

THE TALENT

Screenplay by

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Based on the novel by Carter

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FADE IN:

EXT. MIAMI, FLORIDA - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT. WIDE. OVER the country's third-tallest skyline, featuring the 84-story Panorama Tower. The sound of a CROWD CHEERING WILDLY...

SUPERIMPOSE: "MIAMI - 1993."

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

The AFC New York Lightning and the NFC California Cougars are playing in the biggest game of the year. It's the Super Bowl.

Meet JASON STALLINGS (30). Star quarterback for the Cougars. He's 6'6" and 255 pounds, easy-going, instantly likable...and his number 12 shirt is covered in blood. He looks up. Sees...

KIM STALLINGS (30) looking at him from the stands. Kim is beautiful and fit. She mouths the words: "I love you."

Jason hits his chest indicating the "*I love you too*" signal.

INT. PRESS BOX - SAME

The professional commentators having their own pre-game talk.

COMMENTATOR #1

As one of the best quarterbacks in football history, Jason Stallings has an impeccable QB rating and broken records for the most passing touchdowns and most passing yards.

The commentator's V.O. CARRIES OVER:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Where the players get into formation to begin the next play.

COMMENTATOR #1 (V.O.)

He is already on his way to the Hall of Fame. The boy was born with natural talent.

The referee blows the WHISTLE and the kick-off begins... We FOLLOW Jason running and then move to Jason's left guard, MARK MULLENS (29)...

He gets distracted and lets the left defensive end, JAMES FORD (32), around the corner... Suddenly --

CRACK! Jason and James smash in a helmet-to-helmet collision whereby Jason goes flying, flipping wildly into the air.

JASON

FUCK!!!

And tumbles over his neck, his head crashing to the ground with a THUD as his burly body keeps sliding...

NEW ANGLE - Kim holding her hand to her mouth in the stands.

KIM

Oh my God, Jason!

SPECTATORS scream at Jason just laying on his back. Dead still.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP:

EXT. FIELD - A MOMENT LATER

Jason opens his eyes.

JASON'S POV

AUDIO FX -- There's a cold and hollow SILENCE...

VISUAL FX -- OVERCRANKED CAMERA

Jason looks around... sees only fractured pieces... BRIGHT LIGHTS... BOOTS RUNNING... PANIC-FILLED FACES...

The referee mouths "Are you OK, Jay?"... Barely audible...

The crowd surges forward...

Then a RINGING starts in Jason's ears.

BACK

The referee helps Jason into a sitting position. He blinks his eyelids several times. NORMAL SOUND comes back...

JASON

Where's Drew?

JASON'S POV AGAIN

The RINGING returns but his vision gets clearer. Jason sees the referee looking right at him but can't understand --

REFEREE

Who?

BACK

Jason looks around for someone, dazed. But all he sees are players, coaches, and THREE DOCTORS surrounding him.

DOCTOR #1

Are you hurt anywhere?

No response. The doctor looks down. Sees... Jason wiggling his feet, his legs, then his body.

JASON

Yeah, I'm okay.

And starts to get up with help from his offensive teammates, one of which is the hottie wide out TRAVON JACKSON (28). The crowd CLAP and CHEER as Jason gingerly walks off the field.

JASON (CONT'D)

What happened?

TRAVON

You just got sacked. You were out for a few seconds, bro.

JASON

What's the score?

TRAVON

The score is tied, and there's only four minutes left in the game.

Off Jason's look, we move to...

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Where the commentators are lapping up the drama.

COMMENTATOR #2

Have the Cougars just lost their starting quarterback in the most important game of the season? This doesn't look like the fairy-tale ending the Cougars were hoping for.

EXT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Jason sitting on the bench, his head down. The three doctors performing a series of physical assessments.

DOCTOR #1

Do you have ringing in your ears?

Jason shakes his head. Then, someone catches his eye. Sees...

The Cougars head coach SIMON PARR (50s) talking to BILLY WRIGHT (30), their backup QB. Billy's ego is astronomical.

Back to Jason watching them while the doctor keeps examining.

DOCTOR #2 (O.C.)

Do you know where you are?

Jason's looks right at the doctor.

JASON

Look, I wasn't knocked out. I was just a little dazed and trying to get my bearings back there.

Jason grabs some water and starts to walk around, the doctors watching his every move. Coach Parr approaches the head doc.

PARR

What's the verdict?

DOCTOR #1

Well, he answered the level of consciousness questions correctly but I believe he has a concussion.

Parr catches Jason's eye. He looks pained, angry.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators watching the monitors closely.

COMMENTATOR #1

Stallings has 11 fourth quarter comeback wins in his 10-year career with the Cougars...

Now the other commentator is chiming in with his piece.

COMMENTATOR #2

With four minutes left in the game, the Cougars have the ball on their own 20 yard line with 82 yards to go for a touchdown. A field goal could win them the game if they can stop the other team from scoring or just run out the clock.

EXT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Jason hesitantly looks out at the field. Sees...

-- Billy finishes the cadence and then hands off the ball to the running back who gets seven yards and is taken down.

-- Billy snaps the ball and backpedals, faking a handoff to the running back, who begins blocking for the QB.

-- Billy throws to his tight end over the middle open but the ball ends up in the hands of the defender--interception.

-- The opposing player weaves to the end zone and scores.

-- The Lightning crowd goes wild.

JASON

(to himself)

What a loser.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators shaking their heads.

COMMENTATOR #1

Now the Lightning has a seven-point touchdown lead with 3 minutes and 24 seconds to go in the game.

EXT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Jason spots Coach Parr and quickly walks over to him.

JASON

I want back in, coach.

Off Parr's look -- *you gotta be kidding.*

JASON (CONT'D)

I passed the doc's tests. I'm good.

Parr looks out at the field. Sees... The Cougars and Lightning getting ready for the kick off. Parr turns back to find Jason staring right at him. A long beat. Then --

PARR

Then hurry up and get ready.

Parr starts to walk away.

JASON

(calling out)

I was born ready.

Parr turns back, shakes his head. Jason smiles wide.

EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The offensive players, coaches, etc., standing in a huddle.

JASON

Okay, guys. I'm back. I just needed a break. Besides, we needed a little drama at this Super Bowl.

Jason grins as the players LAUGH and CHEER. Travon pats Jason on the back, shaking his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The players at the 20 yard line. It was a touchback. The offense runs onto the field while Jason struts behind... The crowd ROARS as Jason's image is projected to the jumbo-tron.

Jason walks up next to Mark (the left guard we saw earlier).

JASON

If you let anyone sack me again,
I'm going to kill your dog. Now get
out there and let me win this game.

Mark looks stunned as Jason huddles the team again.

EXT. STANDS - CONTINUOUS

The Lightning fans grow even louder as the play begins.

EXT. FIELD - SERIES OF SHOTS

-- A play action pass over the middle to the tight end--right on the mark for a gain of eight yards.

-- Jason calls a time-out with only two more remaining.

-- A combo of running plays and throwing plays. They end up first and goal on the seven-yard line with 26 seconds to go.

-- Jason huddles and calls a play. It's a pass over in the corner to the wide receiver, who just misses the ball.

-- The next play is a run to the left side of the line, but the tailback is stopped at the one-yard line.

-- Jason snaps the ball but nobody's open. Ashford heads for him when he sees Travon coming across the middle and back of the end zone. He fires, and a strike is thrown right into Travon's chest and he holds onto the ball.

-- The players, coaches, and crowd ROAR excitedly.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Our commentators are beside themselves.

COMMENTATOR

The Cougars have scored bringing them to within one point of tying the game...

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The ball is snapped high. Stallings can't get it down in time because the defense sent everyone to block the kick. He holds onto the ball and runs with it... The kicker tries to throw the defensive off as Stallings runs to the left of the end zone... Three players close in on him but he jumps over their heads as they go down to his waist and legs to tackle him...

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Stallings scores a two-point conversion. The Cougars have won the Super Bowl.

The Cougars leaving the benches and sidelines to gather on the field to celebrate. The two head coaches shaking hands.

Coach Parr finds Stallings, who is covered with players and media. They both just stand there, looking at each other.

PARR

You are crazy. But I like it. Nice job, son.

Grabs him for a hug. Jason squeezes back, lifting him off the ground. The Cougars crowd still CHEERING and SHOUTING. Then he sees Kim and walks over to her and they embrace and kiss.

KIM

I'm so proud of you.

Jason's DAD takes a picture of the them standing together.

POV THROUGH LENS: Jason standing with his arm around Kim, holding up a T-shirt that says, "SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS."

And as he CLICKS the camera, the screen going BLACK, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL, MIAMI - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING. A stylish and modern hotel in the city center.

INT. CORRIDOR, HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Jason struggling with the hotel card door key.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Kim opens the door wearing a sleek nightgown, her chiseled arms now bare under the spaghetti straps. She's flirtatious.

KIM

So you can win two Super Bowls and two MVP awards, but you can't open your hotel door? That is cute.

Jason picks her up, takes her over to the bed and lays her down softly. He strokes her hair and looks into her eyes.

JASON

You know that you made me the man I am today.

Jason leans in for a kiss.

KIM

Oh no, Jason. You were the one out there taking those hits, making those plays, and leading your team. I just keep you out of trouble.

She's smiling, looking up at him with adoration.

JASON

I love you... I want to have a child with you. And if it's a boy, I'd like to name him Drew.

KIM

I love you too. You can tell me why you chose that name later, but let's try for that baby boy now?

Jason smiles and leans in to Kim deepening the kissing and touching, leading to urgent intercourse. They both climax and fall into each other's arms, their faces staying super close.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIAMI NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

A BLACK COURTESY VAN driving INTO THE FRAME. The doors open and without wasted motion, a shark through water, Jason descends the steps onto the sidewalk looking stylish...

Travon, Maurice, and two offensive linemen follow, joining Jason in signing autographs for the SCREAMING FANS outside.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

HOT COCKTAIL WAITRESSES lighting sparklers on magnums, HALF-NAKED DANCERS, and a HIP CROWD dancing amidst lasers. We move through grinding bodies on the dance floor and enter the...

VIP LOUNGE

Where Hollywood stars are spotted around the open-roofed space drinking champagne, the moon in the sky visible above.

IN A BOOTH

Beautiful women surrounding the players who are just eating it up. Travon leans over to Maurice and whispers in his ear.

TRAVON

You ever think things would be like
this when you were a little girl?

Travon leans back grinning at his quip before glugging his champagne. Maurice half-laughs and elbows him hard in the ribs. Travon spits out the champagne all over Jason's shirt.

JASON

Damn, Travon! What the--

TRAVON

Sorry dude! Maurice was trying to
push up on me under the table.

The women look sideways at Maurice and squirm away.

JASON

Fools.

He stands up. Maurice looks like he's going to punch Travon.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN #1

I can clean that up...

She gets close to Jason, dabbing his chest with a napkin. He lock eyes with her as the men watch, amused. Jason takes off.

Off the woman's dejected face, we move to...

INT. MEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Where an ATTENDANT hands a PATRON a hand towel. Jason enters as the patron tries to hand the attendant a \$100 bill but he's distracted, his wide eyes now on Jason. A little drunk.

ATTENDANT

Amazing game, Stallings! Can I
please get a selfie with you?

JASON

I'm a little buzzed now, man.

Walks through the sink area and pushes the disabled door open at the far end of the men's room. Jason stumbles inside...

INT. CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Where a MAN snorts cocaine on top of the silver paper-holder box. He jumps up, standing in front. Jason is just silent --

MAN

OMG, dude, you're Jason Stallings.

He's wasted but star struck, his eyes like flying saucers.

JASON

Is that blow?

MAN

(surprised)

Yeah, man. It's good shit. 100%.

Jason watches as the man starts to gather his cocaine kit.

MAN (CONT'D)

I'll jump in a second... Unless,
you want some?

He looks up at Jason, his eyes fixated on the remaining line.

JASON

Nah, man. Just get out of here, OK?

MAN

You sure? I got a little left.

He holds out his hand and shows Jason the cocaine baggie.

INT. VIP LOUNGE - SAME TIME

The song flips over and Maurice motions to Travon to have another drink, glancing over at a HOT REDHEAD in the booth.

MAURICE

Dude, is she checking me out?

Travon doesn't answer because now he sees that Jason's spot in the booth is still empty. Maurice following his gaze.

TRAVON

Jason's not back from the can?

MAURICE

It's not my turn to keep up with
him. Maybe he fell in...

Maurice laughs and grabs a fresh glass, pouring in champagne.

TRAVON

Dude, you are so immature.

Off Maurice's shrug, Travon stands up and leaves...

INT. MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where he stands outside the cubicles. Sees men come and go.

TRAVON

Yo! Jason! You're missing the party.

No response. The attendant looks over at Travon, catching his eye -- he motions his head toward the last stall in the row.

Travon walks over and KNOCKS on the door. No reply. He pushes on the door -- it's LOCKED. Travon looks underneath. Sees...

Jason laying on the tiles, still. His pale face staring right back at Travon, and he does not look like he is breathing.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. CORRIDOR, HOSPITAL - DAY (9 MONTHS LATER)

Travon approaches a door and knocks gently. The NURSE opens it and lets him inside...

INT. MATERNITY WARD - CONTINUOUS

Kim has just delivered a baby boy. Travon kisses her head, and admires the baby in her arms. The nurse marks a chart.

NURSE

Have you picked out a name yet?

Travon looks back at Kim. A beat. She looks at the nurse.

KIM

This will be Drew Harris. Harris is my maiden name.

She looks back down at the baby. Travon looks upset.

TRAVON

So, you are ashamed of Jason?

KIM

He's my son too.

The nurse completes the chart and heads for the doorway.

NURSE

I'll be back shortly, Ms. Harris.

TRAVON

You know what I mean, Kim. Why would you do this?

KIM

I don't want Drew to be known as the son of a cocaine addict.

Kim kisses the baby's head.

TRAVON

What are you going to tell him?

KIM

Nothing. That his dad was killed in a car accident. Just a regular guy.

TRAVON

Do the Stallings even know?

KIM

They won't speak to me. I didn't just lose my husband; I lost his family. Have you spoken to them?

TRAVON

They blame me too. They accused me of doing coke with him that night.

KIM

You can see why we need a fresh start, can't you? It's better for him not to have any Stallings connection to trip him up in life.

TRAVON

I can't believe you would do this to him. Who knows about this?

KIM

Only you and family and no one else needs to know. Please Travon, I beg you, don't let anyone know that he is Jason's son. I want this baby to have a normal, healthy life.

Travon walks to the window and looks out -- thinking --

KIM (CONT'D)

It's what Jason would want too. Can you please promise not to tell?

He turns back around, looking at the baby on Kim's chest.

TRAVON

I'll keep your secret, if, you let me teach him how to play football. That is what Jason would have done.

KIM

You can see him anytime and teach him anything you want. He will need a male figure in his life, and there is no one else in this world that I would rather have than you.

And as we leave them there, looking at baby Drew, us feeling the weight of their secret, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Two teams on the field. We see the starter quarterback is DREW HARRIS (now 15), good-looking, tall, strong. Beside him is the backup and primary receiver JAKE PRICE (15), cocky, ruggedly handsome, serious. They're playing for the Panthers.

They turn to see the FULL CROWD and the cheerleaders waiting for their entrance. The coaches signals and the players run through the sign. Drew keeps looking around and just smiles.

Kim (now 43) waves at Drew, and he waves back. Then, Drew looks upset by the empty seat beside Kim. When Drew turns back around -- he finds Travon (now 43) standing RIGHT THERE.

DREW

How- Who let you on the field?

TRAVON

Are you kidding, kid? I have fans everywhere.

DREW

Travon, I am playing quarterback today and I am scared shitless.

Travon grabs Drew's pads and pulls him around to face him.

TRAVON

Just do your best and have fun, and the rest will take care of itself.

And throughout all of this Drew is looking around, sweating, shocked that his teammates all look so calm...

DREW

Are you sure? Because I don't want to upset the crowd or the coach.

TRAVON

(laughs)

Drew, you have no idea who you are.

DREW

What do you mean?

TRAVON

Nothing, kid. You'll be OK. Now go.

And gives him a little push. And as Drew smiles, running out onto the field to join his teammates, we...

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- The Panthers receive the ball first. The kickoff returner does a modest job and gets it back to the forty yard line.

-- The ball is snapped. A defensive end turns the corner but Drew avoids the tackle, throwing the ball to an open receiver for twelve yards. The Panthers first, first down of the game.

-- Drew smiles, looks over at Travon who is nodding his head.

-- Drew throws for four touchdowns and runs one in to beat the opposing team by three touchdowns.

-- The fans on both sides CHEER for how the Panthers played.

-- Drew and Jake high-five and walk off the field together.

CUT TO:

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE, HUTTO (TEXAS) - DAY

We're outside a two-storey house surrounded by a picket fence. There's a swing harnessed to the limb of a cedar tree in the garden encircled by manicured shrubs and flowers.

KIM (O.C.)

Drew, it's time for dinner.

And now we REVERSE to reveal Drew playing ball on the street with some friends. He tosses them the ball and heads inside.

INT. KITCHEN, KIM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Kim and Drew sitting at the dining table. They're having steak, potatoes, and okra. Drew's piling up more mash.

KIM

Drew, you'll be done with high school soon. Are you excited?

DREW

If I can keep playing football?

KIM

Of course.

DREW

Jakes's dad played basketball with us today. He's pretty good. He showed us all kinds of moves.

Off Kim's look, getting nervous about the "dad" conversation.

DREW (CONT'D)

Shame I don't have a dad that can show off in front of the guys. You ever going to get married again?

Kim nearly chokes on her food and grabs her water to stall...

KIM

It's not that easy finding a man to marry or spend your life with. Loving someone is very special.

Drew jokingly rolls his eyes. Kim laughs for a moment but then stares at Drew as he eats. A long beat. Then --

KIM (CONT'D)

You know I love you very much and that I'll always be there for you.

DREW

I know mom, and I love you too.

Kim smiles, watery-eyed. Drew rolls his eyes, keeps eating.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kim sitting on the couch drinking wine. She's watching the DVD of the last Super Bowl with Jason and Travon. Then --

DREW (O.C.)

Hey, mom.

Kim turns to see Drew plonk down. He sees she's teary-eyed.

DREW (CONT'D)
Are you crying?

KIM
No, they're just itchy. Come...

The two of them lean into each other watching the game.

DREW
I want to be as good as that
quarterback.

He's pointing at Jason Stallings. Kim doesn't say a thing.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRACK & FIELD, GUYER HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

11th grade. We see Drew's beefier as he practices with Jake and the team. He goes out for a pass and runs into a striking girl, LEXI BALLARD (16), out running the track with STACI ABREGO, pretty, bold, and other girls on the volleyball team.

LEXI
OMG, seriously dude.

DREW
I am sorry, but what are you doing?

LEXI
Running. We exercise too.

DREW
On the track, what were you doing
on our field and on the grass?

LEXI
Well, I thought you were going to
miss the ball, so I was going to
get it for you.

DREW
Really, like you can throw it?

LEXI
I can, watch...

She grabs the ball from him and throws it to Jake. Grinning, she runs off to join Staci. Drew watches her as Jake joins --

JAKE

Wow, Lexi can throw a ball.

DREW

Lexi, that's her name?

JAKE

Dude, your locker is right next to that fit hottie. You didn't know?

Drew glances back at Lexi again, but she's gone. And as Jake jokingly punches his arm, seeing Drew's crush forming, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GUYER HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

ESTABLISHING. OVER the school grounds, a hub of activity.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

It's senior year. Drew (now 17) is a mature teen at 6ft 190 lbs and a beast on the field. Coaches watching the players.

They note Drew and Jake are totally in sync. Drew finds him every time he has to scramble in the pocket during a game.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Lexi walking with Staci. Lexi has also grown up standing at 5'7" and very fit. Several guys ogle her as she passes by.

STACI

Are you going to meet that super serious guy tonight at the pool?

LEXI

He's not so serious all the time.
(Off Staci's look)
Well, who wants to date a clown? I like that he knows what he wants.

STACI

I know what you want!

She slaps Lexi's butt. Lexi starts laughing, shakes her head.

LEXI

Ha! Not that... I have to be sure that he's the one before he has the privilege of seeing me undressed.

And as Staci rolls her eyes, Lexi grinning, we move to...

EXT. SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX - NIGHT

Drew rides his motorbike to the pool; Jake gets there at the same time. They look through the gate to see it's pretty empty...

EXT. POOLSIDE - CONTINUOUS

They grab a table and chairs and set their towels down. Drew takes off his shirt, getting ready to dive into the pool.

DREW

Dude, so where's your date?

JAKE

She will be here. She is going to bring two of her friends.

DREW

Oh really! Are they hot?

JAKE

Yeah, they are. There they are now.

Motions to the gate as three girls walk through. Drew stops in his tracks. Sees... Lexi. Then he watches as Jake walks over to give her a hug. The other two girls are Staci and BETHANY (17), who's boring. Drew walks over and hugs Lexi.

DREW

Hey, Lexi. How's it going?

JAKE

Dude, hands off man.

Jake pulls Lexi away.

DREW

What?

JAKE

Yeah, man. This is my girlfriend.

Puts his arm around Lexi.

DREW

You're kidding me right. Really?

Drew looking right at Lexi for an answer.

JAKE

Dude, look.

He turns Lexi towards him and kisses her lips. Drew awkwardly runs his fingers through his hair and waits a moment. Then --

DREW

I'm happy for you guys, hopes it works out.

He walks to their table to sit down. Looks over just in time to see Jake kissing Lexi again before heading to the "Men's."

Lexi approaches and hesitantly sits beside Drew. Her friends are getting into the pool. Lexi looks over at a quiet Drew.

LEXI

How are you Drew? I guess Jake did not tell you we are together.

DREW

Uh, no. It is a big surprise. You and I have hung out plenty this year and you didn't say anything?

LEXI

Well, we have only been dating for about a month.

DREW

A month! Why didn't you tell me?

Lexi recoils at his loud voice.

LEXI

We didn't know what you might think.

She leans into Drew a little closer.

LEXI (CONT'D)

Are you okay with this?

DREW

Okay, I guess. I really can't do anything about it now, can I?

Drew looking away from Lexi and at the girls in the pool.

LEXI

Why are you so upset?

DREW

Oh, it's nothing. It's okay.

She leans back, disappointed. He's holding his look, intense.

LEXI

What?

DREW

We've spent some time together, and I haven't seen you like this, you know?

LEXI

(irritated)

Like what? In a swim suit? You've seen me in a bathing suit before.

DREW

You have really grown up. You look amazing. You are so beautiful.

Lexi is stunned by him. As the awkward silence hits, Jake appears and drapes his arms over her. And as Lexi slightly pulls away, looking at Drew who looks right back, we...

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER, KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Where Drew enters and slams the door shut before running up the staircase. He disappears at the landing... Another SLAM!

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Drew rustling around the room frantically gathering his football clothes, seething. The sound of KNOCKING...

DREW

What?!

Kim opens the door and inches her way into the room.

KIM

What's up with the door slamming?

DREW

It's Lexi! She makes me so mad sometimes. She is dating Jake. Ewww. Why would she date him?

KIM

Jake is a good looking guy Drew. A little arrogant, but nice, and he's your friend. Why wouldn't you want her to date a good guy?

Kim waiting for the real and true answer she is expecting.

DREW

Because mom, he is my friend and she is my friend. It just doesn't go together. You don't understand.

Now Drew's getting angry, slamming drawers closed.

KIM

Is it because you like her?

He swings around to face Kim.

DREW

I don't like her! I just...uhhh...

Drew flops down on his bed, shoving his head between his hands. Kim walks over to him, stands right in front of him.

KIM

You like her Drew. She likes you. You need to tell her.

Drew looks up at his mother.

KIM (CONT'D)

Tell her...the sooner the better.

She kisses Drew's cheek and walks out. Drew sits there for a beat and then falls backwards, staring up at the ceiling.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LEXI'S BEDROOM - SAME

Where Lexi is laying on her bed staring at the ceiling.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, GUYER HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Overcast skies. Lexi joins Staci and Bethany to watch the guys finish their game. It's the fourth quarter and she's shocked to see the score board -- 10 to 17 Argyle leading.

LEXI

What's up- why are we getting beat?

STACI

The Eagles's defense is way strong.

BETHANY

Drew fumbled once for a touchdown. Our defense has been doing good and keeping the Eagles in check but the offense can't get anything going.

Lexi frowns and looks out to the field. Sees...

Drew lining up on the ball at the seven yard line. He drops back and throws a screamer right to Jake... Before he can take the ball, a defender intercepts it... The cornerback takes the ball and scores a touchdown with time running out.

The Argyle Eagles have beat the Wildcats. The crowd is quiet.

Drew and the team walk off the field. Bethany runs up to Drew to hug and kiss him but he avoids the kiss. She angrily walks off as Drew keeps charging past Jake and Lexi in an embrace.

DREW

Dude, we just lost, give it a rest.

JAKE

(to Lexi)

I'll catch up with you later.

Lexi nods and just stands there watching as Jake catches up with Drew and taps him on the shoulder. He swings around.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Man, you shouldn't be talking. Your head wasn't in the game. You lost the game.

And now he continues walking past Drew toward the locker room. The overcast sky turns into rain and starts coming down hard. Drew's just standing there, stung by his words. Then --

LEXI (O.C.)

Who do you think you are?

Drew looks up to find Lexi approaching in the rain.

DREW

What? What do you mean?

JAKE

You can't talk to Jake that way.
What is your problem with us?

No answer. Drew starts taking off his helmet and gets closer.

DREW

Because I like you. I have for a
long time. I want to be with you.

Without wasted motion he takes Lexi by the face to kiss her and she doesn't flinch. And as they both stand there in the empty stadium kissing each other, getting drenched, we...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kim smiling as she sets two plates of food onto the table.

And now we REVERSE to reveal Drew and Lexi sitting beside one another, crazy in love. Now both a year older. Drew six foot four inches tall and weighing 240 pounds, and Lexi 5'9".

KIM

Drew tells me that your volleyball
team didn't lose a single game and
went on to win district and state.

LEXI

That's right, Ms. Harris. I need to
keep up with the undefeated Drew
here. After all, he is the top
ranked football quarterback now in
the state as well as the nation.

Drew grins. Kim laughs and sits down with them at the table.

LEXI (CONT'D)

But the truth is that I'm a better
swimmer than I am a volleyball
player.

DREW

She's ranked number one in the
state and is the top recruit for
college.

KIM

That's quite a dilemma! So will you play volleyball or swim in college?

LEXI

I'm actually waiting to see where Drew will get recruited and hope that we can go to the same school.

DREW

I want to go to SMU where mom and dad went. Mom was on the women's basketball team on scholarship and they both got degrees in marketing.

And now Kim looks up, trying to conceal her horror.

LEXI

SMU's on my list. My family won't mind; Dallas isn't that far away.

KIM

But you've both been offered a scholarship to the University of Texas. It's in Austin and still close to Hutto.

Lexi and Drew exchange a look -- *Kim will be lonely.*

KIM (CONT'D)

And... Coach Wiggs is known for working well with the new players and tends to bring out their best.

A beat. Then the lovebirds speak in sync:

DREW / LEXI

Then University of Texas it is!

Kim smiles then looks away, her mind in a whirl of guilt and recrimination.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE, HUTTO - DAY

Drew, Lexi, Jake, and Bethany (all now 18) enjoying themselves speeding around on Jake's dad's boat.

EXT. CAMPSITE, HUTTO - DAY

Clouds are forming but the friends barely notice. They're fishing on the bank when Lexi reels in the biggest fish.

JAKE

That bass looks good enough to eat!

DREW

You girls know how to clean and turn the fish into dinner, right?

Bethany and Lexi exchange a look -- *no way*. Lexi throws it back into the water and the gang share a laugh. Then rain falls fast. Everyone grabs their things and dashes away...

INT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Drew opens the door and lets Lexi enter first. They drop the fishing gear, standing there dripping. Drew's eyes fixate on her white T-shirt that's clinging to her nipples. He inches closer... Without hesitation, Lexi pulls off her shirt and unhooks her bra. Mesmerized, Drew slowly takes off his shirt. They draw closer... Drew reaches out to pull Lexi into him and they begin to kiss and rub their beautiful, fit bodies on each other... Drew easily lifts Lexi and carries her to the bed where he lays on top of her... She stares into his eyes.

DREW

Are you sure you want to do this?

LEXI

Yes. This is how it should be. I love you so much.

DREW

I love you too.

Drew kiss her and then enters her gently. She gasps and digs her fingers into his back. The power of him is met with her thrust and ends in a stifled scream. Now they just lie there.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TEXAS LONGHORN UNIVERSITY - DAY

ESTABLISHING. WIDE. Over the manicured grounds...

INT. DREW & JAKE'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Drew and Jake in their room getting ready to leave to report for training camp in college. The sound of KNOCKING... Jake opens the door to reveal FOUR HOT CHEERLEADERS smiling wide.

CHEERLEADER #1

Hey guys, thought we might walk with you to the field so we can tell you about our party tonight.

Jake grins and turns to Drew, placing one arm over each of the two girls standing in front.

JAKE

Dude, do you see these hot chicks?

DREW

I know. Pretty awesome. But that's okay ma'am. I can walk by myself.

CHEERLEADER #2

Ma'am?!

The girls burst out laughing. Off Drew's embarrassed look, Jake releases his arms and turns back to the cheerleaders.

JAKE

We'll catch up with you.

The girls shrug and leave. Jake gives Drew a quizzical look.

DREW

Do you really think we ought to be partying when we are training?

JAKE

It's a freshman welcoming party at a local frat house, and we're invited. So, what's the problem?

Off Drew's hesitant look.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Dude. I will watch you and make sure no one hurts your poor throwing arm. We wouldn't want the great backup quarterback to come in and show you up now would we?

He smiles. Drew goes in to smack Jake flat on the forehead, but Jake quickly anticipates this and backs into the...

HALLWAY

Where Drew chases him, laughing and dodging the amused girls.

INT. NATATORIUM, UNIVERSITY - DAY

The swim team warming up. Lexi goes to the bench to grab some water. She hears a WHISTLE and walks to the windows. Sees...

Drew and the others on the practice field running some drills. She smiles, watching him, looking totally in love.

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

Drew standing in front of his closet choosing some clothes, talking on his phone tucked between his ear and shoulder.

DREW
How are you doing?

INT. LEXI'S DORM - SAME

Where Lexi is doing the same thing with her phone on speaker.

LEXI
I'm good, cutie. I'm meeting my
parents for dinner while they're in
town. Sorry I can't go to the
party.

DREW (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
That's cool. Next time. Hope you
have a nice night.

LEXI
Thanks, I'll try. Be careful and
have fun.

Lexi hangs up. Off her disappointed look, we move to...

EXT. DELTA TRI FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

It's a football members fraternity. The neighboring sorority is Tri Delta, the cheerleader sorority. Their combo party is in FULL SWING with people packed inside visible through the windows.

Drew and Jake look anxious as they near the doors until they see the cheerleaders from earlier on the porch. Now they're wearing sexy street clothes. They welcome the boys inside...

INT. MAIN AREA, FRAT HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Where burly football players are smoking and drinking beer.

CHEERLEADER #1
Hey guys, this is Drew and Jake.

PLAYER #1
Welcome to Delta Tri. Beer?

And extends two bottles towards Jake and Drew.

DREW / JAKE
Nah, I'm good. Practice tomorrow.

The players laugh, throwing back their beers. Drew and Jake exchange a look -- *one won't hurt* -- and take a beer each.

Jake sees some defensive guys that he knows and approaches them, holding his hand up for a high-five. Drew follows and is tripped by one of the senior offensive guards on the team.

OFFENSIVE GUARD
Sorry man, I am not used to protecting pussies.

He laughs and sculls a beer. Drew gets up and grabs the girl that's on the guard's lap, kissing her right in front of him.

DREW
It's OK man, your pussy don't need you to protect her because she has me.

Drew lets her go and whispers close to her ear.

DREW (CONT'D)
Thank you.

The girl smiles, nods, and sits back on the lineman's lap. He starts to get up but she kisses him. Drew walks over to Jake.

JAKE
Man, you are crazy. That guy could have killed you.

Gives Drew a fist bump. Drew motions over his shoulder.

DREW

I know. Is he coming after me?

JAKE

No. He's still with that smoking hot chick you just kissed. Look how many hot girls there are here.

Drew looks around, nods his head. He gives the other freshman in the group a fist bump and beer cheers. They seem nervous and aren't participating in the drinking contest. Then, something catches Drew's eye. Sees...

The senior starting quarterback, CODY HAWK (21), pompous, good-looking, and charismatic. His clothes fitted and sleek.

CODY

Wow, you guys look like you're going to a funeral. Loosen up!

A freshman receiver jolts upright at seeing Cody with a beer.

RECEIVER

Oh my gosh, you're Cody Hawk, the Heisman hopeful for this year. It's an honor being on your team; I hope I can catch one of your balls soon.

CODY

The only one catching my balls tonight is my girlfriend, faggot.

Everyone laughs. Cody winks to show he's kidding. Then --

CODY (CONT'D)

(to Drew)

You. Come here...

Wraps his arm around Drew's neck and steers him outside.

EXT. POOLSIDE, FRAT HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cody leads Drew to a table that is taken by some other students. They get up upon seeing Cody and give their seats.

CODY

Thanks, gentleman.

Drew and Cody sit together at the table. Drew glances around.

CODY (CONT'D)

As two quarterbacks who have to work with each other during practice, I thought we should get to know each other.

DREW

(laughs)

Everyone knows you. I've watched you play for three years on TV.

Cody filling and rolling a cigarette wrapper.

DREW (CONT'D)

You smoke?

CODY

Nah, I'm wrapping your Christmas present, toy.

Off Drew's look, Cody playfully smacks his arm.

CODY (CONT'D)

There is probably a lot you don't know. I don't smoke cigarettes.

Cody takes a puff and blows the smoke in Drew's face.

DREW

Marijuana! Dude, that's illegal and you can get thrown off the team.

CODY

Calm down. First, no one needs to know, second, it helps me to relax, and third, if you keep it cool the coaches won't give you a pee-test.

Cody grins and offers him a puff. Drew stands up, anxious.

DREW

No way, man. I am never using that stuff. I am a damn good athlete.

CODY

(genuinely)

Drew, I'm sorry. Sit down man, I just wanted to talk to you. OK?

Drew sits down and glances over both shoulders, paranoid.

CODY (CONT'D)

I saw how badly you did in your first practice this morning.

Drew's head snaps back around.

DREW
What did you just say?

CODY
I heard the coaches talking about possibly dropping your scholarship.

DREW
Bullshit. Playing for an elite university like UT is my dream.

CODY
If you don't improve then that's what they're going to do--

Drew jumps up again. Cody pulls his arm to sit down again.

CODY (CONT'D)
My cousin told me about you, so I went to your state game. You are really good. But I am telling you now these coaches will not wait on you. They will take away your scholarship and give it to the next guy who can throw the ball better than you. They're ruthless cunts.

Cody puffs on the joint, looking right at Drew.

DREW
What do I need to do?

CODY
Just make sure you stay calm and play the position.

DREW
I know I am good, but I was nervous. It was my first practice.

CODY
You just need to relax and throw the ball like you know how. Why don't you take a puff? It will help you relax. You need to relax.

DREW
How much do you smoke?

CODY
Dude, I've been smoking since high school and look at me.

(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)
I am a Heisman hopeful on my way to
the NFL.

Cody holds the joint out to Drew. A long beat.

DREW
What the hell.

Drew grabs it and takes a puff. And another. He gives it back
to Cody and then leans back in the chair. Jake approaches --

JAKE
Yo, Drew! Time to go.

Drew is dazed and stumbling to get up. Jake and Cody laugh.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Man, you are a light weight. I
think I drank more than you.

Cody just nods his goodbye to Jake as he helps Drew walk out.

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

The door opens, light from the hallway illuminating their
room as Drew walks over and flops on his bed fully dressed.

JAKE
What the heck were you'll talking
about all that time? I was getting
with two girls while you sat there.

DREW
Just plays man, plays... (beat) Can
we get some food? I am starving.

Jake looks at Drew curiously and laughs.

JAKE
Sure, whatever you need to practice
better than you did today. I'll
order us a pizza?

No response. Jake steps closer. Sees... Drew is passed out.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, UNIVERSITY - DAY

A jovial Drew and hungover Jake on the field. The starting
team is Cody and his guys. The second string is Drew, Jake,
and the rest of the backups.

Drew throws for one touchdown and runs one in... The second defense is decent but Drew and the offense is the story. Drew looks at the coaches. Sees...

The coaches giving him the thumbs up and noting the display.

Drew smiles, bows his head. Then -- THWACK! Jake smacks him.

JAKE

OMG dude, what a practice. You were awesome and of course, I have to say that I made you look so good.

Drew grabs Jake and rubs his head with his knuckles.

DREW

Keep telling yourself that, man.

JAKE

Yeah, right. I'll see you later. I gotta run.

DREW

Okay man, see ya tonight.

Jake runs off. Drew approaches Cody who is removing his gear.

DREW (CONT'D)

Guess I was more relaxed today...

CODY

You did great. Hopefully now you won't lose your ride.

Cody walks to the water cooler. Drew follows...

DREW

So, do you think you can get me some more stuff, so whenever I feel anxious or stressed, I can smoke?

CODY

Sure man, no problem. Just don't let it get out of hand.

DREW

I will come by your place tonight before I head out. I am having dinner with my girlfriend and Jake and whatever girl he brings. Fool.

Drew reaches out to shake Cody's hand. They exchange a grin.

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

Drew puts on a jacket and sprays on some cologne. He grabs his keys and walks out the door with a spring in his step.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Drew knocks on Cody's door. The sound of MUSIC coming from the room makes him laugh. He shakes his head, knocks again...

Cody opens the door wearing only shorts. Drew looks behind him. Sees... The cheerleaders in their panties and bras on the bed smoking weed. Cody gestures for Drew to come inside.

INT. CODY'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

On Cody's desk next to the pot is some white powder. Drew is silent as Cody walks over to it and sniffs it up his nose.

CODY

Hey Drew, do you want some of this?

DREW

No man, just the weed. I have some money for you. How much is it?

CODY

No money this time, but I want you to try the coke. It will make you feel so good and alive.

Two of the girls walk over and rub their hands on his chest.

DREW

That's okay Cody. I don't want it. Here's some money.

Leaves \$50 for the weed. Drew walking toward the door when the third girl steps in front of him and takes off her bra. Drew stops in his tracks. She starts kissing and rubbing her body on him. He kisses back for a beat then pushes her away.

DREW (CONT'D)

Thank you, but I have a girlfriend.

And maneuvers around her to leave.

CODY

Hey man, by the way, do you really think those two puffs you had at the party was enough to make you pass out or play like that today?

Cody sits on the couch pulling the two girls onto his lap.

DREW

What? You said it would help.

Drew still standing at the doorway, holding it open. Cody turns his head around and smiles. Looks back to the girls.

CODY

Drew, that joint was laced with blow. That's what gave you the energy. Cocaine gives you energy, competitiveness, and sexuality.

Cody starts kissing and pushing up on the girls.

CODY (CONT'D)

Look man, why don't you try just the coke. One time won't hurt you.

The girl grabs Drew, kisses him again. Her half naked body is hard for him to resist. She pulls him in and closes the door.

INT. SPORTZ CAVE - SAME

Lexi, Jake, and his date having an appetizer. Lexi checks her watch and glances anxiously over at Jake. He just shrugs.

LEXI

Maybe he forgot about our date?

JAKE

He mentioned it at practice. Call?

Lexi gets out her phone to text and then decides to call...

LEXI

No answer. He's never stood me up before. Was he okay at practice?

JAKE

Yeah! He was great. We beat the starters in a scrimmage. He is the one who made us win the match.

Jake picks up the menu and hands it to his date.

JAKE (CONT'D)

We can't sit around forever.

Off Lexi's disappointed look, we move to...

INT. LEXI'S CAR - NIGHT

Lexi driving -- thinking -- hits a button on her phone. This time Drew answers...

DREW (V.O.)
(over speaker)
Hello.

LEXI
Drew? What happened?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CODY'S DORM - SAME

Drew sitting on the bed naked, the sheet over his waist. He's clutching his phone and trying to control his nervous voice.

DREW
Ah, Lexi... I've been talking to
Cody and didn't realize the time.

LEXI
Well, I'm disappointed but I'm glad
that you're okay. I was worried...

DREW
Sorry. I'll call you when I leave.

He hangs up. Turns to see one of Cody's girls getting out of the bed naked. She and Drew exchange an awkward glance as she starts getting dressed. Drew drops his head into his hands.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Drew driving his motorcycle through the beautiful Austin hills area. Wheels turning in his head.

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

Drew gets into bed. Jake isn't home yet. He stares at the ceiling for a long beat, ashamed. Then he closes his eyes.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. DREW'S DORM - DAY

Drew sleeping in the same position. His eyes snap open when Jake wakes him up by jumping on his bed.

JAKE

Dude, what happen to you last night? We waited for you.

DREW

Man, I am sorry.

Drew pushes Jake out of the way and gets up.

DREW (CONT'D)

Look, I was with Cody. He had a small party in his dorm. It was him, three girls, and me...

Off Jake's surprised look.

DREW (CONT'D)

Jake you cannot tell anyone.

JAKE

So you were with the Heisman hopeful and some hot girls? What's the big deal?

Jake laughs and gets up to put on his gym clothes. Drew walks over and puts his hand on Jake's shoulder. He looks rattled.

DREW

You can't tell anyone. He had coke. I tried it. I had sex with one of the girls. I had to tell someone.

JAKE

Dude! You fucked up. What the fuck were you thinking? Cocaine! Is that what you did at the frat party?

DREW

NO! I just smoked some weed. But the joint was laced with cocaine, but I didn't know!

JAKE

Drew, you can't do that again. They will kick you out of football, and Lexi will never speak to you again.

Jake heads for the door.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I gotta go--

Drew puts his hand on the door so he can't exit.

DREW

I know, I know. I won't, but please don't tell anyone, especially Lexi.

JAKE

OK man, but you have to promise me that you won't do that shit again.

DREW

Okay, I promise.

Drew fist bumps Jake and he walks out of the dorm.

EXT. FIELD, COLLEGE - DAY

Drew, Cody, and the quarterbacks working out. Jake's training with the receivers and defensive backs. Then, something catches Jake's eye. Sees...

Drew and Cody laughing and having a good time practicing.

Jake looks perturbed. Practice ends and they disperse. Jake goes to approach Drew but he's already walking away with Cody. Drew glances back and catches Jake's disappointed look.

INT. DORM, COLLEGE - NIGHT

Drew stands in front of the mirror dressed up to go out. The door opens... Jake enters and dumps his books on the desk.

JAKE

Hey, I thought we were studying tonight?

Off Drew's guilty look.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Let me guess- you're seeing Cody?

Jake looking at Drew, his eyes like flying saucers.

DREW

We're all teammates, Jake. I'm just getting to know them better.

JAKE

What's up with your eyes? You high?

Drew looks away and grabs his jacket from the chair.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Drew. That shit is bad news.

DREW
Cody's teaching me about how to
become better quarterback.

Jake steps in front of Drew.

JAKE
You are already better than Cody.

Drew steps around him.

DREW
Let's talk later. I don't wanna be
out too late.

JAKE
Does Lexi know?

Drew stops in his tracks. Spins around abruptly.

DREW
Know what, Jake?

And now Jake's looking right through him.

JAKE
Nothing. Have a good night.

Jake turns his back on Drew and sits down at his desk.

INT. LEXI'S DORM - SAME

Lexi's holding her cell phone. It's calling: "DREW." After a beat, he answers. She sits back in her desk chair, smiling.

DREW (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Hey. How's my girl?

LEXI
Missing you. I've been so busy with
swimming and studying that I've
forgotten what you look like...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CODY'S DORM - SAME

Where Cody's cutting up lines of cocaine on the desk. Drew stands nearby on his cell phone, eagerly watching Cody.

DREW
(on the phone)
As handsome as ever, baby. Sorry
I've been so busy with football.
But tonight I'm catching up on the
textbooks with Cody in his dorm.

Lexi smiles and pushes her hair back from her face.

LEXI
You'd think you two were brothers
you've been so inseparable lately.

Drew's face flips up from the desk after snorting a line.

DREW
Ha!

LEXI
I'll let you get back to work.

DREW
OK. Oh- hey, you think you can do
New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl?

LEXI
I don't know, lover. Depends. But I
know it's a big game so I'm
definitely going to try my best.

DREW
I hear you. Talk to you soon, OK?

LEXI
Okay. Good night.

Drew hangs up, wipes his nose. Cody starts laughing at him.

CODY
Dude. You snorted so loud I thought
she'd ask if you were hoovering!

The boys share a laugh as Cody grabs his jacket.

CODY (CONT'D)
Let's get outta here.

Drew playfully does a "*Risky Business*" slide across the wood floor towards the door. They leave, closing it behind them.

INT. DREW'S DORM - LATER

Jake's head slumped over open books on his desk. His hair is ruffled, his mouth open. The sound of COMMOTION in the hall startles him awake. He glances at the wall clock: "1:34 a.m."

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cody and Drew totally high walking with FOUR GIRLS that are scantily clad and a new guy... Meet PORTER (21), a curly head hipster who looks like a starving model, skinny and fragile.

CODY

Shhhh... We can't be too loud!

The door to Drew's room opens -- Jake sticks out his head. He looks stoney-faced as he glares at the group approaching.

JAKE

Drew?

One girl looks at Jake wearing only his sweatpants. He has a six-pack and impressive pecs. The boys catch this exchange.

GIRL #1

Hmmm... Who are you?

DREW

This is my mom, Jake! Did I miss my curfew?

Cody and the girls crack up. Jake is about to snap when the keen girl gets close to him, sliding her hand on his chest.

CODY

Woah, Jake. Looks like you got a fan.

Jake looks at Drew. There's a sparkle in his eye and it's hard not to like his powerful energy. Jake soon concedes.

JAKE

You guys having a nightcap?

And cracks a smile. Drew's eyes light up and he wraps an arm around Jake, dragging him down the hallway with the girls.

And as we STAY ON CODY, grinning wide, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CODY'S DORM - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON A STRAW rapidly inhaling one of two fat lines of coke. It's Drew. He straightens up and offer the straw to Cody... Behind them, Girl #1 is riding Jake on the bed.

CODY
You know I prefer to smoke that
shit.

Jake glances over at them. Sees... Drew doing the other line.

CODY (CONT'D)
Easy, cowboy.

DREW
What?

Drew looks at Cody, kinda crazy-eyed. Cody backs off, pulling a joint from his jacket. Smiles as he slides open the window.

CODY
You know I'm all chill.

PORTER
You know I got the best Mary Jane,
right Drew? You can always find me
at the Drag Pipe if Cody's MIA.

DREW
Drag Pipe. Gotcha. Thanks, man.

The second girl saunters over to Cody and Porter.

GIRL #2
You gonna share?

CODY
Don't I always?

As they light a joint by the window, Porter glances back to see Drew propping Girl #3 on the desk. And in a flash her legs are wrapped around him, and Drew starts thrusting...

FADE OUT.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, COLLEGE - DAY

Cody is the starting quarterback and plays skillfully. Drew isn't practicing well. Jake watches the coach schooling Drew.

Meet COACH TODD WIGGS (40S), in good shape and easy on the eye. But right now, he's confused and disappointed with Drew.

WIGGS

Your performance today leaves much to be desired. You need to step up.

DREW

Yes, sir. I'm sorry. It won't happen again. I promise, sir...

And as Wiggs looks at him nodding his head, Drew walking away with his shoulders hunched in self-pity, we move to...

INT. DORM - LATER

Drew standing in his jeans deciding what shirt to wear. The sound of a PHONE RINGING. Jake picks up a cell from the desk and holds it out to Drew. He stops. Sees... "LEXI CALLING."

DREW

I'll call her back.

JAKE

Drew. It's the fourth--

DREW

I SAID I'LL CALL HER BACK.

Off Jake's stunned look.

DREW (CONT'D)

Look, sorry man. I'm just stressed with football and classes and I don't need her all up in my grill.

Jake nods, puts the phone down. He buries himself in a textbook, trying to shut out Drew's HUMMING. Then --

JAKE

Why don't you just let her go?

Drew stops buttoning his shirt, slowly turns around. Jake finds the courage to say this:

JAKE (CONT'D)

You're spending almost every night at Cody's doing coke and sleeping with different women. Aren't you worried you're becoming addicted?

DREW

What'd you say? You may not do blow but I don't see you complaining about the women we line up for you.

Jake lowers his head, ashamed. Drew has a point --

DREW (CONT'D)
That's what I thought you'd say.

A beat. Drew grabs his coat and leaves. Off Jake's look...

EXT. HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

The FOOTBALL BUS drives INTO FRAME. Out steps Jake, Cody, and Drew amongst other teammates. They glance around...it's nice.

DREW
Ha! Three play days before the game. What was Wiggs thinking?

Motions to Coach Wiggs who also looks impressed by the hotel.

CODY
So he should look after us. We're ranked third and we are playing Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Wiggs turns back around to face the boys.

WIGGS
OK. You boys get something to eat and rest up. Tomorrow we start practice on the game field to get a feel. 6:00 a.m. Sharp. I mean it.

The boys nod and start filing into the hotel. And as Cody and Drew exchange a mischievous look, we move to...

EXT. BOURBON STREET, FRENCH QUARTER - NIGHT

Drew, Jake, Cody, and some other players walk down the street dressed to the nines. They stop at a strip club: "CURVES."

INT. STRIP CLUB - LATER

The MUSIC is loud. The club is nice enough but a bit tacky.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- The boys having a great time drinking.

-- The boys meeting girls.

-- The boys provocatively tipping the strippers.

-- Jake sees Cody give Drew a wink and watches them leave.

INT. MEN'S ROOM, STRIP CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Where Cody and Drew are using their keys to do bumps of coke from a baggie. Suddenly, the door pushes open -- it's Jake.

JAKE

Fuck man! We are at a bowl game.

CODY

Dude, shut the door. Don't worry about it. I will be perfect, and we will win the game for everyone.

Now Jake's trying to keep from yelling.

JAKE

All you do is throw the ball. Who do you think does the rest? We do.

(a beat)

God you're such a douchebag.

Drew's head is going back and forth between the boys.

CODY

Dude, you are a freshman. You sit the bench. So, until you are worth a fuck, go sit down.

Jake looks like he might explode. Drew turns to Cody --

DREW

Hey Cody, don't talk to Jake like that. He's a great receiver. You said so yourself.

Cody dips his key into the baggie and does another bump. It's too much for Jake to bare, he storms out of the bathroom.

CODY

You're just like him, a rookie. And you are just like me, an addict. So lets snort the rest and leave this dump so I can triumph the Heisman with a Sugar Bowl win tomorrow.

DREW

You are such an asshole. All you care about is yourself. You don't even care about your teammates.

Drew makes a start to bail. Cody mockingly laughs at him.

CODY

Nah, man. I care about your girl.
She looks hot in the swimsuit. I
wonder how easy it would be for her
to fuck me when she finds out what
you've been doing behind her back?

Now Drew grabs Cody by the shirt collar and slams him FACE
FIRST against the cubicle wall, his nose scrunching sideways.

DREW

If you even lay a finger on her, I
will slit your throat ear to ear.

Now someone else bursts in so quickly we can hardly see he's
carrying a knife until he places it up next to Drew's neck.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Nobody is cutting anyone --

Cody looks to the voice while Drew is frozen. Meet TRISTAN
BOOTH (20s). Tristan is Cody's primary receiver and best bud.

TRISTAN

-- but me.

He releases his hold on Drew when Cody waves him off.

CODY

See Tristan... see what the cocaine
does for Drew. He is a bad ass now.

Cody suddenly takes a swing at Drew's face. He blocks it and
punches Cody's jaw. Tristan pounces on Drew and there's a
ruckus... Soon enough, the rest of the team runs in to stop
the fighting. The commotion attracts a cop and Drew watches
him look around. Stops. Sees... The baggie on the floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAWN

Drew and Jake exit the main doors and sheepishly walk down
the steps with Drew's mom, Kim. She looks angry and confused.

INT. KIM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

She can barely look at Drew as he climbs into the passenger
side. Jake avoids looking at her as he climbs into the back.

DREW

Thanks, mom. And I am sorry.

KIM

Sorry ain't going to cut it, honey.

She swings around and throws daggers at Jake.

KIM (CONT'D)

You'll both be paying me back the bail money. Public intoxication and possession of an illegal substance?

The boys exchange a confused look. Then, stupid Jake --

JAKE

Cody had the cocaine, not us.

Drew turns his head and shoots Jake a sharp look.

KIM

What? I thought it was pot.

Kim looks to Drew. He's too nervous to make eye contact, fearing she will sense his guilt. He looks out the window.

KIM (CONT'D)

That's who you've been studying with night after night?

DREW

He was holding it for someone--

KIM

Save it, Drew. This isn't my first time around *players*.

Off Drew's embarrassed look, Kim goes in for the kill.

KIM (CONT'D)

As for Tristan, possession of a deadly weapon means jail time. Are you two aware of that minor detail?

Jake hangs his head low. Drew looks into the side-mirror, looking at Jake with seething eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

Kim's car pulls up and Jake exits. Drew glares at him out the window as Jake regretfully glances back at him.

INT. KIM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kim speeds off and stops around the corner. She's succeeded at startling Drew, who is now looking rightfully scared.

KIM

Drew, what were you thinking?

DREW

We were just having a good time.

KIM

You're under age, at a bowl game, and your star quarterback was arrested for possession of pot and coke. Were you doing any of that?

DREW

No mom. Cody dissed Jake and the guys and I was just defending him.

Drew looks away at the hotel.

KIM

Were you doing any drugs?

DREW

NO! I said no. Now, can I go? I have practice tomorrow.

Without wasted motion Drew gets out of the car. Kim watches him leave as if he's a little boy. Then, she drives away.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

The guys finish practice and walk off the field. Something catches Drew's eye as he looks around the stadium. Sees...

Travon standing right above the tunnel watching them.

Drew runs over to meet Travon as he descends the stairs. They embrace for a moment before Travon pulls back. He's serious.

DREW

Oh my GOD, Travon, what are you doing here?

TRAVON

Hey Drew. How are you?

DREW

Good. Look around, I'm gonna play in one of the biggest games yet against the Alabama Crimson Tide.

TRAVON

It sure is and there will be more of them if you don't screw it up.

Travon leans back on the rail looking over the field.

DREW

I guess you heard the news.

TRAVON

I couldn't I miss it. It's all over the news, ESPN, your mother...

DREW

I probably scared her to death.

TRAVON

Well now, that depends- If you were drinking, flirting with girls, and rough housing with the boys that's one thing. But if you were doing drugs, we will not tolerate that.

DREW

What is the big deal? We were just messing around.

TRAVON

Were you? Or were you doing drugs?

A beat. Drew looks up at Travon, nods his head.

DREW

I lied to mom. I have never lied to her before. I told her no. But don't tell her. Please. It was just that one time. We were drinking and stupid. I am not doing it again.

TRAVON

I hope you're telling me the truth because that's how I lost my best friend. A drug overdose. Your mom sent me here to look after you.

DREW

Overdose? Who? You never told me--

WIGGS (O.C.)
DREW. Get to the locker room!

Coach Wiggs voice echoes down the tunnel.

DREW
Look, I gotta go. But please tell her that I am fine. I need her support... And yours too, Travon.

TRAVON
I will, but I'll be watching you.

Travon watches Drew as he disappears into the tunnel.

EXT. HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

Travon leaves his car with valet. A few KIDS run over and he signs some autographs and poses for selfies. Heads inside...

REPORTER (V.O.)
Reporting live with an update on the allegations that UT Longhorns players are using cocaine...

The sound of the NEWS REPORT CARRIES OVER:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Where Travon is watching ESPN on TV while he's on the bed.

REPORTER (V.O.)
(on TV)
Drew Harris was one of the players at the club accused of using the illegal and highly addictive drug. Harris is going to be the starting quarterback, making fans skeptical that the Longhorns will win.

Travon reaches for the remote when he hears KNOCKING at the door... He opens it to find Kim standing there crying. They hug tightly, and he ushers her inside and closes the door.

KIM
I've been listening to the news. What has Drew done? I can't believe this is happening again.

Travon holds her at arm's length and takes a deep breath.

TRAVON

Kim, we don't know all the facts yet. It might be nothing. It might be Drew in the wrong place at the wrong time. We will find out soon.

Travon pulls her closer, resting her head on his shoulder.

KIM

I can't handle losing my only son like I lost my husband. Please Travon, don't let it happen.

And now Kim looks up, her face dangerously close to Travon's as her emotions flare, their mouths almost touching.

TRAVON

Okay, okay, I won't, I won't.

A beat. And as Travon looks out the windows at the setting sun, unsure of how he can stop Drew, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

The sound of DRUMS BEATING and the crowd going crazy.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The defense for Alabama is the obvious choice because they're ranked number one in college football.

The players run out onto the field with a mix of excitement, nervousness, and confidence as they get ready to play.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The professional commentators are getting gritty. It's JOE COBB and KEVIN O'NEAL. Neither have seen a gym in a while.

JOE

Kevin, these two teams are as good as it gets...

KEVIN

Indeed. Both won their division and have been in the conversation for National Champion.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

The number three Texas Longhorns were favorites, but with their two top players in jail, can the backups take the reins?

JOE

If Harris can play and win, that will hush the crowd and the press. Ranked at fourth in the nation, Alabama will no doubt be coming at the Longhorns fast and hard.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

The kick is off, and the Texas defense is ready. They stop the returner at the 17 yard line... The Longhorn defense modestly keeping the Alabama offense moving slowly...

Drew and Jake are on the sidelines warming up.

JAKE

Dude, are you high today or do I need to get you some crack before the game so you can play well?

Drew throws the ball back really hard to Jake.

DREW

Shut up. I am not high and I don't need it to play good. You better just worry about yourself and catch the fuckin ball you fuckin asshole.

Jake catches the ball, holds on to it, and walks over to him.

JAKE

Man, I'm sorry. You've been my best friend since we were kids. I don't wanna lose you to stupid drugs. OK?

DREW

OK. Now shut up and throw the ball.

The center of the offense approaches Drew and Jake.

CENTER OFFENSE

Hey pussies. Get ready, we're on...

Drew and Jake go over to Wiggs where he's about to talk to the offense. He turns to the boys, speaking sternly.

WIGGS

This is your chance to make things right and divert the bad attention.

The boys exchange a look. Then, they nod their heads.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Drew calls the play in the huddle and they break. The first play is a running play that gets them 12 yards.

-- The next play is a screen pass that gets them another eight yards. Drew calls a passing play as the next move.

-- The left tackle misses his block and the defensive end comes around the corner and hits the ball from Drew's arm.

-- The trainers are checking Drew out while the Alabama offense score a touchdown. Drew shakes his head, devastated.

AT THE BENCH

Coach Wiggs approaches Drew sitting there. He motions for privacy and the cluster of people around them disperse.

DREW

I am okay, coach. Just a shoulder contusion.

WIGGS

OK, great. You're about to go back out there. Drew, I've seen you play. I recruited you. You are the best quarterback that I've seen in a while. You can win this game.

Wiggs returns to the sidelines. Drew sits there for a beat before looking around. Stops. Sees... Kim and Travon in the stands. Lexi standing up waiting for Drew's big return.

He stands up, smiles, and heads toward the players in the huddle. On the way, the crowd BOOS Drew. He looks ashamed.

DREW

Sorry guys, it won't happen again.

And as they look at him, lacking faith, we see another...

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Drew's play is a run that only gets two yards.

-- The center hikes the ball. Drew goes back to pass and the same defensive end comes around the left side to sack him but Drew spins and scrambles for 23 yards. The crowd goes crazy.

-- Drew throws a bomb to Jake down the left sidelines. He catches and twists to avoid a tackle, running for a 55 yard touchdown pass. Jake reaches the end zones and celebrates.

-- Drew looks up and sees his mother and Travon smiling and clapping. Lexi is standing up as well and blows him a kiss.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Joe drinking energy drinks, looking over the crowd.

JOE

Did you see that? A perfect pass
and catch from the two freshmen.
Wow, they might just have a chance.

KEVIN

That stunned me, Joe. During that
series, Harris was poised and the
skills he showed were magnificent.
His athletic abilities resemble
those of Kyle Bane, Mitch Simes,
and undoubtedly...Jason Stallings.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTS CAVE - NIGHT

Kim raises a toast to Drew. Lexi and Travon are there to celebrate, an abundance of food and drinks on the table.

KIM

Cheers to Drew winning the game for
the Texas Longhorns 31 to 24!

TRAVON

Boy, you played like a veteran
quarterback. I knew you had it in
you.

DREW

So you keep telling me, Travon.

Travon and Kim exchange a look.

DREW (CONT'D)

But I think Wiggs pushes me a lot.

LEXI

Congrats, baby. The media are now talking about bowl games, the Heisman, and an NFL draft pick.

KIM

You two are quite the couple. I'm excited for both of your futures.

And as Lexi and Drew share a sweet kiss, Travon and Kim exchanging a pleased look, we...

FADE OUT.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL, UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew is recognized by many students and fans as he watches Lexi swim. Jake shakes his head jokingly, also lapping up the attention. Lexi wins and Drew gives her a huge public kiss.

EXT. STREETS, AUSTIN HILLS AREA - DAY

Lexi holding tight onto Drew as they take a scenic trip down the same beautiful road we saw the same night Drew had cheated. As we PUSH IN to Drew's face in the helmet, we...

FLASHBACK:

INT. CODY'S DORM - NIGHT

Flashes of Drew snorting coke and crazily fucking that girl.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Where Drew looks pained. Glances in the side-mirror. Sees... Lexi's striking face looking at the trees in her own world.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Drew and Lexi sprawled on a blanket surrounded by picnic items, the view of the Austin Hills beyond.

LEXI

I don't want the Summer to be over.

DREW

Me neither- I have an idea...

Drew turns to face Lexi, pulling her body closer.

DREW (CONT'D)

We could get married and then it would always feel like Summer.

Lexi smiles wide, giving him a quick peck.

LEXI

Ha! Not until our college career is over.

DREW

But we're only about to start our sophomore year.

Lexi nestles in closer to Drew's body. Looks up at him --

LEXI

Good things come to those who wait.

Drew grabs her hand and holds it close to his chest. A beat.

LEXI (CONT'D)

I bet you would be a great dad.

DREW

I hope so. You know, I can't help but think of my dad. I sure wish he were alive to see me play football. Mom said he was a good athlete.

KIM

What happened to your dad? You never really told me the whole story. What does he look like?

Lexi now sitting up to face Drew. He's staring at the hills.

DREW

Well, it's kinda confusing. She said he died before I was born. The only photos she has is when he was little, high school, but nothing later. She doesn't talk about him much... I guess it makes her sad.

(beat)

Anyway, let's not talk about him. I want to tell you something. I have wanted to tell you for a while but I'm afraid you will hate me...

LEXI

Oh my GOD, so serious. What is it?

DREW

Well, you know when I was hanging with Cody and his friends? Well...

LEXI

You didn't do the drugs, did you?

DREW

NO! It's not that. It's...

Drew pauses again.

LEXI

Oh my God. What?!

DREW

Nothing... I just wanted to tell you that I'm sorry for neglecting you and Jake. I could never lose the both of you. I love you Lexi.

Drew leans in for a kiss. Lexi kisses him back, closing her eyes. And as Drew's eyes open, shamefaced, we move to...

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew, Jake, and their teammates in training camp. The dynamic duo together again. But Drew gained weight over the summer -- now he's six feet six inches tall and weighs 261 pounds.

JAKE

Hey Drew, have you seen those new freshman cheerleaders? Dude. Let's go check them out after practice?

DREW

Jake, you know that I'm with Lexi.

JAKE

That didn't stop you before.

DREW

Jackass! Don't say that. I regret cheating. I was going to tell her but I couldn't get the words out.

Drew walking over closer to Jake.

JAKE

I know, man. I was just kidding.

Jake grabbing a football to throw.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I guess ya'll will get married.

DREW
Just throw the ball, man.

Coach Wiggs blows a WHISTLE and the players gather around him and another coach. It's BAKER (50), a loud and serious-type.

WIGGS
Good job, boys. Coach Baker has a few words before we start practice.

BAKER
There will be extra conditioning if you're not able to meet the standards I am putting forward.

He looks right at Drew.

BAKER (CONT'D)
That goes for you too, Harris!

Drew looks down, embarrassed. And as Jake punches his arm, perking him up with an encouraging look, we move to...

INT. PRESS BOX - DAY

Kevin and Joe hovering over their microphones looking tanned and excited. Monitors around them showing various angles.

JOE
Joe Cobb here with Kevin O'Neal on ESPN2 announcing one of the biggest match ups this season. The Texas Longhorns at the TCU Horned Frogs.

KEVIN
Yes. It's Drew Harris's second year for Texas and he's on his way to the Heisman. A bit out of shape, but his natural talent and the great offense should equal a win.

JOE
I have to disagree. If Harris isn't at his best, they could lose. TCU is ranked fifth, and they are looking to upset the Longhorns.

The sound of the band's KICK OFF TUNE CARRIES OVER:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, UNIVERSITY - DAY

The teams on the field in their positions. Then --

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- TCU kicker boots one into the Texas end zone. Texas's offense comes out first ready to play. The players high five.

-- The TCU rush and blitz does not give Drew a lot of time to run out of the pocket to the right side.

-- The coaches seeing Drew about to get sacked.

-- Drew sees Jake running down the sidelines. He throws the ball 40 yards right into his hands and Jake continues running to the end zone for a touchdown.

-- The crowd ROARS madly. Lexi with Kim and Travon, their voices becoming hoarse from CHEERING so much.

INT. PRESS BOX - DAY

Kevin and Joe looking impressed. The opposing crowd is quiet.

JOE

Wow, I think Harris just showed everyone that he is ready to play football. That was one of the most impressive plays I have seen yet.

KEVIN

I think he has just confirmed that he is worthy of the Heisman.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDELINES - SAME

Jake sits beside Drew breathing harder than him. They smile, nodding their heads in approval. They watch the Texas offense dominate the highly ranked TCU defense and they win the game.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

On Jake and Drew, almost dressed, listening to the guys behind them comparing their plays with one another. Then --

JAKE

Shit. I forgot socks.

DREW

I have extras in my locker. Go for it... I gotta go pee.

Jake grabbing some socks from Drew's locker when a coke baggy falls out... He quickly sticks it under a towel as the guys exit. Jake sits to pull on the socks as Drew returns and knuckle-rubs Jake's head. Jake grabs Drew's arm really hard.

DREW (CONT'D)

Dude, what the fuck? What's wrong with you?

JAKE

Don't act so fucking innocent, Drew. I saw the coke.

DREW

What are you talking about?

JAKE

I can't believe you'd bring that into the locker room. I thought you quit. What are you doing?

Drew sits down on the bench, drops his head, and is waiting for Jake to continue to lecture him. Instead, he softens --

JAKE (CONT'D)

Where did you get the stuff? Why are you using again?

DREW

I was walking by Cody's room and remembered he hid some in a trophy. I just wanted to use it to lose weight. I don't use it every day.

Drew looking up at Jake, mortified. Now Jake is indignant.

JAKE

I don't understand you. You are the best quarterback this college has seen. Why would you screw it up by using coke? You are such a loser.

He walks away. But Drew goes after Jake, grabbing him from behind and slamming him up against the lockers. Jake punches him in the stomach, releasing Drew's hold. With Drew bent over, Jake then slams him up the lockers. The noise is loud.

WIGGS (O.C.)

What the hell's going on here?

The boys turn to see Wiggs rushing over to break them up.

JAKE
Nothing, coach. Just girl stuff.

Wiggs looks at Drew, expectant. So Drew just nods.

WIGGS
I do not want my star quarterback
and star receiver fighting. Go it?

Drew and Jake say nothing to each other as they quickly grab their things. Jake doesn't wait for him and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

Drew and Lexi making love. He can't keep his hands off her and she's enjoying his stamina. He satisfies Lexi...

LEXI
(exasperated)
Drew, stop. You got me there.

Drew rolls off and sits up. Lexi gets up and puts on her clothes. Turns and looks right at Drew with a dreamy look.

LEXI (CONT'D)
Wow. I've never seen you like this,
baby?

DREW
That doesn't sound like a
complaint.

Lexi laughs, barely getting her clothes on before Drew is up and grabbing her again. She wriggles out of his naked grip.

LEXI
It's not... But I gotta go. See you
at Thaos Sushi tomorrow night.

He follows her to the door where they kiss goodbye. Drew stands at his doorway in his shorts and watches Lexi walk down the hall. Then, something catches his eye. Sees...

The hot cheerleader walking toward him. He leans against the door and stares her down. She recognizes Drew, walking over seductively. Without wasted motion they slip into his room.

And as Drew kicks the door closed behind him, we move to...

INT. NATATORIUM, UNIVERSITY - DAY

Where Lexi dives into the pool along with her teammates for a practice free style race. She wins the hundred meter race by two body lengths. The coach approaches as the girls finish.

COACH

Lexi, that's your best time ever.

Staci catches up to Lexi as the coach circles the pool.

STACI

Wow chica, that was fast. What's your secret? A lot of monster drinks.

LEXI

No, a lot of sex.

Lexi smiling and getting out of the water.

STACI

Ha! He's so hot, you lucky bitch. And he's going to be famous and a star in the NFL.

LEXI

That's not the reason why I am with him, but I won't mind the traveling and watching him play.

The coach blows a WHISTLE. The girls giggle and get ready.

CUT TO:

INT. THAOS SUSHI - NIGHT

Lexi sitting alone at a table looking concerned. She checks her watch and then picks up her phone. Dials: "JAKE."

LEXI

(on phone)

Hey, Jake. Is Drew with you?

A beat. Lexi waits expectantly, sits upright.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DREW'S DORM - SAME

Where Jake is hesitantly holding the phone. He looks around the room, seeing clothes on the floor and Drew's unmade bed.

JAKE

Hi Lexi. Uh. No. He's not...

LEXI

Is there something wrong with him?

JAKE

You'll have to ask him. I gotta go--

LEXI

Has Drew been cheating on me?

Jake looks down, trying to control his voice.

JAKE

I haven't been around Drew since Monday and really don't care to see him again.

LEXI

What? Why? You're best friends.

JAKE

Look, I don't have time to get into it but he was a total dick at our last practice. He's usually a great teammate and leader but the players were pretty much ready to deck him.

Lexi looks confused, takes a breath.

LEXI

Will you please keep an eye on him and contact me if anything happens?

JAKE

Will do, I promise.

Jake rolls his eyes and hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Wiggs enters to find Jake dressed in his gear, closing his locker. The other players filing out the door as they speak.

WIGGS

Where's Drew?

Jake shrugs, walking away. Off Wiggs shocked look, we...

CUT TO:

INT. KIM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Kim wipes her hands on her apron, answers her RINGING PHONE.

KIM
(on phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WIGGS OFFICE - SAME

Wiggs staring at his player directory, steadying his voice.

WIGGS
Hello Ms. Harris, this is Coach
Wiggs.

KIM
What's wrong? Has Drew been hurt?

WIGGS
Well, I hope not. He didn't show up
at practice today, is he home sick?

KIM
What? He hasn't called me today.

WIGGS
Well, he's not answering my calls
and he was pretty hard on the guys
yesterday, which is not like him.

KIM
Yes, that doesn't sound like him at
all. I'll try and call you back.

WIGGS
Thank you, Ms. Harris, I'm sure
there's a reasonable explanation.

KIM
You're probably right. Goodbye.

Kim hangs up, biting her bottom lip. Dials a number...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BACK ROOM, DRAG PIPE - DAY

CLOSE ON Drew answering the phone. Looks like he's sitting in
a basement, muffled music coming from somewhere outside.

DREW

(on phone)

Hi mom, I'm so glad you called. I'm feeling really sick... I've been asleep and didn't call coach Wiggs to tell him. Will you please call?

KIM

Sweetie, everyone was worried. I wish you would be more responsible and stay in touch.

DREW

I will, mom. Promise. I'm going to sleep this thing off now but I'll see you Saturday at the home game.

KIM

Okay, honey. Call me when you wake up. I love you very much, Drew.

Drew hangs up. Wipes his nose and dials a number...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LEXI'S DORM - SAME

Lexi looking at her RINGING PHONE. Sees... "DREW." It's as though she's too mad to speak. A beat. Finally, she answers.

LEXI

Drew, are you alright?

DREW

I've been sick. I'm really sorry about messing up Sushi. I went to my mom's and fell asleep there.

LEXI

Are you back at the dorm now? I'll bring you some soup if you like.

DREW

Nah, baby. I have a fever. We'll meet tomorrow if I'm any better.

Lexi's eyes narrow, not believing a word.

DREW (CONT'D)

I'll call you then. Goodbye.

Hangs up. Now we pull back to REVEAL he's sitting next to a STRIPPER in the seedy basement of a strip joint/drug den.

STRIPPER

Is your girlfriend missing you?

DREW

What girlfriend?

Drew kisses her hard. Lays her down and cuts a line on her stomach to snort. She quickly climbs on top and they fuck.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Jake and the players changing into their gear. Everyone is shocked when Drew enters looking normal. He's humble...

DREW

Guys, I'm sorry about my attitude at practice. I've been a little stressed about the game, studying, and keeping up with Lexi...

Some guys laugh, accepting his apology with a nod. Others shake their heads, turning to their lockers. Drew catches Jake's eye. He's about to speak when Coach Wiggs enters --

WIGGS

Gather around everyone, please.

The players obey, no one looking more concerned than Drew.

WIGGS (CONT'D)

The college has been made aware that steroids use is a problem.

The players glancing around at one another.

WIGGS (CONT'D)

So we'll be conducting random urine tests. If anyone's results are positive, you'll be suspended.

Once again everyone looks around with inquiring minds.

WIGGS (CONT'D)

We'll begin in no particular order.

Throughout all of this Drew is looking around, sweating, shocked that none of the other teammates aren't nervous.

WIGGS (CONT'D)

Drew Harris.

Wiggs holding Drew's look. And as we leave them there, us feeling the weight of Drew's predicament, we move to...

INT. HALLWAY, DORMS - DAY

Drew walking slowly with his head down. Lexi approaches from behind and covers his eyes. Drew abruptly removes her hands.

DREW
Leave me alone.

Lexi's about to let it rip when the same hot cheerleader from the other night appears and jumps up to kiss him.

CHEERLEADER
Is that who's joining us tonight?
You know how I like babe athletes.

She rubs one hand up his chest and touches Lexi's hair with the other. Lexi swats at her hand and moves back in a flash.

LEXI
Are you kidding me, Drew? You
fucking liar. You have been
cheating with GOD knows who!

And turns to leave. Drew pushes the cheerleader aside.

DREW
Lexi, wait, she was just flirting
with me. I get a lot of that you
know. She means nothing to me.

Lexi swings around again and steps right in Drew's face.

LEXI
Who are you? I don't know you
anymore.

And just like a switch was flipped, from to zero to pissed--

DREW
Look, I don't need this right now.
I can have any girl that I want.

LEXI
That's fine by me. You are hot and
cold anyway, your best friend hates
you right now, and I...I...I--

DREW
Just leave me alone.

And leaves her standing there. Lexi shaking with fury as she watches Drew walk into his dorm. The cheerleader just shrugs.

CHEERLEADER

He's probably in a mood because the players got tested today for drugs.

Off Lexi's shocked look.

CHEERLEADER (CONT'D)

Girl, please. Rumor has it that Drew will be suspended for sure.

LEXI

What are you saying?!

CHEERLEADER

He probably does really love you or whatever but the drugs are making him the horniest dude on campus.

Lexi holds her mouth with her trembling hand as if the words are too painful. The cheerleader leaves Lexi standing there.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE, FRONT GARDEN - DAY

It's a beautiful day. Kim's planting rose bushes dressed in a tight Longhorn tee and gardening pants. She turns at the sound of a CAR PULLING UP. Coach Wiggs exits and approaches --

KIM

May I help you?

WIGGS

Ms. Harris, I'm Coach Wiggs.

KIM

Is everything alright?

WIGGS

Do you have some time to talk?

KIM

You're scaring me. What is it?

WIGGS

There's something I wanted you to know before you watch the news.

Off Kim's devastated look, we move to...

INT. DREW & JAKE'S DORM - DAY

Drew watching the ESPN NEWS REPORT. He leans toward the TV, his knuckles gripping a glass of scotch...

ANALYST (V.O.)

It's going to be hard for UT to discount these drug issues. Losing the top Heisman runner and a defensive end that would have been a top 10 NFL draft pick is going to affect the team and their chances for the National Championship.

And now we HOLD TIGHT on a seething Drew swallowing the remains of his scotch as he glares at the TV, and we...

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE, STADIUM - SAME

Where Jake enters carrying his helmet. He reaches the coaches who are watching the SAME NEWS REPORT. They don't notice him because they're glued to the TV. Jake stops in his tracks --

COMMENTATOR (ON TV)

Jake Price is a good backup quarterback and that is where it ends. I don't think he is going to be able to make the transition to the next level and lead this team. I won't be surprised if the Longhorns lose this game and drop out of the top 25 after today.

Jake throws his helmet at the TV, shattering the screen.

WIGGS

Christ! Jake, what the hell?

The coaches step back as glass falls to the ground. Jake glares at Coach Wiggs for a beat and then storms out again.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

The team walks through the tunnel and as soon as their heads pop out the media begin their frenzy. Coach Wiggs and the rest of the coaches follow suit. FLASHING LIGHTS and YELLING.

Jake throwing the ball on the sidelines with a new receiver, RYAN DIONISI (22). Coach Wiggs walks over holding a helmet.

WIGGS

You forgot something. A starting quarterback needs his helmet.

And tosses it right into Jake's hands. Off Jake's look...

INT. DREW & JAKE'S DORM - DAY

Drew watching the game, now drinking from the Scotch bottle.

COMMENTATOR (ON TV)
 Longhorns fans were optimistic but
 the Oklahoma Cowboys were bound to
 win. Jake and team had a good
 showing, but the absence of Drew
 and Cody's skills was obvious.

He hurls the bottle at the wall, smashing it to pieces.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - DAY

Drew crosses the lawn, occasionally waving at other students
 and some girls. He looks hurt when no one engages with him.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Drew sits beside Jake, the students watching him in silence.

DREW
 Hey man, nice game Saturday. Ya'll
 should have won.

JAKE
 Thanks man.

Drew waiting for more of a reply but is left disappointed.

DREW
 Hey, I just wanted you to know that
 I am going to get clean and get
 back on the team. I miss you guys.

Jake turns to face Drew, incredulous.

JAKE
 Dude, you don't get it. You are--

He stops at the sight of the ADMINISTRATOR entering the room.

ADMINISTRATOR
 Excuse us, Mr. Clarke.

And now Drew turns to see THREE SECURITY GUARDS standing
 behind the administrator. They're looking right at Drew --

ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)
Drew Harris. If you could please
stand and come with us.

Drew obliges and walks out of the room with the four suits.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The administrator shuts the classroom door behind Drew.

DREW
What's going on, fellas?

ADMINISTRATOR
Drew, I'm afraid that you can no
longer attend this university.

DREW
What are you saying?

ADMINISTRATOR
You have been expelled for drug use
and cannot play football here ever
again. I'll need to ask you to
leave the premises immediately.

DREW
I'm not going anywhere. This is my
university--

But the guards already pounce... Drew thrashes about, pushing one guard back. The other two toss Drew to the floor. And as Drew looks up struggling to free himself, he sees Jake and the other students staring through the classroom door window.

ADMINISTRATOR
Your things will be sent to your
mother's house.

EXT. DRAG PIPE - DAY

Drew pulls up on his motorbike and parks it crooked in a space. He climbs off the bike and heads inside the place.

INT. DRAG PIPE

CLOSE ON Drew snorting cocaine. He leans back on the sofa and reaches his hand out to grab the same stripper as last time.

STRIPPER
You got some money, honey?

Drew stops in his tracks -- *no he doesn't*. He reaches his hand back and flips her away. Then he stands and struts out.

EXT. DELTA TRI FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Drew dressed in some faded blue jeans and a shirt that looks like it hasn't been washed for days. He approaches TWO BURLY BOUNCERS. Attempts a fist bump, but neither of them respond.

DREW

Hey man, what's going on at the party? I am going to go inside and check out the chicks.

He tries to walk past them but they both stand in his way.

BOUNCER #1

Only students allowed, buddy.

DREW

I know, but it's me, Drew Harris, the best quarterback ever.

BOUNCER #2

I don't care who you think you are, you are not coming inside.

Drew starts throwing punches... They take him down and commence pummeling Drew in the face and side of his head.

Students appear to witness the commotion. They see Drew out cold, sprawled on the lawn. They shake their heads before heading back inside. But Jake pushes through and leans down to check Drew's pulse, wincing at his bloodied face. Then Ryan appears, hovering over his shoulder to take a photo.

RYAN

That's Drew Harris. It doesn't even look like him... I idolized him.

Ryan puts his phone away just before Jake turns around.

JAKE

Help me get him up and to the ER.

But Ryan just stands there, dumbfounded.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Ryan!

Ryan reacts and they both try and hoist Drew off the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM, HOSPITAL - DAY

ANGLE ON the TV on the wall. It's ESPN displaying Ryan's picture of Drew on the lawn that went viral on social media.

Pull back to reveal Jake and Travon seeing the news. Then --

KIM (O.C.)

Oh my GOD. What happened to my boy?

They turn to see Kim rushing through the room.

KIM (CONT'D)

Is he dead?

Travon hugs Kim and holds her close. She's shaking.

JAKE

He's not dead. It looks worse than it is.

An unsympathetic ER DOCTOR approaches and addresses Kim.

ER DOCTOR

Hello Ms. Harris. I'm Doctor Corwin. Why don't we go somewhere more private to talk?

He's holding her look, intense. So Kim just nods. And as she follows him out, Jake and Travon exchanging a look, we...

CUT TO:

INT. ER ROOM - NIGHT

Drew's still body covered in blood, cuts, and bruises. Kim's sitting beside him, looking at him in shock. She reaches for his hand and squeezes it, looking down for a response. A beat. Drew's fingers slowly move and slightly grasp onto Kim.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kim and Drew exit the main doors. Drew is less bruised and his face and hair are cleaned up. They head to Kim's car.

INT. KIM'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

ANGLE ON Drew's reflection in the side-mirror -- he looks depressed, anxious, fatigued -- signs of cocaine withdrawal.

DREW

Where are you going? This isn't the way.

KIM

I am going to make one stop before we head home. Here, sit back and listen to some music.

Kim turns on the radio -- it's the ESPN station.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

The UT football program has certainly been under scrutiny of late following the allegations of quarterback Drew Harris's cocaine --

She reaches to turn it off but Drew stops her hand.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

-- use and expulsion from college. But rising star Jake Price is leading the team back to success --

Drew cracks a smile before jealousy takes over. And as he looks out the window, hugging his knees to his chest, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROTH CAIN CLINIC, AUSTIN - DAY

Kim's car pulls up outside. A guard approaches but Kim motions for him to wait. Drew is fast asleep in his seat.

INT. KIM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kim looks over at Drew regretfully. She gently moves his arm, waking him up. Drew groggily looks out the window. Sits up.

DREW

What the fuck is this, mom?

KIM

It's a rehabilitation clinic--

He undoes his seat belt, eyes darting for an escape path.

DREW

I don't need this and I won't survive on my own. How could you--

KIM

It's the best decision you will make, Drew. You have to trust me.

DREW

I can make my own decisions. I am twenty-fucking-years-old, mom.

The guard sees Drew aggressively grab Kim's arms and opens the passenger door. As soon as he places his hands on Drew, he hits the guard in the face, knocking him to the ground.

DREW (CONT'D)

Mom, I can't stay here. I feel like shit already. I can't handle this!

Drew jumps out and runs away. Kim watches, devastated. A beat. She exits the car and helps the guard off the ground.

KIM

I'm so sorry. Are you alright?

GUARD

Yes, I've seen it all before. An addict has to decide for himself that he needs help. You just have to be there when they reach out.

Off Kim's ashamed look.

GUARD (CONT'D)

If he has no money, and no place to stay, he will need to reach out.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Drew walking -- strung out -- trying to hitch a ride --

EXT. CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - LATER

Drew jumps out of a truck and pulls up his hoodie so nobody can recognize him. He sneaks past the security guards.

INT. DREW'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Drew enters the room. Jake isn't there. He starts loading his backpack with clothes and shoes. Opens the box on Jake's desk and takes his cash. Then, something catches his eye. Sees...

Jake's National Championship Bowl rings on the shelf -- pee-wee, grade school, middle school, and high school trophies.

Drew takes a long look and then grabs ?. He heads out but then stops... Turns around and puts Jake's bowl ring back.

EXT. CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - NIGHT

Drew driving away on his motorcycle.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Kim -- tired, hungry and depressed trudging the seedy part of the city forcing passersby to look at a cut-out magazine photo of Drew. Their responses -- a shrug, the shake of a head, some don't even bother looking.

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

Jake standing in front of the trophy shelf. Sees... His ring is out of place and that Drew's is gone. He looks around and sees the open box on his desk... Moves closer and realizes his cash is gone. He sits on his bed and makes a phonecall...

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. STREETS - SAME

The sound of a PHONE RINGING. It's Kim's cell that she takes from her pocket. She looks down. Sees... "JAKE CALLING."

KIM
(on phone)
Jake? Is Drew with you?

JAKE
No. But he's been in our room and he took his trophy and my cash and some other things. Probably to buy drugs. I thought I should warn you that you might be the next target.

KIM
I tried to take him to a clinic, but it didn't go down very well.

JAKE
I don't know what to say or do... but I will help in any way I can. I believe there's still some good in Drew because he left my ring.

Off Kim's hopeful look, we move to...

A MONTAGE

-- STREETS -- Kim continuing to show Drew's photo.
-- PAWN SHOP -- Drew selling his bowl ring.
-- FIELD -- Jake playing well in a game.
-- DRAG PIPE -- Drew doing drugs and fucking a new girl.
-- COLLEGE -- Kim greeted by Coach Wiggs in his office.
-- HUTTO -- Drew driving to Kim's house.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE, HUTTO - DAY

Drew sitting on a nearby hill smoking pot and watching his mom. Waits for her to leave and uses his key to get inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's tidy and clean. Drew looks around and enters the...

KITCHEN

Where he opens the fridge. Grabs a couple of pickles to eat while he walks around. Something catches his eye. Sees...

A picture of him, his mother, and Travon at the first pee wee football game he ever played when he was a receiver.

Drew keeps looking at other pictures on the wall... Gets to the UT photo of him and Jake at the National Championship bowl game last year. Then, he grabs the photo and smashes it on the ground. Drew steps on the picture and enters the...

HALLWAY

Where Drew shoves valuable items into his backpack.

INT. KIM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON a big safe in the closet. Drew staring hard at the keyhole. Then, he turns and looks around the room. Sees...

Kim's SMU basketball trophy on a shelf next to others.

Drew lifts it to find a key. He uses it to open the safe...

He looks disappointed by the lack of anything expensive-looking, just DVDs and clear boxes of pictures. He angrily swipes them onto the floor, the photos tumbling out. Then, something catches his eye on the ground. Stops. Sees...

A photo of California Cougars quarterback Jason Stallings.

Drew picks it up and takes a closer look, hands shaking. He shuffles through more photos, eyes wide. Then stops in his tracks. Pulls one out of the pile, his mouth dropping open.

INSERT: The same photo we saw in the opening scene of Jason with his arm around Kim, holding up a T-shirt that says "Super Bowl champions." Travon standing in the background.

DREW

Huh?

Then Drew slowly sits down in the closet and sees pictures of Kim and Jason smiling on holiday in Cancun and Colorado.

DREW (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Are you shitting me, mom? You and Jason Stallings?!

He keeps digging around, shuffling through a stack of home-movie DVDs, and then spots an ornate wedding album. Opens it nervously. Sees... His mom standing next to Jason Stallings.

Drew's eyes grow teary as he continues through the album. And as we HOLD TIGHT ON HIS FACE, comprehending it all, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE, HUTTO - DAY

Kim driving up to the garage of her house. Sees... Drew's motorcycle parked in the driveway.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kim enters and glances around. Sees... Things out of place and some items missing. Then, a sudden COMMOTION upstairs stops her in her tracks. The sound of a LOUD CROWD on the TV.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Kim follows the noise. Step by step she gets closer to where it's coming from as she reaches the landing. She stops and takes a breath when she realizes it's a football game...

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
First down, sack.

The noise of the CROWD CARRIES OVER:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kim entering to find Drew sitting on the floor surrounded by photos and DVDs. Drew looks up at her with bloodshot eyes.

DREW
Was Jason Stallings my father?

A long beat. Kim trying to find the words until--

DREW (CONT'D)
WAS HE?!

And now Drew's crying again. Kim slowly sits next to him.

KIM
Yes.

She continues to hold him until he stops crying. Drew looks up and points at the TV.

DREW
Super Bowl?

KIM
Yes, OH my GOD. He was the best
quarterback ever. Talented, smart,
a great leader, and the best
scrambler you ever saw. I went to
all of his games. He won the
Heisman and was a number one draft
pick from SMU. He was just great.

Kim smiling and feeling proud.

DREW
Tell me how he died. I mean, I
heard some rumors, but please tell
me everything that you know.

She places her hand on Drew's arm, looking at him. Like she may or may not tell the truth. We just can't tell. A beat.

KIM
To this day, I still don't know
when he first tried drugs or how he
got started. Jason said he did it
only at certain parties or events.
(MORE)

KIM (CONT'D)

I tried to get him to stop completely but he didn't listen.

Drew looks to the floor, embarrassed.

KIM (CONT'D)

He went through his whole college career without ever being suspected or drug tested. He was the starting quarterback for the Cougars his rookie year. But he was having a hard time keeping up with the plays and the schedule. Jason felt like he needed the cocaine. Then the players were randomly tested and he was caught out. But neither the league nor the team could penalize or dismiss Jason because the lab results were stolen. Even though he got clean he couldn't get any other teams to look his way except for the Cougars who didn't pay much because they felt he was a risk.

DREW

(quietly)

So, what happened? How did he die?

KIM

Three years later the Cougars got into the Super Bowl. He had been breaking records and was on his way to the Hall of Fame. His tenth year in the league, he and Travon won the Super Bowl again. The guys went to a club and a guy gave Jason some coke. His body hadn't had it in a while and it instantly killed him.

Kim starts crying. Drew gets off the floor and starts pacing.

DREW

Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you say that he was my father?

KIM

I got pregnant that last night we spent together. I did not tell you because if anyone found out then your whole life would have been filled with media and distractions. They would have been watching every step you made and compared you to him. You didn't need that as a boy.

DREW

I didn't have a choice, now did I?

Drew heads out... Kim gets up and quickly follows.

KIM

I did it for you. For your privacy.

Drew gives Kim a wave off and continues to walk into the...

HALLWAY

Where Kim follows calling out, serious as hell.

KIM

If you leave, then you are leaving
me forever. I will not help you
again. Do really want this?

Drew pauses at the top of the stairs. Kim continues but Drew
takes off again, heading down the...

STAIRCASE

Where Drew reaches the foyer and Kim desperately lets it rip.

KIM

You have lost Lexi, Jake, and
Travon. He doesn't want to ever see
you again. I am all you have left.

Drew stops at the front door as Kim catches up to him.

KIM (CONT'D)

If you leave now, then you will
have no one.

A beat. Drew opens the door. Before getting through, his eyes
suddenly roll back and he drops to the floor. Kim rushes over
to him and pulls her cell from her pocket. Dials: "9-1-1."

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, AUSTIN - DAY

Kim's car drives along the bends surrounded by tall trees
that hang overhead, rays of sun shining through.

EXT. ROTH CAIN CLINIC - DAY

Kim steps out of the car. Looks around. Sees... Autumn leaves dropping from the towering oak trees around the property.

SUPERIMPOSE: "45 DAYS LATER."

As she makes her way up to the entrance, she hears the sound of a FAMILIAR CADENCE around the corner of the building. She stops, listens, and then walks toward the voice...

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

In the midst of the leaves Kim sees Drew and three other guys playing two on two flag football on a makeshift field. Drew easily maneuvers his way to the end as he throws the ball into the chest of his teammate who rushes for the first down.

Kim watches from afar, admiring his talents as a quarterback and playing with spirit. She cries with pride and remorse.

Drew makes a back shoulder throw that neither defender can catch. The receiver touches down and high fives Drew. Then, Drew stops in his tracks. Sees... Kim near a big oak tree.

DREW

Hey guys, I'll be back in a bit.

Drew walks over to Kim as she's wiping her tears away.

DREW (CONT'D)

Mom? Why are you crying?

KIM

I have missed you. I am so happy to see you, the real you again.

DREW

Me too.

Gives her a hug.

KIM

Let's get out of here.

EXT./INT. KIM'S CAR - TRAVELLING - DAY

Kim driving -- Drew quiet in the passenger seat --

DREW

Has anyone been asking for me?

KIM

Just the media. At first they were at my house every day but I would never speak to them. They hate me.

Kim giggles. Drew glances out the window, disappointed.

DREW

So, Lexi or Jake hasn't called or come by to see how I am doing?

KIM

I am sorry, honey. You made a lot of enemies during your bad times.

DREW

I know.

Kim looks over at Drew who is on the verge of crying. She tenderly squeezes his arm to show her support. Then --

KIM

Damn. Have you been working out?

Drew turns back from the window cracking a smile.

DREW

A little. Me and some of the other boys hit the gym and played ball as much as we could to keep busy. The staff at the clinic gave me this...

Drew pulls a round medal from his pocket and shows Kim.

KIM

What does the writing say?

DREW

(reading aloud)

You are an inspiration to many.

A beat. Then he turns to face his mother.

DREW (CONT'D)

I want to play football again. For a university. I still have one year of eligibility left, and I want to play. Please help me do this, mom?

KIM

Drew, I don't even know if another school will let you. Why would another team risk a drug scandal?

DREW

Because I am the best and I want to continue to be the best like dad.

Drew looks out the window again. A long beat.

KIM

Okay. Yes, if you want to do this, then I'll support you and help you.

He turns back to find Kim smiling.

KIM (CONT'D)

In fact, I've already gotten you into Williamson University close to home.

Off Drew's shocked look.

KIM (CONT'D)

If you work hard and take double the classes, then the half year you missed at UT won't be a problem.

DREW

I can't believe you- I'll do whatever it takes to graduate with a degree and play football again.

KIM

Now, as far as a trainer, I want Travon to train you and get you ready for football next year. But you need to call and ask him.

DREW

He hates me. I can't call him.

KIM

Drew, you need to ask him. OK?

She's holding his look, intense. So Drew just nods.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM, TRAINING CENTER - DAY

ANGLE ON the sign: "TRAVON JACKSON PERSONAL TRAINING." We pull back to reveal Drew looking around. Sees...

Travon in the doorway of an office shaking a male athlete's hand. He leaves and Travon looks up, catching Drew's eye.

Drew just standing there, eyes pleading. Travon waves him over and ushers him into the office...

INT. TRAVON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Travon closes the door behind them and walks around his desk to sit in his chair. Drew scans the many signed photos that are framed on the wall of college and pro football players.

TRAVON
What is it, Drew?

Off Drew's look, struggling to find the words.

TRAVON (CONT'D)
I am really busy, kid--

DREW
I went to rehab. I am going to start playing football at Williamson University next year. And I want you to train me.

TRAVON
I can't believe you. Shut the door on your way out.

DREW
I know that Jason Stallings is my dad and what happened that night.

Off Travon's look.

DREW (CONT'D)
And why you agreed not to tell me.

TRAVON
I always wanted you to know about your father, but I can't do it.

DREW
Why? I need you. You know me.

TRAVON
I just can't do it.

DREW
That is not good enough. Why? Why won't you do it?

And now the room is quiet while he waits for Travon to answer the question. But Travon just looks straight at Drew, him looking right back. It's a stand off. Finally --

TRAVON
Because it was me.

Off Drew's puzzled look.

TRAVON (CONT'D)
Jason tried drugs because of me.

Drew's eyes are wide open, angry and disappointed.

DREW
You fucking hypocrite. Fuck you.

TRAVON
I gave him pot to help him relax
before a final. He liked it. Then
came cocaine from my dealer. I just
stuck with pot but Jason really got
into the coke. I am so sorry Drew.

Travon looks up to find Drew on the verge of tears.

TRAVON (CONT'D)
I thought I owed it to Jason to
help you and Kim and that's why I
trained you when you were young. I
can't do it again. I can't handle
being around you knowing your past
and how you have treated everyone.

And now Drew's just looking right through him.

DREW
You owed Jason. Now you owe me,
Travon. Do it for him, for me, and
for my mom so I can look after her.

Travon's just shaking his head but not saying a word. Drew
walks up close to the desk and looks Travon in the eyes.

DREW (CONT'D)
You used to be the dad I never had.

Finally Travon stops shaking his head, looks at Drew.

DREW (CONT'D)
I am telling you that I am going to
come back. I will succeed and be a
great quarterback. But with you
Travon, I could be the best ever.

A beat. Travon's eyes are welling up. Drew -- and we -- are
shocked. This isn't a person we ever thought we'd see cry.

TRAVON

Fine. I'll train you until you no longer need me or tell me to quit.

Drew rushes around the desk. Travon stands and hugs him.

DISSOLVE TO:

A MONTAGE - DREW PROGRESSING IN LIFE

INT. CLASSROOM, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew receiving a grade from the teacher -- it's an A.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Drew training hard with Travon.

INT. OFFICE, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

The name plate: "ATHLETIC DIRECTOR." And the head coach speaking with Drew as he listens intently, nodding his head.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew trying out for his position just like the other guys.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Drew watching his future teammates on TV with his mom.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew and Kim at a home game of the Hutto Rocks.

EXT. LAWN, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

Drew sitting on the lawn eating lunch with some classmates.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM, KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Drew checking UT's website -- A pic of Lexi holding medals.

END MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM, KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Watching the game, Kim sees that Drew is pensive and quiet.

KIM

Hey Drew, you okay? You aren't cussing at the screen tonight.

They share a laugh.

DREW

Sorry, mom. I was checking out UT's website and saw Lexi's photo. She's doing so well. God she's beautiful.

KIM

I know. I have been keeping track of her too. She is going to go to med school after she graduates.

DREW

Yeah, I saw that. I read her bio--

Drew stops himself but it's too late. He looks down, embarrassed and ashamed. As Kim consoles him, we move to...

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, WILLIAMSON UNIVERSITY - DAY

It's August and the heat is tough. Drew stands with other players for the first training camp with the Williamson University Hutto Rocks team. Animated Coach JIMMY WEBB (40s), speaks eagerly.

WEBB

Welcome to the Hutto Rocks training camp. As you all know, we didn't make a bowl game this year, but we came very close.

He motions to Drew, giving him a friendly nod.

WEBB (CONT'D)

This is Drew Harris. He will be our quarterback for now.

Drew notes that the team don't look very excited about this news. As Webb gives Drew a reassuring look, we move to...

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The team practicing. Drew has a drive that impresses everyone. The coach watches as Drew blocks and hustles.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE, BACK GARDEN - DAY

Travon is grilling meat on the barbecue. Drew by his side.

DREW

Did mom tell you? They named me the starter quarterback.

Off Travon's look -- *of course she did.*

DREW (CONT'D)

The NCAA rules committee is allowing me to play only if I keep taking a drug test once a month.

TRAVON

Which isn't a problem, right?

DREW

They have all been negative so far.

TRAVON

That's my boy.

Travon gives him a high-five. But Drew then pulls him in for a man-hug. Travon is taken aback as Drew looks right at him.

DREW

Thank you, Travon.

And now we see Kim on the back porch, waiting on the steps holding a tray. We HOLD on her face, her eyes tearing up.

INT. NATATORIUM, UT UNIVERSITY - DAY

Lexi glides across the pool past her competitors and wins this 100 meter free style race. She emerges from the water, hands clasping the ledge. Staci arrives, rolling her eyes.

STACI

So, you won another race. Boring. When I race you in the Olympic trials, that will be a good race.

Lexi laughs. They exit the pool and walk to their towels.

LEXI

We'll see about that, but I'll still beat you.

STACI

Ha. Speaking of beatings, have you been hearing about Drew?

(MORE)

STACI (CONT'D)
Williamson University is playing great, and they say he is the reason why.

Staci turns to Lexi. She shrugs, nonchalant.

STACI (CONT'D)
Your poker face sucks. Maybe you should call him or go to a game.

LEXI
No way. First he owes me an apology and secondly, I don't chase boys.

Staci spots her boyfriend waiting... He hugs her tight. Lexi sees the embrace, looking a little jealous of the affection.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, LEXI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON THE TV - ESPN3 broadcast of Florida Atlantic playing Williamson University at home beating Atlantic 14 to 0. Pull back to REVEAL Lexi sitting on the sofa opening a pizza box as Drew appears on the screen. Lexi looks pained, sad, angry.

LEXI
(to herself)
Why did you have to be such a dick.

Staci and her boyfriend walk through the door. Staci walks over to Lexi, sits on the sofa and puts her arm around her.

STACI
So, how's he doing? Killing it?

Off Lexi's shrug.

STACI (CONT'D)
Really, Lexi?

A beat. Then Lexi hoists her knees up like a schoolgirl.

LEXI
He's 10 of 21 with 237 yards passing and two touchdowns at half time.

Staci smiles and giggles at Lexi. Staci's boyfriend laughs and grabs a slice of pizza. Staci pulls him onto the sofa.

STACI

Why don't you call him or go to a game?

LEXI

No way. Just because I like watching him doesn't mean I want him back. I appreciate his talent.

Lexi gets up and grabs a soda from the table.

STACI

Is it his talent or his talley wacker that you appreciate?

BOYFRIEND

Staci, really, don't gross me out.

LEXI

Can't you just sit and watch a game without rude comments. Fuck ya'll.

Lexi walks out. Staci's boyfriend shoots Staci a sharp look.

BOYFRIEND

Too soon.

The sound of a DOOR SLAMMING. Staci gets up...

INT. LEXI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lexi's slumped on the bed. Staci slowly pushes the door open a crack and sheepishly sticks her head through the gap.

STACI

I'm sorry. Can I come in?

Lexi just staring at her for a beat. Then --

LEXI

I guess.

Staci lays on the bed with Lexi. They both stare upwards at the Olympic rings poster on the ceiling.

STACI

I can't wait to watch you at the Olympics. I'm also pretty sure that Drew would like to be there too.

Lexi rolls over and rests on Staci's chest.

STACI (CONT'D)
 You know that Williamson University
 is playing Houston next Saturday...

LEXI
 And?

STACI
 Our swim team will be there at a
 swim meet that Friday. It's about
 an hour and a half drive. You could
 drive down to watch Drew play.

Lexi pauses for a moment at the temptation.

LEXI
 That will never happen.

Off Staci's disappointed look.

LEXI (CONT'D)
 I can't do another heartbreak.

STACI
 But you are soul mates.

LEXI
 He obviously didn't think so.

And as Staci comforts her, stroking Lexi's hair, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. TEXAS A&M VENUE - DAY

A Big 12 conference meet where the Longhorns are ranked #1. The girls in their starting positions as the Texas student section is CHANTING. Lexi and Staci look to each other with big smiles. Then, something catches Lexi's eye. Sees...

A sign above the student section that reads: "LEXI BALLARD, I LOVE YOU. I AM VERY SORRY. I AM DRUG AND DISEASE FREE."

Staci also sees it and looks to Lexi. The sign is blocking the bearer's face. A beat. The sign comes down to reveal Drew staring right at Lexi. He mouths the words: "I LOVE YOU."

Lexi's teammates staring at Lexi. She's frozen. Then --

COACH
 Ready girls! Good luck.

The girls get set. Ready... But not Lexi. The HORN SOUNDS!

Lexi gets off to a slow start, bounds behind Staci, who is leading the pack. The group reaches the 50 meter mark... Lexi does an amazing turn and dolphin kicks her way up right behind Staci and in front of the rest of the swimmers... Now they're neck and neck at 75 meters... But Staci lunges for the touch and wins... The swimmers meet side by side and hug.

STACI

He came just for you. He loves you.

Staci releases her hold and Lexi starts laughing.

LEXI

If he loves me as much as you do,
then it might just be okay. But
you're just happy because you won.

Staci grins before both girls get out of the pool. Their lesbian couple friends, ANGIE and JAMIE, excitedly approach.

JAMIE

"You two are freakin' hot. We love
watching you compete! Those swim
suits really show your ass well.

ANGIE

She's crazy, but it is true, your
asses are hot. Just kidding. Hey,
Staci, do you want a ride home?

LEXI

What about me?

JAMIE

Uh, I think you have other plans.

She nods to acknowledge Drew standing behind Lexi. Lexi turns around to see Drew. Then quickly turns back to her friends.

LEXI

See you guys at home in a bit?

STACI

Uh-huh.

The girls wave at Drew and walk off together. Lexi puts her towel around her neck and turns back around to face Drew.

DREW

(smiling)

You know, they're right. Your ass
does look good in that suit.

LEXI
Suit or no suit, you have always
loved my butt.

DREW
I love everything about you. I love
you, Lexi.

Lexi starts to walk away.

LEXI
Yeah, I saw.

Drew is following close behind her like a puppy.

DREW
Can we talk? Can I take you home or
will you stay and come to my game?

Lexi stops and turns around to face Drew.

DREW (CONT'D)
Drew, right now is not a good time
for me. I can't talk to you.

She enters the ladies' locker room. Drew sighs. A beat. Then
he looks around for any coaches and quickly walks inside...

INT. LADIES' LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where Drew sees Lexi through a gap in the curtain rinsing
off. Standing there awkwardly, Drew starts pleading.

DREW
Please, Lexi. I know I fucked up.

Lexi sticks her head out.

LEXI
No, you fucked other girls.

And retreats back inside the shower. Drew steps forward and
looks at Lexi's sculpted back, dripping wet and naked.

DREW
Look, I don't want to blame the
drugs, but I wouldn't have done
those things otherwise. I love you.
I've always loved you. We're meant
to be together and you know it.

Lexi turns off the water. Her silence gives Drew the idea
that she is thinking. She wraps herself in a towel and exits.

DREW (CONT'D)

Hey, where are you going?

Drew puts his hand on Lexi's shoulder, stopping her in her tracks... He leans in to kiss her neck. She hesitantly turns and he leans in to kiss her lips. Lexi proceeds to kiss Drew back softly and slowly. After a few moments of kissing...

LEXI

So, no diseases huh?

She smiles and laughs.

DREW

I had a blood test to confirm it.

Drew smiles back. Lexi takes his hand and pulls him into the shower stall. As she closes the curtain, we move to...

EXT. STANDS, FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

It's Drew's game against the Houston Cougars. Lexi's in the front row on the Williamson University side wearing a "HUTTO ROCKS" T-shirt. Kim and Travon walk past and sit in the next seats.

LEXI

It is nice to see you Ms. Harris
and Mr. Travon.

Kim and Travon turn around to see Lexi, surprised. Then Kim leans in to give her a long hug. Travon smiles at the sight.

TRAVON

Hey, hey, Ms. Lexi.

KIM

We have missed you dear.

The three get set to watch the game, popcorn in hand.

LEXI

Drew's going to have a tough time
with this defense. The running game
better be good today or he'll have
to win this by himself.

She eats some popcorn and has a sip of soda. Then looks over to find Kim and Travon staring right at her, smiling wide.

LEXI (CONT'D)

What? So I've been watching a bit.

Kim and Travon laugh. Lexi shrugs sweetly and picks up a sign that she's made on white posterboard: "HUTTO ROCKS ROCK!"

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - LATER

Drew is sacked hard and knocked onto his back. The score is Houston 10 and Williamson University 0 at the half. Kim and Lexi exchange a worried look. Travon just shaking his head.

TRAVON

He's spent the whole game on his back. What the hell's happening?

Lexi reaches into her bag and retrieves a thick marker. While Travon and Kim are busy discussing Drew, she writes something on the back of her posterboard sign that we do not yet see...

The teams come back on the field to start the second half.

LEXI

(calling out)
Drew Harris, look over here.

Lexi stands and shows her sign: "I LOVE YOU DREW, YOU PUSSY."

Drew and his teammates see the sign. The players all laugh as do the coaches. Off Drew's mortified look...

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Huddle: Drew's teammates make a "vagina" triangle sign with their hands to Drew. He slaps one of their helmets.

-- Field: Bomb pass down the left side lines is caught by the wide receiver. The play goes for 80 yards and a touchdown.

-- Stands: The crowd goes wild including Lexi, Kim, Travon.

-- Field: Drew gets many congratulations. He looks up at Lexi and winks. Lexi acknowledges the wink and blows him a kiss.

INT. TRU LUCKS RESTAURANT - DAY

It's bustling with people and TV SCREENS on the walls -- all of which are replaying the Houston/Hutto game. Drew being interviewed post-game by a Fox Sports Southwest reporter.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Drew, no turn overs and you beat the Cougars. How do you feel?

DREW (V.O.)

Well, the team really came together
and fought hard. Offense, defense,
special teams, everyone was great.

We REVERSE to reveal Kim, Travon, Lexi and Drew sitting at a table. Travon turns back from the TV and starts impersonating the reporter while jokingly using his spoon as a microphone.

TRAVON

The Heisman is starting to look
good for you, Mr. Harris. What do
you want to say to your critics?

Drew smiles. Thinks for a beat and then answers sincerely.

DREW

Honestly, I haven't thought about
the Heisman and screw the critics.
I'm just here to play for the team.

Everyone is taken aback. Then, Drew leans forward into the spoon and adopts an amusingly high voice --

DREW (CONT'D)

Thank you.

And as the group burst out laughing, Lexi giving Drew a sweet kiss on his lips, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD, HOUSTON - DAY

Drew's new Ford 150 truck driving through the city.

INT. DREW'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Drew driving. Lexi in the passenger seat looking out the window. He glances over at Lexi and cracks a silly smile.

DREW

So, have you ever had a threesome
with Angie and her girlfriend?

Lexi turns around. Waits a beat. Then --

LEXI

Maybe.

Drew is floored. But then Lexi bursts out laughing.

DREW
Ha! You had me there a minute.

LEXI
You wish.

Lexi slides close to Drew, puts her head on his shoulder.

LEXI (CONT'D)
You were great today, you know. You led that team to victory. They're starting to talk about the first round NFL draft choices for you.

DREW
You mean, shit's getting real?

Lexi laughs. Drew kisses her on the head. She looks up --

LEXI
Have you thought about what you are going to do after this senior year?

DREW
Well, if you're going to be an ER doctor, I better step up.

Off Lexi's amused look.

DREW (CONT'D)
I have changed and now I know who I am and who I want to be. The best.

LEXI
You have always wanted to be that and at the rate you're going now, I think that it's very possible.

DREW
Yeah, but it's different now. I want to win the Heisman, but not for me- for my mom, for my team, my university, and for my dad.

LEXI
Your dad?

Drew glances at Lexi before focusing back ahead.

DREW
I need to tell you something, but you cannot tell anyone.

LEXI
Okay, yeah, anything.

Lexi turning to her side to face Drew.

DREW
Jason Stallings was my father.

Drew looks to her and her mouth is open, stunned. Then --

LEXI
You look and play like him too!

DREW
Yes, I know. But I am not going to
be cocky and arrogant like him.

Drew stops at the RED LIGHT.

DREW (CONT'D)
I am going to be the best player
and the best teammate. And...the
best husband and father.

He grabs Lexi's hand.

DREW (CONT'D)
I want to marry you. I know now is
not the time, but I can't wait to
ask you when the time is right.

Lexi kisses Drew. The sound of CARS HONKING startles them both. Drew sees a line up of cars behind. And as they both laugh, Drew driving away, we...

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTZ CAVE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON TV hanging above the bar showing the National Championship game - Texas Longhorns vs. Alabama Crimson Tide.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Since Drew Harris left the Texas
team, Jake Price has been the
starting quarterback and doing
great. But not today... Alabama
defeated Texas 26 to 20...

Jake walks in and sees Drew hanging out with the guys and laughing. Jake gets a STANDING OVATION from the crowd. A tatty-looking barfly gives Jake a fist bump and grabs him.

BARFLY

Almost man. Ya'll almost beat them bastards!

Jake smiles wide at the PRAISING ROAR from the bar. Drew waves over Jake and gives him a chair. Two beers waiting...

DREW

You need to catch up dude.

JAKE

Thanks man, I need that right now. I am so pissed we fuckin' lost.

DREW

You did a great job leading the team to the National Championship.

JAKE

But I didn't win that final game.

Drew puts his hand on Jake's shoulder.

DREW

Yeah, you did suck on that last drive, but dude, you were awesome.

JAKE

Same old Drew, so supportive.

Jake taking a drink and looking ahead at the bar back.

JAKE (CONT'D)

So, why are you here Drew?

Turns back to face him.

DREW

I came here to see you- to apologize for everything. I was a dick and ruined everything that I had with my family and friends.

Jake turns back to the TV. Drew takes a breath. Then --

DREW (CONT'D)

I went to rehab. I'm clean. As for you, well, I'm trying. I miss my best friend... Please forgive me.

Drew looking at Jake staring at the TV.

DREW (CONT'D)

Say something Jake.

JAKE

I came here after I got your text
because I was going to forgive you.
I just wanted to hear it from you.

Drew smiles and they man hug, ending with a double back tap.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Fuck, I still can't believe we
lost. I don't know if I have what
it takes if I'm drafted to play
quarterback in the NFL, you know?

DREW

Dude, you have it. You just need to
get down and even dirtier.

JAKE

I watched all your games. You are
stellar. I love to watch you play.

DREW

Thanks man, well that makes two of
us. I watched you too.

Drew and Jake touch bottle tops and cheer each other. And as
they continue drinking, bond rekindled, we...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

ESTABLISHING. OVER Manhattan's harbor, featuring the forest
of skyscrapers and the Brooklyn Bridge in the distance.

EXT. STREET, MIDTOWN - CONTINUOUS

Drew and Lexi grabbing a pretzel from a vendor, plumes of
steam rising out of manhole covers in the background.

LEXI

No more pretzels for you after
you're drafted tomorrow in the NFL.

DREW

"If" I'm drafted.

Off Lexi's look -- *puh-lease*.

DREW (CONT'D)
You're going to move with me right?

LEXI
I hope to- I'll apply to a medical school wherever you end up. Then I can love you up and watch you play.

Lexi turning to Drew to kiss him, passersby stepping around.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)
Alright, alright, move along.

They pull back to reality to see Jake arm in arm with Staci.

DREW
Ha! Like you both comply with the PDA rule said neither of you ever.

They share a laugh and we see Travon and Kim just behind them approaching the group. And as they get closer we note Travon and Kim are holding hands... Travon winks and smirks at Lexi.

TRAVON
No messing around during football, ma'am.

Drew playfully punches Travon's arm as they continue walking.

LEXI
Drew isn't playing tomorrow. He gets to sit and wait for destiny.

JAKE
(mocking)
Awww...

Jake messes up Drew's hair and takes off down the street. And as Drew runs after him, the gang laughing, we...

CUT TO:

INT. DRAFT ROOM, NFL DRAFT VENUE - NIGHT

Drew, Lexi, Jake, Staci, and Kim, sitting together in a private room on the premises where the event takes place.

SUPERIMPOSE: "NFL DRAFT DAY ONE."

Many fans, players, coaches, and others hover around Travon wanting to talk to him and get his autograph and/or picture.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and gentleman, the draft has started.

Travon makes his way to the group and sits beside Drew.

DREW

I hope you had fun talking it up while I sit here nervous as fuck.

Travon places his hand on Drew's shoulder.

TRAVON

Dude, don't worry, you'll get in...

DREW

I love ya man.

They look to one of many TV MONITORS in the room broadcasting the event. The COMMISSIONER of the NFL walks onto the stage.

COMMISSIONER (V.O.)

With the first pick of the 2016 NFL draft, the Dallas Colts choose Bo Sanders from USC.

The crowd CHEERS as they wait for the guy to appear on stage. Travon leans close to Drew as the TV continues in the b.g....

TRAVON

You have worked hard and you're a great quarterback. Some scouts are a little skeptical about drafting you, but I put in a good word.

DREW

Don't do me any favors. I want to get chosen because of my talent, not for you and your connections.

TRAVON

I did not tell the scouts anything false. Drew, you are one of the best quarterbacks I have ever seen. And if your dad was alive to say it, he would say the same thing.

And as Drew looks away, focusing back on the TV monitors --

COMMISSIONER (V.O.)

With the 24th pick in the 2016 NFL draft, the Columbus Pythons choose Jake Price, quarterback from Texas.

Jake looks at everyone. The group converges on him and begins congratulating him. Jake grabs Drew and they have a huge hug.

DREW

You deserve it Jake. Columbus, man.
That is awesome.

JAKE

I know. If I don't mess up then I could really start this year. But Columbus? I am going to freeze my ass off.

Drew and Jake both laugh.

DREW

You will do great. I will miss you, man. I hope we can stay close.

JAKE

Me too. I can't believe this is happening. This is what we have been playing for all these years.

Drew watches him exit the room where camera men are waiting outside. A NFL rep greets Jake and escorts him down the hall.

And as Drew looks at Lexi and then the rest of his group, them returning a look of support, we...

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Lexi exits the ensuite bathroom in a robe to find Drew on the bed, sulking. She gingerly gets on the bed and straddles him.

DREW

I can't believe this. Because of my drug past, I am not going to play football in the NFL.

LEXI

Drew, you will get picked. No one can dismiss your talent. Yes, you are a risk because of your past so the teams don't want to waste a top pick on you in case you relapse.

DREW

Well, thanks for the confidence.

LEXI

You know what I mean. The teams are taking care of their needs first.

Drew grabs Lexi and rolls over to place her under him.

DREW

When did you get so smart on football?

LEXI

I've always liked football, and I've always liked you. I love you.

Lexi staring into Drew's eyes as he leans in for a kiss.

DREW

I love you too Lexi.

And as we leave them there, closer than ever, we move to...

INT. DRAFT ROOM, NFL DRAFT VENUE - NIGHT

Now it's just Drew, Lexi, and Kim, sitting together. Drew glances at the wall clock: "4:00 p.m." and shakes his head.

SUPERIMPOSE: "NFL DRAFT DAY TWO."

Travon is focused on the ESPN anchor on one of the monitors.

ESPN ANCHOR

With three quarters of the second round of NFL drafting done, Drew Harris has not been called...

Drew gets frustrated and walks out of the room. Travon looks to Kim to see if she should follow and she shakes her head.

INT. HALLWAY, NFL DRAFT VENUE - CONTINUOUS

Drew hanging his head low as he walks toward the "Men's Room" sign at the end of the hall. Then, he looks up. Sees...

A boy about six-years-old wearing a Miami Vultures Jersey standing alone outside the entrance to the bathroom crying.

Drew walks over to boy, kneeling down to get to his level.

DREW

Hey, what's going on kid?

BOY

I'm lost and I can't find my dad.

DREW

I see... I'll call a friend to get the staff to make an announcement.

And takes out his phone. Glances around while he dials...

INT. DRAFT ROOM, NFL DRAFT VENUE - CONTINUOUS

Travon reacts to his vibrating phone in his pocket. Kim looks concerned when she sees the screen: "Drew Harris." Travon answers and listens... Signals to Kim that everything's okay.

INT. HALLWAY, NFL DRAFT VENUE - MOMENTS LATER

Now Drew and the boy throwing a football in the hallway, each of Drew's spiral throws making the boy gasp in awe.

BOY

Are you a football player here for the draft?

DREW

Yes, I am a quarterback.

BOY

Will you sign my football?

Drew smiles, tickled by the boy's enthusiasm. He nods and approaches a gentleman in a gray suit who is standing nearby.

DREW

Excuse me, sir. Do you have a pen?

The man takes a pen from his inside jacket pocket and watches Drew sign the boy's football. He watches the kid's reaction as Drew hands the pen back. He walks away smiling to himself.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRIS ROOM, NFL DRAFT VENUE - MOMENTS LATER

The group playing cards in the room. Drew has still not been chosen. The group is looking anxious and losing hope.

SUPERIMPOSE: "NFL DRAFT ROUND THREE."

ANGLE ON the monitor as the commissioner heads to the microphone once more.

COMMISSIONER (V.O.)

The next pick of the 2014 NFL draft is from the Miami Vultures and goes to Drew Harris, quarterback from Williamson University.

Drew immediately stands up and is surprised that his name was called. The group do the same, hugging and kissing Drew.

INT. STAGE AREA, NFL DRAFT VENUE - MOMENTS LATER

BULBS FLASHING. REPORTERS CLAMORING. CHEERS FROM THE CROWD.

Drew on stage receiving a handshake from the commissioner. He walks off the stage smiling wide to find the member from the Miami organization waiting for him. Now out of the blaring lights, Drew looks up at the Vulture rep closely. Sees...

It's the gentleman in the suit that lent him the pen earlier.

DREW

Wow, it's you, small world, huh?

VULTURE REP

I watched you with that boy. You didn't leave him until his dad arrived. I was impressed. That is when I decided to bid for you. It took a lot of convincing to the other guys so I hope that you won't disappoint me and make me look bad.

DREW

No sir. I promise that you won't ever regret drafting me. Thank you.

Drew then holds out his hand and they exchange a firm shake.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. MIAMI, FLORIDA - DAY

ESTABLISHING. Over the turquoise waters of Biscayne Bay toward Miami Beach, home to South Beach.

SUPERIMPOSE: "THREE YEARS LATER."

EXT. HOUSE, SOUTH BEACH - CONTINUOUS

A MAIL VAN drives INTO FRAME. Parks outside a nice house, views of the beach beyond. The mailman jumps down from the truck and leaves a package by the front door...

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's interior design porn. The entrance-hall is iconic, curated, towering ceilings and an open, wide staircase leading to an upper level. The sound of the DOORBELL...

Lexi appears at the top of the stairs dressed in scrubs, a spring in her step as she descends to open the front door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where Drew turns his head from the huge TV on the wall, his shirtless body displayed in all its glory on the L-sofa.

DREW
Who is it, honey?

Lexi enters the room opening a package smiling ear to ear.

LEXI
Oh, nothing. Just the latest
edition of Sports Illustrated.

Off Drew's look.

LEXI (CONT'D)
The swimsuit edition...

Now Drew's interested. Lexi laughs, holding it up --

Now we see that LEXI is on the cover under the headline:

"WORLD CHAMP SWIMMER AND OLYMPIC HOPEFUL LEXI BALLARD."

And as Drew leaps off the sofa, grabbing her and kissing her, Lexi loving every bit of the attention, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM, MIAMI - DAY

The Vultures put together a huge, elaborate grand entrance. The teams move onto the field and are warming up. Drew and his receivers are on the sidelines throwing to get ready.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators sitting amongst monitors with a view over the packed stadium visible through floor-to-ceiling windows.

COMMENTATOR #1

In his first NFL year, Drew made some mind blowing stats and sent the Vultures to the playoffs. In his second NFL year, Drew took the Vultures to the Super Bowl. They may have lost to Chicago but here we are at the 2018 Super Bowl where the Miami Vultures will fight it out against Atlanta Bison. Both teams are tough, and this should be an exciting battle.

EXT. STADIUM, MIAMI - DAY

The grand kick off is off and the game begins.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Atlanta Bison receive the ball first and start at their 20 yard line after a touchback in the end zone. Their QB, and their offense, go down the field to score a touchdown.

-- The Vultures huddled listening to their coordinator.

-- Drew and his offense score a touchdown, revving them up.

-- The teams go into the locker at half, tied.

-- Starting at their own 20 yard line, Drew lines up behind center and calls the cadence. He drops back to pass and launches a bomb down the sideline to his wide out but the receiver is tackled on the 13 yard line of Atlanta. The crowd goes wild as the Vultures make their way down to the ball where it is marked.

-- The Bison take the ball in a long, tiring drive down the field and score a touchdown. It is now Bison 21 Vultures 14.

-- Drew is in the shotgun when the center snaps the ball and he throws a quick five yard slant to his left wide receiver who catches the ball and is on his way to the end zone. A hard hit and "boom," the ball goes flying and he fumbles. The ball is caught by a safety and chased by offense. Drew comes out of nowhere and hits the safety out of bounds.

-- Drew and the offense can barely stand it as they watch the Atlanta offense drive down the field and score a field goal.

The third quarter is over and now the Vultures will get the ball back for the fourth quarter down 10 points.

-- It's after nine plays and fourth down, the Vultures are about to punt. A player is hurt for the Bison, so there is a TV timeout. The yelling gets bad between the offense and defensive players. Drew hears the beat down and can't stand to see the fighting. He goes over to talk to COACH LANG (40).

DREW

Coach, please let me go out on the punt as a gunner?

LANG

Are you fucking kidding me? This is not playtime Drew. No way.

DREW

I am serious. I am fast enough.

LANG

I don't care if you are the fastest guy on the team. You are our quarterback and you are too valuable to put out there to get hurt.

Coach Lang walks away from Drew to talk to the players.

DREW

Coach, if you don't put me out there then I am not going back on the field.

Lang turns around to face him, Drew holding his look.

LANG

I don't know what you are trying to prove, but I don't agree with this. Get out there.

Drew runs out on the field to replace the other player.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Where the announcers are losing their shit.

ANNOUNCER

This might be a fake punt with Drew Harris on the outside. I hope Atlanta is prepared for this...

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Drew runs down the side after shaking off two blockers and makes it to the returner right when he catches the ball. Drew holds out his arms and hits the player in the chest with his left shoulder, popping the ball loose for a Vulture to grab.

-- The crowd goes wild.

-- With one play from the scrimmage, the running back runs in the ball to score. The Vultures have now put the score at 17 to 24, Bison leading.

-- After the kickoff, it is a three and out possession for the Bison. The momentum has changed and the Vultures have it all. Down 10 points in the fourth quarter, the Vultures come back to tie the game with only 1:40 to go.

-- The Vultures have received the ball back after the Bison went for it on the fourth down on the Miami 42 yard line. The defense stops the offense. Drew and offense have one last shot at winning the game before they go into overtime.

-- Drew takes the 1:40 and drives the team down the field for a game winning field goal. The time expires as the ball is kicked into the uprights. The Vultures win the Super Bowl.

CONFETTI, STREAMERS, CHEERS, AND CELEBRATION IN THE STADIUM

The players and media make their way to the stage for their post-game awards and speeches. All the team gathers around as the NFL COMMISSIONER leans excitedly toward the microphone.

COMMISSIONER

I just want to say thanks to the
Atlanta Bison and the Miami
Vultures for a great, entertaining
game.

The CROWD YELLS and only stops when the commissioner motions for Drew to come onto the podium. Gives him a huge man hug.

COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

Just what were you thinking asking
Coach Lang to go in on a punt?!

DREW

Gary, our team needed something to
change the momentum, but I didn't
expect for us to recover a fumble.

COMMISSIONER

Well, you did. And it was a game changer. But that is not the only reason why I asked you here...

The crowd is CRAZY NOISY in anticipation. Off Drew's look...

COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

I want to present to you the MVP award for Super Bowl 2018. You definitely earned it.

Out steps someone to hand Drew the award. He looks over to see Kim, Travon, Lexi, Jake, and Staci looking ecstatic.

COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

What about it fans? Do you think Drew deserves the MVP?

And grabs Drew's arm with the trophy to holds it up. Almost the entire crowd is standing and applauding. Then he hands Drew the microphone and waves his arms to hush the crowd...

DREW

I came here not knowing what to expect from the fans and media. I have heard the good, the bad, and the ugly because of my past. I have overcome my bad decisions and have made a new name for myself. And because of you and your support. I am a Super Bowl winner and a MVP.

The crowd is loud with mixed emotions, some HOORAYS and some BOOS. Drew has to wait a beat for the noise to settle again.

DREW (CONT'D)

I want to thank my mother for being there for me all the time.

Drew looks right at Kim standing in the stands.

DREW (CONT'D)

It has been rough, but she stood by me, just like she did with her husband, my dad. She knew that with hard work and discipline, I would end up right here in front of you.

A beat. Off the commissioner and coaches curious looks...

DREW (CONT'D)

I know you're wondering why I mentioned my father.

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

It's because of my mother and him
that I have these natural talents.
But he died before I was born. So,
I want to take this time right now
to thank my father, Jason
Stallings.

The crowd surrounding Drew hold their mouths open, stunned.

DREW (CONT'D)

But it's not him I want to praise
because he was a superstar
quarterback. I want to praise my
mother Kim Harris. I cannot thank
you enough. I love you, mom.

Drew hands the microphone to the stunned commissioner and
steps off the stage to walk over to his family...

The camera crews following as Kim, Travon, and Lexi jump the
rail to mob Drew with congratulations and hugs... Jake gives
Drew a fist bump... Travon goes up for a chest bump... And
then Drew turns to Lexi, picks her up and gives her a kiss.

The crowd continues to celebrate and chant:

CROWD

Drew, Drew, Drew, Drew, Drew....

FADE TO BLACK.