CONSIDERATE.

MOM
Is he someone you want to get serious WITH?

KATIE
I guess so, I already LOVE him! I love bacon and EGGS and hot CHOCOLATE. I’m so blessed mom.

MOM
Maybe if you play YOUR cards right. He’ll ASK you to marry him.

KATIE
We can sure PRAY on that! He’ll make a good HUSBAND. I wonder if he wants CHILDREN.

MOM
Better be FINDING all that out. your father spoke about GIVING you some LAND to BUILD a cabin or some KIND of home.

KATIE
A two story LOG cabin? With a beautiful KITCHEN and four bedrooms.
MOM
You’d better get to STUDYING if you want a BARN office for your practice. I don’t know where all those people are going to PARK.

KATIE
The PERFECT life on the farm, I had better PASS all my classes. I am so DETERMINED to become a VETERINARIAN. It’s my life goal. It’s my DREAM.

MOM
(hugs Katie reassuring her)
Of course DEAR, you’ll meet your goals! You’ll even MARRY Brian! and have a SON and a daughter.

KATIE
Oh good, I pray EVERY night that I’m all HE ever needs in life. We’ll soon be horse JOCKEYS and we’ll race all the way from Florida to KENTUCKY!

MOM
You have too much going for you. Enjoy it while you’re YOUNG dear. Time passes so QUICKLY. Just yesterday I was a little girl, and my dad bought me a FILLIE. I named her
LITTLE SUSIE. I rode her and brushed her everyday. I never thought of entering her in the Kentucky Derby!

KATIE
Did you and your FAMILY go to the derby?

MOM
Many TIMES my parents took me to the derby. We made a WEEKEND of it and got a hotel at the GALT house, and ate at the spaghetti FACTORY. Just like yesterday. Time GOES by so FAST.....

KATIE
Nine MORE weeks ‘till the Kentucky Derby! Oh mom we have TO pull this off.

MOM
Don’t worry dear I made the HOTEL reservations to go up two nights before for the derby FESTIVAL. We’ll stay at the Galt house and Sparrow has a warm STALL right there at CHURCHILL DOWNS.

KATIE
Go it’s all set. The reservations and HORSE Hotel. Look at my STRING of valentine hearts

Mother puts logs on the fire, and the day passes quickly as they make homemade valentine cookies and cupcakes. Katie ices the cookies and
cupcakes and for the first time felt so warm by the Kentucky fire. Her thoughts and mind were on winning the Kentucky Derby and Brian.

CUT TO:

LIBRARY IN LEXINGTON  MORNING

KATIE
I want to look at THESE books
About previous DERBIES in Kentucky,
And the JOCKEY behind the HORSE.

LIBRARIAN
These are DATED all the way back
to the first Kentucky DERBY. There’s
a PICTURE of the derby Horse and jockey
that won for each RACE.

KATIE
Ok thank you. You’re VERY helpful
I’ll be sitting BACK here in the library.
let me know FIFTEEN minutes before
you close.

Katie takes the library books to a table in the back of the library to study the Kentucky Derby journals and the horses and the jockeys. She goes through old magazines and newspaper clippings. She reads for six hours when the librarian tells her the library’s closing in fifteen minutes.
KATIE
Oh, no a HARD rain.

LIBRARIAN
Let’s RUN to our cars!

KATIE
Oh no, a I hope this rain doesn’t RUIN our crops.

LIBRARIAN
Goodnight!

FADE TO:

FIREPLACE AT KATIES EVENING

Grampa is looking at photo albums in front of the fireplace, the family Just ate, and Katie is drinking some hot cocoa and valentine cookies.

GRAMPS
I ate TOO many cookies Earlier TODAY. Where have You been ALL day?

KATIE
I went to the LIBRARY to re-search the previous derbies
and the HORSE and JOCKEY that won the DERBY. It was quite interesting. DID you know the TRACK is a mile and

A half and THE fastest horse ran it in a MINUTE and a half.

GRAMPS
Yeah, the speed of the HORSE, the quickest RACE in the world to WIN the triple crown.

KATIE
The TRADITION of the ladies wearing a STYLISH hat is elegant. it was started by the GOVERNORS WIFE. Of course she didn’t have anywhere to wear her HATS.

GRAMPS
Oh yes, WHEN your grandmother Was ALIVE she dressed so sharp To go the Kentucky DERBY, red, BLUE, and yellow hats were her FAVORITE.

KATIE
Oh gramps, to think in LESS than TWO months my Sparrow will be Racing for the TRIPLE CROWN.
GRAMPS
I’ve been PRAYING to the Lord
For the WIND to carry him.

KATIE
Just think TWO MILLION dollars
won’t that help us on the RANCH.

GRAMPS
Oh, we’re COMFORTABLE now, I don’t
I don’t know WHAT else we could buy.
Just that we have our HEALTH.

KATIE
I couldn’t ask FOR nothing but my
health for all of OUR family. Gramps
I have FOND memories of the past
years and our RICH heritage.

GRAMPS
Katie, It’s the TIMES we share with
each other, and BOND together as
a FAMILY. Not just Material things.
it’s the MOMENTS and  we make
that are important. SOMEDAY I won’t
be around, and then your DAD and
mom will pass. It’s IMPORTANT to
keep BRIAN.

KATIE
Oh GRAMPS please don’t leave me
alone on this FARM.
GRAMPS
You better be a WONDERFUL partner, and keep in HIGH spirits for your mate,

Brian, ‘cause I LOOK back at times I shared WITH your grandmother, and time has PASSED me by. I’m eighty-seven years OLD, and you’re in the MIDDLE of your twenties. You have a whole LIFE ahead of you. Please make the best out of the TIME.

KATIE
Oh gramps, I’m so LUCKY to have been born in to such WEALTH with a Christian family, and a large ESTATE. This farm is where I GREW up, and every Air Force base in the United STATES. Time is essential, It’s how we SPEND our TIME now and not WASTE it.

GRAMPS
That’s right HONEY, you should have some FOND memories of your LIFE being dragged AROUND as an Air Force brat! I once RAN in the derby and won FIRST place, that’s how I bought this FARM.

KATIE
Oh what a SECRET is that! I didn’t ever Know that. I think I saw you in the
Dad and mom enter the den and bring a tray of hot cocoa, and cookies. The cattle your dad sold brought such a great reward I thought we should celebrate, with some treats. we have enough money to build a new home for Katie.

GRAMPS
It’ll make a great DOWERY for you Katie. YOUR boyfriend might marry you and YOU have already EARNED a home, and a LARGE land piece. A Kentucky HOMESTEAD. Oh my Katie, you know how many GIRLS would love to be IN your shoes?

KATIE
Yes, gramps I love you thanks dad For my COLLEGE education. I hope Brian MARRIES me someday. Of Course I only knew HIM six months.

CLOSE TO:

FOUR NIGHTS BEFORE THE KENTUCKY DERBY NIGHT TIME

BARN FULL MOON
Horses get loud neighing and kicking loudly. The squeal of a bobcat screeches loudly in the horse barn.

**DAD**

(Katie, somethings attacking the horses!)
I’ve got my shotgun let’s get to the barn

A loud shot is fired then two more. A scream of a bobcat was heard. Katie runs to the barn.

**KATIE**

(screaming)
Are you Ok? Where’s Sparrow?
dad it’s so DARK in here. Oh SPARROW are you ok my little dear?

**DAD**

I shot that ole BOBCAT that killed a few of our CHICKENS.

**KATIE**

Oh dad, WHAT if you didn’t get out here in time? The BOBCAT would of KILLED my little Sparrow. look at Shiloh she’s PREGNANT again!

**DAD**

I’m just glad that the bobcat hasn’t attacked you on the HIKING trail,
you still had BETTER be careful. THERE might be a female and a litter of KITTENS.

KATIE
Oh I’ll be careful, WE better tell MOM and gramps.

CLOSE TO:

HOME NEXT DAY AFTERNOON

GRAMPS
I’m going to go CLEAN out the horse TRAILER, and give Sparrow a bath.

KATIE
Ok, gramps, I’d better PACK. I hope Brian REMEMBERS to bring a WINDBREAKER, and some RAIN gear. It always rains at the Kentucky DERBY.

DAD
I might WEAR a blue Jean outfit mother bought ME.
KATIE
Ok, sounds great! I’ll be in JEANS too. We can dress LIKE cowboys. with boots and a HAT.

GRAMPS
Me too, I’m going in DENIM too, and COWBOY boots and a cowboy HAT.

MOM
I’m wearing a BLUE pants outfit kind of DRESSY. I’ve been exercising for it, and I’ve lost the twelve pounds.

DAD
I thought you LOOKED slimmer! let’s not FORGET the binoculars, and the CAMCORDER.

KATIE
Pack THEM now, I’m GOING to pack my CAMERA and my film. let’s NOT take more than one bag each. WE don’t want to overload THE trucks!

MOM
I bought some SNACKS and pop for the TRIP. We can stop at a RESTAURANT on the way.
DAD
Let’s stay TOGETHER too. I don’t want to GET lost and walk all OVER looking for you.

KATIE
I’ll start PACKING the bags in the TRUCKS. I better go remind gramps to pack Sparrow enough grain for a WEEK. And a clean water bucket. I BETTER pack an extra HORSE BLANKET for him.

MOM
Let’s have LEFTOVERS tonight. there’s PLENTY of steak and POTATOES left from the cook-out.

DAD
That’s WHY the bobcat keeps hanging out here, cause of the GRILL.

MOM
Well he’s GONE, are we going to call that NICE couple form the CHURCH to watch the FARM.

DAD
I’m starving, let’s CARRY these
Family begins to pack the trucks. Mothers on the phone giving directions to closing the stable so the horse will survive. The chickens need to be put up in their cage while we’re gone. Etc.

CLOSE TO:

BARN NEXT DAY MORNING

Beautiful morning with a red sky sunrise to the west.

Katie
ARE we ready for THE big day?

BRIAN
I boarded Sparrow up in the horse TRAILER already.

GRAMPS
I’m as READY as I’ll ever be. all packed and FULL from the good BREAKFAST.

DAD
Brian, we’ll stop at NOON to eat dinner at the RANCH DINER. It’s off 64 W and the second exit 2
Katie
If we LEAVE now, we’ll win the derby. Giggling did you get your tennis shoes MOM

MOM
Yeah, cameras, BINNOCULARS, and SNACKS are already on the Winnebago.

DAD
Ok let’s go!

INT. HIGHWAY LATER THAT DAY AFTERNOON

Restaurant full of people. Several horse owners are present. They Greet each other making small talk. And they place their orders.

COUPLE
We RECOGNIZE you from The brochure. YOUR friend Won the LAST two derbies.

KATIE
Are you guys entering a HORSE?

COUPLE
OH it’s enjoyable if NOTHING else. It’ll be an experience FOR us to REMEMBER. I bought a blue
HAT for the Derby ha!

KATIE
I’m wearing my RED COWBOY Hat and cowboy BOOTS.

WAITER
WHOA! Who had the HAM-BURGERS. The MORGENS?

KATIE
That’s us! Mine had CHEESE.

COUPLE
We had PORK tenderloins!

Small talk hovers over the lunch tables. Katie begins to take pictures of the people in the restaurant. It had a giant horse statue and some children were trying to mount it. She took several pictures of them and her Family and we’re off to the derby.

GRAMPS
(family exits to the car lot)
we’re OFF to the Derby gramps holds a sign-language GUN up blows it OFF.

KATIE
Oh, your INVISIBLE gun!

DAD
Let’s head to the Galt House.
BRIAN
We’re gonna STOP at the Churchill DOWNS exit and unload Sparrow.

They have HIM a horse stall
His horse HOTEL.

DAD
See you later at the GALT HOUSE. We’ll CHECK in.

CUT TO:

CHURCHILL DOWNS               MOMENTS LATER            AFTERNOON

BRIAN
WE have our HORSE here
SPARROW. Ready to stay
in your CARE.

KATIE
Come on Sparrow, pulling him
out of the trailer. HE looks scared.
all his COMPETITION is in the barn
in SEVERAL stalls. He puts Sparrow
in his Stall.

BRIAN
I bet he’s hungry, I’ll FEED him
and get him some FRESH water. I wish I could SPEND the night with him. Just to make sure he MAKES the TRANSITION.

KATIE
Oh Honey, he’ll BE alright. I bet he needs to eat and then take a long walk to get some air. Then we’ll LEAVE and go get some dinner.

TWO MEN
Sparrow will be ok here IN his HORSE MOTEL. Enjoy the festival.

CUT TO:

GALT HOUSE AN HOUR LATER EVENING

Katie and Brian check in with their clothing bags and become anxious to join the family. The room was deluxe and had a bottle of champagne on Ice with shrimp and caviar with cocktail sauce.
BRIAN
Isn’t this NICE. An adjoining room. If you get scared YOU can run over To my SIDE and cuddle up with me.

KATIE
This SHRIMP and cocktail sauce is nice how about that the GALT house. I better not DRINK too much Champagne cause we have The DERBY FESTIVAL.

BRIAN
I’ll make RESERVATIONS at Buck-horns on fourth STREET. Let’s wash up and CHANGE clothes and hurry to our table. I’m ordering PRIME rib and a baked potato.

KATIE
I’ll shower and change WILL go see you in a MINUTE. I’m going to change from the RIDE up.

FADES TO:

GALT HOUSE: BRIANS ROOM    MOMENTS LATER    EVENING

BRIAN
HOW do I look?
KATIE
You look GREAT Let’s
go. MOM and dad are

CUT TO:

DOWNSTAIRS GALT HOUSE DOOR FACING FOURTH STREE EVENING

Brian hollers at a taxicab for Katie and him to go to Buckhorns Steak House. Entertainment bands made up fourth street along with little restaurants and shops. Kentucky State Troopers on horses walking up and down the street. People crowded the road. A taxi pulls up to the curb and pick them up.

CUT TO:

BUCKHORNS RESTAURANTS EVENING

KATIE
I’m so NERVOUS about the RACE!

BRIAN
Don’t you have FAITH in me?

KATIE
More THAN ever!

An entertainment show begins with a cute girl putting a magic show on holding a parrot in a cage. She’s laying down in a box and about
to be sawed in two. Brian and Katie enjoy the show.

BRIAN  
(clapping hands)

BRAVO, bravo

KATIE  
This is SO good, I am really enjoying the NIGHT! We have to do FOURTH STREET again sometime.

The night ends and the couple stroll down fourth street enjoying the lights and music from the bands. They soon catch a taxi and ride back to the Galt House.

CUT TO:

KENTUCKY DERBY FESTIVAL    NEXT DAY    MORNING

BRIAN  
Hey Katie! wake up RISE and shine! You’ll MISS the DERBY FESTIVAL. Get some JEANS and a t- shirt on. Let’s head to the infield. It’s a free day! Like a madigras in the infield beer, mixed drinks and hamburgers.

KATIE  
Oh, I wouldn’t miss it for the world!
GRAMPS
Hey YOU two! How would you all like to join us AT the Lobster house for crab LEGS and steak?

BRIAN
Oh no! there will be PLENTY of food at the DERBY FESTIVAL! Polish SAUSAGE, cotton candy hamburgers and fries, BEER and cocktails. POPCORN, peanuts...

KATIE
There’s a CARNIVAL going on all DAY and night. I want to SHOOT the GUNS and hit all the ducks in a ROW. And win a stuffed UNICORN. A magical horse from AESOPS could bring GOOD LUCK to the KENTUCKY horse race! For US.
Lights are colorful and the Farris wheel is well lit. The people are Coming in from everywhere, every state as they mingle within the crowds. Children playing slot machines and running to catch a ride on the Farris wheel, magical cups, and merry go round. Hot air Balloons are in the sky, and fireworks galore! A large clown walking around in big shoes handing out cotton candy and popcorn for free. A lady on a tight rope and a big brown bear jumping through a fiery hoola hoop.

KATIE
Isn’t this WONDERFUL !
QUITE a change from rural farm life to a carnival of FUN.

GRAMPS
(carrying an oversized monkey)
I feel like A KID all over again!
I WON a stuffed monkey throwing darts. It’s the cutest MONKEY!

KATIE
HEY gang, LOOK over here say CHEESE! I hope these pictures develop it’s almost midnight!

MOM
MIDNIGHT! We have to get up for the KENTUCKY DERBY! How will we sleep, our minds are filled with excitement!
BRIAN
(taking Moms hand)
Let’s go to a carney BOOTH

and shoot guns and try to
win you a stuffed bear.

MOM
The carnies want us here!
I WON! I WON ! I shot the
ten ducks in a row and I WON!
Let me have the GIANT PINK
UNICORN ! I will remember
this night FOREVER!

DAD
I want the stuffed PUPPY
I won, I WON ha ha!
I’m ENJOYING myself. How
will Brian GET up and ride
SPARROW.

KATIE
Gramps is going to RIDE in
derby TOMORROW! Sparrow
will WIN !

They enjoy the evening to the fullest and panic cause it’s past twelve
midnight! Katie decides she has to swing by Churchill Downs and say
a prayer for Sparrow. One last time before the derby tomorrow.
CHURCHILL DOWNS       LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY       MOMENTS LATER

Katie is brushing Sparrow's coat with a brush and gives him fresh water and feed. She begins to sing him the lullabies she once did when he was born. The family lead in a Christian prayer for strength for Sparrow to win the Kentucky Derby and defeat if he fails. The family all hug Sparrow and felt ridiculous placing all their hope and money invested in a horse race.

FADE TO:

GALT HOUSE       MOMENTS LATER       NIGHT FADES

GRAMPS
GOODNIGHT! Wake me up
If I survive all this FUN!

BRIAN
Let’s just order BREAKFAST in
The room in the MORNING.

MOM
You’ll feel RUSHED.
KATIE
Wake us up, WE stayed out too LATE!

CUT TO:

CHURCHILL DOWNS          THE KENTUCKY DERBY       FINAL RACE

KATIE
I was just riding SPARROW and Just REALIZED that it’s my CHANCE of a lifetime to win. He’s a SMOOTH ride, I was flying like a BIRD. So Smooth and gliding. So fast, the fastest I ever rode Sparrow. Like a WINNER.

BRIAN
The fastest TWO minutes in American SPORTS The KENTUCKY DERBY!

KATIE
I enjoyed LAST night so much! Thanks for bringing me and my FAMILY to such an awesome EVENT. They are really enjoying it!

BRIAN
Well it’s an excellent MEMORY for
all of us! The CARNIVAL was like my childhood. ALWAYS winning! A stuffed animal, a BLUE ribbon, but now a CHANCE of a lifetime to RUN FOR THE ROSES and win The PURSE worth TWO MILLION dollars.

KATIE
Brian I just WANT to thank you for this one big HORSE race!

BRIAN
Yes, and THANK you too for sharing your FAMILY and farm with ME.

KATIE
I Just want to say a PRAYER for Sparrow that he has SPEED and strength to win this RACE.

BRIAN
Ok, one more last MINUTE detail. I BOUGHT you a gift for this wonderful day. Please open it.

KATIE
Oh Brian you bought me a RING!

BRIAN
(on his knees proposing to Katie)
Katie will you MARRY me?
KATIE
Yes! Brian I will! I’m Yours!
you mean you’re asking me
to marry you right BEFORE
The DERBY. Of course I will,

BRIAN
It’ll be a GOOD marriage, and
a good RACE.

KATIE
Yes I ACCEPT you with all my
Love and HONOR!

BRIAN
Ok, Little gal, You’re ENGAGED
I love you with all my MIGHT!

KATIE
Oh, my HEARTS racing so fast!
DID we just Win or is the derby
OVER, I’m seating and NERVOUS
and SHAKEY.

BRIAN
No, the HORSE RACE hasn’t
even began. The Governor
will WINK at me and then he
will SHOOT his GUN a single
SHOT and the stalls will open!
KATIE
Oh no you’re PROGRAMMED to Win. I just WONDER....

BRIAN
WHAT Katie? If life is special? this is a chance of a lifetime,

A LIFETIME chance to win !
An opportunity to grab a chance, ‘cause chances only come ONCE in a lifetime.

KATIE
(with a tear stained face)
Oh that is so SPECIAL, Brian that’s so NICE that you want me to be in your LIFE !

BRIAN
You know the FIRST time I saw you I THOUGHT she’s just a kid! and that MARE he was just so little and WIMPY and so cute! I hoped his LEGS would develop and GAIN speed! Then he got faster and faster, and built endurance, till one day....

KATIE
That little MARE, has brought me a CHANCE to the KENTUCKY DERBY. And here I am in Love
with my HORSE Trainer. Oh Sparrow you came from such a BEAUTIFUL family and now’s a chance to prove your love to me and my FAMILY. I enter you in the KENTUCKY DERBY!

BRIAN
Hey, I’d better GET you a MINT JULIP and a steak burger from the STAND over there.

The horns began to blow and the crowd cheered on, and the Kentucky Governor turned to the speaker and spoke the 131st Running of the Kentucky Derby. He turned to the horse jockeys and asked them to mount their horses. Then he looked for Brian and Katie panicked. She screamed Brian’s name loudly when she saw him go around the corner catching her eye he yelled...

BRIAN
Go ahead Katie this is your DAY! MOUNT SPARROW and “RUN FOR the ROSES.”

KATIE
Brian! How could you do this to me! I get it. You TRAINED ME!
The Kentucky Governor looked at Katie and winked then gave her a nod as she was now on Sparrow and he fired a shot from his gun. The Song “RUN FOR THE ROSES” by Dan Fogelberg played loudly as she whipped the blindfolded pet horse, Sparrow and won the race in a minute and a half! Everyone came down from the box stands and the Governor placed the ring of roses around her neck and shook her hand. Brian, gramps, dad, and mom were hugging her on her horse and the song played on. Brian used a special giggle to his fiancé and laughed. And Katie bent over and hugged Sparrow.

THE END

By

SCARLETT RACHEL FOX

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