Cementville

by J. C. Young

Based on the stageplay by Jane Martin
FADE FROM BLACK

EXT. COUNTY HIGHWAY – DAY

A Tennessee road sign reads "Cementville 12, Memphis 105" as CARS are heard cruising past. Off-screen, a CAR DOOR opens and shuts. Next to the sign is a corner post of an old wood fence. A placard is laid in front of the post. It reads: "G.G.W.A. WRESTLING! Tonight!! Golden Globe Wrestling Association presents The Vixens of Violence!"

TITLES

Wearing a neon green jacket, wrestling promoter BIG MAN VAG chews on a cigar as he hammers the placard to the post. Then, he pulls out a sticker that reads," Cementville Sportsdrome 7:00 pm!!" and pastes it across the bottom.

Taking a moment to admire it, he walks back to the dust-covered Lincoln. He opens the driver’s door and tosses in the hammer. The passenger seat is covered in more placards and stickers from various towns. He piles in, puts the car in gear and pulls back on the road.

On the placard are several images of professional wrestlers in various action or muscle poses. In one, female wrestler Black Lightning wraps up the masked Lady Doom in a vicious leg lock.

JADINE* (VO)
(*Like a TV commentator)
...we’re seein’ a real barnburner here...

FADE

INT. MOBILE HOME – DAY

On a faded comforter laid on the floor, two teen girls grapple in the same hold as the pros in the poster. Donning a Lady Doom T-shirt, young NOLA strains to escape her larger cousin JADINE’S grip.

JADINE*
This may be all she wrote for Lady Doom as Black Lightnin’ tightens up her patented Lightnin’ Leg Lock.

Nola groans, then bumps Jadine off and rolls away. As Jadine gets up, Nola skillfully grabs her in a reverse headlock.

NOLA
But, whut’s this? Lady Doom’s settin’ her up for the... it's the Reaper!
Nola spins Jadine around and they drop to the floor. Jadine flops around, playing “stunned” as Nola pounces and pins her.

NOLA
1... 2... 3... It's all over...

Nola sits back, heaving for breath. Both girls laugh.

NOLA (CONT)
An’ Lady Doom retains her G.G.W.A. women’s belt with an amazing...

Suddenly, a hand reaches out and grabs a handful of her hair. Nola winces in real pain as she’s pulled to her feet.

MOMMA (OS)
The Hell’s goin' on, Nola?

As Nola grimaces and struggles, her MOMMA, a large red-faced woman, glares at her.

NOLA
We're jus' wrasslin', Momma!

Momma growls and shoves Nola toward the door. Jadine quickly gets up and moves aside as Momma presses her attack.

MOMMA
Wrasslin’? You’re nineteen, Nola!

Nola leans against the doorframe and looks down at her feet.

MOMMA
You’re too old to be roughhousin’...
S’posed to be down at th’ job agency.

Nola swallows her fear and looks directly at Momma.

NOLA
And do what? Pack boxes in the paper plate factory? Nothing’s here, Momma! I’m gonna’ go to Memphis.

Momma gets right in her face; her eyes blurred and bloodshot.

MOMMA
(Snorts)
Memphis. Still dreamin’ of bein’ a big wrasslin’ star, little girl?
(Shoves Nola’s shoulder)
Cain’t even put ol’ Momma on her ass.

Nola gathers herself up to stare the larger woman down.
MOMMA
What’er you gonna’ do, little girl?

Nola growls and lunges at Momma, off-screen.

EXT. TRAILER PORCH - DAY

Nola is thrust out the door to the deck, landing on her rump.

MOMMA (OS)
Git down to that agency and git a real job, ‘rasslergirl!

Jadine helps Nola up, as their shoes and bags are tossed out. The two girls plop down onto the steps.

NOLA
Yes, ma'am!
(To Jadine)
Bitch.

JADINE
Uncle Paulie used to let us ‘rassle. He wouldn’t put up with that.

NOLA
Daddy put up with a whole lotta’ stuff before he runned off.

Nola slips on her canvas shoes as Jadine straightens her hair and fishes out a cigarette.

JADINE
You goin’ to the matches tonight? The G.G.W.A.’s at the old Sportsdrome.

NOLA
I'm broke. 'Sides, Momma wouldn’t let me go anyways.

Jadine slips on her shoes, knocks the ash off her cigarette and stands. She jerks her head for them to go.

EXT. ROAD SIDE - DAY

Two RV’s and semi-truck pass by the Cementville highway sign; a faded G.G.W.A. logo is emblazoned on the truck trailer.
EXT. CEMENTVILLE STREETS - DAY

Nola and Jadine walk past chained-up factories, boarded-up stores and old houses. Town square is a ghost town, except for some boys hanging on a corner. They flirt with Jadine, and a couple tease Nola for her T-shirt. Suddenly, one boy grabs her in a headlock. She quickly whips him into a hammerlock. He struggles loose and the game is over. They shoo her away.

EXT. JOB AGENCY - DAY

Nola stops at the storefront. In the window are ads for factory workers, cleaning crews, etc. Then, she spots a G.G.W.A. poster on a nearby phone pole.

EXT. SPORTSDROME ARENA - DAY

A shadow of a bygone era, the dulled granite is a perfect fit among the empty factories and closed mills. The convoy arrives at the back of the building, where Big Man’s sedan is already parked. Leaning on the fender, he grunts and pulls out a cigar as the roadies climb out of the trucks.

BIG MAN
All right, let’s get it rollin’.

They open the semi-trailer and pull out parts of a wrestling ring and racks of chairs. Big Man lights his cigar, straightens his porkpie hat and heads inside.

INT. SPORTSDROME ARENA - DAY

The roadies work to assemble the ring in the empty hall.

BIG MAN (OS)
Yeah, tonight... One of my guys is down... just got out of the ER...

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Big Man paces with a cell phone as he chews his cigar. Behind him, DWAYNE PARDEE, a nervous little man with oily hair, grips a homemade autograph book. Big Man turns to better his signal.

BIG MAN (CONT)
I got bell time in six hours...

Dwayne creeps past to the locker room before Big Man turns back. Peering through the door is Nola, watching the roadies.
BIG MAN
Yeah, thanks for nothin'.
(Closes the phone)
Hey, kid. Yeah, you.

Nola apprehensively steps into the dim corridor. He takes out several small bills and holds them out for her.

BIG MAN (OS)
Wanna' earn some money?

NOLA
Yeah, sure.

BIG MAN
Go down there and get that locker room fixed up. Superstars need a clean place to change. I run an A-1 outfit here.

She nods, taking the money. Big Man opens his phone and dials.

TIGER (OS)
A-1 outfit. Run by an A-1 asshole.

Nola turns. TIGER, a tall, imposing but road-weary woman, stands behind her. She holds a pet carrier and a flight bag over the shoulder of her white fringed Elvis jacket, with the words “Takin’ Care of Business” on the back.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Ancient fight posters cover peeling plaster as rotting ceiling tiles droop from above. The floor is littered with generations of trash and a shower in the back is a science lab of mold and bacteria. Dwayne looks around the room, clutching his book.

DWAYNE
Geez. Geez, I don't know...

TIGER (OS)
Anybody home?

Trapped, Dwayne dives into a broom closet as Tiger enters.

TIGER
Son-of-a-bitch!
(Kicking a can)
Hey, kid! Jesus...

NOLA (OS)
Yo.
Nola enters as Tiger inspects the dingy room.

TIGER
We supposed to dress in here?

NOLA (OS)
What he said.

TIGER
We supposed to do it standin' up?

NOLA
Huh?

TIGER
Benches. Aren’t there any benches?

NOLA
I don't know.

Tiger pokes her head into the bathroom. She glances down.

TIGER
(Amused)
There's a dead rat in the shower.

NOLA (OS)
I don't think they work anymore.

TIGER
Great. You talk to the big man?

NOLA
He’s been on the phone a while, real agitated.

TIGER
Damn! Every time there's a man on a phone, my life gets screwed up. Was it a parole officer?

NOLA
No, ma'am. Don’t think so.
(Glancing at the pet carrier)
What's that?

TIGER
Family.

Nola leans down to the carrier.

NOLA
You on the poster? Here kitty...
TIGER (OS)
Chihuahua... but, she’s a better kisser
than my ex-boyfriend. Got a smoke?

Nola fishes a crumpled pack of generics from her hip pocket. Tiger takes one.

TIGER
Look, go back out there and tell the
big man I don’t dress standing up and
no, I ain’t on the poster...

At that moment, DANI MALOWSKY enters, holding a take-out tray
with a half-eaten burrito on it. She’s younger and more
slender than Tiger, but also seems road-worn. She wears a
cowgirl hat and a pink duffle bag slung over her shoulder.

TIGER
She’s on the poster. Go get me a
beer. Make it a six.

Dani looks around in disbelief and disgust.

DANI
Are you freakin’ kiddin’ me?

TIGER
What’s your name, kid?

NOLA
Nola.

TIGER
Nola, Tarzana - Queen of the Jungle.
Tarzana, Nola - Queen of Cleaning.

DANI
I’m not doing this. I got a
cleanliness clause somewhere.

Tiger peeks inside random lockers. As Nola walks to the door,
Dani puts her arm out to stop her.

NOLA
She said she wanted some beer.

TIGER (OS)
Hey, there’s a used rubber in this
one. Glad someone had fun in here.

DANI
Nola. I’m Dani. Want my autograph?
(Nola nods.)
Then, clean this up first.
CLOSE UP - NOLA AND DANI

Nola tries to stare Dani down, but Dani gives it right back.

DANI
I’m paid to hurt people, little girl. Un’erstand?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Nola blinks. She grabs a nearby broom and gets to work.

DANI
Good girl. Tiger, cut it out.

TIGER
I like lookin’...

DANI
(Spotting the carrier)
Big Man said if you brought that rat dog in here, he’ll eat her.

TIGER
Be the last thing he eats. She didn’t like that Motel 6 and I ain’t leaving her in the trailer. Got a nosebleed.

Tiger opens the carrier and pulls the little dog out.

TIGER (CONT)
Don’t you, baby? (To Dani)
I didn’t get a Hell of lot of sleep either. You?

DANI
Damn eighth graders. Ought to electocute’em. Where’s Big Man?

TIGER
On his phone... up the hall.

DANI
And where’s Eddie the ass?
Dani hangs her hat on a locker door.

TIGER
The U.S. Cruiserweight Champion?

DANI
Ain’t that a bitch? Crowd loves them cruiserweights. I gotta’ see me a gynecologist.

Dani drops her bag and heads to the shower room.

TIGER
Maybe you oughta’ cut down on room clerks to about two a week.

NOLA
Want me to clean out some lockers?

Dani waves her away as she looks at showers.

DANI
Well, where else am I gonna’ find a man? Dead rat in the shower.

TIGER (OS)
Don’t work anyway.

DANI
Typical. You want a burrito?

Dani turns around and holds out the food tray.

TIGER
Sure. What town are we in?

Tiger puts her dog in the carrier and takes the tray.

DANI
Hickville. I don’t know...

NOLA (OS)
Cementville...

They turn, Tiger in mid-bite of burrito. Nola looks up from sweeping up trash.

NOLA
It’s Cementville, Tennessee.

Tiger and Dani snort a laugh together.
DANI
I’m in Cementville, Tennessee with the Golden Globe Wrestling Association’s All-Star Vixens of Violence tour! Got a painkiller?

Nola eagerly steps in.

NOLA
How many stars?

DANI
Gimme’ five bucks.

Tiger pulls an aspirin tin from her bag. Dani takes it.

TIGER
Don’t let her hustle you, kid.

DANI
This is a fan, Tiger. What separates a true fan from a mark is the inside dope. You a fan?

Dani takes two pills out and gives the tin back to Tiger.

NOLA
Yes, ma’am.

DANI
Give me five bucks, I answer three questions.

TIGER
I’m going to see the big man. (Hands Nola some cash)
This is for beer. Keep the change and watch the dog.

Tiger exits. Dani checks her pockets.

DANI
She’s got a plate in her head.

NOLA
No.

DANI
Yep. I banged Gene Simmons once.

NOLA
Yeah?

Nola gives her a five. Dani tucks it under her bra strap.
Okay. The first question was how many stars? You got a cigarette?

Nola fishes out her pack again, Dani takes two, tucking one under her other bra strap. She lights the first one.

Cementville…
(Shakes her head)
You seen Madison Square Garden?

No.

Played there once… in front of thirty-thousand. Now, I’m here.

Dani nods and takes a puff.

The metal door bangs open, as Dani and Nola come out the emergency exit. Dani exhales smoke as she talks.

Okay, we got the big cruiserweight championship. Irish Bob Murphy versus Stosha “Wild Man” Oronovsky.

They pass by roadies carrying chairs and boxes.

Big Man plays Irish and his brother, Eddie the ass does the Ruskie. They fought for that title forty-two times so far this year.

Irish and Wild Man are brothers?

Yeah. Well, Big Man ain’t Irish, he ain’t a Bob and he owes me four weeks pay. So, we open with me and Tiger…

Dani pops open a storage panel and pulls out a duffel bag.
DANI (CONT’D)
Netty and Angelessa are up next.
Then, Vernon and Curtis.
(Tosses Nola the bag.)
Lessa and Tiger in a mask. Then,
Vernon and Curtis again in masks.

Walking to the door, Dani grabs a pair of boots.

DANI (CONT’D)
The girls tag team and finally the
big cruiserweight championship.
(Hands Nola the boots)
Then, a shower and we go get wasted.

EXT. PARKING LOT – DAY
The door opens. Dani and Nola step out. Nola is carrying more things as Dani takes another drag on her cigarette.

NOLA
Only 8 stars?

DANI
Yep.

NOLA
Whole thing?

Dani grinds out her smoke and walks on, Nola follows.

NOLA (CONT’D)
What about Lady Doom?

She hurries to catch Dani as they pass the roadies.

DANI
Sometimes Angelessa, sometimes I am.

NOLA
She ain’t even real? Damn, she was my favorite.

DANI
Bitch, huh? Last question.

CLOSE UP – DANI AND NOLA
Dani turns to Nola, knowing exactly what she’s going to say.
DANI & NOLA
How can I get into professional wrestling?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Dani and Nola enter, heading back to the locker room.

DANI
One: It’s crap work for crap pay.

They pass VERNON, a towering man with long hair and full beard, still in his street clothes. Dani bumps forearms with him as they pass. He nods and waves at Nola.

DANI (CONT’D)
Two: You get foot fungus.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

The girls enter. Nola dumps her armload. Dani guides her out.

DANI (CONT’D)
And three: Wrestlers all get bad attitudes and bad knees. Now, beer.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

At the doorway, they run into NETTY, a mature motherly figure and ANGELESSA, a powerful young black woman, coming in. ‘Lessa wears a Walkman, two duffels and a cropped “Temple University” sweatshirt.

NETTY
My God, was that a good, good dinner. Country cookin’... Green beans with all that good bacon fat... Oh, hey, Dani.
(She sees Nola)
And who’s this pretty little thing?

NOLA
Hey.

DANI
Hired help. Doing cleanup.

They head back to the locker room; Netty puts her arm around Nola’s shoulders.
INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Angelessa tosses her bags to the floor as they enter.

    NETTY
    Ooooo, it is nasty isn’t it? What’s your name, sweetie?

    NOLA
    Nola.

    NETTY
    Pretty name…
    (Looking Nola over)
    You like boys or girls, honey?

    NOLA
    Huh?

    NETTY
    You’ll figure it out. Seen Eddie?

    DANI
    Nope. Maybe he didn’t brush his teeth and died from the smell.

Netty still has her arm around Nola’s shoulder as Dani goes to her locker.

    NETTY
    Now... he’s our meal ticket and we should worry about him.
    (To Nola)
    Sweetie, can you bring us some benches? I’m a mature woman and I need to have a seat. Ya’ll want some Black Jack gum? Lessa?
    (To Dani)
    Angelessa’s in a mood.

    DANI
    She’s always in a mood.

    NETTY
    No, she’s not.
    (To Nola)
    Go on, now. Shoo...

Nola exits. Netty takes a moment to watch her go. Dani turns and looks at Anglessa’s face, but Lessa turns away.

    DANI
    What happened to your eye?
ANGELLESA
Somebody messed with me.

NETTY (OS)
Smile and the whole world smiles.

ANGELLESA
You smile, then. I got a hun’red aggravated reasons to kill.

DANI
You, uh... going somewhere?
(Kicks at the extra bag)
You take off, owe me fifteen bucks.

ANGELLESA
Get your foot off my bag.

Netty watches for Nola to return.

NETTY
You know, you got me thinkin’... what if the ass O.D.’ed in his room? I mean he freebases, right?

DANI
Big Man says he’s clean.

NETTY
They’re brothers, honey. They got to speak well of each other.

Nola enters, dragging two benches.

NETTY
You are a little dreamboat. Gum?

Nola takes a piece. Netty grins as she pops it in her mouth.

NETTY
You seen those trunks in the hall? Could you drag them in here? I’m a big woman an’ I got me a bad back.

Nola heads back out, passing Tiger on her way in. She plops onto one of the benches.

NETTY
You seen the ass?

TIGER
Not since screwin’ him two years ago.
NETTY
He was at the hotel last night.

TIGER
I see him, but I don’t see him.

Nola returns, dragging a large steamer trunk. She exits. Tiger pulls a Wonder Woman comic from her jacket pocket. Angelessa squats on the floor to stretch.

ANGELESSA
He’s usually on time.

DANI
Yeeeeeew! You getting on that floor?

TIGER
Real nasty stuff down there.

ANGELESSA
Got to stretch... warm-up.

DANI
I’m not stretching on that floor.

ANGELESSA
You never stretch.

DANI
Get off my back. I got infected ovaries...

Dana whirls around, lighting another cigarette as she walks away. Nola enters with another trunk.

NETTY
Poor thing. We be in bed without a vibrator if that ass don’t show.

TIGER
Nice talk, Mama.

NETTY
Well, them people wanna’ see them cruiserweights.

Tiger taps Nola on the shoulder.

TIGER
Pull that thing over here.

Nola drags a trunk over and Tiger pulls out a red tackle box with “First Aid” is written on it.
NETTY
Them marks want their money back, we be in bed without a vibrator.

ANGELESSA
Don’t call’em marks.

NETTY
Fine. Fans...

ANGELESSA
That’s better.

DANI
They’re marks... rubes... hicks...

ANGELESSA
Fans.

NETTY
You two, be nice.

NOLA
Going for that beer now.

Nola exits. Angelessa points at the dog carrier.

ANGELESSA
No rat dogs or alcohol in the dressing area.

TIGER
Dog goes where I go. I’m in Cementville, Tennessee with bad ribs, a dog with a nosebleed and I ain’t been paid. I’m getting a six-pack.

Tiger pulls out an unlabeled bottle. She shakes out two pills and swallows them, dry. Dani leans over to Angelessa.

DANI
So, what’s with the bag?

ANGELESSA
Figured you gonna’ do my laundry.

NETTY
See now, we’re getting all bad tempered from this money thing...

DANI
Damn straight. I say we get cash up front, before the show.
ANGELESSA
Don’t call it a show.

DANI
Lessa, you are a pain in the ass.

ANGELESSA
I’m an athlete. I don’t do shows.

DANI
Okay, so we get cash before they light the Olympic torch.

TIGER
He ain’t gonna’ pay up front.

DANI
Well, if the ass did overdose, he ain’t gonna’ pay afterwards. I’m just getting’ tired of his kickin’ our butts all over the lot.

ANGELESSA (OS)
Kept you off the streets.

CLOSE UP – DANI AND ANGELESSA
She whirls to glare at Lessa.

DANI
I told you I don’t like that talk.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY
Behind them, Tiger continues to read her comic book.

NETTY
Big Man does have his traits. Some good... some bad.

DANI
I’m talking about getting paid!

NETTY
Nobody here is starving to death.

DANI
Lessa? Four weeks, right Lessa? Four weeks, right?

Dani steps in front of Angelessa. Lessa continues to stretch, listening to her Walkman, she pulls out one plug to hear.
DANI (CONT’D)
You didn’t get paid, right?

ANGELESSA
I’m into my warm-up, okay? Getting my
game face. Puts my mind in the ring.

DANI
You better not got paid, Lessa. I
don’t care what Olympics you was in.

ANGELESSA
Girl, if I’d got paid, you’d be
talkin’ to the air.

INT. CONVENIENT STORE – DAY

Nola puts a carton of beer bottles on the counter. The clerk
looks at her. Behind him, is a “We Card” sign. She smiles.

NOLA
Hey, Floyd. Just somethin’ for Momma...

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Netty looks back at Tiger.

NETTY
I’m just worried about Eddie. If he’s
hurt or sick, well...

Lessa looks at Tiger, and they both grin.

TIGER AND ANGELESSA
We’re in bed without a vibrator!

They laugh and high-five.

DANI
Well, I have financial obligations.

ANGELESSA
You still payin’ your pimp?

Dani surges at Lessa, but Tiger steps in front of her.

TIGER
Enough, okay? Jesus, I hate women.

Netty hangs a mirror on the inside of an open locker.
NETTY
Must be a full moon, I swear.

TIGER
Let’s just run the card and get out of this pisshole.
(Pointing to her carrier)
I gotta’ get her to a vet, okay? That sure as Hell ain’t here.

INT. SPORTSDROME ARENA – DAY

Big Man and several roadies are standing around the finished ring. A large cardboard box sits on the floor nearby.

BIG MAN
Lookin’ good, boys...

He opens the box and hands out black T-shirts. They’re plain, except for the word “SECURITY” in white letters on the front.

BIG MAN
Find a good fit. And I want’em back.

As the roadies pick out shirts, Nola walks past, clutching a brown paper bag.

BIG MAN
Hey… you… Stringbean!

NOLA
(Stops, but doesn’t turn)
Yes, sir?

BIG MAN
Get downstairs and get what I told you to get.

NOLA
I’m on it.

He eyes her suspiciously as she scurries off, then turns back.

BIG MAN
All right, guess we better start lettin’ ‘em in.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY

Nola returns with the brown bag. She pulls out the beer.
NOLA
Had to go a ways; kept gettin’
carded. Corona okay?

TIGER
Everybody cool?
(Looks at the bottles)
What is that? Japanese?

NETTY
Oooooo, Corona’s good stuff. From
down Me-hico way...

TIGER
Looks like pee water.

NETTY (CONT)
Had some good times on that beer.

Tiger pops off the top with her teeth as Big Man enters.

BIG MAN
Okay, ladies... Pow-wow time.

NETTY
Having a hard day, honey.

Netty pats his shoulder. But, Big Man spots the dog carrier

BIG MAN
You got that frog dog in here?
Goddammit, Tiger.

Big Man grabs the carrier and storms into the hall.

INT. HALLWAY – DAY

Tiger cuts Big Man off. She grabs a hold of the carrier.

TIGER
You will regret touchin’ this dog.

She glares at him and pulls at the case. His grip stays firm.

BIG MAN
The motel called. Seems you didn’t
pay your check at the cafe, Tiger.

TIGER
Sour milk, green roast beef on wet
toast. The Hell I’m payin’.
BIG MAN
Pay the friggin’ bill, all right? We got to be good citizens.

TIGER
If I’d ate that sandwich, I’d be a dead citizen.

Dani steps in between them.

DANI
And what’s she supposed to pay with?

BIG MAN
I got a lot of problems. I don’t want to hear this minute crap.

DANI
Don’t sweat the small stuff, huh? Get to the heart of the problem?

Tiger pulls the carrier free and heads back to the locker room. Big Man tries to follow, but Dani cuts him off.

BIG MAN
Yeah. Tell me about it.

DANI
Paychecks.

On a reflex, Big Man SMACKS her head with an open hand.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY

Hearing the hit, Tiger stops mid-step. She shuts her eyes and shakes her head.

TIGER
Damn.

INT. HALLWAY – DAY

Dani stares, mouth agape. But, the shock quickly wears off.

DANI
You hit me.

BIG MAN
No, I didn’t.

He steps around her and goes after Tiger. Dani pursues.
INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY

Big Man strides up to Tiger to take back the case.

DANI
You hit me in the head.

BIG MAN
Sit down and listen up.

DANI
I don’t take that from anyone! No one crosses that line! You hear?

ANGELESSA (OS)
Chill out.

Big Man gives up on the dog carrier. He turns to Dani, who points a finger at Lessa.

DANI
Butt out.

BIG MAN
I didn’t hit you.

DANI
You... hit... me.

BIG MAN
You ever have a coach, Dani?

DANI
What?

BIG MAN
You ever play a sport? Softball?

DANI
The Hell does this have to...

BIG MAN
I cuffed you.

DANI
So?

BIG MAN
The cuff is how you get a player’s attention. It says “wake up, you are being communicated with!”
DANI
Wake up! I’m communicating that you owe me four weeks pay!

He cuffs her again, harder. She lunges at him. A moment later, Tiger and Netty are pulling her back.

CLOSE-UP OF DANI
Enraged and frothing.

DANI
Touch me again!! Touch me and I’ll take your damned hand off!

INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY
Big Man dismisses her with a sneer.

BIG MAN
I got no time for this crap.

ANGELESSA
Can I ask you a question?

BIG MAN
In a minute. Dani... Dani, your problem is inappropriate behavior. Like pissin’ on the sidewalk.

DANI
Let go of me.

BIG MAN
An athlete is physical... focused. A sprinter, waiting for the start... Chicago could blow up, they won’t hear it. You want to communicate...

He puts a hand on her shoulder; she squirms loose.

BIG MAN
You gotta’ cuff’em. All I’m sayin’...

He looks down at a spot on his jacket.

BIG MAN (CONT)
What is this? You got some kind of crap on me. For this I should hit you. Jeezus, look at this. I cuff you. I never hit you. Clear?
Dani turns and lays her forearm into a locker, loudly.

    BIG MAN (CONT’D)
    Are we clear?

CLOSE UP OF DANI
She hits the locker with another forearm blow.

    DANI
    (Quietly)
    Yeah, we’re clear.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY
Nola enters, carrying a water pail.

    BIG MAN
    Good.
    (To Lessa)
    You had a question.

    ANGELESSA
    Are we workin’? We gonna’ wrestle?

    BIG MAN
    Okay, listen up...
    (Spots the beer carton)
    Is that beer? Is that a beer I see before me? What is my position on beer in the dressing room?

    ANGELESSA
    No beer.

    BIG MAN
    Right. Whose is it?

    TIGER
    Mine.

    BIG MAN
    I’m making an exception tonight.

He holds up a hand. Tiger tosses him a beer. Netty watches Nola go by, then gives her a pat on her behind. Nola jumps.

    NETTY
    You doin’ real nice.
BIG MAN
What is this, Bulgarian? Jeeminy Christmas. People don’t buy American, then piss about the country goin’ down the tubes.
(Takes a swig)
Not bad.

Dani still leans against the lockers. Netty leans in.

NETTY
Just forget it.

DANI
You forget it.

BIG MAN
Okay, everybody listening? Lessa?
(No response)
Lessa, jeez... Take five.
(Takes another drink)
You know that you girls are like family. You tour with me, you’re family. But, we got a situation.

Nola drags in a two-sided changing unit with a mirror.

BIG MAN
Hey! Not now.

NOLA
But, you said...

BIG MAN
Not now, later.

She nods and pushes the unit out.

BIG MAN
We got a situation. Now, we’re in...

TIGER
Tennessee.

BIG MAN
I know that. What am I, a moron? Where in freakin’ Tennessee?

TIGER
Cementville.
BIG MAN
Yeah, good wrestlin’ town. They’ve had Fight Night here on Saturdays for years. Bill Walla used to book here. He slacks off, I get us the date. The strong survive, right?

NETTY
Right.

BIG MAN
Right. We draw big, I snatch up other Tennessee dates. See the picture? But, we got a situation. My brother…

(Takes off his hat)
An all-star. A man who worked for six years in the big time... the original W.W.F. A man who could put butts in the seats… What?

In the back of the others, Dani has her hand raised.

DANI
I gotta’ potty.

BIG MAN
Later.

DANI
Later? I gotta’ go.

BIG MAN
Dani. The Gettysburg Address, Pearl Harbor… There are times you hold it.

ANGELETTA (OS)
Big Man?

Whirls around, his face getting red.

BIG MAN
What?

ANGELETTA
Look at this place. They got no fights here on Saturdays.

BIG MAN
I said in this town, over at the Hertzberger Arena. They bumped Billy for a goddamned ice show.
DANI
So you booked us in the Hilton here.

BIG MAN
Hey, this is a famous fight joint.
Jake Lamotta, Ezzard Charles...

DANI
Who were they, cavemen?

BIG MAN
Willie Pep, Kid Gavilan, Archie Moore. This here is a place of
worship. Gods... I’m not makin’ this up, gods spilled blood in here.

DANI
Apparently they pissed in here too.

Dani and Tiger laugh.

BIG MAN
Knock it off, Dani. Who the Hell were you? Who the Hell are you? And who
the Hell you gonna’ be when I dump you?
(Silence)
We work the card right and next time,
we are in Hertzberger. What am I
talking for here? My brother... My
brother is indisposed.

NETTY
I knew it.

DANI
What? He can’t work a match drunk?

Suddenly, Big Man grabs Dani by her throat, slamming her into
the lockers. He holds her there, glaring at her. She’s frozen.

TIGER
Whoa!

Just as suddenly, he releases Dani, puts his head in his hands
and begins to sob.

BIG MAN
Oh man, oh man...

Netty guides him to a bench.

NETTY
Come on, honey. Sit down, darlin’.
BIG MAN
I’m okay. I’m okay.

TIGER
You wanna’ shot?
(To Lessa)
Inside my bag. I got a half-pint...

Angelessa shakes her head. Tiger turns to Netty.

TIGER (CONT’D)
Wild turkey.

NETTY
Half-pint coming up.

BIG MAN
I’m okay, get off me.

Big Man stands up and backs away as Angelessa checks on Dani.

ANGELESSA
You okay?

Coughing, Dani waves Angelessa off.

CLOSE UP – TIGER’S BAG
Netty takes out the whiskey bottle.

NETTY (OS)
Here it is.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – DAY
Tiger takes the bottle from Netty and holds it out to Big Man.

TIGER
Try this.

BIG MAN
(Reeling back)
I’m in freakin’ A.A., Tiger.

TIGER
You were just drinkin’ beer.

BIG MAN
Beer ain’t real booze. You don’t hand a half-pint to a man in A.A. Have some freakin’ consideration.
Tiger puts the bottle away as Netty grabs up his beer.

NETTY
She’s sorry. Have your beer.

Big Man takes a drink as Nola drags in the dressing unit.

NOLA
Comin’ through.

BIG MAN
Hey! I said when I said.

NOLA
You said later. It’s later.

BIG MAN
Take it back in the hall. Smoke a joint or something. I’ll call you.

Nola sighs and shoves the furniture back out again.

BIG MAN
Eddie… my own brother…

NETTY
Easy, big fella’. Not dead, is he?

BIG MAN
Sumbitch… I got one-hundred bucks… no questions… anybody knows who was in his room last night.

Silence. Lessa turns to her locker. Big Man notices her. Dani steps between Big Man and Lessa.

BIG MAN (CONT’D)
You know something Lessa?

DANI
Some whore…

BIG MAN
You see her?

DANI
Local douche bag. Big blonde wig.

BIG MAN
She with him?

DANI
In the hall. He was tanked.
BIG MAN
I find this skank, she’s dead. I cut off her tits… pull her inside out by her tongue… This is my brother…
(Pounds his chest)
Blood of my blood… I’m full up. I got feelings up to here.

Netty pats his shoulder.

NETTY
Strong feelin’s.

BIG MAN
Yeah.

TIGER
We canceling?

BIG MAN
No, we don’t cancel! What do you mean talkin’ cancel? I’m a professional. Like Donald freakin’ Trump.

ANGELESSA
(Stepping up)
I’ll take you. Let me wrestle you.

BIG MAN
Get outta’ here.

ANGELESSA
I’ll do it in a bikini… or we can do a shoot… wrestle straight.

BIG MAN
Straight? You a brain transplant?

ANGELESSA
I’m Olympia, the original Olympic athlete, remember?

CLOSE UP ON DANI AND ANGLESSA

DANI
Olympics… Nineteenth in shot put.

Lessa whirls to face Dani.

ANGELESSA
Well, I was there. Where were you?
INT. LOCKER ROOM

Big Man turns Anglessa to face him.

BIG MAN

Lessa... straight looks like crap from the seats, not enough action. Folks rather watch the paint dry. Second, I win, who cares... You win? They can put O.D.B. or Kong up against guys, but no one’s gonna’ buy some skinny black chick icing a cruiserweight contender. This whole business lost on you? I got a brother in the hospital, for Christ sake, I don’t have time...

Netty taps Big Man on the shoulder.

NETTY

How about Vernon or Curtis?

BIG MAN

Vernon an’ Curtis are out of my weight class. The marks know that. ’Sides, it was supposed to be the Cruiserweight championship. Eddie’s champ. Can’t have a title match without the champ.

TIGER

So, we’re cancelled?

BIG MAN

What is a booker?

(Looks at them)

I’m serious, what’s a booker?

TIGER

Guy with the front money?

NETTY

Makes the arrangements?

DANI

Dicks people over with promises?

BIG MAN

No... no... and no. He’s a farmer... From piss he makes peaches.

TIGER

Get outta’ here.
NETTY
That is a nice thought.

BIG MAN
Thank you. No Eddie... this is like a huge monster problem. Do we fold? Hell, no. I got responsibilities to my family here. I’m like your father.

DANI
Hand me one of the beers, will ya?

Tiger fishes one out of the carton and tosses it to Dani.

BIG MAN
I get on the phone. I get us a replacement. I see a problem as an opportunity. Make a big move, get a big payoff. So, who did I get?

DANI
Gorgeous freakin’ George back from the dead?

Dani does a “zombie” impression, Tiger laughs.

BIG MAN
The Knockout Sisters.

NETTY
Are you kiddin’?

TIGER
(Cupping her hands)
The blondes with the big implants?

BIG MAN
Dateline... O’Reilly Factor... presenters at the goddamned C.M.T. awards!

ANGELESSA
They’re comin’ here?

BIG MAN
Bingo.

ANGELESSA
Didn’t they get picked up in some drug raid? In a motel, banging some California mayor?

DANI
Aren’t they banned from wrestling?
BIG MAN
People can forgive.

TIGER
They were on the cover of Juggs doing
a sandwich with that same mayor.

BIG MAN
No such thing as bad publicity.

ANGELESSA
Barred for life, I heard.

BIG MAN
Look, W.W.E. and T.N.A... These are
corporate entities. The G.G.W.A. lets
me be independent.

TIGER
They’re in the slam. Five bucks.

BIG MAN
Then, give it to me. Read this.

Big Man pulls out a rolled up newspaper. Netty grabs the paper
first. Tiger looks over her shoulder.

INSERT: LOCAL NEWS SECTION

The two-column headline reads, “Knockout Sisters Free at Last.
Dottie and Dolly home with Mama.”

BIG MAN (OS)
Mama lives in Cairo, Tennessee.
Freakin’ Cairo. I’m genius or I’m
genius? Peaches from piss, right?

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Tiger points at Big Man.

TIGER
You pulled that off?

BIG MAN
One phone call. Tell me I’m good.

DANI
You’re an animal.

BIG MAN
Tell me I’m good.
DANI
You’re good.

BIG MAN
Bet your sweet ass I’m good.

DANI
What’re you payin’ them?

He blinks, then turns for the door.

BIG MAN
Okay, I got a lot to do.

DANI
I don’t get paid, I’m gone.

ANGELESSA
I get paid, and I’m still gone.

REVERSE ON DOORWAY

Big Man is all smiles as he walks out.

BIG MAN
Ladies, don’t promise what you can’t deliver. I’m setting the card. The sisters are on their way. Cairo’s about a half-hour drive. First half as planned. Get ready.

(Stops at the door)
Yes! Touchdown!

(Spikes his hat to the floor)
You wanta’ see a booker, ladies? Big Man, he says, he does, it’s done. You better believe it.

Big Man grabs his hat and goes out.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Tiger turns to Lessa, as the ladies get down to business.

TIGER
How much support wrap you got?

ANGELESSA
Six foot roll.

TIGER
I’ll buy it. How much?
ANGELESSA
Just take it.

Angelessa tosses Tiger the wrap as Dani loads her locker.

DANI
He’s gotta’ pay them what?

NETTY
Mucho dinero.

DANI
Man, that yanks my chain.

ANGELESSA
They get paid, we get paid.

Nola returns once more with the dressing unit.

NOLA
Incoming!

TIGER
(Pulls out her comic)
You guys seen their act?

ANGELESSA
Can’t work a ring... got no skills...

NETTY
Yeah. But, they got ‘it’.

ANGELESSA
Coupla’ crack whores. Embarrassing to share the same room with’em.

DANI
They just stand and pose...

ANGELESSA
Stand... pose... Hell, the way I hear it, they was in some Danish sex show... Man Mountain Montgomery zipped up his fly and discovered them. You seen their “signature” move? The Va-Va-Voom!

Behind them, Nola plugs in the dressing unit. Most of the mirror lights come on. Angelessa moves next to her.

ANGELESSA (CONT’D)
They do this double bump and grind and their opponent collapses.

She bumps her hip against Nola’s. Nola laughs and bumps back.
TIGER
What the Hell is that?

NOLA
Dressing table. It was in the Rosemary Clooney room...

TIGER
Say what?

NOLA
Little room downstairs. Got about two inches of water on the floor, and no lights. But, there’s this poster of Rosemary Clooney on the door and a buncha’ dead roses in it.

NETTY
Who’s she?

TIGER
Singer. She’s dead now.

DANI
Some real talent played this dump?

NOLA
Seemed pretty real in the picture.

DANI
So, who do you think is getting this fine Rosemary Clooney table?

ANGELESSA
The bimbos.

Dani nods. Lessa goes back to unpacking.

NETTY
Now, ya’ll listen here...

DANI
I don’t want to hear it.

NETTY
I may be just an old Alabama waitress, but I make more wrestlin’ three nights a week...

TIGER
When we’re lucky...
…than I did slingin’ hash for six and I ain’t the only one who owes Big Man for getting into show business an’ havin’ a better life, praise Jesus.

DANI
Preach it, sister. She’s rolling now.

NETTY
People who ain’t stayin’ should get goin’ and those who’re stayin’ should get dressed.

NOLA

Nola stands in middle of the room as the others flurry past.

NOLA
I seen them Knockouts on TV. Dolly’s short but, she’s all mean an’ sneaky... you know hateful. Dottie smiles like a movie star, dances, fluffs her hair... and she has a tarantula spider.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Dani rolls her eyes as she adjusts her sports bra.

DANI
Great.

NOLA
And they dead sexy as Hell with these Cher costumes that shine like diamonds. They come all on to them fans, who get riled up and love’em.

ANGELESSA
What’s your name, girl?

NOLA
Nola.

ANGELESSA
Okay, Nola. Shut... the... fuck... up.

NOLA
Sorry.

Netty tapes her wrists as Angelessa undresses.
NETTY
Got me a bruise big as a elephant.

ANGELESSA
Netty, I’m a pro. I don’t get hurt when I work a ring, an’ nobody workin’ a ring with me gets hurt. You put a couple of showgirls in there and somebody’s gonna’ end up on their ass. They mess up or blow a spot; bottom line, I’ll take’em out.

DANI
Well, I really don’t think you’ll have a problem with that.

ANGELESSA
Why’s that?

DANI
Cause you ain’t gonna’ be in the ring with’em anyway. The tag title is next month. Tiger an’ me is up.

ANGELESSA
Tiger ain’t got the moves. She’s on the DL. Plus, they’re gonna’ want heels in there. You’re our main baby. You don’t play bad girl.

DANI
Get this. I make fifty more a week. I’m on the poster. I get top bill, I do the girl’s top match.

ANGELESSA
Well, you see how it goes down.

DANI
I got a contract!

Netty turns to Tiger, who’s slumped on a bench.

NETTY
How you feelin’, honey?

TIGER
Like crap. Stifferen’ Hell.

ANGELESSA
(Puts her headset back on)
All bets are off. Better believe believe it.
TIGER (OS)
...and about a third mobility.

DANI
You want your stuff, Netty?

NETTY
I want romance.

Dani opens a trunk. She takes an outfit and hands it to Netty.

DANI
Romance on the road, huh? I don’t think the kid’s your type. Tiger?

TIGER
I want some major chemicals, a beach, an’ a hunnert’ comic books.

Dani hands Tiger a crimson, one-piece covered with studs.

DANI
I want a cruise vacation. Marry me some A-rab that we ain’t bombed yet.
(Hangs up a mirror)
What about you, kid?

NOLA
I wanna’ wrestle.

DANI
Yeah, it’s a freakin’ paradise in wrestlin’... the travel opportunities, glamorous companionship, luxurious surroundings, and the big money... Plus you get to meet crack whores who go down on politicians.

Walking past Nola, Dani ruffles her hair. The women get dressed: Dani as Tarzana (a leopard-print one-piece), Tiger as Bloody Mary, and Angelessa as Black Lightning (black leotard with lightning bolts). Netty puts on a set of silk sleepwear over her underwear, elbow pads and kneepads.

NETTY
I’ve done twenty-six different jobs. Dry cleanin’, road work, assembly line, store clerk, bartender...

ANGELESSA (OS)
Where’s my belt?

Tiger pulls a belt out of the trunk and tosses it to her.
NETTY (CONT)
... slaughter house, hotel maid, post office, firefighter, fast food, sewer sweep. This is as close to a star as I’m gonna’ get.

Nola moves to stand in front of Netty.

NOLA
I know the moves... I can take a bump!

NETTY
Uh-huh. That’s nice, honey.

NOLA
Been watchin’ ‘rasslin’ on TV since I could sit in my Daddy’s lap... been going to matches on my own since middle school. Hip toss, arm drag, body slam, camel clutch, Boston crab, drop kick... I know all of ‘em.

NETTY
Well sure, moves is your basic... But you got combination spots, rest holds, knowin’ when to make heat. (Looking in the mirror) That’s when you get the crowd all riled up.

NOLA
What do you call that?

NETTY
Nightie Night Netty.

TIGER, DANI, ANGELESSA
She puts’em to sleep!

Netty puts a hand on Nola’s shoulder.

NETTY
Would you want to come back to the RV after the show?

DANI (OS)
She’l’l show you some moves you ain’t seen before...

NETTY
Now, that ain’t nice. I don’t work your side of the street. You oughta’ give me some room.
DANI
Hell, there’s enough hotel clerks to go around.

NOLA
Sure.

Nola nods, eagerly.

NETTY
What’s that, sweetie?

NOLA
I’d like to... get a few tips.

NETTY
Uh-huh. Well, okay then.

Dani walks by and leans in to whisper at Netty.

DANI
Surgeon General oughta’ stick a warning label on your crotch.

NETTY
You just knock that off.

Netty slaps Dani on the shoulder. Dressed for her match, Angelessa kneels and bows her head.

DANI
Will you stop prayin’? Hate that.

CLOSE UP – ANGELESSA

Lessa looks at herself in the dressing table mirror.

ANGELESSA
How we supposed to do this if the blow-up twins got the only mirror?

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Dani laces up the back of Tiger’s one-piece.

TIGER
And what the Hell happened to Eddie? I’ve heard this and that, but how come the man ain’t workin’ his match? Sure, he’s an ass, but he’s our ass.
NETTY
Well, you know Eddie.

TIGER
Yeah, I know Eddie. Probably dropped some bad crank.

NETTY
He said he’s clean. He did say his left hand was getting a little numb.

TIGER
I seen him work hurt… finished a match with a sprained ankle.

NETTY
Heart attack?

She gazes hard at her own reflection.

ANGELESSA
Somebody bit his dick off.

DANI (OS)
Sure, you wish.

ANGELESSA
I’m tellin’ you.

DANI
Bull.

ANGELESSA
Okay, they didn’t bite it off.

The other women move in to hear.

TIGER
You are kiddin’, right?

ANGELESSA
Two A.M. There’s this screamin’, an’ Eddie’s on floor in the hall.

NETTY
Who would do such a thing?

DANI
They’d die of food poisoning.

She glances to Tiger, who nods and gives her the thumbs up.
ANGELLESA
Pretty ugly, thrashing around and wailin’. I called nine-one-one and then I did a tourniquet with some dental floss. Shut off the bleedin’, but he passed out.

NETTY
You did a tourniquet with floss?

TIGER
Jeezus H.

NETTY
I told him to stop messin’ with strange. How much got bit off?

ANGELLESA
I didn’t have a ruler.

NETTY
Shoot, I would have serviced him, he weren’t so damned mean.

TIGER
Jesus, Mama…

NETTY
Well, that poor man didn’t have a thing in this world except his pride and now it’s bit off.

TIGER
Maybe, they can sew it back on. They say if you lose a finger like in a lawn mower, wrap it in tissue and take it down to the hospital.

DANI
They wrap his thing in a tissue?

ANGELLESA
They put it one of them Glad bags.

NETTY
Some men you can picture without a penis, but Eddie ain’t one of them.

TIGER
Did he not pay her?

ANGELLESA
Maybe, he hit her.
DANI
Life’s funny, isn’t it? You’re the one hates his ass so much an’ here you are the only one to help.

NETTY
You think he can come back and wrestle without it?

DANI
Didn’t work when he had it.

NETTY
Now, speakin’ ill of the man when he’s bad off.

DANI
I’ll speak ill on his best day. He’s a schizoid scumbag. Ain’t nobody here, except the kid, who don’t know it personal.

The women break up and get back to business.

TIGER
Well, whoever done it put us in a Hell of a fix that’s for sure. This tour folds, we a bunch of worn out ol’ broads on the street.

Tiger takes out a tin of can of high-end dog food.

TIGER (CONT)
Word gets out that one of us chomped off his Johnson, they’d hire Hells Angels in drag before us. I got no other skills, an armed robbery conviction, and a sick dog. Now, let’s just kiss ass and wrestle.

She pops the top and places the can into the carrier. Suddenly, there’s a THUMP from the closet. They all turn.

DANI
You hear that? More rats. We’re in this hellhole with rats.

NETTY
Take it easy…

DANI
No way. Noooooo way.
Angelessa whips the door open. Dwayne stands before them, squinting from the lights and clutching his autograph book.

DWAYNE
How you all doin’?

TIGER
Son of a...

DANI
You scruffy little maggot, what you doin’ in there?

ANGELESSA
Come outta’ there, cracker.

Angelessa grabs him by his jacket and pulls him out.

DWAYNE
Yes, ma’am. Dwayne Pardee. How do?

ANGELESSA
How am I doin’? What’re you doin’ in a broom closet, Dwayne whatsit?

DANI
You lookin’ for Rosemary Clooney?

TIGER
(Grabs Dwayne’s lapels)
Or lookin’ for a little peepshow?

ANGELESSA
You in there chokin’ your little chicken?

DWAYNE
No, ma’am. I wasn’t chokin’ nothin’.

NETTY
You been in there a while, honey.

DWAYNE
Yes, ma’am.

Netty steps over to him, moving Tiger back.

NETTY
Well, you wanta’ tell Mama why?

DWAYNE
Yes, ma’am. I’m an autograph collector. An autograph professional.
DANI
Professional nutjob.

NETTY
Hush now.
(To Dwayne)
You been there a few hours waitin’
for our autographs?

DWAYNE
Yes’em. Well... you see... I was, you
know... and uh... this big fellow he uh...

NETTY
He put you out?

DWAYNE
Yes, ma’am. He did. And I... you know...

NETTY
You snuck back in?

DWAYNE
That’s what I did, yes ma’am.

TIGER
Netty, get him outta’ here.

NETTY
This is a fan, okay? He’s a fan.

DANI
He’s a freakin’ perv.

Dwayne retreats from them as he flips open the book.

DWAYNE
No, ma’am. An autograph professional.
I got... I got every famous person ever
been in Cementville since...
(He stops on a page)
Ronnie Van Zant back in seventy-six,
right before the plane crash. God
bless him and Lynard Skynard... See
seventy-six... I was just a boy. Gene
Hackman... See this here is American
heroes, the American way right here
in Cementville. O.J. Simpson. See?
(Flips the pages again)
Donna Douglas, you know from the
Beverly Hillbillies.
DWAYNE (CONT.)
See this here is goin’ in a time
capsule. Tammy Faye, God bless her.
This my life’s work.

NETTY
You want us to sign your book?

DWAYNE
Yes, ma’am. I surely do. Yes, ma’am.

NETTY
Now Dwayne, you wasn’t watchin’ us
get dressed through a crack or
somethin’ and playing around in
there, was you? ‘Cause then, we’d
have to kill you a little bit.

DWAYNE
No, ma’am. No, ma’am. I was not.

NETTY
Okay, we’ll sign your book, then.
Netty takes his book and turns to a blank page.

DWAYNE
God bless you. You just an American
beauty rose in my book. You American
heroes, God bless your pure hearts.

The women take a turn signing a page and passing the book,
including Nola.

DWAYNE (OS) (CONT’D)
You gonna’ be in the time capsule. Be
there when Christ comes back. You the
mothers of America. One to a page,
ma’am... You the heart of us men folks,
the arms that swing the cradle.

Nola hands the book to Netty and she hands it to Dwayne.

DWAYNE (CONT)
You on a pedestal, a high pedestal to
Dwayne Pardee. Yes, sir. You may be
just prostitutes an’ wrasslers, but
you mean home to me...

NETTY
Okay, Dwayne. We got it together.
DWAYNE (CONT’D)
You cut from the cloth of Jesus’
momma. Yes, ma’am. I’m speakin’ for
your Daddies... for your husbands and
sons when I say to you: get you home
an’ get me some dinner, bitch!

Dwayne clutches his book and points, like a fiery preacher.

DANI
Oh, man...

DWAYNE
Goin’ ta’ town in your lipstick!
Paradin’ yourself like Jezebel,
bringing down the temple with your
lascivious hips!!

ANGELESSA
Let’s take a walk...

Angelessa approaches him, but suddenly, Dwayne turns and grabs
Tiger around the waist.

DWAYNE
Touch me, Loretta! Touch me an’ rub
me an’ take me to heaven!

She yelps from the sharp pain in her side. Angelessa grabs
Dwayne’s hair. Wincing, he lets go. She hammerlocks his arm.

ANGELESSA
Move!

As Angelessa drags him away, Dwayne’s book hits the floor.

DWAYNE
My book... gimme’ my book! I’m a
autograph professional... and you’re
hurtin’ my arm!

ANGELESSA
I’m gonna’ break your arm. Walk!

As they exit, Tiger slumps against the lockers.

TIGER
Damn...

DANI
You okay, Tiger?

TIGER
Hell, no. Don’t touch me!
NETTY
Stand up. It’s better, honey.

TIGER
(Sliding onto a bench)
Hold on... Son-of-a-bitch... ow... damn... mother-brother-son-of-a-bitch! Kiss my ass, dammit!

Dani and Netty crack a smile.

EXT. PARKING LOT – DAY

The rusted metal door bangs open as Angelessa shoves Dwayne outside. Tiger’s cursing is muffled by the door.

ANGELESSA
Move it, De-wayne.

DWAYNE
Ow... oh my Ethiopian queen... you are truly beautiful and powerful... Let me anoint thee with musk oil...
(He grabs her arm)
Come with me... and I will worship you like the queen you are.

Lessa sighs, she’s had enough. She scoops up Dwayne and stuffs him headfirst into a garbage can. She picks up another can and dumps it over his legs, then opens the door.

TIGER (OS)
I hate wrasslin’... ow... damn ribs... shoulda’ torn the bastard’s stones off... hung’em on the rear view like a pair of fuzzy dice...

Lessa cracks a smile at the ranting. She kicks the cans over.

ANGELESSA
Adios, De-wayne.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Tiger scoops up a towel and wings it at the others, who are laughing even harder at her frustration.
TIGER
...itch all over, fleas, lice... get the
goddamn bubonic in this pisshole...
What the Hell ya’ll laughin’ at? You
buncha’ putrid, cross-eyed, flat-
chested, slung-assed, piss-ant
broads?!?

(Starts giggling)
Don’t me make laugh. Dammit!

Dani puts a hand on Tiger’s shoulder.

DANI
You aren’t mad, are you, Tiger?

TIGER
I’m freakin’ ecstatic!

NOLA (OS)
He left his book.

Nola picks up Dwayne’s book, but Dani snatches it away.

DANI
Give me that. Pervert!

Dani tears out some pages and tosses the book out the door.

DANI
You know they got celebrity
insurance. All them nutjobs out there
trying to shoot movie stars.

TIGER
We ain’t movie stars.

Nola kneels down and picks up some the loose pages.

NOLA
You think he was kind of crazy?

DANI
Yeah, an’ he ain’t the worst. We’re
the pastime of losers and whack jobs.
When you go crazy tryin’ to live a
normal life, they send you over here
for wrestlin’ night.

NOLA
Who’s David Duke?

Netty frets over Tiger as Angelessa returns.
NETTY
How long you think he was in there?

ANGELESSA
(Grabs her mask)
Probably grew there like a mushroom.

NETTY
Talkin’ the good book…

ANGELESSA
I was married to a preacher once. I
didn’t need a soul mate.

TIGER
Give me a hand up.

Netty helps Tiger to her feet. Angelessa puts on her mask.

ANGELESSA
Tie me.

DANI
Sure thing.

Dani knots Angelessa mask. Out in the arena, the bell RINGS.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
*Filtered through a PA.
Ladies and gentlemen, the Golden
Globe Wrestling Association welcomes
you to the Cementville Sportsdrome
and the Vixens of Violence Tour…

Big Man bursts in from the hallway as the crowd ROARS.

BIG MAN
All right, gimme’ your attention…
(Calls back outside)
Come on in here, Mother.

Enter MOTHER CROCKER, a rough-looking woman in her mid-
fifties, wearing a black church dress and pearls.

BIG MAN
This here is Mother Crocker, Mama and
manager of the Knockout Sisters... Come
on, step in. She’d like to give a
little game plan on how it comes down
tonight.

Mother chews on a cigarillo, as she looks the room over.
BIG MAN (OS)
Mother, I’d like to welcome you to the Golden Global Wrestling Association. We got the finest up and coming workers around. And I’d like to express my respects on the job you’ve done makin’ The Knockout Sisters a world attraction.

MOTHER
Pretty run-down lookin’ bunch.

BIG MAN (OS)
Wait til’ you see them in action!

MOTHER
You’re all dead meat... a two-bit tour playin’ morgue dates. Buncha’ never-was, never-will-be talent on the way down. I wouldn’t be caught dead puttin’ my top attraction in this pisshole, but I got a public relations issue. See, we messed up, got ourselves into politics and it crimped our image.

Mother takes a walk-thru as she inspects the girls.

MOTHER (CONT’D)
On the upside, we may get a film deal out of that, we’re still negotiatin’... While we’re slummin’ with you girls, you’re gonna’ have ace crowds and make the only decent money you’ll ever make in this business. And while we’re together, your pimp here... (Points to Big Man)
Will be getting me coffee. Got that? I say shag a sheep, he shags a sheep.

BIG MAN
Great sense of humor she has, huh?

MOTHER
Now, think this one over. How do you think a couple hometown girls became the biggest attraction in sports entertainment? Right. We’re mobbed up, like ol’ blues eyes. Capice?

Mother makes a closed-fingered Italian gesture at them.
MOTHER (CONT)
Now, wrestling can wear out an attraction, which is why we’re movin’ into film. Meanwhile, don’t bruise the meat. Understand? You injure, deface or otherwise lower the dollar value of my investment, you’ll be getting a visit from a Sicilian, got it? Dolly… Dottie… get it in here.

REVERSE ON Locker ROOM DOOR

The sisters enter, one tall, the other petite, both attractive in a silicone fashion with platinum hair, baby doll dresses and stiletto heels.

MOTHER (OS)
Say hello to the little people.

DOTTIE
I’m Dottie.

DOLLY
And I’m Dolly.

Mother walks over to stand by her girls.

MOTHER
Who are you?

DOLLY & DOTTIE
We’re the Knockout Sisters!

MOTHER
(Points at Big Man)
Remember what I told you.

INT. WRESTLING RING

The crowd roars as Tiger lands with a resounding THUD to the canvas floor. Dani, now Tarzana – Queen of the Jungle, grabs Tiger up by the hair and backs her into the ropes.

CLOSE UP – DANI AND TIGER

Dani presses Tiger back with her forearm.

DANI
(Whispering)
How are you holdin’ up?
TIGER
I’m splittin’ a side here.

DANI
Hang in there. Bombs away...

INT. WRESTLING RING

Tiger nods. Dani slings her across the ring. Tiger bounces off the ropes, flooring Dani with her shoulder. She pulls Dani to her feet, picks her up and powerbombs her to the mat.

CLOSE UP - DANI AND TIGER

As Dani lies prone, Tiger covers her for a pin.

DANI
Watch my head...

TIGER
I’m screwed… pulled something...

The referee kneels down for the count.

DANI
We still got the hurricarana.

Tiger shakes her head. The ref pauses to look at Dani. He knows something is wrong. She nods. He finishes the count.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
Your winner, in a time of twelve minutes, Bloody Mary!

INT. WRESTLING RING

The referee raises Tiger’s hand. The crowd boos, launching a barrage of cups into the ring as the two women exit.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Angelessa and Netty are behind a curtain, separating the hall from the rest of the arena. Tiger enters to boos and thrown debris. She staggers by, heading to the locker room. Dani follows a moment later, shaking her head and blowing out her breath. Netty nods and pats her back.
INT. LOCKER ROOM

Dressed in matching silk kimonos, the Knockout Sisters primp at the mirrors. Tiger slumps on a bench, a towel draped over her. Dani changes into a cowgirl outfit as Big Man paces.

BIG MAN
I got seven hundred hicks laughin’ their asses off while you two… play patty cake.

DANI
Hey! I can’t touch her ribs. She couldn’t take a bump and when she goes down, she can’t get up!

DOTTIE
(Stretching)
Money, money, money, money, money…

BIG MAN
A wrestler eats pain, Tiger.

TIGER
(Looking in her bag)
Where’s that whiskey?

BIG MAN
(To Dottie)
What the Hell is that?

DOTTIE
It’s my warm-up.

DANI
You got seven-hundred marks, huh?

BIG MAN
Six-hundred, six-fifty…

DOTTIE
See, life is a series of circles. One in the next, inside the next.

BIG MAN
Circles, uh-huh.
(To Tiger)
Got to get them marks hot! Get’em wild and riled. They not smokin’, they get pissed. We need heat!

DOTTIE
Each one of us has a circle…
TIGER
I don’t know, Big Man.

BIG MAN
Put’em on the edge. Keep’em there!
(To Dottie)
You got a circle. We got a circle.

DOTTIE
See, you got two choices – get enlightened or die.

BIG MAN
Sounds real good.
(To Tiger)
You go to back out, with Lessa an’ turn it on or they’re gonna’ walk!

DOTTIE
Excuse me...

BIG MAN
What!?!?

DOTTIE
I don’t like your tone. Do you hear that tone in his voice, Dolly?

DOLLY
Yeah.

DOTTIE
A tone such as that can cause me to hyperventilate and I have to go home.

BIG MAN
Listen, I’m sorry...

DOTTIE
Sorry what?

BIG MAN
Sorry, Miss Crocker.

DOLLY
That’s right, pig snot.

Nola comes in carrying a bottle in a paper bag.

NOLA
Shoot, I’m sorry. It’s kinda’ all closed up around here. I finally found an old guy in a doorway.
She pulls out a vodka bottle, half-full of brown liquid.

    TIGER
    What the Hell is that?

    NOLA
    Said the vodka needed flavor. So, he 'flavored' it with sherry.

    DANI
    That is one suspicious color.

Tiger takes the bottle from Nola.

    TIGER
    Hell with it.

    DOTTIE
    (Filing her nails)
    That is disgusting.

    TIGER
    Yeah... that’s vodka and sherry.

    DANI
    Nas-ty.

    DOLLY
    I do not work with drunks.

Tiger takes a long pull on the bottle, and then exhales hard.

    TIGER
    Lady, I’m numb or I’m gone.

    DOTTIE
    So, each one of us has a circle.
        (Draws in the air)
    A path. Call it fate, whatever.

    DANI (OS)
    I call it bull.

Dottie stands and points at Dani.

    DOTTIE
    I want this woman out of here!

    BIG MAN
    For Christ sakes, Dani. Shut up.
        (To Dottie)
    Okay, a circle of fate.
NOLA
I had to give him the whole ten, cause bums can’t make change.

DOTTIE
(Sitting)
An’ Dolly an’ me, see, we are in the circle of sex goddesses.

TIGER
Gotta’ get dressed, doctor my dog.

Tiger works off her Bloody Mary outfit, and picks up an Indian squaw dress. Dottie snaps Big Man with her towel.

BIG MAN
Jesus!

DOTTIE
I’m just expressing myself.

BIG MAN
(Gritting his teeth)
Sex goddesses...

DOTTIE
Nefertiti, Marilyn Monroe, Madonna, and us! We gonna’ get some good karma, give some good head, and get us ace parts in the slasher movies. You watch for it.

INT. WRESTLING RING

The referee is holding Netty’s hand high, but she is concernedly watching Angelessa; who stands at the ropes and yells as she points into the crowd. The bell RINGS.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
And your winner in seventeen minutes, that Queen of Dreamland... Nightie Night Netty!

INT. LOCKER ROOM

BOOS can be heard from outside as Tiger nurses her vodka concoction. The Knockouts continue to primp.

DOTTIE
We carryin’ forward the wisdom of our forbearers...
DANI
And their implants, too. Mystical.

DOTTIE
You must know and embody your circle.
Ka Ras Ma said that.

DANI
Never met him.

From outside, there is the sound of the crowd STAMPING their feet. Plaster dust snows down from the ceiling.

BIG MAN
What the Hell them girls doin’?

DOLLY
This don’t look right.

Gazing at her reflection, Dolly slaps herself.

DOTTIE
Money, money, money, money, money…

DANI
Shut up.

DOTTIE
(Holds up her leg)
Lace my boot.

DANI
You’ve got granola for brains, bitch.

BIG MAN
Don’t screw around. Lace it up.

DANI
You lace it up.

Big Man glares at her. Dani sighs and laces up the shoe.

DOTTIE
Some of us are desire, some of us serve desire.

DANI
Some have our heads up so far up our ass, we can see our tonsils.

As she ties the laces, Big Man kicks Dani in the butt.
BIG MAN
You understand what I’m sayin'? You need your mouth washed out.

DANI
I’ll think it over.

She pauses, then returns a kick to his butt. He whirs around.

DANI
I thought it over.

TIGER
Go easy on her.

Lessa explodes into the room. She is HOT. Netty follows.

ANGELESSA
They got some guy out there shootin’ or throwin’ crap at me!

FLASHBACK - RINGSIDE
Angelessa and Netty are tangling in the ring. A member of the crowd pulls out a drinking straw and some metal pellets. He slips one in his mouth, spits and it hits Lessa in the butt.

ANGELESSA (VO)
Hit me with a rock or ball-bearing... low-down scum-sucker.

INT. LOCKER ROOM
Big Man turns to Dani and Tiger.

BIG MAN
See what you started out there?!?

ANGELESSA
Coulda’ put my eye out.

BIG MAN
And?

FLASHBACK - WRESTLING RING
Another pellet catches Lessa in the thigh. Enraged, she drops her chokehold on Netty and dives out through the ropes.

ANGELESSA (VO)
And I went after him.
BIG MAN (VO)
You went into the crowd?

INT. LOCKER ROOM
Angelessa paces.

ANGELESSA
I’m tellin’ you I went after him so nobody else has to, an’ I’ll do it again I see him near that ring...

BIG MAN
I got one rule. Don’t go into the crowd without security. Especially, if you’re the heel! No matter what!

NETTY
Got a bunch of animals out there.

BIG MAN
Stay in the ring!

ANGELESSA
Grabbed me... Groped me...

Suddenly, there’s a GUNSHOT. Everyone freezes. Dolly is seated at the dressing table, pointing a 9mm pistol at the ceiling.

DOLLY
Y’all makin’ a lot of noise. I like it real quiet when I put on lipstick.

DOTTIE
You can smear lipstick.

DOLLY
Ordinarily, we got a room of our own, but if we got to be in the barnyard, then I guess we got to make it clear who’s the head hog.

DOTTIE
See beauty is serene. Could somebody go and get me a little plain water in this cup?

Nola runs up and takes the cup, glancing at the gun.

NOLA
I’ll get it.
DOTTIE
Aren’t you so sweet.

NOLA
Where’s your big spider?

DOTTIE
I set it free.

ANGELESSA
(Pointing at Dolly)
You puttin’ up with this, Big Man?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nola fills the cup at a fountain as Vernon and CURTIS, another wrestler in an orange prison jumpsuit, exit the men’s room. Curtis stops at the curtain. Vernon, now in a flannel shirt, jeans, and work boots, hangs back by Nola.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
Ladies and gentlemen, coming to the ring... That sinister psycho from Cell Block 9... Death Row Joe!

Curtis bursts through the curtain with a roar of the crowd.

VERNON
(Looks down and nods)
How’re you doin’?

NOLA
I’m fine. You Lumber Jack?

VERNON
(Grins)
Yeah. Friends call me Vernon.

NOLA
(Smiling back)
Vernon... cool. Nola.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
...his opponent from the ta-a-ll timbers of Or-e-gon. Lumber Jack!

Vernon gives her a wave, and exits into the arena. A moment later, Mother storms out from the arena and down the hall.
INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Mother blows in as Angelessa is pulling out a red, white and blue one-piece, part of her “Olympia” costume.

MOTHER
We got dissatisfied patrons, dammit!

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT

After a dropkick has Vernon ‘dazed’, Curtis ascends the turnbuckle to launch himself. A crowd member runs up and shakes the ropes. He’s pulled away by security, but Curtis topples, landing crotch first on the turnbuckle.

MOTHER (OS)
What we got here is piss poor no control. Got nut-bustin’ males in the room, you got to dominate them.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Mother blusters about while Angelessa still stews.

ANGELESSA
Nobody, noooobody shoots crap at me when I’m workin’.

MOTHER
(To Big Man)
One rule. Keep the dogs leashed.

Nola returns with the water cup. She holds it out for Dottie.

BIG MAN
What I’m gonna’ do is...

MOTHER
...toss them some raw meat. Who’s up?

ANGELESSA
(Muttering)
Nobody...

BIG MAN
Tiger goin’ on Lessa’ as Olympia.

MOTHER
Well, that’s real smart.
BIG MAN
I believe so.

Mother slaps him.

MOTHER
That oughta’ set off a riot. Get us all killed!

TIGER
Hey, we’ve done this before you know!

After being ignored, Nola leaves the cup on the table.

BIG MAN
They ain’t gonna’...

MOTHER
Think this is Dayton or St. Louis? You probably got Klan out there or freakin’ skinhead Nazis, all-purpose defectives... you got you a nice mix.

ANGELESSA
You got you a nice mix all right.

MOTHER
What’s your name, honey?

ANGELESSA
What’s your name?

MOTHER
My name is Sara Mae Louellen Crocker, originally of the Crocker auto repair Crockers before I saw sports entertainment as the growth industry of the new millennium.

ANGELESSA
Angelessa.

MOTHER
You wanta’ get hurt, Angelessa?

ANGELESSA
I’ve wrestled in fifteen states.

MOTHER
Well, you can either bleach yourself white or buy some permanent rest here in Cementville.
MOTHER (CONT)

These people pay good money to see people they don’t like get beat up by people they do like in that ring out there.

(Counting on her fingers)
They don’t like smart people, don’t like rich people, don’t like A-rabs, don’t like Jews, and they don’t like you. So, they come here to drink beer and yell at you an’ everybody goes home happy. Sports entertainment. Well, you broke the big rule an’ went into the crowd. You went an’ got real on ‘em and now you’re screwed.

(She holds out a few bills)
Go back to your RV, put on some skin cream and read a magazine. Let me get this straightened out.

Angelessa takes the bills, then tosses her outfit back into the bag. Big Man steps up, rubbing his hands.

BIG MAN
Okay, let’s get us a match.

MOTHER
Shut up.

BIG MAN
Shut up?

MOTHER
This crowd won’t sit through much more. They want my girls!

Dolly stands up from behind her mirror.

DOLLY
Eye shadow, Mama?

MOTHER (OS)
Needs more.

DOLLY
I keep getting it wrong!

BIG MAN
You tellin’ me to shut up? This is my freakin’ tour. Now...

MOTHER
Send’em out topless!
BIG MAN
(Appalled)
Do what!?!?

MOTHER
Topless. That’ll put the marks’ minds in their pants!

BIG MAN
I can’t send my girls out naked!

MOTHER
Why not?

BIG MAN
This is America, that’s why not!

Mother grabs up the Knockout’s bags. Big Man pursues her.

MOTHER
Pack it up. We’re gone.

BIG MAN
We got a verbal contract!

MOTHER
Dream on, sucker.

BIG MAN
Those hicks will go nuts.

DOTTIE
(Walking past)
You got her upset now.

BIG MAN
Five minutes...

DOLLY
You think we need this? We did a freakin’ hairspray commercial.

DANI
You got any balls, Big Man?

BIG MAN
One lousy minute!

DOTTIE
You couldn’t peddle this act to a dog show.

TIGER
Watch it!
Tiger stands, pointing at Dolly. Big Man grabs Dolly’s purse.

BIG MAN
Okay, ladies... let’s see...
(Dumping the contents)
...what we got here.

DOLLY
Hey, you dumped my personal items, dickwad!

BIG MAN
Oh, yes...

He pulls out a small packet. Dolly tries to snatch it back, but Big Man pulls it out of her reach.

BIG MAN
Seems to be... Uh-huh. Seems to be a white powder in a tiny ziplock bag.

MOTHER
Big Man...

BIG MAN
Might be an... illegal substance? Be a real no-no seein’ you’re just one day outta’ the joint.

MOTHER
...you got both feet in your mouth... and you’re getting Dolly excited.

Narrowing her eyes, Dolly slams the trunk lid closed. Smiling, Big Man struts in front of Mother and holds up the bag.

BIG MAN
Let’s just see who’s the head hog!

DOTTIE
What you are holdin’ is a memento.

BIG MAN
What I’m holdin’, chickie, is a trip back inside. You girls ever seen this before?

Dolly whips out her pistol.

TIGER
Watch out!

Dolly steps up and plants it against Big Man’s nose.
DOLLY
You ever seen this before?

Angelessa blurts out a laugh.

BIG MAN
You find this funny?

ANGELESSA
Uh-huh.

DOLLY
Let’s see you eat it.

MOTHER
Dolly, you are so unstable, honey.

DOLLY
Eat it!

NOLA
(Meekly raises her hand)
I could get us some sodas.

DOLLY
(Cocking the pistol)
I been in a snuff film, pig snot.
One... two...

Big Man tosses down the powder. He immediately gags.

BIG MAN
Choke... chok...

DANI
Spit it out!

Dolly goes back, seats herself at the makeup table and puts the gun down. The sisters return to their primping as Dani and Nola pound on Big Man’s back.

BIG MAN
S... Sa... Sa... Sand!

NETTY (OS)
Say what, honey?

BIG MAN
That was sand. What the Hell you carryin’ sand in a little bag?

Dani turns away, shaking her head in disbelief.
DOTTIE
May I share with him, Dolly?

DOLLY
You may share with him.

BIG MAN
(To Nola)
Get me some water!

DOTTIE
About eight years ago. I was at Daytona Beach with Earl, Dolly’s husband. The sky was a pure blue...

BIG MAN
We need wrestlers out there, for Christ’s sake! What are we doin’?

REVERSE
As Nola runs out, MISS HARMON, a young girl in an old-style usherette’s uniform, appears in the doorway. A line of blood runs down her face from a nasty gash on her forehead.

MISS HARMON
Mr. Vague? Mr. Vague, please?

BIG MAN
What now? Holy Jesus!

MISS HARMON
Mr. Vague?

BIG MAN
It’s Vag.

NETTY
You’re bleedin’, honey.

Miss Harmon nods.

DOTTIE
Ooooo, I hate seein’ blood.

Big Man gets to his feet and approaches her.

MISS HARMON
Mr. Vag, Mr. McClendon, the referee, sent me here to say...

She takes out a note and reads aloud.
MISS HARMON
We “better get him some wrassler’s pretty pronto” because that crowd... it’s ugly, sir. It is. That’s the message. So, perhaps I could... bring him your perspective.

BIG MAN
Goddammit, I’m just trying to make a living!

MISS HARMON
(Jotting down his words)
...make a living.

BIG MAN (CONT’D)
I got my brother in the hospital with his Johnson lopped off...

MISS HARMON
...lopped off.

BIG MAN (CONT’D)
I got the Knockout Sisters from Juggs feedin’ me sand and the Godmother over here tellin’ me to send my stable out naked... and I got tanked up hicks trashin’ uninsured property I’m gonna’ be responsible for. Now, you tell me what the Hell to do!

MISS HARMON
Juggs... Well, I’m not sure, sir. But they’re throwin’ chairs.

Mother steps in. She wipes the girl’s head with a hanky.

MOTHER
You tell him that there is wrestlers comin’. Go on, now. Go on.

MISS HARMON
Yes, ma’am. I will. Ya’ll have a nice night, ya’ hear?

She exits. Not missing a beat, Dottie continues her story.

DOTTIE
An’ I looked at Earl split by the horizon, with his history of impotent issues, and I said, “Earl, I am Dolly and Dolly is me, we are the circle, we are the Earth for you.”
DOTTIE (CONT)
An’ I lay down on the dusky beach and took him inside me. He cried, “Dolly. Dolly, I’m home!” Then, he had a heart attack and died.

DOLLY
Pretty much the way it went.

DOTTIE
So, I took some sand from under his head and took it home to Dolly as a memento. And you ate it.

DOLLY
You hurt my heart.

TIGER
(Exhales hard)
Gotta’ couple of live ones, Big Man.

BIG MAN
I’m in charge here.

MOTHER
You want to know what to do?

BIG MAN
No!
(Paces)
Okay, maybe.

Nola comes running back in, carrying a cup.

NOLA
I got your water!

BIG MAN
(Slapping it away)
I didn’t want any water!

MOTHER
Get the Indian… and the cowgirl… out there in their underwear.

BIG MAN
Yeah, I said that. I said underwear… Lingerie!

MOTHER
We still got those garters?
DOTTIE
(Digs into her bag)
Oh, I’m just the little pack rat.

MOTHER
We announce a special match... what did we call it that one time?

DOLLY
Bra Wars.

DANI
Forget it.

DOLLY
You the Virgin Mary?

DANI
I screw, I don’t tease.

MOTHER
Fifty more?

DANI
You can’t find a whore for fifty.

MOTHER
(Holds up a folded bill)
A hundred?

Angelessa reaches out for it, but Dani snatches it first.

DOLLY
I guess you can’t find a good whore for a hundred.

Dolly hands Dani the lingerie. Dani tucks the bill under her bra strap.

DANI
You don’t know what a whore is, babe. You livin’ in Blonde World. Rather be a hundred-dollar whore, than a thousand-dollar blank.

BIG MAN
Tiger?

TIGER
You saw that match. I’m leanin’ on this locker ‘cause I can’t get up.

BIG MAN
Netty?
MOTHER
Those boys aren’t lookin’ for no old and fat people in a g-string.

NOLA (OS)
I can wrestle.

They all turn to Nola.

MOTHER
Yeah? How old are you?

NOLA
Nineteen.

MOTHER
Where have you worked?

NOLA
Whale Gas and Paperboard Products.

MOTHER
Wrestled, honey...

NOLA
Nowhere. But, I seen every bout for four counties since I was twelve. I practice with Jadine.

BIG MAN
Jadine who?

NOLA
My cousin. She’s one-ninety. I can beat her in straight wrestlin’, but we been learnin’ pro stuff. She’s does some a’ that backyard ‘rasslin’ with a buncha’ boys over in Utley...

MOTHER
Okay, okay... You’re in the ring...

NOLA
Yeah...

MOTHER
She takes you down with the flyin’ headscissors... What do you do?

NOLA
Kick out... grab her in a fireman’s carry... give her an airplane... then drill her with the Samoan drop.
MOTHER
(Holding up two bills)
Thirty bucks.

NOLA
I’m in? I’m in the bouts?

Netty puts an arm around Nola’s shoulder.

NETTY
You really wanta’ do this, honey?

NOLA
I wanna’ wrassle. Wrassle my ass off. It’s all I ever wanted to do.

ANGELESSA
Your Mama oughta’ whip your ass.

NOLA
She already whips my ass. She whips my ass with a coat hanger an’ tells me I ain’t nothin’ but trash like my Daddy. Guess I showed her, huh?

Big Man pulls her away from Netty.

BIG MAN
You do good out there, and I might have a spot for you on the tour.

NOLA
(Dreamy)
The tour?

BIG MAN
Come by the big RV after the show.

NOLA
I’ll be there.
(Leaping in the air)
I am so in! Yes!!
(She suddenly stops)
Ring name… What’s my ring name?

Mother looks at her a moment as Dani exits in a huff.

MOTHER
Frenchy. Frenchy… La Femme.

NOLA
All right… European… classy…

Dottie hands her a fistful of crumpled lingerie.
INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dani knocks on the men’s room door. Vernon answers, sipping on a soda. He’s already changed into his El Supremo costume.

VERNON
Yeah? Oh hey there, sweet thing.

DANI
Vern, I need a favor. You an’ Curtis are going to have escorts in your next match. Me and the new kid are gonna’ play up a catfight.

VERNON
Cool... Whatever you need.

DANI
I’ll be with Curtis, the kid’ll be with you. What’s your big spot?

VERNON
He was going to do a ropewalk...

He swings back the door. In an open stall, Curtis sits on a toilet, moaning and packing ice on his groin. Vernon sighs.

VERNON (CONT’D)
But, we’re goin’ with the bulldog.

DANI
Won’t matter then... Sometime in, I’ll interfere. Me and the kid scrap and security hauls us out. Okay?

VERNON
Right on. Let’s go Curtis.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Nola is holding the negligee in front of herself as Dani runs in and grabs her cowgirl hat and Tiger’s jacket.

DANI
Nola! Let’s go.

Nola looks up. She drops the lingerie and follows Dani out.

BIG MAN
Where you two goin’?

DANI
I’m gonna’ start your ‘Bra Wars’.
INT. RINGSIDE – NIGHT

On the canvas, Vernon (El Magnifico Supremo) bodyslams Curtis (The Cobra), then elbow drops him. Dani and Nola, now wearing Tiger’s jacket, cheer them on from ringside. Curtis stumbles to his feet as Vernon backs into a corner. Dani runs up and trips him. The crowd boos as Curtis leg drops on Vernon. Nola dashes over and grabs Dani by the hair. In a flash, security pulls them apart. The crowd whoops as they’re hauled away.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – NIGHT

Nola and Dani rush in, giggling as they quickly change into the unmentionables. Tiger holds up her bottle to Nola.

TIGER
Have a hit.

Nola does, makes a face, and continues to undress.

MOTHER
Let’s get back out there... Now, for the main event.

BIG MAN
Yes, ma’am. What we’re gonna’ do...

MOTHER
Shut up. You tried to leverage me, now you’re warm piss. You wanta’ wake up next to a horse’s head?

DOLLY
That was a good movie.
(Narrowing her eyes)
I could be in that movie.

MOTHER
I want those same two in the main.

ANGELESSA
Wait a minute...

DANI
(Flips her off)
Hey, Lessa.

NETTY
Frenchy’ll be tired, an’ she’s green.
Miss Harmon returns. But now, BOBBIE JACK “ONE-EYE” DENEAUVE, a thin man with a haunted face, has her by the hair. His left eye sports an eye patch that matches his suit.

MISS HARMON
Mr. Vag? A gentleman to see you.

ONE-EYE
How ya’ll doin’?

BIG MAN
Take your hands off my staff.

ONE-EYE
Name’s Bobbie Jack Deneauve...
(Pops out a switchblade)
...come down from Letcher County Kentucky ta’ see the wrasslin’.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Mother steps in.

MOTHER
Hello, Mr. Deneauve...

ONE-EYE
Friends call me One-Eye. Now, I drove me a distance to see some gut-pumpin’, butt-bumpin’ airborne titties in a family-type show...
(Twirls the knife)
See I hump two-hundred pound cartons all week, so I’m seekin’ me a action attraction. Up til now I got squat.

MOTHER
I’m Mother Crocker, you probably seen me on TV. Seems like you got some sweet child by the hair.

ONE-EYE
Could be. Now, we don’t get us some tits an’ see us some body fluids on the mat pretty quick, we gonna’ have to come back here… cut out your pumpin’ heart an’ eat that sumbitch up like a nacho.
CLOSE UP - MOTHER AND ONE-EYE

Mother gets right in his face. She’s quiet, but direct.

MOTHER
One-eye, we got some fine tits comin’, an’ y’all aren’t a hunnert percent satisfied, you can have any woman in this room in a heart-shaped bed, all expenses paid, no questions asked. But, you cut this little girl, you be a dead man.

ONE-EYE
You a fine woman, Mama.
(Releases the girl)
I’ll check on back.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

One-Eye winks, clicks his tongue and then disappears.

MISS HARMON
(Still shaking)
I could’ve handled the situation. I got two weeks of personnel training.

MOTHER
You want to stay down here?

A radio on Miss Harmon’s hip buzzes.

MISS HARMON
They need me in Section B...

She takes a deep breath and heads back out.

DOTTIE
I am so not screwin’ that man.

ANGELESSA
Let me do the main. I got know-how and experience. I can handle your girls like they was marked fragile. I’m not goin’ into the crowd again. I’ll... I’ll even apologize. I’m a professional, that’s all I am. I can put your girls over, make’em look good. If I have to, I can take a full face punch. I’m askin’ for the fight.
MOTHER
Lessa, is it? If you’re in tennis, you’re a professional athlete.

ANGELESSA
Yeah?

MOTHER
If you’re in track and field, you’re a professional athlete. But in sports entertainment, in the main event that they pay for, you’re nothing in this world...

DOTTIE
But a nigger.

Lessa charges, but Big Man shoves her into the lockers.

NETTY
Lessa! Go easy, now.

Lessa steadies herself, slowly blowing out her breath.

ANGELESSA
I’m cool...

MOTHER
Get these girls out there.

BIG MAN
Frenchy, Dani you’re up.

Big Man points to the door. Dani and Nola walk past him.

DANI
Now, this is a catfight. So, don’t worry ‘bout technique. We pull hair, slap, roll around... work the crowd. When I say, you’ll pull off my top, I’ll put you away and we’re gone.

NOLA
Okay... just lead me.

Dani nods. Nola turns to Tiger, who’s just hanging on.

NOLA
Thanks.

TIGER
Don’t mention it.

Dani and Nola exit. Mother hands Big Man a photocopy.
MOTHER
She’s got tits, how bad can it be?
(To Big Man)
When they come off, give’em this.
Runs down how to handle my girls.

He takes two steps to leave.

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Dottie stays on her feet. I got those legs are insured for thirty thou.

DOTTIE
You said fifty.

MOTHER
Nothing in the face. It stays in the ring. Crowd gets ugly, they split.

He nods and exits.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

As Dani and Nola wait, Curtis comes through the curtain. He rips off his mask as he limps past. A moment later, Vernon emerges. He looks down at Nola as he takes off his mask.

VERNON
You workin’, Nola?

NOLA
It’s Frenchy now. My big debut…

VERNON
(Nodding)
Right on. You ready?

NOLA
Don’t know anymore…

VERNON
You’ll do jus’ fine…
(Puts a hand on her shoulder)
Now, listen here. This business takes a lot out of you; maybe more than it gives back. But, you only work a few hours a week, you travel and meet a lot of nice folks. So as long as you stay safe and can heal up…

NOLA
You wanna’ be famous, Vernon?
VERNON
Well, who don’t? I may not make the big time. But in front of them folks, out there, I’m famous enough.

He turns her to face Dani.

RING ANNOUNCER (VO)
Ladies and gentlemen, a special match up has just been added...

VERNON
Now, that gal over there will take good care of you. You just listen.

Nola nods. Vernon ruffles her hair and moves on.

RING ANNOUNCER (VO)
To settle the altercation from our last match, we have a special lingerie catfight... First, from the Lone Star State, she is... Texas Gold!

Dani turns to Nola, giving her an assuring nod as she enters the arena. The crowd cheers and catcalls.

RING ANNOUNCER (VO) (CONT’D)
Her opponent, Marseille’s mistress of the mats! Frenchy La Femme!

For a moment, there is a lull in the crowd noise. Nola takes in her breath and walks through the curtain.

INT. RINGSIDE – NIGHT / NOLA’S POV
The clamor drones in her ears, as Nola takes the long walk to the ring. Dani is already in her corner, playing to the crowd and yelling. People reach out to touch Nola or shake her hand.

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT
Nola climbs past the ropes and takes an opposite corner. Dani breaks her game face, jerking her head at the crowd. Nola nods. She removes the lace cover-all and climbs onto the ropes, raises her arms at the cheering crowd.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT
Mother pulls out a pair of little U.S. flags as Dolly and Dottie remove the kimonos. They’re wearing sequined one-pieces in a gaudy stars-and-stripes pattern with matching boots.
MOTHER
(Checking them over)
Turn around.

DOTTIE
Do we look like queens, Mama? Are we sweet as pie?

MOTHER
I could eat you for breakfast you look so good.

DOTTIE
You look good too, Mama. You’re part of the circle.

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT
The girls come to grips as Dani wraps Nola in a headlock.

DANI
Back up. Shove me off. Comin’ back with a flyin’ press. Catch me.

Nola slings Dani across the ring. She bounces off and launches herself at Nola. The two fall back to the mat.

MOTHER (VO)
Stay away from the young one. She’s new and don’t know nothing. Stay off them ropes, I don’t want you marked.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT
Mother walks the sisters to the door. Outside, the hall echoes with the roar of the crowd.

DOLLY
No problem.

DOTTIE
Yes, Mama.

MOTHER
(Hands them the flags)
Smile to the crowd, they fans. And wave these little flags.

DOLLY AND DOTTIE
Yes, Mama.
MOTHER
You are sports entertainment stars. We jus’ had a lil’ setback. Usin’ drugs was a bad, bad thing. But, it’s part of the career.

DOLLY
Yes, Mama.

MOTHER
Now, go on out there...

DOTTIE
You didn’t say we was goddesses.

MOTHER
You’re freakin’ goddesses. Go.

DOTTIE
You sweet ol’ thing.
(Hugs Mother)
Bye, y’all. Keep evolving now.

Dottie blows a kiss as they exit. Mother turns to the others.

MOTHER
Let me give you a little personal advice. Get yourself a husband and a nine-to-five job. You don’t have it, never will. No future on TV.

As Mother leaves, Netty checks on Tiger, lying on a bench.

NETTY
You look bad. Want some morphine?

TIGER
You got?

NETTY
I got. We have our little ways.

She reaches into her bag and pulls out a commercial vial.

TIGER
You always a surprise, ain’t ya?

NETTY
Girl’s gotta’ live, honey.

TIGER
Hard as that may be. Syringe?
Netty hands her one in a plastic package and the vial. Tiger preps the needle as Netty plops back in her seat.

    TIGER
    Make my day.

    NETTY
    Cementville... I’m getting too old an’ fat for sports entertainment.

    TIGER
    (Injecting herself)
    An’ I’m too far out there.

    NETTY
    What about you, Lessa?

Lessa gets off the bench and grabs her duffle. Tiger slips out of her Indian costume and back into her street clothes.

    NETTY
    Y’all wanna’ catch a beer?

    ANGELESSA
    (Gathering her things)
    I’m catchin’ the bus.

    TIGER
    Hell, Lessa. Cool off.

    ANGELESSA
    I’m way past cooled off.

    NETTY
    Where you goin’?

    ANGELESSA
    Wherever thirty dollars takes me.

    NETTY
    Probably Memphis. Shoot we’re all goin’ to Memphis. Ride with us.

    ANGELESSA
    Don’t think so.

CLOSE UP – KID CAYMAN

WILLIE CAYMAN, an elderly black man with cane in hand stands quietly in the hall, looking in.

    CAYMAN
    Evenin’ ladies...
INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

In the middle of getting undressed, Netty jumps back.

    NETTY
    Good Lord!

    CAYMAN
    Didn’t mean to make you jump.
        (Removes his hat)
    Payin’ my respects.

    ANGELETTA
    What do you need?

    CAYMAN
    Don’t have much, don’t need much.

    TIGER (OS)
    This is the dressing room, Granpa.

    CAYMAN
        (Pointing to an old poster)
    Willie “The Kid” Cayman. See?

    NETTY
    This is you?

    CAYMAN
        (Does a little shuffle)
    Light on my feet, lookin’ real sweet
    and TNT in both hands.

    NETTY
    Honey, you got million-dollar charm.

    CAYMAN
    Much obliged. Could I bother you
    ladies to step in? On my way from Key
    West to Catafalque Bay, Alaska in my
    ninety-seven cadmium red Firebird.
    Stoppin’ here, stoppin’ there…

    NETTY
    Come on in, darlin’.

    CAYMAN
        (Holds out his hand)
    Call me Kid. Kid Cayman.

    TIGER
        (Shakes Kid’s hand)
    Tiger.
CAYMAN
Tiger who?

TIGER
Just Tiger.

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT

Nola wrings Dani in a waist scissors, pulling her hair. The crowd is on their feet as Nola rolls her over for a pin. Suddenly, Dani kicks out and they both struggle to their feet. Dani shoves Nola back into the corner. They’re both winded.

DANI
It’s time. You take a side slam?

NOLA
Yeah… no sweat. Just plant me.

Nola grabs Dani’s top and rips it free. The crowd GASPS as Dani staggers back, covering herself. Nola clasps Dani in a chokehold, but Dani grabs Nola, lifts her and drops with her to the mat. In a flash, the ref counts as Dani pins her.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Kid meanders around the room, glancing at fight posters and touching the old rack of lockers. Outside the crowd ROARS.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
...your winner of our lingerie catfight: lusty, busty Texas Gold!

CAYMAN
(Seeing the pet carrier)
I got me a little yellow dog.
(Passes by Lessa)
Seems to me, I know you, sister.

ANGELESSA
Don’t think so. You a fan?

CAYMAN
It’ll come to me. I got a mile-long memory. You in the wrestlin’?

NETTY (OS)
That’s right, honey.
CAYMAN
Had me a hundred and seventy fights, featherweight to middleweight, but I still got my brains ‘cuz they couldn’t hit me. I kinda’ here, kinda’ there. What you’d call Will-o-the-wisp.

(Turns back to Lessa)
You’re granddaddy weren’t Sugar Ray?

She shakes her head. He continues his tour.

CAYMAN (CONT)
Fought here two times. Once with Jose’ Higuera, an old vet with a good left hand. Carried him eight rounds so he could have another payday. Once with Sandy Sadler, dirtiest fighter alive. He thumb me so bad, took forty-six stitches ‘round my left eye. It’s in the book. Fought Sandy three times.

(Back to Lessa)
Ever won a beauty contest?

ANGELESSA
Kid, I never won a beauty contest.

CAYMAN
Well, the fix was in.

ANGELESSA
(Smiling)
You ought to move on soon, Kid.

CAYMAN
Oh, I plan to. Got to keep movin’. My... my. Oh, ladies... memory lane.

Suddenly, Dani and Nola enter like whirlwinds. Wearing the sister’s kimonos, they blur by and begin changing costumes.

NOLA
Hot damn, was that somethin’?

DANI
Them folks were into it all right.

NOLA
Throwin’ money!

DANI
Bills... singles... fives...
Nola pulls cash from under her garter and waistband, even shaking coins out of her nylons. Tiger plops onto the bench.

NOLA
An’ change. I didn’t have a place to tuck it all.

Netty holds out their new costumes (Dragon Ninja Girls) as Dani walks over, she passes by Kid Cayman.

DANI
Who’s he?

CAYMAN
Bon jour. How you doin’?

TIGER
Used to fight here.

Dani hands the cash to Netty as Nola struggles with her top.

DANI
Pop… you have my sympathies.
(To Netty)
Split it up.

NOLA
Is this on straight?

NETTY
Come over here, honey.

DANI
Tiger? How you doin’?

TIGER
(Shit-eating grin)
Feelin’ no pain.

DANI
You see this crap?
(Holds Mother’s note)
The Dolly and Dottie Show. They parade around, we fall down. They writhe on the floor, we’re amazed. Then, Va-Va-Voom, we collapse.
(Tosses the note away)
Freakin’ stupid. Well, I guess you got to play it like it lays.

ANGELESSA
Get goin’.
DANI
Gone.

NOLA
(Still struggling)
Comin’...

ANGELESSA
Let me help you.

DANI
Catch you outside.

Dani heads out. Angelessa moves Netty aside to help Nola.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
And now our featured bout of the
evening. Introducing those fabulous
femme fatales of American wrestling...
The world-famous Knockout Sisters!

MEDIUM SHOT - BROOM CLOSET
Angelessa grabs the karate Gi top as Nola wriggles in it.

NOLA
I just hope I can do this.

ANGELESSA
You’ll be fine. Turn around...

As Nola does, Angelessa shoves her into the closet. She rips off the Gi shirt and slams the door. Tiger snorts out a laugh.

NOLA (OS)
*Filtered through the door.
Hey!! What the Hell?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT
Angelessa quickly puts on Nola’s costume, including gloves.

NETTY
Now, Lessa...

ANGELESSA
The little bitch that called me a nigger is mine!

NETTY
Don’t be crazy now.
As Lessa hits the door, two large hands reach out and clasp her throat! It’s EDDIE VAG, looking like Frankenstein’s monster, in a bloodied hospital robe. A detached IV dangles from his taped wrist. His eyes are large and glazed.

EDDIE
(Gurgling)
You... bit... my... dick... off.

Eddie slams her against the wall with inhuman strength.

NETTY
Eddie! Oh, my God. Eddie!

Angelessa struggles, but he is far too strong.

EDDIE
Bit... my... dick... off... My... dick!!

TIGER
Get him off her. He’ll kill her!

CAYMAN (OS)
Stosha!! “Wild Man” Oronovsky!!

Hearing his name, Eddie drops Lessa and turns. Kid smiles.

CAYMAN
Stosha Oronovsky! You the cream in my coffee, man. Give me some...

Kid holds his hand out, Eddie slaps it and they do an eight beat handshake. Suddenly, Kid nails Eddie in the groin with his knee and Eddie moans inhumanly.

CAYMAN (CONT’D)
You slick as a snake on ice.

Eddie crashes to the floor, on top of Tiger’s pet carrier. Only Netty sees it, as Tiger and Kid are helping Lessa up.

NETTY
Oh, God!

TIGER
You okay, Lessa?

ANGELESSA
I’m fine. Get off me.

CAYMAN
You put the shot in Athens?
ANGELESSA
In Athens, Greece. Yes, sir.

RING ANNOUNCER (OS)
...their opponents, from Osaka, Japan, the Dragon Ninja Girls!

CAYMAN
Ooo, you were fine. Now, go on out there and have a good time. I like to see people enjoying themselves.

Lessa nods. She grabs up the ninja mask and heads out.

TIGER
How’d you know his name?

CAYMAN
On the poster. Got me a memory. I can point out the same fly a week later.

TIGER
You think he’s hurt bad?

CAYMAN
(Grinning)
Might be, if she bit his dick off.

Netty moves to Eddie’s side and rolls him off the carrier.

NETTY
Tiger, honey. I got some bad news. He fell on your dog.

TIGER
Where?

NETTY
Kinda’ flush, right on her. Darlin’, I’m afraid she’s gone.

TIGER
Gone?

Netty nods. Tiger sits back, tears well up. Nola pounds on the closet door.

NOLA (OS)
Let me outta’ here!

TIGER
Whoa, getting’ woozy...

Tiger starts to fade, but Kid helps her to sit.
CAYMAN
No last name, huh?

TIGER
Nope.

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT

Dolly and Dottie stand in their corner, waving like debutantes as Dani plays bad girl to the crowd. Angelessa is motionless. The bell RINGS. Angelessa indicates she wants to start.

DANI
Sure thing, kid. Jus’ sell it up when she throws you around.

Dolly moves in, but Angelessa bulldozes right over her to the corner and slamming Dottie with a forearm. The blow sends Dottie to the floor. The crowd boos as Angelessa turns back to Dolly; grabs her, slams her, and then tosses her out, too.

INT. RINGSIDE - NIGHT

Mother is helping the injured Dottie to her feet.

MOTHER
What th’ Hell is that girl doin’?

Angelessa vaults the ropes and jumps down to the floor. She shoves Mother aside and tosses Dottie into the ring.

INT. WRESTLING RING - NIGHT

Dottie backs away, but Lessa grabs hold of her hair and lays a punch into Dottie’s face. Then, another and another.

DANI
What are you doin’!?!?

The referee tries to break it up, but Lessa kicks him away.

MOTHER (OS)
Get that bitch off my property!

Dani rips off her mask, jumps in and grabs Lessa from behind. As they struggle, Angelessa’s mask falls off.

DANI
Have you gone plum loco, girl?
ANGELESSA
Off me! This is my fight!

DANI
Lessa?

Angelessa tosses Dani off and sends her and Dottie to the floor, before diving out of the ring after Mother. The crowd is screaming for blood; Angelessa’s blood.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Tiger slumps on the floor next to a bench. Kid tends to her.

CAYMAN
You know what I see in your eyes? Morphine. Morphine, am I right?

TIGER
Yeah...

CAYMAN
That’s a sweet low, isn’t it? I had me a few months of that in Calcutta. I’d cry and cry... sleep like a baby.

TIGER
We’re all screwed.

NETTY (OS)
We are.

CAYMAN
Not me. Got me Florida real estate.

TIGER
Yeah? Well, it’s time to move out.

Tiger groggily stands and starts packing. Outside, they can hear the crowd YELLING louder. Chaos reigns in the arena.

NETTY
You got no place to go.

TIGER
I’m goin’ where them hicks ain’t. Screw this place.
(Steps over Eddie)
Don’t look like Eddie’s gonna’ be working in Memphis.
REVERSE

A SCREAM. Dottie bursts in, holding her hand over her face. Blood is streaming down her sequins. Netty rushes to her.

    DOTTIE
    My face! Oh God, my face! My eye!!

    NETTY
    Jeezus!

    DOTTIE
    I’m ruint!
    (Looking in the mirror)
    Ruint’ in the race wars! I cain’t see! I cain’t see!

    NETTY
    Let me. Sit still.

    DOTTIE
    I got to be in the movies!

    NETTY
    Where’s Dolly?

    DOTTIE
    Went under. Some thyroid case drug her into the crowd by one leg. I seen someone rip off her G-string. They was eatin’ it! They’re crazy!

    NETTY
    Looks like the nose. It’s broken.

    DOTTIE
    Oh, Jesus! I’m disfigured!!

Sounds from a STRUGGLE erupts from the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Angelessa has Mother in a headlock. Mother’s dress is ripped and she’s completely disheveled. Tiger watches at the doorway.

    MOTHER
    Three hundred dollars!

Angelessa bangs Mother’s head into the wall.

    MOTHER
    Six hundred!
TIGER
Hi there, Lessa.

ANGELESSA
How you doin’?

MOTHER
(Freeing herself)
You bitch! Tore my bra pad off!

ANGELESSA
‘Night, Mother.

Angelessa unloads with a solid right hook and Mother careens back against the wall and drops. Netty, standing in the doorway, stomps her feet.

NETTY
Goddammit, stop the rough-housin’!

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT
Passing Netty, Angelessa run in and grabs her bag. A moment later Big Man staggers in. His shirt is torn and his jacket is covered in garbage and spilled liquids from the arena floor.

NETTY
Hold on now...

ANGELESSA
Bye, Netty. Adios, Big Man.

BIG MAN
(Dazed)
Yeah...

TIGER
Left three cans a’ dog food. Via con Dios, Big Man.

DOTTIE (OS)
Oh, my God. It’s really broken!

Tiger bolts out as Big Man comes out of his stupor. Angelessa follows, but Big Man grabs her and shoves her back inside.

BIG MAN
You have screwed with my hustle, you miserable slimeball skank!

Angelessa drops her bag and charges headlong into him.
NETTY
Blow it off, Lessa! Christ’s sake!

DOTTIE
Mama, She broke my nose!

And the fight is on. At the start, Angelessa dominates, backing Big Man against the lockers, wailing away at him. Dottie runs out into hallway, to Mother’s side.

BIG MAN
Off me!!

But, the tide soon turns and Big Man presses Lessa back.

NETTY
Big Man!

DOTTIE
There’ll be media, Mama. We cain’t be on TV all ruint.

Dottie pulls Mother to her feet. Big Man pummels Lessa.

BIG MAN
Yes! Oh, yes!!

DOTTIE
My God, Mama. It’s the apocalypse. They ate Dolly. We cain’t be here!

Dottie pulls Mother to the back door. Finally stopping, Big Man slams Lessa into the lockers. She drops to the floor.

CLOSE UP - KID CAYMAN

Without warning, Kid pulls up Dolly’s 9mm and fires.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Big Man is hit in the thigh. He sits down, suddenly and awkwardly. The room goes silent, only the SCREAMING crowd in the arena can be heard.

BIG MAN
I’m shot! You shot me!! Eddie? What’s Eddie doin’ here? Christ, he shot Eddie. You’re a serial killer!

Lessa stumbles to her feet. She staggers to the water pail and splashes some on her face. Netty looks at the mess.
NETTY
You okay, Lessa?

Dani dashes in, her the ninja costume has a sleeve torn off.

DANI
Those hicks they’re... unbelievable... on the floor, in the ring, I’m tellin’ ya’, them hicks gone ape! What the...?

BIG MAN
I’m shot. I’m shot down...

NETTY
(Kneels down to help)
Let me see.

BIG MAN
(Slaps at her hands)
Get off me!

Still raging, Lessa trashes the sister’s stuff, knocking things off the dressing table, ripping the unit apart.

ANGELESSA
(Tossing clothes about)
Yes!!

DANI
Goddammit, Lessa!
(Turns to Big Man)
Who shot you?

BIG MAN
Who gives a crap! I’m shot!

DANI
You still here?

CAYMAN
(Still holding the gun)
Just passin’ through.

DANI
Eddie? Is that Eddie?

ANGELESSA
(Ripping an outfit)
Sequins. Man, I hate sequins!

DANI
(Checking on Eddie)
Jesus. This ain’t my style. We gotta’ blow, Netty. Blow now!
INT. SPORTSDROME ARENA - NIGHT

The crowd is in full riot, pressing for the wrestler’s exit. Security tries to hold them off, but they’re overrun. The curtain rack and lighting rig collapse with a crash.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Dani turns around, hearing the noise outside.

    DANI
    You hear that? They’re comin’.
    (To Kid)
    Don’t shoot. Don’t shoot me.

    CAYMAN
    (Chuckles)
    Okay.

    ANGELESSA
    (Surveying the damage)
    Lookin’ good.

Nola BANGS on the broom closet door. Dani jumps.

    NETTY
    Oh, God.

    DANI
    What’s that? Not Dwayne again!

Netty runs to the broom closet and unlocks the door.

    NETTY
    I completely forgot.

Nola bursts out of the broom closet.

    NOLA
    I... no air... banging and yellin’...
    (Sees the wreckage)
    Jeeminy, holy... boy-howdy!

Lessa throws the last of her things in her bag.

    DANI
    Now. Out now!
    (Scooping up the cash)
    There’s gonna’ be cops.

    NOLA
    We are all gonna’ die.
NETTY
You want me stay, Big Man?

She touches his leg. He yelps.

BIG MAN
That hurt, okay?

DANI
Time to roll, Netty. Come on!

NETTY
Poor darlin’.

BIG MAN
Get your finger out of the bullet hole! You could kill a freakin’ tree!

Dani grabs Netty and drags her to the door.

DANI
Cops, Netty… freaked out hicks…
(Points to Eddie and Big Man)
They’re gonna’ pin it on us.

Kid taps Dani’s shoulder. She whirls to face him.

CAYMAN
Say...

DANI
Don’t even look at me.

CAYMAN
Kid Cayman… How you doin’?

DANI
Screw you!
(Has a thought)
You got a car, Pop?

CAYMAN
Car, huh? Yeah. Got me a ninety-seven cadmium red Pontiac Firebird. Parked right out front.

ANGELESSA
You lookin’ for company?

CAYMAN
Always lookin’ for company. Got a workin’ radio and she’s seats five.
(Gives Lessa the keys)
Pull it around back, I’ll be along.
ANGELESSA
Okay.

CAYMAN
(Smiles admiringly)
Don’t mention it. Ooooo, you was poetry in motion. Solid left.

DANI
Are you all like deranged!?! Go!

Angelessa heads for the door.

NETTY
Come on, honey.
(Grabs Nola’s hand)
Mama will take care of you.

DANI
Move it! Move it! Go! Go!

Dani shoves them all out. As they hit the door, Eddie revives and suddenly grasps Lessa’s ankle. She stomps on his hand.

ANGELESSA
I hope you don’t die, but I hope... you come... goddamned close! Amen.

Going down to one knee, Lessa pries herself loose and exits.

DANI
So long, Big Man.

BIG MAN
Get me some help.

DANI
Sure.
(To Kid)
Move it out, Pops.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dani dashes for the backdoor. Vernon and Curtis watch her pass, see the mob coming, and then quickly follow her out.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Kid makes his way to Big Man. He puts the gun in his jacket. On the floor, Big Man gulps for breath.
BIG MAN
You snuffed me.

CAYMAN
You won’t die. I didn’t hit you in the right spot.
(Looks at Eddie)
I hit him in the right spot.

EDDIE (OS)
...my dick...

CAYMAN
You Jack Vag’s kid. You used to be coffee boy down at Joe Louis’ Gym.
(Notes Big Man’s reaction)
Now, you doin’ this trash.

BIG MAN
What the Hell are you doin’?

CAYMAN
Keepin’ you company.

BIG MAN
Don’t ditch me.

CAYMAN
Want a smoke?

BIG MAN
Yeah.

CAYMAN
Hurtin’ people, now that’s a serious gig. I don’t play with it. When I hurt’em, I hurts’em.

Grinning, he squats down by Big Man. He takes a cigar out of Big Man’s front pocket and places it in his mouth.

CAYMAN (CONT’D)
I tell you I fought Sandy Sadler three times? Second time, a woman come to this here dressing room, bare shoulders, ball gown. She took off a diamond bracelet, give it to me and said, “You, sir, gave a fine account of yourself.”

Grunting, Kid stands up and tips over a bank of lockers, revealing a hidden door.
CAYMAN (CONT)
Came through that door in a China silk dress. Took me to her home on a bluff overlooking a wide turn in the Mississippi and we danced the Samba to a sixteen-piece all-girl band from Venezuela.

Kid opens the door and shuffles down the access corridor.

CAYMAN (CONT)
Sandy was there, too. Two-Ton Tony Galento was in town. Ooooo, he was light on his feet. The referee was dancin’ with the governor’s wife. And Ol’ Jake Lamotta was waltzin’ with a nine-year-old girl standin’ on his shoes. What a sight. Waiters in their white coats even joined in.

His voice recedes as he disappears into the darkness.

CAYMAN (CONT) (OS)
All of us laughin’ and hummin’ along while the moon went down. A girl who played clarinet in that band left a camellia on my pillow. ‘Course those were different times then… different times.

EXT. HIGHWAY – NIGHT

Kid’s Firebird zooms up the road as two police cruisers and an ambulance scream by heading back to the arena.

INT. KID’S CAR – NIGHT

Dani looks back as the EMS rig zips by. While Kid drives, Nola is scrunched between Netty and Lessa in the back.

NETTY
Good God, what’er we gonna’ do now? They gonna’ come lookin’ for us.

ANGELESSA
Memphis? What do you think, Kid?
CAYMAN
Weren’t on my list, but I’ll detour for you ladies. Used to be a gym down near Beale Street. Café next door served the best pork you ever had.

Dani looks back at Nola, wide-eyed in the back seat.

DANI
We droppin’ you off somewhere?

NOLA
I’m in real trouble when I get home. Mama’s gonna let me have it.

DANI
You wanna’ go to Memphis, Frenchy?

NOLA
Maybe the U.S.W.F. will be lookin’ for some female talent.

Dani pulls Lady Doom’s mask from her bag. Nola takes it.

DANI
Lady Doom is due for a comeback.

NOLA
She is, huh?
(Puts on the mask)
How do I look?

DANI
Like a ‘rassler.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Kid’s Firebird plunges into the night, the ladies LAUGHING.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The riotous noise outside the hall door rouses Big Man. The lights flicker and suddenly there is a BANGING on the door.

VOICE (OS)
We know ya’ll in thar’! You’re dead meat, you hear?

BIG MAN
Eddie? You there?
EDDIE
Yeah... Yeah, I’m here...

The door shudders with each impact. The lights grow dim. Suddenly, a fire axe punches through the door. One-Eye peers through the newly hacked open hole.

BIG MAN
How much you got left?

No answer. The noise outside grows deafening. A moment later, the door gives and as the mob rushes in everything goes BLACK.

CREDITS