Tailback U

treatment by:

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Logline: The story of Tony Bright, a prized college football recruit looking to leave the problems of his inner-city neighborhood behind by enrolling at a quiet Mid-Western university, unaware that troubles from back home are not bound merely by a matter of great distance.

Act One

Tony Bright is one of the most coveted college football recruits in the entire country. An exceptional athlete, Tony stars as both a tailback and defensive safety at an inner-city high school in Los Angeles. Raised with care by his gran u } š Z Œ ' o } Œ] } Œ ^ ' o } Œ Ç _ U v o mentored by his uncle Manny, Tony is putting the finishing touches on an amazing senior season which has scouts from all over the country drooling at the thought of him in their backfields the following season. Thus far, Tony has been keeping his collegiate choice a close secret. Little does he know, there are events about to take place that will for him to choose a

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We first meet Tony as he and his high school teammates are dismantling a cross-town foe on š Z /&ßë P'cWwë P" Ð]P &p1ñ 0 Q>è@of] 5™^¢TèN î } u evecor

met any new friends. Tony mere o Ç o } } l • } Á v š • •] Ç [• v µ u Œ • Œ Á o } µ š
paper. At this point, we know that he will definitely be looking the young woman up very soon.

After yet another brutal practice, Cassidy is waiting outside the football complex for Tony. She offers to take him back to her place, and perhaps against his better judgment, he agrees. Once the two are alone at her house, they begin to make out passionately. But just as soon as they begin to fool around, Tony seems to have a change of heart. He pulls back and hastily leaves, ‰ Œ } u] •] v P š } P š] v š } µ Z Á] š Z š Z Ç } µ v P Á } u v P] v Œ o o Ç •
overtly disappointed. She knows it is just a matter of time before Tony is hers.

Classes begin, and Tony has further adjustments to make as a freshman on a new campus far from home. As the first game approaches, we see the players bond with various pre-game activities including meals, group trips to movie theaters, and spending the night before the game in a hotel. Tony is putting on a good face, but it is clear to us that he is very nervous about his increasingly high-profile existence. He has not played a game yet, and people all over the state are talking about him. How can he possibly live up to these expectations and follow the proper path in life?

Game day arrives, and a sea of red envelopes Lincoln, NE. Thousands of red-clad fans jam the streets, pack the taverns, and line up outside Memorial Stadium to greet the arriving players. Tony and his teammates take tour busses right up to the stadium and get off to a rousing welcome from throngs of adoring fans. We see Tony suit up in his scarlet uniform and run out onto the field with his teammates. This is what he has dreamed of!

The first half goes well for Nebraska, but Tony watches it from the sideline. He may be a big-time recruit, but he is still just a true freshman who has to wait his turn. Finally, during the second half, Tony is sent into the game to hearty cheers from the stands. Initially, however, things do not go so well. Tony is whistl (} Œ ^ (o • • š Œ š _ ‰ v o š Ç } v Z] • ( ] Œ
the ire of senior quarterback BRADY GOODWIN. But on the next play, Tony is able to break free and score a touchdown on his first official carry of his collegiate career! The Huskers roll to an easy victory, and Tony is a hero by the end of the game.

Tony agrees to celebrate the big win with a few of his teammates at a huge house party held in the Northern Bottoms, a neighborhood just north of campus and filled with college students. Not only are T } v Ç [• š u u š • š Z Œ U µ š • •] Ç v Z Œ (Œ] v • Œ š
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the party and begin to start trouble. This group of miscreants is led by a local lug by the name of DICKEY, and his lieutenant from Los Angeles named MUCKLE. None of their group of five has any street credibility, and they are mostly there to steal items from the home after starting fights to distract the partygoers. Tony, Caleb, and Deion, looking to help the residents of the house, step in and attempt to get the wannabes to leave. A huge brawl breaks out, and shortly thereafter, the police arrive.

The resulting bad press leaves Tony, Deion, and Caleb with one-game suspensions. Just when Tony has become a star, he has done the thing he promised not to do. He has let his coach and his team down, and played into the stereotype that kids from the inner-city are nothing but trouble. Before dismissing Tony, Coach Shepperd does take note of that fact that he stuck up for his teammates in a tough situation. Tony appreciates this gesture, but feels more shame than anything else.

Act Three

Meanwhile, back in Los Angeles, Dawg Nutz is being let out of County Jail. He is promptly picked up by his closest associates, and the three immediately begin to plot their revenge against Tony and his family. Dawg has apparently done some hard time, and no distance is great enough to deter him from trying to strike back at the young football star.

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associates have something to do with it. Manny regains consciousness in his hospital bed. He opens his eyes to find Tony looking down on him, having already made the trip from Lincoln.
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warns him not to blow this chance. After an emotional goodbye, Tony leaves the room.

Tony is greeted in the hospital waiting room by Glory and Rev. Thompson. He informs them that he is headed back to school. Rev. Thompson agrees to look after Manny and Glory from
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hospital and narrowly misses being gunned down by Dawg and his crew in the parking lot! He
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Tony arrives back in Lincoln. The first thing he does is pay Cassidy a visit. He needs to see a friendly face, and has resisted her for too long. The two share a brief, but passionate love scene. Tony wakes up in her bed the next morning. With his personal needs satisfied, Tony is ready to rejoin his team.

While Tony believes himself safe in Lincoln, Dawg is still working to exact his revenge. Through a local barber, Dawg is able to make contact with Muckle, one of the Lincoln wannabes. Muckle had grown up in L.A. and moved to Lincoln years ago to leave his own troubles behind. Word of mouth on the streets and social media outlets show just how small a world we live in. After a brief conversation, the Lincoln wannabes have agreed in principle to help Dawg and his crew much-desired street credibility, and Dawg would have his revenge!

encourage him to lean on them for support. The coaches also voice support for their young star. They will all help him get through this together. Coach Shepperd even voices his support for Tony and all recruits attempting to escape from dangerous neighborhoods while a guest on may bring their problems with them.

Dawg and his two closest associates arrive in Lincoln driving their tricked-out sedan. It clearly hardcore gang member, but Dawg is having none of it. demands.

Tony and his teammates arrive outside Memorial Stadium for another home game. As they step off the busses into the throngs of adoring fans, Tony is given the shock of his life. Dawg Nutz and his associates are standing in the crowd, close enough to reach out and touch him. Though imagination about what he intends to do to Tony. He molds his hand into the shape of a gun

During the game, Tony is completely distracted. He is continually looking up into the stands. He imagines gang members all over the stadium. When he is finally inserted into the game in the second half, he makes a costly fumble, again drawing the ire of some veteran players. After the game, Tony is dejected and concerned. He is invited to a house party his teammates will be attending, but he declines. He just wants to get back to his dorm room.

Tony makes it back to his dorm room unharmed. He finds an intimidating message from Dawg on his answering machine. The message suggests that Tony needs to meet him in person, or reluctantly agrees and walks over to a darkened parking lot near Memorial Stadium. There, he comes face to face with Dawg, his two lieutenants, Dickey, and Muckle!

Tony listens and Dawg spells out his terms. Dawg has decided to extort future pro-football earnings from Tony, rather than kill him. If Tony agrees, no harm will come to him and his

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when a university policeman drives up to the group and demands to know what they are doing there. From this point on, things get a bid deadly. Dickey stupidly draws a gun on the officer as he is patting the others down. A gun battle erupts. Dickey is killed and the cop wounded. Muckle runs from the scene, as does Tony!

Dawg has come too far to leave any living witness. He and his lieutenants chase Tony for blocks. Tony is easily the fastest of the young men, but Dawg grazes him with a bullet, drastically
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warning her. It turns out Glory is quite safe with Rev. Thompson watching her back. Thompson
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her home.

With Glory safe, Tony now needs to get himself to safety. Shortly after hanging up with Glory,
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through the North Bottoms. With the police converged on the scene of the original shooting, Tony is in grave danger and his wound is worsening. Having nowhere else to run, Tony is able to make it to the house party he was invited to earlier. Amid the noise of the raging party, he is unable to warn his friends about the dangerous duo on his tail. Dawg and the other gang member burst into the party with guns drawn. Deion and Caleb are there and help Tony overpower the thugs. Before Dawg is subdued, he is able to get off a round that hits Cassidy!

Tony is devastated that he has led these dangerous criminals to a place where they could harm
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convince him not to pull the trigger. Tony throws down the pistol in disgust and collapses, totally exhausted. The police arrive to mop up. Cassidy is hurt bad, but not mortally wounded.

The film ends with exterior overhead shots of the campus at UNL. Radio host Alan Chizek
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