FADE IN.

EXT. VIDEO OF BARRY SANDERS

JAY (V.O.)

When I was a kid, Barry Sanders was the man. Without a doubt the greatest running back that ever ran the football. In his junior year in college Barry ran for an incredible 7.6 yards a carry. A total of 2600 yards – still a record today. Barry got drafted by a bad team, the Detroit Lions – one of the worst teams in the NFL. He still averaged 5 yards a carry and ran for over 15,000 yards. If Barry was on a good team what could he have done? In the history of the NFL nobody ran backwards more than Barry Sanders as he tried to break free on every play and score. Even more amazing is that Barry Sanders was only 5’8 and weighed 200 pounds. I would watch his films over and over again, mesmerized.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY.

Cold November Afternoon.

A High School football game is underway, Some 10 years ago.

Quarterback GUS REYNOLDS, 18 is a chiseled young man and who looks like a great leader. Gus yells a play as steam comes out of his mouth in the cold air as he stands behind the center.

Gus is hiked the ball and looks to his right and flips the ball into the air.

Running Back JAY FRANKLIN 18, is a strong, lean and fast young man in tremendous physical condition; a perfect running machine. Jay bandaged hand grabs the floating ball in one hand and just barely breaks through the line of tacklers on his right.

Jay’s bandaged hand has some leaking blood coming from the bandage and he darts to the right. Jay is dirty and battered but runs HARD and fast into the line of huge defensive linemen at top speed.

JAY (V.O.)
Some people say, its only a game.
That gets me angry. It was not a game to me. It was my life.

JAY (V.O.)
You really have to be insane to do what I did when I was 18 years-old.
Jay’s dirty, bloody bandaged hand reaches out and grabs the football in mid air.

JAY (V.O)
I used to run full speed into a line of guys who were 50 or 100 pounds heavier than me, with no fear.

Jay EXPLODES at top speed through the line with reckless abandon. Fantastic moves are made by instinct and they are superhuman in their speed and precision.

Jay stops on a dime to move to the left and right as tacklers miss him.

JAY (V.O.)
I thought that I could never be hurt. If I got just a little bit of daylight.. I was gone. I could control my adrenaline and at the right moment just explode. I thought I thought could score every time I got the ball.

Jay advances towards the defensive line of the opposing team and then explodes through a hole that appears out of nowhere.

JAY (V.O.)
I thought I was invincible. I thought nobody could stop me. I understood all the angles. I new when to stop and when to accelerate. Once I was in the backfield most of the time, it was a big gain. I did all this in high school. The peak of my life.
(Pause)
They called me a running machine.

The crowd goes crazy at the demonstration of amazing speed and power.

Jay quietly walks over to the official and hands him the ball, and is greeted by his teammates who hug him and leap in the air.

JAY (V.O)
Blessed with speed and ability one day and then it’s all gone. Just one play and its all over.
(Pause)
And now ..life is average.
EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A different game with a different team. An evil jealous glare from number 66 a huge linebacker on the other team.

Number 66 purposely shoves his shoulder into Jay’s knee. Jay is writhing in pain after the tackle.

An official throws a flag near the play.

A crowd of Jay’s teammates gather and push number 66 aside.

JAY (V.O.)
It all happened so fast. All gone.
Once abandon was gone it was over.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A doctor points to an x-ray showing that Jay’s knee is for the most part, beyond repair. Jay’s football teammates are in the hospital room with him and some are crying, including Jay.

JAY (V.O.)
I knew I would have to become an ordinary person when I never felt ordinary.
(Pause)
Until I found the perfect woman. I knew the moment you met her that she was everything.

INT. NEW YORK CITY DELI - NIGHT.

A young woman, 27, brunette, MARY DONOVAN about 5’2’ waits in line at the deli. She is both beautiful and very cute.

Jay sees MARY for the first time as he stands behind her, she smiles at Jay.

JAY (V.O.)
So what do you do? How do you survive all this? This is what I did. This is my story.

INT. NEW YORK CITY TRAIN STATION.

Jay leaves the train and passes by crowds of typical unhappy New York and New Jersey commuters.

Jay darts and weaves through the crowd.
JAY (V.O.)
I hate my job, I have hated it for 3 years. Its boring and the train and all that sitting all day is killing me. I think about what my life could have been like if I was in the NFL right now, a running back. I think about Mary a lot, especially when I am riding the train.

INT. NEW JERSEY TRANSIT TRAIN - DAY.
Present Day.
Jay sits on the train with his head against the window as it vibrates against his head and he looks out the window at the passing houses and roads.

JAY (V.O.)
Now I ride the train every day, from New Jersey to New York City. This job was all I could get. At least its something. But its sure not Football.

INT. NYC OFFICE BUILDING - DAY.
Present Day.
Jay Franklin 29, is sitting in his very typical office cubicle surrounded by papers and a large screen PC.

Jay Looks at a poster of the NY Giants and a picture of his high school football team. The beginnings of a tear appear in Jay’s eye as he looks at the picture.

Jay’s phone rings, a startling overly loud ring.
Jay lifts the phone.

JAY
(Into phone)
Jay Franklin.
Hello, Rick.
You’re kidding.
(Pause)
Again?
That’s twice now.
That’s twice in 2 weeks already.
(MORE)
JAY (CONT'D)

(Pause)
Is this a trend? Should I expect this all the time? Yes I am a software developer, not a baby sitter to these people. It just means I have to stay with Gus again.
(Pause)
Yes. OK. Let’s work something out for the future. I don’t want to do this every week.
(Pause)
OK.

Jay hangs up the phone and dials another number.

JAY (CONT'D)

(Into phone)
Gus. You know what I am going to ask. By the time I get home it will be 1 am or worse and I will be dead for tomorrow. Yes, probably 10 PM again or later.

GUS (O.S.)

(Into phone)
You going to the VA again?

JAY

I am leaving at 3.

GUS (O.S.)

OK. Let me know how that goes. See you at 10.

JAY

Thanks for taking me in again. Bye.

Jay hangs up the phone.

FADE OUT.

INT. ELEVATOR. NEW YORK CITY VA HOSPITAL. PRESENT DAY.

Jay is in an elevator standing next to some other VETERANS, thinking.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY 10 YEARS AGO.

Jay waits for a football. Sound of a kick from the other side of the field.
Jay looks to his right and sees a cheerleader for the other team, who is looking right at him and smiling broadly.

CHEERLEADER
You fly baby! You Fly!

Jay looks up and sees the ball dropping down from the blue sky and catches it with ease.

Jay darts and runs for daylight at amazing speed as the cheerleader looks on, in awe.

Jay comes out of his daydream from his days as a superstar and we see another tear form in his eye.

PRESENT DAY.

INT. ELEVATOR NEW YORK CITY VA HOSPITAL – DAY.

A veteran is sitting in a wheelchair in the elevator next to Jay. He is missing his left leg.

VETERAN
Hi.

JAY
Hello, how are you?

VETERAN
As good as can be expected.

Jay leaves the elevator and enters a lounge nearby.

DAVID CASELLA is a veteran from Afghanistan. He is sitting at a table reading the paper. He is also missing a leg.

JAY
Hey man!

DAVID
Hey! Again! You’re a regular now. How many weeks in a row?

JAY
I got some OT at work so I thought I would leave early. Its a job that really, sucks.

DAVID
Nice to see you again. Still thinking about the NFL?
JAY
Can’t lie to you.

DAVID
Its time. Its been time. Life goes on.

JAY
The video set me back some.

DAVID
Saw it.

JAY
What did you think?

DAVID
Great memories. Something else.

JAY
Thanks.

DAVID
Who the hell put that out there?

JAY
We think it was Harvey, our high school tech guy. Nobody is sure.

DAVID
Don’t know that guy.

JAY
We think he made a copy for himself and kept it all these years.

DAVID
How were you before that video?

JAY
Much better than now. At least that animal is still in prison.

DAVID
He is paying his dues. Like the rest of us.

JAY
Like the rest of us.

DAVID
I mean the rest of us in here! Not you! You have all your limbs. I am missing a fucking leg, remember?
(MORE)
DAVID (CONT'D)
Stop feeling so fucking sorry for yourself all the time! You are a pain in my leg that I no longer have!

Jay is shocked by this attack.

Jay stands up, visibly shaken.

JAY
Sure thing. See you next week?

Jay leaves the lounge as David looks on angrily.

FADE OUT.

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT. LATER THAT DAY.

Jay Franklin is walking through the streets of NYC, it's a hot and bright summer night.

Jay walks through the crowd of people with a slight limp in his right leg.

Jay darts and weaves through the crowd showing amazing skill and speed, even despite his slight limp from his football injury.

Some onlookers notice Jay as he expertly moves through a huge crowd. Jay then turns and walks into a NYC Deli.

INT. NYC DELI - CONTINUOUS.

JAY enters the deli and quickly notices a very cute brunette woman in line, Mary Donovan, 27.

Jay quickly notices that several other men are looking at Mary. He smiles.

JAY stands back away, and tries to look at the store clerk and not at Mary.

Mary tries to juggle some cans and some fruit in her arms, and one of the cans starts to fall to the floor despite her efforts.

MARY
OH!

Jay not only juggles but catches the can in mid air.
Jay hands Mary a can of creamed corn.

Mary pauses looking at him and smiling.

Mary holds out her tiny hand for the can of creamed corn.

Jay hands her the can of creamed corn. He is overwhelmed.

Mary pauses looking at him and smiling.

Mary holds out her tiny hand for the can of creamed corn.

Jay hands her the can of creamed corn. He is overwhelmed.

Mary pauses looking at him and smiling.

Mary holds out her tiny hand for the can of creamed corn.

Jay hands her the can of creamed corn. He is overwhelmed.
JAY
Um. Peas?

Mary laughs and smiles and Jay.

MARY
Are you blushing?

JAY
I used to be in better shape.

MARY
You seem to be in good shape to me. And funny maybe?

JAY
Awkward. (Pause) You live in New York not just work here?

MARY
Right. Pretty close.

JAY
I live in New Jersey and work here. Nightmare train ride every day.

MARY
So sorry.

JAY
You get use to it. Like a hang nail.

MARY
I walk to work. Not like a hang nail.

They both smile.

JAY
Your name?

MARY
Mary.

JAY
Nice name Mary. It suits you.

MARY
How so?

JAY
You just look like a Mary. It fits you.
MARY
I will take that as a compliment.

MARY (CONT’D)
So what is your name?

JAY
Jay.

JAY (CONT’D)
Would you like to have some coffee, locally?

MARY
Coffee? Locally?

JAY
Yes, Coffee. With me?

MARY
I really don't drink coffee.

JAY
So what do you drink, Mary?

MARY
Tea.

JAY
Maybe they have tea too?

MARY
Maybe.

JAY
Is that a yes?

MARY
It's a maybe.

JAY
A maybe they have tea, or a maybe you will have tea, and coffee. With me?

MARY
Both.

Jay smiles. Unable to stop looking at her.

FADE OUT.
INT. NYC BAR - NIGHT

It's 10 PM in a dark, typical NYC bar. Five guys, all in their late 20’s and, close friends since high school.

ROONEY FOREMAN, 29 is the comedian of the group and in fact a part time professional stand up comedian in NYC. Rooney is 6’1, brown hair.

BILL THOMAS, 30 is the cerebral one and a lead salesman at a marketing firm. Bill is about 5’10, black hair, muscular and a bit overweight.

JILL THOMAS IS Bill’s wife, they have been married for 2 years.

GUS REYNOLDS, 30 is the leader (formerly the quarterback) and works in IT. Gus is about 6’2, brown hair and athletic.

DAVE CARSON, 30 works for an advertising firm in New York City.

OLIVIA JACKSON, 30 is Dave’s girlfriend.

Dave raises his beer glass high.

    DAVE
    To us and meeting like this every Friday, NEXT 50 years!. Assuming this hell hole bar is still here.

    GUS
    We will be 80 man.

    DAVE
    So?

    GUS
    At 80, I won't be in a bar drinking beer. I will be home, trying to find my teeth.

Bill sips some beer from his glass.

    JILL
    Any new women prospects?

    ROONEY
    I masturbate.

Some laugh and they all stare.
ROONEY (CONT’D)
Its New York and dating is a fortune. All I need is an old copy of playboy, a flashlight and junk mail. Masturbation is free.

BILL
So you do it to save money?

JILL
Sorry I asked that question.

OLIVIA
This group is a mine field.

JAY
Now how about our tradition?
Griping about our boring jobs.

GUS
Let's not talk about that today, there are bigger fish to fry.

OLIVIA
What fish?

Dave looks at Jay.

DAVE
You know what fish.

JAY
Oh, that fish.
(Pause)
It's only been 3 months, almost 4, OK.. It's been 102 days.. 103 actually.

ROONEY
Are you kidding me?

JILL
You are STILL counting the damn days?

JAY
So what?

GUS
Man, you need some professional help.
(Pause)
She isn't worth it.
(MORE)
GUS (CONT'D)
I mean, don't get me wrong, she was unbelievable, on a scale of 10 at least a 15, but this is going to kill you.

Olivia glares angrily at Gus.

OLIVIA
You think Mary is a 15?

Gus looks away, blushing.

JAY
You met her. My one in a billion. Nobody can ever compare to her.

Gus looks closely at Jay.

GUS
At least try and move on, work out, get drunk a few times. Something.

JAY
You know what? That worked. I am cured.

GUS
She was incredible.

OLIVIA
Incredible?

JAY
She is not serious about that other guy. She just wants me to stay away. The video did not help us.

They all drink and toast.

Jay reflects and looks at his beer glass, he looks very depressed. Olivia GLARES ad Gus.

FADE OUT.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT.

Some Months earlier.

Mary and Jay are about to go into the play LION KING. It's a cold night, you can see their breath in the cold air.
Jay cannot take his eyes off of Mary. He looks distracted, deep in thought.

MARY
What are you thinking?

Jay looks at Mary with awe.

JAY
I didn't realize. I do that all the time?

Mary laughs at him and looks up smiling.

MARY
You are really in love with me aren’t you?

Jay is overwhelmed. Unable to respond.

MARY (CONT’D)
You’re cute.

Mary Kisses Jay. Jay kisses her back.

Mary looks up at Jay.

MARY (CONT’D)
I found out you played Football in high school?

JAY
I ran the ball.

MARY
(Pause)
What was it like?

Jay Tries to hide his emotions.

JAY
I thought no one could stop me.

MARY
Good days back then?

JAY
(Long Pause).
Good and bad.

FADE OUT:

FLASHBACK TO:
EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Some 10 years earlier. A young Jay in a high school football
game.

The Jay’s friends are in their senior year in high school
playing for a chance at getting into the playoffs. They are
talking in the huddle.

GUS
Option pass over the middle, but if
that fails its Jay who is having
the game of his life!

The players pat Jay on the back.

CUT TO.

The COACH running and waving to Gus from the sidelines.

Gus calls a time out and walks over to the Coach.

COACH
Dutton, number 66. I think he is
afraid of looking bad against our
guy. There is a very small hole on
the right side. Run 42 DIVE Right.
42 DIVE right!

Gus runs back to the huddle.

GUS
42 DIVE right guys. 42 DIVE right.

JAY
(Smiles).
42 Dive right?

GUS
Yeah. You heard me. 42 DIVE
RIGHT!!! You got it!

CUT TO:

The coach on the sidelines watching the play intently.

He runs over to talk to his assistant.

COACH
He will break it.
The play starts. Jay stays back to block and then efficiently blocks an incoming linebacker and then fades to the right. Soon Jay is open and the quarterback flips the ball to him.

Jay makes some amazing moves to the sideline and then up the middle and down the field, passing everyone on the way. Jay then runs into a huge linebacker, number 66 - JEFFREY DUTTON, 18. Jeffrey is about 6’4 and a very strong linebacker.

Jay’s amazing moves make number 66 look ridiculous as he grabs for Jay and then just falls over futilely trying to reach him as Jay blows past him running another 30 yards and scores a touchdown.

Jay’s team is now up 17 points.

As the crowd goes crazy, Dutton throws his helmet in a demonstration of rage that is incredible. He is completely insane.

Jay’s teammates rush to the field to congratulate him.

CUT TO:

PRESENT DAY.

INT. MARY’S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Several weeks later.

Mary is in her Manhattan apartment looking at videos on YOUTUBE of Jay Franklin’s high school best moments.

Mary Chokes back her tears looking at the video.

Mary watches a second much more emotional video. The video this time is accompanied by a Frank Sinatra song, “Here’s to the winners”.

Mary starts to sob uncontrollably while watching this video.

Mary calls Jay.

MARY
(Into phone)
Jay? It's me Mary.

JAY (O.S.)
You’re voice. I know its you.
MARY
(Into phone)
Can we have dinner tomorrow night?
I know we were going to have dinner
on Friday but I need to see you
sooner.

JAY (O.S.)
Something wrong?

MARY
(Into phone)
Just really need to see you.

JAY (O.S.)
You don’t sound right.

MARY
(Into phone)
I just really love you.

JAY (O.S.)
You know I love you.

MARY
(Into phone)
Does your leg hurt?

JAY (O.S.)
No, why would you ask about my leg?

MARY
(Into phone)
I remember your leg thing.

JAY (O.S.)
Same place?

MARY
(Into phone)
Yes.

JAY (O.S.)
Mary I am worried, you don’t
sound right to me.

MARY (CONT’D)
(Into phone)
I am OK. Don’t worry.

CUT TO:

INT. A NYC RESTAURANT - NIGHT.

Mary and Jay are at dinner.

Mary is visibly upset.
MARY
Your YOUTUBE video.

Jay looks very annoyed.

JAY
Who told you about that video?

MARY
I did a search on Google. I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

Mary loses her composure.

JAY
Harvey put that together for the pep rally before the Championship game. Sorry you had to see that.

MARY
All the times you were hit so hard and just kept going.
(Pause)
Didn’t they hurt you?

JAY
It never hurt me when I got hit. Wind knocked out a few times.
Look at me now. I sit in a cubicle.

MARY
Nothing wrong with sitting in a cubicle.

JAY
My abandon was gone after the injury.

MARY
Your friends were right. You were something.

Mary starts to cry.

JAY
You know I can't stand it when you cry.

MARY
There was a second video about you. The Sinatra one. It was very upsetting. I can’t watch it again.
JAY
Harvey must have put that out in
the last few days. He is crazy.

MARY
I am so proud of you.

Jay wipes a tear away from Mary’s eye.

JAY
Videos are coming down.

MARY
Why?

JAY
Because I peaked in High School.
And look at you. Its not worth it.

Jay looks into Mary’s eyes.

MARY
We are happy, we are dating. We
will be OK.

Jay is barely able to handle his emotions.

JAY
We will be OK, I know it.

FADE OUT.

INT. NEW YORK CITY BAR - DAY
Rooney, Dave and Bill are sitting at their traditional table.
Rooney is very drunk.

ROONEY
This life sucks ... Definitely for
me! I mean look at me for Christ
sakes.
(Pause)
8 years in this hellhole of a bar?
The bugs have taken over the mens
room.

Gus pauses a long time while looking at Rooney.

GUS
I don't want this guy to off
himself over a woman.
BILL
He is not the type. Besides if he didn't kill himself over losing his football career, why her?

DAVE
It's her plus Football this time. Loss of the fame and the money. Now her.

BILL
His whole life. It's running into a line at top speed not sitting on a train or a cubicle.

DAVE
I called Jay the other night. He kept drifting off, rambling.

BILL
Not good.

DAVE
Give it 2 more weeks we step in.
(Pause)
Mary is next, we have to ask her.

BILL
I thought things were going fine, and then one day this guy is about to off himself over her.

ROONEY
So, who goes?

GUS
I would say you, but you will make too many jokes.

ROONEY
This is serious stuff. I mean I am a comedian, but I can be serious, sometimes.

They all look at Rooney for a long while.

ROONEY (CONT'D)
OK. So I won't go.

GUS
Bill, you and I will go, two is enough.
BILL
Just don’t tell her why we want to see her, even though she will figure it out. She is cute, not stupid.

GUS
Thursday night? I will be working late that day.

BILL
OK.

ROONEY
If you guys are low on “supplies”, give me a ring.

GUS
We don’t need any weed, but thanks.

BILL
Harvey. The videos.

GUS
I will find out where he lives. We can all go visit this guy, even Rooney.

ROONEY
Looking forward to seeing that guy again. Despite the glare.

FADE OUT

INT. MARY DONOVAN’S APARTMENT IN NYC – NIGHT.

Bill Rings Mary’s doorbell, its about 8:00 PM.

GUS
I hope she is home.

BILL
She said she would be here.

GUS
I hope she has coffee, I am a wreck.

BILL
Coffee unlike Weed is not the “cure all” drug for every situation.
GUS
It is for me.

BILL
(Smiles).
Man stop drinking so much of that shit.

Mary answers the door wearing very casual cloths at the very moment Bill uses the “S” word.

MARY
Hello guys. Come in. I think?

Bill whispers to Gus.

BILL
God she is so cute.

Gus whispers to Bill.

GUS
Unbelievably cute.

MARY
Coffee?

GUS
Yes. I have no pulse.

GUS (CONT’D)
The train. My girlfriend. My job. General hatred of working for other people. More rambling you have heard before.

BILL
I wish we all never left high school. The high point of my life was when I was 19.

MARY
I remember those evenings where you guys would hang out with Jay and talk about how all your jobs suck. Except Rooney of course, who likes what he does.

BILL
Rooney should be in several mental institutions at the same time.

MARY
Funny and crazy go together.
GUS
So. (Looks at Bill)

MARY
I know why you guys are here. How is Jay?

BILL
We have his back, all of us would lay down our lives for that guy. Maybe we are overstepping?

MARY
You’re not overstepping. I cried all night, that second video. The dinner with my mom and dad was a disaster.

GUS
What happened?

MARY
My Dad wants the best for me, and thought that Jay was living for when was in high school.

GUS
Jay didn’t tell us.

MARY
He actually said that I made him feel like he was in high school. He thinks he is a loser if he can’t run.

BILL
Is this even fixable

MARY
Don’t know.

BILL
Jay was the biggest College and NFL prospect maybe of all time. Then an average life? (Long Pause) I don’t think you guys should give up.

MARY
I can’t be responsible for rescuing a man who is living years in the past
BILL
This whole thing is killing him. We are all very worried.

Gus pauses loses his composure.

GUS
My God he loves you. I have never seen love like this.

MARY
I'm sorry! I can’t do this anymore.

Mary walks away losing her composure and then turns around looking at Gus.

How is he? Is he really that bad?

GUS
He is still seeing the same therapist. All he does is count the days.

MARY
Count the days? What?

BILL
Jay counts the days in his head since you and he are no longer seeing each other.

MARY
Insane. That is just. God!

GUS
We are starting to get desperate.

Mary is visibly upset.

GUS (CONT’D)
We had to tell you, sorry you found out this way.

MARY
Maybe you should get him more professional help. Before he.

BILL
Kills himself? GUS
Kills himself?

MARY
Yes. Before he kills himself.
BILL
We don't think he is quite there yet.

Mary, in emotional agony.

MARY
I am trying to move on, why can't he?

GUS
He never gave up on a play. That's why.

MARY
That's what killed us.

BILL
So what about this other guy?

MARY
What other guy?

BILL
That other guy that Jay said you were dating. And are you crazy?

MARY
I told Jay this so he would forget about me. And I think I am crazy after all of this.

Gus is getting angry.

GUS
Mary! He can never forget about you. You are it for him, the love of his life. Nobody forgets about the love of their life.

BILL
Do you still love Jay?

MARY
What?

BILL
You heard me. Do you still love Jay?

MARY
It's none of your business. Of course I do.
GUS
Is there anything we guys can do?

MARY
What is so wrong with being just
Jay? That's all I ever wanted. All
he talked about was being super
human, about being a hero.

Mary loses her composure.

He was a hero just being a regular
guy. Taking the train into New
York. Day by day grind, like most
everybody. (Pause) He was already
my hero and he never even knew it!

Gus is visibly moved.

GUS
I think he just thought that to be
worthy of you he had to be Jay from
10 years ago.
(Pause)
It's the highest compliment he
could ever give you.
(Pauses a long time)
When you think about it.

Mary sighs, about to cry.

MARY
He just could never be just normal
and be happy. He could never move
on, from what he was.

GUS
Is it OK for us guys to keep in
touch with you? I mean we kind of
love you too.

Mary stands up and hugs both Gus and Bill, she tries to hold
back her tears.

MARY
Bill?

BILL
Yes?

MARY
Is that your hand?
EXT. NYC APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY.

All the guys except for Jay are in front of HARVEY MEYER’s Manhattan apartment. Harvey is 30 and is a super star computer genius and the biggest fan Jay Franklin ever had.

Gus is standing in front of Harvey’s apartment, looking at his watch... waiting.

GUS
About time. It’s been 20 minutes.

BILL
There is a rumor about traffic in New York, have you heard?

ROONEY
Are you sure this is Harvey’s place? It’s fucking upscale.

GUS
Turns out bald nerdy Harvey is rich. Some kind of a top .NET Developer. Whatever the hell .NET is.

BILL
It’s software development for the overworked and insane. Some guys I know.

Rooney rings the doorbell for Harvey’s apartment and talks into the front door intercom.

HARVEY
Yes?

ROONEY
(Into speaker)
Harvey.
(Pause)
Do you remember the guys from high school? The championship team?

HARVEY
Yes.
ROONEY
(Into speaker)
Four of us are here to see you.

HARVEY
Is Jay there?

ROONEY
(Into speaker)
No.

HARVEY
Why not?

ROONEY
(Into speaker)
Because he's not here, that's why.

HARVEY
How do I know it's you guys?

Rooney looks at Bill and Gus.

ROONEY
(Into speaker)
Ask us something.

HARVEY
What was the score at halftime of the championship game.

ROONEY
(Into speaker)
17-0

HARVEY
OK, who scored the first touchdown?

BILL
(Into speaker)
Jay did Harvey.

HARVEY
How did he score.

BILL
(Into speaker)
How do you think? He ran the ball!

HARVEY
From where?
BILL  
(Into speaker)  
Harvey this is getting stupid, let us up.

HARVEY  
FROM WHERE! What yard line?

BILL  
(Annoyed. Looks at Rooney)  
I don't know this one.

Turns to ask Dave.

BILL (CONT'D)  
How long was that run?

Looks at Dave who is not sure.

HARVEY  
Well?  
BILL (CONT'D)  
Wait man! Jesus Christ!

DAVE  
(To Bill)  
I think it was a 79 yard run.

BILL  
Are you sure?

DAVE  
No.

BILL  
(Yells into the intercom)  
It was from the 21 yard line. He ran 79 yards Harvey. (Under his breath) what a nutcase.

HARVEY  
Bill (CONT'D)  
Are you sure?  
Yeah! Let us up for Christ sakes. Are you insane or something?

Harvey releases the apartment building’s front door and then Yells.

HARVEY  
AND IT WAS 72 Yards, NOT 79!

ROONEY  
(Into speaker)  
Who cares!
INT. HARVEY MEYER’S APARTMENT – DAY.

The guys walk up 3 flights of stairs and arrive at a very upscale NYC apartment building.

The door is open as they walk inside and they see Harvey in his living room surrounded by 3 large desktop computers, 2 laptop’s and about 5 other computer screens, discarded coffee cups and computer books.

Sitting in his huge chair facing them as they walk in, is a very bald 30 year old, Harvey Meyer.

ROONEY
What is your electric bill? They can see this apartment from space and probably your head from what I can see.

HARVEY
Still a funny guy?

ROONEY
I think so.

HARVEY
I saw your act. You're not that funny.

ROONEY
As Swayze said in “Road House”. “Opinions vary”. Are you trying to start your own solar system?

Takes a marble out of his shirt pocket and places it next to Harvey’s very bald head.

ROONEY (CONT’D)
Hey guys, I think this is actually to scale? What do you think? Jupiter, the planet Earth?

HARVEY
(Pause)
Are you done?

ROONEY
Only for now. There is more coming.

HARVEY
I can’t wait for the next brilliant zinger!

(MORE)
HARVEY (CONT'D)
And you did this stupid joke with the marble in high school.

ROONEY
So what it still works.

HARVEY
Opinions vary.

DAVE
Rooney, we are here for a higher goal, remember?

HARVEY
Why the hell are you guys here anyway?

DAVE
The YOUTUBE videos you put out. What else?

HARVEY
I love Sinatra.

DAVE
You love Sinatra?

HARVEY
Something wrong with Sinatra?

BILL
Jay was bouncing back pretty good for a few years before you pulled this stupid stunt. You put him back about 8 years!

HARVEY
No way.

BILL
He is a mess. And thanks from all of us.

HARVEY
So what is wrong with him anyway, and why didn't he come?

BILL
Let's just say, we all have his back.

ROONEY
He lost his girl because of these videos you put out.
HARVEY
You’re fucking kidding me. She sees what he did and is not impressed? Is she a Tennis player or something?

DAVE
He is living in the past. Your stupid videos made it worse.

HARVEY
Man! Try to do something good!

DAVE
Time to take them down!

HARVEY
It’s been six months for Christ sakes! Now you come here?

ROONEY
So what the hell made you put those videos out there after all these years?

HARVEY
People have to know what we all saw. What could have been. That’s why I did it.

ROONEY
(Pause)
I remember what we saw. I was on the field blocking.

HARVEY
So I used YOUTUBE. So what.

Harvey starts typing very fast on his most impressive looking and most expensive laptop.

HARVEY (CONT’D)
OK. Both videos are no longer on line.
(Long pause)
I hacked the Rahway prison computer. #66 gets out next week.

The all look at each other.

DAVE
We can’t catch a break. Why is he getting out?
BILL
Overcrowding most likely.

HARVEY
#66 is not over that play. He saw the video and it set him off. He thinks Jay cost him a college scholarship and the NFL.

BILL
Makes total sense to me. Football play, or was it the gas station he robbed after a stabbing a guy?

ROONEY
(To Dave).
You think he could be planning something when he gets out?

DAVE
(Angrily to Harvey)
You know this is all we need!

HARVEY
How is that?

DAVE
Why would you think that number 66 would not see the video in prison?

HARVEY
In prison? How could that happen?

DAVE
All this brain power and you do something this stupid. All you need is a bad cell phone today to see a video on YOUTUBE for Christ Sakes.

HARVEY
(Pauses)
I wanted to honor our guy.

DAVE
This psycho probably killed some guys in prison. And now he gets out?

HARVEY
Alert the cops. Obvious solution.
DAVE
Right. Tell them some sick criminal is pissed off about one play in a football game 10 years ago?

HARVEY
We should alert them. I have hacked into the Rahway prison and police computer many times.

DAVE
I don't think this will do any good. None of this shit is sounding good.

GUS
Rich Doyle. He’s a PI friend. I will call him.

HARVEY
If your PI friend needs some computer support, here is my card.

Harvey hands Gus his business card.

ROONEY
This whole thing is starting to get me nervous. In how many days exactly does he get out?

HARVEY
Six. He gets out next Friday at 5 PM.

ROONEY
Can you imagine what a fucked up mess this guy is after 10 years in prison?

DAVE
Harvey, any chance anyone has cloned that video of your’s and put it out there?

HARVEY
No, but I will check anyway.

DAVE
Of all of us, I think you are Jay’s biggest fan.

HARVEY
I know I am.
ROONEY
And the baldest. I hear you're some kind of a big time .NET Guy or something. Whatever that is.

HARVEY
I do OK. This apartment is 5K a month if that gives you any idea.

ROONEY
5000 a month for this place? That’s my food bill for 2 years.

HARVEY
What’s wrong with this place?

BILL
Once again guys, Priority. Let’s keep things on the same page OK?

Rooney places the marble next to Harvey’s head again.

ROONEY
Who the hell needs a planetarium anyway?

HARVEY
You should get some new jokes.

ROONEY
If it works it works.

BILL
Yeah, I was there. You did that same marble planetarium joke 10 years ago.

ROONEY
I got big laughs from that joke! And it’s the same marble by the way!

BILL
You still carry around the same marble from high school?

ROONEY
What? Is that weird?

Bill rolls his eyes.

ROONEY (CONT’D)
Those were some days. Man what an athlete.
DAVE
42 DIVE RIGHT!! One lousy play and then this whole thing started.

ROONEY
That was the play. What a play.
What a video.

HARVEY
It took me forever to get it right.
And now this.

BILL
More than just the video. It's that one play and one crazy jealous bastard.

FADE OUT.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY.

A high school pep rally months before Jay's career ending injury. A film is being shown to the audience focusing on Jay Franklin's great runs. There is great music accompanying the video.

Jay is blushing and slumped into his chair.
Jays teammates look on with pride.
CAMERA PANS TO: 2 young men stand hidden in the back of the auditorium and they look very angry.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. THE BACK OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY.

Two members of the opposing High School team that Jay will be playing are present in the back of the auditorium. One of them is named JEFFREY DUTTON, 18, 6’4. The other is his friend JIM TURNER 18, 6’2.

Dutton turns to talk to his friend Jim, who is standing next to him in the back of the auditorium.

DUTTON
The party ends for superstar tomorrow. I am going to break one of those knees, doesn’t matter which one.
JIM
Nobody should be as lucky as this guy.

They turn to exit the auditorium.

DUTTON
Look at what he got! Where is my great day? I bust my ass out there, and nobody gives a shit. Where is my pep rally and video?

JUMP CUT TO:

The principal of the high school, a heavy set man in his late 50’s goes on stage to make an announcement. The crowd is very quiet.

PRINCIPAL
I have been the principal of this school for over 20 years. I have seen many athletes come and go. But this year something special has happened. Jay Franklin is quite simply, a running machine.

Pauses as the crowd cheers.

PRINCIPAL (CONT’D)
Harvey. Where is Harvey?

Spots Harvey in the crowd.

PRINCIPAL (CONT’D)
GREAT job with that video! As good as NFL films!

More applause.

The crowd of students starts cheering again very loudly, and yelling Jay, Jay, Jay. This goes on for some time.

The principal reads from a paper he is holding.

PRINCIPAL (CONT’D)
2,789 Yards in 12 games, 9 Yards a carry, all school and State records, and as you all just saw just some of the greatest breakaway runs we have ever seen. Congratulations on your (Pause) (MORE)
just incredible year. Jay come up here and say some words!

Jay slowly walks up the stairs to the stage as the audience goes crazy cheering for him and his great year of football.

Jay stands at the podium overwhelmed.

JAY
I just want to thank my teammates, without them I would never have been able to do. What I have done this year.

The crowd applauds and cheers.

Jay looks at his teammates in the crowd.

JAY (CONT’D)
People talk about when I get hit and don't go down or when I go down I just get back up.
(Pause)
It's all about getting up again.
(Pause)
And I just don't ever want to let you guys down.

Jay walks off the stage as the crowd explodes. .

Rooney looks at Jay and smiles with a big sarcastic Grin.

ROONEY
Nice speech guy.

Jay rolls his eyes.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. HARVEY’S APARTMENT - DAY.

ROONEY
Public speaking. Definitely not Jay’s strongest suit.

HARVEY
What he said came from the heart. That guy had more heart than anyone.

GUS
So much heart and its all gone in one play.
ROONEY
One horrible play.

FADE OUT.

EXT. THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - DAY.

Jay’s team ahead 28-7 with 5 minutes left in the game.

DAVE
Jay, 40 Yards away from 200.

JAY
Number 66 over there has been on me
the whole day. He’s shooting for my
knees.
(To his offensive line)
Keep that animal off of me. BLOCK!

They all break up and huddle and line up.

The play begins, and Jay runs into number 66 again, its a
hard cheap hit, grabbing Jay’s face mask.

DUTTON
You didn’t like that asshole? Come
on! Come on.

Aggressively beckoning Jay to fight him.

DUTTON (CONT’D)
Come on, don't you have balls man?
Come on! FIGHT ME!

JAY
You're sick. That's going to cost
you 25 yards shit head.

Dutton attacks Jay but its broken up by the other players.

DUTTON
Hey golden boy! You're afraid of
me aren't you! You're afraid of
me! I will kill you! You're mine on
the next play.

JAY
I ain’t afraid of nobody.

The 2 boys are broken up. Jay is back in the huddle.
ROONEY
The guy is a real animal. I hear he pulled a knife on a guy at school last year. What is his problem? Anybody got any XANEX?

GUS
Oh yeah, I got 2 pills in my fucking helmet?

ROONEY
JOKE. That was a Joke? Ever hear about Jokes? However, if you were serious cough it up.

JAY
One thing for sure is he doesn't like me. And what is this Golden Boy shit?

ROONEY
He's sure not talking about me.

Jay smiles.

GUS
OK, now that was funny.

On the next play Jay makes an amazing move and breaks down the field for 30 hard Yards, 5 more than he promised. They break and are back in the huddle for the next play.

Dutton is murderous. IN a state of fury, wants to kill Jay. They are back in the huddle.

DUTTON
I will kill you man!! I will kill you!!

DAVE
Use your moves, stay clear of this guy. Let's get you 10 Yards on this play. Stay towards your right, he is weak laterally going to his left.

Jay nods.

They all clap and separate.

Dutton is fuming. Looking at Jay. Wants to KILL HIM.

Dutton talks to the player next to him.
DUTTON
I am going to break this muthafucker.

The play breaks and Jay goes up the middle and then makes an amazing move to the left, Number 66 hits him on his left knee, a horrible dirty cheap shot trying to cripple him.

The blow and ends Jay’s career, because of the angle of the blow and the severity. Jay lays on the field in incredible pain, screaming.

Jay’s teammates gather around closely.

Dutton looks on, with a very evil smile.

Several of Jay’s teammates jump on Dutton and a fight ensues.

FADE OUT.

INT. A LOCAL HOSPITAL – DAY.

Jay Franklin is surrounded by 2 nurses and an orthopedic surgeon.

DOCTOR
We looked at your x-ray. It’s bad.
All the tendons are ripped, and your knee needs the full surgery. It really doesn't look good for football. I am sorry.

JAY
It can't be that bad. It can't be.
No!!

Jay rolls around in bed realizing that his entire life will never be the same. Will never be what he hoped.

Jay’s 4 friends run into Jay’s hospital room.

GUS
So what’s the story, what’s it looking like?

Rooney stops in his tracks when he sees the faces of the doctor and Jay distraught.

ROONEY
Any chance, there could be good news in this room?

The doctor and 2 nurses leave the room, leaving Jay and his 4 close friends alone in the hospital room.
JAY
They say it's not looking good. But I will prove them wrong. I am coming back from this, I can promise you.

DAVE
You bet you will. We are all behind you man. Like we always are. You will be better than ever. NFL man! NFL!

Rooney fights hard to not cry.

Jay's friend gather around the hospital bed.

FADE OUT.

EXT. RAHWAY STATE PRISON - DAY.

Present Day.

Dutton and his friend Jim are out in the yard talking and walking through the yard.

DUTTON
I get out of here in 2 months. I lost College and the NFL because of video boy.

JIM
I remember those days man. You me and the Judge.

DUTTON
I got plans when I get out of this hell hole.

JIM
What plans?

DUTTON (CONT'D)
Franklin. Got a score to settle Nobody cared about me and I was the best. (Pause) I was the best linebacker in the State and nobody gave me my due because of him.

JIM
I thought you busted him up pretty good in high school. Ain't that enough?
DUTTON
No it ain't enough. I want to really get this guy this time. Get him good. Where he lives.

Dutton pulls out a picture from the newspaper from the grand opening a NYC restaurant. In the background is a picture of Jay an Mary in the background having dinner.

DUTTON (CONT'D)
See this bitch here in the background?

JIM
She is something. What are you going to do?

Dutton looks at Jim with a very evil smile.

DUTTON
You’ll see. In about 2 months when I get out of here.
(Pause)
A date in HELL.

JIM
You sure got me curious.

DUTTON
I challenged that wimp to fight. Franklin disrespected me in front of my team. Time to pay.

Another prison inmate comes up behind Dutton and Jim.

INMATE
Hey, you guys got some cigs?

JIM
No man. What do I look like a WaWa?

INMATE #1
Just asking man. No need to get in a mood.

DUTTON
A mood. Who the fuck are you talking to? We are walking here, conducting business, show some respect.

INMATE
What’s that you say? DUTTON (CONT'D)
So you’re deaf and ugly and stupid too?
The inmate gets nose to nose with Dutton.

INMATE
Care to make this interesting?

DUTTON
Sure asshole, why not? I haven’t kicked the living shit out of anyone in about a day.

JIM
Hey guys, its just cigarettes.

DUTTON (CONT'D)
Shut up man.

Dutton very quickly and efficiently starts punching out the other inmate. Quick hard punches to his face and stomach and soon 2 of his friends come over and are soon destroyed by Dutton.

The LOUD sounds of sirens go off from the prison and all the men drop to the ground and cover their heads.

JIM
Remind me to never get on your bad side.

DUTTON
In the future keep your fucking mouth shut when I am conducting business.

JIM
No problem.

Jim and Dutton put their heads to the ground.

FADE OUT.

INT. A NYC RESTAURANT - NIGHT.

Mary and Jay are sitting at a table at the more private end of the restaurant.

MARY
So, you look rather dapper tonight on our 5th date.

JAY
Wow. This is the first time I have ever heard you use that word.

MARY
Dapper?
JAY
Yes. Coming from you, it's very cute.

MARY
You think everything I say is cute.

JAY
Yes I do. You are cute.

Jay laughs looking at Mary’s cute tiny hands.

MARY
What are you laughing at?

JAY
(Blushes)
It's your hands Mary.

MARY
What about them?

JAY
Nothing.

MARY
You think they are cute? And tiny. You think my hands are tiny and cute, don't you?

JAY
Yes. They are very tiny and very cute. They make me want to protect you and take care of you.

MARY
Really? JAY (CONT’D) Yes, really. It's a nice word don't you think?

MARY
Cute?

JAY
Yes.

MARY
Tiny?

JAY
Yes.

Mary leans over and kisses Jay.
JAY (CONT'D)
Mary you are so delicate so perfect
for me.

MARY
Delicate, a new word to love?

JAY
It's perfect for you.
(Pause)
As far as this place? I don't like
it. It's too noisy and dark. Let's
not come here again.

MARY
I agree. I liked the last place we
went to. Near 80th.

JAY
Yes. I like that too. It was quiet
and small and just right.

MARY
Don’t you mean it was tiny and
cute? We can still go there if you
want?

JAY
That is kind of a long walk from
here.

MARY
So is my apartment.

Jay do you love me?

JAY
My God
(Pause)
What a question.
(MORE)
I can’t even keep my composure around you. I say stupid things all the time. Of course I do. (Hesitantly) Do you love me?

MARY
Yes. I know I do. I think I knew it when we first met.

JAY
I knew it, first second I saw you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT.

Jay and Mary make love for the first time at her apartment.

INT. MARY’S APARTMENT – DAY.

The next morning.

It’s a bright stunning Sunday morning. The sun shines through the windows – the only light in the room.

MARY
Good Morning.

JAY
Good Morning to you. You were perfect last night.

MARY
Feel the same about you.

Jay leans over and kisses Mary and holds her hands.

Mary smiles and hugs Jay.

MARY (CONT’D)
Just how you were able to run like that. What you did. I had to force myself to stop watching.

Jay looks away from Mary.

JAY
When I worked out.. Not all the time.

(MORE)
JAY (CONT'D)
But sometimes if I didn't faint or cough up blood, it wasn't a work out. I was willing to do whatever it took to be the best of all time. Its all I cared about. That has never gone away.

Mary looks at him mortified.

MARY
That is just so insane.

JAY
I was insane when I was eighteen. I wanted to be a running machine. I didn't care what it took, or if I died. I had to be the best the fastest. I was willing to go there, and risk everything.

MARY
For someone so young, only 18. That doesn't sound normal.

JAY
The problem is being normal now. I am not good at average.

Mary notices Jays right knee for the first time and the huge scar.

MARY
There is nothing wrong with being normal.

Jay notices Mary staring at his scar.

JAY
Its eight inches in case you were wondering.

MARY
Did it hurt?

JAY
It still hurts sometimes. Cheap doctor, we were poor. Probably not the best job, unfortunately.

MARY
Sorry, Jay.

Mary reaches out and touches Jay’s battered knee.
JAY
Once I lost my abandon. It was all over. Now I ride the bus.

Mary Kisses him while rubbing his leg and knee.

JAY (CONT’D)
Every time I am with you, a bad thing goes away.  
(Pause)
When I am with you, I am in high school again.

MARY
What is wrong with who you are now?

JAY
I don't think who I am now is good enough sometimes to be with you.  
(Pause)
Someone so perfect, with average guy.

MARY
That... messes, things up in my head.

JAY
It's how I feel.

MARY
I love the man I am with now. I never even met the superstar running back from high school.

JAY
I am still the guy in high school in my head.

MARY
Who you really are, is who you are now. You are Jay Franklin. The man I love right now.

JAY
I want you to know who I was when I was somebody.

MARY
You're living in the past, it's going to kill us.

JAY
I don't think you understand me.
Mary stands up, upset.

**MARY**
Forget high school. Forget that video. I want to live now OK?

Jay stands looking at Mary.

**JAY**
Yes. Yes we can. Of course we can, sorry Mary. Sorry I upset you.

They embrace. Mary is no longer able to hold back her tears and just sobs in his arms.

FADE OUT.

**EXT. MARY’S PARENTS HOUSE IN SPRING LAKE NEW JERSEY - DAY.**

Mary and Jay stand in front of her parents house before ringing the doorbell. When the door opens, JOHN DONOVAN 55 and NADINE DONOVAN 50, stand in the doorway.

**MARY**
Don't be intimidated by my father. He is not only a huge football fan, but like you, he loves the Giants!

Jay fidgets standing at the front door with Mary. Mary adjusts Jay’s collar.

**JAY**
I am nervous.

**MARY**
You will be fine! I think my Dad might have seen your video too!

**JAY**
Really?

**MARY**
Yes, really!

**JAY**
That may not be a good thing.

The door opens. Mary’s parents stand at the entrance, NADINE DONOVAN 53, and JOHN DONOVAN 55.

They are both beaming.
NADINE
Mary!
Nadine hugs Mary.
Nadine then hugs Jay.

NADINE (CONT’D)
So nice to finally meet you.

JAY
You too. I have heard many nice things about you too, both of you.

JOHN
Hello.

John holds out his hand awkwardly
They shake hands.

JAY
Nice to meet you sir.

JOHN
Hey, no need for the sir.

JAY
OK. Dad maybe?

JOHN
No, not that either. Just call me John.

JAY
OK, no problem, thanks John.

NADINE
Come in! We have dinner in the oven, its almost ready. It's salmon Mary, your favorite!

MARY
I haven’t had that in a while. Who can afford Salmon and live in New York at the same time.

Nadine and John Laugh.

JAY
(To Mary) Salmon?

MARY
Yes, that’s my favorite fish.
NADINE
Yes, and that's not all. We have a
nice beet salad, some stuffing, and
creamed corn!

Jay looks at Mary and they both smile at each other.

JAY
Creamed corn?

JOHN
(To Mary)
Something about creamed corn?

MARY
Nothing important.

NADINE
Why don't we sit down, dinner is
just about ready. I am looking
forward to talking to you both.
It's been too long between visits
Mary.

MARY
Mom, I was here last week. What do
you mean?

NADINE
We wish you were still living here
dear, you know that.

MARY
New York City was calling my name!

JOHN
I don't like you living there
sweetie. That place is a dangerous
hell hole.

MARY
New York a hell hole?

JAY
I work there, take the train there.
Some areas are a bad. Like all
cities.

MARY
Let's not debate this again. We
already know I am staying.

They all sit down and John lifts his wine glass.
JOHN
To a great evening and great
salmon. My little baby back home.
Where she belongs. And her new
boyfriend Jay. A fellow Giant fan,
I hear.

They all clink glasses.

JOHN (CONT’D)
So Jay. I have to admit, that I
saw the video... both videos. I
impressed. Not just about what you
did and the kind of athlete you
were, but also the technical
achievement that video is from a
high school technical staff?
Unbelievable, really.

JAY
The guy who did that video
originally, I think is the person
who put it on YOUTUBE. We don't
know for sure yet, but its probably
him. He is a genius with computers
and film.

NADINE
How did it make you feel to see
that video again, after all those
years?

JAY
Memories of how things were.
(Pause)
Its been difficult.

MARY
He’s getting better about it. It's
been about a month now and we
talked about it and he is much
better.

JOHN
There are 2 videos out there. I
remember when Sinatra sang that
second one. One of his best.

JAY
Reminded me of what could have been.

MARY
It made me cry.

NADINE
An amazingly talented young man.
JAY
Thank you.

JOHN
Four hundred thousand hits. Many people know what you did. Gayle Sayers comes to mind, but what you did was better. Barry Sanders was also similar to your style.

JAY
Barry. That is a compliment.

NADINE
You're in IT? Software development?

JAY
I did find something to do after the knee injury. It's not the NFL. (Pause) I majored in computer science.

JOHN
All athletes need something to fall back on. The knee is just not meant to get into some positions.

JAY
The odds are against you from the start.

JOHN
They sure are. Just like the odds were against the Giants in 2008 and 2012.

JAY
For sure. Amazing games.

JOHN
9-7, going on the road like that again? No way.

NADINE
As we say around this house very frequently. Miracles do happen.

MARY
Miracles do happen.

Mary looks at Jay and smiles.
JAY
Mary. Can you pass the creamed corn?

Mary laughs and hands Jay the bowl of creamed corn.

NADINE
There is something going on here?

JOHN
Yes. Something going on. Some inside joke.

Mary and Jay smile at each other.

MARY
It's our thing. It's a private thing between us.

NADINE
Maybe one day we will find out.

JOHN
(To Jay)
You are in IT?

JAY
Right after college, about 6 years now.

JOHN
Manhattan?

JAY
Yes. Train, New Jersey. 8 AM.

JOHN
You don’t seem too thrilled.

JAY
None of us guys are too thrilled with our jobs right now.

JOHN
Us guys?

JAY
Teammates from high school.

JOHN
So why are you guys all sour on your jobs?
JAY
Not sour.

JOHN
What would you say?

NADINE
John. Don't press too much OK?

JOHN
What he is doing for a living, the future? Kind of important don't you think?

JAY
Yes its important.

JOHN
But you hate your job, correct?

JAY
No I don't hate it. Just the train.

JOHN
You have to get there every day. There and back, the harsh reality of life and so is money, that's for damn sure.

JAY
Yes I agree with you about money.

JOHN
What do you want to do, if not IT?

JAY
That dream has died.

JOHN
I would think so, after so many years son.

MARY
Can we change the subject?

NADINE
Yes, let's change the subject. Have more creamed corn John.

MARY
Jay and I saw a Broadway play the other day.
NADINE
Really? How nice. Which one?

MARY
The Lion King.

NADINE
Wow. How did you like it.

MARY
Well (Pause)

JOHN
You're not thinking about the NFL still are you? And what you missed out on?

JAY
Yes, I am. Yes I am thinking about the NFL. Is that a problem?

JOHN
I would say it is. It's been 10 years since God damn high school.

JAY
It doesn't stop me from doing my job.

JOHN
Which you say you hate. You’re not over the NFL and what could have been, and a possible future with my little baby over there.

MARY
I am not a little baby.

John becomes emotional and angry very quickly.

JOHN
You are and always will be my little baby young lady! And that is never going to change! You're my little baby girl. Don't ever tell me that you are not my little baby.

Mary is close to crying.

MARY
I'm sorry.

NADINE
I thought we were about to talk about the Lion King John.
JOHN
I don't want to talk about a damn Broadway Play. I want to talk about this young man, who is still living in the past. He is dating my little baby girl. As the father of the potential bride, I don't think it's too much to ask that the man she is dating, actually knows what year it is! You were a great Football player now you’re average. Move on!

JAY
Should I leave? Would you like me to leave?

MARY
No! This has gone far enough! Daddy why did you have to bring this up and ruin everything and on our first meeting! Jesus. Can you ever be nice!

JOHN
I can't have my child marrying the wrong man.

MARY
Who said anything about marriage?

JAY
Mary? Yes
(Pause)
Who said anything about that yet?

NADINE
You guys are in love right?

JAY
Yes we are. MARY
Yes.

JAY
Very much so.

MARY
Yes. Very much.

NADINE
John they are still both young, still trying to find their way.
JOHN
They are both almost 30, when I was 30 I already had my own business!

MARY
Oh again, with the 30 and own business already. It's not the Eighties now OK?

JOHN
What difference does that make?

MARY
It makes all the difference, things are harder now! The economy, college loans!

JOHN
He has to get his head glued on straight. I won't approve of this relationship until that happens. Find something you love doing, just make sure its not football for Christ Sakes. I also wish you made it to the NFL. Either move on! Or give up on her!

John points to Mary. And stands up.

John looks at Mary.

JAY
Thanks for your advice. Sir.

NADINE
Now can we get back to talking about the Lion King?

MARY
I didn’t like it too much.

NADINE
Really? Too bad77.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OUTSIDE MARY’S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT.

Jay and Mary are walking along the beach later that evening.
JAY
That sure as hell did not go well. Have you been talking to your father about my issues lately?

MARY
Only the video, I think he figured out the rest on his own.

JAY
Really. He must be a genius then.

MARY
He is very smart and NO I didn't tell him about any of this.

JAY
What about your mom?

MARY
(Pause) Maybe I did say some things to my mom in confidence.

JAY
She told him. And I don't like your dad attacking me like that!

MARY
I'm sorry, but that is the way he is. I am always his little baby all the time. Did you listen to what my Dad said tonight?

JAY
Yes, but what does that have to do with anything?

MARY
Some of things he was saying, kind of make sense don't they? You are still thinking about your days as a running back. It's like you go into a trance sometimes. Just about every time there is music playing, you seem to go somewhere, like you're not even here.

JAY
A trance?

MARY
Yes! You don't even know you're doing it!

(MORE)
MARY (CONT'D)
What are you thinking about now
Jay? I know you're not thinking
about us or our future, or your job
are you?

JAY
Mary, I know I have problems. But
trust me, I know what he was saying
and my head is screwed on straight.
Despite what he said in there.

MARY
Is it?

JAY
I just wish you knew me then. What
I could do then. I was lighting
fast and nobody could catch me.

MARY
You see. You just did it again.
Sometimes I don't know who you are!

JAY
By now, after 3 months of being
together, you should know that I am
OK.

MARY
Some days you are OK, and then,
you're not OK.

JAY
What do you mean, not OK?

MARY
Sometimes it seems like you are
never going to move on from where
you were from high school.
(Pause)
I think we are having our first
fight.

Jay looks away.

MARY (CONT'D)
Is my dad right about you?

JAY
NO, he is not.

MARY
I am worried about you. I am
worried about us.
JAY
Don't be. We are fine.

MARY (CONT'D)
Maybe we should take a break for a while?

JAY
What do you mean? What do you mean by break?

MARY
Just some time apart. Maybe it will help you.

JAY
How in the hell is not being with you going to help me? I have been telling you over and over again that I am FINE, and you won't listen to me, and now you want a break? It's like I am talking to myself!

MARY
I think you might need to see someone. You are depressed all the time.

JAY
I don't want to lose you over this.

MARY
You will lose me if you don't get help.

JAY
Your Dad has this much control over you? He says something at dinner and you go off the deep end?

MARY
This has nothing to do with my Dad.

JAY
I will see someone. I don't want a break.

MARY

JAY (CONT'D)
OK Jay.

MARY
OK.

Jay hugs Mary, and they both cry in each other's arms.

INT. PAROLE HEARING ROOM - DAY.

Present day Parole hearing for Jeffrey Dutton.
There is a conference room table with 2 parole officers facing Dutton who is sitting in a wooden chair.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
Mr. Dutton. How are you?

DUTTON
I feel OK. I did my time like a man.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
I see here that you got into about. (Looks at the paper) About 20 or so fights in the last 9 years or so.

DUTTON
You have to stand up in here. If you don't, you're history.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
I can't argue with that.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
Do you feel you have paid your debt to society?

DUTTON
Definitely. I was a crazy kid back 10 years ago. I should have gotten only 5 years, so I have paid double dues.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
You did attack your lawyer and cursed out the judge. And this football incident didn’t help your case.

DUTTON
This place has changed me. Turned me into a decent man. I am ready to get back to real life.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
Do you have a profession? Something you can do once you get out of here?

DUTTON
Yea. My Dad has a welding job for me.
PAROLE OFFICER #2
You put down on your application
Welding?

DUTTON
Yes.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
That is a solid profession.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
Do you have any money saved? Where
will you stay when, if you get out
of here next week?

DUTTON
I got some friends on the outside.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
Friends? Do you definitely have a
place to go to, once you leave
here? Why not your Dad?

DUTTON
No man. Not with my dad. I got a
friend who will take me in.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
We need that verified.

DUTTON
No problem.

PAROLE OFFICER #2
I think that's all for now.

Turns to his colleague and looks back at Dutton.

PAROLE OFFICER #2 (CONT’D)
Do you have anything additional?

PAROLE OFFICER #1
That’s it. We will let you know
what we decide. 3 days.

DUTTON
Thanks.

PAROLE OFFICER #1
You are dismissed.

Dutton leaves the room, smiling with an evil smile.
PAROLE OFFICER #1 (CONT’D)
(To Officer #2)
He almost killed his own lawyer.
Committed armed robbery and broke a
kids knee and now he is ready to
hit the streets?

PAROLE OFFICER #2
Over Crowding. He has all his
points. There is no proof he was
not clean in here. I'm sorry. He
gets out, its out of my hands.

Parole Officer #2 stamps APPROVED on Dutton’s Parole Sheet.

FADE OUT

EXT. OUTSIDE RAHWAY STATE PRISON - DAY.

Private investigator RICH DOYLE, 29 sits in his car on sunny
hot Friday afternoon, a good distance from the entrance of
Rahway State prison. He looks at this watch, his cell phone
and his note-pad and a picture of Jeffrey Dutton

DOYLE
(Talking to himself)
So hot today. Jesus Christ. When
the hell is this guy getting out of
this place. It's hours past the
release.

Doyle looks at his watch and then observes Dutton leaving the
entrance of the prison and then starts to take many pictures.

Dutton turns to notice a car pulling up. Its a former friend,
Alex Dawson, who is an older man and about as big as Dutton.

DUTTON
OK, now we are talking. Hey man.
Thanks for being on time.

DAWSON
No problem. Anything for you. You
can throw your bag in the back.

DUTTON
Shit, hot today. Glad to get out of
this stinking hell hole.

DAWSON
Where can I drop you off?
DUTTON
My dads house. Let's hope he is not home.

DAWSON
(Laughs).
Problems with your Dad?

DUTTON
No, no more than usual. He is an asshole, as is everybody in my family.

DAWSON
I hear you and same here.

DOYLE follows them at a good distance. He writes down the license plate and takes many more pictures of the car in front of him.

DOYLE
I hope this isn't too long. I have another appointment.

Doyle's cell phone rings.

DOYLE (CONT'D)
(Into Phone - hands free Bluetooth)
Yeah. Just got out. He looks like he is a dangerous nutcase just like we thought.
(Pause)
My web site, log on to your account tonight after 10 PM, I will upload all the pictures. Yeah Gus. Bye.

Doyle follows them expertly to see where Dutton and his friend drive to and takes many more pictures.

DUTTON
OK, you can stop here.

DAWSON
You got money for gas?

DUTTON
What?

DAWSON
Gas. You know gas.

DUTTON
You're kidding right?

DAWSON (CONT'D)
No. Money for gas?
DUTTON
I thought we were friends.

DAWSON
No man not really. 30 dollars?

DUTTON
30? 30 what?

DAWSON
30. 30 dollars. In cash.

DUTTON
How about I give you fucking 10 dollars and I don't kick your ass for the rest?

Looks up at Dutton who is standing outside of his car window.

DAWSON
Sounds good to me.

DUTTON
You want the 10? Come up out of the car and take it!!

Dutton glares menacingly at the driver.

The driver looks up at Dutton for a long time, and then drives off. Dutton smiles as he drives away.

Doyle watches at a good distance and using a device in his car he can hear most of the conversation.

DOYLE
(To himself)
How do you like that. Real tough guy.

Doyle watches as Dutton goes into his father's house.

Doyle calls Gus again.

DOYLE (CONT’D)
He’s at his father’s house. I thought he was going to kill his driver about a minute ago.
(Pause)
Stop griping all the time, you’re driving me crazy!

Doyle hangs up his cell and drives off.

FADE OUT.
EXT. OUTSIDE DUTTON’S FATHERS HOUSE CONTINUOUS – DAY.

Doyle waits in his car far away from Dutton’s fathers house.

DOYLE
(Into recorder)
10 AM. No sign as yet. Very hot day. Suspect is in sight. 10:03 am.

Doyle watches as Dutton hops into an old Buick Oldsmobile.

Doyle takes more pictures as Dutton gets into the car and drives off, tires screeching.

DOYLE (CONT’D)
(Into recorder)
Suspect is heading down Route 1 South towards Trenton. Speeding, going at least 70.

Doyle follows Dutton for 20 miles as Dutton stops and picks up Dutton’s friend from prison and high school football teammate, Jim Turner.

DOYLE (CONT’D)
Suspect has picked up a passenger. Friend is about 6’0’ brown hair, and heavily tattooed like suspect.

Doyle watches as the two men exit the car and arrive at a very old and abandoned warehouse in Trenton New Jersey. One of the seedier sections of Trenton.

DUTTON
Jim.

JIM
Yeah.

DUTTON
Don’t look.
(Pause)
Some asshole is tailing us in a black SUV.

JIM
Yeah?

DUTTON
Do something for me.

JIM
Yeah.
DUTTON
Find out who he is and then kill this guy. I want him dead by this Friday. Here is the plate number.

Dutton hands Jim a piece of paper with the licence plate number.

JIM
Man I just got out. Probation.

DUTTON
Either take care of this guy back there or I kill you.

JIM
You’re kidding right?

Dutton glares at Jim.

JIM (CONT’D)
OK man, OK.

DUTTON
Now that’s what I like to hear. Who he is and why he is following me before you kill him. But I think I know already.

JIM
Franklin?

DUTTON
Or his gang of idiots.

Jim and Dutton start looking around a very old and abandoned ware house probably abandoned for 50 years, formerly a brewery.

DUTTON (CONT’D)
I think this will do fine. It's dark way off the main roads. Nobody here. I was here last when I was 9. This is the place.

Stands looking around, reflecting.

DUTTON (CONT’D)
How fucked up is your life, when 10 years in prison is probably your upside. I got one thing left. One last fight.

(MORE)
DUTTON (CONT’D)

(Pause)
Revenge.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FRONT OF NEW JERSEY HOUSE - DAY.

Gus, Bill, Dave and Rooney all congregate in front of Jays townhouse in New Jersey.

Gus Knocks lightly and then rings the doorbell. After no answer to 20 seconds, Gus rings again.

ROONEY
Is he even home for Christ sakes?

GUS
Yes, I called his neighbor to double check. He has been home for hours.

DAVE
Maybe we should look in the window.

GUS
Let's wait another few seconds.

Jay answers the door, looking horrible. He looks like he is about to die.

JAY
Why are you guys even here? For God sakes is there no peace for me in this miserable life.

GUS
How? How are you doing?

Rooney looks at Gus and rolls his eyes.

ROONEY
Nobody has heard from you in days. I called you, I sent e-mail.

DAVE
Man, you don’t look good.

BILL
Can we come in please?

JAY
Yeah man, come in.
ROONEY
I don’t think your therapist is going to be up for therapist of the year.

BILL
Perfect. Jokes now?

JAY
I am not doing well guys. I think I am another Marcus Dupree.

STEVE
(To Dave) Marcus Dupree?

DAVE
They called him the greatest running back that never was. Back in the 80s. He got hurt.

DAVE (CONT’D)
I can see. You're not doing well. You don’t look healthy.

Dave looks around as Jay’s townhouse is a total mess.

DAVE (CONT’D)
So what happened. It's been 5 days We heard you called in sick from work?

JAY
It's Mary. I can't go to that job anymore. I can't do the train anymore its killing me. All I do is think of Mary all the way to that city and back again. I think I might be dying. I just look out the window (Pause) On the train (Pause) and think about her and I can't stop.

BILL
Drop out for a while. Its OK. You're having a tough time. We all do. Do you have anti-depressant drugs?

JAY
No. We never got to that point. She is not that kind of a therapist.
BILL
We think you need them.

ROONEY
Coffee is all you need. Do you have any? Just instant, nothing special.

JAY
Drank all the coffee. It's not helping me.

DAVE
Have you even slept?

JAY
Not in about 5 days. Her tiny little hands. She has the nicest voice you know?. Have you heard her voice? I just love listening to her voice when she talks.

Dave looks at Jay with great empathy and emotion.

DAVE
You’re falling off the edge.

JAY
I never thought that there could be a downside in meeting the most perfect woman in the world. There is no second for me. Only her.

BILL
We are pretty close to driving you to a mental institution.

GUS
Is that what you want Jay? Do you want us to drive you somewhere?

JAY
NO. I am OK. I just need to sleep.

BILL
What did you boss say about you calling in sick?

JAY
He is a moron and I quit 2 days ago. Working there was killing me.

BILL
You quit?
JAY
Yes.

BILL
I hope you have money.

JAY (CONT'D)
I have money.

ROONEY
How much?

JAY
Enough.

BILL
Six months enough? That's what you are going to need in this economy.

JAY
I have more than that.
(Pause)
I can't stop running in my head.
Better than I ever was, the moves the speed, and acceleration. Nobody can catch me.

ROONEY
Oh, man.

GUS
Therapy. The kind you get at a hospital.

JAY
You mean a mental hospital?

GUS
I mean a place where you can finally get the help you need.

Gus's cell phone rings - loudly - over and over.

JAY
Are you going to take that or do we all go deaf?

Gus walks into the kitchen to take the phone call.

BILL
We will stay here over the weekend and work on this together. I could care less if my wife complains. Maybe quitting that job was half the problem.

ROONEY
Wife issues?

BILL (CONT'D)
Shut up.
Gus can be heard loudly talking on his cell phone in the other room.

**GUS**
What the hell are you telling me?
What the HELL are you talking about! WHO? Who did this? OH MY GOD! When? Are the police on this?
Where?
(Pause)
I don’t believe it. I just don’t believe it. I knew him from college!

Gus walks back into the living room with the guys. His face white and ashen.

**ROONEY**
Powerball?

**GUS**
It's Doyle.

**ROONEY**
Who the hell is Doyle?

**GUS**
Doyle. You know. Fucking Doyle. Are you present on planet earth? DOYLE! The guy I hired!!

**ROONEY**
Doyle. Oh that Doyle.

**GUS**
Yeah, He was found dead in his apartment. Somebody beat the shit out of him and then shot him, many times. His partner found him.

**DAVE**
OH shit.

**JAY**
Who the fuck is Doyle? What the hell is going on?

**BILL**
It's not important. Just a friend of Gus.

**JAY**
Bullshit! I can always tell when you guys lie to me!
GUS
Doyle is a guy I knew from college.
He started his own PI firm. That's all.

JAY
NO more bullshit! There is more to
this story than you're telling me.

GUS
I hired him to follow Dutton when
he got out. I didn’t like some of
the things Harvey was telling us.

JAY
Harvey? You talked with Harvey?

GUS
Dutton is crazy. He saw the videos.

JAY
That lowlife saw those videos in
prison?

GUS
Yes.

JAY
You guys know about all this?
And you don’t tell me about any of
this shit.

ROONEY
We were worried about you.

BILL
We went to see Harvey to get him to
take those two damn videos down.

JAY
And then you hire this Doyle guy to
follow Dutton and he is dead now?

GUS
Sure seems that way.

JAY
You think Dutton had him killed.

GUS
Odds are high. Or he did it
himself.
JAY
Maybe you shouldn't have hired this
guy to follow that psychopath
around then! DID YOU EVER THINK
ABOUT THAT!!

BILL
We were worried about you and even
Mary.

JAY
I can't breathe anymore. I just
can't breathe.

Jay walks around trying to take a deep breath.

GUS
We don't know for sure its Dutton.
This just happened maybe 5 hours
ago. Doyle could have been into
anything.

JAY
What if this piece of sick garbage
is going after Mary?

BILL
Let's not panic and jump to
conclusions. Stay calm.

JAY
He could be going after her! How
the hell do you know? He wants to
fight me, he wants to settle the
score!

BILL
Let's all drive there right now and
talk to the police. Where did this
happen?

GUS
Rich lived in Flemington. The
Flemington police called me.

JAY
I want to know what the hell is
going on right now.

ROONEY
(To Jay)
Call Mary. Go to her parents in
Spring Lake.
JAY
Bill you call her. If I call her she might think something is up.

BILL
She is going to wonder what is going on.

GUS
Just say you are just calling to say hello.

JAY
Forget all this. Bill, just tell her what happened and that she should go to her parents house.

GUS
He’s right. Do it. Call her.

BILL
What’s her phone number.

Jay gives Bill Mary’s phone number from his cell phone.

Bill dials Mary’s number. The phone rings and rings and there is no answer.

BILL (CONT’D)
Nobody is answering. She is not picking up.

JAY
This is a nightmare, I can’t believe this is even happening.

BILL
All we can do now is keep calling her and get to Flemington.

GUS
Doyle’s partner will be there we can talk to him. There is one more thing.

JAY
Now what?

GUS
Doyle told me Dutton and this other scum-bag were checking out some warehouse in Trenton. Drug hangout?
JAY
The good news just keeps coming.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OUTSIDE DOYLE’S APARTMENT - DAY.

The guys arrive at Doyle’s apartment, about an hour later.

Gus sees Doyle’s partner talking with several police officers. Yellow police ribbons are all over the area.

Gus walks up to Gus’s partner and friend, JOE RILEY, 30.

Joe is distraught.

GUS
Hey man. How are you doing?

JOE
How do you think? I am messed up. I had to identify him. I could barely recognize his face. I have never seen so much blood.

Joe is shaking.

GUS
Who do you think did this?

JOE
Who do I think? It's that mutant Dutton scum you put us on. Has to be.

GUS
Why do you say that?

JOE
What the hell kind of a business do you think Rich and I had anyway? We do bullshit divorce crap. He was shot 10 times for God Sakes.

GUS
How did Dutton find out?

JOE
Rich sucked at tailing people. He thought he was good but he sucked at it.
ROONEY
This is getting way over our heads guys.

JAY
It's been over our heads since that one play.

Police officer TIM JAMES walks over to the guys.

TIM
Hey, can you guys see that there is a police investigation going on here?

GUS
Can we talk to the detective in charge? I was friends with the victim.

TIM
What is your name?

GUS
Gus Reynolds sir.

The lead detective is a large man in his 50’s, very typical looking grizzled man. He walks over to Gus. His name is TONY PORTENZA, 58.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Are you Gus?

GUS
Yes.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What do you know about this?

GUS
I hired Rich to tail this guy who just got out of Rahway.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Why?

GUS
We were afraid of what he might be up to.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Like what?
GUS
We don’t know.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Who is this guy?

GUS
Jeffrey Dutton.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
I know that lowlife. I was one of the arresting officers 10 years ago. He is out already? (Looks at Jay). You Jay Franklin?

JAY
Yes, why?

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
I remember you from 10 years ago. I saw you play. You were amazing.

They shake hands.

JAY
Thanks.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Dutton was the guy who wrecked your knee, right?

JAY
Yes.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Why would he still be pissed off at you? Does he want to go for the other knee?

JAY
We heard things when Dutton was in prison. He still hates me, and he still wants revenge.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Revenge for what?

JAY
One play.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
One play?
JAY
One play when I made him look bad.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
You’re kidding.

JAY
I wish I was.

ROONEY
And there are videos.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What videos?

GUS
There was a video where Dutton looked bad and missed a tackle on Jay.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
You guys come with us back to the station. This is a brutal fucking murder.

FADE OUT

INT. FLEMINGTON NEW JERSEY POLICE HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

GUS
Doyle followed him twice. After leaving Rahway and the next day.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What time exactly.

GUS
He was going to write me a surveillance report. Its on his web site.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
My guys are looking at his computer right now. What else?

GUS
Doyle followed Dutton to a warehouse in Trenton. He didn’t tell me where it was, he just said it was very old and probably a brewery.
DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Maybe we got more info on that on the computer.

Portenza calls out to his partner WARREN DAVIS 33.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA (CONT’D)
Hey Al, any updated on that hard drive yet?

WARREN
No, not yet. We are looking through that shit now. He’s got a million documents on that laptop.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Keep looking.

WARREN
Working on it.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
So you guys have anything else to add?

ROONEY
Other than the videos. We weren't involved with this Doyle guy. Only Gus.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What about these videos?

ROONEY
Harvey Meyer put the videos out.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
We got Harvey coming in.

ROONEY
This YOUTUBE thing started a whole bunch of crap.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
One play again?

ROONEY
That’s it.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
There are 2 videos?
ROONEY
Yes. Harvey took them down days ago.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
OK. How can we get a hold of them now?

BILL
Harvey’s computer.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
OK. You guys stay here. Break room is over there.

The detective points to the break room and leaves the conference room.

JAY
Now what?

BILL
We wait. What else is there?

JAY
What if this animal has Mary?  BILL (CONT'D)
What if this whole thing is nothing. What if someone else killed Rich Doyle?

JAY
It's different for you, you are not in love with her.

BILL
We all love Mary, you know that.
Not like you, but we love her.

Harvey Meyer walks into the conference room with a police officer.

HARVEY
Hey guys. What the hell is going on?

GUS
Someone killed Doyle.

HARVEY
Doyle who?

GUS
Nobody pays attention in this group! He is that PI I told you about.

(MORE)
He was found dead this morning in his apartment. Beaten and shot 10 times.

HARVEY
Holy Shit. You guys think Dutton did it?

GUS
It's possible. That's why we are all here.

HARVEY
Unbelievable!

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
So you are the guy who put those videos of Franklin on the internet? On YOUTUBE?

HARVEY
Yes.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Why did you do that?

HARVEY
I had them, and it was the 10 year anniversary, I wanted to share them with the world.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Did you ask Jay’s permission?

HARVEY
No. They are my property anyway.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
You know something about hacking into Rahway State Prison?

HARVEY
I had to keep track of that guy for a long time, ever since he was arrested for armed Robbery.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Why?

HARVEY
Because to be quite honest. He is Completely out of his damn mind sir. He is a threat to all of us.
I agree with you. We let scum like this out of prison because of overcrowding.

Can we take a break? We have been in here for well over an hour. You guys got coffee?

10 minutes.

OK. Jay, walk with me. Let's get some coffee.

Jay and Gus exit the conference room and head down to get coffee. The other guys stand up and stretch and walk around the conference room.

This is a nightmare.

This could be nothing.

I think something is up, and I still can't reach Mary.

Gus and Jay start to drink coffee.

I never should have asked Doyle to tail that guy.

You should have told me.

We couldn't reach you for 5 days. You have not been doing well for a long time, I didn’t want to burden you with this.

In the future, burden me. I am stronger than you think.

Gus’s cell phone rings.
GUS
(Into Phone)
Hello? Yes, this is him. Who is this? Who is this? I can't hear you? Who is this?

DUTTON (O.S.)
You know who the fuck this is. It's number 66.

GUS
(Into Phone)
What? What the hell are you talking about.

DUTTON (O.S.)
Number 66. You forget about high school?

GUS
(Into Phone)
Dutton?

DUTTON (O.S.)
Yes. Ding Ding! I knew you weren't that stupid.

GUS
What do you want.

DUTTON (O.S.)
I want Franklin. On your cell phone. NOW. RIGHT NOW!

JAY
Who is that? What is going on?

GUS
(Into Phone)
What the fuck do you want asshole?

DUTTON (O.S.)
Man you are stupid. I just told you. Put Franklin on your fucking cell phone moron.

Gus very reluctantly hands the cell phone over to Jay.

JAY
(Into Phone)
Who the hell is this?
DUTTON (O.S.)
It's number 66. Let's see if you're smarter than your asshole friend.

JAY
(Into Phone)
What do you want?

DUTTON (O.S.)
I want to finish what never started. Our fight. The championship game. I want my revenge.

JAY
(Into Phone)
All these years and you're still thinking about a fight during a football game?

DUTTON (O.S.)
More than just a fight. My life, pretty boy. Got someone here for you superstar.

JAY
What?

MARY (O.S.)
Jay. It's me.

JAY
Oh my God. Are you OK?

MARY (O.S.)
Yes I am OK.

JAY
If he even touches you I will kill him!

MARY (O.S.)
I am OK Jay, but scared.

JAY
(Into Phone)
I am so sorry.

DUTTON (O.S.)
OK that's enough chatter. Write down my cell number and drive south from where you are now 20 minutes. Then you call me. If the cops follow you, she is dead.

(MORE)
DUTTON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
If your asshole friends come with you or follow you, she is dead. When you call me in 20 minutes I will tell you the next check point. You don’t call me in 20 minutes, she is dead.

Dutton tells Jay his cell phone number.

JAY
(Into Phone)
Don’t hurt her. This is between you and me. Just you and me. She didn’t do anything to you.

DUTTON (O.S.)
You do what I tell you, and follow instructions and she lives. You don’t, and as you know today, I got no problems killing. Today I settle the score for all times. My life has been over since you embarrassed me in front of my fans. Pay day is today asshole.

JAY
(Into Phone)
Pay day for one play 10 years ago. You are insane.

They both hang up the phone.

GUS
So what is going on. What does he want?

JAY
He wants me, and he has Mary?

GUS
Did he admit he killed Rich Doyle?

JAY
Yes.

GUS
What do you mean he wants to meet you for what?

JAY
To settle the score between us.
GUS
How the hell are you doing to do that?

JAY
He wants to fight me. The fight he wanted in that one game where he went insane.

GUS
You are going to fight this sick criminal who has been working out for 10 years in prison and you have been sitting in a cubicle all that time writing code? You can't fight this guy.

JAY
If I don’t, he will kill her. And if you guys follow he is going to kill her. I have to do this, I have no choice.

GUS
He outweighs you by at least 25 pounds. He is going to beat you to death, right in front of Mary. This is what you want?

JAY
You forgot about who I am, my heart. I never gave up on a play. He thinks he can beat me, but he will be surprised.

GUS
I can't let you do this. I don't want to see you in a bloody lump on some fucking warehouse floor. And he's probably going to kill her anyway!

JAY
I can't take the risk of telling the police or having you guys follow. You know you can't stop me Gus. Now be a friend and don't make a big deal.

GUS
That sure sounds like a stupid plan. By the time we all find you and Mary you will probably both be dead!
JAY
No. There is no changing my mind.
(Pause)
I am doing this.

GUS
He is going to KILL YOU!

JAY
Gus, without her, I am dead anyway.
I have no reason to be alive anymore. Not without her.

GUS
What do I tell them? The guys, the cops?

JAY (CONT'D)
Tell them I felt sick and went home.

GUS
They aren’t going to buy that.

JAY
I know, but you can handle this.
For me Gus.

GUS
For you who wants to get beaten to death by some sick felon.

JAY
I have to do this. I see no other way.

GUS
Just do one thing for me.

JAY
What?

GUS
(Pause)
Remember Rocky 2 and Mickey telling him to go to the body? The body, the body, go to the body Rock?

JAY
How could I forget that?

GUS
GO TO THE BODY. Do that for me. Beat the shit out of this miserable bastard. Use your speed your legs that I know are still there. Go to the body, like Rocky. Do that for me, do it for all of us.
JAY
I will try OK?.

GUS
Like Adrian. Win! Win!

Jay smiles a confident smile, and walks away.

FADE OUT.

INT DAY POLICE STATION.

Gus returns to the interrogation room.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
(To Gus)
So where is your friend Franklin?

GUS
He is sick. Not feeling well. He just went home.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Did he check in with the front desk? Who the hell told him he could leave? We are not done asking questions here.

GUS
He is really sick. Not himself. He has not been well for days now.

The guys look at Gus.

ROONEY
Did he say anything? This doesn’t sound right.

GUS
No, other than he is very sick and feels bad. That’s all he said.

ROONEY
OK?

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
You fucking guys can't just walk out of here when you're being questioned. I am in charge here.

FADE OUT.
EXT. JAY IN HIS CAR - DAY.

Jay makes the call to Dutton on his cell phone while heading south down the highway in his car.

DUTTON
(Into the phone)
Yeah.

JAY
(Into the phone)
It's me.

DUTTON
(Into the phone)
Me who?

JAY
(Into the phone)
Who the fuck do you think?

DUTTON
(Into the phone)
Hard to tell man, you have such a faggoty sounding voice.

JAY
(Into the phone)
Fuck you.

DUTTON
(Into the phone)
Tough guy. That's good man. It's going to really come in handy in a few.

JAY
(Into the phone)
One thing you got right today.

DUTTON
(Into the phone)
After you drive another 20 minutes on route 1, call me back.

JAY
(Into the phone)
20 minutes.

DUTTON (O.S.)
Bye pretty boy.
They both hang up.

FADE OUT.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Harvey, as far as you hacking a New
Jersey State Federal prison, do you
know that is a federal offense?

HARVEY
It is? Why?

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What are you a wise guy?

HARVEY
No sir.

ROONEY
I can vouch for that, he is not a
wise guy, that's for sure. He is a
bald guy, not a wise guy.

Rooney smiles at Harvey.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
(To Harvey)
I will need all the data on your
laptop. You're off the hook for
now. Consider yourself lucky.

Harvey nods to the officer.

GUS
Is there any progress on Doyle’s
laptop? Time is a wasting here.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What is your problem? Do you know
something you’re not telling me?

GUS
No, just want to know what is going
on. Rich did mention a warehouse
in Trenton they were staking out.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Let me be the cop OK?

Gus fidgeting and nervous and noticeably sweating as he sits
down at the conference room table.
ROONEY
Gus, are you OK? You're sweating like a New York City waiter.

GUS
I am fine, I am fine.

Portenza dials his forensic team.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
(Into phone)
Hey, you have any info on that computer? OK, send me an electronic copy and walk it over. Do you think we are having a fucking party in here? NOW!!

Hangs up the phone.

GUS
Is that it?

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
It should be. He found a stake out folder.

A forensic police officer enters the conference room and hands detective Portenza the report.

FORENSIC OFFICER
This is the stakeout report.

GUS
Great what does it say? Give me the readers digest.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Hey do you need some Valium for Christ Sakes? Relax. Somebody make you cop in the last 10 minutes?

The detective starts to read the document.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA (CONT’D)
OK, here it is. He followed Dutton and this other felon Jim to this Trenton Warehouse, 3 days ago. And he has the address here at the bottom.

GUS
Can we go?
DETECTIVE PORTENZA
This is a police matter, you are not a police officer.

GUS
Can we just go with you, just to help if we can.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
No.

GUS
Jay is going there now.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
What?

GUS
Jay is going there right now, and Dutton has Mary.

ROONEY
Are you out of your mind?

BILL
Oh my God, he has Mary?

DAVE
He has Mary, that miserable piece of garbage has Mary? This is one day I just do not believe.

HARVEY'
God, I don't believe this.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
(To Gus)
And you may be under arrest!

GUS
I couldn't tell you! He has us all staked out. If you followed he would have killed her.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
That was a fucking stupid thing to do. Did you ever consider that we know what we are doing here? You two fucking heros didn't think of that? Ever hear of a tracking device?
GUS
There was no talking to him he just had to go and settle the score. He loves the girl.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
You stupid heros can go with us, but if you get in the way of this - or don't stay in the police car, I will shoot all FOUR of you!

Bill and Dave nod in agreement as they all leave the conference room.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA (CONT’D)
OK let's get moving.

FADE OUT.

EXT. JAY IN HIS CAR - DAY.

Heading south towards Trenton, Jay dials Dutton.

JAY
(Into phone)
Hello?

DUTTON (O.S.)
I said 20 minutes, its 19 minutes.

JAY
(Into phone)
So?

DUTTON (O.S.)
Next time follow instructions or I start cutting off tiny fingers.

JAY
(Into phone)
You hurt her and you are dead.

DUTTON (O.S.)
Yeah, I heard that shit last time, but you ain't holding NO cards video superstar!

JAY
(Into phone)
Where to next you scumbag?
DUTTON (O.S.)
When you see the exit for Davidson
Road off of Route 1 then you are in
Trenton, make the first right and
go to the Wilderness parking lot
and then call me again.

Jay Hangs up his cell phone.

FADE OUT.

INT. POLICE VAN - DAY.

Gus, Bill, Dave, Rooney and Harvey are riding in a police
van, following detective Portenza and 2 Police cars.

Rooney is glaring at Gus.

ROONEY
I can't believe you didn't tell us
what was going on.

GUS
How the hell could I tell you, look
at how you're reacting now. I had
no opportunity anyway.

ROONEY
That nutcase is going to kill Jay,
you know that.

GUS
That is what I told him. For better
or worse, this guy still thinks and
will always think like a super
athlete. He still thinks he can do
anything.

DAVE
Is Mary OK at least?

GUS
I heard her voice on the cell
phone, she sounded as well as could
be expected.

HARVEY
He has a Mohawk.

They all turn and look at Harvey.

GUS
What?
HARVEY
It was in Doyles report, I hacked it from the police e-mail.

GUS
You hacked the Flemington New Jersey Police e-mail server in 1 hour?

HARVEY
No big deal, just some nohow, I know a shortcut, its the same deal as Rahway police and the prison. No sweat.

DAVE
(a long pause)
He has a Mohawk??

HARVEY
A whole hell of a lot of tatoos too.

DAVE
Tatoo and Mohawk combo. A prison inmate for 10 years. Who would have guessed. Thanks for the shocking news. We are all stunned.

BILL
(To Gus)
What if we don’t get there in time. Jay is going to get himself killed and Mary too. What were you thinking? .

GUS
There was no talking to him. He was doing to do what he was going to do.

FADE OUT.

EXT. TRENTON WAREHOUSE – DAY.

Jay arrives at the Trenton warehouse and carefully and slowly gets out of his car.

Jay is sweating profusely and walking slowly.

Jay walks up to the front of the warehouse building looking for the entrance. He is greeted by Jim Turner, Dutton’s lowlife stooge.
JIM
Hey man. Glad you can make it.
Hey, you got some real balls.

Jim laughs an evil laugh.

JAY
Yeah. I got balls. Where is Mary?

JIM
She is upstairs, waiting for you man! Hey you still in some shape like ten years ago?

JAY
That's the end of the stupid fucking questions asshole. Just take me to where we are going and shut the fuck up.

JIM
Nice! Ha! I like you man, you're a tough guy. This ain't no Football game. I like your girlfriend man. Real cute.

JAY
Like I said scumbag, shut the fuck up. (Whispers under his breath). Stinking lowlife.

They both walk up the stairs of the old brewery.

One flight of stairs.

Huge holes are visible in the ceiling and walls.

Jay looks ahead and sees Dutton standing there; just waiting.

JAY (CONT’D)
Nice Mohawk. I think you finally found your perfect look.

DUTTON
Thanks video pretty boy.

JAY
Still with this pretty boy crap. You're still in high school aren't you? In your head?

DUTTON
From what I hear, so are you. Hey, I like your fucking limp man.
Jay stands there, stunned by his comment with a look of anger and hatred that is murderous.

JAY
Where is Mary?

Dutton turns to look for Jim.

DUTTON
Hey Jim, you can bring her out, just put her over there, so she can watch the show.

Jim drags out Mary. She is battered and terrified and dirty.

JAY
Mary. Are you OK baby?

Jay almost loses his composure.

MARY
Yes, I am OK. I am OK.

JAY
Are you sure. You look like you have a cut.

MARY
It's OK, I am OK, I just bumped my head. I sure don't like your friends though.

Mary leans forward trying to reach Jay.

DUTTON
Hey no way, Jim hold her back, over there. No hugging shit. This is a show, a final showdown between video boy and me.

MARY
What show, Jay what is he talking about?

JAY
He wants us to fight me. 10 years now. (To Dutton) Right moron?

DUTTON
Not just a fight, a fight to the death. Murder and kidnapping today. My life is over anyway. Just one more thing left to do.
MARY
No! Jay you can't! He's insane. You can't do this!

JAY
(Pauses looking Dutton in the eye)
Don't worry.

MARY
Can’t you just let us go! Please. We won't tell! Please just let us go!

DUTTON
After all the trouble I went through with this little party?

MARY
I am begging you, just let us go.

DUTTON
Jim, this is pathetic, shut her up!

Jim puts tape over Mary’s mouth.

JAY
You hurt her you're dead.

JIM
I am not hurting her, its just tape.

DUTTON
You done any fighting in the last 10 years? I sure have.

JAY
You here to talk or fight?

DUTTON
You could have fought me in the championship game and all this would never have happened, and you would be in the NFL right now! So would I.

JAY
I was just making a move, I made thousands of moves, you slipped and that was not my fault. How sick are you anyway?
You should have settled our score in high school. And now I am going to kill you, right in front of your little bitch over there.

Mary makes muffled noises through the tape as she closes her eyes.

JAY

Enough of this talking, its time for this to happen.

DUTTON

Right, enough talk.

Dutton puts up his hands as they circle each other.

JAY

Got what you want now?

DUTTON

Oh yeah. I have been thinking about this for years.

JAY

You are one sick head case.

DUTTON

Oh yeah pretty boy. Make me angrier. You are stupider than I thought.

Jay makes a quick left handed jab and catches Dutton on his right cheek, then another quick jab to his forehead that catches Dutton by surprise.

DUTTON (CONT’D)

Oh pretty boy got some stuff.

Dutton lunges and hits Jay on the top of his head and then goes for his body, but Jay is too fast, but some damage was done by the initial blow.

JAY

You think that hurt?

Jay hits Dutton again with another jab to the head.

FLASHBACK - INT. GUS TELLING JAY TO GO TO THE BODY SOME HOURS EARLIER.

Jay goes to the body, and hits Dutton with 2 good body shots.
DUTTON

Dutton hits Jay with a good shot to the side of his head, drawing blood near his left eye, then Jay almost falls over while missing Dutton with a rather awkward right hook.

JAY

Umph.

Jay swings again, and misses Dutton, now aware that he is bleeding.

DUTTON

Oh shit man. You got blood already man!

MARY

Muffled screams. Muffled noises.

JAY

Misses with a jab, and uses his legs to crouch down unexpectedly and dodges a vicious right from Dutton and then hits him with 2 perfect shots to his mid section. Pop, Pop! The punches make a loud firm noise.

DUTTON

Umph. Umph. Hey, the body. Not as good as me though.

Dutton hits Jay with 2 hard shots to the body himself and then Jay almost falls over again. Jay uses his still very fast feet to dodge away and because of his speed, Dutton misses him with another attempted vicious shot to his head.

MARY

ahhhhh, ahhhh!!

DUTTON

Dutton now goes ALL OUT with some huge shots to Jay’s head and misses each time. Jay is able to position himself underneath. He lands 2 punches and hits Dutton with just one good solid punch right in the center of his gut. POW!

Dutton Gets angry.

DUTTON (CONT’D)

Umph.

Jay hits Dutton with another good jab to the nose and then dodges Dutton with 2 great moves, very fast.
DUTTON (CONT’D)

Keep running from me man like a faggot, you can't run all day can you!

JAY

Shut the fuck up. FIGHT!

DUTTON

Dutton lunges at Jay, knocking him over as he lands and hits his head on a 2-by-four near the floor. Jay is now bleeding from the back of his head now as well as his eye. Jay uses his legs and speed to get up quickly and surprises Dutton with another great body shot. Pow!

JAY

Are you gay? Grabbing me?

Jay hits Dutton with another great jab to his face. Now Dutton’s nose is bleeding.

DUTTON

Lunges at Jay again, now respecting Jay’s speed and skill, and hits Jay with a great body shot and then misses with a huge overhand right!

JAY

Is that all you got? I see your bleeding now too asshole!

DUTTON

Dutton lunges again, but Jay is able to step away and hit Dutton with a passing right hook. Dutton then hits his Jay with another blow to his stomach. Pow!

JAY

Umph. Aghhhhh..

DUTTON

That hurt pretty boy?

JAY

You can't hurt me you fucking son of a bitch.

DUTTON

You don't think so? You're bleeding pretty boy?
JAY
So are you.

Hits Dutton with another jab. Then another and then another. They have no effect on Dutton.

MARY
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

DUTTON
You hit like a girl man.

Jay ducks under another blow and then hits Dutton with 2 great jabs to the gut, pop, pop, and then goes into the gut more. Both jabs have their effect and as far as the follow up blows, they hit their mark.

JAY
That feel like a girl scum bag?

DUTTON
Yeah. Wimp.

Dutton lunges at Jay again and tackles him. Then grabs him and tries to hit Jay in the face. He misses both punches because of Jay’s quickness. Jay gets up and hits Dutton again with a jab to the face and receives one back with a punch to his stomach.

JAY
Still trying to grab me huh? Like wrestling with men? Did that in prison a lot?

DUTTON
You may be fast, but you can't run forever.

JAY
Ain't nobody running shit head.

Dutton tries to hit Jay with a jab, and misses with an overhead right and then misses again with another jab.

Jay ducks down and then misses Dutton with a body shot. Jay then hits Dutton perfectly with a second shot to the gut. POW!!! The effect this time is very obvious.

DUTTON
Umph!!

JAY
That hurt? I hit like a girl remember?
DUTTON
You’re going to die man, and I am
going to kill your bitch too.

Lunges again, and knocks Jay over with a tackle, they wrestle
on the ground but Jay’s speed is telling.

MARY
Stop this now! Please!

DUTTON
Jim can't you shut that stupid
bitch up?

JIM
Hey you stop making so much noise
bitch!

Jim puts more tape on her mouth.

JAY

Both men wrestle and get in good shots to the face, as Jay’s
still incredible speed and reflexes save him. Both men then
stand up and face each other again, both bleeding and
exhausted. Jay then goes to the body again, BIG TIME, POW,
POW, POW, POW, and surprises Dutton with telling BLOWS to the
gut. The last 2 are killer shots. POW, POW!!!!!

DUTTON
Umph. aaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhh,

ahhhhh!!!

JAY
Still hit like a girl?

DUTTON
Fuck you man.

Dutton hits Jay with a body shot of his own. A hard one. For
Jay adrenaline is taking over now and the heart he had as a
great running back. The heart of a lion.

Jay hits Dutton with 2 shots to the face, right at his nose,
increasing the bleeding.

Dutton lunges at Jay again, and lands on him as the roll on
the floor Dutton throws a punch at Jays head, but Jay fast as
ever, moves his head and Dutton hits the floor with his fist,
almost breaking his hand).

DUTTON (CONT’D)
Ahhhhhh!! FUCK!!! Ahhhhhh!!
JAY
Hurt your hand asshole?

Jay lands several more body shots as Dutton falls back and then falls over, holding his hand and rolling to the floor. Jay stands over him, waiting to see if he will stand.

DUTTON
Ahhhhhhh. You fuck. I will kill you!

JAY
Gonna be hard with only one hand shit head.

DUTTON
I should have killed you in high school!

JAY
You couldn’t catch me in high school and you can’t catch me now. Too fast and too smart for you, stupid scum bag.

DUTTON
That’s what you think.

JAY
Want to call this a night? Or do I have to kill you tough guy?

Dutton stands and lunges again. Still holding his hand. Jay then lands 3 more body shots perfectly and Dutton falls again in pain.

JIM
Hey, you want help man?

DUTTON
Stay away. I will kill this guy myself.

JAY
If I were you I would stay down.

JIM
Let me take him man. Let me shoot him.

DUTTON
Stay back!
Dutton stands up again and circles Jay and lands one good shot to Jay’s head with his good right hand. Jay counters and goes to Dutton’s body again, this time with more force than before. Dutton falls to the ground defeated.

JAY
If you don’t call off your pet squirrel over there, I will kill you. And him too.

DUTTON
Ahhhhhhhh.....

Holds his hand and stomach area. Unable to move.

JAY
I think you may need to do more sit ups.

DUTTON
Fuck you.

JAY
Call off your pet squirrel.

DUTTON
Jim, stay back.

Suddenly the police break in. ALL pointing their guns and screaming LOUDLY!

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
HANDS UP. NOBODY MOVE! HANDS UP! That means you too Franklin! (to Jim)
You move and I will shoot you in the face.

JIM
No problem!

Jim puts his hands over his head. Shaking in terror.

Detective Portenza and yells at a police officer.

A police officer removes the tape from Mary’s mouth and cuts off the rope from her hands.

Portenza points to Dutton.

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Cuff that piece of shit over there.

Portenza looks at Jay.
DETECTIVE PORTENZA (CONT’D)
Looks like I missed some kind of a fight. Are you OK?

MARY
Jay, are you ok?

JAY
I am OK. Are you OK? Didn’t you see?

MARY
NO, I was hiding my eyes almost the whole time. I hate violence. Do you think I would love you more just because you can fight?

JAY
Did you say that you love me? You still love me?

Jay caresses her face, and brushes her hair from her eyes as he kneels in front of Mary and looks her in the eyes.

MARY
You must know that.

JAY
Why did we break up?

MARY
You’re still in a time machine.

JAY
Oh, that. Yes that.

Jay smiles at Mary with tears in his eyes.

MARY (CONT’D)
After this nightmare, do you know what year it is?

JAY
I know that I love you.

MARY
I love you too. Football is only a game. This is our life.

Mary caresses Jay’s face with tears in her eyes.

GUS, Harvey, Dave, Rooney and dave ALL rush in.
ROONEY
Is everybody OK?
(to Dutton)
Aside from this piece of shit? Nice
Mohawk asshole!

Rooney looks at Dutton as he is in custody and is walked off in handcuffs along with Jim.

Gus looks at Jay, battered and bloodied after one hell of a fight.

GUS
(To Jay)
It looks like you took care of business.

Jay turns and looks at Detective Portenza.

JAY
The end of the line for this animal?

DETECTIVE PORTENZA
Kidnapping, Murder, assault. We just may get the death penalty for this pile of trash.

JAY
Its about time.

GUS
Jay as far as you taking care of business here. I have to say I didn’t think you had it, not against that guy.

BILL
Like they say, you should have seen the other guy.

Bill glares at Dutton in handcuffs as he is taken away.

GUS
You go to the body?

Jay pauses, trying not to laugh or smile.

JAY
Like you wouldn't believe. All day long.
GUS
You think about Rocky when you went
to the body?

JAY
What do you think?

GUS
You visualize, the body Rock, go to
the body, the body scene in Rocky
with Mickey?

JAY
Are you insane?

GUS (CONT'D)
Yes I am in insane, but did
you?

JAY
Are you crazy? My God.
(laughs)
You are crazy man.

GUS
Man I wish I was there to see that
fight.

HARVEY
Jay do you have an IPHONE or
something? Did you record this
fight?

JAY
What?

HARVEY
If you recorded it I could get this
on YOUTUBE in about 2 hours.

ROONEY
Is this your first ever attempt at
humor El-Balbo?

HARVEY
It would be a great video.

ROONEY
Unbelievable and he’s bald too.

MARY
It was horrible. Just horrible. I
hate violence.

JAY
Mary, I thought you said you were
holding your eyes.
MARY
I was, but I saw some of it. Too much of it.

JAY
Were you impressed by me?

Mary very cutely rolls her eyes.

MARY
Oh my God, you men.

Mary starts to walk away, but she is smiling.

MARY (CONT’D)
Honestly, what did I do to deserve this?

JAY
Mary? Were you? I mean just a little?

MARY
Oh my God, please grow up! For God Sakes.

Jay follows Mary as they all walk out of the warehouse.

JAY
Mary?

MARY
What now?

JAY
I love you.

Jay hugs and kisses Mary.

MARY
I love you too.

Mary cries in Jay’s arms.

MARY (CONT’D)
I was very scared for you.

JAY
There is no way on earth I would let anything happen to you.

Jay and Mary embrace.
Rooney pauses looking at them, smiling.

ROONEY
All of you guys. My friends my whole life.
(Pause)
The worst scum any of us will ever know, has undone what would have been a horrible tragedy. These guys are back together again.

Rooney looks over at Jay and Mary.

ROONEY (CONT’D)
You guys belong together.

They all look at Rooney, amazed.

ROONEY (CONT’D)
So you guys want to drink? Any bars around here? I could really use a beer after a really good fight, that I didn’t see.

JAY
Yes, we can go for a drink, but the cops probably want to talk to me first for about a year.

MARY
Yes, I think about a year sounds right.
(laughs)

GUS
That is for sure. We may never leave Flemington.

HARVEY
After kidnapping, murder, a fight to the death, how appropriate and after that we can all sit around and listen to Rooney’s stupid jokes.

Harvey looks at Rooney.

ROONEY
You know your head actually lights up this warehouse El Baldo.
Actually that is not a bad idea, I mean about the beer, not the jokes.

They all walk out of the warehouse together.

THE END

FADE IN

The playing of the 2nd YOUTUBE video of Sinatra’s “Here’s to the Winners” and Jay Franklin’s most amazing runs.