

THE NIGHTMARE'S COMEBACK

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Southgate High School

2008 Third Place
The Sally Picow Foundation
Student Screenwriting Awards

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INT. MGM GRAND ARENA - NIGHT

The arena is sold out. The lights overhead shine brightly into the boxing ring. The fight can be seen clearly even from the highest seat in the arena.

In the ring are two welterweights: one white the other black. The white fighter is VINCENT BLACK. He is twenty-eight years old and appears to be in great shape. His eyes sparkle in the arena's bright lights, and his hair shines and hangs above his eyes.

Vincent is quick on his feet and moves around the ring hitting his opponent in the face so hard and fast that his opponent has little time to move out of his punches.

His opponent, CARL JOHNSON JR., thirty-eight years old, he looks tired. His face is severely bruised. His mouth is open and he breathes heavily trying to gasp for air.

He charges at Vincent trying to land a punch but is too slow.

BELL RINGS. The fighters return to their corners.

Vincent sits down and spits into a bucket. Vincent's trainer enters the ring. He is EMILIO RODRIGUEZ, a shrivelled, balding man in his mid fifties.

VINCENT

That old man won't go down. No matter how hard I hit him, son of a bitch keeps coming at me.

EMILIO

Don't worry about it too much. He's gonna go down any second now. All you have to do is get in there and finish the job.

VINCENT

I think I should back off for a couple of rounds. I don't want to seriously hurt the guy.

Vincent looks over to Carl's corner. He notices that Carl is staring right at him. Carl doesn't blink. He doesn't even pay attention to his Dad, CARL JOHNSON, SR., who is working hard to stop the blood profusely pouring out of his broken nose.

CARL, SR.

What the fuck are you doing out there, son? He's beating the crap out of you.

CARL

He's too fast. I can't see, and I can barely breathe.

CARL, SR.

Don't give me none of that bullshit Carl. Show some heart. This is your last chance to get that belt back. You want it back, don't you?

CARL

Yeah...

CARL, SR.

We'll you're sure as hell not showing it.

CARL

Just gimme ma mouthpiece.

BELL RINGS.

Carl walks toward the middle of the ring.

CARL, SR.

Carl!

Carl stops and turns around to look at his Dad.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)

Get in that fucking fight!

Carl walks to the middle of the ring where Vincent is waiting.

Vincent circles Carl and begins to throw jabs.

Carl charges at Vincent, throwing a left hook, but is easily countered with a right hook to the body.

Vincent throws a right cross. He misses. Carl seizes his only opportunity and throws an uppercut that lands on Vincent's chin sending him to the canvas.

The referee walks over to Vincent...

REFEREE

One...two...three...four...five...

EMILIO
Get up, Vincent!! Get up!!

Vincent staggers to get up, his legs look weak. Finally he rises. He doesn't look the same. His eyes are bloodshot, he looks serious as he looks at Carl, who is gasping for air in his corner.

The referee checks on Vincent. He pays no attention to the referee; he still focuses on Carl.

The referee signals for both fighters to continue fighting.

Without hesitation, Vincent lunges forward with a straight left that lands on Carl's nose. He staggers and Vincent goes at him with a relentless attack.

Vincent pushes Carl onto a corner and begins punching him.

Carl tries to block his punches, but as he blocks one punch he is hit with two more. All Carl can see is the punches hitting him. They are so fast that he can't react.

Vincent hits Carl with a brutal uppercut that lands just below Carl's chin.

Carl's eyes roll back. He falls backwards on to the canvas.

The referee walks over to Carl's body and sees that he is unconscious. He signals that the fight is over. Vincent runs to his corner and raises his arms in triumph.

The fans begin to chant.

FANS
NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!!
NIGHTMARE!!

Carl does not get up. His body still lays on the canvas. Vincent walks around the ring with his hands in the air celebrating. Carl Johnson Sr. and a doctor run over to Carl's body.

The doctor checks Carl's pulse. He takes out a flashlight and opens Carl's eyes.

DOCTOR
Carl...Carl...Carl!

CARL, JR.
C'mon son, get up.

The chants begin to die down. The crowd notices that Carl is still on the canvas.

Vincent then stops celebrating, as he notices that Carl isn't moving and is still unconscious. He walks over toward Emilio.

VINCENT
Why hasn't he gotten up?

EMILIO
I don't know...

Vincent walks over to the doctor and Carl, Sr.

VINCENT
Is he okay?

A eight year-old boy rushes to the ring. He is Carl's son, JUNIOR. He pushes Vincent out of the way.

Vincent stares at Junior as he pushes the Doctor and Carl, Sr. a side and kneels over his father's body.

JUNIOR
Daddy, wake up... Daddy, wake up...
C'mon let's go... I wanna go home
now. I don't wanna be here...
Please daddy, wake up.

Tears run down Junior's cheeks.

DOCTOR
Get a stretcher in here!

JUNIOR
(crying)
DADDY!! DADDY!!

DOCTOR
Get that kid away from here!

Carl, Sr. tries to pull Junior back, but Junior struggles desperately to get free.

JUNIOR
(crying)
LET ME GO, GRANDPA!! I WANNA BE
WITH MY DADDY!!

DOCTOR
Where the hell is that stretcher!?

The arena is completely silent. Junior's screams echo throughout the arena. Everyone has their eyes on Junior.

Vincent leaves the ring and heads toward the exit. As he walks paramedics run past him and into the ring.

Vincent walks slowly toward the exit with his head down. He has his black robe on embroidered with red letters on the back it reads "Nightmare".

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent is sitting down on a bench with his head in his hands. Emilio enters the locker room. He walks over to Vincent and places his hands on Vincent's shoulders.

EMILIO

He's dead...

Vincent stands up and punches the wall several times. He drops to the floor. Tears running down his cheeks.

VINCENT

Did you see him? The look on his face. He's just a boy...

JONATHAN GRACE, Vincent's promoter enters the locker room. He's in his late thirties. He is well dressed in his black suit, his hair is combed back. He walks over to Vincent and looks at him on the floor.

JONATHAN

Vincent... Why are you in the floor? Get up my man. I know you didn't mean that to happen. And I understand. But don't worry about it, I'll take care of everything.

VINCENT

(low voice)

Get out.

JONATHAN

Excuse me?

VINCENT

I said get out Jonathan. I don't feel like talking to anyone right now.

JONATHAN

Okay man, sorry. Don't stress yourself Vincent that's why you have me.

Jonathan exits the room.

EMILIO

Get some rest, Vincent. You need it. I'll see you in the morning.

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT - (DREAM)

Vincent is in the ring, he is standing over Carl's body. Next to him, Junior is on his knees.

JUNIOR (CRYING)

Daddy... Get up, Daddy... Please get up. Don't leave me, Daddy!!

Junior looks up and sees Vincent.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(crying)

You killed him. You killed my Daddy.

Vincent says nothing.

Junior stands up and runs at Vincent and begins to hit him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent wakes up, his face covered in sweat. He gets up and walks toward the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vincent washes his face, he looks into the mirror and sees Carl's face.

VINCENT

Ahhhh!!

Vincent falls down and gets up, he looks into the mirror again. He dries and puts his hands on his face.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vincent walks over to his bed and sits down; he picks up the phone and dials.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

REBECCA BLACK Vincent's wife is sitting down on her bed. She is blond with blue eyes and has an amazing body. Next to her on her night stand there are two lines of cocaine.

The phone begins to ring. She looks at it and ignores it. She snorts the cocaine.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vincent hangs up the phone. He picks it up again and dials.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The phone rings. We see two hands massaging Rebecca's shoulders. She turns and looks at the man off screen.

REBECCA
Now, where were we?

Rebecca turns off the lights.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Vincent enters his house carrying a small gym bag.

VINCENT
Honey, I'm home!!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is in the kitchen, on the phone.

REBECCA
Okay, I'll meet up with you later,
Vincent just got here.

Vincent enters the kitchen just as Rebecca hangs up.

VINCENT
Who was that?

REBECCA
You're home!

Rebecca rushes to Vincent and kisses him.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
It was just Anna, you know from
next door, she wants me to go
shopping with her.

VINCENT
Oh...

REBECCA
Sorry I couldn't go. You where
fantastic last night.

Vincent sits down on an empty chair. Rebecca looks at
Vincent.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

VINCENT
Yeah...

REBECCA
No you're not.

VINCENT
I'm okay...

Vincent smiles. Rebecca sits down.

REBECCA
You know I'm here for you Vincent
and you can tell me anything.

Rebecca holds Vincent's hand.

VINCENT
That man, Carl Johnson Jr., he was
one of the best boxers out there.
But as I fought him last night, all
I saw was this old man trying his
hardest to be someone he wasn't
anymore.

REBECCA
I'm sure that all of this will
eventually blow over.

Rebecca begins to kiss Vincent.

INT. BUBBA WHITE'S GYM - AFTERNOON

A young black fighter is sparring. He is DANTE STEVENS: a twenty two year-old southpaw. Dante's sparring partner seems very tired. He cannot keep up with Dante's speed.

DANTE

C'mon, sucka. Hit me. I'll give you one hit.

Dante drops his hands. His opponent takes a hit, but Dante is quick to react and counters with a left hook to the liver. His opponent hits the canvas.

DANTE (CONT'D)

C'mon you didn't think I was gonna let you ruin this beautiful face now, did you?

Outside, Dante's trainer is on the phone. He's BUBBA WHITE a black male in his mid-forties.

Dante pays no attention to what is happening outside the ring. His focus is on his opponent. He has a new sparring partner now but he can't seem to keep up with Dante's speed, either.

BUBBA

Dante!! Yo, Dante!!

Dante drops his opponent with a left uppercut.

DANTE

What?

BUBBA

You ain't fighting that sucka Michael Crisp anymore. Little bitch ripped his Achilles heel.

DANTE

Achilles heel? How he do that?

BUBBA

Playing Tennis...

DANTE

Who am I fighting now?

BUBBA

Left Hook Larry took the fight. You beat him and you have a chance at the belt.

DANTE
 (laughs)
 Alright. But who the fuck plays
 tennis?

BUBBA
 Now get out of that ring. Were done
 for the day. You gone on and beat
 all of my fighters.

EXT. VINCENT'S FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON

Rebecca is watering her plants and talking with ANNA her next door neighbor. Anna is a tall and slim beautiful woman in her mid twenties.

The garage door opens and Vincent pulls out in his black 1967 Ford Mustang Fastback. Rebecca turns and sees Vincent leaving.

REBECCA
 (to Anna)
 I'll be right back.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
 VINCENT!!

Vincent stops and Rebecca walks over to the car.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
 Remember that all our friends are
 coming over tonight.

VINCENT
 For what?

REBECCA
 My party.

VINCENT
 Party? Why are you throwing a
 party?

REBECCA
 Because it's been a while since we
 had one.

VINCENT
 Okay then. Jonathan wants to talk
 to me, then I'll come right back.

As Vincent pulls out onto the street Rebecca walks to the sidewalk.

REBECCA
Don't take too long!!

INT. JONATHAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Vincent is sitting down in Jonathan's office. Which resembles a small apartment rather than an office.

We see a wall filled with pictures of famous boxers behind Jonathan's desk. In the center there is a picture of Vincent the day he won his belt.

Vincent stands up to get a better look at the picture. He is being hoisted up by Emilio. Beneath the picture is a plaque that reads VINCENT "THE NIGHTMARE" BLACK.

Vincent smiles and walks around, looking at all of the other pictures. Jonathan enters his office.

JONATHAN
Vincent. Great, you're here. Sit down, please.

Vincent sits down.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Carl's funeral is tomorrow. I thought that you would like to know.

VINCENT
Thanks.

JONATHAN
But that's not what I called you here for.

VINCENT
What then?

JONATHAN
I know it's a little bit too soon, but I hope that this isn't the end of Vincent "The Nightmare" Black. Carl was only a tune-up fight. If Dante Stevens beats Left Hook Larry he's going to be your next opponent.

VINCENT
Yeah. We'll see. He's nothing but a loud mouth waiting to get knocked out by a real boxer.

Vincent walks out.

JONATHAN
Vincent. Wait!

VINCENT
I'll talk to you later. You going
to the party right?

JONATHAN
Yeah.

VINCENT
(sarcastic)
Great. All of my friends are
supposed to be there.

INT. VINCENT'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Vincent sits on his living room couch. He watches as caterers come inside the house and set up tables with food. Rebecca's bossing everyone around. She walks over and sits next to Vincent.

VINCENT
I thought that it was only gonna be
our friends?

REBECCA
It is. You're not going to get
dressed?

VINCENT
Later. I think I'm going to go out
for a drive.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY

Vincent parks his Mustang. As he gets out of the car he is approached by two young men in their twenties.

The young men are wearing baggy clothes and are heavily tattooed.

YOUNG MAN #1
That's a nice car, homes.

VINCENT
Thanks.

YOUNG MAN #2

Yeah. Be a real shame if something were to happen to it.

VINCENT

Yeah, I know. Good thing you young gentlemen are here. Now, If I come back and see so much as a scratch on my car, I'm going to have to ruin those pretty little faces of yours.

YOUNG MAN #1

No problem essay. We'll look out after your ramfla.

VINCENT

I'm sure you will.

Vincent walks down the streets of downtown Los Angeles. He sees a couple of boys fighting in a park. They seem to be no more than eight years old.

A brown boy is on top of another boy, beating him senseless. Just as Vincent is about to go stop them, he sees a woman who looks to be in her sixties hitting the boys with her umbrella, yelling for them to stop.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON (FLASHBACK)

Ten year-old Vincent is sitting down reading a book under a tree. He sees a gang of boys who keep looking at him; he tries to ignore them. One of the boys walks up to him and smacks the book out of his hand.

Vincent does not look at the boy. He just gets his book and starts reading it again. The boy smacks the book out of Vincent's hands again.

BOY

Are you lost? Beverly Hills is that way.

He points his thumb behind him.

BOY (CONT'D)

You're in the wrong place, gringo.

YOUNG VINCENT

No soy gringo cara de pito.

BOY

Oh, so the stupid-ass gringo knows some Spanish. But let's see if he can fight. Get up, Cabron!!

YOUNG VINCENT

Why don't you go back with your boyfriends. They're waiting for you.

Vincent points towards the gang of boys.

BOY

You're a real comedian, huh?

The boy punches Vincent and gets on top of him. He begins to beat him senseless. A younger Emilio in his early forties is passing by and sees the boys fighting and goes over to stop them. He pulls the boy off Vincent

YOUNG EMILIO

What's going on here, Carlos?

Carlos says nothing.

YOUNG EMILIO (CONT'D)

I asked you a question and I expect an answer. Why were you hitting him?

CARLOS

He kept looking at me.

YOUNG EMILIO

Ohhh he kept looking at you? Get home before I tell your mother cabron!!

Carlos leaves with his gang. Emilio helps a bloody Vincent up. Vincent is bleeding from his nose, but is not crying.

YOUNG EMILIO (CONT'D)

You sure can take a punch, kid. You must be one of the few kids I've seen in my life that take a beating like the one you just took and not cry. I'm Emilio. What's your name?

YOUNG VINCENT

Vincent.

YOUNG EMILIO

Vincent. Vincent what?

YOUNG VINCENT
Vincent Black.

YOUNG EMILIO
Vincent Black?

Emilio laughs.

YOUNG EMILIO (CONT'D)
Now that's a good boxer's name

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - EVENING (BACK TO PRESENT)

Vincent watches as the woman helps out the young boy.

EMILIO
It seems like only yesterday you
were that young boy who didn't know
how to fight.

Vincent jumps up in surprise. He turns around and sees
Emilio's wrinkly face looking at him.

VINCENT
Don't scare me like that, Emilio.

EMILIO
So what brings you to this part of
town, Son?

VINCENT
I thought I'd visit the old
neighborhood. Hasn't changed at
all.

EMILIO
Not one bit. Still exactly the same
run down shit hole it's always
been.

Vincent and Emilio begin to walk together. They arrive to
Emilio's gym.

EXT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - NIGHT

EMILIO
So how you holding up with the
whole Carl thing?

VINCENT

Okay. I try not to think about it much. Jonathan thinks I should keep boxing. And why shouldn't I?

EMILIO

Are you going to go to his funeral?

Vincent nods.

EMILIO (CONT'D)

That's good.

VINCENT

I'll see you around. I have to get back to my so called friends who are eating all my food and drinking all my beer. You should come.

EMILIO

No, thanks. Those aren't my kind of people.

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Vincent walks into the house. The party seems to be in full bloom. Music is being played loudly. The couches in the living room have been pushed to the side and people are dancing in the middle of the living room.

Rebecca and Jonathan are in the center of the crowd, having a good time.

Rebecca notices Vincent watching her from across the living room and walks over to him.

REBECCA

Where the hell have you been?

VINCENT

I went to go visit my old neighborhood.

REBECCA

What for? I told you to be here early.

VINCENT

What the hell for? I don't even know these people.

(MORE)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

And by the looks of it you and
Jonathan seem to be having a blast.

REBECCA

What are you trying to say?

Jonathan walks over to Vincent and Rebecca.

JONATHAN

Vincent, where have you been?
You're missing out on your own
party.

VINCENT

It's not my party, It's Rebecca's.
I'm not the party throwing type.

REBECCA

(to Vincent)

We'll talk later. I have to go
powder my nose.

VINCENT

I thought you quit that crap
Rebecca.

REBECCA

I'm only joking Vincent.

Rebecca kisses Vincent on the cheek and heads towards the
bathroom. Vincent walks over to a minibar.

VINCENT

Want something to drink?

JONATHAN

No, thanks.

Jonathan pulls out two tickets from his pocket.

VINCENT

What are those for?

JONATHAN

Front row tickets for the Dante
Stevens fight.

VINCENT

Why do you have two?

JOHNATHAN

One for me and one for you.

VINCENT
I'm not going to go see that
talentless dirtbag.

JONATHAN
C'mon Vincent. You're my main man.

VINCENT
No.

JONATHAN
Let's just go see what he's got.

EXT. CEMETARY- DAY

Carl Johnson, Jr.'s funeral is taking place. The coffin is being lowered down.

Carl, Sr. is holding Junior by the shoulders. Junior has some tears coming down his cheeks. Vincent hides behind a tree.

The ceremony ends. People begin to leave, and soon it's only Carl, Sr. and Junior. Vincent approaches them.

Junior catches a glimpse of Vincent and runs behind his grandfather.

CARL, SR.
You have some damn nerve showing up
here.

VINCENT
I just came to pay my respects to
your son.

CARL, SR.
If you came to pay your respects
then what the hell is he doing
here.

Carl points to a PHOTOGRAPHER who is hiding behind a tree. Vincent turns around and sees the man.

VINCENT
He isn't with me.

CARL, SR.
Get the hell out of here...
Nightmare.

INT. MGM GRAND ARENA - NIGHT

Vincent is sitting in the front row. Next to him, Jonathan is flirting with a young beautiful Asian girl. There are a lot of empty seats in the arena. Dante begins to walk towards the ring. His opponent is already in the ring, in his corner, on his knees praying.

VINCENT

You honestly think that this punk
is gonna beat Left Hook Larry?

JONATHAN

Sure as hell hope so. Told the kid
that if he won tonight I'd sign
him to Grace Promotions. He's very
ambitious.

The referee gives instructions to both fighters.

BELL RINGS.

Dante and Left Hook Larry lead into the middle of the ring.

DANTE

Yo ass going down.

LEFT HOOK LARRY

That's what the last guy said.

Larry goes at Dante. Larry is not a fast fighter, he's a power puncher.

As Larry comes at Dante, he moves out of the way and begins to jab and run.

The crowd doesn't seem to be into the fight.

Dante dances and showboats a little to please the fans and then goes in and hits Larry with a couple of body punches and steps back.

Left Hook Larry charges at Dante, but cannot hit him. He is beaten to the punch every single time.

JONATHAN

I bet thirty grand on the kid, You
know? And I think it's paying off,
don't you think? I mean look at
him! I think he may be faster than
you.

MAN BEHIND VINCENT

Hey Dante!! I didn't pay good money
to fall asleep. Start fighting,
dammit!!

VINCENT

No, I don't. He has a long way to
go if he wants to be a great boxer.

The BELL RINGS and both fighters go to their corners. Just as Dante gets to his corner, he catches a glimpse of Vincent and smiles.

DANTE

Yo, Bubba-check it out. The
champion of the world came to see
me fight!

BUBBA

Forget about him for now. Focus on
that sucka over there. Finish his
ass off already. Give the fans a
show.

DANTE

Maybe I should kill his ass, you
know, and then I'll fight the
champ. Both of us go into a fight
as killers.

BUBBA

Boy!! Just go in there and finish
the fight.

The BELL RINGS.

Dante lunges at Larry, hitting him with a straight left that sends Larry to the canvas.

MAN BEHIND VINCENT

About damn time something good
happens!!

Jonathan turns around to the man sitting behind Vincent.

JONATHAN

Could you be quiet, please? We're
trying to watch the fight.

MAN BEHIND VINCENT

Why don't you blow me.

Vincent turns around and looks at the man. The man immediately recognizes Vincent, a look of terror comes to his face.

MAN BEHIND VINCENT (CONT'D)
So... Sorry Champ.

Larry gets up slowly from the canvas. The referee signals for both of them to continue fighting.

BUBBA
Finish him, already.

DANTE
You're the boss.

Dante hits Larry on the liver. Larry drops to his knees, then falls down. The referee walks over to Left Hook Larry's body and counts

REFEREE
One...two...three...four...fi--

Vincent is watching the fight, he begins to hear a voice in his head.

JUNIOR (V.O.)
Daddy, get up... Daddy, get up.
Please get up.

JONATHAN
Vincent! Vincent!

Jonathan waves a hand in front of Vincent and it brings him back to reality.

VINCENT
Wha... what happened?

JONATHAN
Our boy just won! We have ourselves
a fight-and a damn good one, too.

Dante is hoisted up by his trainer and he pretends to wrap a championship belt around his waist. He then looks over at Vincent and pretends to slit his throat.

VINCENT
I guess we do have a fight...

JONATHAN
And I'll tell you something else. I
just won a shit load of money! I'm
telling you, this kid is gold.

Jonathan goes into the ring to congratulate Dante.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Dante! Dante! Beautiful fight! I have to say it was entertaining.

DANTE

Thank you, Mr. Grace. So what about my title shot? When is that gonna go down?

JONATHAN

Sooner than you think.

Dante looks over to where Vincent was sitting and notices that the chair is empty.

DANTE

Where yo boy go?

Jonathan looks over.

JONATHAN

Who knows? But Vincent and I are excited that you will be joining our team.

DANTE

Thank you, Mr. Grace.

JONATHAN

I'll be in touch, Dante.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - NIGHT

On the wall hangs a sign that reads "THE NIGHTMARE vs. THE SWEET DREAM" The room is filled with reporters.

In front of the reporters, Vincent sits in between Emilio and Rebecca. To the far right sit Dante and Bubba. Jonathan is standing at a podium.

JONATHAN

Veteran against newcomer. A Sweet Dream will meet a true Nightmare in the ring. Dante "Sweet Dreams" Stevens is now part of Grace Promotions and promises a spectacular show.

REPORTER #1

Why are you fighting two of your own fighters?

JONATHAN

Vincent and Dante are two of the finest athletes the sport of boxing has to offer. Why shouldn't they fight each other? You can stand there and tell me you don't want to see this fight happen. But I do what I do for the fans.

REPORTER #2

Where will the fight be taking place?

JONATHAN

Right here in both men's hometown: Los Angeles.

Jonathan motions for Dante to come up to the podium.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Now let me introduce you to Dante "Sweet Dreams" Stevens a man you will be seeing a lot of in the future.

As Dante comes up to the podium Jonathan pulls Dante up to him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Remember; try and get on their good side. No trash-talking.

DANTE

Okay.

Jonathan sits down and Dante steps up to the podium.

DANTE (CONT'D)

I would like to thank Mr. Grace. I do believe that--

REPORTER #3

How do you feel going up against The Nightmare?

DANTE

First of all, I would appreciate if you wouldn't interrupt me when I'm talking.

(MORE)

DANTE (CONT'D)

I will answer all your questions in a minute. Second of all, I know that I'm not a big name but, I have beaten the best to get--

REPORTER #3

No one has you winning this fight. What makes you think you have a chance at beating The Nightmare? A man who many fear in the ring.

DANTE

What the fuck did I just say!? I said I would answer your questions when I was done with what I was saying. You interrupt me one more time and I'ma walk over there and slap you upside your head. Now for this so-called "Nightmare". Mother fucker ain't shit. He ain't scary. He's ugly, I'll give him that, but he ain't scary.

A couple of reporters chuckle.

Dante sits down and Vincent goes up to the podium.

VINCENT

There isn't much to say except that, I'm going to bring you my best, as I've always done in all of my previous fights. And shut that big mouth of his.

REPORTER

Do you think that you are ready to step into a ring after what happened in your last fight?

Vincent begins to talk but is interrupted by Jonathan.

JONATHAN

I would prefer it if we just focused on this fight.

REPORTER #2

Ms. Black. What are your views on the fight?

Rebecca, who was not paying any attention, looks up at the reporters.

REBECCA

I support my husband one-hundred percent.

REPORTER

Is it possible to get a picture of both fighters together?

JONATHAN

Sure, why not? Vincent. Dante. Come up here.

Vincent and Dante walk up to each other and look into each other's eyes.

DANTE

I'ma fuck yo ass up.

VINCENT

Of course you are.

DANTE

Im'a fuck you up. Then Im'a fuck that pretty little wife of yours over and over and over...

Vincent hits Dante in the chin and Dante goes down.

VINCENT

Sorry. I didn't hear that last part.

Reporters go crazy, lights from the cameras begin to flash. Jonathan pulls Vincent to the side.

JONATHAN

What the hell is your problem, Vincent? You can't be doing that!

VINCENT

Apparently, I just did.

JONATHAN

This isn't a joke! Boxing commission is going to be all over my ass, thanks to you. Where you trying to get yourself injured?

Vincent looks over Jonathan's shoulder and see Dante getting up, holding his jaw. Bubba along with security are holding Dante.

DANTE

Im'a fuck you up Black!!

VINCENT

(to Jonathan)

No. I was trying to shut that big mouth of his, unfortunately I failed. What a shame, honestly.

JONATHAN

Go home Vincent.

VINCENT

Sure thing, boss.

EXT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - NIGHT

Emilio is smoking a cigarette. Vincent is across the street buying ice cream.

Vincent returns with two ice cream cones.

VINCENT

Here, Old Man. I brought you a rocky road ice cream cone.

EMILIO

No, thanks. Not a big fan of the ice cream.

VINCENT

What are you talking about? You used to love ice cream. You said that you loved it more than sex, remember?

Emilio begins to laugh.

EMILIO

Yeah, I remember. But now I'm lactose intolerant. And sex is only a memory.

Vincent laughs, grabs the cigarette from Emilio's hand and throws it away.

VINCENT

Well if you ain't gonna have your ice cream, you ain't gonna smoke that stuff. It will kill you.

EMILIO

Yeah,... So?

VINCENT

So who's gonna train me if you're dead? You've been with me since day one. You've been like a father.

EMILIO

(smiles)

So when do we head up to your big fancy gym to start training?

VINCENT

You know, I've been thinking about training here again. You know go back to my roots.

We see an OLD MAN in the background getting into a beat up vehicle, he turns it on and the muffler backfires. Vincent ducks thinking it's a gunshot. Emilio begins to laugh.

EMILIO

Oh, Vincent how Beverly Hills has changed you.

Both laugh.

VINCENT

I'll see you tomorrow at sunrise.

Vincent begins to walk away.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - MORNING

Vincent arrives at the boxing gym. Inside are boxers of all ages: some are sparring, others lifting weights, some are hitting the punching bags.

As Vincent walks around the gym, the fighters stop and look at him. Everyone in the gym looks shocked as they see Vincent walking. A young boxer walks up to Vincent to talk to him but is pulled back by another boxer.

BOXER#1

That's Vincent Black, stupid. You just don't walk up to him like that.

BOXER #2

Why the hell not? He's just like you and me.

BOXER#1

He's nothing like you and me. The guy is a damn legend.

Vincent walks to the back of the gym where there are pictures of boxers who have trained or fought at El Toro Loco's.

Emilio has a reserved section for Vincent: pictures of when Vincent was starting out, and the same picture that Jonathan has in his office: Vincent being hoisted up by Emilio with the championship belt on his shoulder.

Emilio comes out of his office looks down from the second floor.

EMILIO
(to the whole gym)
Everyone shut up.

Everyone in the gym stops and looks over at Emilio.

EMILIO (CONT'D)
Today one of our own has come back:
Vincent "The Nightmare" Black is
once again part of El Toro Loco's
gym. Now I want all of you to treat
him like you treat each
other...like shit!

Everyone in the gym begins to laugh.

EMILIO (CONT'D)
Alfredo!!

Emilio directs his attention to a young boxer who looks about nineteen years old. He is inside the ring shadow boxing.

ALFREDO
Yeah? What's up?

EMILIO
I want you to spar with Vincent for
a couple of rounds.

Alfredo looks nervous.

ALFREDO
Are you sure?

EMILIO
What: did I stutter? Spar a couple
of rounds with the Champ. You're
always talking about how good you
are and how all you need is one
chance. Well, here it is.

ALFREDO
Okay...

VINCENT

Don't worry. I'll go easy on you.
Let me go get dressed and laced.
I'll be back in a minute.

INT. BUBBA WHITE'S GYM - MORNING

Dante is hard at work, training. He is jumping rope and wearing weights on his shoulders. Bubba is pacing back and forth, watching.

BUBBA

Faster. Faster, Dante. We gonna
humiliate his ass. FASTER!!

INT. EL TORO'S GYM - MORNING

Vincent comes out of the locker room with his black trunks and red gloves. He enters the ring where Alfredo is shadow boxing.

VINCENT

Ready?

ALFREDO

Yeah, I'm ready. Let's go.

Vincent steps into the ring. Both fighters walk in a circle. Alfredo lunges forward with a left hook and catches Vincent off guard, sending Vincent back.

Everyone in the gym stops training and circles the ring to watch Vincent and Alfredo spar.

VINCENT

Good one.

ALFREDO

Thanks.

Alfredo goes at Vincent again but all of his punches miss and he gets caught with a left hook that sends him down.

VINCENT

You're too slow. Work on that.

The boxers outside the ring begin to heckle Alfredo.

BOXER #3

Stay down, Alfredo. You're gonna
get a beating if you get up.

Alfredo gets up and tries to hit Vincent, but misses. Vincent once again hits Alfredo with a left hook that sends him to the ropes. Vincent charges Alfredo.

Then he sees Alfredo's face slowly transforming into Carl's face.

Vincent backs off. Alfredo hits Vincent in the chin and sends him to a corner where he begins to unload combination after combination into Vincent's body.

BOXER #3 (CONT'D)

Holy shit !!! The champ is getting
his ass kicked by Alfredo...

Vincent comes back to reality, He hits Alfredo with a right uppercut that sends Alfredo down and out.

Other boxers enter the ring and help Alfredo get up. Vincent exits the ring and heads for Emilio's office.

MARY RODRIGUEZ, enters the gym. She is very beautiful and in her twenties. Vincent stops and looks at Mary as Mary stops and looks at Vincent.

VINCENT

Mary...

MARY

Vincent...

VINCENT

I thought you were in New York...

MARY

Yeah well I came back to visit Dad.
It's been a while, hasn't it?

VINCENT

I wouldn't call eight years "a
while".

Mary and Vincent smile. Mary blushes, but tries to hide it.

MARY

So how have you been?

VINCENT

I've been okay. Some bumps along
the way, but I've been okay. What
about you? How's life?

MARY

Same. A few little bumps here and there, but all in all it's been good.

We hear screaming from upstairs. A very angry boxer leaves Emilio's office. He is CARLOS CASTANEDA.

CARLOS

Fuck you, Old Man. How the fuck do you go and give my locker away like that!? That's some fucking bullshit, If I wanna fight, let me fight.

Emilio leaves his office, but doesn't notice Mary.

EMILIO

I don't want to see you end up dead, Carlos. You're too old to fight. Your heart is too weak. Retire now before it's too late. Don't be a damn fool.

The boxer goes down the stairs and exits the gym slamming the door behind him. Emilio looks at all the fighters whose eyes are on him. He still does not notice Mary.

EMILIO (CONT'D)

What the hell are you all looking at!? If you don't like it get out!!

Emilio walks down the stairs and sees Mary standing right in front of him.

EMILIO (CONT'D)

Mary? Hiya.

MARY

Hi, Daddy!!

Mary walks over to Emilio and gives him a hug.

VINCENT

I'll leave you two alone and get back to my training.

Mary and Emilio go into Emilio's office. Vincent walks toward Alfredo who is resting on a bench.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

ALFREDO
Yeah, I'm okay.

VINCENT
Sorry.

ALFREDO
For what? There's nothing to be
sorry about. It was an honor to go
into the ring with you. Now I know
why they call you "The Nightmare".

Alfredo laughs, but stops and holds his ribs.

VINCENT
Take it easy. I'll see you around.

Vincent walks over to a punching bag and begins to hit it. He
looks at a young boy watching him.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

Young Vincent is watching two fighters sparring. He is amazed
by one of the fighters. He is so fast that Vincent's eyes can
barely keep up with what he is doing in the ring.

Emilio is coming out of his office. He sees Vincent.

YOUNG EMILIO
Vincent.

Vincent jumps up and looks around to see Emilio.

YOUNG VINCENT
Yes. Sir?

YOUNG EMILIO
What are you doing here?

YOUNG VINCENT
I just wanted to see the boxers.

YOUNG EMILIO
Well okay. Just don't bother them.
They are training very hard and
some of them don't like to be
bothered. Especially him.

He points at the boxer to with whom Vincent was amazed with.

YOUNG VINCENT
Okay.

JONATHAN

Look at it this way Rebecca; I have the two biggest names in the sport. If one fighter loses, the other wins. There is no downside to it.

REBECCA

Vincent isn't going to be on board with this little plan of yours for too long.

JONATHAN

We just have to make Vincent understand. He would never leave me, he's too loyal.

Rebecca walks over and sits on Jonathan's lap.

REBECCA

You are bad. Real bad.

She laughs. And begins kissing Jonathan.

INT. VINCENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Vincent is watching the news on the TV

ANCHORWOMAN (O.S.)

Earlier today was the official weigh in for both Vincent Black and Dante Steven's. For tomorrows big fight we where there first hand--

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is snorting cocaine. She looks up and sees her self in the mirror. Her nose is white. She cleans it off and exits the bathroom.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is coming out of the bathroom. As she enters Vincent turns off the television.

Blood begins to come out of Rebecca's nose.

REBECCA

Vincent...

Vincent looks at Rebecca. She collapses.

Vincent rushes over to Rebecca.

VINCENT
Rebecca!? Get up, Rebecca.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent paces back and forth unable to stand still.

Jonathan enters the emergency room, he sees Vincent and rushes over to him.

JONATHAN
Is she okay.

VINCENT
I don't know.

A doctor approaches Vincent.

DOCTOR
Mr. Black.

VINCENT
Yes...

DOCTOR
I have good news and bad news.

VINCENT
What's the good news?

DOCTOR
Your wife is going to be okay.

JONATHAN
Oh thank god.

Vincent looks at Jonathan .

VINCENT
And the bad news?

DOCTOR
Since illegal drugs were involved
it is policy that we notify the
authorities and your wife will have
to attend a rehabilitation clinic.

VINCENT
Okay. Thank you doctor.

The doctor leaves.

JONATHAN

This is going to be all over the press by morning. But don't worry about it I'll see what I can do.

Vincent looks at Jonathan.

VINCENT

Where did she get it from?

JONATHAN

What do you mean?

VINCENT

Don't act stupid with me Jonathan. Where the fuck did she get it from?

JONATHAN

I don't know, Vincent. Seriously.

VINCENT

I better not find out that she got it from you, Jonathan, or I swear that I'll--

Paramedics come rushing in. They have a body on a stretcher. A doctor rushes over as they are moving the body.

PARAMEDIC

Male. In his fifties. Shot several times in the chest.

As paramedics pass by Vincent, he looks at the body. It's Emilio.

VINCENT

No. Emilio? Emilio!! No!!

Vincent pushes a paramedic out of the way.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Emilio, what happened? Who did this to you?

A doctor tries to hold Vincent back. Vincent shoves him off.

EMILIO

Vincent...

Emilio lifts his hand.

VINCENT

Emilio. No, please. Don't leave me. Emilio, please.

Jonathan struggles to hold Vincent back.

DOCTOR #2
Sir, please calm down. Let us do
our job.

JONATHAN
Calm down, Vincent.

Vincent calms down.

VINCENT
(crying)
Please. Please do everything you
can.

DISSOLVE TO:

Vincent is slumped over a chair. DOCTORS, PATIENTS walking
through.

DISSOLVE TO:

Vincent is leaning on a wall. He looks at a clock that is
hanging on the wall to this left. It's 10:01 p.m.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE UP of the clock. It's 12:30 a.m.

Vincent is sitting down. His hands on his face. A doctor
walks up to him and places his hand on Vincent's shoulder.
Vincent looks up, the doctor shakes his head.

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Mary is sleeping. The phone rings. She picks it up.

MARY
Hello...

A look of shock comes to her face. She drops the phone.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

Vincent is walking towards the ring. Music plays in the
background. Fan's are chanting his name.

Vincent looks tired. He walks slowly with his cornerman next
to him.

Dante is already in the ring. He is showboating and posing for cameras.

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Vincent enters the ring. Jonathan approaches him.

JONATHAN
You okay Vincent?

VINCENT
Does it look like it...

DISSOLVE TO:

The fans are on their feet. All eyes are focused on Vincent, who is on the Canvas. The Jumbo screen above the rings says it's the seventh round.

REFEREE
One..two..three.. four.. five

Vincent stands up.

Bell rings.

Vincent and Dante go to their corners.

Bubba enters the ring and goes to work on Dante, whose lip is swollen.

BUBBA
This motha fucka is weak right now.
Go in there and finish him He has
nothing left to give us. He's done,
Champ...

In VINCENT'S CORNER, his corner man works on reducing the swelling on Vincent's left eye.

CORNERMAN
Vincent, you have to fight back.
He's giving you a pounding out
there. If you don't fight back I'm
throwing in the towel.

Vincent just looks at him and says nothing.

Bell Rings.

Both go into the middle of the ring.

Dante hits Vincent with two jabs and backs away.

Vincent lunges at Dante and is countered with a right hook to the body and goes down.

Vincent gets up before the referee begins counting. His eyes are bloodshot his face serious, he looks at no one else but Dante.

Dante walks over to Vincent and drops his hands. He begins to showboat to please the crowd and is caught with a three hit combination to the face.

Dante goes down. He get's up slowly.

DANTE

You got lucky.

Vincent says nothing. He lunges at Dante hitting him with an uppercut that sends him to the canvas again.

The crowd jumps to their feet and begin to chant as the referee walks over to Dante to count.

CROWD

NIGHTMARE! NIGHTMARE! NIGHTMARE!

Dante gets up and bull rushes Vincent, Vincent moves out of the way and pushes Dante to a corner and begins to hit Dante relentlessly.

Dante begins to see all of the punches coming at him. He tries to block them but is unable to.

Vincent looks over Dante's shoulder and sees Carl, Jr. in the crowd.

Vincent pulls back.

Vincent looks around, every single person in every seat is Carl, Jr.

Dante begins to regain his composure, and charges Vincent and begins to inflict his own punishment.

Vincent begins stepping back. He trips and falls. The referee does not count it as a knock down.

Vincent gets up slowly. He sees Carl's body on the canvas.

VINCENT

(shaky voice)

What the hells going on?

REFEREE
 (to Vincent)
 Are you okay?

VINCENT
 I'm good.

The referee signals for both of them to continue fighting.

Dante lunges at Vincent. Vincent moves out of the way and begins to hit Dante with combinations.

Vincent begins to hear Junior's screams in his head.

JUNIOR (V.O.)
 Daddy!! Get Up!! Daddy!!

Vincent steps back and places his hands over his ears.

Dante pushes Vincent to a corner and hits him with five straight uppercuts one after the other.

Vincent staggers and moves back still covering his ears. Dante lunges with a straight left and Vincent goes down.

REFEREE
 One... two... three... four...
 five... six... seven... eight...
 nine... ten.

Bubba runs into the ring and hugs Dante.

BUBBA
 We did it. We actually did it!

Vincent stands up slowly. He falls back down, he finally gets up. Vincent leans on the corner so that he wont fall down. His cornerman gives Vincent his robe and puts Vincent's arm over his neck . He begins to exit the ring.

DANTE
 (to Vincent)
 It's a real shame that old fart
 couldn't come and see you get your
 ass knocked out!!

VINCENT
 What the fuck did you say!?

DANTE
 You heard me.

Dante walks away. Vincent throws himself on top of Dante and begins to hit him.

Security guards pull Vincent away from Dante. He struggles to get free.

VINCENT

Don't you ever fucking insult
Emilio or I will fucking kill
you!! You stupid son of a bitch!!

Vincent calms down.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Let me go.

The security guards release Vincent he exits the ring and heads for his locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent gets dressed. He gets his stuff and throws it inside of his bag. Jonathan enters the locker room..

JONATHAN

What the fuck is your problem
Vincent? That little stunt of yours
just caused me a lot of money!

VINCENT

I want him out.

JONATHAN

Who?

VINCENT

Dante.

JONATHAN

If it's because you lost don't
worry about it Vincent you're
entitled to a rematch.

VINCENT

Fuck the rematch. I will not work
aside a stupid arrogant fuck like
him! He insulted Emilio and I want
his ass out or I walk.

JONATHAN

Everybody loses Vincent no one's
invincible.

VINCENT

I don't think you heard me. He insulted Emilio!! I want him out.

Vincent punches the wall.

JONATHAN

You don't call the shots Vincent. I do. And let me tell you this: without me you're nothing. So I would suggest you calm yourself down.

VINCENT

With out you I'm nothing? Who the fuck where you before I came along. I fucking made you what you are. If it wasn't for me you wouldn't be shit, I made you your money. I bought you your house. I got you your big office. I got you your nice car. Without me you aren't shit, Jonathan!

JONATHAN

Vincent we can settle this in another way. Calm down. Dante is too valuable to us.

VINCENT

There is no "us", Jonathan. You're fired.

Vincent walks away.

JONATHAN

You can't fire me Vincent, you're under contract.

Vincent turns around.

VINCENT

Don't try to blackmail me Jonathan. That's if you don't want anybody finding out how you bet on your own fighters.

INT. VINCENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent enters his living room with his bag. He throws it aside.

Rebecca is sitting down on a couch she is a mess. The rest of the house is a mess. She holds a cocktail in here hand, and in front of her there is a line of cocaine.

Vincent walks over to her.

VINCENT

What are you doing?

REBECCA

Having a good time. What does it look like I'm doing?

VINCENT

You were just in the hospital and you're snorting again?

REBECCA

It's just a little, Vincent. Don't be such a tight ass.

VINCENT

You're going to kill yourself.

REBECCA

No I'm not. It's just a little. Just this last line and I will quit. Promise.

VINCENT

No. I'm sick of this. If you are going to be doing this crap then I want you out.

REBECCA

You want me out? Fine, I'm out. I'm tired of you, Vincent.

VINCENT

You're tired of me? You fucking whore! You're tired of me after all I've done for you.

REBECCA

Fuck you, Vincent!

VINCENT

No. Fuck you! Get the fuck out! Take all your shit and get the fuck out.

Rebecca spills her drink.

INT. VINCENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca grabs a suitcase from the closet and throws all of her clothes and shoes inside of it. She walks over to her night stand and grabs all of her jewelry. She throws it into the suitcase.

INT. VINCENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca, grabs her car keys.

REBECCA

I'll go somewhere where I'm appreciated.

Rebecca slams the door. As soon as Rebecca leaves Vincent picks up a chair and throws it at a mirror shattering it.

INT. EMILIO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mary is putting all of Emilio's belongings into boxes. She opens a drawer in Emilio's desk and takes out a box that is full of pictures. Mary pulls out a picture of a ten year old Vincent who is posing.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM (FLASHBACK) - AFTERNOON

From the second floor, Mary watches and takes pictures with a disposable camera.

Ten year old Vincent is in the middle of the ring with a boy twice his size. Vincent's eyes are bloodshot.

The other boy swings wildly at Vincent, but his punches don't even cause Vincent to blink.

Vincent charges and begins to hit the other boy.

Vincent moves so fast that the other boy begins to run away from Vincent. He is unable to escape from Vincent's punches and is caught with a right hook to the chin that sends him down.

The other boy does not get up, Vincent exits the ring.

YOUNG EMILIO

Vincent, where the hell did all the rage come from? All along I thought you were this soft kid and you're a goddamn Nightmare in that ring.

Vincent looks over at the other boy who is barely getting up.

YOUNG VINCENT

Is he okay?

YOUNG EMILIO

He's fine. Don't worry about him
he's a tough kid.

Vincent looks up and sees Mary looking at him, he smiles,
Mary returns the smile.

YOUNG EMILIO (CONT'D)

You are going to be the best, son.
You just need the right training.

YOUNG VINCENT

Thank you Mr. Rodriguez. I have to
get home before dark. If not my mom
will flip on me again.

YOUNG EMILIO

Tomorrow, bright and early,
Vincent.

YOUNG VINCENT

Sure thing.

Vincent and Mary exchange smiles. Vincent heads for the exit.

MARY

Vincent, wait.

Vincent stops at the door and turns around to look at Mary.

VINCENT

What's up?

MARY

How about a picture?

VINCENT

Sure. Why not?

Vincent poses and Mary takes the picture.

INT. EMILIO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mary rummages through her purse and takes out her cell phone.

INT. VINCENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent is asleep on the floor he is awoken by his cell phone.

VINCENT

Hello?

INT. EMILIO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mary is alone, on the phone.

MARY

Vincent. Is this a good time or should I call back?

INT. VINCENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As before, on the phone.

VINCENT

No no It's ok. What's up?

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Vincent and Mary are sitting down, drinking coffee.

VINCENT

The police report says that two men tried to rob him, and that Emilio tried to fight em off.

MARY

Do they have any leads?

VINCENT

No...It was dark. No one saw anything.

Mary looks at her coffee, she stirs it with a straw.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...

MARY

Thank you, Vincent. For being here.

VINCENT

No problem. You know you and your father mean a lot to me.

MARY

I was just at the gym...

Mary take's out the picture of Vincent out and hands it over to him. Vincent look's at it and smile's.

VINCENT

I still remember this day. You used to love watching me fight and taking pictures.

MARY

Daddy always said you were the best he'd ever seen.

VINCENT

He was a great man.

MARY

Remember the first time you brought me here? We where fifteen and without a care om the world.

VINCENT

Yes. I remember you were wearing those big round earrings looking like Selena.

MARY

(laughing)

I can't believe I used to wear those things.

VINCENT

Yeah, well you made those earrings look good.

MARY

I always liked you, Vincent. You always found a way to make me laugh.

VINCENT

I remembered I cried for a month when you left. Your Dad almost threw me out of his gym because I couldn't get my act together.

MARY

Me too. You know I didn't want to leave. I had no choice my mom and dad where always arguing. And dad didn't have time to be taking care of a teenage girl.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Vincent and Mary walk down the empty streets, not a single car in sight. The street is well lit and Vincent's eyes shine brightly.

MARY

I always loved your eyes Vincent.
Even now that your face is all
swollen they still shine brightly
like they always did.

VINCENT

(smiles)

It's the bruises, you know. The
purple makes the color in them
stand out.

Mary smile's just as they arrive at the front of her hotel.

MARY

Well this is the end for me.

VINCENT

I guess it is. I'll see you
tomorrow. If its okay.

MARY

That would be great. Good night.

VINCENT

Good night.

They both stare into each others eyes. Mary closes her eyes and begins to lean forward. Vincent closes his eyes and begins to lean forward.

As they are about to kiss Mary sneezes. Vincent opens his eyes.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Bless you.

MARY

Thank you.

Vincent once again tries to kiss Mary, but she hesitates and leans back. Mary then leans forward to kiss Vincent, but he hesitates and leans back.

Both give each other an awkward smile and hug.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

The day is cloudy. Hundreds of people of all ages surround Emilio's black coffin. There is a golden bull engraved on the front.

Vincent holds an emotional Mary, as the coffin descends into the earth.

Across from him Jonathan converses with an elderly man
Rebecca is at his side.

VINCENT
(whispers to Mary)
I'll be right back.

Mary nods. Vincent walks up to Jonathan.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
What are you doing here?

JONATHAN
I'm here to pay my respects to an
old friend, Vincent.

VINCENT
Cut the crap Jonathan you never
liked Emilio. Now get out.

JONATHAN
I will as soon as it's over.

VINCENT
I said get out of here! Before I
break every bone in your worthless
body!

Everybody looks at Vincent.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
(to everybody)
I'm sorry...

JONATHAN
All you had to say was please,
Vincent.

Jonathan grabs Rebecca by the arm and leaves.

Vincent walks back over to a still tear full Mary.

MARY
What's your problem?

VINCENT
(low voice)
Sorry...

INT. LOS ANGELES AIRPORT - DAY

Vincent and Mary are both standing. Vincent is holding Mary's luggage.

VINCENT
Can't you stay a couple of days more? You can crash at my place if you'd like.

MARY
I can't. I'm sorry. I have to get back to work. I'll come and visit you soon. Will you be okay?

VINCENT
Yeah, of course.

Vincent and Mary hug. Mary takes out a key from her pocket.

MARY
Here I want you to run dad's gym while I am in New York.

Mary grabs Vincent's hand and gives him the key.

VINCENT
Are you sure? Why me?

MARY
Positive. You know more about that gym than me.

VINCENT
Thank you. I'll take good care of it for you.

Mary hugs Vincent and walks away. Vincent watches as she leaves.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Vincent walks by an Elementary school. School has just ended as students begin coming out in large numbers.

As Vincent walks he accidentally bumps into a young boy, dropping all of his belongings. Vincent picks up the boy's belongings.

Just as he hands them to the boy he recognizes him as Junior. Junior recognizes Vincent as well and runs. Vincent chases after him.

VINCENT
Junior wait!

Junior sees Carl, Sr. and runs to him, Vincent is right behind him.

JUNIOR
Grandpa! Grandpa!

CARL, SR.
What's wrong?

Carl, Sr. looks up and sees Vincent.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing here?

VINCENT
I was just walking by I had no idea that your grandson came here. I accidentally bumped into him and dropped his belongings all I wanted to do was return them.

Carl, Sr. takes the things from Vincent, and walks away with Junior at his side.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Wait. Can I talk to you.

CARL, SR.
No.

VINCENT
Okay, I'm sorry. I lied. I knew Junior came to this school, it's just that I need to talk to you. It won't take long. I promise.

CARL, SR.
(to Junior)
Go play over at the jungle gym for a little while.

JUNIOR
No, Grandpa I don't want to.

CARL, SR.

Go!

Junior goes to the Jungle gym dragging his bag pack behind him.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)

What do you want to talk about?
Make it quick?

VINCENT

I don't know how to say this. But
your son.

CARL, JR.

(low voice)

What about my son.

VINCENT

I saw him.

CARL, SR.

Saw him?

VINCENT

Yes. I saw him, in the ring and in
the crowd.

Vincent walks over to a bench and sits down.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I don't know how to explain this to
you but I saw your son when I was
fighting my opponent, he was in the
crowd and in the ring. He was
everywhere.

CARL, SR.

You came to tell me this nonsense?

VINCENT

I know it sounds stupid. But I
think I'm losing my mind...

CARL, SR.

What do I care? If that's what you
came to tell me, then you've just
wasted your time.

Carl, Sr. begins to walk towards the Jungle gym.

VINCENT

I'm sorry. Sorry for everything.

Carl, Sr. turns around.

CARL, SR.
Words mean nothing to me.

He walks away.

INT. ROOM(DREAM)- NIGHT

Vincent is sitting on a wooden chair, chained down, in the middle of the room. In front of Vincent there are five TV monitors. Vincent tries to move but is unable.

The monitors begin to show home movies of the Johnson family. We see a happy Carl holding his newborn son. Vincent desperately tries to free himself.

Movie begins to show Juniors first birthday. He is surrounded by Carl, Jr, and Sr. His mother. Junior looks happy.

INT. VINCENT'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM. - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on a small table with a telephone.

The phone rings. No one answers it. The answering machine picks up.

MARY (O.S.)
Vincent. Pick up the phone. I've been trying to call you and you don't answer. Call me back as soon as you can.

INT. BEDROOM(DREAM) - NIGHT

Vincent lays on his bed constantly moving, unable to stay still. He is having nightmares.

Vincent wakes up sweat covering his face.

A hand comes out of the mattress and grabs Vincent's arm. It begins pulling Vincent down, he struggles to get free.

Vincent frees himself. He runs to the door, but its locked. A body begins to rise out of the matres, its the body of Carl, Jr.

Carl is wearing his boxing trunks his face is severely bruised as it did the night he fought Vincent.

Vincent leans against a wall terrified.

Carl points at Vincent. Carl, Jr. and begins to cry.

CARL, JR.
 (crying)
 Why? Why, did you take everything
 from me? My son.

Carl walks toward Vincent.

CARL, JR. (CONT'D)
 (crying)
 Why?

INT. VINCENT'S NEW APARTMENT LIVING ROOM. - NIGHT

The lights are low. The apartment itself is huge, and underfurnished. The floors are covered in Pizza boxes and dirty clothes. A chandelier is covered in cob webs.

Vincent crouches down on corner in his living room rocking back and forth. A bottle of pills on his hand. He has heavy eye shadows below his eyes. His hair is long and hasn't shaved in quite some time.

His cell phone rings he picks it up and looks at it. It's Mary, he flips it open.

MARY (O.S.)
 Hello. Vincent...

Vincent closes the cell phone and tosses it to the side.

INT. ROOM(DREAM)- NIGHT

As before. Vincent is strapped down on the chair looking at the monitors.

Vincent is at a funeral. It is for Junior's mom, Carl's wife. Junior is four years old. Carl, Jr. is crying. Junior hugs his dad and kisses him.

FOUR YEAR OLD JUNIOR
 It's okay, Daddy. Mommy is still
 with us.

Vincent tries hard to get out of the chair but the more effort he puts into getting out the tighter the grip gets.

VINCENT
 Let me out! Let me out! Let me the
 fuck out !!

INT. VINCENT'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM (DREAM) - NIGHT

A rope hangs in the middle of the living room. Vincent walks to it with a chair.

He places the chair down and stands on it. He puts the rope over his neck.

He kicks the chair from under his feet. Vincent begins to choke.

The rope breaks and Vincent falls down.

Carl, Jr. Appears.

CARL, JR.
You can't get away that easily.

EXT. STREET (DREAM) - DAY

Vincent is walking down the street. As he walks all eyes are on him . Vincent begins to feel a little uneasy.

A young girl fall's from her bike. Vincent walks over to help her out.

YOUNG GIRL
Get off me!! You damn murderer!

VINCENT
What are you talking about.

MAN ACROSS THE STREET
Leave that young girl alone.

VINCENT
What?

MAN ACROSS THE STREET
Are you deaf? Or just stupid? Leave her alone and get out of here.

VINCENT
What? Why? What's going on?

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT

The place is empty.

The bar is poorly lit. The paint on the wall's faded, there is nothing but one picture hanging in the entire bar.

In the picture Vincent has his arm around Emilio's neck, both men are smiling.

At the back of the bar a big neon sign reads "THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR". In the middle of the bar there are two pool tables. The tables, chairs, stools and booths are in poor condition.

Vincent sits in a chair. His hair is long so is his beard, he resembles a caveman. His face looks tired and restless, he has heavy shadows under his eyes. He watches as Dante defends his tittle. Vincent notices that there are a lot of empty seats in the arena.

ANOUNCER (O.S.)

No one can stop this kid. He's been
on fire since he won that belt.

JORGE, A short, bald stocky man comes out of the back room.

JORGE

Dead night.

VINCENT

Yeah.

JORGE

Im'a take off. I locked everything
already.

VINCENT

Okay.

Jorge leaves the bar.

Jonathan goes into the ring with Rebecca. Both congratulate Dante on his victory and take a picture with him.

Vincent stands up and turns the T.V off.

INT. JONATHAN'S OFFICE- DAY

Dante and Bubba are sitting inside Jonathan's office. The picture of Vincent when he won his Championship is no longer there. There is a picture of Dante posing with the belt instead.

DANTE

That's a good picture of me, don't
you think, Bubba?

BUBBA

All your pictures are good pictures
of you, Champ.

DANTE

Yeah, but I like this one in particular the most.

Jonathan enters the room.

JONATHAN

Dante. Bubba. My two favorite people in the world. Glad you could make it.

DANTE

I'm a busy man, Jonathan. What do you want?

JONATHAN

You mean partying? At this rate by the end of the year you're not going to have a single penny in the bank.

DANTE

What do you mean?

JONATHAN

I mean that no one likes you, Dante. You've yet to sell out a single fight since the fight with Black.

DANTE

Whatever man.

JONATHAN

Don't give me that bullshit! I let Vincent go for you! And you're no Vincent Black.

Bubba gets up, he grabs Jonathan by the collar and pulls him to his face.

BUBBA

Choose your next words very carefully.

Jonathan frees himself from Bubba and straightens his collar.

JONATHAN

Please sit down. I didn't bring you here to fight. I came here to talk about your future, Dante.

Bubba sits down.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Now I have a proposition.

DANTE
What is it?

JONATHAN
A rematch, between you and Vincent.

DANTE
I don't think so.

JONATHAN
Then there's the door.

Jonathan points to the door. Dante looks shocked.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Because there is no other option
for you Dante. It's this or
nothing. You already put him on his
ass once.

Dante and Bubba get up from the chair.

DANTE
I'll keep in touch.

EXT: THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - DAY

Vincent is opening his bar. As he is about to walk in
Jonathan comes into view.

JONATHAN
Can I come in?

VINCENT
No.

JONATHAN
Please? It will just take a sec.

Vincent enters the bar and allows Jonathan to follow.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The men enter.

VINCENT
What do you want?

JONATHAN

Let me get straight to the point. I came here to talk to you about a rematch between you and Dante.

VINCENT

I'm not interested.

JONATHAN

It's a big payday for you Vincent.

VINCENT

I don't need your money. I have money.

JONATHAN

(sarcastic)

Yeah I can see.

Jonathan walks over to the picture of Emilio and Vincent. He looks at it and turns his attention back to Vincent.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

You miss it. Don't you? This was your passion. One last fight, that's all I have to say.

VINCENT

I'm done with boxing.

JONATHAN

Don't you think that he would of wanted you to continue fighting.

VINCENT

Don't bring him into this conversation.

JONATHAN

I know that Emilio and I didn't get along. But at least we agreed in one thing and that was that you were the best fighter any of us had ever seen.

VINCENT

Get out, Jonathan.

Jonathan walks to the door. He stops and looks back at Vincent.

JONATHAN
Boxing hasn't forgotten about you
Vincent. It's just waiting for you
to make your comeback.

Jonathan exist the bar.

EXT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - DAY

Vincent looks at the gym. It is in very bad condition from the outside. The walls are covered in graffiti.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - DAY

The place looks just like it smells awful: Vincent puts his shirt over his nose to avoid the stench. Spider webs cover all of the weights and punching bags.

Vincent walks around. He hears a noise coming from the upstairs office. He slowly climbs the steps. He peeks inside and sees Mary looking around the office.

VINCENT
(low voice)
Mary...

Vincent steps back. He steps on a dumbbell and falls. He falls down the stairs.

INT. EMILIO'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mary jumps up in surprise she steps outside the office.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mary sees Vincent on the floor struggling to get up.

MARY
Oh my god! Vincent!

Mary runs down the stairs and helps Vincent up.

MARY (CONT'D)
Are you okay.

VINCENT
Yeah. I think.

Mary slaps Vincent hard. Vincent falls back down.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
What the hell was that for?

MARY
That was for not answering my
calls.

Mary slaps Vincent again.

MARY (CONT'D)
That's for letting this place go to
the shitter. I trusted you Vincent.
You said that you where going to
take care of it.

VINCENT
I know I'm--

Mary attempts to slap Vincent, he grabs her hand just as
she's about to hit him.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
What was that one going to be for.

MARY
For being an asshole.

VINCENT
I know I let you down. It's just
that--

MARY
Can you let go of my arm.

Vincent lets go of Mary's arm.

VINCENT
I've been having some problems.

MARY
So you just isolate yourself from
the people that care about you?

VINCENT
It's not like that...

Mary takes a good look at Vincent. She sees his long hair,
beard, ripped jeans and t-shirt.

MARY
What the hell happened to you
Vincent. I've been gone one year
and you managed to really fuck
yourself up.

Vincent looks at Mary.

EXT. PARK - DAY

MARY

What happened to you? To the gym?

VINCENT

What do you mean? I'm fine. The gym
(pause)
is okay.

MARY

What are you talking about. Look at
you Vincent. Your a damn mess. The
gym is real damn mess.

VINCENT

It's just these things...

MARY

What? What things?

VINCENT

Nightmares...

MARY

Nightmares?

VINCENT

Yes. I keep having them over and
over again. I can't stop them from
happening. Staying awake is the
closest thing I have to staying
sane. And that gym only brings
memories and makes it worse.

MARY

Nightmare's about what?

VINCENT

Carl...

MARY

That man? The one you--
(pause)
Killed?

VINCENT

Yes...

MARY

Don't beat yourself over it
Vincent.

VINCENT

How can't I Mary. It's fucking with
my head.

MARY

Apologize. To his father, to his
son.

VINCENT

Don't you think I've tried.

MARY

Show him Vincent. That you are
truly sorry.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Vincent sits. He waits for the kids to come out. The school bell rings. All of the student's begin to come out. Vincent looks for Junior. He does not spot him.

DISSOLVE TO:

Vincent is sitting down on a bench, most of the kids are gone. Vincent gets up and walks away.

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

As Vincent turns the corner he sees Junior. He is surrounded by bullies. They have his bag pack and are tossing it around.

BULLY#1

What are you going to do.

JUNIOR

C'mon you guys I have to get home.
My grandpa is waiting for me.

BULLY #2

(Mocking)

C'mon you guys I have to get home.

JUNIOR

Give me my bag pack.

BULLY #1

What are you going to do if don't.

BULLY #2

Yeah what are you going to do.

Junior rushes at one of the bullies. He trips and falls. The group of bullies begin to laugh.

BULLY#1

Kiss my shoe. Kiss it and I'll give you your stupid bag pack back.

JUNIOR

No.

BULLY#1

Kiss it or I will beat you up.

JUNIOR

No.

All of the bullies get in closer to Junior about to beat him up. Vincent walks up to them.

VINCENT

What's going on.

BULLY#1

Nothing

VINCENT

I want all of you to leave my friend alone here or you're going to have to deal with me.

BULLY #2

Who the hell are you to tell us what to do?

VINCENT

I'm your biggest Nightmare, that's who. I also know all of your parents and will tell them what you are doing to my friend here so scram.

The bullies leave. Junior gets up, he picks up his stuff and leaves. Vincent walks behind him.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Junior wait.

JUNIOR

Leave me alone. I didn't ask for your help. I can take care of myself.

VINCENT

I know you can. You showed me that right now. You really stood up to them.

Junior begins to walk faster.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I can help you. So that they won't bully you anymore.

OLDER JUNIOR

No thank you.

Vincent steps in front of Junior. Junior stops and looks at him.

VINCENT

You hate me. I know. I'm the last person that you want to talk to or see. But I want you to know that I'm sorry. I truly am, I wish there was a way I could show you but there isn't.

Vincent begins to walk away.

JUNIOR

Can you really help me so that they wont bully me anymore?

Vincent turns and looks at Junior.

VINCENT

Yes.

Carl, Sr. arrives in his car. He gets off and walks up to Vincent pushing him to the wall.

CARL, SR.

Get in the car Junior.

OLDER JUNIOR

I'm okay grandpa.

CARL, SR.

Get in the car!

Junior gets in the car.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)

Stay away from my grandson or I will kill you!

VINCENT

I wasn't doing anything, just walking.

CARL SR.

I'm not fucking around. I better not see you around my grandson again.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - DAY

Vincent is cleaning mugs. Mary is walking around the bar.

MARY

The Nightmare's Bar. Could use some remodeling if you asked me.

VINCENT

What's wrong with my bar.

Jorge comes out of the back room holding a crate full of clean mugs.

MARY

Just saying that it could use some remodeling. Look at these chairs they are in poor condition.

VINCENT

It's a trend thing. To attract customers.

MARY

Yeah I can see it's working.

VINCENT

(to Jorge)

I think Mary is going to be the first person to ever be banned from my bar.

Junior walks into the bar.

JORGE

No minors. Get out.

VINCENT

It's okay let him in.

JUNIOR

Hi...

VINCENT
Hi... What brings you here?

JUNIOR
You told me that you would help me
get rid of the bullies that are
bothering me.

VINCENT
What about your grandpa?

JUNIOR
He's at work. He wont know that I'm
gone.

VINCENT
Jorge look over the place. I'm
taking of early today.

JORGE
Sure thing.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM

The gym is dark. Vincent turns on the light, most of the
lights don't work but the few that do work are enough to
light up the gym.

JUNIOR
It stinks.

Vincent steps into the ring.

VINCENT
C'mon get in here.

Junior enters the ring. Mary takes a seat and watches.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Okay. So here are the basics. This
is a jab.

Vincent gives two quick jabs. Junior mimics Vincent.

Vincent looks at Junior amazed at how well he mimicked him.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Wow. That was good. That was better
than good. Okay this is an
Uppercut. My personal favorite.

Vincent does a series of uppercuts. Junior once again mimics Vincent.

Vincent again looks at Junior with amazement.

DISSOLVE TO:

Vincent is showing Junior all of the weak points on a dummy. Junior punches the dummy.

DISSOLVE TO:

Junior and Vincent are in the ring sparring. Junior hits Vincent with combinations.

DISSOLVE TO:

Vincent, Junior and Mary are sitting down on a bench.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

You are pretty good you know.

JUNIOR

Thanks but my grandpa doesn't want me to fight, he wants me to get an education.

VINCENT

He only wants what's best for you.

JUNIOR

Why don't you box anymore?

VINCENT

(taken back)

What?

JUNIOR

Box. Why don't you box anymore?

VINCENT

Because. I don't feel like boxing anymore.

JUNIOR

It's because of my dad isn't it...

VINCENT

In a way.

JUNIOR

I miss him a lot...

Junior looks down at the floor.

VINCENT

I'm sorry.

JUNIOR

I remember the day he fought you. I remember how his friends would tell him he was crazy to go up against you. And when I asked him why he was fighting he told me that he was fighting because he loved to fight. He also told me to never give up something you love. He was more than just a boxer, he was a great Dad.

Vincent's eyes begin to get watery. Mary holds Vincent's hand.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I think you should fight again. Because you can't give up something you love.

VINCENT

Thank you, Junior.

JUNIOR

Wanna know something else?

VINCENT

What?

JUNIOR

I think you should take me home because it's getting late and my grandpa is going to give me a whooping if he finds out that I'm not home.

Vincent begins to laugh. He laughs hard.

INT. JONATHAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jonathan is leaning back on his black oversized chair. His legs crossed on his desk. He is talking on the phone.

Vincent enters with Jonathan's SECRETARY right behind him.

SECRETARY

You cannot go in there without permission.

VINCENT

It's okay. I'm an old client of his.

JONATATHAN

Vincent...

SECRETARY

Sorry, Mr. Grace. I tried to stop him but he refused. Security is on its way.

JONTATHAN

Tell them to leave. He's the man I wanted to see.

Jonathan's secretary exits the office

JONTATHAN (CONT'D)

Vincent please sit down

Vincent sits.

JONTATHAN (CONT'D)

I knew you'd come around

VINCENT

Well. I'm here.

JONTATHAN

Yes, well. Like I told you before Dante and I think that you deserve a rematch.

VINCENT

Is it that right. Or is it because you need me to still make you your money?

JONATATHAN

Of course not, Vincent. This rematch is for you not Dante.

Vincent smiles.

VINCENT

You're good Jonathan. For a second I actually bought all of your crap.

Vincent stands up.

JONATHAN
You're leaving already.

VINCENT
We have nothing else to talk about
Jonathan. Unless you want to talk
about my wife?

Vincent exits the office.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - DAY

Vincent and Junior are sparring. Mary watches.

VINCENT
C'mon. Now you have to be quicker.

JUNIOR
You better watch out. I might
surprise you.

VINCENT
Talk is cheap.

Junior lunges at Vincent and hits Vincent in the liver.
Vincent goes down.

Carl. Sr. enters the gym. He stands in the back, to not get
noticed.

JUNIOR
And Black goes down. The crowd is
going crazy as Junior "Lights Out"
Johnson has just defeated the
champ.

Junior begins to shadowbox and dance around the ring.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
I would like to thank all of those
who came--

Vincent gets up.

VINCENT
Lucky punch.

Vincent puts his hand on his side, trying to regain his
composure.

MARY
I don't know, he is getting a lot
better.

VINCENT

He sure--

Vincent notices Carl, Sr.

JUNIOR

What's wrong?

Junior notices Carl, Sr.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Grandpa. How did you know I was here?

CARL, SR.

Got out of work early. Followed you. So this is what you've been doing after school?

JUNIOR

Yes...

CARL, SR.

I thought I told you I didn't want you boxing.

JUNIOR

I know. I'm sorry grandpa I'll get my stuff.

CARL, SR.

You're just like your father defiant to the very end. But if I was you I'd bring that left in closer to protect your face you have long arms it would be harder for your opponent to hit you.

JUNIOR

Like this?

Junior brings in his left closer to his face.

CARL, SR.

Yes. Vincent, can I talk to you.

VINCENT

Yes, of course.

CARL, SR.

Some where private.

Vincent and Carl walk to Emilio's office.

INT. EMILIO'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

VINCENT
Is this okay?

CARL, SR.
Yes it's perfect.

Carl, Sr. sits down. Vincent sits down as well.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)
I heard what happened to your
trainer a few years back.

VINCENT
Yeah.

CARL, SR.
Also heard you retired and opened a
bar.

VINCENT
Yeah that's true.

CARL, SR.
I've been an asshole with you
Vincent. A real asshole.

VINCENT
I understand Carl. He was your son.

CARL, SR.
You don't understand. I was the one
who pushed him so hard that night.
I should have let him quit but I
didn't.

Vincent watches as Carl puts his hands on his head.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)
All I had to do was throw in the
damn towel. But I didn't, I took
that boys father away. Me. Not you.

Vincent points at Junior who is downstairs shadowboxing.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT

The bar is full. People are drinking and having a good time.
The T.V. is on.

Vincent and Mary are serving drinks. Jorge is cleaning some
puke of the floor.

T.V. REPORTER (O.S.)
 The Nightmare's Comeback is what a lot of people are calling it. Just a few hours ago the press conference for the Stevens, Black fight took place.

THE WHOLE BAR
 NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!!

MARY
 Everyone shut up. Lets hear.

T.V. REPORTER (O.S.)
 The fight will be taking place in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

THE WHOLE BAR
 NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!!

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

REPORTER #3
 Mr. Johnson do you think that training the man who killed your son is a good idea?

CARL, SR.
 Vincent didn't kill my son. Boxing did.

REPORTER #2
 What makes you say that?

CARL, SR.
 Because it's the truth.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT

T.V. REPORTER (O.S.)
 There you have it folks. This promises to be one heck of a fight.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - MORNING

Vincent and Carl are standing in the middle of the gym.

CARL, SR.
 We have a lot of work to do Vincent.
 (MORE)

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)
You haven't had a work out session
in a long time. You're slow weak
and have very little stamina.

Vincent looks at Carl.

VINCENT
I'm not that out of shape.

Vincent looks at his belly and grabs some fat.

CARL, SR.
Not out of shape, I see.

VINCENT
This isn't fat. It's just
undeveloped muscle.

CARL, SR.
Let's get to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM - DAY

Music begins. Vincent is jumping rope. He stops and drops to his knees gasping for air.

CARL, SR.
Get up Vincent!!

Vincent struggles to get up. He finally does and continues jumping rope.

INT. BUBBA WHITE'S GYM - MORNING (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Dante is doing sit ups. Sweat pouring down from his face.

INT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS- MORNING (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Vincent is running up a hill pulling a car.

He falls. The car begins to pull Vincent backwards. Vincent can't get up. The car begins to gain speed.

VINCENT
Shit...

Vincent manages to get up. He is running backwards as to not fall.

Vincent begins to run forward. Sweat pouring from his face. His face shows nothing but pure pain.

The car begins to move forward again.

EXT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Dante is coming out of a night club two beautiful girls at either side. He jumps into his Porsche and takes off.

INT. EL TORO LOCO'S GYM- MORNING (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Vincent punches a punching bag.

Next to him Junior is doing the same.

CARL, SR.

Stop!

VINCENT

What?

Carl grabs a rope and walks over to Vincent. He ties Vincent's right arm behind his back.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CARL, SR.

I want you fighting with your left hand only. You have to learn how to use both hands equally, never rely on one hand. Continue.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Dante is running he looks sleepy. Bubba is in the back of a pick up truck.

BUBBA

Faster goddammit!! You should be ashamed of yourself.

INT. VINCENT'S BATHROOM - AFTERNOON (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Vincent's hair is short. He is shaving his beard.

EXT. BUBBA WHITE'S GYM - AFTERNOON (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Dante is sparring. His sparring partner is running away from Dante.

DANTE
Come here bitch!

Dante lunges at him with a left cross that sends his opponent down.

EXT. TOP OF BUILDING - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

Music continues. Vincent shadowboxes to a full moon.

EXT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM - NIGHT

Music fades. Outside a red sign hangs this reads "The Nightmare's Comeback"

The Coliseum is filled to maximum capacity. Almost every body is seated except for a couple of fight fans who are looking for their seats. Well dressed Celebrities sit at ringside...

INT. VINCENT'S DRESSING ROOM- NIGHT

Vincent is sitting down his hands being tapped by CARL, SR. Mary watches in silence.

CARL, SR.
How do you feel?

VINCENT
Nervous...

CARL, SR.
Just lean back and relax. You're in good hands.

The screams from the fans can be heard outside.

INT. DANTE'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Unlike Vincent's dressing room. Dante's dressing room is filled with life as he gets his hands taped.

BUBBA
Who they come to see tonight champ?

DANTE
Me!!

BUBBA
Who's "Me?"

DANTE
Dante "Sweet Dreams" Stevens,
that's who. The best there is, and
the best there ever will be!!

BUBBA
Is that right?

EVERY ONE IN ROOM
Yeah!

DANTE
C'mon, mo' fuckas I didn't hear
you! Am I the best?!

EVERYONE IN THE ROOM
YEAH!!

DANTE
Now that's what I want to hear.

Jonathan and Rebecca enter the room.

JONATHAN
Good luck tonight, Champ.

REBECCA
It's not as if you're gonna need
it. You're going embarrass him

DANTE
Thanks.

JONATHAN
Now Dante I convinced some friends
to bet a lot of money on you. So
don't fuck it up now.

DANTE

Don't worry about it, I'm a knock
his ass out.

JONATHAN

I'm sure you will.

Jonathan and Rebecca leave.

INT. VINCENT'S DRESSING ROOM- NIGHT

Vincent puts on his red gloves. His black trunks read
"Nightmare" on the waistline. His eyes begin to sparkle in
the dressing room's lights.

A tall young man walks into the dressing room.

MAN

You guys are coming out first in
ten minutes. Got it?

CARL, SR.

Got it.

The man leaves the room.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)

Ready kid?

VINCENT

It's the most ready that I'm ever
going to be.

INT. DANTE'S DRESSING ROOM- NIGHT

Dante is jumping up and down, shadowboxing his posse cheering
him on.

The same man that entered Vincent's locker room enters
Dante's:

MAN

You guys are up five minutes after
Black gets into the ring.

BUBBA

Cool. Now get out. You're ruining
our little party here.

MAN

Sorry about that, Champ.

The man closes the door.

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT

The coliseum lights go off it is pitch black people begin to shout. All of the lights are then directed toward the doorway from which Vincent is expected.

The song "Back in Black" is playing.

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Vincent runs down the long hallway to the ring. Fans begin screaming their heads off. When he arrives at the ring, he jumps inside and displays some of his speed.

Carl enters the ring. Vincent walks over to him, he is breathing heavily.

VINCENT

I never thought it would be that long, seemed like I just ran a damn mile.

Vincent takes in deep breathes.

CARL, SR.

That's the stupidest thing you could have done.

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

Hello to all of the millions of fans out there who have tuned in for tonight's fight. As you have just seen, we just saw some thing a boxer has never done. Vincent "The Nightmare" Black just ran down the hallway at top speed and jumped into the ring.

Vincent runs to the four corners of the ring and raises his arms. The fan's go crazy.

COMMENTATOR #2 (O.S.)

Yes. But I don't think that it was very wise of him to do that. He is just wasting his stamina.

COMMENTATOR #1 (O.S.)
Well, he looks to be in good shape.
And here comes the champ Dante
"Sweet Dreams" Stevens!

Dante is being hoisted up by four men as he sits in a chair.

COMMENTATOR #2 (O.S.)
See? This is a better way to
conserve your stamina.

Dante finally arrives at the ring and begins to shadowbox and
move around in the ring his eyes transfixed on Vincent's.

VINCENT
Nice foot work. Too bad it isn't
gonna help you tonight, since
you're gonna be on your ass all
night.

The announcer walks into the ring.

ANOUNCER
For tonight's main event, the
reason you came tonight. In the
blue corner weighing in at 144
pounds, from South Central
California, coming in with a record
of twenty six victories- with no
defeats, and the Welter weight
champion of the world. Dante "Sweat
Dreams" Stevens!!

Dante's fans begin to scream and chant his name.

ANOUNCER (CONT'D)
In the red corner, the challenger
coming in at 147 pounds, also
hailing from South Central. Coming
in with a record of forty three
victories and one defeat. Former
Champion Vincent "The Nightmare"
Black!!

The coliseum explodes and Vincent raises his arms.

ANOUNCER (CONT'D)
Now, Ladies and Gentlemen in
attendance and millions watching
around the world... Let's get ready
to.....
RRRUUUUUMBBBBLLLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!

Both fighters meet in the middle of the ring as the referee explains the rules. Neither fighter pays attention to what he says both fighters eyes are transfixed on each other.

The referee sends both fighters to their corners. Neither look; away they both stare into each other's eyes as they walk backwards to their corners.

Vincent's Corner.

CARL, SR.
Remember. Just another day at the office.

Dante's Corner

BUBBA
Send his ass to a retirement home.
Where he belongs.

The BELL RINGS.

Vincent sees Mary sitting with Junior.

Both fighters go into the middle of the ring they circle each other.

DANTE
You think you still have it in you...Nightmare?

Vincent lunges forward with a straight left.

Dante moves out of the way and throws two quick jabs at Vincent.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Looks like someone lost his speed.

Dante hits Vincent with quick jabs and runs away.

Vincent charges and hits Dante with devastating body punch. Dante goes down.

The arena explodes. The fans begin to chant Vincent's name.

Jonathan stands up on his feet. A look of panic and disbelief in his face.

JONATHAN
Get up Dante! Get up!

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The bar is full everyone is watching the fight on a big screen T.V.

BAR
Nightmare!!

JORGE
Beat his ass Vincent!!

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Dante gets up. He is also in disbelief of what has just happened.

The referee checks on him and motions for both to continue fighting.

Dante charges at Vincent and hits him with a three hit combination that backs up Vincent into a corner.

Vincent pushes Dante off him and misses him with an uppercut.

Dante throws an uppercut of his own that lands on Vincent's liver it causes Vincent to cringe. He follows up with a straight right that lands on Vincent's eye, opening a cut just below the left eye.

The BELL RINGS.

Both fighters go to their corners.

VINCENT'S CORNER

VINCENT
Did he get faster or did I get slower.

CARL, SR.
Both. Looks like the years have caught up with you Vincent. Work the body and nothing else neutralize his speed.

DANTE'S CORNER

BUBBA
You're doing great Dante. Don't do anything stupid now. He can't do shit he's too slow for you.

DANTE

He got lucky. It ain't gonna happen again.

BUBBA

Forget about the damn knock down. You got his ass.

The Bell for the second round Rings.

Vincent rushes fast at Dante. He hit's Dante with two left hooks to the body.

Dante cringes. He counter's Vincent with four lighting fast jabs and steps back.

A new cut is opened this time above Vincent's left eye. The blood begins to get into his eye. Vincent is unable to see clearly and begins to rub his glove against his head to take off some of the blood.

Dante hits Vincent with two quick jabs and follows up with a vicious right cross that sends Vincent onto the ropes.

Vincent bounces from the ropes and lunges at Dante bombarding him with hooks to the midsection.

Dante begins to run away. Vincent chases after him and doesn't let him move. He throws one punch after another. Some land some don't but Vincent keeps throwing them.

Jonathan is on his feet. His hands on his head.

Dante shoves Vincent with his shoulder and catches him with a straight left that lands on Vincent's nose.

Blood begins to pour out of Vincent's nose. Vincent begins to show some fatigue. His mouth is open.

The Bell Rings.

Vincent's Corner.

Carl, Sr. waist no time on getting to work on Vincent's cut's and nose.

VINCENT

What round is it?

CARL, SR.

Second...

VINCENT

Shit...I can't breathe right. I'm swallowing too much blood.

CARL, SR.

Don't give up Vincent. Keep drilling into his midsection. He's definitely feeling those punches.

Dante's Corner.

Dante holds his midsection.

DANTE

Fuck. My ribs. I think they're broken.

BUBBA

Two quick jabs and get out of the way. Work that left eye and nose.

DANTE

He still got it in him.

BUBBA

Don't talk like that. Show this sucka no pain.

The Bell ring. The third round begins.

Dante gets up slowly holding his midsection.

DANTE

Fuck...

Vincent walks up to the middle of the ring. His mouth open trying to get some air.

Dante lunges at Vincent. With a left cross and misses. Vincent hits Dante with a right hook to the body. The punch hurts both fighters.

Vincent lets out a scream. A look of excruciating pain on his face. Dante falls to the canvas.

CLOSE UP of Mary. She has a worried look on her face.

Jonathan once again on his feet as he sees Dante fall to the canvas.

JONATHAN
 (to Bubba)
 Get Dante in that fucking fight
 Bubba!!

Vincent walks to his corner.

VINCENT
 My arm. It's broken.

CARL, SR.
 Jab and run.

Dante is slow to get up. The referee motions for both fighters to continue fighting.

Vincent looks up. He notices that there is still a minute in the round.

VINCENT
 Crap...

Dante. Rushes Vincent catching him with a left uppercut, sending Vincent the corner. Dante hits Vincent with two uppercuts.

Vincent goes down.

Jonathan jumps up too his feet.

JONATHAN
 Yeah!!

Mary still looks worried, both her hands cover her mouth.

MARY
 Oh no... Come on Vincent Get up.

Vincent slowly gets up.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Everyone looks worried.

JORGE
 Crap he's hurt!

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The Bell Rings.

Vincent's Corner

CARL, SR.
Time to use that left hand.

VINCENT
Who's winning?

CARL, SR.
Can't say.

Dante's Corner.

DANTE
My ribs...I can't breathe for shit.

BUBBA
Bring your arm down to your waist
cover them and don't let him hit
you. Damn fool broke his arm you
got his ass go in there and finish
him off.

DISSOLVE TO:

Music begins. Dante hits Vincent with combinations to the face. A cut is opened on Vincent's right eye. His face swollen. Carl is screaming at Vincent. Telling him to fight back.

DISSOLVE TO:

Music Continues. Vincent's hand numbs up, he hits Dante with combinations to the body that sends him to the ropes and corner. Dante clinches every chance he gets to avoid any punches to his midsection.

DISSOLVE TO:

Music Continues. Vincent's left eye swells up completely and he can no longer see. Vincent goes down. He comes back and opens a deep cut over Dante's eye.

The Bell rings. Music fades.

Vincent's Corner

Vincent's face is severely bruised. His left eye is completely shut. Blood pours out of his nose mouth and above his right eye.

VINCENT
I can't see.

CARL, SR.

One round left Vincent. One round to regain that title. Give him hell Vincent. You're holding back.

VINCENT

What do you mean?

CARL, SR.

I mean don't hold back. That's what I mean. You're letting yourself get hit too much on purpose. Don't. He's going to seriously fuck you up. If you truly want that title back fight for it leave it all out there. Bring out that Vincent that is invincible. The Vincent that everyone fears, bring out the Nightmare.

Dante's Corner

Dante has a deep cut above his eye. His mid section is a dark color purple. His chin is swollen.

A ring Doctor enters to check on Dante.

BUBBA

Is it bad?

DOCTOR

It's deep. But he can still fight.

The Doctor exist the ring. Bubba begins to put Vaseline on the cut to stop the bleeding.

BUBBA

One rounds left champ. Three minutes and we will be celebrating your Victory.

DANTE

He ain't got nothing left.

BUBBA

It's all you baby.

DANTE

I'm going to humiliate his ass. Go out in style.

The bell rings, the twelfth round begins.

Without hesitation Dante goes at Vincent like a madman. He throws combinations with the majority of his punches landing.

Vincent pushes him off. He throws a right uppercut and misses.

Dante hits Vincent with a low blow. The referee does not see it.

Vincent goes down.

Jonathan jumps to his feet.

JONATHAN

Stay down. Stay down. Come on.

Vincent gets up.

DANTE

What am I getting you mad?
Nightmare.

Dante begins to showboat. Fans begin to Boo Dante. Others begin to cheer for Dante.

DANTE FAN

Yeah Dante. Woohhh!! Show that
overrated fighter how its done.

Another fan throws his soda at the man who is cheering for Dante.

VINCENT FAN

The Nightmare ain't overrated. So
shut up before I go over there and
shut that big mouth for you.

DANTE FAN

Lets go. You wanna make something
out of it. You wanna piece of this
Asshole.

VINCENT FAN

No I want the whole damn pie.

The fan who threw the soda bull rushes the man cheering for Dante and they begin to have a fight of their own.

Back in the ring. Dante circles Vincent throwing Jabs. Vincent blocks all of the jabs with his face. Vincent hits Dante with a left hook to the ribs.

Dante cringes. He leans forward and butts heads with Vincent.

The referee calls the butt accidental.

Vincent staggers back as blood squirts from the cut above his right eye.

Dante hits Vincent with a brutal uppercut that lands on Vincent's chin. His mouthpiece comes flying out of his mouth. Fan's sitting at ringside are stained with Vincent's blood as he falls backwards and hits the canvas.

Carl, Sr., Mary, Junior, Jonathan, Rebecca all stand up.

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Every one is silent, they all have there hands on their mouths.

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The referee walks over Vincent's body. Vincent's eyes are closed.

INT. BOXING RING - FANTASY

Vincent lays down on the canvas. It is dark. The lights from above light only the ring and everything else is pitched black. Junior is kneeling over Vincent.

He looks into Vincent's eyes.

JUNIOR
It's not over yet.

Junior extends his hand out. Vincent grabs it.

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT

As before, on the canvas.

The referee is still over Vincent's body.

Jonathan is celebrating.

REFEREE
Four...Five...Six...

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT

Jorge begins to chant.

JORGE

Nightmare. Nightmare. Nightmare

THE WHOLE BAR

Nightmare. Nightmare. Nightmare!
Nightmare!

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

FANS

Nightmare! Nightmare! Nightmare!
Nightmare!

Vincent lays on the canvas he opens his eyes and looks to the left. He sees Mary with both hands over her hands. He also sees Junior chanting "Nightmare" .

Vincent gets up. His eyes bloodshot. Red with fury. His face looks serious he looks at no other man but Dante who is in the other corner shocked. Blood still runs down his face from his cuts but it no longer bothers him.

The referee checks on him.

Jonathan looks shocked and worried.

JONATHAN

Oh, Fuck me.

He signals for both fighters to continue the fight.

Vincent rushes Dante.

Dante throws a hard right cross that lands on Vincent's chin. Then a combination to the body.

Vincent walks right through Dante's punches. They don't even cause Vincent to blink.

Vincent hits Dante with a left uppercut that sends Dante back in to a corner. Vincent begins to unload a relentless attack.

Dante tries to back away, but has nowhere to move to. He tries to block the punches but the punches are coming in so fast that it looks like he's getting hit by eight different hands at the same time.

Dante tries to clinch. Vincent shoves him off with his shoulder and hits Dante with a horrendous punch that lands on Dante's stomach. The punch hits Dante so hard that it lifts him off his feet.

Dante goes down. He spits blood out. And Bubba throws in the towel.

The Arena explodes. Fans begin to chant everyone begins to celebrate.

FANS
Nightmare! Nightmare! Nightmare!
Nightmare!

INT. THE NIGHTMARE'S BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Every one is cheering and hugging each other.

JORGE
Drinks are on the house!!

BAR
NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!! NIGHTMARE!!

INT. LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ARENA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Vincent drops to his knees and raises his hands in triumph. Mary, Carl, Sr, and Junior enter the ring running.

Vincent stands up.

VINCENT
We did it! We did it!

CARL, SR.
We sure did Car--

Vincent looks at Carl, Sr. for a moment. He pulls him into a hug.

CARL, SR. (CONT'D)
I'm proud of you son.

Tears begin to run down Carl, Sr.'s cheek. They let go of each other.

VINCENT
Junior. We did it.

JUNIOR
You were fantastic.

Vincent smiles.

VINCENT
Thank you.

JUNIOR
For what?

VINCENT
For everything.

Mary smiles at Vincent.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
(to Mary)
If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be
here right now.

Vincent pulls Mary in and begins to kiss her.

Jonathan enters the ring. He grabs Dante.

JONATHAN
You dumb, stupid idiot!!

Jonathan punches Dante. Bubba grabs Jonathan and punches him.
Security guards struggle to separate Jonathan and Bubba.

CARL, SR.
Let's get out of here.

VINCENT
What for? The shows just begun.

Vincent, Bubba, Mary and Junior all watch as pandemonium
breaks out inside the ring.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Vincent is standing over Emilio's grave, which is decorated
with lots of red roses.

Vincent kneels down and places a card on the grave and walks
away.

CLOSE UP of the card. It's a wedding invitation to Vincent
and Mary's wedding.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END