

BREAK THE ICE

by
Guy Jackson

AIRJAC3@AOL.COM

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FADE IN:

EXT. TENNIS COURT, LOS ANGELES - DAY

An absolutely gorgeous Southern California day beams down on a tennis court that, for the moment, has been transformed into a street hockey rink.

Several TEENS play a brutal game with an orange rubber ball and two goals on either side of the court. In-line skates skim across the asphalt surface.

One Teen dribbles the ball across the center of the court -- Looks to make a move -- As he crosses the center line...

BAM!

He is checked to the ground like a rag doll by another teen. We don't see the second teen's face. The second teen wears a LOS ANGELES KINGS jersey with the name "MUELLER" on the back.

Mueller steals the ball away. Crosses towards the opposite goal. This kid has skills. Skating. Ball-handling. Tenacity. The whole package.

Mueller slices through the defense en route to the opposing goal...

Mueller shoots...

GOAL!

Mueller circles around the net and we finally see...

SAMANTHA MUELLER aka SAM 17, tomboyish, yet still beautiful. If she cared, she would be a total knockout. Not for her though. She just wants to be one of the guys.

Several of Sam's teammates offer high fives. She taps their hands absently and returns to defense.

One of the opposing players, TODD, groans his discomfort. He rips his team a new one.

TODD

The hell is wrong with you guys?
How you gonna let this chick blow
past you?

Sam stops in her tracks. Turns around. A cold look on her face.

SAM

You got something you want to say
to me, Todd?

TODD

Nah, I don't got any problems with
dykes.

SAM

Todd, just because no girl wants to
go out with you, it doesn't mean
they don't like guys.

Several "ooh's" from the group of teens.

TODD

And just because you never grew
tits, it doesn't make you a guy.

More "ooh's".

Todd turns around and skates back on defense.

Sam's face fills with rage. It's almost tangible how much
anger is pouring from her face.

She skates towards Todd and lifts her hockey stick -- Without
any hesitation -- She SWINGS hard -- CRACKS the stick on the
side of his head.

Todd falls to the ground in a barely conscious heap.

Sam pounces. Her fists are met with sickening THUDS on
Todd's face.

SAM

What's that? I can't hear you!
Say it again! Say it again!

The group of teens scrambles to break it up.

A POLICE CAR drives past the tennis court. It comes to a
stop when the inhabitants see the commotion.

Sam gets in more punches.

SAM (CONT'D)

Say that shit again and I'll kill
you! You hear me, jerk-off?

Sam flails in her peers arms. She looks absolutely
frightening.

Two POLICE OFFICERS scramble into the tennis court. They rush Sam and bring her to the ground. Handcuffs SLAP onto her wrists.

Sam doesn't resist. She just lies still.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Sam sits on a bench outside a courtroom.

Sam's mother, ANGELA CROSBY, 40's, but thinks she's 21, talks to PATRICK CROSBY, her husband but clearly not Sam's father.

If the term Hollywood could be applied to a person, Angela would be the dictionary definition. From Patrick's get up, it is easy to see he has lots of money and wants everyone to know that. Lawyer type.

ANGELA

I was pulled from a set for this?

PATRICK

This is a serious matter, darling.

ANGELA

Just find a way to get her out of my hair.

PATRICK

Are you sure, honey?

ANGELA

Of course, I'm sure. She's been nothing but trouble. But no jail. The tabloids would be all over that. I don't want to have to explain everywhere I go why my daughter is in jail.

Angela and Sam meet eyes. The hatred is more than evident between the two of them.

PATRICK

It's going to be tough.

Angela gets in Patrick's face.

ANGELA

Just do it. I thought I married a lawyer.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Sam sits in the Defendant's chair along with Angela and Patrick. A JUDGE sits at his bench, presiding over the trial.

Angela leans in and whispers into her daughter's ear.

ANGELA

Do you see what you are putting
Patrick and me through? Are you
that ungrateful, Samantha?

SAM

Don't you have some rich guy to go
copulate with for his money?

ANGELA

You little bit--

JUDGE (O.S)

Mr. Crosby, any last words on your
defendant's behalf before I make my
decision?

Patrick stands. He fumbles to get his words out.

PATRICK

Um...I just hope that Your Honor
can see that this behavior that
Samantha shows is not being
ignored. Her mother has a career
to tend to and Samantha has not
shown any sympathy for her.

Angela watches Patrick with admiration. Sam rolls her eyes.

JUDGE

Mr. Crosby, Samantha has committed
two prior offenses of similar
nature in the past year. I would
like to know exactly how this
behavior is not being ignored. And
do not insult my intelligence by
giving me a career as an excuse for
a parent failing to raise a child.
I am ready to send her to juvenile
detention immediately--

Angela stands up. She hams it up for the Judge. And possibly the tabloids.

ANGELA

Your Honor, I love my daughter with
all my heart.

(MORE)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

But she just does not want to cooperate with me. I don't want to see my little girl in jail, but she needs help. Please help my Samantha.

Patrick nods his head.

PATRICK

That is all, Your Honor.

Patrick takes a seat next to Angela. She rubs his back as if to say "good job".

JUDGE

It is clear that Samantha has several anger problems and that she does need to be placed in a different environment compared to the one she is in now. Now I have the option to send Samantha to jail since this is her third offense, but I feel that would just exacerbate her savage behavior even more.

The Judge takes off his glasses. He stares a hole into Sam.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Since you have shown an interest in sports, I feel that can be the method we can use to foster your rehabilitation. A new partnership between the United States Olympic Committee has been formed with several juvenile development programs in order to foster good behavior.

Sam shifts in her seat. The first sign of her vulnerability.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I hereby sentence you to six months at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Salt Lake City, Utah for immediate enrollment in the Junior Speedskating Program. You will have a psychologist monitoring your progress that you must report to weekly. Perhaps this change of scenery can give you a clean slate to return to.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

If you do not show considerable progress during your stay there, I will have no choice but to transfer you directly to Los Padrinos for an unspecified amount of time I will deem necessary.

The Judge BANGS his gavel. The sound of a JET ENGINE builds until...

EXT. SALT LAKE CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT

A plane touches down on the runway. The beautiful landscape of Northern Utah looms in the background.

INT. TERMINAL - NIGHT

Sam exits the plane with a carry-on bag. If she doesn't want to be in Utah, she is doing a hell of a job showing it.

In the crowd, COLIN BATES, 40's, Sam's new guardian, waves a hand in her direction.

COLIN
Samantha Crosby?

SAM
Mueller. My last name is Mueller.

COLIN
Oh, I apologize. Well, my name is Colin Bates, and I'm going to your guardian, slash, psychologist, slash, mentor, slash, whatever. Here let me take that.

Sam pulls her bag away from Colin's reach.

SAM
I got it.

COLIN
Right. This way.

EXT. UTAH STREET - NIGHT

A black Crown Victoria cruises along the street. The breathtaking mountains of Salt Lake city pass by.

INT. CROWN VICTORIA (MOVING) - NIGHT

Sam stares out of her passenger's side window. Colin speaks to Sam while keeping his eyes on the road.

COLIN

Now I know I'm a psychologist, but I don't want you to think of me as that. I'm your friend, Sam. I'm here to make sure you go back to California in six months a totally different person.

Sam could care less. She's more fascinated by the scenery outside her window. Nothing like this in Los Angeles.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Have you ever skated before?

SAM

Not on ice.

COLIN

It's okay. These coaches are the best in the world. They'll have you skating in no time.

EXT. U.S. SPEEDSKATING HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The Crown Victoria finally reaches the Mecca of United States Speedskating. It looks more like a college campus, as opposed to a training facility. Several banners depicting the logo of U.S. Speedskating are hung all around the complex.

EXT. DORMS - NIGHT

The Crown Vic comes to a stop in front of a five story dormitory. Sam and Colin exit the car.

COLIN

Here we are.

Sam gives the building an unimpressed look. Colin leads her to the dorm entrance.

INT. DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Colin and Sam walk through the hallway searching for her room.

COLIN
You'll be staying with a roommate.
The Judge felt it would help with
your social skills development.

SAM
Great.

Colin stops in front of room 213.

COLIN
This is it.

Colin knocks on the door. Moments later it opens...

MEGAN JONES, 17, pretty in a girl next door kind of way,
answers the door.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Hello, Megan. I have your new
roommate here. This is Samantha
Crosby.

SAM
Mueller.

Megan offers a smile to Sam.

MEGAN
Hi.

COLIN
Well, I better get going. Megan,
please show Samantha around when
you get a chance. I know you two
have to get up early tomorrow, so
you should all get to bed as soon
as possible.

MEGAN
Okay. Come on in.

Sam enters the dorm room.

COLIN
Come see me around noon tomorrow,
Sam. I'll be in the Visitors
Center.

Sam, with her back still to Colin, holds a hand up to say she
understands. Colin finally leaves.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

The room is very clean. A twin sized bed awaits Sam on the far side of the room. She drops her bag on the bed and sits down.

Megan studies Sam nervously, as all first encounters with roommates usually are.

MEGAN

I tried to clean up the best I could. They gave me like no notice.

SAM

It's cool. Don't worry about it.

Megan smiles.

MEGAN

Thank you. So, Samantha is it?

SAM

Just call me Sam.

MEGAN

Sure. So Sam, where you from?

SAM

Los Angeles.

MEGAN

Awesome. I bet it's great there. I bet you see movie stars all the time.

SAM

It's alright. Where you from?

MEGAN

Buffalo.

Sam impulsively winces. Megan places her hands on her hips with mock offense.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Hey! It's not that bad!

Sam smiles. This girl is cool.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

How long you been skating?

SAM

All my life. But this my first
time on ice.

MEGAN

Ah, in-line. Well it's not that
different. It's just a lot faster
on ice.

Megan looks at the clock on her nightstand. 10:15 PM.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Damn, it's late. We better hit the
sack. Practice is at 6:30.

SAM

In the morning?!

MEGAN

Yeah. You're going to be eating,
drinking, and breathing
speedskating. I can tell you that
much.

Megan climbs into her bed and turns her bedside lamp off.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Night, Sam.

SAM

Night.

Sam lies back in her own bed without even getting changed.
She reaches into her bag and pulls out...

A 3X5 PHOTO of her and RUSS MUELLER, her real father. Russ
wears a Los Angeles Kings uniform. The same jersey Sam was
wearing at the beginning of the film. He holds a very young
Sam in his arms as they smile at the camera. A very happy
moment.

Sam finally shows us her million dollar smile. This picture
holds a lot of sentimental value to her. As does Russ.

Sam places the photo back into her bag and rests her head on
her pillow. Clearly exhausted, she closes her eyes and falls
asleep quickly.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - MORNING

A new morning shines over Salt Lake City. Sam and Megan walk
towards a large building in the center of the complex.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - MORNING

Sam and Megan stride through the huge indoor arena. Two large SKATING RINKS circle the entire facility. They could easily wrap around a football field with no problem.

Megan leads Sam towards the furthest rink.

MEGAN

That's where the girls train.

Something catches Sam's eye on the ice...

MEN'S RINK

A lone male skater performs several speedskating warm ups on the ice. His movements are fluid, precise, and very professional. He glides on the ice like he's been doing it his entire life.

Sam is mesmerized by him. His skill is amazing. And he's not that bad to look at either. Sam stops and observes him with infatuation from the edge of the rink.

Megan notices Sam ogling the male skater.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

He's amazing isn't he?

SAM

Who is he?

MEGAN

That's Sidney Carlyle. He's like the best ever. He won Junior Nationals last year. They say he's gonna be the one to put U.S. Speedskating on the map.

Sam smiles. He will be hers. Oh yes. He will be hers.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Come on. We're gonna be late.

WOMEN'S RINK

Megan leads Sam towards the rink where several other girls are already warming up. STEFANIE SCALESSA, 35, attractive but stern, observes the warm-ups with arms crossed.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Coach Stef!

Stefanie eyes Megan and Sam. She takes a peek at her watch.

STEFANIE
Cutting it close, Megan.

MEGAN
Sorry, Coach. We have a new
recruit.

Stefanie switches her gaze to Sam. Sam stares right back at her.

STEFANIE
Oh yes. I was informed yesterday.
Samantha, right?

SAM
Sam's fine.

STEFANIE
Of course.

Stefanie turns to Megan.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Megan, please get Sam a pair of
skates. I'm guessing Size 9?

Sam, surprised, nods her head. Megan leaves to fulfill her task.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Alright, Sam. I just have one
rule. Never give up. If you
follow that rule, there is no need
for any other rules. Understand?

Sam nods her head again. Megan returns with the skates. She also has a pair of skates herself.

The skates are almost surreal looking. Instead of the normal sized blade found on figure skates, these skates have a blade is close to 12 inches long. The blade also disconnects from the heel, allowing it to contour to the boot more easily.

MEGAN
Here you go.

Sam takes the skates. She stares at them like they are from a foreign planet.

STEFANIE
Megan, start your warm up.

Megan takes a seat next to the ice and begins stretching.

Stefanie turns back to Sam. She sees millions of questions on her face.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
These are called clap skates.

Stefanie moves the blade back and forth, showing the free movement it allows.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
These help keep your ankles honest
when you're going around a corner
at 30 miles an hour.

Oh.

Megan finishes her stretching. She stands and hobbles to the ice. She eases onto the ice and then skates away in a graceful stride around the rink.

Sam sits down on a bench and puts on her skates. Stefanie observes in silence.

Sam laces her last skate up and moves towards the ice.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Whoa. Where are you going?

SAM
To warm up.

STEFANIE
I don't think so. I need to make
sure you are ready first.

Sam's face fills with confusion.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Take the skates off and get a good
stretch in. If you don't warm the
body up, your day can end before it
even begins.

Sam rolls her eyes.

SAM
Are you serious?

Stefanie gives Sam a stern look. Sam understands. She sits back down and takes her skates off.

STEFANIE
I'll be back in thirty minutes.
Use it wisely.

Sam begins stretching her hamstrings.

LATER

We finally get our first glimpse of speed skating training. Megan, along with the other girls, perform FIGURE EIGHTS. They weave their feet in and out with skillful precision.

Stefanie stands in the center of one of the straightaways directing practice.

STEFANIE

Good. Good. Get those ankles warmed up. There will be over a thousand pounds of inertia pushing at your ankles on the turns. I don't want to see any broken bones.

Sam watches from the side, still stretching. She looks bored, but the exercises the girls perform are interesting.

Stefanie turns to Sam.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Warmed up yet?

Sam nods her head. Stefanie turns back to her girls.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Megan, lead the girls in turn drills.

MEGAN

Yes, Coach.

With discipline, the girls line behind Megan and begin skating around the ice track. They lean left and right, touching the ground with their hands, circling in unison. An awesome and beautiful sight.

Stefanie reaches Sam.

SAM

Can I put my skates on now?

STEFANIE

Sure, why not.

Sam sits back down on her bench. She picks up her skates and puts them on for the second time. Sam stands and moves towards the ice.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Wait.

Sam sighs with frustration.

SAM
Now what?

STEFANIE
You're still not ready.

Stefanie points down the side of the ice track.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
I want you to walk on the carpet
back and forth with the skates on.

SAM
On the carpet?

STEFANIE
That's what I said.

SAM
Why can't I just do it on the ice?

STEFANIE
Because I said to do it on the
carpet.

Sam huffs a breath of anger.

SAM
This is stupid...

Sam tiptoes along the side of the ice, still on the carpet.
The skates affect her balance, but she has no problem.

Stefanie watch her with interest. Sam walks back, a pissed
off look on her face. She finally reaches Stefanie. She
holds her arms out to the side.

SAM (CONT'D)
Happy now?

STEFANIE
Now I want you to do the same
thing, only this time I want you to
lunge.

Sam's brow furrows.

SAM
Huh?

Stefanie demonstrates. She takes a step forward with one
leg, and bends it until her knee touches the ground. Then
she steps up and does the same with the opposite leg.

STEFANIE

Do five sets. Up and back is one.
Then I want you to do it backwards
another five sets.

Sam stands with her jaw wide open in disbelief.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

I'll be back when you're done.

Sam looks down the side of the rink. All of a sudden it
looks a lot longer now...

Sam bites her lip and gets to it.

LATER

Stefanie is back on the ice. The girls are participating in
a falling drill. Megan slides to the ground and compacts her
body to the side. She softly hits the wall and bounces back
to her feet.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Excellent, Megan. Remember girls,
if you do fall, always slide on
your side. Keep your head as far
away from the wall as possible.

SIDELINE

Sam has already started her backwards lunges. Her face is
filled with sweat and she is obviously fatigued. But,
regardless, she still goes at it.

LATER

The girls' team continues their practice. They now
participate in relay sprints up and down the straightaways.

Suddenly, the MEN'S TEAM marches towards the ice rink led by
SCOTT FROST, 50's, old school no-nonsense type.

Sidney and DEREK PACE, 17, African-American, short, athletic,
lead the rest of the team behind Frost.

Stefanie notices them from the corner of her eye. A frown
produces on her face.

Sam, still laboring through her exercises, follows them with
her eyes as well. She meets Sidney's gaze for a moment.

Frost starts clapping his hands sarcastically.

FROST
Good job, ladies. But practice is over.

The girls all stop their drills. Stefanie holds a hand up, letting the girls known to wait.

STEFANIE
We still have an hour left.

FROST
No you don't. I need the rink now, so you have no time left.

Stefanie holds her ground.

STEFANIE
Coach Frost, we have both men's and women's programs here at this center. I think we deserve our practice time.

FROST
And you had it. Now get off the ice before I have to do something you don't want me to do.

STEFANIE
Is that a threat, Scott?

FROST
A suggestion. I am the one who has produced the funding for this facility and program. And last time I checked, I had a boy that won Junior Nationals.

Stefanie looks over at Sidney. Sidney almost seems embarrassed to be there. He meets eyes with Stefanie, but then looks away.

FROST (CONT'D)
Have any of your girls even made it past a regional meet? And you want to deny my boys training that they actually use on the ice in favor of this baby-sitting session you call the girls program?

Ouch. Stefanie fumes.

Sam looks on from the side in between her lunges. This is interesting.

STEFANIE
Center ice, ladies.

Frost smiles. The girls practice is over.

Stefanie meets the girls in the center of the ice. They huddle around her.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Great practice, ladies. Remember,
it's not the fastest skater that
wins, it's the smartest. Hands in.

The girls all place their hands in the center of the circle.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
One, two, three...

TEAM
Never give up!

The team disperses. The men's team, led by Sidney, enters the rink and begins their warm up laps.

SIDELINE

Sam nears the end of her workout. Her face is so contorted, you can almost feel her pain just by looking at her.

Megan notices Sam. She starts shouting encouragements.

MEGAN
Come on, Sam! A little more!

Sam grits her teeth and buckles down. One lunge...Two lunges...Done.

Sam falls to the ground. She clutches at her thighs. They have to be on fire after that workout. Her breathing is labored and her forehead is beaded with sweat.

Megan rushes over and helps Sam to her feet.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Yeah!

Stefanie also approaches.

STEFANIE
How you feeling, Sam?

SAM
I've been better...

STEFANIE

Good work. Looks like you're an athlete after all. See you girls tomorrow night.

Stefanie walks away.

SAM

My legs are on fire!

MEGAN

How many sets did she make you do?

SAM

Five.

MEGAN

Backwards too?

Sam nods her head.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Wow. Usually we have to only do three.

Sam looks up with an "Are you kidding me?" look.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You're a beast. Can you walk?

Sam painfully stands straight up. She takes a step. It hurts like hell...

SAM

I think so. What was that all about just now?

Megan frowns.

MEGAN

Coach Frost is the men's team coach. He's coached the Olympic teams, World Champs teams, everything. He's a jerk, but he has the skaters to back it up.

SAM

Why do they need to skate on this rink? Don't they have their own?

Megan shrugs.

MEGAN

He likes to use both rinks so the boys can get used to different surfaces.

SAM

That's bullshit.

Sam takes a step. She almost falls to the ground in pain.

MEGAN

Let's get you to the trainer's.

INT. ATHLETIC TRAINER'S OFFICE - DAY

Several athletes are tended to by athletic trainers. Some ride treadmills. Others sit in ice baths. Others have heat pack on their bodies.

Sam sits on one of many examining tables that line a wall in the athletics trainer's room. She has several bags of ice placed on her thighs and hamstrings.

Megan hands Sam one more bag of ice.

MEGAN

Here you go.

SAM

So...cold...

MEGAN

Don't worry. Your legs'll get used to it. Coach Stef trains our legs to take on the apocalypse.

SAM

I can see that.

Megan looks up at a clock on the wall.

MEGAN

I have to go get my assignments from the tutor. You want me to get yours too?

SAM

Yeah, thanks.

MEGAN

Okay. I'll see you back at the room.

Sam leans back and closes her eyes. Anything to ease the cold and the pain. Megan leaves. Just as she exits...

Sidney enters the trainer's office. He grabs two ice bags and moves to the empty table next to Sam.

He props himself on the table and places the ice bags underneath his Achilles tendons.

Sam is completely oblivious...

Sidney picks up a magazine and flips through it. He takes a peek over at Sam on the table. Her eyes are still closed.

SIDNEY

I see you made it though your first Coach Stef workout in one piece.

Sam jumps, startled by Sidney's voice.

SAM

Oh! Um...it's nothing. Just a precaution. You know.

SIDNEY

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sidney reaches a hand over for Sam to shake. She does.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

Sid.

SAM

Sam.

SIDNEY

You just get here?

SAM

Yeah, last night.

SIDNEY

From where?

SAM

L.A.

SIDNEY

Oh, Cali. Sweet.

Sam winces at that word.

SAM
California. Not Cali. No one from
the state calls it that . That's
so annoying.

Sidney is surprised by her spunk.

SIDNEY
Oh. Well then, my bad.

Sam shrugs.

SAM
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be a
bitch.

SIDNEY
It's cool. I got a sense of humor.

Sam smiles.

SAM
So where are you from, Sid?

SIDNEY
Salt Lake City. Born and raised.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)
It's not that bad. At least all
the people here aren't made of
silicone.

Sam laughs.

SAM
Wow. Ouch.

SIDNEY
Now we're even.

Sidney and Sam share a smiling gaze. They hold it for a
little too long...

The trainer's room door opens. It breaks their moment.
Derek enters.

DEREK
Yo, Sid! Coach says he needs to
talk to you about tomorrow.

SIDNEY
Aight, Derek. I'll be right there.

Sidney signals he's coming. He turns back to Sam.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

I got to go.

SAM

What's tomorrow?

SIDNEY

I got an open meet tomorrow and Coach Frost wants to make sure I'm extra prepared.

Sam is clearly interested.

SAM

Where is it at?

SIDNEY

Here. You should come watch. I could use a fan.

Sam smiles.

SAM

I think I will.

Sidney gets up from his table.

SIDNEY

Nice meeting you, Sam.

SAM

Yeah, me too.

SIDNEY

And don't let Stef get to you. She's a good person. She just has a hard time letting people know it.

Sam smiles.

SAM

I'll remember that.

SIDNEY

Later.

Sidney exits the trainer's office with Derek.

Sam keeps smiling. She's completely smitten. Sidney just brightened her whole day. She looks up at the clock. 11:54 AM...

SAM

Oh, shit!

Sam jumps off of the table.

INT. VISITORS CENTER - DAY

Sam hurries through the visitors' center, looking at all the doors she passes. Several office line both sides of the corridor she moves through.

She finally reaches a door with the name "BATES" on the front of it.

SAM (V.O.)

I want you to be completely comfortable with me, Sam. Say whatever you want. Nothing will leave these walls.

INT. COLIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam sits in a chair directly across from Colin at his desk. They are already in mid-conversation.

SAM

So what is considered progress?

COLIN

Basically any positive improvement in your behavior. You have some serious anger issues, Samantha, and I want to get to the root of them. But I'm going to need your help.

Colin opens up a manila folder with Sam's name on the tab.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Haw has your experience here been so far?

SAM

Nothing special. My roommate's pretty cool.

COLIN

That's good.

SAM

That coach seems like a pain, though.

COLIN

I'm sure you'll get better acquainted. It's only been one day.

Colin flips through some pages in Sam's file.

COLIN (CONT'D)

I'm going to ask you some questions about your life back home, okay?

SAM

Whatever.

COLING

Alright. Tell me about your mother.

SAM

She's an attention whore that's pulling in the tricks by the dozen.

Colin reacts to Sam's words.

COLIN

What makes you say that?

SAM

It's the truth. My mother will latch onto any man that caters to her ego. Patrick is the flavor of the week this time.

Colin writes down some notes.

COLIN

What about your father?

Sam freezes with emotional distress. The word father hits her like a ton of bricks.

SAM

My father was a good man.

COLIN

Do you miss him?

SAM

Of course. Why wouldn't I?

Sam begins getting testy. This is a touchy subject for her.

COLIN

Do you ever feel that his death is, maybe, somehow your fault?

SAM

Excuse me?!

Colin senses her anger. Rewinds a bit.

COLIN

I'm just trying to get a mental picture of you and your father's relationship, Sam. I'm not insinuating anything. I need you to tell me.

Sam rises to her feet.

SAM

Fuck you! How dare you stand there and tell me how I feel about my father? You don't freakin' know me!

Colin tries to allay her temper.

COLIN

Sam, please calm down.

Sam moves towards the door.

SAM

I don't have to put up with this bullshit. I think we're done for today. Asshole.

Sam opens the door and SLAMS it shut behind her. Colin sits at his desk and lets out a breath of air he didn't realize he was holding.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Sam and Megan lay in their respective beds doing homework assignments. Megan eats an energy bar while she does her work. Sam is still visibly agitated from her earlier meeting.

MEGAN

Am I really going to need to know what the square root of imaginary numbers are in life? I mean, seriously.

Sam forces a smile. Megan gets back to her work. They sit in silence for a beat.

SAM

So what's the deal with Sidney?

Megan smiles.

MEGAN

Why?

SAM
Just wondering.

MEGAN
You like him don't you?

SAM
I mean, he's hot, but he seems kind
of arrogant.

MEGAN
Yeah. He's not my type though.

SAM
You're telling me you don't think
he looks good?

Megan shakes her head.

MEGAN
Nah. I like someone else.

Sam is now completely interested.

SAM
And who is that?

Megan pauses for effect.

MEGAN
Derek.

Sam laughs.

SAM
His friend? What is he like 4'10"?

MEGAN
Leave him alone! I think he's
cute!

Sam and Megan share a chuckle.

SAM
Sidney told me he has an open meet
tomorrow or something?

MEGAN
Oh yeah that's right. At the
Training Oval.

SAM
I was gonna go watch. You want to
come with me?

Megan thinks it over.

SAM (CONT'D)
Come on. I'm sure your midget
crush will be there too.

Megan gives Sam a mock evil glare.

MEGAN
Alright. It's a date.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

An ICE SKATE touches the ice. Toeing up to a red start
line...

WIDER, to reveal...

SIDNEY, wearing a full spandex body suit with TEAM USA
decaled on it. A second SPEEDSKATER toes up to a line in a
land adjacent to Sidney's. He also wears a spandex body
suit.

A DIGITAL TIMER is situated right at the start line. It
reads:

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS

CARLYLE, S. (USA)
MACROZONARIS, N. (CAN)

CROWD

A respectable sized crowd has gathered to watch the meet.
Sitting in the front row are Sam and Megan. Megan points out
at the ice.

MEGAN
There's Sidney. Lane two.

Sam strains her neck to get a better view of Sidney.

ICE

Sidney and Macrozonaris await further orders at the starting
line.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Take your mark...

Sidney and Macrozonaris move directly above their respective
starting lines -- They lean forward and bend their front knee
-- Ready to use it as a spring board.

SIDELINE

Frost watches from the side of the ice with a serious look forever plastered on his face.

ANOTHER SECTION IN THE CROWD

Stefanie watches from the top row of the stands. She looks like she doesn't want to be noticed.

ICE

Sidney and Macrozonaris await the start...

POW!

The start gun pierces the indoor arena air...

Sidney and Macrozonaris shoot forward like bats out of hell...

With powerful leg strokes, they both glide over the surface at an incredible rate of speed. They rock their bodies back and forth with arm thrusts, generating as much power as they can to be transferred to the ice...

CROWD

Megan and Sam watch on enthusiastically. Sidney and Macrozonaris pass by in front of them. Rounding the first curve...

SAM

So how many laps do they do?

MEGAN

This is the 1500 meters. It's basically a mile. The track is 400 meters around so it's a little more than three laps.

ICE

Sidney comes off of the curve in the lead -- Macrozonaris gains ground coming off of the curve...

The two skaters reach the end of the second straightaway -- Then -- They switch lanes -- Sidney moves to the inside lane -- Macrozonaris to the outside...

CROWD

SAM

Why did they switch lanes?

MEGAN

They switch lanes after each lap so
they both cover the same distance
each time around.

Sam nods with understanding.

ICE

Sidney whips around the inside lane of the track -- Creates a good gap between himself and the Canadian -- They pass the start line for the first time...

Sidney reaches the curve -- He crosses his legs over each other, navigating the curve with extreme precision -- The speed at which he is traveling seems unreal -- One false step and it's all over...

SIDELINE

Frost watches Sidney with intense eyes. He doesn't seem impressed with the race...

ICE

Sidney is creating a bigger and bigger gap by the second between Macrozonaris and himself -- They reach another curve -
- Macrozonaris falls behind even more...

CROWD

Sam watches with wide eyes as Sidney passes her again.

SAM

He's so fast!

MEGAN

I know. It's crazy. One more lap
to go!

ICE

A BELL RINGS indicating the final lap. Sidney rounds the curve again -- Macrozonaris has no chance now -- He's almost half a lap behind...

Sidney hits the second and final curve -- The crowd noise SWELLS -- The final straightaway...

Sidney winds the race!

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS

1. CARLYLE, S. (USA) - 1:50.11 PERSONAL BEST!
2. MACROZONARIS , N. - 2:00.09

CROWD

Sam and Megan both cheer to their hearts content along with the rest of the spectators.

SIDELINE

Frost watches on with no response. He almost seems angry with the race

ANOTHER SECTION IN THE CROWD

Stefanie smiles for a brief moment and then walks away.

ICE

Sidney skates around the rink with his hands in the air. The crowd gives him a standing ovation...

LATER

Sidney walks off the ice where Sam and Megan are waiting for him. He lights up when he sees Sam.

SIDNEY

Hey you!

SAM

Hey! That was awesome! You were so fast!

SIDNEY

Eh, that was just a taste of things to come.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Next on the ice. Junior Boys 500 Meters. Derek Pace, United States versus You Kwon-Lee, South Korea.

Megan's eyes widen at the sound of Derek's name.

MEGAN

Hey I'm gonna go check this race out. Later!

Before Sam can ever respond, Megan relocates herself next to the rink, searching for Derek.

Sam and Sidney, now alone, stand awkwardly, not knowing what to say next.

MR. CARLYLE (O.S.)

Sid!

RICKY CARLYLE, 40's, emerges from the crowd and embraces Sidney.

MR. CARLYLE (CONT'D)

That was great son! Way to stick it to them!

SIDNEY

Thanks Dad.

Mr. Carlyle gives a "Who's this?" look to Sam. Sidney notices.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

Oh Dad, this is Sam. She's a skater on the girls team. She does the um...what even do you do again?

Sam is at a loss for words.

SAM

Um...the 1500. Like you.

Sidney nods his head with approval. Mr. Carlyle shakes Sam's hand.

MR. CARLYLE

Nice to meet you, Sam. I'm Sid's father.

Frost appears with a stone cold look plastered on his face. Mr. Carlyle gives Frost a beaming smile.

MR. CARLYLE (CONT'D)

My is something else, huh Coach Frost?

FROST

Well winning is winning. No matter how ugly it is.

Sidney frowns. Sam gives Frost a glare.

MR. CARLYLE

Oh come on Coach. That was his fastest time ever run.

FROST

It still isn't world class. Sub 1:50 is what we are shooting for. Anything less is insignificant.

SAM

Hey!

The three males all turn in Sam's direction with a surprised look on all their faces.

SAM (CONT'D)

Give Sid some credit! He ran an awesome race and won by almost ten seconds!

Sidney tries to hide his smile. This girl is something else.

FROST

Right...Sidney if you have a moment?

Sidney nods his head.

MR. CARLYLE

Alright, son. I'll see you when you're done.

He squeezes Sidney's shoulder with pride.

MR. CARLYLE (CONT'D)

You did great.

Mr. Carlyle leaves.

SAM

I'm gonna go find Megan. See you later, Sid.

Sidney and Frost turn away. Sam searches the crowd and finds Megan with her eyes glued to the ice.

SAM (CONT'D)

That Frost is a real dick, huh?

Megan shrugs.

MEGAN

I dunno.

Megan is not even paying attention.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

There's Derek!

ICE

Derek, in a speed suit as well, toes the line for his race. The sped suit really extenuates his ripped torso and legs.

CROWD

Megan swoons.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Wow...

Sam shakes her head with disbelief.

INT. TRAINING OVAL, LOBBY - DAY

Sidney and Frost walk side by side outside the ice rink near the exit of the building.

FROST

I told you. If you want to be even remotely competitive in the world ranks, you need to be below 1:50 consistently.

SIDNEY

I know, Coach. I start to fade on the final curve. I need to maintain my speed going into the final straightaway.

FROST

No. You just need to work harder.

Sidney bows his head. This argument is a lost cause.

FROST (CONT'D)

And who was that girl you were talking to?

SIDNEY

Just some girl on the girls' team. She came to watch me.

Frost shakes his head.

FROST

Damn it, Sidney. What did I tell you about girls?

Sidney rolls his eyes.

SIDNEY

Women can only distract you from your goal...

FROST

Exactly. Don't you have enough distractions already?

Sidney remains quiet.

FROST (CONT'D)
 If you want to be a serious athlete, you need to make sacrifices.

Frost stops walking. Sidney turns to face him.

FROST (CONT'D)
 I know what it takes to be a champion, Sidney. Just listen to me. I won't steer you wrong. But you have to listen. Don't question me. Don't defy me. Just do as your told and you will be an Olympian. Do I make myself clear?

Sidney nods his head.

FROST (CONT'D)
 Good. We'll just use today's result as a practice session. Now go get off your feet.

Sidney turns with dejection and exits the arena.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

Night has fallen over Salt Lake City.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

The meet is now long over. The girls team is in practice mode. Stefanie conducts the practice.

Sam is again doing lunges outside the ice on the carpet. She seems much more comfortable with the exercise is in much better shape than the first time.

Stefanie blows her whistle.

STEFANIE
 Alright. As you all know we have our first meet in three days. And I need to know what times to seed you girls at. Line up for scrimmages.

The girls all cheer with delight. Stefanie turns to Sam.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
 Samantha?

Sam stops doing her lunges.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
You ready to skate?

Sam smiles.

SAM
Hell yeah!

Sam wastes no time and enters the rink. She skates across the rink, surprisingly well. She reaches Stefanie and stops.

STEFANIE
Line up.

The girls form two lines, one behind each starting line. Sam heads over to Megan's line.

SAM
What are scrimmages.

MEGAN
We get to race!

STEFANIE (O.S.)
500 Meters! First two! Take your marks!

MEGAN
Got to go!

Megan toes the line. TANIA GOMEZ, 17, toes the line in the lane next to Megan.

STEFANIE
Go!

The two girls rocket off the line...

Megan and Tania zoom through the first curve with excellent precision -- They come off the curve at a full sprint...

Stefanie watches closely...

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
That's it! Keep your center of gravity slightly in front of you! Bend those knees!

Megan takes a slight lead...They reach the cone indicating the lane switch...

The two girls switch lanes fluidly...Tania gains ground...Even takes the lead for a moment...

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Stay relaxed, girls! Don't tense
up!

Megan takes a deep breath -- She shoots off the final curve --
Takes the lead...

They cross the finish line, Megan slightly ahead...

MEGAN
Wooo!

Megan and Tania slow down around the curve and give each
other a hug. They truly love this sport and also enjoy each
other's company.

STEFANIE
Good job, ladies.

Stefanie turns to the starting line.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Next two!

Two more girls step forward. Sam steps in front of one of
the girls.

SAM
My turn.

STEFANIE
Are you sure you're ready,
Samantha?

SAM
Of course! Let's do this!

Stefanie shrugs her shoulders.

STEFANIE
Alright. Ladies. Take your mark!

Sam toes her line, obviously trying to emulate Sidney's
starting stance.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Go!

Sam EXPLODES off of the line. She starts so fast, that she
nearly puts three body lengths between her and her opponent
right from the start.

Stefanie looks on with interest. Sam smiles. She heads into
the first curve...

She starts to round it...Loses control...

Sam's eyes nearly pop out of her head. FEAR broadcasts from her face...She falls to the ground...Slides...

BAM!

Sam hits the wall hard.

MEGAN

Sam!

Megan and the rest of the girls team skate over to Sam. She lies on the ice, staring up at the ceiling.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Sam gets to her feet slowly.

SAM

I'm fine.

Stefanie approaches.

STEFANIE

Are you sure you're okay?

SAM

I said I'm fine! Let's go!

STEFANIE

You want to go again?

SAM

Yeah!

Sam skates back to the starting line. She toes the line again. Another girl steps up to race her.

This time Stefanie pulls a STOPWATCH from her pocket. She prepares to hit the start button...

STEFANIE

Go!

Sam launches off of the line again. Her start is simply amazing. If it isn't world class, nothing is.

Sam heads into the curve again...

Same result. She hits the wall even harder this time.

ANOTHER RACE

Sam falls.

ONE MORE RACE

You guessed it. Another fall.

CLOSE ON SAM'S FACE

Sam lies on the ground, tears ready to fall from her eyes.

SCENE

The girls team huddles around her with concerned looks.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

That's enough.

Sam struggles to her feet. She skates towards the edge of the rink.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Where are you going, Sam?

SAM

Fuck this! I quit!

STEFANIE

Get back here! There's not quitting here!

SAM

Watch me! Stupid ass sport!

Stefanie turns to her girls.

STEFANIE

Megan, lead the cool down. I'll be back in a minute.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

Sam sits on a bench, tears dripping from her eyes softly. She holds her shoulder which must be in a considerable amount of pain with the amount of times she slammed it into the wall.

Stefanie exits the arena. She sees Sam immediately and approaches her. Sam notices Stefanie and tries to compose herself.

STEFANIE

Can I sit down?

SAM

Whatever.

Stefanie takes a seat next to Sam.

STEFANIE

How's the shoulder?

SAM

How do you think it is?!

Stefanie holds her stopwatch in her hand and looks at it.

STEFANIE

Amazing.

Sam sniffs.

SAM

What?

Stefanie shows Sam the stopwatch. The time of 11.45 seconds is displayed on it.

SAM (CONT'D)

What the hell is this?

STEFANIE

This is the time it took you to skate the first 150 meters.

SAM

So?!

STEFANIE

This is the fastest 150 meter split I have ever seen. The fastest split on this team is Megan's and that is 13.9 seconds.

Sam remains quiet.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

If you were to maintain this for an entire race, you would be on course to break the world record.

SAM

Really?

Stefanie nods her head.

STEFANIE

Sam, this is your second day in speedskating, and you are already at an elite level. Do you realize how incredible that is?

Sam shrugs.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

When I see a girl walk off the ice with this amount of potential, it's almost a tragedy. You know I can't let you quit, right?

SAM

But I can't get past that fucking curve!

STEFANIE

That will come. Trust me. Do you trust me?

Sam looks Stefanie in the eyes.

SAM

Do I have a choice?

Stefanie smiles.

STEFANIE

You always have a choice, Samantha. Tell you what. Why don't you go back to your room. Ice that shoulder up and think about what I said. If you believe in it, and yourself, I'd really appreciate it if I saw you on the ice tomorrow.

Stefanie rises to her feet. She gives Samantha a pat on the back.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

You're a strong girl, Sam. I know you'll make the right choice.

Stefanie walks away. Sam just sits on the bench, reflecting on what just went down.

INT. SALT LAKE CITY MALL - DAY

Megan and Sam stroll through the giant two floor mall. Megan window shops every store she passes by.

MEGAN

Hey thanks for coming with me. If I don't find a new sports bra, I'm gonna be an A cup within a week.

Sam nods her head distantly.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

So are you coming to practice tonight.

Sam shrugs.

SAM

I dunno.

Megan catches a store from the corner of her eye.

MEGAN

Let's try here.

INT. SALT LAKE CITY MALL, SPORTSWEAR STORE - DAY

Modell's type of place. Sports apparel surround Sam and Megan.

Megan heads to the women's section. Sam follows.

MEGAN

You know your starts yesterday were freakin' amazing. I never seen anyone shoot off the line that fast.

SAM

It didn't feel that fast.

Megan peruses through several sports bras on display.

MEGAN

I'm telling you. You need to keep with it. You're gonna be a badass. I can feel it. I think they said your split was like an 11.5. Sidney doesn't even have a start that fast.

Sam lets a smile creep up on her face. She looks up...

Speak of the devil. Sidney and Derek are on the opposite side of the store looking at UNDER ARMOUR.

Sidney and Sam meet eyes. Sam looks away. Embarrassed. Megan notices.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

What?

Megan looks up. She catches Derek's gaze. She looks away as well.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Oh shit! You think Derek saw me?

Sidney waves at Sam. She waves back.

SAM

Probably.

Sidney and Derek cross the store towards Sam and Megan.

SIDNEY

What are you stalking me?

Sam gives Sidney a warm smile.

SAM

Maybe.

Derek gives Megan a smile.

DEREK

What's good, Megan?

Megan blushes. She's completely flustered with Derek's presence.

MEGAN

Um...hi, Derek.

SIDNEY

What you girls up to?

Megan tosses the sports bra in her hand behind her.

MEGAN

Just looking around.

SAM

What about you guys? What are you doing here?

SIDNEY

Just looking for some Under Armour. I was just about to go get something to eat. You guys want to come?

DEREK

Yo man. I still need to find some.
You can't wait a few more minutes?

SIDNEY

Come on man, I'm hungry. You shop
like a chick.

Sam CLEARS HER THROAT. Sidney laughs.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

Aight, well I'm going to get
something to eat. You ladies want
to come?

SAM

Um, well Megan don't you have to
find something too? Derek can
probably help you.

Megan's face goes white.

DEREK

Yeah, I got no problem with that.

Megan forces a smile.

MEGAN

Okay. Sure.

SAM

Cool. I'll see you in a few.

Sam and Sidney walk out of the store, leaving Megan and
Derek.

DEREK

So what you looking for?

Megan looks at the sport bra rack. Hell no.

MEGAN

Um, Under Armour too.

DEREK

Word. Follow me.

INT. SALT LAKE CITY MALL, FOOD COURT - DAY

Sam and Sidney sit in the center of the large food court at a
table eating. Sidney eats some healthy meal with water. Sam
eats McDonalds.

SIDNEY

...I've been skating since I was born pretty much. But there's no way I was gonna do that figure skating crap.

Sam laughs.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

So I saw speedskating one day on TV and told my Dad I wanted to try it. The rest is history.

Sam takes a bite of her burger.

SAM

You and your Dad are pretty close, huh?

SIDNEY

Yeah. Aren't you close with yours?

Sam pauses for a moment.

SAM

We used to be.

SIDNEY

Used to be?

SAM

Yeah. He died about ten years ago.

SIDNEY

Oh, wow. I'm so sorry. I didn't know--

SAM

No, no, no, don't do that. There's no way you could have known. It's okay.

Sidney and Sam eat their food in silence for a moment.

SAM (CONT'D)

So what's up with that Frost guy? He's a real jerk.

SIDNEY

Eh, I guess. But he knows what he's doing. He's coached Olympians almost his entire life. He knows how to get skaters to the next level.

SAM

You want to be an Olympian?

SIDNEY

More than anything. I just want to be able to get up on that medal stand with the National Anthem playing behind me, and a gold medal around my neck. I came here to learn from Frost. He made a promise to me that I would make the Olympics.

SAM

Yeah, but he doesn't have to be such a dick about it. I mean you got mad skills, but nothing seems like it's good enough for him.

Sidney smiles.

SIDNEY

That's true.

SAM

I mean Stef has her moments, don't get me wrong, but she doesn't put people down. I bet if she was your coach, you would be so much more happier.

Sidney nods his head.

SIDNEY

Hey it's getting late. I got to head back for practice.

Sam takes one final swig of her soda and follows Sidney to the trash bins.

EXT. SALT LAKE CITY MALL - DAY

Sam and Sidney exit the mall side by side.

SIDNEY

Derek still ain't back yet?

SAM

Maybe him and Megan are spending some quality time together.

Sidney laughs.

SIDNEY

Oh man, those two have had a crush on each other forever. Neither one of them wants to make the first move.

Sam laughs as well.

SAM

That's so funny!

Sam and Sidney meet each other's gaze as they both laugh. They stop for a moment and just stare at each other. Without warning, Sam leans in and gives Sidney a kiss on the lips.

Sidney recoils.

SIDNEY

Whoa.

Sam bites her lip with rejection.

SAM

I'm sorry.

SIDNEY

You don't waste time do you?

SAM

I shouldn't have done that.

SIDNEY

You're right. You shouldn't have.

Sam looks away. Sidney reaches over and lifts Sam's chin up. He leans in and gives Sam a much more passionate kiss.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

I should have.

Sam smiles ear to ear.

DEREK (O.S.)

There you are!

Sam and Sidney turn to find Derek and Megan exiting the mall.

DEREK (CONT'D)

We were looking all over for you!

SIDNEY

Let's go, Derek. We got practice.

Sidney turns back to Sam.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)
See you later, Sam.

SAM
Bye.

Sidney and Derek move to leave. Derek looks back and gives Megan a wave. Megan waves back.

MEGAN
I bet you he has a girlfriend. A hot one too. That's why he is so calm and cool.

Sam laughs.

SAM
Yeah. I'm sure that's it.

MEGAN
You look like you're in better spirits.

SAM
Maybe.

MEGAN
So you coming to practice tonight?

SAM
Let's do it.

Megan smiles. They slap hands.

MEGAN
Nice.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

SLAM! Sam hits the side wall of the ice rink hard.

Megan looks on from behind the start line with a worried look on her face. Stefanie tries to keep her composure as well, but Sam is clearly frustrated.

Sam moves to a sitting position on the ice and stares at her feet. Stefanie approaches Sam and stands above her.

STEFANIE
You almost got it.

SAM
Whatever. I suck.

Stefanie holds a hand out for Sam to grab. After a moment, Sam reaches up and gets to her feet. She slowly skates over to the start line. Stefanie walks along side of her.

STEFANIE

You're going into the turn with great speed, but you have to counter it with some resistance. For every action, there's a reaction.

Sam reaches the start line. She places her hands on her hips and stares out at the ice track in front of her.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

When you hit that curve, I want you to lean in with your body, but push outward with your legs. If you do that right, you'll know.

SAM

How?

STEFANIE

Because you will hug that curve like glue and you'll keep that awesome speed of yours into the next straightaway.

Sam nods her head and focuses on the ice track out in front of her.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Ladies, let's give Sam a little encouragement.

Megan begins to clap her hands rhythmically. The rest of the team joins her.

MEGAN

Come on, Sam!

TANIA

Let's do it, Sam!

The entire facility fills with a clapping beat that is intoxicating. If it doesn't pump you up, you need to check your pulse.

Sam purses her lips with determination. Stefanie holds her hand up. A stopwatch in her other hand...

STEFANIE

Take your mark...

Sam toes the start line. She looks ready...

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Go!

Sam blasts forward like greased lightning -- She attack the ice with her blades like it is her worst enemy -- 20 Meters -- 40 Meters -- 60 Meters -- The markers fly by in a blur...

Stefanie watches with intense eyes. The curve is coming up...

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Come on, Sam...

SAM POV:

From her point of view, the world is all but a blur. Sam sees the curve fast approaching -- She goes for it...

SCENE

Megan and the team continue their clapping. They look on with anticipation...

Sam flies into the curve -- She closes her eyes -- Her legs move on autopilot -- She leans inward -- Her feet push outward...

Sam wraps around the curve perfectly!

She opens her eyes back up -- She's still standing -- She smiles big.

Megan and the girls on the team cheer with jubilation. Stefanie pumps her fist with a smile.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Keep it going, Sam!

Sam, now much more confident, turns on the burners -- The second straightaway is covered even faster than her first...

One more curve to go...Sam hits it at an even faster speed this time -- No problem -- She navigates this curve even better than her first...

Stefanie looks at her stopwatch. 34...35...36...

SAM POV:

Sam pushes for the finish line...No slacking off at the end of the race here...

SCENE

Sam crosses the line to the cheers of her team. She coasts around the curve, coming to a stop.

The girls team skates towards her and mobs her. Sam smiles. She did it.

Stefanie looks at her watch. 39.50 seconds. She shakes her head with amazement.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Wow...

HOLD ON Sam's face as she enjoys the company of her team...

CUT TO:

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sam tears around the curve of the track, now in full racing gear. A GIRLS MEET is in progress and Sam is participating in a race.

Sam passes the start line -- Begins a new lap...

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR GIRLS 1500 METERS

MUELLER, S. (USA)

JONES, M. (USA)

SCENE

Sam goes into the straightaway hauling some serious ass...

SAM POV:

The ice whizzes by at a high velocity. It's amazing to even believe Sam is in control of herself at this speed.

SCENE

Megan lags behind drastically. Sam is on a whole different level.

Stefanie watches on from the sideline. She looks at the digital time on the scoreboard. 1:55...1:56...1:57...

Sam comes off the curve onto the final straightaway. The finish line is near...

Sam crosses the finish in first place.

SCOREBOARD

JUNIOR GIRLS 1500 METERS

1. MUELLER, S. (USA) - 1:58.99 NEW STADIUM RECORD!
2. JONES, M. (USA) - 2:07.44 PERSONAL BEST

SCENE

Same comes to a stop with her hands above her head. Megan skates over to her and gives her a big hug.

Stefanie watches on proudly at her girls. The crowd gives them a standing ovation. Behind Stefanie, two FANS converse with each other.

FAN #1

Who is this Mueller girl? I've never seen a 17 year old go under two minutes in my life!

FAN #2

I don't know, but damn is she fast. That stadium record was over ten years old!

Stefanie smiles. On the ice, Sam takes her victory lap to a ROARING CROWD...

INT. COLIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam sits in her same chair again in front of Colin. She seems to be in a much better mood this time around.

SAM

I'm sorry about the other day. I was just little pissed off.

Colin smiles.

COLIN

Don't worry about it. I want you to be yourself here, Sam. Don't put on a mask. Let your true colors shine. It's the only way I can help you.

Sam nods her head.

COLIN (CONT'D)

I hear you're the new big thing at the facility here.

Sam smiles.

SAM

Just doing what I can.

COLIN

Did you expect to be this good,
this fast.

Sam shrugs.

SAM

I mean I've always been good at
things from the start. It's just
weird to have a record and all
these fans telling me I'm the best
they've ever seen.

Colin writes down some notes.

COLIN

How has your social interactions
been going for you?

SAM

Me and Megan are real close now.
She's the best friend I've ever
had. I'm really glad I met her.

COLIN

How about with the boys?

Sam raises an eyebrow.

SAM

We're cool, I guess. I really
don't see them that much. That
Frost guy really doesn't like it
when we mingle.

COLIN

I see. Does that make you angry?

SAM

No, it's just kind of stupid. I
mean how can you tell people that
they have to avoid others?

Colin jots down some more notes.

COLIN

Well, I think we're done for today.
Thank you for coming and keep up
the good work. You are showing
amazing progress.

Sam smiles and gets up from her chair. She moves to the door and then stops.

SAM

And the answer is sometimes.

Colin gives Sam a perplexed look.

COLIN

What are you talking about?

SAM

Do I feel responsible for my Dad's death. Sometimes.

COLIN

And why's that?

SAM

I'm not really sure. I just do.

Colin nods with understanding.

SAM (CONT'D)

Later.

Sam exits the office.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

Sam enters the arena and walks to the edge of the Men's Rink. Sidney participates in skating drills under the watchful eye of Frost.

FROST

Damn it, Sidney! What did I tell you? You hit that curve as hard as you can! Don't go in timid!

Sidney skates back and prepares to perform the drill again.

SIDNEY

Sorry, Coach.

FROST

If you want to go sub 1:50, you need to drop your time at the beginning of the race. This way even if you get tired, you still have the early time to fall back on.

Sidney toes the line. Ready to start.

FROST (CONT'D)

Hit it!

Sidney shoots forward -- He rounds the curve with extreme precision -- He slings forward off of the curve with an impressive amount of speed.

FROST (CONT'D)

Better.

Sidney skates back over to Frost.

FROST (CONT'D)

Let's call it a night. Now we have a couple of Grand Prix meets before Nationals. I want you to have a sub 1:50 before then. Understand?

Sidney nods his head.

FROST (CONT'D)

Alright. Get out of here.

Sidney skates to the edge of the rink. He notices Sam.

SIDNEY

Hey, record holder. What are you doing here?

SAM

I wanted to see you.

Sidney walks off of the ice and gives Sam a kiss. Frost observes everything from the ice...

SIDNEY

Come on. Let's get out of here.

INT. SIDNEY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Sidney are in the passion of a very intense make out session. Ain't no making love here. If you didn't know better, you'd think they were trying to hurt each other.

Sidney rolls on top of Sam and kisses her like it's the last time he'll ever see her.

SAM

What if...your roommate...comes in?

SIDNEY

Derek...went home...for the weekend...

Sam smiles. She flips Sidney onto his back. Begins a kissing assault on his neck.

SAM

So what...number girl...am I...that has been up here?

Sidney rolls Sam onto her back.

SIDNEY

You're...the first...

SAM

Bullshit...but good answer...

Sidney moves his kisses from Sam's neck to her chest. Then down to her stomach...

He stops.

SAM (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

SIDNEY

Frost would kill me if he knew we were doing this.

SAM

Fuck Frost! You have a half-naked girl in your bed. You better take advantage!

Sam moves to kiss Sidney. He pulls his face away. Turns his back to Sam. She positions herself behind him and bear hugs him.

SAM (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

SIDNEY

I don't know how to say it without hurting your feelings.

SAM

Don't flatter yourself. My feelings don't get hurt.

SIDNEY

I really want to make the World Team this year, and...

Sidney pauses, knowing what he says could make or break this interaction.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)
I just can't afford any
distractions.

SAM
Am I a distraction?

SIDNEY
I'm not sure.

Sam giggles.

SAM
Then we can wait. And did you even
stop to think if you were a
distraction to me? Selfish jerk.
I'm the one with the stadium
record.

Sidney turns around with a smile.

SIDNEY
You're something else. I've never
met a girl like you before.

SAM
Aww.

Sam gives Sidney another kiss.

SAM (CONT'D)
After Nationals, you are so mine,
Sidney Carlyle.

SIDNEY
Can't argue with that one.

Sam rests her head on Sidney's chest and closes her eyes.
Sidney strokes her hair softly as he closes his eyes as well.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

A state of the art weight training center. The girls team
performs exercises on various machines with Stefanie
overseeing.

Sam is at a squat rack performing squats, with Megan as her
spot. The weight on the barbells seems a lot for a girl.

MEGAN
Come on. Six...Seven...

Sam shows some slight discomfort on her face, but she is in
complete control of the weight.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Ten.

Megan helps Sam rack the weight.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

225 pounds, ten times. Wow.

Megan removes some of the weight plates from the barbell, preparing it for herself.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Hey, you didn't come back to the room last night. What happened?

Sam smiles.

SAM

Nothing. Why?

MEGAN

Don't give me that look. You stayed over someone else's room, didn't you?

SAM

Maybe.

MEGAN

No way! Sidney's?

Sam shrugs her shoulders.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You jezebel!

Sam laughs.

SAM

Did you just call me a jezebel?

MEGAN

How? Why? When? What?

SAM

It's not that big of deal.

MEGAN

How do you do it? I mean, how did you get him so fast?

SAM

I find just going after what you want is way better than waiting around for it.

MEGAN

And it works?

SAM

Trust me. A guy will never deny a girl that lets him know she wants him.

Megan ponders these words.

SAM (CONT'D)

You should try it.

Megan positions herself under the barbell for her sets.

STEFANIE

Alright, ladies. Let's keep it going.

Suddenly, the door to the weight room opens. Frost and the boys team enter. Sidney and Sam make eye contact. They smile at each other.

FROST

I see the ladies are keeping the machines warm for us.

Stefanie turns with an annoyed look.

STEFANIE

Can I help you, Coach Frost?

FROST

My boys need to use the facilities here. The quicker your girls leave, the more you will be helping.

Sam glares at Frost.

SAM

This guy just doesn't quit...

Sam walks towards Frost.

SAM (CONT'D)

You know we deserve time to train too, you know!

Stefanie holds her hand up for Sam to be quiet.

STEFANIE

Sam...

Sam shuts up. Stefanie turns back to Frost.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

We have a regiment to follow,
Scott. This is our weights day.
You have your days, we have ours.

FROST

Coach Scalessa, you should be happy
that I even allow your girls any
time to train at this fine facility
I have built from the ground up.
You are tenants in my establishment
and I am rapidly losing my
tolerance for your inconvenience.

Stefanie raises an eyebrow.

FROST (CONT'D)

Now if you would just leave in an
orderly manner, we can be on our
ways.

STEFANIE

No.

Frost's eyes bulge out of his head. Sam smiles.

FROST

Excuse me?

STEFANIE

No. I am tired of having to leave
every time you feel it is necessary
to use our time at these
facilities. We deserve an equal
part in all areas here as your boys
team.

FROST

Stefanie, I am going to ask you one
more time. Get your girls out of
here so my boys can train. Are you
denying my athletes their training?

STEFANIE

No, but you're denying my girls
theirs.

The girls team all fold their arms in front of their chests.
United as one...

Frost smiles at the sight.

FROST

You have just made the biggest
mistake you could have made.

STEFANIE

And you have bullied us around for
the last time, Frost.

Frost waves for his team to exit the weight room.

FROST

You'll be sorry, Stefanie. I
promise you that.

Frost and the boys team exit the weight room. The girls all
CHEER.

MEGAN

Alright, Coach Stef!

Stefanie tries to keep her cool demeanor.

STEFANIE

Back to work! Junior Nationals are
in two weeks! Let's stay focused!

The girls all turn back to their exercises.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Sam finishes changing into her street clothes. She places
her workout clothes into a gym bag. Megan is still changing,
along with the rest of the girls team.

SAM

I'll see you back at the room,
Megan.

MEGAN

Yeah, I'll be there in a sec.

Sam exits the locker room.

INT. FITNESS CENTER - NIGHT

Sam walks through the fitness center carrying her gym bag.
She passes an open office door in the hallway.

Inside the office, Frost watches a race on film.

FROST

Excuse me, miss. You got a second?

Sam is startled by Frost's voice.

SAM

What?

FROST
Please come in.

INT. FROST'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sam enters the office. Frost keeps his eyes on the film as he talks to Sam.

FROST
Samantha, right?

SAM
What do you want?

FROST
I have a favor to ask of you,
Samantha?

SAM
And?

FROST
Stay away from my athlete.

SAM
Huh?

FROST
Look at him.

Frost points at the screen. Sam watches.

ON SCREEN

Sidney in a race. His movements are perfect. His race is strong and he has poise beyond his years.

SCENE

FROST (CONT'D)
Sidney is a good kid. He works hard, and just has incredible talent. He has a bright future ahead of him.

Sam gives Frost a dirty look. Frost finally turns to Sam.

FROST (CONT'D)
But you're doing more harm than good. So stay away. I don't want to see a good athlete go down because of some little crush a girl has on him.

SAM

Crush?! I'll do what I want. Last time I checked this was a free country, pal.

FROST

So stubborn. Just like every other female. We give you some freedom and you try and take away ours. I assure you, that if you continue to distract Sidney, no good will come of it.

SAM

Yeah, well Sidney can make up his mind. And I assure YOU, he doesn't need you to make them for him. Have a nice night.

Sam leaves the office. Frost watches her go with a serious look on his face.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sidney zooms past the finish line, ending another race.

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR MEN'S 1500 METERS

1. CARLYLE, S. (USA) 1:50.01 PERSONAL BEST!

SCENE

The crowd cheers for his victory, but Sidney curses himself as he rounds the bend.

Frost looks at the scoreboard with a scowl on his face.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sam rushes towards the entrance of the arena. Megan is close behind.

SAM

Come on! We're gonna miss it!

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sidney comes off of the ice and makes eye contact with Frost. Frost just shakes his head with disappointment. Sidney crosses Frost and finds his father.

MR. CARLYLE

Good race, son. You'll get that
1:49. Hey, look who came to see
you.

DIANA (O.S.)

Sidney!

Sidney turns with a surprised look.

SIDNEY

Diana?

DIANA, 17, a Colombian beauty, model looks, hourglass figure.
The kind of girl that would launch a thousand ships.

MR. CARLYLE

I'm gonna go get something to
drink. I'll be back.

Mr. Carlyle leaves.

SIDNEY

What are you doing here, Diana?

DIANA

Mi amor, I'm here to see you.

SIDNEY

Why? We're not together anymore.

DIANA

Aw, baby. What makes you say that?

SIDNEY

How about, you cheated on me?

DIANA

Oh I was just confused. An honest
mistake. You can't forgive me?
You know no one's better than my
Olympic champion.

Sidney looks away trying to remain tough. This girl is too
damn beautiful to pass up.

SIDNEY

You need to go.

DIANA

Dame un beso, papi. I've missed
you.

Diana moves forward and wraps her arms around Sidney's waist.
She plants a kiss on his lips.

Sidney tries to avoid it, but he gets into the groove. He places his hands on Diana's hips and kisses back.

ACROSS THE ARENA

Sam watches in horror as Sidney and Diana lock lips.

BACK TO SIDNEY

Sidney opens his eyes. He catches Sam in the background. He pulls his face away from Diana.

SIDNEY

Sam...

Sam's face fills with absolute anger. She storms away. Sidney, still with skates on, hobbles after her.

Mr. Carlyle comes back with two drinks in hand.

MR. CARLYLE

Where's he going?

DIANA

I don't know. Is that a Coke?

Diana takes the drink without even waiting for Mr. Carlyle's response.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sam walks briskly away from the arena. Sidney exits and stands in the doorway.

SIDNEY

Sam!

Sam doesn't turn around. Sidney slams his fist on the door with anger.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

Damn it!

INT. TRAINING OVAL - ANOTHER DAY

Sam competes in a race on the ice. A determined look on her face. She pushes harder and harder as she circuits around the ice track.

Stefanie watches Sam with a concerned look on her face.

Sam passes the finish line...

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR GIRLS 1500 METERS

MUELLER, S. (USA) - 1:53.87 NEW STADIUM RECORD!

SCENE

Sam exits the ice without even acknowledging the crowd. As she walks off of the ice...

Sidney stands at the edge of the rink waiting for her.

Sam doesn't even give him the time of day. She walks right past him like he doesn't exist.

Sidney looks down at his feet with defeat.

ANOTHER MEET

Sidney competes in a race. He is clearly distraught by the look on his face. He lags behind a competitor who is out in front of him.

The two cross the finish line. Sidney comes in second.

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS

1. DEBRUIJN, M. (NED) - 1:49.11
2. CARLYLE, S. (USA) - 1:50.88

SCENE

Sidney coasts with his head in between his legs. Frost watches on, with diva looking Diana and Mr. Carlyle behind him.

ANOTHER MEET

Sam, no nonsense, skating around the track in yet another meet. Her speed is ridiculous. It almost seems artificial how fast she is skating.

She crosses the finish line again, way out in front.

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR GIRLS 1500 METERS

1. MUELLER, S. (USA) - 1:50.97 NEW WORLD RECORD!

SCENE

The crowd is dumbfounded at the time. Stefanie looks at the time with disbelief. She looks back at Sam...

Sam skates off the ice again, no emotion, no reaction. Stefanie stops her.

STEFANIE

Samantha you just broke the world record.

Sam just looks at Stefanie with a blank stare. She continues on her way without saying a word.

EXT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

Sam exits the arena, a pissed off look on her face.

SIDNEY (O.S.)

Sam, wait!

Sam doesn't turn around. Sidney runs to catch her. He finally reaches her and grabs her arm.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

Will you wait?

Sam turns around. Tears in her eyes.

SAM

What?!

SIDNEY

Can't you give a chance to explain myself?

SAM

What's to explain? Was I just your piece while your main girl was away?

SIDNEY

No! She's a part of the past.

SAM

Looked like you guys were pretty recent when I saw you.

SIDNEY

It's not what it seems! I don't like you! I like you!

SAM

You know what? I don't have time for this. You're just a scumbag with a big head that thinks he can get whatever he wants when he wants. Well, I'm not going along for the ride. Enjoy your bimbo.

Sidney grabs her again. This time Sam pushes back. It nearly knocks Sidney to the ground.

That angry face Sam displayed at the beginning of the film returns.

SAM (CONT'D)

Stay the fuck away from me! I swear to God I will fuck you up if you touch me one more goddamn time!

Sidney lets go.

SIDNEY

So this is how you want it to be?

SAM

Fuck you. Don't pull that guilt shit on me. I didn't do anything wrong. It's how you wanted it to be.

Sam walks away leaving Sidney alone in front of the building.

INT. DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam storms through the dorm hall en route to her room. She finally reaches her room and opens it...

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Sam enters. Her face fills with shock as she does. Inside the room...

Angela sits, talking with Megan. Angela turns and smiles at Sam.

ANGELA

Samantha! How are you, sweetheart?

Sam just stares at her mother with a blank stare.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Oh don't just stand there. Give your mother a hug.

Angela stands with open arms.

MEGAN

Sam, why didn't you tell me your Mom was Angela Crosby? She's like the best actress ever!

SAM

What are you doing here?

ANGELA

I came to see you, that's what! Oh, come here.

Angela approaches Sam for a hug. Sam backs away.

SAM

Stay away from me.

ANGELA

What's the matter with you?

SAM

Why are you here? You couldn't wait to see me leave, now you come to see me?

ANGELA

When I heard my daughter is the best speedskater in the world, I had to come back to see her. You know I still love you.

SAM

Bullshit! You just want to use me for publicity!

Megan sits uncomfortably as mother and daughter square off.

ANGELA

Samantha, I came here to bring you back home. Everything can go back to the way it is. You just have to trust me.

SAM

I don't have to do anything! I will never go back to you!

ANGELA

Fine! Then stay here like the fucking criminal you are, you little ungrateful bitch!

MEGAN
Criminal?

Angela turns to Megan.

ANGELA
Oh, she doesn't know?

SAM
Don't...

ANGELA
I see my daughter failed to tell you she's here on a parole program from juvenile detention. She's a convicted felon that has nothing but contempt for a mother that has tried nothing but help her.

SAM
Get out! Get the hell out of my life!

Megan doesn't know what to say.

ANGELA
Sam, I walk out this door without you, you will never step foot in my house ever again.

SAM
So be it! Leave! Now!

Angela walks towards the door and opens it. She kisses Sam on the cheek and then exits.

Sam wipes her cheek and then punches the door.

SAM (CONT'D)
Goddamn it!

MEGAN
Sam? Is that true? Are you a criminal?

Sam bites her lip.

SAM
Yeah.

MEGAN
Why didn't you tell me?

SAM

Because, it's not who I really am. I had a rough childhood, but I am not a bad person. I just had no one there for me.

MEGAN

Why didn't you tell me?!

Megan is clearly upset.

SAM

I'm sorry, Megan.

MEGAN

Get out of my room!

SAM

What?

MEGAN

Get out! You're nothing but a lying criminal!

Sam ducks her head. Almost as if she's embarrassed to look Megan in the eye.

SAM

Okay.

Sam opens the door and exits the room. Megan tries to hold back the tears that are now pooling in her eyes.

INT. STEFANIE'S HOME - NIGHT

Stefanie sits in her living room watching television. A KNOCK at the door diverts her attention. She looks at her watch and gets up to answer the door.

STEFANIE

Who is it?

SAM (O.S.)

Samantha, Coach Stef.

Stefanie opens the door. She is greeted by Sam who stands in the doorway, tears streaming down her face.

STEFANIE

What happened, Sam? Are you alright?

SAM

You mind if I come in for a minute?

STEFANIE
No, no, come. Please.

Sam enters the house. Stefanie closes the door behind her.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sam sits at the kitchen table. Stefanie brings her a cup of hot chocolate.

SAM
Thank you.

Stefanie sits down in the seat next to Sam.

STEFANIE
Give Megan some time. She's too nice of a girl to kick you out. She probably just needs to come to terms.

SAM
So you knew I was here on parole.

Stefanie nods her head.

STEFANIE
Of course. They wouldn't let you come here without us knowing. But, I wanted to see if you really were a bad person, so I kept it nonchalant. I should have told the girls.

SAM
No I should have.

STEFANIE
I've seen a lot of bad people in my life, Sam. With a record like yours, you should be the worst. But you're not.

SAM
I just had a lot to deal with.

STEFANIE
What would cause you to fight so much?

Sam takes a sip of her hot chocolate.

SAM

When I was little, my Dad was my hero. There was nothing he couldn't do. He played hockey for the Los Angeles Kings. He was awesome. He used to bring me to the games and let me sit on the bench with the team.

Sam smiles. Remembering old times.

SAM (CONT'D)

But after he died, I lost my hero. Nothing seemed important anymore. No one was there to tell me to let the insults slide off. If someone insulted me I would make them pay for it. And my Mom just started dating like it was nothing. Like he never even existed. She was more worried about her career than me or him. It just made me so angry.

Stefanie listens closely.

STEFANIE

May I ask what happened to your Dad?

Sam pauses. This is a painful memory.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Only if you want to.

SAM

My Dad had a game on my seventh birthday. I wanted to have my party at the arena, but my mother had some publicity stunt planned for me for all the press to see. Anyway, after the game, my Dad called me and said he might be a little late because the team was going to all get me a present.

Sam's eyes start tearing up.

SAM (CONT'D)

And I told him, "Don't be late, Daddy. Hurry!" I don't know why I said it, but I did. So he left the arena early and tried to get there as fast as he could...

Sam chokes up.

SAM (CONT'D)
He crashed into a ditch. It was raining and he couldn't see where he was going.

Stefanie grabs Sam's hand.

STEFANIE
You don't have to say anymore.

Sam tries to keep her composure.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Samantha, you are an extraordinary girl. I have never see a woman that is even half as strong as you. Your Dad would be proud. I know I am.

Sam wipes her face. A smile creeps onto her face.

SAM
Thanks, Coach.

Stefanie and Sam embrace in a hug.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sam prepares for sleep on the couch.

STEFANIE
Do you need another pillow?

SAM
No, I'm fine. Thanks.

Sam looks at the television set. She notices several VHS tapes. The tapes have several titles on them:

2000 US YOUTH CHAMPS
1999 US YOUTH OPEN

SAM (CONT'D)
Hey what are those?

STEFANIE
Just some tapes of some old meets.

SAM
Of you?

STEFANIE
No, of the kids I've coached.

SAM
Can I watch one?

STEFANIE
Sure. Which one?

SAM
How about those US Youth Champs?

Stefanie smiles. She picks the tapes out and places it into the VCR.

TELEVISION

The television comes to life. A speedskating meet produces on the screen. The kids speedskating could be no older than 13 years old.

One of the boys looks familiar...

SAM (CONT'D)
Is that?

STEFANIE
Sidney? Yup.

LITTLE SIDNEY skates to the edge of the rink and talks to his coach...

...Stefanie.

SAM
You coached Sidney?

STEFANIE
Since he was seven.

SAM
Why don't you coach him now?

Stefanie shrugs.

STEFANIE
I guess he moved on. I'll let you watch it. It's a good race. I'm going to bed. Goodnight, Sam.

SAM
Night, coach.

Stefanie retires to her room and shuts the door. Sam continues to watch the VHS Tape.

On the screen, Sidney skates incredibly well for his age and size around the rink. Even at that young of age, he is prodigy.

After winning the race, Sidney skates over to Stefanie who gives him a hug.

Sam smiles at the image.

INT. ATHLETIC OFFICE - DAY

Stefanie walks through an office that is clearly the administration center of the entire U.S. Olympic Facility. She reaches a front desk.

A SECRETARY flips through several packets of paper on the desk.

STEFANIE

Good morning. I'm here to pick up my entry information for the Junior National Championships. Girls 14 to 17 division.

The Secretary FREEZES with fear.

SECRETARY

Um...they didn't tell you?

STEFANIE

Tell me what?

FROST (O.S.)

That the girls National meet has been cancelled.

Stefanie turns around. Frost stands in front of her with a smirk on his face.

STEFANIE

What?

FROST

A real tragedy. Seems the funds were just too scarce this year.

STEFANIE

You can't do this!

FROST

Oh really? Because I think I just did. I told you to not cross me, but you kept challenging me.

STEFANIE

If you have a problem with me
Scott, deal with me like an adult!
Don't take it on the girls like a
child! They've done nothing to
you!

FROST

It's a little too late for that
now, Stefanie. Maybe next year our
finances will be more...

Frost cocks his head with a smile.

FROST (CONT'D)

...forgiving.

STEFANIE

You are the lowest form of scum
there is! I hope you know that.

Stefanie blows past Frost.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

The girls team huddles around Stefanie at the center of the
ice track. Sam stands in the back of the huddle. She tries
to make eye contact with Megan, which Megan refuses.

STEFANIE

Ladies, I have some bad news.
Coach Frost apparently has withdrew
the funds for the girls national
meet and in turn caused them to be
cancelled.

The girls all MURMUR with disbelief. Sam's jaw drops.

STEFANIE

I'm really sorry because I feel
that it is my fault it happened. I
don't want you to think you girls
have done anything wrong. Because
you haven't. But sometimes, things
just happened that you can't
control.

SAM

That's bullshit!

The girls all turn in Sam's direction.

STEFANIE

Sam, don't. It's not worth getting angry about.

SAM

Why not? This team has worked hard all season looking forward to this one meet and now we can't have it? Like hell I won't get angry!

STEFANIE

There's nothing we can do! End of story!

SAM

Why don't we just compete in the boys' meet?

STEFANIE

The meet has standards this year. All entrants must have a qualifying time to enter.

Sam narrows her eyes. Suddenly she walks off the ice.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Sam, where are you going?

Sam doesn't respond back.

INT. FITNESS CENTER - DAY

Sam storms through the hallways of the fitness center, looking for a particular office. Stefanie trails behind her.

STEFANIE

Sam, stop!

Sam finds the office she's looking for...

INT. FROST'S OFFICE - DAY

Frost sits in his office with Derek and Sidney. Sam BURSTS into the office.

SAM

Who the hell do you think you are?

The three guys all look at Sam with disbelief.

FROST

Excuse me, I'm having a meeting with my athletes. Please leave.

SAM

No! Tell me why you cancelled the girls meet!

FROST

It's none of your concern.

SAM

Yes it is! Those are my teammates!

Stefanie enters the office and positions herself behind Sam.

FROST

Stefanie, get your girl out of here.

SAM

Answer me, damnit! Why did you cancel it?

FROST

Because I could. And I did.

Sidney looks at Frost with a confused look.

FROST (CONT'D)

Is that what you burst into my office to hear? Well, there's your answer. Now leave.

SAM

No. That is not why I'm here.

FROST

Really? Then what is it that you are her for?

Sam pauses.

STEFANIE

Sam?

FROST

You want to compete in the boys meet?

SAM

That's right.

FROST

We have standards this year.

SAM
Standards which I'm sure I've hit.
I'm only half a second off of
Sidney's time.

Frost looks at Sidney with a disappointed look.

FROST
It is impossible for a girl to
compete in a boys meet.

SAM
I want to hear an official say it
is.

FROST
I don't have time for this.

SAM
What's wrong, Frost? Afraid a girl
might beat your boys?

SIDNEY
Coach...

Frost turns to Sidney.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)
Just call the official. Either
way, it doesn't matter.

Frost volleys his gaze between Sidney and Sam.

INT. ATHLETIC OFFICE, HEAD OFFICIAL'S DESK - DAY

Sam, Frost, and Stefanie anxiously sit at a desk where the
HEAD OFFICIAL, female, 40's, reads through a U.S.
SPEEDSKATING RULE BOOK.

The Head Official stops reading and places the book on her
desk.

HEAD OFFICIAL
There is no rule that says a girl
cannot compete in the boys meet.

Sam and Stefanie both smile.

FROST
This is ridiculous! This our
selection meet for the World
Championships, for crying out loud,
and it's turning into a circus!

HEAD OFFICIAL

Samantha Mueller has a season's best time of one minute fifty point ninety seven seconds run at the Utah Open II Meet. She is more than qualified with the A standard.

Frost rises from his chair.

FROST

This is a mistake!

Frost storms out of the office. Stefanie gives Sam a high five.

STEFANIE

Way to go, girl.

Sam and Stefanie get up to leave the office.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Samantha?

Sam turns.

HEAD OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

Give 'em hell.

Sam smiles.

SAM

I will.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

A state of the art campus eatery. Rows of tables filled with hungry athletes line the room.

Sam comes off of the food line and looks for a seat. She finds Megan sitting at one of the tables. Alone. Sam takes a deep breath and approaches her.

SAM

Hey.

Megan looks up at her quickly, then looks away.

SAM (CONT'D)

Can I sit?

Megan shrugs her shoulders. Sam sits.

SAM (CONT'D)

Listen. I know you're upset. I don't blame you. I should have told you when I first got here. I just didn't want you to think of me differently just because of my past.

Megan chews her food slowly as Sam speaks to her.

SAM (CONT'D)

All I know is that you're the coolest girl I've ever met. All the girls on the team are great. But you are the first friend I've ever had that just understood me.

Megan still doesn't respond. Sam pretends to look in the distance.

SAM (CONT'D)

Is that Derek?

Megan instinctively looks behind her...

No one. Sam starts laughing. Megan finally cracks a smile.

SAM (CONT'D)

There's the Megan I know!

MEGAN

I asked him out today, actually.

SAM

Really? What did he say?

Megan smiles.

SAM (CONT'D)

That's my girl!

They both pause.

MEGAN

I'm sorry. I just got so angry.

SAM

Don't worry about it. Just as long as you stay my best friend, you can do whatever you want.

Megan nods her head. Sam reaches over and gives her a hug.

MEGAN

So I hear you're competing in the boys meet this weekend. That's awesome.

SAM

Yeah. It's time to show these dudes that the ladies can hang with them as well.

MEGAN

You think you'll race against Sidney?

SAM

I'm counting on it.

Megan takes a sip of her drink.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'm going to win. For you and the girls. I'm going to win.

Megan smiles.

MEGAN

You're crazy.

SAM

I know.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - NIGHT

Sidney skates off the ice finishing his workout. Frost waits for him off of the ice.

FROST

I don't want you to race at Nationals.

SIDNEY

What? Why?

FROST

If that girl is going to be competing, the whole meet is going to be a big joke that the whole world will be laughing at.

Sidney's brow furrows.

SIDNEY

But she's qualified for the meet.
It's not like she's not good
enough.

FROST

You don't understand. If you race
against a girl, regardless of how
much you beat her by, it can only
hurt you.

Sidney removes his skates from his feet and places them in a gym bag.

SIDNEY

I'm racing.

Sidney walks away. Frost just shakes his head.

EXT. UTAH OLYMPIC OVAL - DAY

The big go. The former venue of the 2002 Olympic Games is now the site of the U.S. Junior National Speedskating Championships.

INT. UTAH OLYMPIC OVAL - DAY

The arena is three times the size of the Training Oval. A packed crowd crams in the stands awaiting the meet to start.

INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The sound of the crowd can even be heard from in here. Sam laces up her skates. She wears a brand new shiny USA speedsuit.

She finishes lacing her skates. She straightens up and takes a deep breath. She reaches into her gym bag and pulls out the photo of her and her father.

She stares at it for a moment, then places it inside her skate.

SAM

I'm gonna do this Dad.

INT. UTAH OLYMPIC OVAL - DAY

The athletes line along the straightaway of the extremely sophisticated ice track.

In the stands, Megan along with the entire Girls Team has assembled in one section of the crowd. They all wear their team warmups. Some even hold signs with Sam's name on them.

A FAMOUS SINGER nears the end of the National Anthem...

Sam peers down the line of skaters and finds Sidney. They meet eyes for a moment, but only stare at each other with black gazes.

The Famous Singer completes the National Anthem. The crowd gives a ROARING OVATION.

ANNOUNCER

Welcome to the United States Junior
National Speedskating
Championships. The selection meet
for the 2008 World Junior
Championships in Oslo, Norway.

LATER

Derek toes the line against another male racer.

ANNOUNCER

Finals. 500 Meters.

BAM! The race goes off.

Sam watches from the sideline. She is starting to get visibly nervous.

Across on the other side, Sidney watches the race as well. He appears to be calm and collected, but he watches the race intensely.

Derek rounds the final bend -- He surges for the finish line -
- He wins.

The crowd goes nuts.

Megan jumps with jubilation in the crowd.

Derek looks up at her from the ice and gives her a THUMBS UP. He smiles. Megan reciprocates.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Next on the ice. 1500 Meters.
Qualifying.

On the sideline, Sam gives Stefanie a confused look.

SAM

Qualifying?

STEFANIE

Yeah. You have to win your qualifying heat to make the final. Then you race one more time for the trip to Norway.

SAM

I have to race two times!?

STEFANIE

You can do it. Don't worry. Just win the qualifying round and you're in.

ANNOUNCER

First heat. Sidney Carlyle versus Marcus Taylor.

Sam turns to watch the race.

ICE

Sidney toes the line for his qualifying race. MARCUS toes the line in the adjacent lane.

OFFICIAL

Set...

BAM!

Sidney flies off of the line -- He rounds the first bend with a commanding lead.

Frost watches with determination in his eyes.

FROST

Throw it down, Sid!

Sidney skates like a madman. Like he has something to prove. He completes his first lap...

Sam watches with interest. Damn he's fast...

Sidney completes his second lap -- Marcus is not even going to finish within throwing distance...

FROST (CONT'D)

One more lap! Dig! Dig! Dig!

Sidney rounds the last curve -- This is going to be a fast time -- Maybe he'll finally break 1:50...

He tears through the finish line...

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS - QUALIFYING

1. CARLYLE, S. (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) - 1:50.00 NEW PERSONAL
BEST! QUALIFIED

SCENE

The crowd REACTS with amazement at the time.

Sidney skates off of the ice en route to Frost. Frost pats
him on the back.

FROST (CONT'D)
Nice qualifying time! Now let's
get that 1:49 in the final!

Sidney nods his head absently. He looks across the arena at
Sam.

Sam gives him an evil stare, then looks away.

ANNOUNCER
Next heat. Samantha Mueller versus
James Kim.

In the crowd, the girls all cheer their heads off.

MEGAN
Let's go, Sam!

TANIA
Show them how the girls do it, Sam!

On the sideline, Sam takes a few deep breaths.

STEFANIE
It's go time.

Sam nods her head and gets to her feet.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Sam.

Sam turns.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)
Remember. The smartest one wins
the race.

Sam nods her head.

ICE

Sam gets into a starting position on the ice. James gets ready as well next to her.

OFFICIAL

Set...

BAM! The race begins...

Sam blasts out of the start hard -- James does as well...

Stefanie watches from the sideline a nervous wreck.

On the ice, Sam comes around the bend -- James shoots around the bend quicker -- Takes the lead early...

Sam panics -- She pushes harder...

STEFANIE

No! Easy!

Sidney watches the race from his sideline while taking a swig of his water bottle. His eyes never leave Sam.

On the ice, Sam strains to catch up to James -- They pass through for their first lap -- James with a respectable lead.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

Relax! Don't tense up! You still have two more laps!

In the crowd, Megan and the girls shout encouragements down to the ice.

On the ice, Sam falls behind -- It's not looking good -- They round the second bend about to complete their second of three laps -- James's lead builds...

Frost watches from the sideline with a smile.

FROST

Welcome to the big leagues, girl.

On the ice, Sam tries to collect herself -- She takes a few breaths and relaxes her body.

Suddenly she starts to SURGE -- James's lead starts to diminish...

STEFANIE

That's it!

Sam closes the gap -- One more curve to go -- They come off of the curve -- James leading by the skin of his teeth...

Sidney watches from the sideline closely as the race comes to an end...

The finish line comes...

Sam wins!

The girls team EXPLODES with jubilation in the crowd.

Sam skates around the ice with her hands on her head. She can't believe it.

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS - QUALIFYING

1. MUELLER, S. (LOS ANGELES, CA) - 1:52.11 - QUALIFIED

SCENE

Sam comes off of the ice ecstatic. Stefanie gives her a huge hug.

STEFANIE (CONT'D)

You did it, Sam! You made the final!

On the other side, Frost shakes his head with disbelief. Sidney nods his head and walks away.

LATER

A LEADERBOARD in the rear of the arena shows the final standings. The top two for the final...

JUNIOR BOYS 1500 METERS - FINAL

1. CARLYLE, S. (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) - 1:50.00

2. MUELLER, S. (LOS ANGELES, CA) - 1:52.11

INT. LOCKER ROOM, HALLWAY - DAY

Sam walks through the hallway en route to the girls locker room. She turns the corner and comes face to face with...

Sidney.

They just stare at each other for a brief moment.

SIDNEY

Looks like we're racing in the final.

Sam doesn't respond.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)
Are you still mad at me?

SAM
Does it matter?

SIDNEY
Yes, it does!

Sam leans in close to Sidney.

SAM
Then that sucks for you. You
better not go easy out there,
either. You give it your all.

Sidney just stares at Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
Get out of my way.

Sidney moves so Sam can walk past him.

INT. UTAH OLYMPIC OVAL - DAY

Sam exits the locker room tunnel. As she walks past the
stands...

VOICE (O.S.)
Samantha!

Sam looks up to find...

THE JUDGE that sentenced her to this place at the beginning
of the film!

SAM
Hi!

JUDGE
I guess you can see I'm a big
speedskating fan. I hope you don't
think I was being too biased.

SAM
Not at all. I believe I should
thank you. For everything.

JUDGE
You keep up the good work, Miss
Mueller. I am very impressed.

SAM
I will, Your Honor. Thank you.

Sam walks towards the ice, a new smile back on her face.

LATER

The final. Sam and Sidney line up behind their starting marks on the ice.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen. Now on the ice. The final of the Junior 1500 Meter Championship. This race will determine the United States' sole representation at the World Junior Championships in Oslo.

The crowd ROARS.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

In lane 1, from Los Angeles, California. The women's World Junior Record Holder, Samantha Mueller!

Samantha holds her hand up like a champion gladiator. The crowd shouts their praise for her.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And in lane 2, from Salt Lake City, Utah. The defending National Junior Champion, and number one ranked skater in the United States, Sidney Carlyle!

Sidney just stands motionless, filled with focus. The crowd gives him an equally impressive ovation.

OFFICIAL

Take your mark...

Sidney and Sam loosen their bodies up and toe the starting line.

On the sideline, Stefanie puts her hands in front of her face in a praying gesture.

On the other side, Frost tries to remain calm, but underneath this tough exterior, his emotions are anything but.

OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

Set...

As Sam and Sidney get into position, everything goes SILENT. Total silence. Only their breathing can be heard...

POW!

And it starts...

Sam ROCKETS forward -- She gets the early jump on Sidney -- Sidney pushes forward as they enter the first of six curves...

SAM'S POV:

The ice flies by at an incredible speed. The curve is navigated at blinding speed...

SCENE

Sam rounds the first curve -- Sidney comes off close behind...

The straightaway is covered at an even quicker speed -- Sam and Sidney switch lanes -- Sam maintains her lead going into the second curve...

The first lap is almost complete -- Sam keeps her lead as the two of them pass the finish line -- Two more laps left...

Sidney digs in -- Starts to gain some ground -- They hit the curve again -- Sidney nearly overtakes Sam on the curve, but they come off of it with Sam still in the lead.

The back straightaway is a breeze -- They switch lanes again -- Sidney overtakes the lead -- He rounds the curve creating a gap...

Sam curses herself -- She reaches down deep -- Puts it in overdrive -- She skates the straightaway leading to the final lap...

The two cross the finish line for the penultimate time -- A bell rings indicating the FINAL LAP -- Sidney keeps the lead heading in to the second to last curve...

SAM'S POV:

Sam sees Sidney just ahead of her. He's just in distance to skate past, but he is just too fast...

SCENE

They come off of the curve -- Sam gains a little ground but Sidney maintains the lead -- The race is almost over -- If she's going to take him it's going to have to be soon...

Sam and Sidney switch lanes for the last time -- Sam crosses Sidney and comes side by side with him -- It's going to come down to wire...

The two skaters skate towards the screen in unison -- Their styles are exactly the same -- They weave back and forth trying to cover the ice track faster than the other...

Only 50 Meters left -- Still neck and neck -- The crowd is deafening -- 10 Meters...

They cross the finish line...

No one can tell who is the winner...

Stefanie and Frost both look at the scoreboard. So do Megan and the girls in the stands...

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR 1500 METERS FINAL

CARLYLE, S. (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) --:--.--
MUELLER, S. (LOS ANGELES, CA) --:--.--

SCENE

The entire arena goes silent, waiting for the times to appear. The suspense is excruciating...

SCORES TABLE

The officials compare photo finish pictures with each other trying to decipher the winner...

SCOREBOARD:

JUNIOR 1500 METERS FINAL

1. MUELLER, S. (LOS ANGELES, CA) - 1:49.998
2. CARLYLE, S. (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) - 1:49.999

CONGRATULATIONS SAMANTHA MUELLER NEW 1500 METERS NATIONAL CHAMPION!!!

SCENE

Stefanie jumps up in the air with happiness. The girls in the crowd do the same as well.

Frost drops his head with defeat on the other sideline...

Sam holds her hands up victorious as she skates like a chicken with its head cut off around the ice.

Sidney skates over to Sam and whispers in her ear.

SIDNEY

Happy now?

Sam turns and gives Sidney a confused look. Sidney just stares at her with a painful gaze and turns away.

He skates off the ice. Frost meets up with him.

FROST

You are a failure! Do you have any idea how you've ruined yourself?

SIDNEY

Yeah I do. The day I left Stefanie for you was the day I became a failure. I'm done with you, Frost.

Sidney walks past him.

FROST

Fine! Be a loser! See if I care!
I only care about winners!

On the ice, Stefanie runs out to Sam and hugs her. The girls team follows suit and floods the ice en route to Sam. They all surround her and bear hug her.

EXT. UTAH OLYMPIC OVAL - NIGHT

Sam exits the arena into the crisp Utah night. She notices someone ahead...

Sidney, sitting on a bench, head in his hands.

Sam summons up all her courage and approaches him. She reaches him.

SAM

Hey.

Sidney doesn't respond. Sam sits down next to Sidney.

SAM (CONT'D)

So you finally broke 1:50, huh?

Sidney looks up at Sam. He looks like he is desperately trying to keep from crying.

SAM (CONT'D)

I didn't race today to rub it in your face. I hope you know that.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I did it because the girls on the team needed someone to look up to. They have been disappointed year in and year out by Frost, something needed to be done.

Sidney still doesn't respond.

SAM (CONT'D)

Look if you have a girlfriend, that's fine. I won't get in your way. Just tell me to stay away and I will.

SIDNEY

I don't have a girlfriend. The girl I liked told me to leave her alone.

SAM

But that Spanish girl...

SIDNEY

I tried to tell you. Old history. She didn't like me. She liked the status that came with being with me. She came back hoping to ride my coattails. So I told her to take a hike.

SAM

Really?

Sidney nods his head.

SIDNEY

Like I said before, I've never met a girl like you. And I don't want to meet anybody else. You're the one I want.

Sam smiles.

SAM

Sidney...

Sam reaches over and gives Sidney a hug. After they release, they give each other a warm, deep, passionate kiss.

FADE TO:

INT. COLIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam sits in front of Colin's desk, now wearing a WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD MEDAL around her neck.

COLIN
So Miss World Junior Champion.

Sam smiles. She likes the sound of that.

COLIN (CONT'D)
You're six months are up. I gave the Judge and outstanding report on your development and he says that all charges will be dropped immediately.

SAM
Thank you.

COLIN
So are you ready to head back to Los Angeles.

Sam looks to the side. She ponders for a moment. She returns her gaze back to Colin.

SAM
Nah.

COLIN
Oh? And why is that?

SAM
I think I like it here.

Colin smiles.

COLIN
I see. Well I don't see a problem with that.

Colin holds a hand out.

COLIN (CONT'D)
It was nice meeting you, Samantha.

SAM
You too, Colin.

Sam leaves the office. Colin returns to his paperwork.

INT. TRAINING OVAL - DAY

Sam, Sidney, Derek, and Megan all skate onto the ice.

SAM

Are you sure want to do this?

SIDNEY

I should ask you the same thing.

Sam laughs.

SAM

Hey, I beat you once. Shouldn't be too hard to do it again.

SIDNEY

Yeah, but I have Stef's training under my belt now. So don't sleep on me.

MEGAN

Okay, let's do this!

Sidney and Sam skate to their respective starting lines. Megan skates in front of them and holds her hands up.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

On your marks!

Sidney and Sam get into position to race.

SIDNEY

Wait.

Sidney skates over to Sam. He wraps his arms around her and gives her a kiss.

SAM

What was that for?

SIDNEY

Go!

Sidney skates off down the track.

SAM

Cheater!

Sam skates after him.

Derek skates over to Megan and wraps his arms around her waist behind her as they both laugh at Sam and Sidney.

DEREK
You got her, Sid!

MEGAN
Whatever! That's Sam Mueller we're
talking about!

Sam and Sidney round the curve and head onto the straightaway
for one more race.

FADE OUT.

THE END