

GET IT IN GEAR

Written By

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INT. GARAGE- DAY

BILL RIVERS (50's) works on a dolly beneath his car: a 1956 THUNDERBIRD. Alexis (10), his daughter, stands beside the car, between BILL and the toolbox. She is wearing a baby blue Sunday dress, now marred by oil.

BILL

Wrench?

Alexis hands him the wrench. He uses it for a bit and hands it back to her.

BILL (CONT'D)

Pliers?

Alexis grabs the pliers and hands them to him. Again, he uses them for a bit and hands it to her.

BILL (CONT'D)

Donut?

Alexis pauses and looks around. Beside the toolbox is a box of donuts. She removes a donut from the box, takes a bite of it, and hands it over.

Seeing that the donut has been into, he rolls out from under the car. He holds the donut in question before her.

BILL

Taking a bit off the side I see.

ALEXIS

(playfully obstinate)

It's not like you pay me.

BILL

You're right. Next year, I'm giving you a raise.

ALEXIS

A whole donut?

BILL

Exactly.

Amelia (50's), Bill's wife, come out of the kitchen and into the garage. Upon seeing them in their soiled work clothes, she scowls.

AMELIA

Bill Rivers! Not again. And right before church too. I wouldn't be

AMELIA (CONT'D)
surprised at all if the reverend
thought we were raised by wolves.

Bill shrugs.

BILL
What can I say? I am who I am.

ALEXIS
(cutely)
Grrr.

Bill approaches her.

AMELIA
Whatever you're thinking about,
don't do it.

He leans in. She flinches, expecting him to muss up her
clothes. He kisses her delicately on the cheek.

BILL
If anyone gives you guff, you just
leave 'em to me.

AMELIA
You can't take on the whole world,
you know?

BILL
Maybe not, but I can try.

She shakes her head.

AMELIA
Go wash up.

Bill heads toward the door to the kitchen.

BILL
C'mon, Tiger. Time to hit the ol'
watering hole.

Alexis skips off after him.

INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Alexis (30's) sits with her then-boyfriend, Slyve. Plaid
shirt. Thick glasses. Smells like Lysol and money.

ALEXIS
And then the checkered flag waves!
Over a hundred miles per hour.
(MORE)

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
It's a photo finish. The crowd
goes

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
wild!

Slyve looks around.

SLYVE
You're making a scene.

ALEXIS
Sorry. Sometimes, I just get
excited.

SLYVE
I know. I... know. It's wonderful
in its place.

ALEXIS
(nodding)
Right.

SLYVE
So, the deal came in last night. I
think we're going to make a ton of
money. It's only a matter of time.

ALEXIS
(placative)
That's wonderful.

INT. APARTMENT- LATER

Alexis paces in the apartment she shares with Slyve. Tears
stream down her face.

ALEXIS
What do you mean: it's over?

Slyve puts his hands in the air.

SLYVE
Listen, we gave it a shot. It
didn't work out. All right?

ALEXIS
But after all we've been
through...

SLYVE

(putting his hands in the air)

Alexis, look. You're an awesome girl. We're just different people. That's all. If anything, you've got to admit that.

ALEXIS

But where do we go? What do we do?

Slyve shakes her head.

SLYVE

You're free to stay here 'til the rent is up. After that, it's best we head our separate ways.

She storms into the bedroom and throws a duffel bag from there into the living room.

SLYVE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

ALEXIS

I don't mess around. You want this to be over. All right, it's over.

SLYVE

But it's not like I'm kicking you to the curb or anything. You could stay... One more night.

She glares at him and packs her bag.

ALEXIS

Goodbye, Slyve.

EXT. HOUSE

Alexis enters into the Rivers house, sets her duffel bag down. Bill (80's) and Amelia enter in with her.

ALEXIS

Thanks for letting me crash here.

BILL

Our casa es you casa.

Amelia nods.

AMELIA

Exactly. Stay as long as you want, honey.

(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)

We're just sad that Sylve didn't see what we see, that he didn't really see how wonderful person you really are.

Alexis bites her lip.

ALEXIS

Maybe I was just... too much for him to handle.

BILL

If you're my daughter, I wouldn't be surprised. They don't make men like they used to, and only a special man could handle a Rivers.

ALEXIS

Yeah, well, no one can be as truly manly as you, Dad.

BILL

(assertively)

Darn straight.

Alexis gives him a hug. His demeanor softens considerably.

BILL (CONT'D)

You need anything? Money? Food? A good right hook to a certain not-so-special somebody?

Alexis shakes her head.

ALEXIS

Just a place to sleep and I'll be fine, and I won't be long at that. I mean, I don't want to be a bother.

AMELIA

Never. You're never a bother.

Bill puts his arm around his wife.

BILL

Amelia's right. We're family. Take as long as you need.

ALEXIS

I appreciate that. I don't know what I'd do without you.

BILL

Pray that it'll be a long time
before you ever find out.

Bill kisses her on the forehead. Alexis smiles.

ALEXIS

Yeah.

INT. KITCHEN- LATER

Alexis sits at the kitchen table, drinking tea. It's late.

Bill walks in.

BILL

Couldn't sleep?

ALEXIS

No. Guess not.

BILL

What you drinking?

ALEXIS

Tea.

BILL

Tea? Ha! I didn't even know we
owned some of that.

ALEXIS

Not all of us can chug coffee all
day and get away with it.

BILL

Yeah, well, consider yourself in
training then.

Alexis shakes her head.

ALEXIS

Still don't know how you do it. I
can't drink caffeine this late at
night without staying up til dawn

BILL

That's probably not a terrible
thing. Started with the War. We'd
drink it like water. And... old
habits die hard. Can't be very
good for my heart, either.

Alexis waves the comment away.

ALEXIS

Oh, pfft, you'll be fine. You're a superhero. You know that?

BILL

You think so?

ALEXIS

I know so. I could never be like that.

BILL

(reaching out to her)

Hey, you can be whoever you to be. You're mine, after all.

She wipes away a tear.

ALEXIS

I'm just afraid I won't measure up... When all is said and done.

He holds her hand.

BILL

Listen to me... Listen. You're diamonds. Pearls. The whole store, you hear me.

She nods.

ALEXIS

But, if that's true, why wasn't I... Why wasn't I good enough?

BILL

You just haven't found the right guy yet. One who deserves you. You don't find that kind of guy every day, but you will. I promise.

ALEXIS

It's awful hard waiting.

BILL

But some things are worth waiting for. It takes bravery, you know, to wait; but he'll come.

She bites her lip.

ALEXIS

K. Maybe I'll take that coffee after all.

BILL
That's my girl! Listen, while

BILL (CONT'D)
you're still trying to get back on
your feet, why don't you run by
the old shop, get yourself
connected there. Anyone with the
Rivers name ought to be welcome
there, and I know you're pretty
handy with a wrench.

Alexis nervously rubs the back of her neck.

ALEXIS
I don't know. Everyone there
probably remembers me from way
back when. Hard to be taken
seriously when everybody thinks of
you as three feet tall.

BILL
Oh, they'll take you seriously all
right, or they'll answer to me.

ALEXIS
You always have had my back.

BILL
And I always will. Give them a
call!

ALEXIS
Okay. I will.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

Alexis walks into Dan's Auto Restoration.

Chaz Malloy (30's) sees her and approaches. He flashes her a
billion-watt smile.

CHAZ
Hi. Can I help you?

ALEXIS
Hey. Yeah. I'd like to talk to
Dan. I'm Alexis Rivers. I have an
appointment.

CHAZ
Rivers, huh? Any relation to Bill?

ALEXIS
Yeah. He's my dad.

CHAZ
Come to pay a visit to the old
stomping grounds?

ALEXIS
Close. I've come for a job.

CHAZ
(skeptical)
Really?

He looks her over.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
Well, Dan's office is right down
the hall if that's the case. I'm
Chaz Malloy, by the way.

Alexis winks at him.

ALEXIS
Alexis. Remember that name. You'll
be hearing lots of it.

INT. OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

She knocks on the door.

DAN (S.O.)
Who is it?

ALEXIS
Alexis Rivers, here for the
interview.

DAN
All right. Enter.

She steps in. Dan shuffles papers around.

ALEXIS
It's good to see you again, sir.

He shakes her hand with his right, the measures the air with
his left.

DAN
Boy, you sure did grow up. When I
last saw you, you were this tall.

ALEXIS

Yeah, but I did grow up. It happens, you know?

DAN

Yeah. Your dad... He's really something. If you're any bit as good as he is, you'll be all right.

ALEXIS

(confidently)

I can hold my own.

Dan looks around.

DAN

I must warn you though. This is a man's business. I'm open to change. Others though... They might not be so willing.

ALEXIS

I know the risks, and I'll take them. Dad taught me as much.

Dan nods.

DAN

Ok, with that settled, know that I won't take it easy on you. Not a bit of preferential treatment here in this garage. Only oil, gears, and sweat.

She smiles.

ALEXIS

Just the way I like it.

DAN

Then welcome aboard. Don't let me down.

ALEXIS

I won't.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

Alexis carries a tool box across the garage. Chaz stares her down.

CHAZ
Need a hand with that?

ALEXIS
(defensively)
I'm okay.

CHAZ
You don't have to keep this up,
you know?

ALEXIS
Keep what up?

CHAZ
This tough girl facade. We all
know the truth.

She sets the toolbox down.

ALEXIS
And that is?

CHAZ
You've got something to prove. But
you won't prove it here.

ALEXIS
Oh, no?

CHAZ
No.

ALEXIS
What will I do then?

CHAZ
(patronizing)
You'll cave. You're not the first
pair of legs to through these
doors, you know. Not by a long
shot. They've all come with the
best of intentions, and they've
all burned out and left without a
sound.

ALEXIS
You obviously haven't met me yet.
Otherwise, you wouldn't be saying
that.

Chaz pauses.

CHAZ

Gonna tell your dad on me.

ALEXIS

No. I'm gonna hold my own. Just you wait.

CHAZ

I'm horribly impatient.

ALEXIS

Good. So am I. Guess I'll have to prove myself sooner then.

She starts to walk away.

CHAZ

What do you really know about cars?

ALEXIS

Enough.

CHAZ

I'll give you a week. You do that and we can keep talking.

ALEXIS

And if I make it more than week, then what?

CHAZ

Five bucks.

ALEXIS

Twenty, and an apology.

CHAZ

Ten and an apology. Twenty if you make it a month.

ALEXIS

We having this discussion because you think I might win.

CHAZ

We're having this discussion because I've learned that anything can happen.

Alexis picks her toolbox back up.

ALEXIS

I'll accept that.

CHAZ

So we have a deal?

They shake hands.

ALEXIS

You've got yourself a deal. Make sure to have your money ready when the time comes.

CHAZ

You'll have to earn it first.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

Chaz sits backs and watches as...

-Alexis sweats through the welding of body panels...

-Carries the heavy panels from one side of the garage to the other...

-Helps piece the car together...

-Installs the electrical and furnishes the interior...

-Paints the car...

He rises. Dan comes up beside him.

CHAZ

Who is this woman?

DAN

Bill's kid.

CHAZ

I know, but who is she?

DAN

Really something, huh?

CHAZ

Yeah. She's starting to grind on my gears all right.

DAN

She keeps this up and she's after your job, you know?

CHAZ

(defensively)

That's a tall order.

DAN
(matter of factly)
Not really. Anyone can spew out
sarcastic remarks and sit on their
duff all day.

Chaz nods.

CHAZ
Fair point.

Dan slaps him on the back.

DAN
Take notes, kid. That's all I'm
saying. Take good nods.

Alexis wipes the sweat from her brow and approaches.

ALEXIS
You guys talking about me?

DAN
You could say that. Good work
today.

ALEXIS
Does that mean I've proved myself
already?

DAN
(playfully)
Perhaps. Certainly more than some
other dead weight around here.

Dan and Alexis turn to Chaz.

ALEXIS
A certain dead weight that also
owes me twenty bucks?

DAN
Definitely one in the same.

Alexis holds her hand out. Chaz digs into his pocket and
thrusts an oily twenty into her hand.

DAN (CONT'D)
Nicely. She is a lady after all.

Alexis raises her eyebrows at Chaz. He takes the bill from her
hand, lifts it up, then sets it down again.

DAN (CONT'D)
Much better.

ALEXIS
(mockingly)
He can be taught!

DAN
We can hope. I haven't had any
luck so far. But you... maybe with
a little mothering, he'll turn out
all right.

CHAZ
(irritably)
Are you both done?

DAN
(to Alexis)
Are we done?

ALEXIS
For now. We'll reconvene tomorrow.

DAN
Sounds like a plan.

Chaz rolls his eyes.

CHAZ
Can't wait. See you then.

ALEXIS
Sounds good.

DAN
(to Chaz)
Goodnight, sweetheart. Sweet
dreams.

They part company.

INT. GARAGE

Alexis waxes her recently renovated car. Chaz walks up to her.

CHAZ
Can I speak to you for a second?

ALEXIS
If you've got a tongue.

CHAZ
May I speak to you?

ALEXIS
Glutton for punishment... Sure.

CHAZ
How did you do it?

ALEXIS
Do what?

CHAZ
Put up with it all. Rise up above
the ribbing. The pressure to
succeed. You know, that sort of
stuff.

Alexis shrugs.

ALEXIS
Don't have much of a choice.

CHAZ
We all have a choice.

ALEXIS
Well, I choose not to have a
choice.

CHAZ
Heck of a thing. That.

Chaz kicks the ground with his foot.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
Well, keep it up. Whatever you're
doing.

Alexis raises a hand to her ear.

ALEXIS
Is this a compliment I hear?

CHAZ
Could be.

ALEXIS
And am I supposed to take this
compliment with the fear that my
brake cable may be cut.

CHAZ
Usually. But this time, I'll let
you off the hook.

ALEXIS

A reprieve?

CHAZ

Yeah. You've put up with enough of me for now. A peace might be nice, for a change.

ALEXIS

And what if I don't want peace? What if I want to keep razzing you?

CHAZ

Then, I'll keep my guard up, and the games continue.

ALEXIS

(pensively)

Okay. You do that. In the meantime, I wouldn't mind a temporary peace. Eating lunches alone isn't exactly the most fun thing.

Chaz gestures off toward where their stuff is stored.

CHAZ

I could imagine not. What's on the menu today?

ALEXIS

Caeser Salad. You?

CHAZ

Ham on rye.

ALEXIS

You would be a ham.

Chaz bows.

CHAZ

Guilty as charged.

He glances over his shoulder.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Hey, Dan. We're gonna take our fifteen.

DAN

(dryly)

Yeah, go for it. I'll keep working. Don't worry about me.

ALEXIS

K. We won't.

They laugh.

Dan watches them walk off together. He signs.

DAN

It begins.

Dan returns to his work.

EXT. GARAGE

Chaz and Alexis sit on a bench outside the garage.

HAZ

And then one Michelin says to the other, "Oh man, I'm totally wearing the wrong at-tire."

Alexis shakes her head.

ALEXIS

That was a pretty bad.

HAZ

I know. The groan-o-meter was probably off the scale.

ALEXIS

Into the atmosphere.

HAZ

Can't win every time.

ALEXIS

Hey batter, batter. Swing and a miss!

Alexis pantomimes swinging at a foul ball. They watch the imaginary ball go nowhere fast.

HAZ

Funny. You wanna give it a shot?

Alexis pauses.

ALEXIS

What's the difference between a woman and a convertible?

CHAZ
Power steering?

She slaps him upside the head.

ALEXIS
Men.

Her cell phone goes off in her pocket. She picks it up.

ALEXIS
(to Chaz)
Pardon me a second.
(to Mom)
Hey, Mom. What's up?

Alexis' appearance darkens.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Mom?... What's wrong?... What?!...
How long ago?... Oh my gosh...
Yeah, I'll be right over.

She hangs up.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
I've got to go!

CHAZ
What happened?

ALEXIS
Dad... He's had a stroke... I've
got to get the hospital.

CHAZ
I'll drive.

ALEXIS
No. Really. I've got this.

CHAZ
Right. You're in a solid state to
drive right now.

Alexis nods.

ALEXIS
Can you drive fast.

CHAZ
Oh yeah.

INT. HOSPITAL

Alexis runs up to the counter.

ALEXIS
Where is he?!

The NURSE stares back at her.

CHAZ
Bill Rivers. She's family.

The nurse checks her system.

NURSE
Intensive care. Down the hall.
Second door to the right.

Alexis takes off.

CHAZ
(to the nurse)
Thanks.

He follows after Alexis.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Alexis meets her mother outside Bill's hospital room. They hug.

ALEXIS
How is he?

AMELIA
Weak.

ALEXIS
I can't believe this is happening.

They start into the hospital room. Alexis pauses and turns.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
(to Chaz)
I think we're going to need some
time.

CHAZ
Of course. You want me to hang
out?

ALEXIS

No. You've done enough. Thank you.

CHAZ

You sure?

ALEXIS

I'm sure.

Chaz holds up his own cell phone.

CHAZ

K. If you need anything, just call.

She nods and heads inside with Amelia.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Alexis walks into the kitchen, dressed in black. She saunters over the counter, picks up a picture of BILL. Stares at it.

Amelia rests her hand upon Alexis's shoulder. Alexis turns, sees Amelia, and returns her gaze to the picture.

ALEXIS

I can't believe he's gone.

AMELIA

I know.

Alexis sighs.

ALEXIS

I don't know how to feel, what to do, what to think.

AMELIA

There is no instruction manual for this, no blueprint. You just take it one day at a time.

ALEXIS

These days seem awful long, though.

AMELIA

Then take it minute by minute.

Alexis nods.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

And remember, no matter how you're feeling, you're not alone.

Alexis pauses, then hugs Amelia tightly.

ALEXIS
I'm gonna miss him.

Amelia tears up.

AMELIA
Me too.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

Alexis tightens a bolt on the UNDERCARRIAGE of an old car. It gets stuck. She wrestles against it, getting increasingly frustrated as she goes.

She bangs on the wrench. Chaz walks up.

CHAZ
You're gonna do a lot damage that way.

ALEXIS
It's metal. It can take it.

She wipes her brow.

CHAZ
How you doing?

ALEXIS
I've been better.

CHAZ
I'm sorry for your loss.

She takes a breath.

ALEXIS
Thanks.

CHAZ
He was a real good man.

ALEXIS
He was. They don't make men like him. Not anymore

CHAZ
Well, I hear vintage is coming back.

They exchange a smile.

ALEXIS

I heard that, yes... You know what's sad? I'm almost angry at him.

CHAZ

Why?

ALEXIS

For leaving. Me. My mom and I. I want him to be here. I need him to

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

be here. Right. Now!

CHAZ

Maybe he is.

ALEXIS

You think so?

CHAZ

I do. We're not alone in this Universe. We may try to take it alone. But, we're not alone.

ALEXIS

That's what my mother said.

CHAZ

You should listen to her. Sounds like she knows what she's talking about.

Alexis sighs.

ALEXIS

Yeah...

CHAZ

Listen, you look a little pale. You should go home.

ALEXIS

I'm fine.

CHAZ

Let me take you. The cars will be fine for a day. Like you said, they're only metal after all.

She looks at him.

ALEXIS

Yeah. I guess I could take a breather. I'll get my things.

CHAZ

And I'll tell Dan.

Chaz starts off.

ALEXIS

Chaz?

CHAZ

Yeah?

ALEXIS

Thanks.

CHAZ

You're welcome.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Chaz passes the Speedway on his bike. He pulls over.

ALEXIS

Why are we stopping?

CHAZ

You'll see.

He parks the bike. They get out and head for the Speedway.

There is a GROUNDSKEEPER there. Chaz waves him hello. They walk by into the Speedway proper.

I/E. SPEEDWAY

The facility is nearly empty.

CHAZ

When my dad died, I used to come here all the time to think. Just look at old empty race track, imagine him roaring around the bend one more time.

He rests his hands against the railing overlooking the track.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Sometimes I still do. He never magically appears. I know he's gone, but still I'm still hopeful.

(MORE)

CHAZ (CONT'D)

I bet that sounds kinda silly.

ALEXIS

No, it's sweet.

CHAZ

You'll go through that too. Ups and downs. You never quite get over it or used to it, but it gets better with time.

ALEXIS

I'm just afraid I'll wake up one day and forget him, you know? Everything about him, everything he taught me- poof!- out the window.

Chaz shakes his head.

CHAZ

Not gonna happen. Trust me. Memories: they're forever.

ALEXIS

How old were you when he died?

CHAZ

Seven.

ALEXIS

Must've been hard.

CHAZ

Yeah. A lot of things changed very quickly. Your dad... At least he had a good, long life.

ALEXIS

He certainly took it for all it was worth. If he saw me right now, dragging my feet... It wouldn't make any sense to him. He would want me back in that garage, fix cars, and seize the day like nothing ever happened.

CHAZ

I'm sure you'll get there soon enough.

ALEXIS

Why wait that long?

She looks out onto the track. A whimsical grin comes across her face. She turns back to Chaz.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Chaz? Can I drive?

EXT. STREET

Alexis bolts down the street.

ALEXIS
Woohoo!

I/E. HOUSE- LATER

They pull into the driveway of Bill & Amelia's home. They get off the bike.

ALEXIS
Good acceleration on that thing.

She hands him back his helmet.

CHAZ
It'll do in a pinch.

She pecks him on the cheek.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
(bemusedly)
What was that for?

ALEXIS
Just... Cuz. I'll see you
tomorrow.

He waves. She exits into the house. After she is gone, he says:

CHAZ
See you then.

He revs the engine and takes off.

I/E. HOUSE- EVENING

Chaz steps up to the front door of the Rivers' house. He is dressed in suit and tie. Flowers hang in his hand.

He presses the doorbell. Amelia answers.

CHAZ
Hello, Mrs. Rivers.

AMELIA
Hey Chaz. Looking sharp.

CHAZ
Thanks.

AMELIA
(gesturing inside)
Alexis will be out in just a
minute. Won't you come in?

They enter the house.

The furniture is dated. Automotive memorabilia is everywhere.

CHAZ
Nice place.

AMELIA
Thanks. Though I never did do much
of the decorating. Bill, he always
liked it a certain way:
Industrial.

On the wall is a picture of Amelia and Bill, next to a
makeshift go-cart.

CHAZ
Is that-

AMELIA
Yep. Their first Soapbox Derby.
Took first prize too. The other
parents thought it was unfair,
considering...

She allows the thought to trail off.

AMELIA (CONT'D)
I want to thank you for taking
Alexis out. It's good... Will get
her mind off of things.

CHAZ
Not doing any favors. Your
daughter: she's something else.
Something special.

AMELIA
Yes, she is.

Amelia rests a hand on his shoulder.

Alexis comes darting around the corner. She's wearing an evening dress, makeup, and jewelry.

ALEXIS

Mom, have you seen my-

She notices Chaz.

CHAZ

Hi.

ALEXIS

(surprised)

Oh, hey!

He hands her the flowers.

CHAZ

These are for you.

She takes them.

ALEXIS

They're pretty.

CHAZ

Just like you.

Alexis blushes.

ALEXIS

Yeah, well, you clean up pretty good yourself.

CHAZ

I try. Hardly recognize myself without the oil stains, I bet.

ALEXIS

Yeah.

They mill about in the silence.

AMELIA

Well, I best turn for the night. You two have fun.

Amelia gives her daughter kiss on the forehead.

ALEXIS

Love you, Mom.

AMELIA

Love you too.

(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)
(to Chaz)
You be safe now!

CHAZ
We will.

Amelia leaves. Alexis smells the roses.

ALEXIS
I'm gonna put these in a vase.

CHAZ
I'll be here.

ALEXIS
K.

Alexis enters into the kitchen. She slams cabinets open and shut. Chaz stands around.

Alexis sets her flowers and newly-found vase on the kitchen table.

ALEXIS
Ta-da!

CHAZ
I like it.

ALEXIS
So, where are you taking me?

CHAZ
If I told you, it'd ruin the surprise.

ALEXIS
Ooh, so mysterious.

Chaz laughs.

CHAZ
That's me. International man of mystery.

ALEXIS
All righty then. Since you know the way, lead on.

CHAZ
You trust me?

ALEXIS

Not at all.

CHAZ

Good.

Chaz opens to front door for his date. They step outside, hop on the bike, and exit.

I/E. FANCY RESTAURANT- LATER

They cruise on over to LE PETIT BALEINE. Chaz pulls his bike into the valet parking. They take his bike. He takes their ticket.

The walk towards the entrance.

ALEXIS

(softly)

I didn't know you could even take your bike into the valet.

CHAZ

(softly)

Honestly, neither did I.

Again, he opens the door for her.

They approach the HOST.

CHAZ

Malloy. Two. We have a reservation.

The host checks his roster.

HOST

Right this way.

He leads them to an vacant table in the center of the room, pulls out Alexis' seat for her, and takes a bow.

HOST (CONT'D)

Your server will be with you shortly.

CHAZ

Excellent.

The host hurries off to attend to other customers.

The light is dim. The decor mimics that of a Parisian village. Everyone speaks in

ALEXIS
Fancy tastes.

CHAZ
Nothing but the best.

ALEXIS
What should I order?

CHAZ
It's all good.

The server approaches.

SERVER
(pleasantly)
And how are we today?

ALEXIS
We're doing well.

SERVER
Marvelous. What may I get you to
drink?

CHAZ
What are your wine selections?

SERVER
(politely)
Right in front of you, sir.

Chaz looks down. The WINE LIST is right in front of him. He
picks it up.

CHAZ
Ah! So they are. I'll have the
caber-net suave-onion.

SERVER
And for you ma'am?

ALEXIS
The same.

SERVER
An excellent choice.

The server departs.

ALEXIS
(under her breath)
You've never been to this place
before, have you?

CHAZ
Not in my life.

ALEXIS
And here I though you were high
class...

CHAZ
"But that was just a lie?"

ALEXIS
Pretty much.

The server comes by with their drinks.

SERVER
Here you are, masseurs.

ALEXIS
Graci.

SERVER
And are we ready to order?

CHAZ
Um, it may be a moment.

SERVER
Take your time.

The couple chuckles. The server leaves.

CHAZ
Cheers! To you.

ALEXIS
And to fancy pants. Cheers!

They clink glasses.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR- NIGHT

The wine glasses dissolve into beer mugs.

They find themselves in a dive bar. Jute box blaring. Pool
balls colliding in the background.

Chaz takes a lengthy sip of his beer.

CHAZ
Ah, that's more like it.

ALEXIS

I gotta admit: I wish I were the other type, but this is definitely the one I prefer.

CHAZ

You are your father's daughter after all.

ALEXIS

Yeah. I definitely am.

CHAZ

I bet you know some pretty wild stories about the man, don't you?

She chuckles.

ALEXIS

(enthusiastically)

Oh. I do! There was this one time... The dishwasher motor was going. So, Dad thought it was time to give the thing a face lift. Oh, man! Did he ever. The thing practically took off! Soap and China everywhere. Mom was pissed.

CHAZ

Sounds like quite the guy.

ALEXIS

He was... How about you? How was your dad?

CHAZ

He was... quiet. Very methodical, you know? You'd expect something more extravagant out of a guy like him, but he was always so serious. "Out there, there's only a thin line between me and grave," he'd say. And the track never did get him. The cars, on the other hand...

ALEXIS

How did he go?

CHAZ

Drunk driver. Clipped him while he was crossing the street. Jrk. The doctors worked for days trying to bring him back, but nothing. He slipped in to a coma.

(MORE)

CHAZ (CONT'D)

I'd spend my time at the hospital.
That's when I started imagining we
were back on the race track.
Flying. The noise of the cars
drowning out everything, even your
own heartbeats.

He smiles.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Sometimes, when things get
crazy... I'm just gone. He wasn't
the best, but I'd go with him to
that racetrack any day.

ALEXIS

Wish I could go with you.

Chaz extends his hand out to her.

CHAZ

You can. C'mon. Follow me.

ALEXIS

Once more into the brink?

CHAZ

It worked so well last time,
right?!

Chaz throws some cash on the table.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here.

ALEXIS

Ok!

EXT. HILL- LATER

They stand on the top of a hill, looking out at the skyline.

ALEXIS

Well, sir, that was some rich
food.

CHAZ

I know. My wallet is still
reeling.

She kicks him.

CHAZ

I don't think I deserved that.

ALEXIS

No. And you probably didn't deserve this either.

She kisses him.

CHAZ

I'll take more of the second, if you wouldn't mind.

ALEXIS

Sorry, which one?

She kicks him.

CHAZ

Allow me to jog your memory.

He kisses her.

ALEXIS

Ah, yes. Now I remember.

They kicks a third time.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

You were wonderful today.

CHAZ

And the night is young.

They turn to face the skyline again.

I/E. HOUSE- LATER

Alexis waves goodbye to Chaz.

ALEXIS

Call me.

He takes off. She goes inside.

Amelia sets at the table.

AMELIA

How was it?

ALEXIS

It was good. Thought you were going to turn in for the night?

Amelia shrugs.

AMELIA

I woke up.

Amelia shrugs.

ALEXIS

I just wish...

AMELIA

I know. He'd've been so excited to see it. However... these floors

AMELIA (CONT'D)

could probably handle less grease monkeys running about.

ALEXIS

Mooom!

AMELIA

Sorry, it's a motherly thing. I wish it on nobody. I'm glad you had a good time.

INT. OFFICE

Chaz exits Dan's office

CHAZ

Thanks for covering. You're Aces. But remember, hush, hush.

DAN

My lips are sealed.

They shake hands. Amelia hurries up to him.

AMELIA

What were you guys talking about?

CHAZ

Nothing.

ALEXIS

Nothing, huh?

CHAZ

Guy stuff. Top secret guy stuff.

ALEXIS

Ah. Say no more. Please.

(MORE)

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
I've heard enough "guy stuff"
around the garage.

CHAZ
Me too. What's that?

Chaz now notices Alexis holding something behind her back.

ALEXIS
What's what?

CHAZ
Behind your back.

ALEXIS
Secret girl stuff.

CHAZ
Interesting.

She pulls out a blindfold and a cupcake from concealment.

ALEXIS
Happy one month anniversary!

CHAZ
Has it been one month already? The
time passed so quickly. Sorry
about that. I forgot.

ALEXIS
That's okay. It's expected. You're
a guy after all. Just light the
candles and blow.

CHAZ
We going somewhere?

ALEXIS
Yep.

CHAZ
Anywhere in particular?

ALEXIS
Grab the torch.

She holds up the cupcake with its unlit candle.

CHAZ
Right!

Chaz retrieves the butane torch.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

So, what's with the blindfold?

ALEXIS

Surprise. Do you need to check with your manhood to see if I can take the lead for the day?

Chaz lights the torch.

CHAZ

Naw. It's out to lunch at the moment. Your lucky day.

ALEXIS

Guess so. Happy anniversary.

They kiss.

CHAZ

Happy anniversary.

EXT. SPEEDWAY- DAY

Alexis leads the blindfolded Chaz down the steps toward the Speedway floor.

He stumbles on the stairs.

ALEXIS

Careful. I've got a great day planned. Try not to ruin it by falling and breaking every bone in your body.

He laughs.

CHAZ

I'll try. Given the circumstances, though, it'll be an undertaking. Speaking of which, can I take this off now?

Chaz lifts his hand to his blindfold. Alexis stops his hand.

ALEXIS

Not yet. Wait.

CHAZ

Arg!

She slaps him upside the head.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Hey!

Alexis leads him down to the Speedway, where a stock car waits.

ALEXIS

Ok, you can take it off now.

He removes the blindfold. His jaw drops as he gazes out.

CHAZ

Wait... How?!

ALEXIS

You're not the only one who knows people.

He sprints over to the car, circles around it multiple times, and kisses Alexis.

CHAZ

Can I drive it?

ALEXIS

No. This is a museum. And we're all statues. That said... go for it.

He hesitates, then slips into the car. Alexis approaches the passenger's side. She clears her throat. He undoes the lock. She remains outside. He jumps out of the car and opens the door.

CHAZ

Madame.

She enters. He hops back inside.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

(playfully)

One trip to an upscale restaurant and it goes all to your head.

ALEXIS

Just drive. Keys are in the ignition.

He revs the engine.

CHAZ

Best anniversary ever!

He puts the pedal to the metal.

The stock car zips around the track. Alexis and Chaz take turns flooring it.

EXT. SPEEDWAY- LATER

Chaz and Alexis stand before the stock car, now a little worse for wear.

CHAZ

What a rush!

ALEXIS

Tell me about it. I could do that again.

CHAZ

You know, as we were going, it was

CHAZ (CONT'D)

like I could feel him- my dad- there with me.

ALEXIS

Funny.

CHAZ

How?

ALEXIS

It was almost as if I could feel him there too.

They lock hands.

INT. OFFICE- DAY

Alexis walks out of the garage, passed the Auto Shop office. The door, already paper-thin, is cracked open. Through the door, she hears Chaz talking with DAN (60's), the manager: a balding, soft-stomached, kind-eyed old man.

DAN (O.S.)

How's Lorraine?

CHAZ (O.S.)

Coming along nicely.

DAN

When's she due?

CHAZ

A couple more weeks.

DAN
Sexy piece of work right there.

CHAZ
That's for sure.

Dan pauses.

DAN
When you gonna tell Alexis?

CHAZ
Eh, haven't decided yet. She seems like the type to enjoy a surprise.

DAN
You sure? Sometimes, woman can be funny about that sort of thing.

CHAZ
I'll take the risk. It's gonna be great. Just you wait.

DAN
I'll take your word for it. It's your girlfriend, after all.

Chaz heads for the door.

CHAZ
Thanks for the vote of confidence. I'll see ya tomorrow.

DAN
Yeah. See you then.

Alexis, hand over mouth, rushes off out of sight.

INT. GARAGE- LATER

Alexis works on the paint job in the garage. Chaz approaches.

CHAZ
How's it going?

ALEXIS
(aggressively)
Fine.

CHAZ
Good. Good. Listen I was wondering what you were doing Friday?

ALEXIS
I'm busy.

CHAZ
Saturday then?

ALEXIS
Totally booked.

CHAZ
Sunday brunch?

ALEXIS
I'm busy forever.

Chaz takes a step back.

CHAZ
Hey, what is all this?

ALEXIS
Why don't you ask Loraine?

CHAZ
Lorraine?

ALEXIS
Yeah. Loraine. I heard you and Dan talking in the office about her today.

CHAZ
So you snooped?!

ALEXIS
It was bound to come out sometime. Right! You think I'm stupid?

CHAZ
No. I don't think you're stupid. I don't understand. I thought you'd be happy?

ALEXIS
Happy? Ha! Happy?! If that's the case, then you're the craziest, most delusional man I have ever met.

Alexis throws some punches with Chaz deflects.

CHAZ
Hey, believe what you're going to believe, but leave me out of it.
(MORE)

CHAZ (CONT'D)

(aside)

Sheesh, I try to be nice.

ALEXIS

If that's your version of nice,
you can shove it up your-

Chaz hurdles backward, knocking over toolbox. The box clutters onto floor. Tools go flying. They both jump.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Hey, look! There's another mess
you created. Since you and Dan are
so buddy-buddy, I'll let you clean
it up.

CHAZ

You know what... Whatever.

He storms off.

ALEXIS

Good riddance, and take your
precious Loraine with you.

Chaz hops on his back and takes off. Alexis storms back to the office.

INT. OFFICE

The door flies open. Alexis enters. Dan sits at his desk, filling out paperwork.

DAN

Enter?

ALEXIS

How long did you know?

DAN

Know what?

ALEXIS

About Loraine.

Dan nods.

DAN

Oh. Okay. Yeah, Chaz's been
working on her for a while now.

ALEXIS
Apparently. She's due in a few
weeks, isn't she?

DAN
That's correct.

ALEXIS
Why didn't you tell me?

Dan leans forward.

DAN
I told him to tell you. Nobody
likes surprises. Not even good
ones.

ALEXIS
Good?! How could this possibly be
good? Sneaking around on me like
that. Some friends. A band of

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
thieves are closer knit.

Dan scratches his chin.

DAN
Wait, are we on the same page
here?

ALEXIS
Duh!

DAN
Alexis, tell me, who do you think
Lorraine is?

ALEXIS
Another woman.

Dan laughs and begins digging through his file cabinet.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

He takes a picture out from a file.

DAN
You. All this here. You got it all
wrong.

He sets the picture on his desk, right in front of her.

DAN (CONT'D)

Chaz's a charmer, but he's a class act... Most of the time. As for Loraine, she's a car. A 1956 Thunderbird, to be exact, which he's been fixing it up just for you. Heard your old man liked 'em, and you're a chip off the old block.

She stares at the photo. She staggers back.

ALEXIS

Oh my gosh...

He sets the picture aside.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Can I see her?

DAN

Don't you trust me?

ALEXIS

I- it's just...

Dan rises from his chair.

DAN

All right. Follow me.

They walk back into the garage.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

They approach a car tucked into the corner. A heavy cover on it hangs upon it. Dan takes hold of the cover.

DAN

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you: your absolution.

He takes the cover away. The Thunderbird is impeccably restored. A fresh coat of paint and a good wax and she is good to go.

Alexis runs her fingers along the body.

DAN (CONT'D)

Looks like someone owes somebody an apology.

ALEXIS
Looks like it.

DAN
No sense in wasting daylight.

ALEXIS
Right. I'll get on it.

She nods and takes off after Chaz.

EXT. SPEEDWAY- LATER

Chaz stands overlooking the Speedway with his eyes closed.

She sets a hand on his shoulder. He jumps.

ALEXIS
Hey.

CHAZ
Hey.

He opens his eyes.

ALEXIS
Dan filled me in on Loraine. I'm
sorry. I shouldn't've jumped to
conclusions.

Chaz shrugs.

CHAZ
It's all right. I just wish you
would've believed me. I don't open
up to everyone, you know that.

ALEXIS
I know. I know, and I appreciate
that.

CHAZ
Happy to do it. Do you like her?

ALEXIS
I love her.

CHAZ
Good. Listen, you seem really
nice. You deserve that car and all
the best things in life...

ALEXIS

But?

CHAZ

But I don't think either of us are
in a place right now to be... You
know. More than we were.

ALEXIS

But-

He shakes his head.

CHAZ

Enjoy the car, treat her well, and
we'll call it even. Okay?

He walks off.

She stays put. Her brows furrows. She has no words.

INT. HOUSE- LATER

Alexis sits at the dinner table, tracing the swirls in the
wood with her finger. Amelia stands above her, doing dishes.

AMELIA

Rough day at work?

ALEXIS

You could say that.

Amelia sets her dish towel down.

AMELIA

Wanna talk about it?

ALEXIS

Not really.

Amelia sits down beside her daughter.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Chaz and I broke up.

AMELIA

Oh no! What did he do?

ALEXIS

Nothing. He was actually really
nice to me. It was me this time. I
was the one who up. Royally.

AMELIA

Did you tell him you're sorry?

ALEXIS

Yeah, but he's hurt.

AMELIA

Mind telling me what happened?

ALEXIS

He renovated dad's old car. He was trying to do it all secretively. I thought he was sneaking around.

AMELIA

So you called him out on it?

ALEXIS

Yeah. Kinda. Not kinda. Majorly. I blew up on him. Then the truth came out, and now I feel like a complete idiot.

AMELIA

Sounds like he'll need some time. He may come around.

ALEXIS

But we work together. It'll be awkward.

AMELIA

So let it be awkward. Do what you've got to do.

ALEXIS

I don't want to lose him. That's all.

AMELIA

You won't. Just push through, and don't rush it. Okay?

ALEXIS

Ok.

INT. GARAGE- DAY

Alexis and Chaz work side by side. Not saying a word to each other. Dan walks right in the middle of them.

DAN

You two better get over yourselves.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

All this drama is starting to
affect workflow.

He keeps on walking. Alexis sighs.

ALEXIS

I'm sorry.

CHAZ

It's okay. Things happen. Car'll
be ready next week, by the way.

ALEXIS

How long have you been working on
it?

CHAZ

A while.

ALEXIS

You should really be proud of your
work.

CHAZ

It's a quality job. And, honestly,
If I couldn't do proper justice to
a classic, I'm probably in the

CHAZ (CONT'D)

wrong business.

She chuckles.

ALEXIS

True. It's just like I remember
it...

CHAZ

Sounds like there's an "and"
there.

She nods.

ALEXIS

And, look dad is gone. The car is
wonderful, everything I could ever
want it to be, but it's history.
I'm trying to move forward, look
to the future.

CHAZ

So... you don't want the car?

ALEXIS

No. I'm not saying that. I just...
How much for the car?

CHAZ

Nothing. It's a gift.

ALEXIS

And how much for the mechanic? How
much for him? I'd be willing to do
anything to win him back.

CHAZ

(musingly)

What could you do?

(to Alexis)

You could take hold of my hand,
look me in the eyes, and trust me
next time.

She takes hold of his hand, looks him in the eyes, and says:

ALEXIS

I'll trust you. Today and for as
long as we're together.

CHAZ

Then you're forgiven.

ALEXIS

Thanks.

CHAZ

Now kiss me.

They kiss.

DAN (O.S.)

Thank goodness!

They laugh.

INT. HOUSE

Alexis paces around the kitchen table at which Amelia sits.

ALEXIS

Chaz and I made up.

AMELIA

That's wonderful! I was hoping you
would.

ALEXIS

I'm still anxious, though. I mean, he's forgiven me, but how do I know he's actually forgiven me.

AMELIA

Time and truth. That's the only way to really tell.

ALEXIS

That's not assuring.

AMELIA

No, but that's love. It never gets easier, only more mature.

ALEXIS

Sometimes, I don't wanna be mature. Sometimes I just want it all and want it now.

Amelia chuckles.

AMELIA

Your dad got like that too. Heck. We all do. There's a little kid inside of us. She kicks and screams and want to come and play. Sometimes, she wins.

Alexis nods.

ALEXIS

That she does.

AMELIA

Of course, there are right moments to entertain that little voice. It's the part of us that still looks with wonderment at the world. It's the part that makes life fun. Know when it's proper to say "yes" to that voice, and you're set.

ALEXIS

Dad was a lot of fun.

AMELIA

You are too! So, the question is: what can you do to quiet the scared child inside you- the one in you right now- and to invite the fun one to run about, and make you happy, fearless, again.

Alexis pauses.

ALEXIS

I've got an idea! It's gonna take some effort- lots of effort, actually- but, boy, wouldn't it be crazy if it worked.

AMELIA

If what worked?

Alexis clicks her fingers together.

ALEXIS

I've got to make some calls. If I pull this off, it's gonna be the best thing ever. Chaz will be totally thrilled!

She grabs her phone, hugs her mom, and heads out the door.

AMELIA

Wait. If what works?!

Amelia shakes her head and returns to tidying up the kitchen.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

I think I missed something...
Kids.

EXT. GARAGE- DAY

Chaz takes hold of the cover over the Thunderbird Amelia, Alexis, and Dan stand in attendance.

CHAZ

You ready for this?

ALEXIS

Go for it.

Chaz pulls off the cover.

CHAZ

Ta-da!

Alexis and Amelia smile. Their eyes tear.

ALEXIS

Can we take it for a ride?

CHAZ

No. This is a museum. Hand's off.

She kicks him. He takes out the keys.

ALEXIS
Oh, one more thing.

She takes the keys and hands him a pamphlet in exchange.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
What's this?

ALEXIS
The Speedway is hosting their
first annual fundraising event.
They're looking for driver's, if
you're interested.

His brow furrows.

CHAZ
Bill Rivers' Race for Life. Heart
Attack Awareness... Nice touch.

ALEXIS
Thanks. Only fitting.

CHAZ
He'd be proud of you. For doing

CHAZ (CONT'D)
this. For everything.

ALEXIS
I know. Now, enough of the
sentiments. Let's put some pedal
to the metal... Get in!

CHAZ
Don't have to ask me twice.

Alexis jumps in the driver's seat. Chaz opens the door for Amelia. They all board the vehicle. Alexis starts the car.

ALEXIS
You want in too, Dan?

DAN
Naw, you all go ahead. Like
always, somebody's gotta stay
behind and do work around here...
Aw, what am I saying? Of course, I
would!

He jumps in beside Amelia.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hello Amelia. It's been a while.

AMELIA
Dan Summers. Yes, it has. Good to see you again too, Dan.

DAN
Good to see you.

They shake the hands.

AMELIA
All right. Hold on to your hats and toupees. Here goes nothing.

She revs the engine, puts her foot to the floor. She takes the top down and they take off.

CHAZ
Yee-haw!

EXT. STREET- DAY

They drive down the boulevard, hair blowing freely in the wind.

They smile. Laugh. Joke.

EXT. HILL- DAY

The four of them meet at the top of hill.

DAN
Chaz, I gotta admit. You did good.

CHAZ
Coming from you, I'll take that as a very generous compliment.

DAN
Yeah, well, just don't try to get a raise out of it.

CHAZ
Me? Pfft. Never.

Amelia brushes her hand against the all-leather interior.

AMELIA
Bill would have gotten such a kick out of seeing this car in action.

ALEXIS

You better believe.

CHAZ

In fact, why don't we raise a toast to the old man? He is the inspiration behind the perspiration after all.

ALEXIS

With what? It's not like we have wine glasses just lying around.

CHAZ

(playfully)

Or do we?

ALEXIS

Chaz Malloy, you didn't...

CHAZ

Be right back.

He winks at Alexis. All eyes follow him as he jumps out of the car and flips open the trunk. He returns to his fellow passengers with glasses and bottle in hand.

He holds the bottle in front of her.

ALEXIS

You think of everything, don't you?

CHAZ

Sparkling cider, so even the driver can join in.

ALEXIS

Well played, sir. Well play.

He pops open the bottle. He holds it out over the dirt as it sprays a little bit. Then, he pours the drinks.

Once everyone else is served, he pours his own drink and raises his glass.

CHAZ

Cheers, everyone. To Bill: the man, the myth, the legend.

EVERYONE ELSE

To Bill!

They toast and drink.

AMELIA

Well, Mr. Malloy, you've built a car from scratch, wooed the heart of my daughter, and took us all out for a wonderful afternoon. What next?

CHAZ

Next?

He takes out the pamphlet.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Next it looks like it's time for me to burn up some rubber on the track.

DAN

Now, you're talking. You know, if this race works out, and you find yourself needing a manager to facilitate all your future race ventures...

CHAZ

You'll be the first one I'll call.

DAN

(imagining it)

That's all I ask. Summers and Malloy: it's got a good ring to it.

DAN (CONT'D)

Like something real prestigious, you know?

CHAZ

Yeah, totally. Cuz... We're so prestigious.

DAN

Here's a hoping.

Alexis finishes off her drink and sets her glass down.

ALEXIS

Well, daylight's a wasting. What's say we keep driving?

DAN

Let's. No moss grows on spinning wheels.

CHAZ

True. Lead on, good driver.

ALEXIS

It would be my pleasure.

Present company finishes off their drinks as Alexis plugs her keys back into the ignition.

EXT. SPEEDWAY

Chaz stands over the empty Speedway. Alexis stands with him.

CHAZ

I can't believe this is actually happening. This race. Wow!

ALEXIS

It seemed only fitting. When we took that first spin around the track, you really came to life. I think the greatest thing one person can ever give to another is life. Don't you agree?

CHAZ

Yeah, well, hmm, when you said, "is there anything that I could do to make it up to you..." I never thought this. I could've imagined dinner out. Maybe a watch or something. Nothing like this. You really went the distance.

ALEXIS

You must be worth it or something.

CHAZ

If you say so.

They hold hands.

ALEXIS

You went the distance first, you know, with the car. I'm just meeting you there.

CHAZ

Let's just call us even, then. Deal?

ALEXIS

Deal.

Chaz pauses.

CHAZ

You think I can do this?

ALEXIS

I think you can do anything you set your mind to. My dad always believed that, and the apple never falls far from the tree.

CHAZ

You know what?

ALEXIS

What?

CHAZ

I bet... I bet you think you couldn't escape his shadow. I bet you think you'll never ever measure up.

She looks out on the Speedway.

ALEXIS

He did leave quite the legacy.

CHAZ

I felt that way for a long time too after my dad passed. That's why, now, I see something you don't.

ALEXIS

And that is?

CHAZ

The thing is... You're not in his shadow. Not in his shoes. You're bigger, brighter. You ever heard of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers?

ALEXIS

A little. What?

CHAZ

Ha! Well, my Grandpa used to play their movies all the time. Fred and Ginger were a dancing couple. Did lots of movies together... Fred got most of the credit. But there's a saying going around. "Ginger did everything Fred did, but backwards and in heels."

ALEXIS

You comparing me to Ginger?

CHAZ

Pretty much. To do what you did. To break into the industry like a boss. A man's industry. It's not easy. Nobody did you any favors, especially not me. But, against all the odds, you stuck with it. That's why I think you're not in Bill's shadow at all. You've totally eclipsed him. It's beautiful.

She smiles. Tears form in her eyes.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

I hope you believe that. I hope you believe it with everything with your whole being. You're truly one of a kind.

She wipes away the tears.

ALEXIS

You keep talking like that and I might start believing it too.

CHAZ

One more thing...

ALEXIS

Oh?

CHAZ

I think I might be in love with you.

ALEXIS

Might?

CHAZ

Might... definitely... be falling in love with you.

ALEXIS

Well, I might definitely be falling in love with you too.

CHAZ

Good. At least we've reached a consensus.

ALEXIS
A consensus?

CHAZ
Indeed.

They laugh. She snuggles up to him.

ALEXIS
You're gonna run rings around the
other guys.

CHAZ
Yeah.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPEEDWAY- DAY

Race Day. Alexis, Amelia, and Dan find their seats amongst the
other Speedway fans.

Packed house. Roaring engines. Blaring loudspeakers.

DAN
Well, here we are.

ALEXIS
Nothing like it. Race Day. Mmm.
The sights, the smells...

AMELIA
The noise.

DAN
I have some ear plugs if you need
them.

AMELIA
Really? Oh, that would be great.

DAN
Yeah. You don't work with engines
all day and not carry around a
pair of these babies with you.

He extracts the plugs from his shirt pocket. They are a little
lint-y. Amelia brushes off the dust and puts them in.

AMELIA
My hero.

DAN

Pleasure to serve. Hey, now that we're settled, I think I'm gonna go grab some grub. You ladies want anything?

ALEXIS

Chili dog and a coke. Maybe one of those foam fingers, as well.

DAN

On it, and for you Amelia?

AMELIA

Nothing, thank you.

ALEXIS

Nothing?

AMELIA

Well... a Sprite would be lovely.

DAN

A Sprite it is! Be right back.

Dan exits.

ALEXIS

What a guy.

AMELIA

Your father, Dan, and I go way

AMELIA (CONT'D)

back. We'd really hit the town in our day.

ALEXIS

What happened?

AMELIA

He married a... Not very nice lady. Very controlling. We saw it coming, Bill and I, but you gotta let love take it's course, you know? Even after she left him, things were strained between. Words got said. Words no one could take back. Still, it's good to see him again. It's almost like old times.

Alexis gestures to the space in the bleachers beside her.

ALEXIS

Except with one empty seat.

AMELIA

Yeah... You can't always chose the timing on things. Doors open when it's not ideal, but still I see the Divine in it, working in and through it all. And it's good to have company. Especially now.

ALEXIS

Yes. I know what you mean.

Dan returns with food.

DAN

Food coming through, hot and fresh! Watch out.

(to Amelia)

Drink for you.

(to Alexis)

Drink and dog for you.

(to himself)

And everything else for me.

ALEXIS

Much obliged.

DAN

Welcome. Eat up.

They dig in. A SQUEAL sounds through the loudspeaker.

LOUDSPEAKER

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first annual Bill Rivers Race for Life Fundraising Extravaganza!

The crowd cheers.

LOUDSPEAKER (CONT'D)

Crowd, are you ready?

The crowd ROARS.

Amelia scans the track.

AMELIA

(aside)

Which one is he?

Alexis points.

ALEXIS
Number seventy eight.

AMELIA
I see him. The one in blue right?

ALEXIS
That's him. Go Chaz! Woohoo!

Alexis raises her No. 1 Finger.

LOUDSPEAKER
Drivers, are you ready?

The cars rev their engines.

DAN
Think he's gonna place?

ALEXIS
Place?! I think he can win!

DAN
Works for me. Ha! I mean, with a
vote like that, who's to argue.
Let's go, buddy boy!

Dan claps.

LOUDSPEAKER
3... 2... 1... Start your
engines !

The green flag is waved. The cars take off.

CUT TO: TRACK

Around and around the track they go. Chaz starts off near the back. The cars in front of him crisscross in front of him, blocking him from passing. He weaves back and forth, searching out an opening.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Alexis, Amelia, and Dan teeter at the edge of their seats.

ALEXIS
C'mon babe. You can do it! Don't
let those other guys beat you.

Dan cups his hands in front of his mouth, forming a makeshift blow-horn.

DAN
Win it for the garage.

Alexis glances at him.

DAN (CONT'D)
Heck, take this and I'll even give
you a raise!

He glances back at her.

DAN (CONT'D)
(to Alexis)
It couldn't hurt.

ALEXIS
True.
(to Chaz)
Win the money!

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz continuous to weave back and forth. Nothing.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Alexis bites her nails.

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz spots an opening. It's small. He cuts at a sharp diagonal into it, snaking passed the other drivers.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Alexis rises to her feet.

ALEXIS
Yeah! That's what I'm talking
about. Way to go, babe.

RANDOM FAN
Hey, sit down. I can't see.

ALEXIS
Oh, sorry. That's my boyfriend out
there.

RANDOM FAN
Which one?

ALEXIS
Seventy-eight.

The fan peers out onto the track.

RANDOM FAN

Wow, he's really killing it.

ALEXIS

I know. Isn't it great?

RANDOM FAN

What are you sitting down for? Get up, girl. Get up!

ALEXIS

Sure thing. You got it!

She stands back up.

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz makes his way through the hornet's nest of cars. Passed ten, eight, seventh, six...

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Dan applauds.

DAN

That's how we do it, kid. Show them how it's done.

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz shoots passed fifth. Fourth. He inches up to the top three.

They form a "V" in front of him. He tries to get around, but they are faster and they are smarter.

Suddenly, the TOP PLAYER spins out.

The other TWO make way. The car hurdles toward Chaz.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Amelia gasps.

AMELIA

Look out!

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz jerks on his wheel. He avoids the incoming car. His own car starts to fishtail. He punches the gas, straightens out the wheel, and shoots through the hole in the competition.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Amelia and Dan join Alexis on their feet.

CUT TO: TRACK

Chaz closes in on the finish line. The drivers behind him nip at his bumper. Second place starts to close in. Soon, they are neck and neck.

LOUDSPEAKER

It's going to be a close one,
folks!

Chaz punches the gas as hard as he can. He edges out away from second just as they pass the finish line.

LOUDSPEAKER (CONT'D)

It's seventy-eight. Seventy-eight
all the way!

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

The fan taps Alexis on the shoulder. She turns.

RANDOM FAN

That's you!

ALEXIS

That's him!

Alexis takes off running, over the bleachers and down the stairs.

DAN

Hey, wait for us.

His voice is lost in the screaming crowd.

CUT TO: BLEACHERS

Chaz gets out of his car. Alexis runs up to him with arms open wide.

ALEXIS

You did it!

Alexis throws her arms around him, nearly knocking him over in the process.

CHAZ

We did it. You believed in me
after all.

ALEXIS

We sure do make one heck of team.

CHAZ
That's for sure.

They move in to kiss.

Dan slaps Chaz on the back.

DAN
May I cut in?

Alexis steps back to let Dan in.

DAN (CONT'D)
Nice work, champ! You really
knocked it out of the park. Way to
go.

ALEXIS
I believe someone may have a raise
coming

DAN
He may. That he may...

Chaz alternates his glance between the two of them.

ALEXIS
I'll explain later.

Amelia approaches.

AMELIA
You should be proud, Mr. Malloy.
You did this race track good.

CHAZ
I am proud, Mrs. Rivers. One
hundred percent. Now then, shall
we go collect our prize?

ALEXIS
Yes, let's!

EXT. SPEEDWAY- LATER

Chaz stands at the top of the podium, exchanging handshakes
with the second and third place holders.

A well-dressed MAN at the foot of the podium points up to him.

M.C.
And in first place, a first time
driver but certainly no foreigner
to the track...
(MORE)

M.C. (CONT'D)
Like father, like son... Chaz
Malloy !

The crowd goes wild.

A trophy girl hands Chaz his trophy up to him. The M.C. makes his way up to Chaz with a mic. He holds the device right up to the driver's face.

M.C.
Tell us, Mr. Malloy. Any words for
our captive audience?

CHAZ
Oh, I got some words.

He looks to Alexis, who stands beside him. She looks back. He gets on one knee.

CHAZ
Alexis Rivers, would you marry me?

All eyes turn to Alexis.

ALEXIS
Yes. A thousand times over, yes.

They kiss. Again, the crowd cheers.

Champagne pops open. Chaz and Alexis gasp, then giggle, as they are doused in it.

INT. RESTAURANT- EVENING

Champagne bottles pop open again, this time at Chaz and Alexis' proposal celebration. Dan pours the drinks.

DAN
What a day! What. A. Day.

ALEXIS
Definitely not average, right?

DAN
All this excitement... It's
wearing me out. I can't even
imagine how you feel.

CHAZ
I feel great.

ALEXIS

Me too.

The couple hugs.

AMELIA

I'm happy for you. Couldn't've happened to a nicer couple.

ALEXIS

None nicer? No bias there at all.

AMELIA

Yeah, well, I'll let you in on a not-so-little secret: when it's family, it's all bias.

HAZ

Ha! Here's to family.

DAN

Here, here.

They drink.

DAN (CONT'D)

Now, just because you're getting married and all doesn't mean you can slack off at work.

Everyone laughs.

DAN (CONT'D)

I mean it! You're the best mechanics I have- which is saying something... Positive?- but, still,

DAN (CONT'D)

have your honeymoon and all and then...

HAZ

Relax, Dan. We're not going anywhere.

ALEXIS

That's right. You're totally stuck with us.

DAN

Good, for a moment there I was going to have to go into separation anxiety.

Alexis nudges him.

ALEXIS

We love you, you big lug.

CHAZ

Yeah, comb-over and all.

He puts his hand on his head.

DAN

Hey, hey. I only have so much up there. I have to make the most of it.

AMELIA

You know, hats are coming back. I think you'd look quite dapper in a derby.

DAN

You think so?

He bites his lip.

CHAZ

Yeah. Bowler, pocket watch. You'd be the spitting image of Henry Ford.

DAN

When you put it that way... I might just give it a shot.

AMELIA

I know a place Bill used to go to all the time. Really nice people.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Set you right up.

Alexis snaps her fingers.

ALEXIS

Maybe, while we're there, I could grab one of those big, floppy hats- like they used to wear at horse races back in the day.

CHAZ

That'd be a sight all right.

ALEXIS

Oh, just you wait, I'll show up to each and every one of your racing gig with that exact hat on.

CHAZ

As long as you've got more racing venues lined up for me, I'd be okay with that.

ALEXIS

None yet, but we'll find you some. Lots and lots and lots.

DAN

With a performance like we saw today, how could we not?

Chaz nods.

CHAZ

Geez, pull my legs. You know... I might just have to miss a few days of work if I do.

Dan playfully grabs his chest.

ALEXIS

Floppy hats, here we come. Bright. Garish. Victorian floppy hats!

CHAZ

(teasingly)

It'll be a beacon, guiding me home.

ALEXIS

Exactly.

DAN

Well, what are we waiting for?

DAN (CONT'D)

We've got hats to buy!

Amelia raises her hand.

AMELIA

(to present company)

Right.

(to the server)

Waiter, check please.

INT. HAT STORE- DAY

Chaz, Alexis, Amelia, and Dan walk into the hat store. The lone MILLINER (80's) perks up as they come in.

MILLINER

Welcome!

ALEXIS

Hi! We'd like to buy some hats.

MILLINER

You've come to the right place.

The milliner shows them her wares.

-They dress Dan up in a TOP HAT...

-Exchange it for a BOWLER...

-Alexis and Amelia cycle through BONNETS to matching SUN HATS...

-They all turn to Chaz, who backs up slowly as they close in on him...

-Chaz gazes into the mirror with a oversized SOMBRERO plopped atop his head.

Alexis, Amelia, and Dan now hold bags housing their purchases.

AMELIA

(to the MILLINER)

Thank you for all your help.

MILLINER

Are you kidding me?! Come back anytime. Keep hats alive.

DAN

Will do! Anything to get these clowns off my case.

They laugh.

DAN (CONT'D)

See that? A man tries to be respectable and look what happens.

Alexis digs into her bag, takes out a FLAT CAP, and hands it to Chaz.

ALEXIS

Here you go, sport.

Chaz takes the hat and slips it onto his head.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Fits your perfectly.

CHAZ

We would hope so. It is a driving cap, after all.

ALEXIS

Touche.

Dan opens the door for them all.

DAN

Ladies...

AMELIA

Such a gentleman.

DAN

Now that I've got this fancy new cap, guess I've gotta fit the part, right?

CHAZ

(teasingly)

Got your work cut out for you.

The women stroll through the open door. Dan shuts it in Chaz's face.

DAN

How'd you like a flat nose to match that flat cap?

CHAZ

Wouldn't mind it a bit. Mask the scent of your cologne. Engine oil, isn't it?

DAN

Tom Ford.

CHAZ

Ah, I always get those confused.

Dan shakes his head.

DAN

Wise guy.

Chaz opens the door for himself and pats Dan on the head as he passes by.

CHAZ
And proud of it.

Dan throws his hands over his new hat.

DAN
Hey, don't touch the derby.

EXT. SPEEDWAY- DAY

Chaz and Alexis sit on the emptied bleachers, looking out onto the Speedway.

CHAZ
Huh. It's amazing.

ALEXIS
What is?

CHAZ
All this. The job. The race. You.

ALEXIS
Glad I made the cut.

CHAZ
(sarcastically)
It was a close call. I was feeling generous.

ALEXIS
I appreciate it.

CHAZ
Anytime. But, seriously, it's all too much. I feel like I don't deserve it.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You don't.

He looks at her.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Just saying.

CHAZ
That's all right. I suppose I don't, but I'll console myself with the knowledge that I'm engaged to a hot model type.

ALEXIS

Darn straight. Hot like a welding torch.

CHAZ

With grit to spare.

ALEXIS

Exactly. Going back to what you were saying, though... no, you don't deserve it. You, me, anybody. We don't deserve anything- that is, any more than anybody else. It's a gift. So, enjoy it!

CHAZ

I will. Oh, speaking of enjoying it, Dan is thinking of taking me out tonight. A bachelor party sort of thing.

ALEXIS

Oh? Gonna get on your wild side.

CHAZ

Ha! Sure. I'll hit up a bar, toss back a few, and then come back to you.

ALEXIS

I like that last part.

CHAZ

Me too.

They hold hands.

ALEXIS

You be safe.

CHAZ

Will do.

ALEXIS

And don't do anything I would do.

CHAZ

Ha! Promise.

They kiss.

I/E. BAR- DAY

Dan, Chaz, and a few buddies from the shop and Speedway approach the dive bar. On the way in, Dan nudges his friend and colleague.

DAN

So, how does it feel to be a nearly married man?

CHAZ

Pretty sweet, actually.

DAN

Just goes to show you: there's still hope for us all.

CHAZ

Thanks.

DAN

I mean it. Look, Alexis... she's done something to you. Something good. You mess this up, and you're fired.

CHAZ

I'll keep that in mind.

Dan nods.

DAN

Good. As long as we're clear. That said, it's time to celebrate. This is a moment you're going to want to remember forever, trust me.

CHAZ

Here, here to that!

Dan punches him in the arm.

DAN

Knucklehead.

CHAZ

Chrome dome.

DAN

Sick as it may sound, you're like the son I never had.

CHAZ

And you're the father I never wanted.

They shake hands.

DAN

(bringing him in close)
I'm your best man, right?

CHAZ

Well, there is that groundskeeper from the Speedway... No, you're totally it. The best man I know.

DAN

Huh. I think that may have been the nicest thing you've ever said to me.

CHAZ

Moment of weakness. Won't happen again.

DAN

I would hope not.

They head into the bar.

INT. HOUSE

Alexis and Amelia sit at the kitchen table, flipping through a BRIDAL MAGAZINE.

AMELIA

Ooh, that one looks nice.

ALEXIS

Yes, lovely.

Alexis sets the magazine down.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Is it normal to be this nervous?

AMELIA

Completely. I was petrified. Almost called the wedding off twice before we went through with it.

ALEXIS

Twice? Wow. How'd you make it?

AMELIA

Bill was very persuasive.

Alexis flips through the magazine again.

ALEXIS

Yeah, he sure had a way with people.

AMELIA

Chaz his way, too. It's coming out. I can see it. I think he's gonna be a great husband.

ALEXIS

After the losers I've dated before him, that's good news to hear.

AMELIA

It takes a while to finally get it right, wut when you find "the One..." well, you just hold on. You never let go. No matter what. You never let go.

ALEXIS

I won't. You have my word.

On the kitchen counter, Alexis phone vibrates, then rings. All eyes turn to it.

ZOOM IN: on phone.

INT. HOSPITAL

Alexis rushes up the hospital room Dan stands outside of.

ALEXIS

How is he?

DAN

Took a heck of beating.

ALEXIS

How...?

DAN

We were leaving the bar. Son of a gun came out of nowhere. Chaz... He pushed us aside just at the right time.

ALEXIS

Can I see him?

DAN

Yeah, but brace yourself. Seeing him there, it was hard. Even for me. He's usually such a fireball, you know?

ALEXIS

I'll be okay. It won't be the first time.

She heads in.

Chaz lies in the hospital bed, barely conscious. He is wrapped in bandages. Many different machines are connected up to him. Pumping, beating, breathing for him.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Heck of a way to get out of marrying me.

CHAZ

I know, right?

ALEXIS

You look like terrible.

CHAZ

No sympathy for the poor and infirmed?

ALEXIS

Not today. Tomorrow maybe. When you're back on your feet.

CHAZ

When you know I'm gonna make it?

She sits down at his bedside.

ALEXIS

You'll be okay.

CHAZ

I'll tell one that to my doctor.

ALEXIS

You do that. Tell him I've had enough hospitals for one year. For ever actually.

CHAZ

Me too!

She sets a hand on his bandaged arm.

ALEXIS

Let's play a game.

CHAZ

Shoot.

ALEXIS

"If you're happy and you know
it..."

CHAZ

Clap your hands?

ALEXIS

I was gonna say move your big toe,
but if you've got it in it you,
sure.

Chaz chuckles.

CHAZ

I love you.

ALEXIS

Save the sentiments for after
you're out of this room. Okay?

CHAZ

Okay. Alexis?

ALEXIS

Yeah?

His eyes roll back in his head. His head slumps down onto his
pillow. The machines he is connected to begin to whir,
screech, and shake.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Chaz? Chaz, wake up. This isn't
funny. Wake up Chaz!

The HOSPITAL STAFF rushes in.

NURSE

He's coding!

DOCTOR

Pardon me, ma'am. We're gonna need
our space.

Alexis backs away.

ALEXIS
You've gotta save him!

DOCTOR
That's exactly what we intend to
do.

She freezes in place. Dan sets her hand on his shoulder.

DAN
Let's give the doctors that room.

ALEXIS
I can't lose him.

DAN
You won't.

ALEXIS
Promise?

DAN
With all my heart.

ALEXIS
Darn. That's the first thing that
always fails.

Dan leads her out into the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- LATER

Dan and Alexis sit in chairs in the hallway outside Chaz's
room.

ALEXIS
Why does this keep happening? What
am I doing wrong?

DAN
Nothing.

ALEXIS
But Slyve, Dad, now Chaz. I just
get the feeling someone up there
is picking on me.

DAN
Things fall apart. Can't do
anything about it. And yes, there
are days when the burden feels
pretty heavy. I know the feeling.
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

When my wife left, I wanted to check out. Permanently. But I didn't. I'm still here... Thing is, we're not expected to be invulnerable. Just to go on.

ALEXIS

It's just so hard, you know?

DAN

Yeah, I know.

He looks her in the eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)

But if I've learned anything on this silly little rock, it's that life will never give you more than you can handle. Even when you want to pull your hair out. Even when you think it's game over. That glimmer of light, that hope for tomorrow, it's always there. Barely, but it's there.

ALEXIS

Dan?

DAN

Yeah?

ALEXIS

You think Dad is still around, not just floating in Heaven somewhere.

DAN

What do you think?

ALEXIS

Yeah. I do. All the time, actually.

DAN

Then there's your answer.

ALEXIS

Yeah. I guess it is.

A doctor approaches.

DOCTOR

Ms. Rivers?

ALEXIS

Yes.

DOCTOR

We've got some news on your fiancée's condition...

Alexis and Dan rise to their feet.

EXT. SPEEDWAY

Chaz and Alexis stand on a makeshift stage where the podium from earlier had been. Chaz's bandages show under his tuxedo. He supports himself with a cane. Alexis is radiant. Flowing, white wedding gown. Broad, white sun hat. Their friends and family sit in attendance.

A bespeckled MINISTER conducts the ceremony.

MINISTER

Do you, Chaz Malloy , take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, through sickness and in health, through poverty and in wealth, never forsaking, always loving, for as long as you both shall live?

CHAZ

I do.

MINISTER

And do you, Alexis Rivers, take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, through sickness and in health, through poverty and in wealth, never forsaking, always loving, for as long as you both shall live?

ALEXIS

I do.

MINISTER

Then, by power vested in me in the sight of God and all those in attendance here, I pronounce you husband and wife.

(to Chaz)

You may kiss the bride.

They kiss. The crowd cheers. Confetti flies.

They walk down the aisle, hand in hand. At the end of the aisle is the Speedway track.

On the Speedway track, the THUNDERBIRD waits. They sprayed words JUST MARRIED onto the rear window.

CHAZ

You know, some people just exchange rings and be done with it.

ALEXIS

What's the fun in that? Let's drive rings around those rings.

They fist-bump.

CHAZ

You got it!

ALEXIS

Talley ho!

They climb into the car. Chaz revs the engine.

CHAZ

Gentlemen-

ALEXIS

And ladies-

Chaz nods.

CHAZ

And ladies... Start your engines.

Tires squeal. They take off.

EXT. STREET (NINE MONTHS LATER)

Chaz clenches the Thunderbird's steering wheel. His eyes dart about, scanning street for openings in the traffic. Alexis squirms in the passenger seat. Beads of sweat pour down Alexis' brow. She grits her teeth to bear with the pain.

CHAZ

You're doing great, hon. Just keep breathing.

ALEXIS

Tell that to me when it's over...
In the meantime.... ahhhhh!

CHAZ

Just hang on.

ALEXIS
It's coming!

CHAZ
It's coming?

ALEXIS
Did I stutter?!

CHAZ
Okay. Hang on. Just a little bit
on longer. We're almost there.

He bears his foot down upon the acceleration pedal.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
I'm gonna drive like they do in
the commercials, just you watch.
Man. I've always wanted to do
that. Hospital, here we come!

He punches the gas. They plow through the two-way traffic.

CHAZ (CONT'D)
I love being a race car driver!

INT. HOSPITAL

A BABY cries. The NURSE hands him to Alexis, who lies in a hospital bed. She is pale, sweaty, and exhausted, but glowing nevertheless. Chaz, Amelia, and Dan stand beside her, glowing as well.

ALEXIS
He's beautiful.

CHAZ
First hospital visit I've ever
actually looked forward to having.

ALEXIS
I know, right?

Alexis rocks the child.

AMELIA
What's his name?

ALEXIS
William Ford Malloy.

DAN
Bill. Of course. I wonder if they
sell bowlers in his size.

CHAZ

I bet they do. Say... I think he has the same amount of hair you do, Dan, maybe even more.

Dan rolls his eyes.

Everybody laughs.

EXT. HILL- DAY

Alexis (10) shifts about in her SOAPBOX RACER. Bill stands behind her.

BILL

You situated?

ALEXIS

Almost.

She puts the oversized AVIATOR GOGGLES over her eyes.

BILL

All right, ready?

ALEXIS

Ready.

BILL

That a girl! You gonna win?

ALEXIS

I-I think so. Kinda scared, though. It's a big hill.

BILL

Yeah. True. Being scared is normal. Happens to everyone.

ALEXIS

(looking up)

Do you ever get scared?

BILL

Yes. Yes I do.

ALEXIS

I don't believe you.

BILL

Good. Then don't you be scared either. Believe in me. Believe in yourself. And you'll be just fine.

ALEXIS

Yep, yep. Love you, Dad.

He smiles.

BILL

Love you too, Tiger.

The other RACERS roll back and forth across the START line. All eyes focus on the STARTER, who holds a GREEN FLAG into the air.

BILL

Ready for takeoff?

ALEXIS

Ready, Freddy.

The starter drops the flag. Bill gives her a big push. The racers fly down the hill and into the distance.

Bill drops his hands to his side.

BILL

Good luck and Godspeed.