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PRODUCER: Martin Starger
DIRECTOR: Peter Bogdanovich

MASK

Third Draft Revised Screenplay

by

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(X)

Marstar Productions, Inc.

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TO ALL DEPTS:

RE: MASK CHRONOLOGY

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE ARE CHANGING THE YEAR IN WHICH
THE BODY OF THE PICTURE TAKES PLACE.

THE PICTURE WILL NOW START IN LATE SUMMER 1979 AND ROCKY DIES
IN 1980.

THE LAST SCENE (AT THE CEMETERY) REMAINS 1984.

MARTIN STARGER

MASK

FADE IN

1 EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOTHILLS - MORNING 1

The foothill communities lie in a trench at the bottom of the San Gabriel Mountains: towns given birth by subdividers after World War II that now fold into one another.

BEGIN CREDITS

The sound of Bruce Springsteen's "Badlands" is faintly heard as we see the results of the Planning Department of the City of Azusa. The seventy-five square miles of streets are crisscrossed in perfect pattern.

A series of shots brings us in closer as the music becomes slowly, but increasingly, louder.

2 EXT. AZUSA STREET - MORNING 2

The street is lined with small tract homes built in the 1950s. Pickup trucks and American-made cars sit in drive-ways. Several of these cars are propped up on cinder blocks.

3 EXT./INT. ROCKY DENNIS' ROOM - MORNING 3

We are now close in on a bedroom window of one of the houses. Through the window we see a back view of fifteen-year-old Rocky Dennis. His movements, as he rushes around his room, are typical of the average hurried teenager. The room is also representative of a young American male in the year 1977. The walls are covered: a Bruce Springsteen poster, a Beatles poster, pictures of Harley Davidson motorcycles and a cork bulletin board partially covered with baseball trading cards. "The 1955 BROOKLYN DODGERS" printed on cardboard above it. There are five cards in sandwich Baggies mounted on the board. A little tack holds the Baggies in place. The cards are placed in various positions...not in rows. We see Gil Hodges, Don Newcombe, Duke Snider, Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese. Above Rocky's dresser is what appears to be a map of Europe torn out of a Rand-McNally Atlas. A large square of white poster paper serves as its backing. Arrows are drawn across the poster paper and aim at different cities and points of interest on the continent. A full-length mirror is fastened to the outside of the closet door. (X)

4 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - MORNING 4

The music is now at a level only a fifteen-year-old can love. Half-opened cardboard boxes tell us Rocky is in the

CONTINUED

4

CONTINUED

4

process of moving into this room in his new house. We see (X)
quick glimpses of him in the mirror. A jacket is pulled
from the closet and, with his back still to us, he shoves
his arms into the sleeves. He checks out his image in
the mirror. For the first time we see, in the mirror, the
face of Rocky Dennis. Small eyes are extremely wide-set
on his enormous face. The bridge of his nose is nonexistent.
It looks like he's wearing a bizarre mask. He ruffles his
hair, hikes up his collar, and assumes a "rock star with
guitar" pose and does a little pantomime to the music. He
checks the image again. He likes it. Turning from the mirror,
he sees something out the window. Then it's one more look in
the more mirror and a push on the stop button of his tape
machine. The music cuts off midnote. He's out the door.

END CREDITS

5

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - MORNING

5

A Mercury pulls up in front of the house. Rusty Dennis gets
out of the passenger side. Rusty is "a looker" in her late
thirties with magnificent hair. She wears jeans, a denim
cutoff vest covering a black jersey and a Star of David
on a chain around her neck. Her eye makeup is smeared. An
"all-nighter" is written on her face. She walks away from
the car as a blond Man, in his late twenties, gets out of the
driver's side. He looks spent but ready for more. Catching
up with her, he puts his arm around her waist. She gives him
a little kiss and they continue toward the porch. The front
door bolts open and Rocky leaps out onto the porch. The
blond Man sees the boy. His jaw drops.

ROCKY

YOU FORGOT WHAT WE HAVE TO DO THIS
MORNING.

MAN

Jesus, who's that?

RUSTY

My son.
(to Rocky)
I did?

ROCKY

THE SCHOOL! THE CLINIC! THE BLOOD
RUN! IT'S TODAY, MOM!

CONTINUED

RUSTY

Oh, shit.

When she "beelines" it for the house, the blond Man follows her. She waves him off. He is persistent and trails after her. She turns him around and tries to take him back to his car. Rocky urges her to hurry. We hear the sound of motorcycles and four Harley-Davidsons turn into the driveway. One is driven by a man in his sixties named Red Rhodes. A grey beard covers his face while a twisted red kerchief holds his long gray hair in place. The second bike is dwarfed by the nearly 300-pound weight of its driver, Bulldozer "Dozer" Higgins. The remaining two bikes carry Stickman Bernside, in his early thirties, and Canuck Malloy, in his mid-twenties. This younger pair travel as almost a "matched set." Both want to be like Red when they grow up.

Rocky runs over to the "bikers." Rusty looks at Dozer and points to the blond Man. Dozer lifts his girth from the bike and waddles toward the Man. Ad-libs indicate that Rusty should hurry. Dozer is backing the quivering Man toward his car as Rusty dashes in the house. Red motions to Rocky who navigates around Dozer and the Man on his way over to Red and the other guys. Red takes a Steve Garvey baseball trading card out of his cutoff vest pocket and hands it to Rocky.

RED

This the one you've been looking for?

ROCKY

No...I already got two Steve Garveys
...but, thanks anyway, Red.

STICKMAN

(to Red)

I told you that wasn't the right
one. He's tryin' to find a...a....

ROCKY

A Rube Walker. Card number 22.
Brooklyn Dodgers, 1955.

(X)

Rocky takes a stack of baseball cards from his back pocket, finds his other Steve Garveys and slides the new card between them. Rusty explodes out of the house, drinking from a blender. She puts the blender down on the porch and runs, tucking in a different T-shirt.

CONTINUED

5

CONTINUED - 2

5

ROCKY
YOU GOT THE LEASE? I GOT EVERYTHING
ELSE.

She turns around and runs back into the house.

CUT TO

6

EXT. NORTH AVENUE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

6

Red, with Rusty leaning against the "sissy bar," pulls the bike under a marquee that reads 1979-80 STUDENT REGISTRATION, (X) SEPTEMBER 1 - 5. Dozer, with Rocky barely fitting behind him, swerves into place next to Red. Stickman and Canuck follow. Mother and son run up the school steps and through the front doors.

7

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

7

As they approach the school's office, they pass five ninth graders who hover like pilot fish around the obvious leader of the group, Eric Dempsey. Eric is a California golden boy: handsome, well-dressed, lean and squeaky clean. His arm is around his girl friend, Lisa Sands. Lisa is so much the female version of Eric they could pass for brother and sister. They all stop their talking and stare at the strange intruders. Rocky turns and quickly sneaks a look at Lisa. Then he and his mother walk into the school office.

8

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

8

The school secretary, Mrs. Hannen, a no-nonsense woman in her sixties, sits at her desk behind the counter. She stops short when she sees Rusty and Rocky. Rusty immediately spies a door with a sign above it that reads: MR. SIMMS, PRINCIPAL. She heads for it, her kid following.

MRS. HANNEN

Wait a minute...Ma'am....

9

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

9

Mr. Walter Simms, in his fifties, is a man who believes the country is doomed because of the collapse of the "American

CONTINUED

9

CONTINUED

family." When Rusty and Rocky come into his office, he does a classic double take. Rusty stands in front of his desk as Rocky begins a critical inventory of Mr. Simms' credentials hung in frames on the walls. Through the window behind Mr. Simms, we can see the "bikers" waiting in front of the school.

RUSTY

I'm here to register my son for the ninth grade.

Mr. Simms' eyes dart from this strange woman in front of him to the even stranger boy across the room.

MR. SIMMS

Well, Mrs....

(X)

She has a forced, impatient smile.

RUSTY

No 'Mrs.'...I'm Rusty Dennis and he's Rocky....

Rocky flashes a wide "How do you do?" smile to Mr. Simms.

RUSTY

...And we gotta move this along 'cuz we're runnin' late.

MR. SIMMS

Well, ah...this is a public junior high school, Ms. Dennis...There are special schools, wonderful facilities that might be...more appropriate for his needs.

RUSTY

Do you teach Algebra, Biology and English here?

MR. SIMMS

Of course.

RUSTY

Great. Those are his needs...Now, whatta we have to do so we can get outta here?

CONTINUED

9

CONTINUED - 2

MR. SIMMS

Perhaps I should talk to the boy's father.

9

(X)

RUSTY

Perhaps you should talk to the Pope, too, while you're at it. He'd be a lot easier to find.

(X)

MR. SIMMS

Well, under the circumstances, I do feel...for the good of my students as well as your son...I'll need some additional information.

She's had it and cuts him off. The smile remains but she talks through clenched teeth. She sounds more frustrated than angry.

RUSTY

Look, don't jack us around, Mr. Simms. I'm not in the mood. I've had a really crappy day so far...We move across town and find we're in a different goddamn school district ...So now I have to go through all this bullshit....

She pulls papers out of the back pocket of her jeans. Rocky, meanwhile, has picked up last year's Year Book and is flipping the pages.

RUSTY

Here's a copy of our lease...a copy of Rocky's birth certificate...his last report card from Stevens Junior High...where he was in the top five percent of his class. And I'll give you some more 'additional information.' Our lawyer's name is B.D. Higgins. He's told us about our rights and said if you give us any shit, he'll take your ass into court.

She gives Rocky the "let's split" high sign. Mr. Simms doesn't quite know what hit him. On his way toward the door, Rocky leans over Mr. Simms' desk.

ROCKY

(very 'man to man')
Don't worry, Mr. Simms. I look weird,

CONTINUED

9

CONTINUED - 3

9

ROCKY (Cont'd)
but I'm real normal otherwise. Every-
thing'll be cool.

He puts out his hand for a shake. Mr. Simms takes it.

ROCKY
Thanks a lot. I'll see ya next week.

Rocky is out the door.

10

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

10

As Rusty and Rocky, now caught up with her, arrive at the
bikes.

ROCKY
Who's B.D. Higgins?

Rusty tries to put her arms all the way around Dozer. She
can't, but gives him a hug anyway.

RUSTY
Bull...Dozer.

ROCKY
(laughs)
DOZER? That's a good one, Mom.

RUSTY
Come on. I wanna get outta here.
Bullshit rules....

They organize themselves onto the bikes, and one by one,
ride off the school grounds.

(X)

CUT TO

(X)

11
and
12

OMITTED

11
and
12
(X)
13

13

INT. GENETICS CLINIC - DAY

We are close in on Rocky's face. He looks straight ahead
as a measuring tape is slung around his head and droops

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED

13

down over one eye. Then it's pulled snugly across his forehead.

BILLY (V.O.)

Cranium circumference...sixty-seven centimeters.

(X)

We pull back to see Rocky sitting on an examining table dressed in a hospital examining gown. The Genetics Nurse, Billy Aimes, is a handsome black man in his late twenties. Dr. Ila Yenner, an intern on Genetics Rotation, is sitting to the side of them and writes the measurements in Rocky's chart.

BILLY

Last one, kid.

Billy measures from the bottom of Rocky's left ear lobe, down across the point of his chin, to his right ear lobe.

BILLY

Mandible...thirty-two point five centimeters.

(X)

DR. YENNER

That's good news, Rocky. Your jaw measurement only increased an eighth of an inch since your last checkup in April.

Rocky jumps off the table and waves his arms "hallelujah style."

ROCKY

I knew it. It's a miracle. Maybe it was the water in Azusa...I don't know. I don't care...I'm cured!

Billy and Dr. Yenner both love the histrionics and laugh. Billy leads Rocky to the other side of the room where he places him in front of a height measurement chart. Dr. Yenner writes Rocky's height into the chart as Billy readies a camera to take "state of the art" pictures of the patient. Even now, standing alone next to the height chart, his thin limbs hanging out of the hospital gown, Rocky Dennis has a strange kind of dignity. Majestically he turns profile and poses.

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED - 2

13

ROCKY

Okay. Shoot.

While various angles of Rocky are being shot, Dr. Carl Vinton comes into the room. Dr. Vinton, in his early thirties, is cocky and cool. He's the new Chief Resident, Genetics Department, and is responsible for all the genetic patients seen at this teaching medical center. He looks at Rocky and takes the chart from Dr. Yenner.

DR. VINTON

Fill me in on this, Doctor Yenner.

The doctors are positioned so that they flank Rocky on each side and talk past him. His eyes follow them as if he's watching a Ping-Pong match.

DR. YENNER

The patient was first diagnosed with craniodiaphyseal dysplasia at four years of age when it was discovered that calcium was depositing at an abnormal rate throughout his skull.

(X)

DR. VINTON

And what have you learned about this disorder, Doctor?

DR. YENNER

Well, it's extremely rare. One in approximately twenty-two million births.

DR. VINTON

How was it first described?

A blank look washes across Dr. Yenner's face. It's obvious she doesn't know the answer. Rocky shoots his hand up like he's in a classroom situation. Billy hides a grin by turning away.

ROCKY

I know...I know!

The doctors look at him. Rocky doesn't wait to be acknowledged.

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED - 3

13

ROCKY

They used to call it 'lionitis'
which means 'the look of the lion.'
(to Doctor Vinton)
Are you new around here?

DR. VINTON

Yes, I am.

Dr. Vinton goes back to business and Dr. Yenner.

(X)

DR. VINTON

Cause?

DR. YENNER

(X)

It's caused by two recessive genes
and happens to the offspring of
normal parents. His mother had an
uneventful pregnancy...didn't ingest
any chemical substance or teratogen
during gestation.

Rocky gives Dr. Yenner a big hand as Dr. Henry Rudinsky and (X)
a Woman Resident come into the room. Dr. Rudinsky is in his
seventies, the undisputed authority on Clinical Genetics.
He is making his periodic visit to the hospital.

DR. RUDINSKY

Did I miss something good?

ROCKY

You never miss anything, Doctor
Rudinsky. Always stoppin' by to
check out the really good...
(makes a face)
...stuff, right?

Dr. Rudinsky smiles and nods. He moves toward Rocky, but is
stopped by Dr. Vinton who sees this as a good time to make
points with the "old man."

DR. VINTON

Our latest data on this patient
supports your paper in the New
England Journal....

Dr. Rudinsky cuts the grandstanding Doctor off and talks to
Rocky.

DR. RUDINSKY

How are you feeling, Rocky?

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED - 4

The man's voice is kind, warm, honest.

ROCKY

Fine. How 'bout you?

Dr. Rudinsky flip-flops his hand in a "so-so" gesture.

DR. RUDINSKY

You still get the headaches?

ROCKY

Yeah, they've been really bad lately.

DR. RUDINSKY

Your mother still using the same method to make them go away?

ROCKY

Yep.

DR. VINTON

What method is that?

ROCKY

She talks to them and they go away.

DR. VINTON

No medication?

ROCKY

Nope.

There is a silence. Glances are exchanged between the young doctors.

DR. RUDINSKY

You can get dressed now, Rocky.

Rocky gets up and walks toward the door.

DR. RUDINSKY

(continuing)

Do you have any questions?

Rocky turns around and looks directly at Dr. Rudinsky.

ROCKY

Yeah...When are you gonna invent one of these nightgowns so a guy's rear end isn't always hangin' out in the back?

Dr. Rudinsky smiles as Rocky exits.

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED - 5

13

Then he takes the chart and reads the latest medical information on Rocky Dennis. Dr Vinton, ever the politician, plays to Dr. Rudinsky again.

DR. VINTON

I'd like to do the follow-up
counseling with his mother myself.

Dr. Rudinsky looks at the young doctor, smiles slowly and hands him the chart.

DR. RUDINSKY

(with a wry edge)
Now, there's a great idea....

14

OMITTED

14
(X)
15

15

INT. GENETICS COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

Dr. Vinton, Rocky's chart in hand, enters the room. He finds Rusty Dennis on the couch asleep sitting up, a magazine opened on her lap.

DR. VINTON

Mrs. Dennis....

She jumps.

RUSTY

What!

He sits in the chair across from her.

DR. VINTON

Mrs. Dennis, I need to talk to you
about the test results.

Rocky runs into the room and sits next to his mother.

ROCKY

Hey, Mom.

RUSTY

(to Dr. Vinton)

What tests?

Dr. Vinton looks at Rocky, stands and goes to the door.

DR. VINTON

(to Rusty)

Would you step outside.

This is more of an order than a question.

CONTINUED

15

CONTINUED

RUSTY

Why?

DR. VINTON

So we can talk.

RUSTY

So talk.

DR. VINTON

It's about the test results...ah...
on him.

(X)

(X)

RUSTY

Oh, him. Him, by the way has a name.
And if you have some information
about him, then give it to him. I'm
not sick. He's sick.

DR. VINTON

(irritated)
You don't understand.

RUSTY

You don't understand. Look, he's
gotta cheeseburger waitin' across
the street with his name on it. Can
you speed it up a little?

Dr. Vinton quickly sits in the chair opposite them. He
retreats to the chart so he doesn't have to look at them.

DR. VINTON

Well, you know plastic surgery isn't
an option until the skull stops
thickening and there's no evidence
that it will...in fact, the cranium
is growing at such an accelerated
rate and is causing so much increased
pressure on the spinal cord that, ah,
that the prognosis...is...not good.
Ah...we feel that the...ah...life
expectancy is....

Rusty says it with him.

RUSTY/DR. VINTON

Three to six months.

Dr. Vinton's mouth drops open.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED - 2

15

RUSTY

You're not really gonna give us that
'life expectancy' number, are ya?
If I dug his grave every time you
guys told me he was gonna die, I'd
be eatin' chow mein in Hong Kong by
now.

She stands. It's very clear that this little meeting is
over.

RUSTY

Anything else?

Dr. Vinton, perspiration beaded on his upper lip, shakes
his head. Rusty and Rocky walk out the door.

16 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

16

They walk along the corridor to the exit. In the b.g.,
through the glass doors, we see the bikers with their girls.

(X)

ROCKY

What's wrong with him, Mom?

RUSTY

Nothing, he's just another asshole.
You let that negative dreck in and
it'll put ya away. You can be a
chicken shit and die or be a mensch
and keep makin' yourself well.

ROCKY

I'm gonna keep makin' myself well,
Mom.

17
thru 19 OMITTED

17
thru 19

20 EXT. STOPLIGHT - DAY

20

The bikes, side by side, pull up to the corner stoplight.
There's a girl on the back of Stickman's bike. Rusty is
behind Canuck while Rocky is on back of Dozer's bike.

RUSTY

(sings)
'Shaboom, shaboom.'

CONTINUED

20

CONTINUED

20

ROCKY

(sings)

'Ya, da, da, da, da, da, da, da,
da, da.'

RUSTY

'Shaboom, shaboom.'

ROCKY

'Ya, da, da, da, da, da, da, da,
da, da.'

The light is green. The bikers tear down the street.
Mother and son's voices can still be heard singing.

RUSTY

'Life could be a dream.'

ROCKY

'If we could only go to paradise up
above.'

CUT TO

21

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

21

The motorcycles take the mountain curves at a tilt. We follow them until they turn off onto a dirt road that leads to a clearing and a lake. They dismount and walk as a group into the clearing.

22

EXT. FIELD - DAY

22

A large Red Cross Blood Mobile sits at the side of the field. Stretched across the front of it is a sign that reads "IF YOU CAN'T GIVE BLOOD, COME IN ANYWAY AND HELP HOLD SOMEBODY DOWN."

Members of Southern California chapters of the Turks are milling around. Some wear vampire costumes. People greet each other enthusiastically. Men kiss each other on the mouth and hug. Rocky's playfully punched and squeezed and jostled. There's absolutely no reaction to his appearance.

Some of the "bikers" are lined up in front of the blood mobile waiting to donate blood. They grab hold of Dozer and try to get him in line. He quickly trundles off. They run after him, whooping and hollering, and soon he's being chased around the field. Rocky, Rusty, Red, Canuck and Stickman watch with delight. Red is doubled over with laughter. In the next second he stops laughing and a sweet grin takes over. Coming toward them is Babe Clark and her sixteen-year-old son, Ben. Babe has all the markings of a veteran "biker's lady." Lot's of sunny days on the back of

CONTINUED

a bike have taken their toll. Behind the lines there's a beautiful woman in her forties. Ben has an open friendly face and beams when he sees Rocky.

BEN

Hey, Rocky.

ROCKY

Hey, Ben. When'd you get back?

BEN

Just now. Mom didn't wanna miss the blood run.

Babe exchanges a look with Red that tells us there's a history here.

BABE

What's the righteous word, Red?

RED

The word is fine, Babe. You're lookin' fine.

Babe flashes him a look Red's seen before. Red runs a smoothing hand over his beard. The boys watch Dozer's plight.

BEN

Nothin's changed around here. They still gotta catch Dozer and he still doesn't talk.

Rocky notices a square bulge in Ben's back pocket.

ROCKY

Hey, you got baseball cards in your pocket. Can I see 'em?

BEN

Sure, I just started collectin'.

ROCKY

(a sneaky
smile)

Oh, yeah? Me, too.

The boys walk off to find a place to sit while Rusty puts her arm over Babe's shoulder and steers her toward some beer kegs on a picnic table. Babe throws a look over her shoulder at Red.

CONTINUED

22

CONTINUED - 2

RUSTY

So, really, how come you're back?

BABE

Ed walked out on us...again.

RUSTY

Maybe you'll be lucky and he won't
come back...again.

Rusty draws two paper cups of beer and they watch their sons
as the boys straddle a picnic bench and display their cards.

BABE

Rocky's gettin' big.

RUSTY

Could be 'cuz he eats everything
that's not tied down.

BABE

How're you doin'...bucks wise?

RUSTY

Rocky still gets disability and I
tend bar once in a blue moon.

BABE

That's about how often Ed'll ever
send money.

RUSTY

Who needs it? You take their money...
you gotta take their shit.

BABE

Ben's gettin' a real smart mouth on
him.

RUSTY

It's the age. They think they know
everything.

BABE

A slap upside his head and he don't
know everything.

RUSTY

I never hit my kid.

CONTINUED

22

CONTINUED - 3

22

She smiles across the field at her son. Rocky doesn't see her because his attention is focused on the American ritual of baseball card trading. Ben puts each of his cards down slowly. Suddenly Rocky's little eyes widen. He bites the inside of his cheek so he won't smile. There it is. Card number 22. Rube Walker smiles right up at him.

(X)

ROCKY

(cool)

I don't believe it. You don't even have a Steve Garvey...A Steve Garvey, for Chrissake.

BEN

Yeah, I do. I left it at home.

ROCKY

You think it's at home. You prob'ly lost it. Besides, you gotta have a backup for a card like that. It's valuable. Garvey's batting 325 for Chrissake.

(X)

BEN

But I don't have anything you want.

ROCKY

Yeah, we'd better forget it.

He starts gathering up his cards...then looks at Ben and the "con man" goes to work.

ROCKY

I feel like a real jerk, Ben...I've known you for a long time and if I can't give up my Steve Garvey for an old friend then I'm a real shit. Here, you can have it for whatever you got.

We see him slide a Steve Garvey from between two other Steve Garveys in his pack and put it on the bench. He pretends he's not looking at Ben's cards.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Anything...like this one.

He picks up the card and looks at it closely.

ROCKY

(intentionally
mispronouncing)

Who the hell's Ruby Walker?

(X)

CONTINUED

BEN

I think he's an old Dodger...before
they came to L.A.

ROCKY

Oh, well, I'll take it. My Grandpa
says that's when the Dodgers were still
the Dodgers.

He slips it in his pack.

BEN

Hey, thanks a lot, Rocky.

There's a secret look of triumph from Rocky as Rusty and
Babe come over to the boys.

RUSTY

(to Rocky)
Aren't you gettin' a little old for
that?

ROCKY

Didn't you ever collect anything?

RUSTY

(dramatically)
Yes, my son. I collected the poor
shattered hearts of all the poor
bastards I left behind.

ROCKY

How many 'poor destroyed bastards'
were there?

RUSTY

How many cards you got?

ROCKY

Three hundred and thirty-seven.

RUSTY

'Bout the same.

They laugh and the boys get up and walk through the crowd.

ROCKY

Hey, Ben...You remember, we used to
talk about ridin' Harleys across
Europe?

CONTINUED

22

CONTINUED - 5

22

BEN

Yeah, I 'member.

ROCKY

Well, I've been plannin' to go on my own, but now since you're back we can just pick up where we left off.

(X)

Rocky looks around for his mother and sees her leaning against a tree. A tall man, named Bone Tyson, stands very close to her. Bone has long hair that's pulled to the back of his head in a leather cord. She smiles up at him and says something in his ear. He likes what she's said. Rocky runs up to them and is greeted warmly by Bone. The boy smiles at Bone and Rusty and then spins around to leave. Rocky sees someone across the clearing and stops short. Gar Youngblood, in his forties, is a handsome man whose face has mileage on it. He wears a gold earring in his left earlobe. He's a striking figure as he stands while members of the Turks approach, hug and kiss him. He's a woman's man; a man's man. A man of few words who says only what he means. Rocky looks back at his mother. She looks at him and then, as if her gaze is pulled across the clearing, she directs her eyes until they find Gar's. They stare at each other for a long moment and then Rusty slowly puts her arm around Bone's neck. Rocky runs toward Gar. Rusty moves closer to Bone.

(X)

BONE

That Rocky's dad?

RUSTY

No.

She pulls his head to her and kisses him. Rocky reaches Gar and jumps all over him.

ROCKY

GAR....

Gar hugs the boy and then holds him back to take a good look.

GAR

Yeah. Taller. She must be pourin' that health food shit into you.

(X)

ROCKY

This is so great today. Everybody's back.

GAR

Blood Run always does that.

BEN

(on the run)

Hey, Gar!

CONTINUED

22

CONTINUED - 6

Gar smiles and nods at Ben.

GAR
(to Rocky)
You been okay?

ROCKY
Yeah. Sure.

GAR
...Still plannin' the Europe run?
Rocky looks in Ben's direction.

ROCKY
Yeah...more than ever.

GAR
Good...How's everybody else?

ROCKY
(knowingly)
Like who?

Gar looks over at Rusty. She's whispering something in Bone's ear again.

GAR
Like...your Grandma and Grandpa.

ROCKY
They're good. Don't get over too
much anymore. The drive ya know...
(indicating
Rusty and
lying)
She talks about you.

GAR
Yeah, I'll bet she does.

Silence.

GAR
Stop hangin' around. Ben's waitin'
for ya.

Gar watches Rocky run off. He looks over at Rusty. She and Bone are kissing full on the mouth. Gar smiles coolly as he grinds his jaw.

CUT TO

24

EXT. FIELD - EVENING

24

Huddled in blankets, Rocky and Ben sit near one of the campfires that has been built on the field. A transistor radio plays loudly and some of the women dance around the fire. Even though the music is fast, Rusty moves slow and cat-like by herself in a kind of self-styled belly dance. Soon others gather around her. Stickman and Canuck shove each other out of the way to get to the front of the crowd. Rusty zeros in on the young Canuck and grinds her pelvis forward until she's touching him. He can hardly stand it. The crowd whistles. She moves to Stickman. He grabs for her, but she slips away from him. He goes for her again, but Canuck pushes him back away from her. Canuck and Stickman start a mock fight that looks just this side of getting serious. Rusty continues making her rounds of the men. Gar watches Rusty's every move. She sees him looking (X) at her and dances in his direction until she's just a few feet away. She looks at him and a slow smile curves her mouth. He does not smile back. Red calls out from the crowd.

RED

How 'bout a song, Rusty!?

RUSTY

(shouts to crowd)

Where's Rocky?

Rocky joins his mother. A crowd gathers, hurrying to get a (X) good vantage point. A couple of guitars appear. Canuck tunes one while Red takes a harmonica from his shirt pocket.

ROCKY

Which one are we doin', Mom?

RUSTY

'Little Egypt.'

Red does a "run" over the harmonica. Rusty stands to one side while Rocky takes "center stage," very much at ease. (X) He speaks loudly and uses over-exaggerated arm gestures.

ROCKY

'Step right up, folks. See Little Egypt do her famous dance of the pyramids. She walks, she talks, she crawls on her belly like a reptile. One thin dime, one tenth of a dollar. Step right up, folks!'

Rusty dances. Both she and Rocky sing loudly.

ROCKY/RUSTY

(singing)

'I went and bought myself a ticket,
And I sat down in the very front row.

CONTINUED

24

CONTINUED

24

ROCKY/RUSTY (Cont'd)

She came out struttin', wearin' nuttin',
But a button and a bow,
Singin' ying yang, ying yang, ying yang!

RUSTY

(singing)

'She had a ruby in her tummy and a
diamond big as Texas on her toe.'

ROCKY

(singing)

'She did a triple somersault,
And when she hit the ground,
She winked at the audience,
And then she turned around...'

Rusty is gyrating. The "audience" has picked up the beat
and is clapping in time.

ROCKY

(continuing; singing)

'She had a picture of a cowboy
tattooed on her spine...'

Rocky spreads his arms out to finish big.

ROCKY

(continuing;
singing)

'Saying Phoenix, Arizona, 1949.'

(X)

Rusty hoochie-koochies around, acknowledges Rocky and they
take bows. The Turks, now nearly one hundred strong, go
crazy. Rocky is hoisted into the air and carried around
the fire. There's whistling, hooting, screaming. Gar is
stone-faced. The crowd thins out, leaving Rusty and Gar.
She looks at him for a long moment, smiles.

(X)

RUSTY

Didn't you like it?

GAR

I've seen it before.

RUSTY

So's everybody else here.

GAR

Not as close as I have.

(X)

RUSTY

So how were things back East?

GAR

Younger.

24

CONTINUED - 2

24

The smile slips off her face fast. She flips her hair at him and walks away. He smiles now. She crosses the clearing and joins Bone and a soft, pink drug pusher named John the Baptist. John hands Rusty a cigarette. It's smaller than the typical marijuana joint.

BONE

This little baby's been dusted with
angel wings.

She takes a hard hit from the PCP joint. Gar watches her. Then he walks over to the edge of the clearing where he sees Rocky holding a very small Labrador puppy. A biker's lady is hawking a litter of them. Rocky gives the puppy to Gar and runs to his mother. She's taking another hit as he approaches her. He looks away and pretends he doesn't notice.

ROCKY

MOM. I GOTTA SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

He pulls her over to where Gar's standing with the puppy. Rocky takes the dog and holds it up to her as Dozer joins them.

RUSTY

No way.

ROCKY

Aw, Mom...please. Please...I gotta
have him.

RUSTY

No goddamn dog.

(X)

ROCKY

Give me one good reason.

RUSTY

I'll give you two. Number one -- he'll
bark all the goddamn time and number
two -- I'm not spendin' my time
shovelin' up piles of number two.

ROCKY

I'll do it.

RUSTY

Oh, sure you will. You'll play with
those baseball cards...or stare at
your damn map while I take care
of your damn dog.

(X)

Rocky puts the puppy back and mutters under his breath.

CONTINUED

24

CONTINUED - 3

24

ROCKY

Shit. Fuck.

Gar snaps.

GAR

You watch your mouth in front of
your mother.

She shoots Gar a "butt out" look and then joins Bone on the back of his Harley. Rocky gets behind Stickman while Gar mounts his bike and takes off. Dozer is left standing there. He waits till Rusty's not looking and scoops the tiny black puppy into his huge fat hand. Then he puts it inside his leather jacket and zips it up.

CUT TO

25

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

25

Dozer is coming out of the house as the others arrive. Rusty behind Bone, Babe behind Red, Rocky behind Stickman, Ben behind Canuck. Rusty and Bone head for the house. Rocky gets off Stickman's bike and passes Dozer as the big man is getting on his Harley.

ROCKY

Night, Dozer.

Dozer nods. Rocky waves to Ben as they all ride off. Then he follows Rusty and Bone into the house. He sees his mother stumble over the door frame.

26

INT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

26

The house consists of a small living room, a kitchen with eating area, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Rusty, feeling the effects of the PCP, weaves into the kitchen. Bone's close behind. Rocky heads for his room and shouts over his shoulders.

ROCKY

NIGHT, MOM...NIGHT, BONE.

RUSTY (V.O.)

NIGHT, HONEY.

BONE (V.O.)

SEE YA, ROCKY.

He goes into his room.

27

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

27

Rocky walks past his map of Europe to his baseball card bulletin board. He searches through his pack of cards,

CONTINUED

27

CONTINUED

27

takes out his newly acquired Rube Walker and carefully places it in a Baggie. Then he mounts it on the board. He smiles and after making a quick check of his map, takes off his jeans, turns off the light and jumps into bed.

In the quiet we hear a small screeching sound. Screech... screech...screech. Rocky turns on the light and sits up. Screech...screech. It's coming from under the bed. Rocky looks under the bed.

ROCKY

Oh, my God.

He reaches under and pulls out the black Labrador puppy. He cuddles it, then turns out the light.

In the darkness we hear..."Screech."

(X)

DISSOLVE TO

28

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - LATER - NEAR DAWN

28

Rusty's asleep, half on, half off the couch. She's alone. She awakens, looks around.

RUSTY

Bone?

No answer. She gets up and goes into Rocky's room.

29

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NEAR DAWN

29

She looks down at her son and the sleeping puppy and then sits on the bed. Rocky opens his eyes, and in a half sleep, smiles.

RUSTY

Dozer?

He smiles wider. She lets out a sigh and makes a space for herself next to them. Curling up in a ball, she closes her eyes.

RUSTY

I'm gonna make that fat bastard eat thirty pounds of dog food...trouble is, he'd prob'ly love it.

Rocky, Rusty and the dog are asleep.

CUT TO

29-A

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - MORNING

29-A

Red and Dozer pull into the driveway.

(X)

(X)

30

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Rusty, preparing breakfast, hears the SOUND of the bikes.

RUSTY

C'mon, Rocky. Your limo's here.

Rocky comes into the kitchen...dragging his feet.

RUSTY

Hey, lighten up.

ROCKY

That's easy for you to say. I'm the one that's gotta go to the new school where everybody's gonna run in the other direction when they see me.

During the last part of Rocky's speech, Rusty's back is to him. We see a memory wash across her face as she takes jelly from the refrigerator.

RUSTY

Screw 'em. Anybody gives you any shit you tell me.

She puts jelly on a piece of toast.

ROCKY

What're ya gonna do, Mom? Give 'em one of your left jabs?

RUSTY

Nope. Ya see this?
(holds the
toast up)
I'll have the Turks...
(folds the
toast over)
...do that.

She puts the folded toast in his hand. He laughs and leaves.

She watches Rocky go, turns around and starts angrily cleaning up the kitchen. She's interrupted by Red, who comes in the door.

RED

Can an old biker get a cup'a java around here?

RUSTY

This look like a diner to you?

Red puts his hands up and backs away toward the door.

RED

Later, little lady.

He opens the door, turns and goes out. She runs after him.

31

EXT. DENNIS PORCH - DAY

31

Red turns around as she comes out onto the porch.

RED

I know it's his first day at the school.

(X)

They exchange a look.

RED

(continuing)

You been pushing him out the door since he could walk...so he'd be ready to handle days like this.

RUSTY

It should be gettin' easier...it's gettin' harder.

(X)

RED

He's gettin' older....

Rusty nods and sits. Red sits next to her...in silence.

RUSTY

He said something this morning that made me think about...when we first came out here...he was seven years old...I took him to this public swimming pool...it was summer and the shallow end of the pool was packed...with little kids. He jumped right in...I went into the office to sign him up for swim school...when I came out...I saw him...he was...alone...all those little kids...got out... He was there...all alone...splashin' around...all by himself...He said... 'Come on in, Mommy'...he had...no idea...why he was...alone.

She wipes away a tear angrily. Then she looks at Red for a long moment.

RUSTY

Want a cup 'a java?

He smiles, nods and follows Rusty into the house.

CUT TO

32

EXT. FRONT STEPS OF SCHOOL - DAY

32

The opening day of school is also reunion day. Kids who haven't seen each other since spring squeal greetings.

CONTINUED

32 CONTINUED

32

Rocky arrives on the back of Dozer's bike. All activity stops as he walks up the middle of the steps and into the front door of his new school.

33 INT. OUTSIDE NINTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

33

Gathered around the door is the ninth grade boys' clique led by Eric Dempsey. Rocky sizes it up immediately and, holding his head up, walks past them and into the room. They react by chuckling and shoving each other.

34 INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

34

Rocky walks past Mrs. Collins, a black woman in her thirties. She smiles at him. He relaxes, having found an ally. He sits in the back. The other students file into the room and avoid looking at him as they take their seats.

MRS. COLLINS

Welcome back, Ninth Graders.

Some groans from the class.

MRS. COLLINS

(continuing)

We have two new students in Home Room with us this year. Nancy Lawrence, ah, yes, in the back there.

Nancy, a bouncy brunette, smiles and sparkles for the class. Every student turns to check her out. The boys make approving sounds. The girls call out "Hi"s and wave.

NANCY

(breathy and enthusiastic)

Wow! Thanks a lot!

MRS. COLLINS

And Rocky Dennis...also in the back.

Not one student turns around. Silence.

ROCKY

(mimicking Nancy)

Wow! Thanks a lot!

Everybody turns around to see his grinning face. The class, especially Nancy, breaks into laughter. Rocky's on his way.

CUT TO

35

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

35

Students stand in line at the counter and wait to be given their locker combinations. Mrs. Hannen faces them and reads from a clipboard. She's just finishing with a girl. Eric's next, followed by Rocky. Eric writes on a small piece of paper.

MRS. HANNEN

Dempsey, Eric. Locker number is 37.
Combination is right 46...Left past
46 to 16...Right to 4. Got it all?

(X)

Eric nods and leaves. Rocky moves up in front of the counter. Mrs. Hannen keeps her eyes lowered on the clipboard.

MRS. HANNEN

Ah, Dennis, Rocky. Locker number
38. Combination is left 22...Right
past 33 to 12...Left to 9.

(X)

She looks up to see he's not writing down the combination.

MRS. HANNEN

You're not writing it down?

ROCKY

Don't need to.

The bell rings. He walks off. She looks after him as another student moves to the front of the line.

CUT TO

36

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY - LATER

36

Rocky moves through the line and takes his tray. There's not an eye in the place that isn't on him. He walks past Eric and the "in group." He hears muffled remarks, snickers. He turns and walks back over to their table.

ROCKY

Hey, haven't you ever seen anybody
from the planet Vulturn before?
Beep...beep...beep.

The kids respond with nervous laughter. Eric quiets his

CONTINUED

36

CONTINUED

36

friends with a wave of his hand and some sharp looks. Then he silently watches Rocky eat his lunch alone at a nearby table.

CUT TO

37

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - LATER

37

As Rocky approaches locker 38, Eric is kicking the locker next to it.

ERIC

You dick wack!

ROCKY

It stuck?

Eric looks at Rocky, pauses and spins the lock dial violently.

ERIC

No. I lost the goddamn combination.

Rocky begins twirling his own lock dial. His locker opens. He throws in his books.

ROCKY

Right 46, left past 46 to 16, right to 4.

ERIC

Huh?

ROCKY

(impatiently)

Right 46, left past 46 to 16, right to 4.

Eric frantically writes it on his notebook and then follows the directions. His locker door opens. He looks at Rocky. Rocky gives him an "ain't no big thing" look and, turning on his heel, swaggers down the hallway.

CUT TO

38

EXT. AZUSA HOUSE - NIGHT

38

A plastic skeleton hangs on the front door under cardboard letters that read HAPPY HALLOWEEN. Rocky's hand raps the

CONTINUED

38

CONTINUED

38

door knocker. Rocky and Ben, in Halloween masks, stand with two six-year-old children of Turks members. The door opens. A middle-age couple appear. The Woman pretends to be frightened.

WOMAN

Oh, how scary!

She drops candy into their pillowcases. Rocky looks in his pillowcase, then thinks a minute and pulls off his mask.

ROCKY

Can I have doubles?

The Woman is left flabbergasted.

CUT TO

39

INT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

39

A Halloween party is in full swing. We hear the sounds of heavy rock music. The air's thick with smoke. Some of the Turks are in costume: witches, warlocks, the Grim Reaper. Rusty takes a deep hit on a joint and then selects a mixture of capsules from the hand of a handsome Hispanic-looking biker called T.J. She puts her arms around him to indicate he just might be her "man for the night." Stickman and Canuck see this, and appear a little jealous, as usual. Rocky and Ben arrive with the kids who run up to moms and dads to show their candy take. There's kissing and hugging and all around merriment. Rocky and Ben mingle with the party-goers. The front door opens and Gar comes in. He has one arm wrapped around a nineteen-year-old beauty named Angel. Under his other arm is a long white cylinder. "Brothers" greet him. He gives his jacket to Angel. She takes it and walks by Rusty toward the bedroom. Rusty shoots a look at Gar. He pays no attention to her.

GAR

Hey, Rocky!

Rocky goes to him and Gar hands the boy the cylinder.

GAR

Take it in your room and open it.

Rocky grabs it and waves at Ben. The boys go into Rocky's room. Screech follows.

40

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rocky slaps a Bruce Springsteen cassette into his recorder and then gives one end of the cylinder to Ben as he unrolls it. It's a big, full-colored map of Europe.

ROCKY

Oh, my God!

BEN

Wow, that's really hot.

ROCKY

Take that other one down. Quick,
just tear the sucker off the wall.

Ben does just that. The boys put the new, bigger, brighter map up in its place.

BEN

Man, now I'm getting stoked. I wish
we could go tomorrow.

ROCKY

Oh shit, I forgot. Red slipped me a
fiver for the strongbox.

Ben takes a tin strongbox from a drawer in the dresser, opens it with a little key that's taped on the bottom and puts the five dollar bill in.

BEN

I saw a used seventy-four inch
Harley Knucklehead last week. We'll
check it out.

(X)

ROCKY

Gar always used to tell me the best
run is across Europe. He never
forgets anything.

BEN

We should get some of those little
map tacks. I'll steal some from my
school...I hate my goddamn school.

ROCKY

I have this old book about World
War II. The Seventh Army marched

CONTINUED

40

CONTINUED

40

ROCKY (Cont'd)
right up through France here...well,
I was thinking we could go where
the GIs went. We start in Avignon,
here, and ride north through Lyon,
up to Dijon, stay there for a couple
of days and then to Bastogne....

BEN
Which Seventh Army?

ROCKY
Ours, Dummy! World War II.

(X)

CUT TO

41

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

41

Turks, carrying sleeping children, are saying good night at the door. Rusty stands at the entrance of the hallway as Gar passes her and goes into the bedroom. When he comes out with his jacket, she stops him. She's high.

RUSTY
That jacket's the only thing of
yours that's ever gonna be on that
bed again.

GAR
Fine with me, lady.

She loses it.

RUSTY
Why the fuck did you come back here?

GAR
Winters are too cold back East....

There's a long moment as they look at each other.

GAR
(continuing)
...and I wanted to see...Rocky.

Rusty's eyes soften and the walls around both of them crack for an instant. Then, Angel walks up and puts her arm through Gar's. Slowly Gar turns and leaves with the

CONTINUED

41

CONTINUED

41

girl. Rusty flips her hair and turns the music up. Then she dances toward Stickman and Canuck until she's sandwiched in between them. A night of beer drinkin' has made them both drunk. When she dances away they continue the fist fight they started at the Blood Run. Party-goers circle around, egging them on. Dozer pushes through and separates the two friends. Rusty dances away. T.J. puts his arms around her. She squirms out of them and continues her dancing.

42

EXT. DENNIS FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

42

Rocky, Ben and Screech sit on the steps.

ROCKY

We gotta figure out a way to make big bucks. So far we've saved only forty-two dollars...and even if we go over by tramp steamer we gotta get at least four hundred bucks apiece.

BEN

We ain't going tomorrow, ya know. We got time. I'm gettin' a job after school...mowin' lawns.

ROCKY

No shit, Ben?

T.J. comes out of the house and heads for his Harley.

ROCKY

Aren't you staying over, T.J.?

T.J.

Your mom threw me out.

T.J.'s on his bike. The boys wave.

ROCKY

Mowin' lawns is great...we can collect cans...baby-sit....

BEN

No baby-sitting, man. I hate babies.

ROCKY

Okay, then I'll baby-sit. Oh, man, Ben, I'm really gettin' stoked.

CUT TO

43 OMITTED

43
(X)
44

44 INT. NINTH GRADE HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Mr. Harris Cooley is a curmudgeon of nearly sixty who lives to teach.

MR. COOLEY

The seige of Troy inspired many works of classical literature. Those accounts combine historical facts with material from Greek mythology. Can anyone give me an example?...

Silence. Mr. Cooley covers his eyes.

MR. COOLEY

(continuing)

I'm blinded by all those light bulbs that just lit up over your heads.

Rocky slowly raises his hand. Mr. Cooley acknowledges him.

ROCKY

Well, ah, the way that war in Troy got started....

(X)

Eyes are on him. He pauses. Mr. Cooley nods. Rocky continues.

ROCKY

(continuing)

...There was this wedding. Like all the terrific lookin' goddesses were invited...except this one goddess... and she really got ticked...so she sent this golden apple...but first she wrote on it -- 'For the most beautiful.' So this guy...named Paris judged who should get it. One of the goddesses said if he picked her, she'd give him a chick named Helen who was really great looking... but Helen was married to some other guy. When Paris saw her he went crazy 'cuz she had this face...

(makes
a face)

...that could launch a thousand ships.

The class is with him. He milks it.

CONTINUED

44

CONTINUED

44

ROCKY

(continuing)

...Anyway, Helen splits with Paris and
her old man's armies go after her...
and there's this 'mongo' war called
...the Trojan War.

(X)

Mr. Cooley is both dumbfounded and impressed. The class
loves it and applauds.

MR. COOLEY

Ah...thank you, Rocky. That was
very impressive. Class, open your
books and read Chapter Twelve.

Eric leans across the aisle and whispers.

ERIC

Not bad, Dennis...How about helping
me?

ROCKY

What do you mean?

ERIC

Tutor me. Cooley almost flunked
me last year.

ROCKY

It'll cost ya...three bucks an hour.

ERIC

Three bucks!

ROCKY

I don't work for free.

Rocky smiles. Eric reluctantly nods his head in agreement.

CUT TO

45

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

45

Rocky's looking at a huge bulletin board. A poster
advertising the INLAND VALLEY CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER.
Brochures are attached below a line that reads TAKE ONE.
Rocky takes five.

CUT TO

46 EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

46

Rusty drives her Chevy into the driveway a little too fast. She slams on the brakes, gets out and runs in the back door.

47 INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - NIGHT

47

Rocky, standing at a kitchen window, goes back to the kitchen table where he's been doing homework. Screech is asleep under the table. She comes in, goes to the blender and starts mixing her health food drink.

ROCKY

Hi, Mom.

RUSTY

Hi.

She averts his eyes. There's a real sharpness in her "Hi." Rocky hears it and acts overly solicitous.

ROCKY

Hey, Mom, how do you spell schism?

She spells as she walks past him.

RUSTY

L-O-O-K I-T U-P.

ROCKY

S-H-I-T.

He gets up, taking a paper with him, and follows her to her bedroom.

48 INT. RUSTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

48

ROCKY

I got an 'A' on a poem I wrote in English class.

RUSTY

You sure have been a busy boy, haven't you?

ROCKY

You want me to read it to you?

RUSTY

Why not?

He sees her change T-shirts.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED

ROCKY

Are you goin' out again?

RUSTY

Yep...Go ahead. Read. I'm listening.

She brushes past him.

49

49 INT. DENNIS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rusty puts toothpaste on a toothbrush. He stands at the doorway.

ROCKY

(reads)

'These things are good:
Ice cream and cake
A ride on a Harley...'

She turns on the water and brushes her teeth. He reads louder.

ROCKY

(continuing)

'Seeing monkeys in the trees
The rain on my tongue...'

She turns off the water.

ROCKY

(continuing)

'And the sun shining on my face.'

She looks at him...then brushes her hair.

ROCKY

(continuing)

'These things are a drag:
Dust in my hair...'

She opens the medicine cabinet and takes a pill from a bottle. Into her mouth it goes. He stops reading, then starts again.

ROCKY

(continuing)

'Holes in my shoes,
No money in my pocket
And the sun shining on my face.'

She looks at him.

RUSTY

That's it?

He nods. She walks past him.

50

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We see a tired Christmas tree.

ROCKY

Can I talk to you a minute?

RUSTY

I said I was goin' out.

ROCKY

You're always goin' out!

RUSTY

I want you to take down the tree.

ROCKY

What's wrong, Mom? You've been acting like you hate me for a whole week. What did I do?

She's headed to the kitchen toward the back door.

51

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - NIGHT

RUSTY

You didn't do the dishes.

ROCKY

I will...later.

RUSTY

Wash the goddamn dishes...now.

ROCKY

DON'T GO OUT TONIGHT.

As she opens the back door and starts to leave, he rushes to the sink where he takes a dirty dish and drops it to the floor...crash. She slowly comes back into the kitchen.

RUSTY

I wouldn't do that again if I were you.

Rocky picks up another plate and hurls it to the floor. Crash. He screams at her.

ROCKY

I HATE YOU GOIN' OUT...AND COMIN' HOME ALL WASTED!

RUSTY

It's none of your goddamn business.

50

51

CONTINUED

51

CONTINUED

ROCKY

YOU'RE MY MOM.

RUSTY

WELL, YOU'RE NOT MY WARDEN.

She turns and leaves. Rocky follows.

52

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

52

She paces like a tiger.

RUSTY

I can't hack this anymore. You're
always watching me...trying to tell
me how to live my life....

ROCKY

I don't ever tell you how to live....

She goes to the end table by the couch and picks up several (X)
Drug Center brochures. She shoves them at his face.

RUSTY

THE FUCK YOU DON'T. WHAT'S THIS?
I FOUND THESE ALL OVER THE HOUSE.
THEY WERE PLANTED EVERYWHERE BUT IN
MY GODDAMN CHRISTMAS STOCKING. (X)

She tears the brochures and flings the pieces to the floor.

ROCKY

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE DRUGS.

She takes a baseball card from the stack that's on the
coffee table. She holds it in front of him like she's
going to tear it in half.

ROCKY

DON'T.

She does.

ROCKY

(continuing)

HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?...I HATE YOU.

RUSTY

ALL YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT IS THOSE
FUCKING CARDS.

ROCKY

ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS...GETTING...
LOADED...AND LAID.

CONTINUED

52 CONTINUED 52

Rusty bends in the middle as if she's been hit in the stomach. She sucks in a deep breath and for the first time in his life, Rocky is slapped, hard, across the face by his mother. She goes out the back door, slamming it. He runs, crying into his bedroom. We hear the SOUND of Rusty's car as it squeals out of the driveway. (X)

53 thru 56 OMITTED 53 thru 56 (X) 57

57 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rocky pushes the button on his recorder. We hear Springsteen's "Thunder Road." Then he goes to his dresser where he arranges the two torn pieces of the card so Ron Cey can be whole again. Fanning out his stack of cards, he finds what he's looking for...three other Ron Ceys. He sniffs and smirks a little smirk of satisfaction. Then he walks directly to his map and pushes a tack into Madrid.

CUT TO

58 EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER 58

Rusty's car is followed into the driveway by another car. She gets out of hers. A bushy-haired Man gets out of his. They both weave as they go in the front door.

59 INT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT 59

Rusty and the bushy-haired Man stumble toward the bedroom. She does a little dance and giggles. He picks her up and carries her.

60 INT. ROCKY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 60

He holds his head and rocks back and forth. He sobs, in pain.

61 INT. DENNIS HALLWAY - NIGHT 61

Rusty and the Man stop and kiss passionately outside Rocky's room.

62 ROCKY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 62

Rocky's pain is worse. Changing his body position does no good. He sits up in bed, holding his head in his hands and softly cries as he mutters.

CONTINUED

62

CONTINUED

62

ROCKY

Make...myself....

He sits straight-backed against the wall and crosses his legs.

ROCKY

Myself...well...make....

Breathing in slow, timed breaths, he inhales and exhales....

63

BACK TO HALLWAY

63

Rusty jerks away from the Man abruptly. She listens.

MAN

What the...?

RUSTY

Shut up.

She and the Man hear the crying. She pulls away from him.

RUSTY

My kid. Wait for me.

(X)
(X)

The Man grabs her by the arm.

MAN

I don't wait for nobody.

She talks through her teeth.

RUSTY

Then get the fuck out.

He tenses, squeezes her face in his hands. She backs him down with her direct stare.

MAN

No problem, baby, no problem.

She pushes the Man toward her door and then turns and goes into Rocky's room.

64

BACK TO ROCKY'S BEDROOM

64

RUSTY

Rocky?

ROCKY

Mom. It hurts.

CONTINUED

64

CONTINUED

She squats on the floor in front of him. He places his hands in hers and she presses the soft area between his thumb and forefinger with her thumb.

RUSTY

Where?

ROCKY

In the back...mostly.

RUSTY

Pick something.

ROCKY

I'm sorry...for...what...I...said.

RUSTY

Pick something.

ROCKY

I can't think...it hurts.

RUSTY

Don't think. Pick something.

ROCKY

The trip with Ben.

RUSTY

How?

ROCKY

Boat.

RUSTY

See it. Tell me.

ROCKY

A tramp steamer...big...black, gray
...red bottom...paint chipped off....

RUSTY

Yeah?

ROCKY

Ben and I...on the deck...cleaning
something...the sky...blue, gray...
some clouds...ocean's green...dark...
smells good.

(X)

As he describes this, she gently pushes him down to a
lying position.

CONTINUED

64

CONTINUED - 2

ROCKY

(continuing)

Spain...in the morning. Ben and I
check the bikes....

RUSTY

The bikes...tell me.

(X)

ROCKY

Mine's a seventy-four inch shovel
head...suicide shift...belt drive...
spring on the front...ape hangers
shoulder high.

(X)

She strokes his hair as he slips into sleep. Then she
bends close to him and whispers.

RUSTY

What're you gonna do now?

ROCKY

Make...myself well.

She settles back against the wall and continues to stroke
his hair. After a moment she gets up and leaves.

65

INT. DENNIS HALLWAY - NIGHT

65

She closes Rocky's door, pauses, lights a cigarette, then
crosses the hall and goes into her room.

66

INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

66

The Man's standing next to the bed. She looks at him for a
long moment...then turns and closes the door.

CUT TO

67

EXT. DENNIS BACKYARD - DAY

67

Rusty sits on one of the swings, brushing her just-washed
hair in the sun. Rocky comes out of the house and sits on
the other swing. Rusty starts to swing. He joins her.

RUSTY

You okay?

He nods.

ROCKY

Thanks for last night.

RUSTY

Gar called you. He wants to take
you to the carnival.

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

67

CONTINUED

67

ROCKY

You come with us, too.

RUSTY

Maybe.

ROCKY

I'm sorry about yesterday.

RUSTY

I'm sorry about the baseball card.

ROCKY

I have three others just like it.

RUSTY

Well, shit!...I liked your poem.

He grins. They swing. She tosses her hair around to dry it.

ROCKY

I'm scared for you, Mom.

RUSTY

I can handle it.

ROCKY

It's bad for you.

RUSTY

Hey, you don't know anything about it. I know what I'm doing.

ROCKY

But what if you take the wrong thing
...or too much?

RUSTY

What are you? The Public Relations
Director for the Inland Valley
Chemical...whatever the fuck it's
called?

ROCKY

...Dependency Center...No, it's just
that I....

RUSTY

Hey, lay off, huh?

He's hurt and shows it. They stop swinging. There's a
long silence. She relents.

RUSTY

Jesus Christ, okay.

CONTINUED

ROCKY

Okay what?

RUSTY

Okay, I'll cut...down.

He's elated.

ROCKY

Promise?

RUSTY

I said so, didn't I? Don't push it.

Rocky gets off the swing and begins brushing her hair. He flips it around with the flair of a Beverly Hills hair-stylist.

RUSTY

Hey, watch it...Jesus, you're strange.

He starts mincing and talks with a very girlish affectation.

ROCKY

(sings)

'My boyfriend's back and you're gonna be in trouble.'

She rolls her eyes.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Come on, Mom...

(sings)

'My boyfriend's back and you're gonna be in trouble....'

Reluctantly, she "says" the words.

RUSTY

'Hey, na, ne, na,
My boyfriend's back.'

ROCKY

(sings)

'He'll be here soon.
You'd better get out on the double.'

RUSTY

(sings)

'Hey, na, ne, na,
My boyfriend's back.'

Rocky's happy. Rusty's not so sure.

CUT TO

68

EXT. CARNIVAL - "PITCH-A-DIME" CONCESSION - DAY

68

A Carney Man who runs the "Pitch-A-Dime" concession takes a ten dollar bill from Dozer and puts one hundred dimes in Dozer's hand. Rocky, Ben, Gar stand back to give the gentle giant room. Red, Canuck, Stickman and Sunshine taunt him with some ad-libbed barbs about his pitching abilities. We see Rusty and Babe looking on from the other side of the concession. Dozer throws all the dimes up into the air at once. Ping, pang, clink. The dimes hit, skip, jump on and off the glass plates. One dime settles on one very ugly lime green plate. The Carney Man hands the plate to Dozer.

CARNEY MAN

A winner.

Dozer motions to Rusty, who comes over. He proudly gives the plate to her.

RUSTY

Jeez, Dozer, thanks a lot. I can use it for after-dinner mints.

Dozer, not knowing she's being facetious, thinks that's a great idea. Babe looks at the plate closely. She approves.

69 OMITTED

69
(X)
70

70 EXT. CARNIVAL - "BUMPER CARS" - DAY

ROCKY

Gar...Can we?

Gar pays for all of them, except Dozer, who watches because he can't fit in a car. They scramble for the car of their choice. Rusty and Gar both reach the same car at the same time. He indicates that it's all hers. Very loud music blasts out and the cars start to move. Stickman runs backwards into the wall. Sunshine rams into the side of him. Red spins around and lines Canuck up for a rear hit. Ben has trouble getting his car going. When it starts, he goes for Babe who's zooming in on Red. Rocky goes right for Ben's back bumper while Rusty has her sights on her son for a good frontal attack. Before she gets there, she's hit broadside. She screams and turns to see Gar. He spins around and, laughing, tries to get away. Attempting to hide a smile, she plows into the back of him. Then, all's fair. Competing, laughing, screaming, cursing. Their entire relationship is played out in the bumper cars. The music stops as they all log-jam. The boys run to Dozer. Gar steps toward Rusty and offers his hand. She takes it and he pulls her out of the car and up against him. After a moment, she moves away to join Babe.

CONTINUED

71

EXT. CARNIVAL GROUNDS - "FUN HOUSE" - DAY

71

The group walks on. They come to the Fun House. All go in but Rusty.

(X)

(X)

RUSTY

I'm dying of thirst. I'll find you in there.

She walks over to a lemonade stand and orders.

RUSTY

Gimme a medium.

She drinks. John The Baptist moves in next to her. He shows her a palm filled with different colored pills.

JOHN

How'd you like somethin' nice to wash down with that lemonade?

RUSTY

No thanks, John..

JOHN

Real high quality.

RUSTY

I promised my kid.

JOHN

'I promised my kid'? I like that. I'll put it with 'I promised my parole officer,' and 'I promised my wife'...You know where I am, Rusty.

(X)

She looks at him for a moment and then runs to the Fun House.

72

INT. FUN HOUSE - DAY

72

Red, Babe and Dozer feel their way along a dark passageway. The floor starts to move up and down as a coffin door pops open and a mummy falls out in front of them.

CONTINUED

Dozer takes little, tentative steps. Air jets blow at them. He jumps when Canuck pops out from a dark passageway and yells, "Boo." Rocky and Ben love it.

RUSTY
SHIT! ARE YOU GUYS IN HERE?

She turns a corner and she's in semidarkness. A hand reaches slowly out to her and caresses her hair. She feels heat run through her. Knowing who it is, Rusty turns to find him. He takes all of her hair in his hand and pulls her to him. Gar kisses her over and over.

Dozer, Rocky and Ben are convulsed in laughter as they hop around in front of a large, wavy, full-length mirror. Rocky moves slowly toward the mirror. Something strange happens. The mirror reflects his face becoming smaller. His eyes change positions and move closer together, his nose gets bigger. He stares at his reflection. His knees buckle.

ROCKY
Ben.

BEN
What?

ROCKY
Look at me. Get behind me and
look at me.

Ben moves behind him and sees. His mouth drops open.

ROCKY
(continuing)
Get my mom.

Ben leaves Rocky looking into the mirror. He returns dragging Rusty and shoves her behind her son. She's confused for a moment and then she sees it...the face. The gloriously handsome, perfectly perfect face of Rocky Dennis.

CUT TO

74

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

74

The bikes pull into the driveway. Rocky with Dozer, Ben with Canuck, Babe with Red, Stickman behind Sunshine...and Rusty with Gar. As Gar throws his arm over Rusty's shoulder on the way to the house, Ben elbows Rocky and indicates "What's with these two?" Rocky gives him the old "thumbs up."

CUT TO

75

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK FIELD - DAY

75

Rocky and Lisa Sands, Eric's pretty blonde girl friend, sit in the stands and watch Eric and four other runners take starting positions on the field. Eric waves to Lisa. She flashes a smile at him. Rocky looks at her looking at Eric. Mr. Simms, on the sidelines, is also there to observe the track team. Rocky continues to stare at Lisa, who feels his gaze. She breaks the tension.

LISA

You've sure done a terrific job with the Prom Decorating Committee, Rocky.

ROCKY

Oh, yeah...Geez, thanks.

Eric strides, muscles glistening with sweat, toward them. Rocky watches Lisa get up to join him. Mr. Simms, having observed the whole thing, comes over to Rocky.

MR. SIMMS

Hi, Rocky. How're finals going?

ROCKY

Pretty good, Mr. Simms.

MR. SIMMS

I had a great idea for you. How do a couple weeks at summer camp sound?

ROCKY

Huh? Oh, I don't think so, Mr. Simms. I'm saving my money for something else.

MR. SIMMS

Wouldn't cost a cent. A friend of mine's the Director...of the Camp for the Junior Blind. He could use a C.A. for the July session.

ROCKY

C.A.?

CONTINUED

75

CONTINUED

75

MR. SIMMS

Counselor's Aide. You help the
counselors with the little kids...
and you get to go free.

ROCKY

Blind kids?

MR. SIMMS

Most of them.

They look at each other. A pause.

ROCKY

I don't think so, Mr. Simms. My mom
needs me.

MR. SIMMS

Somehow, Rocky, your mother has never
given me the impression that she can't
take care of herself.

ROCKY

Oh, it's not that. It's just that I
kind of...organize things, you know,
kind of...keep it together.

MR. SIMMS

Yes, I guess you probably do. Well,
will you at least think about it?

ROCKY

Okay...I'll think about it.

The Principal leaves. We hold on Rocky as he watches Eric
and Lisa walk arm in arm toward the school.

CUT TO

75-A EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - DUSK

75-A
(X)

Rocky comes up the walk carrying two bags of groceries as
Gar bounds down the front porch steps.

GAR

You okay, kid?

Rocky smiles and nods. Gar turns and watches him go into
the house.

76 INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - DUSK

76
(X)

Rocky comes in, puts the groceries down. Rusty starts to
unload the bags.

CONTINUED

76

CONTINUED

ROCKY

What would you think of me, Mom, if
you were a girl?

RUSTY

(laughing)

I'd think you were pretty cute...I
love red hair.

ROCKY

Mom, I wanna talk to a plastic surgeon.

RUSTY

Honey, you know they told you there
was nothing you could do...Look,
Rocky, you are what you are...Bril-
liant...an individual....

He cuts her off.

ROCKY

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...IT'S
GIRLS, MOM.

He goes into his room, slamming the door. Rusty heads for
the cupboard, finds a plastic Baggie with three pills and
takes them. She goes through the living room, hears music
from Rocky's room, stops a minute, then goes out the front
door.

CUT TO

76-A EXT. BEER BAR - NIGHT

76-A

Rusty pulls her car up in front of the bar so her front
tire is over the curb. She gets out and staggers into the
beer bar.

77
thru
80 OMITTED77
thru
80

81 INT. BEER BAR - NIGHT

81

Rusty heads straight for the back booth where John the
Baptist reigns. We watch an exchange of words and then an
exchange of cash for an envelope. She turns and as she
sways toward the door, notices there are three women in the
bar with all the markings of "working girls." Two of them,
one black, one white, are in their thirties. The other
one, LORETHA AUSTIN, is pretty, black and no older than
nineteen. After a long moment Rusty goes over to the girl.

CUT TO

82 INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

82

Rusty, with Loretha following, comes in the front door and
weaves through the living room.

83

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

83

They enter Rocky's room. He's asleep with Screech at the foot of the bed. Rusty nudges his arm.

RUSTY

Wake up, Rocky. You got a guest.
Come on, Screech. Come on, boy.

Screech follows Rusty out. The door is closed. Rocky slowly sits up.

ROCKY

Huh?..Mom?

He turns on the bedside light and sees Loretha. Rocky and the girl gasp and jump at the same time.

ROCKY

Who are you?

LORETHA

Jesus, what happened to your face?

ROCKY

What do you want?

LORETHA

That lady brought me here.

It slowly hits him. He puts his head on his knees.

ROCKY

Oh my God...I...don't believe she...
did this.

(X)

There's a long silence. Rocky raises his head and looks at Loretha. He lets out a long sigh.

LORETHA

Well?

ROCKY

Well, what?

LORETHA

Well, what'd ya want?

(X)

ROCKY

You don't happen to have a Carl
Furillo do you?

LORETHA

Huh?

CONTINUED

83

CONTINUED

ROCKY

Never mind...it was a joke.

A silence. He looks at her.

ROCKY

(continuing)

How much do you get?

LORETHA

Depends.

ROCKY

Oh, yeah...sure...How much for
a...ah...'basic'?

LORETHA

Twenty-five.

ROCKY

Is that all? You need a business
manager.

LORETHA

No, thanks. I already got one of
those...Why is your map all stuck
with pins?

He gets out of bed and stands next to her at the map.

ROCKY

Those are all the places I'm gonna
go.

LORETHA

I'm gonna go to Seattle, Washington.

ROCKY

Oh, yeah?

LORETHA

Yeah, when I get enough money. My
sister lives there. I get post
cards. It's real wet...and clean.

He walks back to his bed, takes his pillow and puts it on
the floor. He looks at her. She feels it and looks back
at him.

LORETHA

What happened to your face?

CONTINUED

83

CONTINUED - 2

83

ROCKY

I used to do a lot of drugs.

LORETHA

No shit?

ROCKY

Nah. I was just kidding. You wanna sit down?

She sits down on the floor. Rocky sits on his bed.

84

INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

84

Rusty, getting out of her jeans and T-shirt, bumps into the bed. Gar turns over.

(X)

GAR

Where the hell have you been?

(X)

(X)

RUSTY

Getting...something for Rocky.

GAR

I hope it was worth the forty bucks you swiped outta my jeans.

She doesn't hear him. She's out.

85

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

85

The light has been turned out and a bed has been made for Loretha on the floor with one of Rocky's blankets and his bedspread. They lie in their "separate beds" and look at the ceiling. Their voices are slow, quiet.

LORETHA

My mama used to say some people are born with no place to go.

ROCKY

I don't believe that.

LORETHA

How do you explain all the rotten stuff that happens to people?

CONTINUED

85

CONTINUED

ROCKY

I dunno.

Silence.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Loretha...I hope you don't mind me sayin' this 'cuz I don't know you real well but...you got a really shitty attitude. It's real negative.

LORETHA

It is, huh?

ROCKY

Yeah, and if you think that way it'll just get worse. When something bad happens to you you gotta remember something good that happened.

(X)

LORETHA

Oh, yeah? Like what?

ROCKY

Well, I use a bunch of different ones...like the time my Grandpa took me fishing in Mexico...or the way my Grandma's kitchen smells....

She thinks.

LORETHA

I don't think I have any.

ROCKY

Everybody's gotta have at least one, for Chrissake!

She strains her memory.

LORETHA

Well, maybe the time...no...I dunno.

A long silence. Loretha rolls over on her side. We hear her yawn. Sleepy eyes stare at the ceiling.

ROCKY

Loretha...I don't want you to think that I don't like you or anything.

CONTINUED

35

CONTINUED -

85

ROCKY (Cont'd)

You're real pretty and nice...I just
always thought it would be with
somebody I was, you know, really in
love with.

(X)
(X)

A long silence.

LORETHA

(slowly)

I...think I just thought...of one...
When I was in the fifth grade...we
had to paint a picture of a pine
tree...with snow on it...Mine was
the best...and the teacher put it up
on the wall...by the door...where
all the kids could see it...she put
a big gold star on it...All...the
...kids...saw it.

She yawns. They both are about to drop off.

CUT TO

36

INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - HALL - MORNING

86

Rusty comes out of her bedroom in her robe and moves down
the hall, enveloped in a "beaut" of a drug hangover. As
she approaches the kitchen she hears laughter.

37

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - MORNING

87

She looks in to see Rocky, Loretha and Gar sitting at the
table having breakfast together. Screech is under the
table. Not knowing at first who Loretha is, Rusty looks
puzzled. Then the recognition of last night comes back
to her like a slow tide. She cringes. Rocky sees Rusty.
Gar turns around and shoots her a look that makes the
hair on the back of her neck stand up. Loretha sees
her and goes back to her coffee. Rusty forces a smile
she doesn't feel and goes to her blender.

(X)

ROCKY

Loretha, you want more toast?

Loretha smiles and nods "no."

GAR

I gotta get to work.

CONTINUED

ROCKY

(indicating
Loretha)

Can you give her a ride to the bus
stop, Gar?

GAR

Sure...come on, Loretha.

The three of them go to the door. Loretha turns to Rocky,
kisses him on the cheek and leaves with Gar. Rocky comes
back to his mother. He's livid.

ROCKY

Mom, I look like a freak to you,
right?

RUSTY

No!..No!

ROCKY

Bullshit! You're big on sayin' that
my face doesn't matter, but it does,
doesn't it? YOU THINK I'M SOME KIND
OF GEEK WHO CAN'T GET A GIRL TO...LIKE
HIM...UNLESS HIS MOM PAYS HER.

RUSTY

That's not true.

ROCKY

BULLSHIT.

RUSTY

I'm...sorry, Rocky. I thought I...was
doing...the...right thing...at the
time...I was wrong.

ROCKY

YOU'RE GODDAMN RIGHT YOU WERE.

He turns, goes out the door, slamming it.

RUSTY

WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?

She's left standing there.

CUT TO

88

EXT. RED'S MOTORCYCLE REPAIR SHOP - DAY

88

The garage section of the repair shop is open to the street.
The men work on various bikes. Rocky stomps into the area. (X)

RED

Hey, boy.

No answer. The men exchange glances and go back to work. (X)
Rocky wanders around not saying a word, but watching them
work. Slowly he makes his way to Gar. A silence.

GAR

Rocky, your mom sometimes does the
wrong things, but for the right
reasons.

ROCKY

You always stick up for her, Gar...
Then she makes you mad...then you
leave...then you come back. It's
all so nuts.

Silence as Gar keeps on working. Slowly he pulls up a
memory and searches for the words to share it with Rocky.

GAR

First time I saw your mother she was
working behind a bar drawin' beer...
she had to wear this little leopard
thing...kinda like a swimmin' suit.
You could tell she hated it...Takin'
a lot of shit from a lot of assholes
...I asked to take her home. She
said she was gonna get her kid and
have his picture taken, you know,
at one of those stores. I said I'd
drive her and her kid on the bike...
She liked that....

He pauses, lost in the remembrance.

GAR

...So when she comes out of your
grandma's house with you...you musta
been five or, maybe six...I nearly
shit... 'cuz you didn't look like your
regular kid, right?

CONTINUED

88

CONTINUED

88

Rocky chuckles despite himself.

GAR

...We get to the store and she's standin' in the line with the other mothers and their little kids...and I'm watchin' her...and the mothers and the kids are starin' at you...So it's your turn and she puts you up on this red block. The guy who's taking the pictures nearly shifts... people are walkin' by and slowin' down to look. You're sittin' there with this goddamn smile...and your nose is runnin' and I look over at her and...I...never...saw a...woman so beautiful...the way...she...was... lookin' at you...Jesus....

(X)

Silence. Gar picks up the wrench and starts to work. Then he faces Rocky who's still looking at him. A long moment until Rocky lets a smile come through followed by a nod.

CUT TO

89

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

89

The curb is lined with Harleys.

90

INT. DENNIS HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

90

The music is loud. Gar sits in front of the TV. He takes a swallow from the beer can in his hand. Rusty, Dozer, Babe, Ben, Stickman, Red and Canuck are milling around. Rusty looks at Gar. Gar gets up and goes to Rocky's room.

(X)

91

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

91

Gar finds the boy and his dog in bed.

GAR

C'mon, we're gonna be late.

(X)

ROCKY

I'm not goin'.

GAR

Get your ass out here!

Rocky enters the living room. Everyone looks at him.

ROCKY
I'm not goin'.

RUSTY
Why?

Rocky takes a deep breath, knowing he's treading on dangerous ground.

ROCKY
I don't have anything to wear.

RED
Oh, I have the same problem, my dear.

The entire group convulses in laughter.

ROCKY
Hey, it's my goddamn graduation night. It's no big deal to you but IT'S A BIG FUCKING DEAL TO ME!

GAR
...You better remember who you are, boy. You ain't no 'citizen' like your buddy, ah, ah...What's his name, Rusty?..The one with the lizards on his shirts....

RUSTY
Eric.

GAR
Yeah, like him. What the hell's wrong with your jeans? They're clean, for Chrissake.

ROCKY
I can't wear jeans to my graduation, Gar!

GAR
You're actin' like some damn Hollywood fruit fly, Rocky. Get me a beer and then we're goin' to your graduation.

CONTINUED

92

CONTINUED

92

Rocky heads toward his room. Gar gets up and blocks him. He speaks quietly but deadly.

GAR

Get me a beer. Now.

Rocky freezes, turns and walks into the kitchen.

93

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

93

Rocky opens the refrigerator door. He sucks in a rush of air and then slowly reaches in the refrigerator and lifts the wire clothes hanger from between the beer cans and the jar of wheat germ. Hanging neatly on the hanger is a blue suit, a blue and white striped shirt and a red tie. Rocky's chin starts to quiver and he blinks back tears. Everyone has moved into the kitchen and watches his reaction.

RUSTY

Everybody chipped in. Gar picked it out.

ROCKY

Thanks, everybody. I'm gonna look great tonight, Mom.

She knows she's back in his good graces.

RUSTY

You're goddamn right you will!

He hugs Gar and then carefully carries his graduation outfit into his room. He looks like he just might burst.

CUT TO

94

OMITTED

94

95

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

95

The Ninth Grade Graduating Class sits in rows of chairs on the stage. Rocky is ramrod straight in his new suit. He keeps looking out at his mother in the audience.

MR. SIMMS

(at the podium)

And now before we send our Junior High School students on to Senior High we want to acknowledge some of our stars. An Academic Achievement Award for English is presented to...Caroline Meyers.

CONTINUED

95

CONTINUED

95

Caroline accepts her award to polite applause.

MR. SIMMS

(continuing)

For academic excellence in Mathematics
...Rocky Dennis.

Students on the stage cheer, particularly Eric. A huge uproar starts in the back of the auditorium from Rocky's "family." Hooting, hollering, whistling. Some parents in the audience lower their eyes as Rocky goes to the podium. Rocky flushes with embarrassment.

(X)

MR. SIMMS

(continuing)

You may as well just stay here, Rocky.
For achievement in History...Rocky
Dennis...and for achievement in
Science...Rocky Dennis.

Again, more of the same. Rusty stands and raises her fists. Rocky stands center stage and looks at his family with a mixture of love and embarrassment.

(X)

CUT TO

96

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - NIGHT

96

Rocky looks over his shoulder to see Lisa and Eric with their parents. Rocky is surrounded by the Turks who all talk at once. Suddenly the talking stops. Rocky's aware of the silence and turns around to find Dozer standing directly in front of him. Dozer's mouth is opened. All attention is focused on him. He puts his massive hands on Rocky's shoulders.

DOZER

I...I...I...mmm...p...p...pr...ooooo...
ddd...of...yy...y...you...RRR...RRR...
OOO...OO...CK...CKCKCK...YYY.

Everyone looks on in amazement. This is one of the few times Dozer has spoken in his adult life. Tears come to eyes.

ROCKY

Thanks, Dozer.

Rocky and his protector hug. Cheers go up. Red and Canuck kiss Rocky on each cheek. Rocky turns around to search for Eric and Lisa and sees them getting in the backseat of a car...arms around each other.

CUT TO

96-A EXT./INT. DENNIS HOUSE - DAY 96-A

Through the living room window, we see Rocky running toward the front window. He looks out.

96-B EXT. DENNIS STREET - DAY - ROCKY'S POINT OF VIEW 96-B

A car appears to be slowing down in front of every house and then sounding its horn.

96-C INT. DENNIS HOUSE - DAY 96-C

Rocky runs to his mother's door and beats it with his fist.

ROCKY
MOM. THEY'RE HERE.

Then he tears back across the living room and out the front door.

97 thru 100 OMITTED 97 thru 100

101 INT. RUSTY'S BEDROOM - DAY 101

She's sitting on the edge of the bed unfolding a tin foil packet. She looks at the stash. Gar, getting dressed, looks on disapprovingly.

ROCKY (V.O.)
GRANDMA, GRANDPA.

Rusty takes a full breath, then throws the packet back in the drawer and stands up, goes to the mirror and pulls her hair back into a pony tail with a rubber band. Rusty and Gar exchange looks.

102 EXT. DENNIS FRONT YARD - DAY 102

Rocky comes charging across the front lawn to wave down the blue Ford that's just about to cruise to the next house. The car stops at the curb. Out of the car step Abe and Evelyn Steinberg. The couple, both in their sixties, light up like Hanukkah bushes when they see him. Rocky runs to them. He kisses and hugs his grandmother. She beams with pleasure. Abe wraps his arms around his grandson and holds him tight.

ABE
What're you gonna do? Try out for the Knicks? Look how tall he's gettin', Evelyn.

EVELYN
I can't believe it.

CONTINUED

102

CONTINUED

102

Abe starts throwing Rocky some shadow punches.

ABE

Fast and quick.

Rocky has trouble keeping up. Evelyn sees this.

EVELYN

Abe, stop it. You'll pull your back out.

Abe puts his arm around Rocky.

ABE

So show us the new house.

Rocky scoots ahead of Abe and Evelyn and picks up two beer cans left on the porch steps. Abe makes note of it. Evelyn (X) shoots him a look he's seen many times over the past forty years.

EVELYN

Now, Abe, don't say anything. You promised.

(X)

They go into the house.

(X)

103

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

103

Gar comes into the living room holding a cup of coffee.

GAR

Hello, Evelyn...Abe.

It's obvious Abe and Evelyn are pleased to see Gar.

ABE

Well, son of a bitch. Look who's back.

Rocky grabs Abe's arm as Evelyn follows Gar into the kitchen.

ROCKY

Come on, Grandpa. I wanna show you my dog.

ABE

That's all you need around here...a damn dog.

, Rocky and Abe head toward Rocky's bedroom.

(X)

CONTINUED

103 CONTINUED

EVELYN

(to Gar)

Does she have any cleanser?

GAR

Evelyn, that's not your job.

EVELYN

I just want to give her a hand.

Evelyn heads for the kitchen. Gar, reluctantly, follows her.

104
thru
105

OMITTED

104
thru
105

106

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - DAY

106

Rocky and Abe stand in front of the baseball board.

ABE

This space in the middle looks terrible.

He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a baseball card in a Baggie. Taking a tack from the board, he secures the card in the center. It's card number thirty-seven... Pee Wee Reese.

ROCKY

Oh my God, Grandpa. Oh shit...I mean...PEE WEE REESE!

ABE

Consider it a belated graduation present.

ROCKY

I gotta tell Gar.

Rocky runs out of the room to find Gar in the kitchen. Screech follows, leaving Abe standing in his grandson's room alone. He looks around before he walks out.

107

INT. DENNIS HALLWAY - DAY

107

As Abe comes into the hallway, Rusty's door suddenly opens and there she is. A kiss is planted on his cheek.

RUSTY

Hi, Pop.

ABE

Well, there she is...lookin' like a million.

RUSTY

You look great, too, Pop.

She takes him by the hand and leads him into the kitchen.

Rusty sees Evelyn washing dishes. Abe sidesteps into the living room where we see him slip something into the TV Time magazine on the top of the TV set.

RUSTY

Hi, Ma. You wanna do the windows next?

Evelyn turns around and, drying her hands on the towel she's wrapped around her waist, kisses her daughter.

EVELYN

Oh, you know me, honey. Can't sit still.

Rocky shouts to Abe in the adjoining living room.

ROCKY

Here, sit in here, Grandpa.

Abe walks into the kitchen. Gar sits at the table while Evelyn continues at the sink. Rusty, her head in the refrigerator, is searching for something. Rocky looks on apprehensively.

GAR

Well, Abe, how do you like retired life?

ABE

Drives me crazy. Man's only good as his last day's work.

RUSTY

(from inside
the refrigerator)
How long you stayin', Pop?

ABE

(joking)
Already she's tryin' to get rid of us.

RUSTY

No, I was just thinkin' I'll make you a nice lunch.

ABE

You cookin'? No order out?

RUSTY

(hanging in
there)
No. I have a roast here. You like roast.

CONTINUED

108 CONTINUED

ABE

I couldn't chew it last time.

Rusty drops the roast on the counter...hard.

EVELYN

I thought the roast was delicious.

Rusty lights a cigarette and takes a deep drag.

ABE

So what kinda things you learnin' in school, Rocky?

(X)

Rocky's relieved that the subject's been changed.

ROCKY

The regular stuff. English. Math. History.

ABE

You get a good education and then a job with some security. I always tried to tell your mother that. She never went for the ol' nine-to-five, though. What was it you used to say, Rusty. You were more the... ah....

She says it slowly.

RUSTY

Freelance type!

Abe laughs.

ABE

Yeah. The 'freelance' type.

Rocky fakes a laugh. Gar gets up and throws his remaining coffee down the drain of the sparkling sink.

ABE

(still laughing)

I got her a job interview at the gas company once...with Lou Cappesco's brother...What the hell was his name?... Anyway, she shows up in this...'kooky' outfit...with her hair way up like this ...and these little lines painted here...

(X)

(points under
his eyes)

...looked like she had a couple a spiders under her eyes. You remember that, Rusty?

CONTINUED

108 CONTINUED - 2

The explosion is right below the surface.

RUSTY

Yeah, I remember that...The guy's name was Vinnie and he wanted to give me the job and also a little early 'bonus' right there in his office. I took him up on the 'bonus' and then told him to stick the job up his ass.

EVELYN

Florence....

Abe, his face flushed, just stands and glares at his daughter.

ABE

Rocky, see what time the game's on the tube, will ya?

ROCKY

It usually starts at two thirty, but I'll check.

Rocky runs. The adults stand in the tense silence.

ROCKY (V.O.)

...OH, MY GOD!

He comes back into the kitchen and holds three Dodger baseball tickets up in front of his mother.

ROCKY

Look, Mom. Dodger tickets...for today's game. Grandpa hid 'em in the TV magazine.

She's lighting a Lucky. Her hand shakes. She takes a long drag on her Lucky. Abe is already at the kitchen door.

ABE

C'mon, Rocky, let's move it out. Lasorda's gonna need all the help he can get.

Evelyn goes to her daughter and whispers.

EVELYN

He tried, Florence. He really did.

RUSTY

(sarcastically)

Yeah!

EVELYN

Anyway, I'm glad Gar's back.

CONTINUED

108 CONTINUED - 3

Evelyn hugs Rusty, meets up with Abe at the door. They leave.
Rocky, dying to get out of the room, dashes past Rusty.

ROCKY

Bye, Mom...See ya, Gar.

GAR

Bye, Rocky.

Rusty doesn't say anything as she watches her son run out the door. When the door is shut, she heads for the back of one of the cupboards where she takes out a Baggie. The Baggie is half-full of white powder. Gar takes it out of her hand, smells it, then returns it to her.

GAR

If you get wasted on this stuff, I'm not stayin' around to baby-sit you 'cuz this crap will put you out of your mind.

RUSTY

Who needs you? Ya know, Gar. This whole thing's not gonna work. I'm startin' to do things so you'll... goddamn approve...and then I hate your guts for it.

GAR

Hey, baby, you got hassles with Abe... it's not my problem. You're ready for one of those two hour screamers...till you get me where I wanna put you through the wall.

RUSTY

HEY, BIG MAN! GONNA BEAT ME UP?
GONNA 'PUT ME THROUGH THE WALL?'

GAR

This is a lose, lose.

He goes through the door, slamming it.

CUT TO

109 OMITTED

109

110 INT. DODGER STADIUM CONCOURSE - DAY

110

Abe, Evelyn and Rocky walk through the large concourse and pass concession stands as they head for the seats. Some eyes avoid Rocky; some don't. They approach a Dodger souvenir booth. Sweat shirts, pennants, hats are displayed.

ABE

Wait a minute. What about a little
Dodger blue?

CONTINUED

110 CONTINUED

110

About fifteen hats are hanging on a hat tree. Several people are trying on the hats.

ABE
(to the Vendor)
Give us that hat to try on.

The Vendor watches Rocky try on the hat. Too small. Two of the customers leave. He tries on another one. Again, too small. Then another.

VENDOR
Does he have to try 'em all on? (X)

ABE
Maybe!

All but two customers have left.

VENDOR
Well, it's against policy.

ABE
It wasn't against policy for those other guys.

VENDOR
Well, can he hurry it up?

ABE
Look, you wanna sell a hat, or what!

Evelyn is tugging at Abe's sleeve. Rocky is dying of embarrassment.

ABE
(continuing)
Or maybe you'd like to go to court!

Rocky stands there with the Dodger hat resting on the very top of his head. It looks ridiculous.

ROCKY
This one's great, Grandpa. (X)

Abe throws some bills on the counter as he's being pulled away by his wife and grandson.

ABE
The Baseball Commissioner's gonna get a call from me about this, you schmuck!

111 EXT. STADIUM GRANDSTANDS - DAY

111

The seats behind third base are great. The game is in progress. Abe yells insults at the umpire. Evelyn opens (X)

CONTINUED

111 CONTINUED

111

her purse and digs down to come up with a little travel sewing kit. While Abe and Rocky watch the game, Evelyn enlarges the hat. A high pop-up fly ball is hit above them. Abe leaps into the air, knocking over popcorn and peanuts. He grabs the ball, midair, with both hands. He turns and gives it to Rocky. It's gold, this baseball.

DISSOLVE TO

112 EXT. DODGER STADIUM - DAY - LATER

112

The game is over and the stands are clearing out. Some of the Dodger team members are still in the dugout. Abe leans around the dugout, hands the baseball to the player who hit it, turns and points back up at his grandson. Rocky stands proudly next to Evelyn. The player waves to Rocky and autographs the ball. Now, it's gold, with diamonds, this baseball.

CUT TO

113 INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

113

Rocky comes in the front door, notices an ashtray full of stubs of brown cigarettes, and then his mother, sitting on the couch, the TV on. Rusty is wasted. He drops the baseball in her lap.

ROCKY

Look what I got, Mom.

Abe and Evelyn come in as Rocky surreptitiously empties the ashtray into a wastebasket. Rocky and Evelyn nervously witness the exchange between Rusty and Abe. Rusty takes the baseball and lobs it, rubbery-armed, to Abe. He tosses it back at Rusty. She somehow catches it and immediately chucks it hard right back at him. He looks at her, then puts the baseball on the table next to the door. Abe and Evelyn leave. Rocky follows. Rusty sits in a daze watching the TV screen. Rocky returns as we hear Abe's car drive off.

ROCKY

What did you do today, Mom? Some angel dust or maybe a fistful of Quaaludes? So much for your word! You promised! And with Grandma and Grandpa here, too.

Silence from her.

ROCKY

(continuing)

I'm not stayin' around this place anymore...I'm going to camp...where

CONTINUED

113 CONTINUED

113

ROCKY (Cont'd)
everybody's blind. At least that's
a break.

RUSTY
(slurring)
What'd ya mean? Who'll take care
...of...things?

(X)

ROCKY
You'll have to take care of things,
Mom...Including yourself. That'll
be something new, won't it!

(X)

He grabs the baseball and stomps into his room leaving her
alone.

CUT TO

114
and
115

OMITTED

114
and
115
(X)
116

116 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The camp bus drives into the Santa Monica Mountains. Large
letters on the bus say CAMP BLOOMFIELD...FOUNDATION FOR THE
JUNIOR BLIND. We see the scenery reflected on the window
as Rocky looks out at the canyon below.

CUT TO

117 EXT. CAMP BLOOMFIELD - DAY

117

Two men stand on the dining hall steps. Norm Kaplan, the
director of the camp, a big, friendly-looking man in his
fifties, and a blond surfer-type counselor named Dewey
Corbett. As Rocky gets off the bus, Norm goes over to him,
not reacting to Rocky's face.

NORM
Hi, Rocky. I'm Norm Kaplan. Sure
glad you could join us. Put your
bag over there and then give Dewey
a hand.

Rocky does and starts navigating through the campers toward
Dewey.

DEWEY
OKAY, YOU GUYS, LET'S GET IT TOGETHER.
KEVIN, TURN OFF THE RADIO AND YOU,
BACK THERE, TAKE THAT MASK OFF SO I
KNOW WHO I'M TALKIN' TO.

CONTINUED

117 CONTINUED

117

Rocky doesn't skip a beat and begins to pretend to try and remove his head from his shoulders.

ROCKY
(good-naturedly)
Well, I'll try but it ain't gonna be easy.

He struggles with his head. Dewey Corbett tenses.

DEWEY
Gee, I'm sorry...I really thought it was a mask....

(X)

ROCKY
That's okay. It happens all the time.
It's no biggie. What can I do to help?

CUT TO

118 INT. DINING HALL - DAY

118

Rocky sits at a table of six blind eleven-year-olds. Bowls of food are put on the table and the campers are on their own.

CAMPER #1
Yucch. What is this stuff?

(X)

ROCKY
You guys think you got it bad. You don't have to see it.

At first there's silence and then the campers howl with laughter.

CUT TO

119 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

119

The cabin is dark except for a flashlight that Rocky has shining up at his face.

ROCKY
Too bad you're missing my special effects...Anyway, the old lady said, 'Who is it?'...and the voice in the hallway said, 'It's the Viper'...The old lady was scared shitless...Then there was another knock at her door. 'Who is it?' she said. The voice at her door said, 'I'm the Viper and I'm here to vipe your vindows!'

(X)

CONTINUED

119

CONTINUED

119

There's laughter, boos and hisses.

CAMPER #2

(X)

That sucked.

ROCKY

Are you kidding? That's a classic.

A Counselor yells in the door.

COUNSELOR

LIGHTS OUT, GUYS.

Rocky thinks that's a riot.

ROCKY

LIGHTS OUT? ARE YOU KIDDING? WHO'D
KNOW?

The other boys join in the laughter and throw pillows in
Rocky's direction.

CUT TO

120

EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - MORNING

120

Rocky walks toward the stables. He turns the corner of the
stable and is stopped in his tracks. He sees her. She's
grooming a chestnut mare. She rubs her face along the
grain of the horse's neck. Her name is Diana Adams. She's
breathtakingly beautiful...and blind. Rocky moves toward
her...his eyes wide.

ROCKY

You look like Snow White.

DIANA

What's Snow White look like?

ROCKY

You.

DIANA

That's a big help.

ROCKY

My name's Rocky.

DIANA

Diana...Adams.

ROCKY

Dennis...Rocky Dennis.

(X)

(X)

A silence.

CONTINUED

120

CONTINUED

ROCKY

Are you goin' to breakfast?

DIANA

I have to finish here...I get her ready for the younger kids who are just learning to ride. Could you hand me the bridle?

He takes a halter from a nail on the wall and gives it to her.

DIANA

This is a halter. A bridle is leather and has a bit.

ROCKY

Oh...What's a bit?

DIANA

It's a round metal piece that fits in the horse's mouth.

He finds it and puts it in her hand. She bridles the horse.

DIANA

You don't know much about horses, do you?

ROCKY

(a little
macho)

I ride motorcycles.

DIANA

I love horses. I have one at home.

(X)

ROCKY

Where's that?

DIANA

San Marino...Where do you live?

ROCKY

Azusa.

She bridles the horse. Rocky watches her every move. She finishes and turns to him.

DIANA

I'm starving.

She starts to walk toward the door. Rocky takes her arm.

CUT TO

121 INT. ROCKY'S CABIN - NIGHT

121

The cabin is dark. Little sleeping mounds are seen in each bed. Slowly, Rocky sits up. He rubs the back of his head. Ever so quietly, so as not to awaken the others, he sits up and assumes his "healing position."

CUT TO

122 EXT. MOTORCYCLE REPAIR SHOP - DAY

122

Gar sits in the open garage doorway working on a disassembled Honda motorcycle. The phone rings...and rings. Gar throws down a wrench and goes to it.

GAR

Yeah?...Huh?...Rusty?...What?...Oh, man.

Gar hangs up the phone and leaves.

CUT TO

123 INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - DAY

123

Rusty sits at the kitchen table. She looks exhausted, hung over. In front of her is a writing tablet. Wadded up pieces of paper are everywhere. She writes a line and stops, then scratches it out with her pencil. She starts to whimper when she sees Gar come in the back door.

RUSTY

Gar...I...can't write...letter...to Rocky...I...miss him.

GAR

Oh, Jesus, Rusty. You need to sleep. Come on.

RUSTY

No...I want to...Help me...write. Please, Gar.

She gives the paper and pen to him. He sits at the table.

RUSTY

(speaks rapidly)

Dear Rocky...I miss you...you're not in your room...you're at camp...I'm ...sorry I was bad...we'll make chocolate pudding...you'll come home....

Gar, not able to keep up with her, just stares at this sad woman he loves.

CONTINUED

123 CONTINUED

123

RUSTY

(continuing)

...I love you...you're not here...
you're at camp...I love you.

Screech walks over to her.

RUSTY

(continuing)

...Screech is here...you're not
here...Love, Mom...Love, Mom.

She looks at Gar.

RUSTY

(continuing)

Did you get that, Gar?

GAR

Yeah, honey. I got it.

He reaches over and strokes her hair as she puts her head
down on the table.

CUT TO

124 EXT. CAMP BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

124

We're in the middle of the third inning. Stands are full of cheering campers who are, like the players on the field, blind, or partially sighted. Counselors act as "sound coaches" at each base. The coach at home plate claps loudly so the pitcher can follow the sound. The fourteen-year-old batter, bat poised, kneels and gets ready for the large rubber ball that the pitcher rolls toward him. When the ball reaches home plate, the coach taps the batter on the shoulder which signals him to swing. A good whack sends the ball rolling. The batter, following the sound of a metal clanger held by the first base coach, Rocky Dennis, runs like hell to first base, then on to second. The fans go wild. Next up is Diana. A nice hit rolls past third and gets her charging toward first base and the sound of the clanger. She's a little off center, so Rocky reaches out, wraps his arm around her and guides her over the base. Again the crowds erupt as Diana squeals with delight.

CUT TO

125 OMITTED

125

(X)

126 EXT. CAMP - HORSE TRAIL - DAY

126

The head Riding Counselor, a camera hanging from a strap

CONTINUED

126

CONTINUED

126

around her neck, leads a group of five on horses. Rocky, looking like a duck out of water on his horse, is the last of the group. Diana sits tall and comfortably on the horse in front of him.

DIANA

Rocky, are you okay back there?

ROCKY

Yeah, sure, fine.

Diana hears the terror in his "Yeah, sure, fine" and chuckles.

DIANA

Come up and ride alongside me.

Rocky tries his best to get the horse to "giddyup." Nothing. Diana stops and waits for him to catch up with her. They ride side by side. Rocky is at his poetic best as he describes the scenery to her.

ROCKY

On the right we have your chaparral
that covers like...lacework...your
rolling green hills...Now this green
is not your forest green...it's more
your gray, mist-like green.

DIANA

ROCKY. I've been blind since I was
born...I don't know 'green.'

ROCKY

You don't know 'green'?

She shakes her head "no."

ROCKY

(continuing)

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT GREEN IS? THAT'S
SO WEIRD.

DIANA

People have tried to explain colors to
me but I just can't get it...go on.

ROCKY

Well, okay...ah, now you have, on your
left, your white, ah, I mean, your
clouds in the sky...up...they're
billowy and....

CONTINUED

126

CONTINUED - 2

DIANA

Rocky, I don't know billowy.

ROCKY

THIS IS SO WEIRD. I CAN'T STAND IT.

CUT TO

127

EXT. CREST OF HILL - DAY

The campers have stopped at the top of the hill and the Counselor passes around apples. Then she begins taking pictures of "her kids." Rocky and Diana sit under a tree.

As Rocky and Diana talk, Diana cuts the apple with Rocky's pocketknife. He can't believe her beauty.

ROCKY

I can't wait to tell Eric and Ben about this.

DIANA

Who're they?

ROCKY

Eric's my friend from school...Ben's my friend...for...life.

DIANA

Yes. I have a friend like that. Ann Marie.

ROCKY

Ben and I are saving our money to ride motorcycles through Europe.

DIANA

That's so neat. My parents are so overprotective....

ROCKY

My mom is very...modern.

DIANA

Did she name you Rocky?

ROCKY

Yeah. My real name is Roy...but when I was a little kid in a crib, I used to rock back and forth, so she started callin' me 'Rocky.'

DIANA

I like it.

CONTINUED

There's a silence. Rocky stares at her perfect profile. He's never seen anything so beautiful in his life. He's lost in it.

DIANA

What do you look like?

Rocky's brought back to earth fast and hard. Panic fills his eyes...then he recovers.

ROCKY

Geez...it's too bad you've never seen any pictures of the Greek God, Adonis. I kinda look like him.

DIANA

Really? He was supposed to be gorgeous.

ROCKY

Yeah...he was...I am, we are.

A long silence.

ROCKY

Diana, I don't look like Adonis.

She turns her head to him. He takes a deep breath.

ROCKY

(continuing)

I'm kinda strange looking...I have this problem that's made my face look real...unreal.

She reaches over to touch his face. He pulls away.

DIANA

Come on...Don't be a chicken.

He moves closer. She moves her hand over his forehead, his eyes, his nose, his mouth, his chin.

DIANA

You look pretty good to me.

Rocky Dennis experiences the happiest moment of his life.

ROCKY

My mom says I look like a lion. She figures I was a lion in one of my past lives and some of it got left over.

She laughs. The Counselor comes up to them with her camera poised.

CONTINUED

127 CONTINUED - 2

127

WOMAN COUNSELOR
Okay, you two. Show us your pearly
whites.

And, boy, do they!

CUT TO

128 EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - DAY

128

Rocky is on his hands and knees sorting through various-sized stones and rocks. He finds four rocks about the size of small potatoes. (X)

CUT TO

129 INT. CAMP CANTEEN - DAY

129

Rocky enters and goes to the counselor behind the counter. He points to a large bag of cotton balls. The counselor smilingly hands him the bag and Rocky is out the door.

CUT TO

130 EXT./INT. CAMP KITCHEN - DAY

130

Rocky pulls Diana into the kitchen.

DIANA

We're going to get so busted if they
find us in here. What're you doing?

ROCKY

Wait...God, you have no patience.

He seats her on a tall kitchen stool, then passes a pot of boiling water on his way to the freezer/refrigerator and turns the fire off under it. We see a pile of cotton balls on the chopping block. He opens the freezer and takes out one of the rocks he collected. He runs to her.

ROCKY

Hold out your hand.

She does. He puts the freezing cold rock in it. She jumps.

ROCKY

This is blue.

He runs back to the refrigerator and takes out the cool rock and then races across the kitchen and puts it in her other hand.

CONTINUED

130

CONTINUED

ROCKY

This is green.

Diana screams.

DIANA

YES, YES, YES....

Then he runs to the pot of water and just stares into it. He can't figure out how to get the rock out. Charging around the room like a lunatic, he finally finds a soup ladle in a drawer. He scoops the rock out of the water. It drops to the floor. He tries to pick it up with his fingers. It's hot. He drops it.

ROCKY

SHIT...oops...Sorry, Diana.

DIANA

That's okay...I say it all the time.

He picks up the rock and tosses it around like a juggler until it cools off a little. Then he takes the cool rock from her hand and puts the hot one in it.

ROCKY

That's red.

DIANA

YES. I GET IT.

ROCKY

Now, when that cools down a little, it'll be pink.

She holds the rocks up in the air and screams with joy.

DIANA

YES, YES, YES.

He runs to the pile of cotton balls and holds it in front of her. Then he takes her hand and softly pats it all over the cotton balls.

ROCKY

This is billowy.

DIANA

Yes.

Rocky takes her hand and gently places it on the side of her face.

CONTINUED

130

CONTINUED - 2

130

ROCKY

This is beautiful.

Diana lowers her head a little and smiles.

CUT TO

131

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

131

The tables have been removed. A huge sign hangs on the wall: NEW YEAR'S EVE IN JULY. A disc jockey spins records from his console. One hundred teenagers jump, twist and writhe on the dance floor. Rocky and Diana are right in the center of it. The tempo changes to a slow song. Rocky holds Diana gently. No one exists but them.

ROCKY

Oh, man, do I ever have a great one to use now.

DIANA

A great what?

ROCKY

Thought...My mom taught me that when things get rotten I should think of a good memory. Well, tonight I got a 'beaut'...this minute...right now.

(X)

DIANA

Can two people use the same one?

ROCKY

Sure.

Norm Kaplan interrupts the music. He raises his arm.

NORM

Ten seconds till the New Year. Nine
...eight...seven...six....

EVERYONE

Five...four...three...two...one...HAPPY
NEW YEAR.

"Auld Lang Syne" is played. Campers and counselors sing. Everyone hugs and kisses each other. Eyes are moist.

CONTINUED

131 CONTINUED

131

Diana raises her face up to Rocky's. He looks down at her.

ROCKY
Happy New Year, Diana.

DIANA
Happy New Year, Rocky.

In the midst of streamers and confetti, Rocky kisses Diana softly on the mouth.

CUT TO

132 INT./EXT. DINING HALL - DAY

132

Rocky stands at the window and watches the last-day campers scurry around as parent-driven cars stream into the campgrounds. He sees Diana turn as if she's heard her name. Ann and Winfred Adams, an attractive, stylish-looking couple in their forties, come up to their daughter. There are hugs and kisses as Diana talks animatedly. Then she turns her head toward the Dining Hall.

DIANA
(loudly)
ROCKY?

133 EXT. DINING HALL - DAY

133

Rocky comes out and goes directly down the steps to them.

ROCKY
Hi.

Ann and Winfred are visibly shocked but try to hide it.

DIANA
Mother, Father, this is Rocky Dennis
...the boy I told you about on the
phone.

Rocky extends his hand. Winfred takes it. Ann forces a smile at Rocky. Diana listens to the silence.

DIANA
Rocky was voted "Best Buddy" and
"Friendliest Camper."

CONTINUED

133

CONTINUED

133

ANN

That's...wonderful.

WINERED

(X)

Well, we better hit the road, honey.
Want to beat the traffic. Ah, nice
meeting you, Rocky.

(X)

ANN

Yes.

They take Diana toward the car. She turns around.

DIANA

(X)

Bye, Rocky. Call me...and don't
forget to send me tapes.

ROCKY

I will. Bye, Diana.

The car pulls away.

ROCKY

Goddamn son of a bitch.

He watches the car pull over to the side of the road to let
a pickup truck have the right of way. Gar's pickup truck.
We see Dozer and Screech in the back. Behind the truck, in
single file, on their Harleys, are Red, Canuck, Stickman
and Sunshine. Rocky runs toward the truck waving his arms.
Rusty jumps out before the truck stops and races toward her
son. She hugs him so tightly he loses his balance. Gar's
followed by Dozer and Screech. Screaming, hugging, kissing,
barking.

ROCKY

MOM, I HAVE GREAT NEWS.

Screech is running in circles. Campers' parents stare at
this strange crew. Dozer stares back at them.

RUSTY

SO DO I.

ROCKY

You first.

RUSTY

I've stopped...I'm clean as a
whistle.

CONTINUED

133

CONTINUED - 2

133

ROCKY

AW RIIIIIGHT, MOM.

RUSTY

I even called the Drug Center...two
times...but I hung up.

ROCKY

Hey, that's a start, Mom.

RUSTY

What's your news?

They start toward the truck.

ROCKY

Oh, no big deal...I met a girl. I'm
goin' with her.

Rusty starts jumping all over him. Gar lets out a whoop as
he throws Rocky's foot locker in the back of the truck.
Dozer and Screech follow. The others mount their bikes.

RUSTY

WELL, TELL ME.

ROCKY

Her name's Diana and she's beautiful
and she rides horses and she's
beautiful and she's real nice and
she's beautiful....

Rocky, Rusty and Gar get in the cab of the truck.

ROCKY

And...SHE LOVES ME.

RUSTY

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?

CUT TO

134

EXT./INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - MORNING

134

Rusty's feeding Screech some kind of glop from the
blender. Rocky watches her from the table...his hand on
the phone.

RUSTY

I'm hittin' Screech with some high
protein. Good for his coat.

ROCKY

You look real pretty today, Mom.

CONTINUED

134 CONTINUED

RUSTY

I do? Hey, thanks.

ROCKY

Ya know, I called Diana just about every day since I've been back and her mom always says she's out. Don't ya think that's kind of weird....

(X)

Ben comes in the back door.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Hey, speakin' of weird...look who's here.

(X)

Ben looks shaken...his face is flushed.

BEN

Rocky, I gotta talk to you.

(X)

ROCKY

Okay. You want a root beer?

(X)

BEN

No.

They go into the living room.

135 INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

135

Rocky turns back toward the kitchen.

ROCKY

I think there's some cake. Can you believe my mom made a chocolate cake yesterday? You want a piece?

Ben shakes his head "no."

ROCKY

A noose to hang yourself...What the hell's wrong with you?

Ben drops it like a bomb.

BEN

I'm goin' to Wyoming. A guy offered me a job working the oil rigs. It's real good money.

(X)

CONTINUED

135

CONTINUED

135

ROCKY

When'll you be back?

BEN

I'm not...comin'...back.

ROCKY

What'd ya mean, Ben?

BEN

I'll go nuts if I have to stay here
in school...so I quit. I can work
out there and make forty bucks an
hour.

(X)

ROCKY

WHAT ABOUT THE TRIP?

BEN

I'm sorry, Rocky. You can keep the
money.

ROCKY

I DON'T WANT THE FUCKING MONEY. I
WANT TO GO TO EUROPE. WHAT ABOUT
THE TRIP?

Rusty comes into the room...a surprised look on her face.

ROCKY

(continuing)

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS? IT'S ALL WE
EVER TALKED ABOUT.

BEN

It's all you ever talked about.

ROCKY

THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU TALKED ABOUT
IT, TOO.

BEN

I know I did. I'm sorry. I didn't
mean that.

ROCKY

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, DO
YOU? KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU'RE
STUPID, BEN. YOU'RE SO STUPID....

CONTINUED

135

CONTINUED - 2

135

Rusty tries to make him stop. He pulls away from her and runs into his room. Ben fights back tears. Rocky comes back holding his baseball cards. He throws them into Ben's face.

ROCKY
RUBE WALKER...I CONNED YOU OUTTA
RUBE WALKER.

It's clear Ben has no idea what he's talking about.

BEN
What?

ROCKY
RUBE WALKER.

BEN
Take it easy.

(X)
(X)

ROCKY
NO MORE...NO MORE TAKING IT EASY.

RUSTY
Rocky, stop.

ROCKY
GET OUT OF HERE, BEN.

Ben's eyes well up with tears. He slowly turns and walks out the door. Rusty starts crawling around the floor gathering up the baseball cards.

136

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - DAY

136

Rocky goes to the kitchen phone. His trembling hand dials.

ROCKY
Hello, is Diana there?...Rocky
Dennis...Where is she?...Did you tell
her I've called?

(X)

He slams the receiver down and slowly sinks into a chair at the table. He starts to cry. Rusty stands next to him holding the baseball cards...and cradles his head against her. She holds back her tears.

RUSTY
Don't cry, honey...Don't cry.

CUT TO

137 EXT. LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

137

Dozer drives the Harley to the front of the school. As Rocky gets off, he sees Eric and Lisa walking, arms around each other, into the school. Three junior highs feed into Langley. The students who've never seen Rocky before gawk as he walks into the front door.

138 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

138

Eric, Lisa and some recognizable kids from Rocky's junior high are huddled around the drinking fountain. As Rocky heads toward them, he passes a group of seniors.

SENIOR GIRL

There's that guy I heard about.

SENIOR BOY

If that's a mask he's wearing, I wish he'd take it off.

Rocky hears this and feels a strength surge up from the core of him and into his arms and legs. He spins around and walks over to them.

ROCKY

HEY, YOU!

Eric, Lisa and the others watch, in amazement, as Rocky takes the boy by the front of the shirt and shoves him up against the lockers. The girls gasp. Rocky pushes his face within an inch of the boy's.

ROCKY

I'll take my mask off if you take your mask off, you son of a bitch.

He slams the boy into the locker again and then walks off.

CUT TO

139 EXT. DENNIS STREET - DAY

139

Rocky slowly walks up the street toward his house. His step is very labored as he goes up onto his front porch. He stops and rubs the back of his head. Then he opens the front door and goes in.

140 INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - DAY

140

Rocky walks into the room. It's dark. There are blankets and towels nailed over the window.

CONTINUED

140

CONTINUED

140

ROCKY

Mom?

No answer. He looks around the room. He hears something move in the closet. When he opens the door, he sees his mother sitting as far back into the closet as she can. She looks terrified.

RUSTY

CLOSE THE DOOR.

ROCKY

Oh, my God.

RUSTY

DON'T LET THEM IN.

ROCKY

What?

RUSTY

MOTHS...MOTHS.

ROCKY

There's no moths, Mom.

She gets up, nearly knocking him over. She swats at the imaginary moths and tears around the room, jerking her head back and forth. Rocky tries to stop her. She swings at him, misses and hits the floor. Her body stiffens and convulses. She goes limp.

ROCKY

OH, GOD, NO...MOM, NO.

141

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - DAY

141

Rocky runs to the phone, picks it up, puts it down, picks it up and dials "0."

ROCKY

GET ME THE PARAMEDICS...HURRY!...138
GRAND STREET...MY MOM...I DON'T KNOW
...SHE TOOK SOMETHING BAD.

(X)

142

INT. RUSTY'S BEDROOM - DAY

142

Back in the bedroom, he finds her in a heap on the floor, her mouth open...lifeless. He gets down and holds her head in his lap.

ROCKY

Oh, please don't die on me now,
Mom. Don't die on me now.

CUT TO

143

EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - DAY

143

Gar and Rocky stand on the porch and watch Rusty being carried out by two paramedics. She's put in an ambulance that's parked next to a police car. Two policemen get into the car and follow the ambulance. Rocky starts to cry. (X)

GAR

She'll be okay.

ROCKY

What'll happen to her?

GAR

I'll put bail up for her tomorrow. She'll be home by afternoon. Then she'll have to wait before she goes to court.

ROCKY

I thought they'd just put her in a drug program.

Rocky sits down slowly on the front steps. Gar looks at him a moment and sits beside him.

CUT TO

144

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - DAY

144

Rocky assumes his "healing position" on his bed. On his nightstand is the picture of him and Diana at the camp. He takes his tape recorder microphone in one hand and one of Diana's "hot rocks" in the other.

ROCKY

Hi, Diana. Since you're never home when I call, I'm gonna send you this tape. How are you? I'm okay, I guess... 'cept I haven't been feelin' too great.

CUT TO

145

INT./EXT. DENNIS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

145

Rocky nervously looks out the window as a cab pulls up and Rusty gets out. She storms into the house. She's strung out and livid, with every raw nerve fully exposed.

RUSTY

WHAT THE FUCK WERE YOU THINKING?
YOU WANT ME TO GO TO JAIL?

CONTINUED

145 CONTINUED

ROCKY

I'm sorry...I thought....

RUSTY

YOU THOUGHT WHAT?

ROCKY

That they'd send you to a hospital...
so you could...get...cured.

RUSTY

GET CURED?

ROCKY

Yeah. Stop taking that stuff.

RUSTY

Read my lips, Buster. I DON'T WANT
TO STOP. DO YOU GET IT? I DON'T
WANT TO STOP..

ROCKY

If you don't...I'm going to leave.

RUSTY

HEY THERE'S THE DOOR. There's lots
of places you could live. You could
move in with any of 'em. They all
love you. I'm the bad guy here.
You're everybody's 'best buddy.'
MR. FUCKING WONDERFUL. EVERYBODY
LOVES YOU. WELL, WHAT ABOUT
ME?..WHAT ABOUT ME?

ROCKY

I LOVE YOU, MOM.

She won't hear him.

RUSTY

You always screwed things up for
me...always cramping my style...
hanging all over me. I could have
done something with my life. I was
pretty...and smart. Everybody said so.
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS IN THE WAY...WITH
YOUR GODDAMN HEADACHES AND YOUR GOD-
DAMN...FACE.

There's stunned silence from Rocky. She goes to him.

RUSTY

Oh, God, Rocky. I'm sorry. I
didn't mean that.

CONTINUED

145 CONTINUED - 2

145

ROCKY

Yes, you did...because it's true.
Everything I didn't used to think was
true is true. I don't have a girl-
friend. I'm not going to college...
or own my own business...and you're
going to overdose on something and
die...And I don't care anymore.

(X)

He means it. She knows it. She starts to gasp for breath
and runs into the bathroom.

146 INT. DENNIS BATHROOM - DAY

146

She splashes water on her face. She raises her head to meet
her face in the mirror. He stands beside her.

RUSTY

I...I can't...stop...Rocky.

Rocky puts his arms around his mother.

CUT TO

147 EXT. DENNIS FRONT PORCH - MORNING

147

Rocky sits on the steps. Rusty comes out the front door.
Her voice is low, placating.

RUSTY

Honey, I made you a nice breakfast...
Everything you like. Come on, now....

He looks down as the sound of bikes bring his eyes to the
driveway where Gar, Canuck and Stickman are pulling to a
halt.

RUSTY

Look what the smell of pancakes
brings us.

She sees that Canuck and Stickman are visibly upset. Rocky
stands.

RUSTY

What is it?

GAR

It's Red...Babe called from the
hospital...She said he'd been sick
for a long time...He never told us
...Babe was with him....

Rusty puts her arm around Rocky who looks straight ahead.

CUT TO

148

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The Turks wind two abreast, up the curved rolling road to the top of the cemetery. Rocky gets off Dozer's bike and walks away from the others to find a spot to sit. He looks out over the hills.

A procession files past the casket. Each member wears a rust-colored armband around his right arm. Trinkets are placed in the spray of flowers that covers the casket: the Turks' insignia, a beer bottle cap, a roach clip, pieces of cloth. Babe takes an Indian necklace from around her neck and places it on the flowers. Rusty intertwines some rust-colored lace around the flowers. Gar rips a patch from his cutoff vest and places it next to the lace. Canuck and Stickman, eyes swollen and red, follow suit. Dozer stands next to the casket like he's guarding it, Sunshine's behind him. The scene is extremely solemn at this moment.

Then, almost like it's a substitute for a gun salute, the sound of beer cans popping echoes over the hills. It signals traditional revelry. Hoots and hollers are heard. Cans are raised. The customary toasts are made.

SUNSHINE

Hey, Red...safe ride!

STICKMAN

You old bastard!

GAR

May the wind be in your face....

ALL THE MEN

(in chorus)

AND THE BREATH OF A SWEET WOMAN BE ON
THE BACK OF YOUR NECK.

STICKMAN

Shit, ya 'member when he glued Fred
the Frog's seat...and the fuckin' Frog
couldn't...get off his bike for a week.

Screams of laughter. Rusty looks around to find Rocky, and seeing him sitting by himself, goes to him.

BABE (V.O.)

The run to Mexico in '75...he didn't
sleep for three days...said he was
talking to Indian spirits.

More laughter as Rusty sits next to her son.

RUSTY

You okay?

CONTINUED

148 CONTINUED

ROCKY

Yeah.

RUSTY

We okay?

ROCKY

Yeah, Mom. We're okay.

They look out. We hear a roll of laughter from the "mourners."

RUSTY

Aren't you gonna put something in the flowers?

ROCKY

Why?

RUSTY

It's custom. You say good-bye that way.

ROCKY

I'm not sayin' good-bye to Red. He's not over there anyway.

RUSTY

Where is he, then?

ROCKY

He's right here. I can feel him.

RUSTY

Kinda like the invisible man, huh?

ROCKY

No, it's more like he's gone...but he's...still here at the same...time.
(touches
his chest)

Yeah...that's it. He went but he stayed. Nobody ever really dies.

(X)

She looks at her son. He turns his face to her and looks deep into her eyes.

CUT TO

149 INT. ROCKY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

149

Rocky takes money out of the strong box and shoves it in his pocket. When he turns he faces his mother, standing in his doorway.

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED

RUSTY

What are you doing?

ROCKY

I gotta go somewhere, Mom.

He goes to her and puts his hands on her shoulders.

ROCKY

(continuing)

I gotta do something. I'll be
back. Don't worry about me.

She moves out of the doorway to let him pass.

CUT TO

150 EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

150

An RTD bus pulls up. Rocky gets on. The bus driver does a
double-take as Rocky drops coins in the meter.

CUT TO

151 OMITTED

151
(X)
152

152 EXT. MONROVIA BUS STOP - DAY

He gets on another bus. The doors close. We see heads
turn inside the bus as he walks to the back. His headache
is so severe his vision is blurred.

CUT TO

153 OMITTED

153
(X)
154

154 EXT. SAN MARINO STREET - DAY

The bus pulls away to leave Rocky standing on a San Marino
street. He walks north toward the hills. The street is
lined with elegant, old homes. He stops and asks an
Oriental gardener directions. The gardener points north.

CUT TO

155 EXT. FOXTAIL STABLES - DAY

155

Rocky heads for what appears to be an office. The sign

CONTINUED

155 CONTINUED

next to the door reads RIDING LESSONS - INQUIRE WITHIN. Rocky opens the squeaky screen door and goes into the office. He reappears with a woman in Western garb who points in the direction of the stables. He runs off as she, shaking her head, watches him.

156 INT. STABLES - DAY

Diana and her friend, Ann Marie, are unbridling their horses. Rocky stands in the doorway.

ROCKY

Diana.

The girls turn. Diana's friend lets out a gasp.

DIANA

Rocky!..Why didn't you send me tapes?

(X)

ROCKY

I did! You never called me back when I called.

(X)

A confused silence.

DIANA

Oh, Rocky. My parents.

ROCKY

I knew it.

(X)

DIANA

I guess they didn't want me to get hurt because I never stop talking about you...and I have to go away to high school...on Monday.

ROCKY

Where?

DIANA

(not wanting
to tell him)

The school has real good programs for blind students...It's in Santa Barbara.

(X)

CONTINUED

156

CONTINUED

They stand in painful silence. Then Diana takes his hand and leads him to some bales of hay that are stacked on the floor. They sit on the hay and lean up against the wall of the stable. His arms are around her. Her head's on his chest. She starts to quietly cry.

DIANA

Oh, Rocky. I don't want to go.

Rocky holds her close to him and strokes her hair. He closes his eyes to hold back the beginning of tears. Then, after a long moment, a slow smile starts to wash over his face. Then a little chuckle. Diana, confused, pulls away.

DIANA

(continuing)

Are you laughing at me?

Rocky draws her back to him.

ROCKY

Oh, no. Never...It's just that... here it is...the most rotten time of my whole life...you have to go away to school...I hate my school...the trip to Europe is off....

DIANA

Oh, Rocky, no.

ROCKY

But it's okay...really. That's what's so funny. It doesn't matter. It's all okay now because I know you still love me.

DIANA

I do. I really do.

ROCKY

I know.

Rocky holds his girl and is, at this moment, at peace with all of it.

DIANA

I wish we could run away and be together all the time.

CONTINUED

156

CONTINUED - 2

ROCKY

We can't run away, Diana.

DIANA

I know.

ROCKY

But we can sorta run away...in our minds, anyway. We can remember camp and the mountains and....

Diana moves her face next to his and puts her arm around his neck.

DIANA

And New Year's Eve.

ROCKY

Especially New Year's Eve.

He kisses her. A long, tender, passionate, beautiful, heavenly kiss.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Boy, do I love you.

Diana smiles and snuggles close to him. Rocky seems to drift off...into himself. A long moment.

ROCKY

(continuing,
very softly)

Yeah, it's like what I told my Mom when Red died.

DIANA

What?

ROCKY

(barely audible)

We'll be together...even though...
we can't be together.

Diana holds onto him for this long, last moment. Then she slowly stands and holds her hand out to him. He gets up. They walk, hand in hand, out into the late afternoon sun.

157

EXT. FOXTAIL RIDING STABLES - DAY

157

They slowly approach the office. Eyes are red-rimmed from tears but little smiles are on their lips.

CONTINUED

157 CONTINUED

ROCKY

Now I know how bittersweet chocolate feels.

DIANA

I'll write everyday...on different colored pieces of paper...GREEN AND BLUE AND....

ROCKY

RED AND PINK...

(after a
pause)

I'LL TEACH YOU MAGENTA AND
TURQUOISE.

DIANA

And mauve and chartreuse.

ROCKY

Mauve and what?

DIANA

Chartreuse.

ROCKY

Say that again.

She says the word slowly.

DIANA

Chartreuse.

He kisses her. After a hug, he walks away backwards. He runs back and kisses her quickly. She laughs. He runs a short distance, stops suddenly, turns around again and looks at her for a long moment. Then he turns and runs off.

CUT TO

158 EXT. BEN'S STREET - EVENING

158
(X)

A bus lets Rocky off. He walks across the street, into an apartment complex and up to a front door. He knocks. Ben opens the door. Rocky flashes him a big smile and puts out his hand. Ben grabs it and then grabs his friend and pulls him into the apartment. The door closes.

CUT TO

159

EXT. DENNIS PORCH - NIGHT

159
(X)

Dozer, Babe, Canuck, Stickman and members of the Turks are waiting. Gar and Rusty pull up on his Harley. Rusty looks at all of them. They wait.

RUSTY

The four most beautiful words in the
English language...ILLEGAL SEARCH
AND SEIZURE!

Cheers from the crowd. She goes to Babe.

RUSTY

Rocky in his room?

Babe nods. Rusty goes into Rocky's room.

160

INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

160

She finds him in his healing position, listening to a tape from Diana. Rusty listens, too.

DIANA (V.O.)

'...so now you have my address here
at school...you better write, or else
...Ah...let's see...yesterday I
thought about you...I think about
you all the time...we're learning
about the layers of the earth and we
had to feel these little pieces of
rock...of course, I only could think
of colors...It made me laugh. My
roommate is from....'

RUSTY

Honey?

He turns off the tape.

RUSTY

(continuing)
I gotta interrupt a minute.

ROCKY

It's okay...how'd it go?

She takes his face in her hands.

RUSTY

Good. Look right at me...and listen.

Her voice is quiet, strong, grown up. He looks at her.

CONTINUED

160

CONTINUED

RUSTY

(continuing)

You heard this before but I never meant it before. I knew it was bullshit while it was comin' out of my mouth...I know now that if I don't straighten out...I'm gonna lose you...and Gar...and me, too. And you know I'm too goddamn selfish to lose myself.

He's never seen or heard her quite like this before. He smiles weakly.

RUSTY

(continuing)

I can't do this alone. I'm over my head. I need some help. Monday I check into drug rehab..

(X)

ROCKY

Do you mean it?

RUSTY

Look at me...Do I mean it?

Rocky looks at his mother for a long time and then nods his head. He starts to laugh and cry at the same time. She joins him. He stands slowly and raises his arm.

ROCKY

Today drug rehab...tomorrow the PTA.

They laugh and hug. Gar opens the door and grins at them.

GAR

Get your asses out here.

161

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

161

When they walk into the living room, applause breaks out.

STICKMAN

Haven't seen the old number in a long time, Rocky.

ROCKY

I'm kinda tired tonight.

BABE

Aw, come on...Rusty...let's see it.

CONTINUED

161

CONTINUED

Rusty gives Rocky a "shall we?" look. He nods and walks slowly to the center of the room. His voice sounds a little weak.

ROCKY

'Step right up, folks. See Little Egypt do her famous dance of the Pyramids. She walks....'

RUSTY

'She talks....'

ROCKY

'She talks. She crawls on her belly like a reptile.'

Now he's getting into it.

ROCKY

(continuing)

'One thin dime, one tenth of a dollar. Step right up, folks.'

ROCKY/RUSTY

(singing)

'I went and bought myself a ticket
And I sat down in the very front row.
She came out struttin', wearin' nothin'
But a button and a bow,
Singin' ying yang, ying yang, ying yang.'

RUSTY

(singing)

'She had a ruby in her tummy and a
diamond big as Texas on her toe.'

ROCKY

(singing)

'She did a triple somersault,
And when she hit the ground,
She winked at the audience,
And then she turned around...
She had a picture of a cowboy
tattooed on her spine.
Saying Phoenix, Arizona, 1949.'

Rusty twirls around Rocky while he bends from the waist and takes a very "grand" bow. When he lowers his head, he winces in pain.

CONTINUED

161 CONTINUED - 2
RUSTY
You okay, honey?

ROCKY
My head hurts a lot tonight.

RUSTY
I'm gonna throw these animals outta
here early. You go on now and lie
down...Make yourself well.

Rocky goes toward his room. Before he opens his door he turns around and sees his mother and Gar have a moment that tells him Gar will stay for good. Rusty will be fine. She turns, and catching him looking at her, gives him the "A-OK" sign. He smiles and goes into his room.

162 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

162

Rocky closes the door. He stands for a moment and looks at the walls: at the pictures of Harleys, his Springsteen and Beatles posters, his map of Europe. He walks over to the map and stares at it a long time. Then he removes the map tacks...slowly...one by one...Avignon...Lyon...Dijon...Bastogne...until all the tacks have been taken out and lie in a neat pile on his dresser.

(X)

Then he sits on his bed and picks up the photo of Diana and looks at it. Smiling, he puts it back and takes one of the "hot rocks" and caresses it. He keeps it in his hand as he lies back on his bed. Screech screeches. Rocky whispers.

ROCKY
I'm real tired, Screech. I don't
think...I wanna...make myself...well
...anymore.

He turns over with his face to the wall.

DISSOLVE TO

163 INT. TO EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - NIGHT

163

Rusty and Gar stand on the porch, and wave good-bye to the departing guests. Arm-in-arm, they come into the house and head toward the bedrooms.

164 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

164

Rusty tiptoes into the room. She sees that he's sleeping. Carefully, she takes off his sneakers. He stirs. She covers him with his bedspread. He mutters in his sleep and

CONTINUED

164 CONTINUED

turns over on his back. She pushes the hair off his forehead and stands for a while just looking at her son. She kisses his forehead and then leaves the room, quietly closing the door.

CUT TO

165 EXT. DENNIS HOUSE - MORNING

165

Rusty, in her robe, is playfully pushing Gar out the door.

GAR

Rocky wanna ride to school?

RUSTY

He already left. Do you know what time it is? Get your ass to work.

He puts his arm around her and kisses her as we hear the phone ring in the house.

RUSTY

See you tonight.

She runs into the house to the phone.

166 INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

166

RUSTY

Hello.

We hear Gar's Harley take off.

RUSTY

No, he's in school...Yeah, I'm sure....

Color drains from her face. She puts the phone down and walks slowly up to Rocky's closed door. She stands...then opens it and looks in.

167 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - MORNING

167

Rocky's lying on his back as we last saw him. He appears content, peaceful. Rusty stands in the doorway and stares at him. Her face contorts and then relaxes into a grin. She knows...absolutely. She's rooted in the doorway and seems to shift onto automatic pilot.

CONTINUED

167

CONTINUED

167

RUSTY

WELL...YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T GONNA
GET A SCHOLARSHIP IF YOU STAY IN THE
SACK ALL DAY.

(X)

There's no movement from the bed, except for Screech who
lifts his head.

RUSTY

(continuing)

HAD A SPANISH TEST TODAY? RIGHT,
ROCKY...? SPANISH TEST TODAY, HUH?

She walks very slowly to the bed and reaches down, touching
his cheek.

RUSTY

(continuing)

You're so cold, honey. You kicked
your cover off.

She kneels down, pulling the bedspread up and tucking it
around him. Then she leans very close to her son and
whispers.

RUSTY

I don't want you to pull this shit
on me, Rocky. Do you hear me?
Don't do this. I didn't tell you
you could do this. Okay, honey...
Wake up now...OH GOD...NO...NO...
PLEASE, ROCKY. MAKE YOURSELF WELL
...NO...PLEASE...I DIDN'T TELL YOU
YOU COULD DO THIS.

She stands and yells.

RUSTY

GAR!

She tears out of Rocky's room.

168

INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

168

RUSTY

(continuing)

GAR?

169

INT. DENNIS KITCHEN - MORNING

169

She stumbles into the kitchen where she stands alone.

RUSTY

(continuing)

GAR?

CONTINUED

169 CONTINUED

169

Her hands go over her ears. She howls and swings her arms so that they sweep dishes and glasses on the counter to the floor. Opening cupboard doors, she pulls plates, cups, bowls out. They crash to the floor.

170 INT. DENNIS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

170

Back through the living room where she picks up a lamp and throws it at the wall. She pulls the bookcase over and it topples to the floor. She goes down on the floor with it. Then she crawls towards Rocky's room.

171 INT. ROCKY'S ROOM - MORNING

171

She crawls to the side of his bed. She holds him and sobs. She looks at him and slowly the crying subsides.

Then her eyes scan his room. She looks at the cork bulletin board on the opposite wall. The entire board is filled with baseball cards of the 1955 World Champion Dodgers. There are no spaces left.

Her eyes find the naked map and focus on it. A sob shudders her body. She takes in a breath for strength and gets up. Slowly she moves toward the map.

She holds the dresser for support. The little pile of map tacks are directly in front of her. She pushes the tacks into the map of Europe...one by one.

RUSTY

Now you...can...go anywhere...you
...wanna...go, baby....

LONG DISSOLVE TO

172 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

172

The rolling grounds of the cemetery. As we pull back we find Rocky's tombstone. A short distance from it is the winding road that twists through the cemetery. We see Dozer getting off his Harley and taking an enormous bunch of flowers from the saddle bag. A pickup truck stops behind him. The license plate tells us it's 1984. Rusty, Gar and Screech get out of the truck and follow Dozer toward Rocky's grave. They talk as they walk. Rusty gestures and calls to Screech who runs over to them. She looks "pulled together," peaceful, at ease, content. Gar says something that makes her nod and smile. They reach the tombstone. After a moment, Gar starts pulling the few weeds that have grown around the stone. Rusty wanders away and looks out over the hill. She knows Rocky's not here...he's out there...and inside her at the same time.

We hear:

172 CONTINUED

ROCKY (V.O.)

'These things are good:
Ice cream and cake
A ride on a Harley
Seeing monkeys in the trees
The rain on my tongue.
And the sun shining on my face.
These things are a drag:
Dust in my hair
Holes in my shoes
No money in my pocket
And the sun shining on my face.'

She turns and watches Dozer arrange the flowers around the stone. He is also doing something surreptitiously. When Dozer thinks the flowers look perfect, he nods to Rusty. She smiles and nods back. Then they all leave together.

We close in on the flowers to see three baseball cards tucked in among the blossoms.

As this scene fades, we hear "Little Egypt," and as the credits roll we see scenes from the film:

ROCKY AND RUSTY DANCING AT THE BLOOD RUN
ROCKY AT HIS BASEBALL CARD BOARD.
ROCKY AND DOZER ON THE HARLEY.
RUSTY HEALING ROCKY.
ROCKY AT THE FUN HOUSE MIRROR.
ROCKY AND BEN AT THE MAP.
ROCKY GETTING SCHOOL AWARDS.
ROCKY AND RUSTY ON THE SWINGS.
ROCKY WITH STEINBERGS AT BALL GAME.
ROCKY AND DIANA WITH THE ROCKS.

(X)

THE END