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WILL FERRELL

TALLADEGA NIGHTS

by
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OPEN ON: BLACK SCREEN

The quote comes up: "I count him braver who conquers his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is the victory over self." --Aristotle, philosopher, 361 B.C.

This quote fades away and another comes up: "Anytime you step on the gas hard you're gonna have your ups and downs."
--Ernie "Swervin" Irvan, stock car driver, 1992.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP ODOMETER - NIGHT

Close up of an odometer on a mid-sixties Chevy. It is straining to pass 125 mph. We hear a powerful V-8 engine roaring.

MAN'S VOICE

Whoo!! Whoo-hoooo!!! Go baby go!!!!
Come on you sweet lady, give me all
you got!!!!

The odometer passes 130 mph.

INT. MID-SIXTIES CHEVY - NIGHT

We see a woman, LUCY BOBBY, 23, in the midst of giving birth in the back seat. Driving the car is REESE BOBBY, 26. He is going way too fast in a gleaming immaculate tricked-out Chevy.

REESE

Whoo-whoo!!! Honey will you look at
that speedometer!! Just look at
it!!

LUCY

I am giving birth to your child you
jackass!!

They go right by the hospital.

LUCY

You just passed the hospital!!

REESE

Baby, we're going one hundred and
thirty-six miles an hour! Ha, ha,
ha!! This car ain't never gone this
fast!!!

We hear the cry of a newborn as the speedometer strains to hit 140 mph.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - A FEW MINUTES

An ORDERLY, 31, helps Lucy out of the car while a NURSE, 52, stands by holding the newborn.

REESE BOBBY

So are you good?

LUCY

What?

REESE

You got all this covered? You know raisin' him, being a mom? All that?!

LUCY

Reese Bobby you get out of that car right now-

Reese floors it and peels out of the hospital driveway.

REESE BOBBY

Give me a call when he can drive!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE PARKING LOT - SIX YEARS LATER

Lucy Bobby pulls up in a wood-paneled station wagon. In the seat next to her is five-year-old Ricky Bobby in a dirty Captain America T-shirt.

FIVE-YEAR-OLD RICKY BOBBY

I wanna go fast! I wanna go fast!

LUCY BOBBY

Ricky, can't you say something else? I know it's hard not having a Daddy but just try and use some other words. Please.

Beat as Lucy waits for Ricky to say something.

FIVE YEAR OLD RICKY BOBBY

I wanna go fast!

LUCY BOBBY
Alright. I'm gonna run in the store
real quick and grab some milk for
dinner. You stay put.

She gets out and runs into the store. As soon as she enters
we hear the car squeal and tear out of the parking lot.

EXT. INTERSECTION - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Tough high school kids in a hot rod listen to loud music
while waiting at a red light. Another car pulls up next to
them and revs its engine.

HIGH SCHOOL KID
Hey hotshot, you wanna race?

Driver's side window roles down and we see five-year-old
Ricky Bobby.

FIVE YEAR OLD RICKY BOBBY
I wanna go fast!

Light turns green and both cars tear off the line.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FOURTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

It is Career Day and a class of twenty fourth graders are
listening to a PARENT, 35, talking about his job with his
DAUGHTER, 9, next to him. In the front row is TEN-YEAR-OLD
RICKY. He wears braces and an ill-fitting, bright, orange-
collared shirt. He is clearly not one of the popular kids.

PARENT
... and then I lock up and head on
home. So that's what it's like to
manage a Waffle House.

The Class claps and the TEACHER, a reddish-brown-haired woman
of about 42, steps in front of the class.

TEACHER
Okay, next up is Ricky Bobby. Ricky
is your Father here?

RICKY
No Ma'am. My Mother says he's off
getting speeding tickets and
chasing tail.

The class laughs. Ricky doesn't know why.

TEACHER

Alright then, we'll move on to Brennan, whose Father is here to tell us what his job as a prison guard is like.

CLASS

Cool job! Awesome! I want to be in prison!

There's a little tap at the door.

REESE BOBBY

Excuse me darlin...I'm Reese Bobby. I'm here for Career Day with my son Ricky...

We see Reese is peeking through the door with a cigarette in his mouth.

RICKY

Dad!

Ricky runs up to Reese and hugs him.

REESE BOBBY

Hey there boy. Man you got big...How long's it been? Three months?

RICKY

Ten years.

REESE BOBBY

Aww sorry about that. Here's a five dollar bill.

He hands Ricky the bill as the other boy and his Dad sit down.

TEACHER

Mr. Bobby, there's no smoking in here.

REESE BOBBY

It's alright honey, I'm bonded.
(addressing the class)
Okay...I am a race car driver.

The kids oh and ah and Ricky beams with pride.

REESE BOBBY

And the first thing you gotta learn
if you wanna be a race car driver,
is that you don't listen to
losers...like your teacher over
here.

TEACHER

Okay, I think that's enough.

REESE BOBBY

Your teacher wants you to go slow
and she's wrong, cause this whole
world's built on speed. Just
remember, it's the fastest that
gets paid and it's the fastest that
gets laid.

EXT. SCHOOL - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Reese Bobby is being forcibly removed from the school by
three JANITORS, while Ricky watches.

REESE BOBBY

You people are in the wrong on this
one!!! So in the wrong!!! This is
egregious!!! Do you hear me,
egregious!!!

They toss Reese onto the parking lot. He gets up.

RICKY

Dad?

REESE BOBBY

Don't listen to these people Ricky!
You're a winner! You got the gift.
Always remember: if you ain't
first, you're last.

He jumps in his car and takes off.

REESE BOBBY

See you when you're grown up!

RICKY

(awe struck)

If you ain't first, you're last...

SLOW DISSOLVE:

EXT. TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY - TEN YEARS LATER

CARD: "The Talladega Speedway: Ten Years Later"

Overhead shot of Talladega Speedway 1992. We helicopter pan past an electric crowd of two hundred thousand people as multi-colored stock cars tear down the straightaway with a deafening roar. Mmmmm. It's sweet.

ESPN ANCR #1(V.O.)

It is a hot one here in Talladega.
And this crowd of over one hundred
and eighty thousand is enjoying one
heck of a race! Cal Naughton Jr.
has been dueling Bill Elliot all
day long...

CUT TO:

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

We see a quick cut of the caution flag being waved. A hand full of cars pull into pit row. We focus on one particular car: #28 The Laughing Clown Malt Liquor Car as it weakly rolls to a stop. As soon as it stops the crew is all over it changing tires and fueling up like they're involved in some kind of automotive ballet.

We whip pan to the crew to see Ricky changing a tire. He's on the crew. HE IS NOT THE DRIVER. He still has a dorky spiky haircut and a pimple or two with a name tag reading "Ricky" on his crew suit.

The crew chief, LUCIUS WASHINGTON, an intimidating African American man, starts talking to the driver.

LUCIUS

Terry! Terry! Listen to me. You are
running a terrible race man! We're
in last place. You haven't passed
anyone in forty-five minutes.
Terry?

The driver doesn't respond. Lucius reaches into the car and touches the driver who slumps over.

LUCIUS

Sweet Mother Mary! This man's dead!
He's cold to the touch.

HERSHELL

I've watched those true crime
shows; that takes like two hours
for a body to get cold.

ANOTHER CREW MEMBER

How the hell was he turning
corners?

Hush falls over the pit crew. GLENN, a slightly affected
Georgian with a big Adam's apple, speaks up.

GLENN

We've been crewing a ghost car.

LUCIUS

Get this body out of the car.

(turns to the crew)

Alright gentleman the bottom line
is if we don't finish this race our
sponsor is gonna shit a chicken.

The crew starts to get the body out of the car.

GLENN

Think about it. He was dead and he
was still driving. It was...it was
literally a ghost car.

LUCIUS

I need me a driver. Who wants to go
fast?

SUPER FAST PUSH IN TO RICKY BOBBY

Ricky raises his hand.

RICKY

I like to go fast.

LIGHTENING QUICK SERIES OF CUTS-

1) Ricky being zipped up in the suit 2) Buckle clicking him
into the seat 3) Close up of a tire peeling out 4) The car
tearing out of pit row with a vengeance

MUSIC: Steve Earle's "Last of the Troubadours" kicks in hard.

OPENING CREDITS START

EXT. STANDS - CONTINUOUS

In the crowded stands we see a FATHER, 49, a MOTHER, 48, and their two SONS all decked out in Nascar hats, shirts and jackets listening to the coverage on their race radios.

ESPN ANCR #1 (V.O.)

We have got a situation for the Laughing Clown Malt Liquor number 28 car. Apparently Terry LeCheveaux is sick and one of his crew members has taken the wheel.

INT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The two ESPN ANNOUNCERS follow the race.

ESPN ANNOUNCER #2

That's right Kurt. His name is Ricky Bobby and he's currently in last place. Let's just hope he doesn't hurt someone out there.

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ricky is moving and shaking. He's got his spotter in his ear as well as Lucius.

LUCIUS (V.O.)

Just play it safe. I don't want you wrecking that car and costing us three hundred thousand G.D. bucks.

RICKY

With all due respect sir, I think I'm going to do some driving.

We see his foot on the accelerator and he begins to pass cars. Ricky fakes high and then passes low. Taps someone's fender then dodges a wreck masterfully.

ESPN ANNOUNCER #1

Well look at that. The tire changer in the 28 car is really going after it!

CUT TO:

EXT. RACE TRACK - LATER

Checkered flag is waving. We see Ricky finishing third.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIT ROW

A reporter from the show RPM is interviewing CAL NAUGHTON JR, 32, the winning driver, and Ricky.

REPORTER FROM RPM

Another exciting race today at Talladega where Cal Naughton Jr has brought home the checkered flag for his sixth win of the season.

CAL NAUGHTON

Thanks Gary. We were-

REPORTER FROM RPM

But that's not the big story today. The big story is a little-known tire changer, Ricky Bobby, who finished third in the Laughing Clown Malt Liquor car. Ricky, where'd you learn to drive like that?

We see that Ricky is extremely nervous. He just stares at the camera for a long time.

RICKY

Do you want me to talk?

REPORTER FROM RPM

If you'd like to say something that'd be great.

RICKY

(too softly)

Well the car handled real good ...and that was good so I felt good.

REPORTER FROM RPM

Can you speak up Ricky?

RICKY

I said the car handled good and that was good. So I felt good which was good...

REPORTER FROM RPM

Right, the car was good...we get that.

RICKY

And if my Daddy's was watching I'm sorry I didn't finish first. I'll do better next time...

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS

The team owner, Mr. DENNIT, a large garrulous man, watches the interview with Lucius.

LUCIUS

Bad news is he's going to need some on camera training. Good news is he can drive Mr. Dennit.

MR. DENNIT

I'm just happy he didn't wreck my car. What's his name again?

LUCIUS

Ricky. Ricky Bobby.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARLINGTON MOTOR SPEEDWAY - THE NEXT WEEK

We see Ricky Bobby in his car approaching the finish line with three cars in front of him. He zig zags through them tapping bumpers and then throws a balled-up piece of paper into Cal Naughton's car as he wins.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ricky Bobby with some go-for-broke driving takes the checkered flag!!!
Do not try that at home!!

Cal Naughton opens the piece of paper and it reads "Bye Bye."

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Cocky ass tire changer.

MUSIC AND CREDITS CONTINUE TO ROLL.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF SPONSOR PROGRESSION ON HOOD OF CAR

We see different decals being put on the hood of Ricky's car as they get more and more successful:

1) Laughing Clown Malt Liquor 2) Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer 3) Dom Perignon Champagne 4) Halliburton 5) The Vatican 6) Oprah Winfrey 7) and finally... Skoal Bandits.

EXT. NORTH CAROLINA SPEEDWAY - THE NEXT YEAR

Ricky is doing big victory donuts in the infield, tearing up grass.

RICKY
Whooo!!! Whooo!!!

When he's done we see from overhead that he's written "I'm #1" in the turf.

INT. COUNTRY WESTERN BAR - NIGHT

Ricky is line dancing with a dozen people behind him. He's got a different hairstyle and is a little more cleaned up.

EXT. NASHVILLE SUPER SPEEDWAY - THE NEXT MONTH

Ricky Bobby tries to jam between two cars approaching the finish line.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Ricky Bobby thinks he sees a gap
but I sure as heck don't...

Ricky spins out and rolls into the infield. He gets out of his car and stands on the hood and waves two small American flags as the crowd cheers him.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
That's Ricky Bobby's third no
finish of the year but the fans
love him for going for the win.

INT. COUNTRY WESTERN BAR

Ricky is line dancing now with a hundred people behind him. He now looks good with some nice clothes and a good haircut.

EXT. DAYTONA SPEEDWAY - A YEAR LATER

Ricky is being introduced at the pre-race introductions. In the crowd a hot drunk blonde, CARLEY, 25, is sitting on her DIRT BAGGY BOYFRIEND'S shoulders in the crowd. We see her from behind as she takes off her top and flashes Ricky.

HOT DRUNK BLONDE

Hey Ricky Bobby!! I wanna fashen
fushoo!! Whooo!!

Ricky looks over at her and they lock eyes. It is love at first sight.

RICKY

I have found my angel...

EXT. MCMANSION - DAY

Ricky carries Carley in wedding gown through the front door of a huge McMansion in a development of identical McMansions. There is a giant bow on it. They enter and make out furiously.

EXT. RACE TRACK - A YEAR LATER

We see a flurry of checkered flags shooting through frame in succession as crowds go crazy.

INT. GARAGE - TV COMMERCIAL

Ricky working on his engine with some crew members, turns to camera.

RICKY

Hi, I'm Ricky Bobby. And as a professional athlete I have to watch my weight. That's why I eat Dawson's new low-carb pork rinds.

Reveals a bag of pork rinds.

INT. CAR DEALERSHIP SHOWROOM - DAY

Carley sits behind the wheel of a bright red Porsche convertible while Ricky writes a check to the salesman.

EXT. COUNTRY WESTERN BAR - NIGHT

Ricky is line dancing now with literally two thousand people behind him. He rules the race scene.

EXT. RACE TRACK - DAY

Ricky is being interviewed by DICK BERGERON for FOX in Victory Lane. Behind him his crew and a crowd celebrate yet another victory.

DICK BERGERON

Heck of win today, how do you feel?

RICKY

(fast and sharp)

Well Dick, I feel a like a fat man who-

INT. ESPN - DAY

Ricky finishes his thought but now he's on ESPN's The Hotseat being interviewed by Stuart Scott.

RICKY

-wrecked into the cookie dough truck. I love-

INT. TODAY SHOW SET - DAY

Now he's being interviewed by Katie Couric.

RICKY

-racing. I love hitting that gap and making-

INT. LOU DOBBS STUDIO - DAY

Ricky is being interviewed by Lou Dobbs.

RICKY
-that checkered flag shake. I love
the speed, the bumping-

INT. ELLEN DEGENERES - DAY

RICKY
-and the shakin. Heck, I even love
the-

INT. TELEMUNDO TALK SHOW - DAY

Ricky is now on a Spanish language talk show.

RICKY
- pit stops.

They both chuckle.

MEXICAN TALK SHOW HOST
Bueno Ricky Bobby. Bueno.

INT. OPRAH WINFREY SET - DAY

Ricky finishing the chuckle and now being interviewed by
Oprah Winfrey.

OPRAH WINFREY
You've become known as the driver
who won't accept second place.

INT. SESAME STREET SET - DAY

Ricky is now being interviewed by Elmo.

ELMO
Where does that desire come from?

RICKY
I live and race by one motto...

INT. PRESS ROOM AT THE SPEEDWAY - DAY

Ricky is now surrounded by literally three hundred reporters
with cassette recorders and mics. We see this from an overhead
shot.

RICKY
If you ain't first, you're last.

Ricky gives a wink and a click as hundreds of camera fire.

MUSIC AND CREDITS END

CUT TO:

EXT. RICKY'S MCMANSION - DUSK

Current Day. There are a dozen cars parked in the driveway: Hummers, pick-ups, a Porsche, a Trans Am, etc.

WORDS COME UP ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN: "PRESENT DAY
AKA: RIGHT FRIGGIN' NOW"

INT. THE BOBBY DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CU of Carly yelling.

CARLEY
Supper's ready! Come on everyone!
Supper!!

CUT TO:

PANNING PAST A HUGE DINNER

We see a massive spread of fried chicken, burgers, vegetables biscuits, etc.

Ricky sits at the head of the table in a Mountain Dew varsity jacket. His TWO SONS, 9 and 7 are there in Mountain Dew jackets as well with Carly and CARLEY'S DAD, 71.

They are all holding hands and saying grace. During the entire scene there is a dog barking in the background.

RICKY
Dear Lord baby Jesus or as our
brothers to the south call you, Hey-
zues. We thank you for this
bountiful harvest of fried foods
and Pepsi. And I'd also like to
thank you for my family: my two
beautiful sons, Hank and Williams
Jr.

(MORE)

RICKY (cont'd)

And of course my red hot wife, who if you were to rate her ass on a scale of 100, it would easily be a 94. I also want to thank you for my wife's father Chip and I hope, dear Baby Jesus, that you can you can use your Baby Jesus powers to heal Chip's leg, which smells horrible and the dogs are always bothering with. Also infant Baby Jesus give us-

CARLEY

You know sweetie, Jesus did grow up. You don't have to always call him Baby.

RICKY

Honey I just like the Christmas Jesus best.

CHIP

He was a man. He had a beard.

RICKY

I will always like the baby version the best! Do you hear me?! I'm the one who wins races and I'm the one who gets money!!!

CARLEY

Ricky finish the grace.

RICKY

Ok...Dear tiny newborn infant Jesus, we thank you for all the races I've won and the 21.2 million dollars in total prize winnings that I alone have earned. Also, due to a binding endorsement contract that stipulates I mention Mountain Dew whenever I say grace, I'd like to say that Mountain Dew is thirst quenching and delicious. Amen.

Everyone digs in.

RICKY

How was school today boys?

HANK

My friends and I skipped school and we found a spider and we threw light bulbs at it for close to six hours and then I made a jelly sandwich and then I threw light bulbs at a spider.

RICKY

You already said that last part, but it sounds like a good day. What about you Williams Jr.?

WILLIAMS JR

The teacher asked me what the capitol of North Carolina was and I said Washington D.C. and she said you're wrong. So I said, "You got a lumpy butt," and she got mad and yelled at me and I pissed my pants. And I never changed my pee pants all day. I'm still sittin' in my dirty pee pants.

RICKY

You kids are just like your dad, precocious and full of wonderment.

CHIP

I can't hold my tongue: those kids are my grandchildren and you are raising them wrong. They are terrible little boys.

WILLIAMS JR

Shut up Chip! You're just a wrinkled old fart!

HANK

Grandpa I swear you shut up right now or I'll beat you in the mouth!

CHIP

Are you going to let your sons talk to their grandfather like that?

RICKY

I sure as hell am Chip! In fact I'm proud of the way they're talking to you. They are winners and winners can do whatever they want. You're just an old bag of bones.

(MORE)

RICKY (cont'd)
The only thing you've ever done
with your life is make a hot
daughter.

CARLEY
Daddy you stop disrespecting Ricky.
He pays for this food and he pays
for your leg treatments. You leave
him alone, understood?

CHIP
Yes.

CARLEY
Baby what you gonna do tomorrow?

RICKY
Win.

CARLEY
Whachya gonna do?!

RICKY
Win.

CARLEY
Kids, what's daddy gonna do?

HANK AND WILLIAMS JR.
Win!

CARLEY
Daddy what's your son-in-law gonna
do?

CHIP
Ah heck....win.

CARLEY
Nobody beats my baby!

She and Ricky kiss in a really sexual way.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. MEMPHIS MOTORSPORTS PARK - THE NEXT DAY

MUSIC: "Only Daddy That'll Walk The Line" by Waylon Jennings.

We push through from the shadowy bowels of the speedway and
up and out an entrance way to the sunlit track. It is a
breathtaking assault on the senses.

We see hundreds of thousand of fans and the jet black asphalt of the track with gleaming cars splayed across pit row like fighter planes as the crews prepare for the race.

CUT TO:

EXT. INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Ricky, in shades and his driving suit, strides past all the trailers set up in the infield. Other drivers say hello and people grill dogs and eat barbecue. It is like a miniature city. A constant stream of people come up to Ricky and ask for his autograph and follow him while he walks.

FANS

Hey Ricky Bobby! If you ain't first, you're last!... Hey look, it's Ricky Bobby!

RICKY

God love you!

More people start to swarm Ricky for autographs. He signs their programs, shirts, faces, hands and breasts without missing a beat.

CARLEY

Ricky, did you see this month's issue of High Octane Magazine?

RICKY

No baby... (then to some fans) Is that Charla with an "S" or a "C"?

Carley holds up the magazine. It says "Formula One driver Jean Girard: Our Driver of the Year!" There is a picture of a dashing driver in front of a Formula One race car.

RICKY

What? This was supposed to be my year!

CARLEY

I already called them and said that you'll never do another interview with them again.

He signs a program, a WOMAN's chest and a BABY in quick succession.

RICKY

"Jean Girard?" Who the heck is he?
I hate those Formula One drivers.
Their cars look like bugs.

A CUTE BRUNETTE, 27, with glasses comes up to Ricky.

CUTE BRUNETTE

Excuse me Ricky...?

Ricky signs her face and shirt really quickly.

CUTE BRUNETTE

Ah! Ricky, it's me, Susan. I'm your
assistant.

RICKY

Aw jeez, I'm sorry Susan. You gotta
stay clear of me when I go into
autograph mode. I'm really sorry.

Ricky and Carley start to walk away. Carley turns back to
Susan.

CARLEY

By the way Susan, you might want to
button up that top button on your
blouse. If you don't have the
merchandise, don't put it in the
front window.

EXT. SPEEDWAY - AN HOUR LATER

The cars are all laid out in their start positions on the
track.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)

The cars are in their ready
position and I believe Ricky Bobby
is still not in his car.

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

Lucius and the crew all in racing suits and open-faced
helmets wait by Ricky's car.

LUCIUS

Where is he?

HERSHELL
We've looked everywhere. There's no
sign of him.

EXT. TICKET WINDOW

Ricky leans into the will call window.

RICKY
Hey Stephen, just makin' sure those
two tickets are here for my special
guest.

STEPHEN
You know it Ricky. Good luck today.

Stephen shows Ricky the tickets as Ricky leaves. Stephen
turns to the TICKET TAKER next to him.

STEPHEN
It's so sad, he leaves two tickets
for his daddy at every race and he
never shows up.

EXT. PIT ROW - SECONDS LATER

Ricky comes running out onto the track. The crowd goes crazy.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)
And here comes Ricky Bobby! Wow.
Listen to that ovation. He has
really become one of the most
popular drivers on the circuit.

DARRYL WALTRIP (V.O.)
And this despite the fact that he's
never won a points championship. He
wins the most races but he has too
many wipe outs and no finishes to
win the overall points
championship...

Ricky jumps in his car like a maniac and starts the engine.

RICKY
Whooo!! I wanna go fast!!

We see Naughton in his car.

CAL NAUGHTON
(yells out his window)
Hey shut up you dirty tire
changer!!!

We cut away to Ricky's foot hitting the accelerator, the carburetor sucking in a whoosh of air, a spark ignites and the pistons slam up from the explosion. The shining chrome engine roars like a metallic lion.

All of the cars tear off down the straightaway with a deafening wall of sound that you hear with your whole body. Glenn and Lucius watch on from pit row.

LUCIUS
Twenty years in this game, I never
get tired of that sound.

GLENN
You know what I never get tired of
Lucius? Our friendship.

LUCIUS
You go stand over there.

EXT. SPEEDWAY - TWO HOURS LATER

The race is in its final twenty laps. Cal Naughton is leading with two cars behind him and then Ricky.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)
Ricky Bobby is doing everything he
can to catch Cal Naughton Jr but
this is just Cal's day.

EXT. TOP OF THE SPEEDWAY - CONTINUOUS

We see the balcony of spotters watching the race from overhead with binoculars. RICKY'S SPOTTER, 52, with a mustache and sunglasses, waves Ricky off.

RICKY (V.O.)
Do I got room to pass between the
two cars in front of me?

RICKY'S SPOTTER
Ricky there's no room. Stay in your
lane!

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

LUCIUS (V.O.)
 Ricky, you're in fourth place.
 That's good points. We don't need
 the win. Let Naughton have this
 one.

RICKY
 I'm sorry Lucius, that just ain't
 gonna happen.

Ricky accelerates towards a really small gap between two
 cars. He hits one and they all spin out leaving Cal in the
 clear.

LUCIUS
 I told him. I told the man!

INT. CAL NAUGHTON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

CAL NAUGHTON
 Whoo! Goodbye Ricky!!

EXT. TRACK - CONTINUOUS

Ricky has stopped spinning so that he's facing the wrong way.
 He kicks the car into reverse and keeps going, BACKWARDS.

DARRYL WALTRIP
 Ricky Bobby is trying to finish the
 race in reverse! This is
 unbelievable!!

Ricky passes Cal and takes the checkered the flag while
 flipping Cal the bird.

CUT TO:

EXT. VICTORY LANE - LANE

Crew is shooting bottles of champagne into the air,
 celebrating.

CREW
 Ricky! Ricky! Ricky!

RICKY
It's just called driving boys!!!
Whooo!!!

Lucius pulls Ricky aside.

LUCIUS
That was some of the dumbest
driving I've ever seen. You may
have won but you gotta remember,
you're not gonna live forever.

RICKY
I'm not stupid Lucius, no one lives
forever. But with advances in
modern science and my high income
it ain't crazy to think I can live
to be 245, maybe even three hundred
years old.

LUCIUS
This is for real Ricky Bobby! Every
driver knows the big wreck is
waiting for him. You gotta respect
the danger of what we do!

RICKY
Maybe even four hundred years. I
heard they just put a pig heart in
some guy from Russia.

HERSHELL (C.C.)
Come on Ricky get over here and
celebrate!

We see the crew dancing and spraying champagne all over each
other. Ricky joins them.

RICKY
Whoo!! Whoo!!

We see one crew member has gone a little too far in his
celebration. He is in his underwear and is dancing and
humping the back of Ricky's car.

RICKY
Hey! Stop that man!

Everyone quiets a bit and looks at the CREW MEMBER: KYLE

KYLE
I thought we were all getting
crazy, you know, lettin loose.

RICKY

No one was humping the car. That's just weird.

KYLE

Since when did we start judging celebrations?

Mr. Dennit, the team owner, approaches Ricky. He has a beautiful and very young BLONDE WIFE, 19, with him.

MR. DENNIT

That was a great win Ricky. But I think we got to start looking at the big picture here. Our sponsors, along with myself would love to win a points championship.

RICKY

Well with all due respect sir I had no idea that you recently had gotten experimental surgery to have your balls removed.

MR. DENNIT

What the hell did you just say to me?!

RICKY

Whoa, whoa, Mr. Dennit. I said with "all due respect."

MR. DENNIT

That doesn't mean you can say anything you want.

RICKY

I'm pretty sure it does.

BLONDE WIFE

Why is that man having sex with that car?

The Crew Member is back humping the car.

RICKY

Kyle! Kyle! What did I just tell you?

CUT TO:

INT. "THE NO BRAKES HONKY TONK"- LATER

A Gilley's type Honky Tonk with stage and bar in the back. Five hundred people are pressed up against the stage as KEITH TOBY, 35, a country western singer, sings his American brand of music.

KEITH DOBY
...AS FOR ME I'LL ALWAYS TAKE A
BEAT UP GUITAR AND A JUG OF SWEET
CHERRY WINE.

Crowd goes nuts. Keith waits for the crowd to die down.

KEITH DOBY
Well this is a hell of a crowd and
this sure is a hell of a nation.
Before I sing this next song I
wanna bring up to the stage a real
dear friend of mine and the winner
of yesterday's Memphis 400. Please
welcome the fastest there is and a
true American: Mr. Ricky Bobby!

Ricky jumps on stage. The crowd goes nuts.

RICKY
How good is Keith Doby!

KEITH DOBY
Thanks Ricky! This next song is one
of Ricky's favorites and it's off
my Red, White and Not You album. A
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

The band kicks in with a country anthem that the crowd obviously knows.

KEITH DOBY
THE CRY OF A NEWBORN INFANT
FILLS THE HOSPITAL ROOM
A TIRED, BUT PROUD MOM AND DAD LOOK
ON
THE DAD SAYS (SPOKEN) "SON WE'RE
GONNA NAME YOU T.J. AND I HOPE YOU
GROW UP STRONG
DO YOUR BEST AND NEVER BACK DOWN
FROM A FIGHT
BUT ONE THING YOU CAN REST ASSURE
OF, AS SURE AS THE RISING SUN
BY BEIN' BORN IN AMERICA, YOU'RE
ALREADY NUMBER ONE"

KEITH AND RICKY
 I SAID NUMBER ONE MR. CHINESE-MAN
 HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
 NUMBER ONE FRIEND FROM MEXICO
 HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANIN' ON STAYIN'
 FOR REAL
 THAT FLAG WAS MADE FOR A REASON
 F' IN RED, F' IN WHITE, F' IN BLUE
 WHEN YOU WAKE UP AS AN AMERICAN,
 YOU'RE GUARANTEED COOL

KEITH DOBY
 Come on boys let's make this
 special!

RICKY
 NUMBER ONE BEATS THE HELL OUTTA
 NUMBER TWO,
 KICKS THE CRAP OUTTA NUMBER THREE
 GIVES NUMBER FOUR A WEDGIE,
 AND MAKES NUMBER FIVE TOUCH DOG DOO
 NUMBER SIX SWITCHES SCHOOL
 DISTRICTS
 CAUSE HE'S TERRORIZED BY ONE,
 THEN ONE TOOK A POLAROID OF NUMBER
 SEVEN'S WEINER AND PUT IT ON THE
 INTERNET
 MADE NUMBER EIGHT AND NINE KISS IN
 FRONT OF THE WHOLE CLASS AT THE PEP
 RALLY
 THEN TOOK NUMBER TEN OUT INTO THE
 WOODS AND NO ONE WILL SPEAK OF WHAT
 HAPPENED

KEITH AND RICKY
 THAT FLAG WAS MADE FOR A REASON
 F' IN RED, F' IN WHITE, F' IN BLUE
 WHEN YOU WAKE UP AS AN AMERICAN,
 YOU'RE GUARANTEED COOL!!!

The crowd goes crazy as Rick and Keith high five.

INT. THE BAR SECTION OF THE NO BRAKES - LATER THAT NIGHT

MUSIC: "Tight Fittin Jeans" by Conway Twitty

Every DRIVER and CREW MEMBER who's anyone is there. The place
 is hopping. A few couples dance and everyone is partying.

RICKY
 (yelling over the din)
 That was a hell of a show Keith!!

KEITH DOBY
Thanks Ricky!! I always love it
when you come by! Let's do us some
partying!

RICKY
Hey bartender! Give me a fast ball
with a twist of lime!

HERSHELL
What's a fast ball?

KEITH DOBY
Basically the bartender winds up
and throws the shot at you as hard
as he can.

The bartender takes a shot glass and winds up like a pitcher
and throws the shot at Ricky who waits with his mouth open.
The shot hits Ricky splashing booze all over him.

RICKY
Damn! I almost had it! Give me
another!!

Cal Naughton pushes through the crowd towards Ricky grabbing
him by the collar.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.
Hey Ricky, you pull another stunt
like you did today and I'm gonna
bust up your face! You hear me?!

RICKY
You're right Cal. I'm real sorry.
Bartender, give my friend here a
fastball.

CAL NAUGHTON
What's a fastball?

The Bartender whips a shot glass at Cal Naughton. The whole
crew cracks up.

CAL NAUGHTON
Ah!! That's it! You're going down!

Music: The Conway Twitty song winds down as a new song comes
on: Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue."

The whole bar comes to a stand still.

RICKY
What's goin' on?

CAL NAUGHTON JR.
What is that...?

RICKY
I hope I'm wrong. I really do, but
I'm pretty sure that's... jazz.

Ricky stands up and throws a bottle at the jukebox. A GENTLEMAN in a stylish, racing windbreaker with slacks and sporty European racing shoes turns around. He is JEAN GIRARD, the driver from the cover of High Octane Magazine.

JEAN GIRARD
(French accent)
Why did you stop the Miles Davis?
Was it not pleasant for you?

KEITH DOBY
No one plays jazz at the No Brakes.
No one.

JEAN GIRARD
Then why is the song on the juke
box?

BARTENDER
Ah shoot, I'm sorry, I thought that
was a Mac Davis CD on there.

RICKY
Wait a minute, I know this guy! I
saw you on the cover of High
Octane! This dude's a Formula One
driver!

There's a grumble of disbelief from the bar.

JEAN GIRARD
I am Jean Girard. And yes, I am a
Formula One driver.

RICKY
Why're you talking like that? Is
there something wrong with your
tongue?

HERSHELL
Could be a cleft palette.

JEAN GIRARD
I think what you are hearing is my
accent. I am French.

RICKY
Did you just say you're French?

The whole bar goes grumbles.

JEAN GIRARD
Oui.

RICKY
(after a beat)
Huh? What's going on? Is that a
sound or word?

JEAN GIRARD
It means yes, I am a Frenchman.

RICKY
Well then welcome to America...

Ricky goes to punch Jean who deftly blocks it, grabs Ricky by
the wrist, does a specific pressure hold and slams his head
onto the bar with his arm pinned behind his back. All in a
split second.

JEAN GIRARD
Why would you want to hit me
because I am French?

RICKY
(face pressed against the
bar)
Let me go, you Formula One jazz
weirdo!

JEAN GIRARD
You fear what is different.
Unfortunately in this world that is
not so uncommon. I will let you go,
but before I do I want you to say,
"I love crepes."

KEITH DOBY
Don't say it, Ricky! Let him break
your arm!

Beat as Ricky thinks.

RICKY

Alright! I've thought about it and I've weighed all the options. I have decent insurance, a broken arm isn't so bad, plus my pride and the respect of my peers is important to me. So go ahead and break my arm.

JEAN GIRARD

Msr. Bobby... please, just say "I love crepes."

RICKY

Let me think about it again.

(half beat)

Yep I'm real secure with my decision. Go ahead and do it.

GLENN

Maybe just say it Ricky.

KEITH DOBY

You know what? The more I'm thinking about it, just say, "I love crepes."

BARTENDER

Hell Ricky I had a whole mess of crepes this morning. They're just like pancakes, maybe even better.

RICKY

Aw man, are those those really thin pancakes...I've had those. They are good. But I'm still not gonna say it!! It's become a matter of pride!

JEAN GIRARD

So you want me to break you arm? Because honestly I'd rather not. What if you just said "I love really thin pancakes." That is a fair compromise, non?

RICKY

No! Everyone would know I really meant crepes. Now do it! Break my arm! Break it you dirty coward!

JEAN GIRARD

Why do you want me to break your arm so badly?

RICKY

This is about taking a stand. But being French you wouldn't understand that. Now break... my... arm.

JEAN GIRARD

I see no way out of this...

The Gentleman twists and breaks Ricky's arm.

RICKY

Ahhhhh!!!!

His crew and fellow drivers come to his aid.

RICKY

I didn't say it!! I didn't say it!!!

KEITH DOBY

You really should have.

The Bartender has a plate of crepes.

BARTENDER

Here, eat this... it'll comfort you.

RICKY

That's good. What is that?

BARTENDER

It's a crepe...

RICKY

They are delicious...

JEAN GIRARD

I am very sorry. This encounter was not how I wanted it to be. Please let me call you an ambulance-

KEITH DOBY

Hold it right there Mr. Fancypants foreigner.

(he reveals a knife)

You're about to get murdered.

A circle of drivers and crew move in on the French Gentleman. Suddenly there is a gunshot fired and Mr. Dennit steps in with a pearl-handled pistol. There is a MAN next to him in a turtleneck with a beard.

MR. DENNIT
I'm gonna need all of you to step
away from my driver.

RICKY
What'd you mean "my driver?!!"

CAL NAUGHTON
Oh this is too goood!

MR. DENNIT
I told you I wanted a points
championship Ricky. Jean's here to
get us one. I just signed him as
your teammate.

RICKY
Mr. Dennit, with all due respect,
and remember I am saying "with all
due respect," that idea is hand-
dipped in shit.

MR. DENNIT
Hey you don't talk to me like that!
You better get your head together
Ricky. This go for broke stuff
don't play in the long haul, you
hear? You hear! LOOK AT ME WHEN I
TALK TOO YOU!!

RICKY
I'm lookin' right at you!

MR. DENNIT
Now I'll see you in Richmond with a
serious attitude adjustment.

The Man with the beard goes to Jean.

MAN IN A TURTLENECK
Are you alright Jean?

JEAN GIRARD
I am fine. Everyone, this is my
husband Gregory.

There is a shocked beat.

HERSHELL
(whispers to the
bartender)
Did he just say husband?

KEITH DOBY
Sweet Lord. Dennit hired a gay
Frenchman as your teammate.

RICKY
(dazed by the information)
I don't... understand... things...
that are... happening...

He throws up and then faints dead away.

CUT TO:

EXT. RICHMOND SPEEDWAY - FIVE DAYS LATER

We see the Richmond Speedway packed with people. Cars are
doing their qualifying runs.

EXT. RICKY BOBBY'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Ricky is drinking a beer with a cast on his arm while his two
kids jump on a trampoline. There is a TV muted playing the
Speed Channel in the background. Carley is yelling at Ricky.

CARLEY
So this is why you've been avoiding
me for the better part of a week!

RICKY
I'm sorry darlin.

CARLEY
All you had to do was say you like
crepes! They said you asked him to
break your arm.

RICKY
It was about pride.

CARLEY
And now because of your pride you
can't drive today. That's less
money for us. Hell that's less
money for me. Ricky I'm hot. My ass
has caused four traffic accidents.
I once made out with pro golfer
John Daly. I deserve a winner! And
you can't win with a broken arm,
you... you... bunghole!

Kids hear this bouncing on the tramp.

HANK
Mom said bunghole!

BOTH KIDS
Daddy is a bunghole!...Daddy is a
bunghole!!

RICKY
You kids shut up!

Both kids start to cry while still jumping on the tramp.

BOTH KIDS
Aaaa...Daddy hit me!!! Call the
police!!! Ricky Bobby abuses his
children!!!

RICKY
I do no such thing!! Look here's a
hundred dollar bill for each of
you. Stop saying that.

He hands one of them a hundred dollar bill as they bounce by.

RICKY
Wait! Hold it down! Shhhh!!!

Ricky sees something on the TV and un-mutes it.

EXT. FORMULA ONE TRACK - DAY

We see a Formula One race car passing other cars on the TV.

INSIDE NASCAR HOST (V.O.)
And the big question in Nascar this
week is, who is Jean Girard?

We see footage of Jean celebrating with a gold trophy and
giving his husband a kiss.

INSIDE NASCAR HOST (V.O.)
Many consider him the best driver
in the world and now he has come to
the States to put his reputation on
the line.

RICKY
Shhhh! I wanna see this!

CARLEY
I wasn't saying anything!

INSIDE NASCAR HOST (V.O.)
Born and raised in the French
countryside, Jean has lived by one
motto since he was a small child...

INT. STYLISH LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jean addresses camera in an interview.

JEAN GIRARD
Finishing first is nothing.
Excellence is all that matters.

RICKY
Oh my God that is stupid.

We see Jean with a horse by his stables.

INSIDE NASCAR HOST (V.O.)
Jean has won every major Formula
One championship there is. But he
still finds time for the finer
things in life. And when he isn't
caring for his collection of
thoroughbred horses, he is spending
time with his beloved husband
Gregory.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN FIELD BEHIND FARMHOUSE - DAY

Jean and Gregory are tossing a stick to a German Shepherd.

JEAN (V.O.)
Gregory understands me. He is my
patience. He is my wisdom. He is my
love.

INSIDE NASCAR HOST (V.O.)
But Gregory is no stay-at-home
spouse. When he isn't at races with
Jean, he is busy as a world famous
trainer of German Shepherds.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Gregory is blowing a whistle and making hand signals to six
German Shepherds. They walk in elaborate patterns and one of
them jumps over another.

Then he gives a series of short bursts on the whistle, we reveal that the dogs have formed a pyramid.

GREGORY
Milou! Constantine! Well done!

INT. STYLISH LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's now Gregory and Jean being interviewed. As Jean talks, Gregory rubs his shoulders.

JEAN GERRARD
America is just another challenge for us. But we believe that if you do something well and with artistry, life will find its way.

GREGORY
(Gently singing a French lullaby)

INT. SPEED CHANNEL DESK - DAY

The two SPEED CHANNEL ANCHORS are speechless.

SPEED CHANNEL ANCHOR#1
Uh...wow.

SPEED CHANNEL ANCHOR #2
Boy... that is a lot to take in.
Uhhh...

The TV clicks off.

INT. RICKY'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

CARLEY
Ricky what are you worried about?
He may be slick and strikingly handsome but no one can match your pure speed.

RICKY
You're so right. Sugar I love you so much, sometimes I feel like I'm gonna have a seizure.

An out-of-breath Hershell comes running up.

HERSHELL
Ricky, you gotta get over here. The Frenchman's about to break your track record.

EXT. PIT ROW - MINUTES LATER

Ricky and Hershell run over to Jean's pit station as Carley follows. Mr. Dennit, Lucius and Jean's crew are assembled. We hear the crew chattering in French. A car with a Perrier logo across the hood goes roaring by.

LUCIUS

(whistles)

Well kiss my ass on a Sunday.

RICKY

What the hell's going on?

Jean pulls into pit row and his time goes up on the board 232 mph.

TRACK ANCR (V.O.)

Ladies and Gentlemen that is a new track record. As it stands now Jean Girard is sitting on the pole.

Cal Naughton walks by with some of his crew members.

CAL NAUGHTON

Hey Ricky? How does it feel to be number two on your own team? Ha! Ha!

RICKY

Shut up Cal!

MR. DENNIT.

Put a smile on your face Ricky. That's your teammate. You should be happy.

RICKY

Oh yeah, I'm just thrilled Mr. Dennit. I love seeing some French dude breaking my track record while I got my arm wrapped up like a freakin pinata! Hey, if you really want to put a smile on my face why don't you hose me down with piss and shoot me in the eye with a wrist rocket!! Then this will be the greatest day ever!

Ricky knocks over an entire tool drawer.

LUCIUS
Ricky calm down.

RICKY
You calm down!!!

CARLEY
You're handling this perfectly
Ricky.

Jean approaches them as he is congratulated by the crew.

JEAN
Merci...merci...Hello Ricky Bobby.
I am so sorry about the incident
with your arm. I would be honored
if you would let me sign your cast.

RICKY
(under his breath)
Why don't you sign my balls?

CARLEY
Good one Ricky.

JEAN
Did you just ask if I would sign
your balls?

RICKY
I said nothing!

MR. DENNIT
Son, that was tear ass driving.
Well done.

RICKY
(to his crew)
Ah hell! Get my car off the
trailer!

CARLEY
That's my baby.

LUCIUS
What?

RICKY
I wanna drive. My arm's fine. Now
get it off the trailer! Get it off!

LUCIUS
Stop yelling at me man!

CARLEY

You keep it up, Ricky. This is great behavior.

MR. DENNIT

Now Ricky, let's not be silly. There's no more qualifying time left. Just wait until the next race.

RICKY

Then I'm using an exemption! Tell 'em I'm racing tomorrow. I'm the fastest! Not Johnny Snail Eater over here! Me!

CARLEY

You are a fine man Ricky Bobby. You are acting like a winner.

HERSHELL

You heard the man boys! Looks like we're working after all!

His crew jumps to life as Ricky stares at Jean.

JEAN

I look forward to racing against you Mr. Bobby.

INT. RICKY'S TRAILER - THAT NIGHT

Ricky sits in a chair, methodically sawing off his cast. Occasionally he gets too close to his arm and winces in pain.

EXT. RICHMOND SPEEDWAY - THE NEXT DAY

The cars are making their way onto the track. The stands are packed. Jet planes fly overhead.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)

We have quite a field here today for the Chevy Rock and Roll 400. But the big story is Ricky Bobby, despite a broken arm, claiming an exemption at the last minute. I repeat: Ricky Bobby will race.

EXT. PIT ROW -- CONTINUOUS

Ricky's car is in pit row. We see Carley is putting a giant Fig Newton sticker across the front of Ricky's windshield.

RICKY
Baby, what're you doing?

CARLEY
I made a deal with Fig Newton.
They're paying us seven hundred
thousand dollars to put this on
your windshield.

Susan walks over to Ricky.

SUSAN
Here's the aspirin you wanted Mr.
Bobby. What's on your windshield?

RICKY
It's a giant Fig Newton sticker.

SUSAN
Isn't that dangerous?

CARLEY
Listen sweetheart, I know you're
not the prettiest flower in the
garden and you make up for it by
acting all concerned and nice but
I'm really gonna need you to shut
your mouth. Okay sugar?

Ricky's looking in through the car.

RICKY
It's actually fine! I can see if I
hunch down. I'll be okay Susan.

CARLEY
"I'll be okay Susan!" Why don't you
two just get it on right here and
right now!!

RICKY
Aw, I'm sorry baby.
(then to Susan)
Susan, Carley's right. When you
were worried that I might hurt
myself?...you shouldn't have been.

Susan is pissed and hurt and walks away.

RICKY

Susan-!

CARLEY

Come here my baby...You're gonna win today...

Carley kisses Ricky and he winces in pain from his arm.

RICKY

Ahhh! It's alright. It's still got a little touch of brokenness to it.

MR. DENNIT

(to Lucius)

Will he be alright?

LUCIUS

Nope. But I never think he's gonna be alright. That boy's got a fire storm raging in his heart.

We hear a crackle of lightning in the sky. Glenn, while securing a tire, looks up at the clouds.

GLENN

Is it me or did that lightning contain a sense of foreboding?

EXT. SPEEDWAY - MINUTES LATER

All of the cars have begun their pre-laps. Finally the green flag waves and the cars come right towards camera and we crane over them as they pass us by with a shockwave of sound.

LUCIUS

Here we go.

Ricky Bobby is ducking down to see under the product sticker on his windshield.

RICKY

Hey eyes in the sky, tell me what's going on?

EXT. SPOTTER'S STAND - CONTINUOUS

We see his Spotter up above the race track with binoculars.

SPOTTER

You've got two cars on your right rear a length back.

RICKY (V.O.)

No, I need to know what's going on in front of me. I can't see a damn thing.

DARRYL WALTRIP (V.O.)

Ricky Bobby has a sponsor sticker directly on his wind shield. Man that is dangerous. It's only a matter of time before he gets black flagged.

INT. JEAN GIRARD'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jean is driving in first place. He takes a sip from a flute of champagne.

JEAN GIRARD

Ahhh, life...

EXT. THE STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Two FANS in Ricky Bobby shirts are drinking beers.

HARDCORE FAN

Go Ricky! Send that French guy and his husband back to Europeland!

SOUTHERN FAN

Say what you want about that foreigner, but he can drive.

EXT. RACETRACK - CONTINUOUS

Ricky taps a car and passes it by an inch. He's now behind Girard.

RICKY

Well hello Frenchie...

Ricky is trying desperate to pass Girard.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)

Will you look at that Jean Girard drive! Ricky Bobby cannot pass him!

LUCIUS (V.O.)

Ricky this guy got skills. He's not giving you the inside. Lay back and wait for your chance.

RICKY

I can beat him!!!

Ricky bumps into the back of Girard and tries to pass on the inside but Girard boxes him out. We see a black flag waved but Ricky ignores it.

MIKE JOY (V.O.)

Ricky Bobby has just been black flagged by Nascar for the sticker on his wind shield. That means a mandatory pit stop... but he is ignoring it!

DARRYL WALTRIP (V.O.)

He's got winning fever bad. Boogity Boggity, this could get hairy.

EXT. RACE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

Ricky is right on Jean's tail.

LUCIUS

Ricky! Quit going for the inside! It's not there! Take the outside!

RICKY

The outside means second place... and if you ain't first, you're last
Lucius! (wincing in pain from his arm) Argh!

Ricky tries to cut the wheel to get around Jean, winces in pain from the broken arm and then loses control of the car. He rams Jean Girard sending him into the wall. Other cars hit him. This starts a huge pile up with dozens of cars spinning out and colliding.

Then Ricky's car goes completely air born.

RICKY

Uh-oh.

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

LUCIUS

Damn.

MR. DENNIT

Aw hell.

GLENN

Peaches and Cream!!

HANK AND WILLIAMS JR.

Cool!!!

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car flies over the wall, completely wipes out a hot dog stand, crashes through some Port-A-Johns...

INT. NEXTEL DRIVING SIMULATOR PAVILION - CONTINUOUS

We see a half dozen fans driving simulator cars. Ricky's car comes smashing through the wall and tears through all the video screens and out the other wall. One FAN, 16, watches slack-jawed.

FAN

Wow. This is awesome.

EXT. TRACK - CONTINUOUS

We see a FATHER, 45, and SON, 9, leaving the track for the parking lot.

SON

But Dad, I wanna see the end of the race!

FATHER

I gave it a chance Son and it's boring. They just go around in circles.

Suddenly Ricky's car comes busting through a gate, rolls over three times and hits a concrete barricade exploding into a huge ball of flames. Immediately a safety truck and crew is on the scene with fire extinguishers. They pull Ricky clear and spray him.

RICKY
Ahhhh!!!!

RESCUE WORKER
It's alright! We got you!

The Son turns to his Father.

SON
You still bored Dad?

Ricky still thinks he's on fire. He rips off his helmet and rolls around screaming in a high-pitched voice.

RICKY
Ahhhh!!! I'm on fire!!! Help!!!

RESCUE WORKER
You're clear! There is no fire!!

Finally we are able to take in the carnage on the track.
EVERY SINGLE CAR IN THE RACE HAS WRECKED BECAUSE OF RICKY.

NBC ANCR (V.O.)
I have never seen anything like
this... Ricky Bobby has wrecked the
entire field!

EXT. CONCESSION AREA - CONTINUOUS

P.A. ANCR (V.O.)
Ladies and Gentlemen I regret to
inform you that today's race has
ended. We apologize.

The crowd boos like crazy.

EXT. CRASH SITE - CONTINUOUS

Ricky Bobby, still thinking he's on fire, is running around like a maniac. We see that a network camera crew is on the scene.

RICKY
Aeeee!!!! I'm on fire!!! Ahhhhh!!!
I'm so afraid!!! I don't want to
die!!!

MIKE JOY (V.O.)

Ricky Bobby apparently after that grizzly wreck is in a panicked state and thinks that he is on fire...

Ricky is running around like a crazy man while Rescue Workers yell to him.

RESCUE WORKER

YOU ARE NOT ON FIRE MR. BOBBY!!!!

RICKY

Ahhhhhhhh!!!! I don't wanna burn!!!
I'M SO DAMN AFRAID!!! Help me
Jesus!! Help me Allah and the
Jewish God!! Help me Anthony
Robbins!!!

Finally some rescue workers run in and tackle Ricky.

EXT. RACE TRACK -- TEN MINUTES LATER

We see an ambulance pulling out of the racetrack.

DARRYL WALTRIP (V.O.)

There are good days in racing and
there are bad days. Ricky Bobby
just had himself a bad one.

Cal Naughton and all of the drivers watch uncomfortably. Jean Girard crosses himself and averts his gaze.

JEAN GIRARD

Bon voyage Ricky Bobby.

The ambulance tears off sirens screaming.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - THAT NIGHT

From Ricky's hazy semi-conscious POV we see a DOCTOR, 44,
talking to Carley and Lucius.

DOCTOR

He's suffering from catatonic
shock. His injuries are minor but
right now he can't deal with the
trauma of the wreck...

CARLEY
We've decided to have him
cremated...

DOCTOR
Ma'am your husband's not dying. If
you can just---

Ricky's POV fades to black...

HAZY DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Once again from Ricky's hazy POV of Lucius sitting by his
bedside reading to him.

LUCIUS
"...I stood in front of the mirror
and wondered why I was getting so
lumpy and why this stupid training
bra was so uncomfortable. So I said
out loud, "Are you there God? It's
me Margaret."

We fade to black again...

HAZY DISSOLVE
TO:

INT HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Ricky's very hazy POV of Carley leaning over him.

CARLEY
That's it Ricky...you just sign
here and everything'll be fine...

MAN'S VOICE
Hey the movie starts in a half-
hour, just get him to sign it.

Fade to black...

HAZY DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Ricky's hazy POV of the empty room and only the sound of the heart monitor flat-lining. After a second, a crash unit comes into the room led by a panicked RESIDENT, 25.

RESIDENT
Let's go! 20 ccs of adrenaline
stat...

Ricky turns to his right and Hank and Williams Jr are playing with the heart monitor.

WILLIAMS JR.
You were right Hank! Every time we
make it go beep, people run in
here!

HANK
Look how scared the wussy Doctor
is!

RESIDENT
I want these kids out of here-

We fade to black again...

HAZY DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. NURSE'S STATION - THE NEXT DAY

Two NURSES chat by the Nurse's station.

NURSE #1
I just told him, "You choose
between the surround sound or me."
And then he threw me out...

Ricky Bobby, in his hospital gown with a sling and tubes hanging off of him, walks into the hallway looking like hell.

RICKY
Excuse me. Do you all know if I'm
dead? Cause if I am I'd sure love
to meet Bruce Lee.

He collapses on the ground as the Nurses run to him.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCIUS'S PICK-UP TRUCK - THE NEXT DAY

Lucius and Mr. Dennit pull into the Hospital parking lot.

INT. HOSPITAL GYMNASIUM - TEN MINUTES LATER

Ricky is in a wheelchair playing basketball with five other guys in wheelchairs. Lucius and Mr. Dennit walk up with Ricky's Doctor.

LUCIUS

So give it to me straight Doc, is he ever going to be able to walk again?

DOCTOR

What? Oh. I'm sorry. I thought someone had told you. He's fine. He found that wheelchair in the hallway. His paralysis is entirely psychosomatic. But it's important that we all go along with this. He's in a delicate state.

Ricky is playing really aggressively. He slams his chair into another guy's chair and rips the ball away from him.

RICKY

You snooze you lose!!

Ricky falls over in his wheelchair. He crawls back to it on all fours. Clearly he can walk.

PLAYER #1

Hey! You just used your legs!!

PLAYER #2

This guy's a fake!!

A Player whips the ball at him.

RICKY

(Ricky sees Dennit and Lucius)

I gotta go my fellow cripples. I got visitors.

Ricky wheels over to Lucius and Mr. Dennit.

INT. VISITOR'S ROOM - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Ricky, Lucius and Mr. Dennit sit in the visitor's room with a TV playing in the background.

LUCIUS

So how's the physical therapy going Ricky?

RICKY

I gave that up. I'm through lying to myself. I've decided to face facts. I just bought myself a hundred thousand dollar handicapped accessible van. I'm having ramps and a stair elevator put in the house. I even told Carley, if she needs to find comfort with another man, she can...

LUCIUS

Mr. Dennit, we gotta tell him.

MR. DENNIT

Alright. Ricky, the Doctor told us to let you work this out in your own time but... you can walk Ricky.

RICKY

What did you just say?

LUCIUS

He's telling the truth Ricky. It's all in your head.

RICKY

You sick sons of bitches. You come in here walking on two legs all fat and cocky and telling me it's in my head. You wanna know what's in my head? What's in my head is knowing that I'll never be able to feel the pleasure of a woman!! Or that I'll never do a windmill slam dunk again!

MR. DENNIT

I didn't know you could dunk a basketball.

RICKY

Damn you!! I curse your
insensitivity! I hope you both have
sons who grow up to be star
athletes only to have their legs
taken away from them. I pray you
know that pain and hurt!!

LUCIUS

You stop wishing that evil on me
Ricky! You're not paralyzed!

RICKY

You wanna see what my life is?

He grabs a steak knife from a nearby lunch tray.

RICKY

You wanna see what I am?

MR. DENNIT

Ricky don't do that!!

Ricky stabs his leg with the knife. Immediately he jumps out
of the chair screaming in pain, running around the room.

RICKY

AHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXT. HOSPITAL GARDEN - TEN MINUTES LATER

Ricky, Mr. Dennit and Lucius walk through the Garden.

RICKY

So anyway, I'm sorry and I don't
hope your boys lose their legs.

(and then)

So what's been going on since I've
been gone?

MR. DENNIT

Ricky you should relax and forget
about racing for a little while.
Just get better, alright son?

He pats him on the back and walks off.

RICKY

Lucius what the hell is going on?

LUCIUS

Frenchie can drive. You saw how you couldn't pass him in Richmond.

RICKY

That was just because of my arm. I can beat anyone.

(then less secure)

So how good is he doing?

Lucius motions to a family walking through the garden. The Dad and two sons all wear Jean Girard shirts.

RICKY

Oh man...

CUT TO:

EXT. RACE TRACK - DAY

We see Girard dueling Cal Naughton Jr. down the straightaway of the last lap.

DARRYLE WALTRIP (V.O.)

Jean Girard and Cal Naughton Jr are head down the straight away and Naughton has the inside!! Girard feints to the outside and Naughton bites on it giving Girard the inside!! Girard wins! Girard wins!!

MUSIC: "Comme Moi" by Edith Piaff

MONTAGE: IMAGES OF JEAN'S SUCCESS: 1) Jean finishing three races first in quick succession with checkered flags flying 2) Shots of Jean inside his car reading a short story or finishing an impressionist painting on a small canvas 3) The cover of GQ with Jean looking stylish and the headline "The French Revolution" 4) A concession stand at a race track with "Hot Dogs 2.50, Hamburgers 3.50" posted. The Vender puts up a handwritten sign "Escargot 4.50" 5) Jean wins a race and does burn outs in the infield. When he's done we see he's spelled "I love you Gregory" in perfect cursive in the grass. 6) We see his name number one in the points standings in an ESPN News graphic.

On the lower third crawl we see a story flash by: "RICKY BOBBY TO DRIVE AGAIN. WILL TEST DRIVE IN CHARLOTTE FOR THE PRESS."

MUSIC: Out

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TEST TRACK - A WEEK LATER - DAY

We see 30 Reporters in the stands of a test track. Mr. Dennit, Carley, Susan and Lucius all stand by the side of the track. Ricky is in his car while Glenn and Hershell give it a final once over.

MR. DENNIT

Do you think he's ready for this?

CARLEY

He'd better be. It's just a stupid test run. Susan, why don't you do something useful and go get me a coffee?

SUSAN

Yes Mrs. Bobby.

LUCIUS

How you feeling Ricky?

Ricky gives a thumbs up.

RICKY

The Big Dog's ready to run y'all.

HERSHELL

Give him hell Ricky!!

Ricky pulls out and accelerates out onto the track.

MUSIC: TRIUMPHANT RETURN

RICKY

I missed you Mama Speed!!! Wooo!!
Ricky Bobby is back!!!

MR. DENNIT

How fast is he going?

LUCIUS

(checks his stop watch)
Twenty-six miles per hour.

MUSIC: OUT

RICKY

Ok, I'm going take her high into the bank! This could get a little hairy! Tell me if I'm making you too nervous, y'all!!

We see Ricky actually slows down going into the banked turn.

LUCIUS

(into his headset)

Ricky you actually slowed down! Son you're in danger of stalling the engine!!

RICKY

Now I'm gonna open it up. See what this baby's really got.

The engine accelerates ever so slightly.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Whooo!!! Where am I at? 180? 200?

LUCIUS

Ricky, you just cracked thirty-five.

RICKY

This is exhilarating!! I'm going to bring it in! I'm afraid the engine might blow!

LUCIUS

Ricky you are averaging 26 miles per hour! That's about the top running speed of a cow.

Ricky pulls into the pits.

RICKY

(breathing really hard)

Whoo...man...that was fast... so fast... I'm not on fire am I? So fast...so fast...

We see that the Reporters are clearing out. Susan comes back with a tray of coffee.

SUSAN

What happened?

CARLEY
That half a man lost his nerve!
He's done! Finished!

She knocks the coffee out of Susan's hands.

CARLEY
Where's my coffee?!

We see Hershell and Glenn helping Ricky away from the car.

MUSIC: "It Was Almost Like a Song" by Ronnie Milsap

LUCIUS
So that's it...Jesus, I think I'm
gonna cry.

GLENN
Tears aren't something to be feared
Lucius. They're a healing balm.

LUCIUS
Man, you are one creepy little
dude.

INT. RICKY'S TRAILER - AN HOUR LATER

Ricky is in a T-shirt and sweat pants. He's drinking tea with
Mr. Dennit seated across from him. It's over.

RICKY
Those cars go fast don't they? I
don't remember them going that
fast...

MR. DENNIT
Ricky you need a break. A long
break. We've made the decision to
deactivate the 28 car for awhile.

RICKY
Yeah...that's probably a good idea.
Just for a few weeks or maybe a few
years...just til the cars slow
down, right Mr. Dennit?

MR. DENNIT
That's right Ricky... Just til the
cars slow down...

EXT. RICKY'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ricky gets out of his 4X4 and heads towards the front door.

MUSIC: The sad Ronnie Milsap song swells up again.

INT. RICKY'S HOME - THAT NIGHT

Ricky walks into his living room in his street clothes with his duffle bag. His wife Carley, two sons and his father-in-law are in the living room, they are eating dinner on TV trays in front of the TV, laughing and talking. When Ricky walks in they stop. Chip turns off the TV.

RICKY

Hey everyone...

Awkward beat as everyone continues to stare at him.

RICKY

Well isn't anyone gonna say
anything to me?

JOHN DALY comes out of the kitchen in Ricky's robe, holding a big platter of pork chops.

JOHN DALY

Who's ready for more pork chops? Oh
hey Ricky.

RICKY

What the hell is John Daly doing in
my house? Wearin' my robe? Eatin'
my pork chops?

JOHN DALY

I'm also wearin' your underwear.

CARLEY

Baby you and I both know this has
been over for a long time.

RICKY

No I honestly didn't!

Carley holds up a thick document.

CARLEY

You signed this contract willingly
while you were in a coma.

(MORE)

CARLEY (cont'd)
It gives me all assets and an
uncontested divorce whenever I
wish.

RICKY
We're divorced?

WILLIAMS JR.
Yay! Two Christmases!

RICKY
So that's it.
(heavy sigh)
Alright then. What about the boys?

CARLEY
I think we should let them decide
who they go with -- their rich Mom
who's dating a pro golfer or their
gunshy, bankrupt Daddy.

Hank and Williams Jr look at Carley and Ricky.

HANK
Daddy, can we eat cake icing for
breakfast and can we run the lawn
mower over a phonebook?

RICKY
I guess so.

WILLIAMS JR.
We'll go with Daddy.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY- AN HOUR LATER

Long shot of Ricky's SUV as it drives down the rainy highway.
Ricky drives very slowly and tentatively with his hazards on.
Cars pass him like crazy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RICKY'S BOYHOOD HOME - MORNING

MUSIC: Ronnie Milsap song fades out.

Ricky, with two pieces of luggage and the boys in tow, knocks
on a door. Lucy, Ricky's Mom, opens the door.

LUCY BOBBY
Ricky? Is everything alright?

HANK
You better have TiVo.

WILLIAMS JR
You look old Granny.

RICKY
Mom.
(pained half beat)
I got nowhere to go...

CUT TO:

INT. SPEED WEEK STUDIO - DAY

The anchors of Speed Week are in the middle of a show.

SPEED WEEK ANCHOR #1
Well, all of the talk lately in
Nascar is about the emergence of
Jean Girard as the circuit's best
driver.

SPEED WEEK ANCHOR #2
It certainly is Pete. Jean has won
four of his last five races...

EXT. VICTORY LANE - DAY

Jean is holding up a gold trophy while the crowd cheers him.

SPEED WEEK ANCHOR #1 (V.O.)
...and is even bringing a new kind
of fan to Nascar.

We see a PREPPY COUPLE in the stands eating wine and cheese.
The HUSBAND smokes a pipe and the WIFE has a sweater tied
around her neck.

PREPPY WIFE
Go wide F'in open 53 car!

The Hardcore Fan from earlier gives them a Bud. He also has a
sweater tied around his neck.

HARDCORE FAN

Hey Dr. Nathansen, how bout this race? C'est tres bien, non? Quelle voiture! Incroi-able!

SPEED WEEK ANCHOR #2 (V.O.)

But the reaction of Jean's fellow drivers hasn't been so warm.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Cal Naughton Jr is being interviewed.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

No I wouldn't say the situation has gotten ugly. We just want this piece of (BEEP) Frenchie to go back to his (BEEP)-hole country.

INTERVIEWER

Boy Cal, that sure sounds ugly.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Well that's cause you're quoting me out of context.

INTERVIEWER

You're on camera Cal. I'm not quoting you. Say what you want.

INT. SPEED WEEK STUDIO

SPEED WEEK ANCHOR #1

Well anyway you slice it, it's clear that Jean Girard is the man right now. And unless there's a driver out there who can beat him, his reign could last for quite awhile.

EXT. STREET IN HIS HOME TOWN - LATER THAT DAY

Ricky is driving nervously with a stack of pizzas on his passenger side seat and a Dominos sign on top of his car.

As he tries to read an address, he clips a parked car, ripping the fender off.

RICKY

Ah, hump me!

Immediately we see flashing red lights of a police car behind him. Ricky pulls over. The OFFICER writes him a ticket.

EXT. SUPER MARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Ricky is backing out of his spot in front of the pizza place. He backs into a shopping cart being pushed by a HOUSEWIFE, sending it flying out of frame.

HOUSEWIFE
Oh my God! Aaah!

EXT. SUPER MARKET PARKING LOT -

The OFFICER from before finishes giving Ricky a ticket.

OFFICER
This is your second violation in
two hours. Are you alright?

RICKY
No sir, I'm not. But I promise it
won't happen again.

Ricky then backs into the police officer knocking him into the air.

OFFICER
Son you might want to hand over
that license.

Ricky hands him his license in Slo. Mo.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Ricky steps onto the bus holding three large pizzas, puts tokens into the counter and takes a seat. No one really looks at him, except for one passenger.

RICKY
(to passenger)
I lost my license. I'm delivering
pizzas.

PASSENGER
I don't really care.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCY'S HOME - TWO HOURS LATER

Ricky comes riding up to his house on a kid's BMX bike with a pizza on the back. There's a limo parked in front of the house. Cal Naughton Jr. gets out.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

I never thought I'd live to see this day, Ricky Bobby on a bicycle.

RICKY

Hey Cal, what the hell you doing here?

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Look Ricky I'm going to make this short, you and I never liked each other. And I guess you know by now that me and Carley fooled around many a night.

RICKY

No Cal, I didn't know that.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

(his voice gets high pitched)

Well, it's good you didn't know it because I just made it up. It's a lie, a fun lie. I like to tell fun lies so that we can have a laugh.

RICKY

Why is your voice gettin' all high?

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

(back to normal)

Here's the deal Ricky: that French bastard is ruining our sport. You get back on the track and together we can take him out.

RICKY

I'm done Cal. I don't drive no more. Hell, I don't even have a license.

Ricky starts to walk away.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

I knew it Ricky! You're a coward! A stone cold coward!

(MORE)

CAL NAUGHTON JR. (cont'd)
You're a disgrace to every driver
on the circuit!

Cal spits on the ground.

Ricky sheepishly walks back to the house...a broken man.
Naughton, looking pissed off, makes his way back to the limo
only to see the LIMO DRIVER in the middle of the street
urinating.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.
Hey man, what are you doing?!

LIMO DRIVER
I'm sorry sir, I thought you would
be longer.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lucy was watching the exchange between Ricky and Cal through
the front window.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOTEL - THE NEXT DAY

Ricky rings the bell on a dingy-looking motel room. After a
beat an OLDER MAN, 61, with a scraggly beard in his boxers
opens the door. He's sipping from a long neck.

RICKY
That'll be eleven ninety-three.

OLDER MAN
Hold on. Let me find my damn
wallet. Come on in.

The man looks through the mess of his room while Ricky still
stands at the door.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
Either close the door or come in! I
got weed in here cowboy!

Ricky steps in and closes the door.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
(while looking for his
wallet)
You didn't actually take a bus here
to deliver this pizza, did you
cowboy?

RICKY
Sure did. That'll be eleven ninety-three.

OLDER MAN
I always thought a real Nascar driver would rather die than ride a bus.

RICKY
Well I'm retired.

OLDER MAN
Funny. I heard you were re-pussied. You're not doing too good are you cowboy?

RICKY
Hey stop calling me cowboy!

Ricky sees that he's got three uneaten pizzas on the table.

RICKY
You know you got three uneaten pizzas just sittin' here.

OLDER MAN
Well I've been calling all day trying to get you. They kept sending other delivery people.

RICKY
Tryin' to get me? Why?

OLDER MAN
Cause I'm your daddy. That's why.

He continues to look for his wallet.

RICKY
What'd you say?

OLDER MAN
I said I'm your Daddy. I'm Reese Bobby Sr. Me and your Mom did it in a Rustler Steakhouse bathroom and then you showed up. Does that make sense cowboy?

Ricky steps right at him and punches him in the jaw. He falls back into a bureau.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
Okay. So are we straight now?

RICKY
You stay the hell away from me you hear? I don't know who the hell you are or what you want but I ain't got nothing left to take!

Ricky leaves as his Father yells after him.

OLDER MAN
Hey son! Did this go good? I've never done anything like this so I have no frame of reference.

INT. LUCY'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ricky and Lucy are in the kitchen. Ricky is emotional and furious.

RICKY
I can't believe it!! This is the last thing I need now! How could he have found me!!?

A dog begins to bark in the distance.

LUCY BOBBY
I called him.

RICKY
What?! Why would you do that Mama?

LUCY
I know he's a son of a bitch. But Ricky, you need help. You deliver pizza on a bus. You're better than this and if there's one thing that selfish bastard knows, it's driving.

Hank and Williams Jr enter wiping sleep out of their eyes.

HANK
Hey! Shut up in here!

WILLIAMS JR.
One of you turds is gonna get smacked in the mouth!

RICKY

Hey! I'm your dad! Stop yelling at me! You're seven years old!

There is a light knock at the back door. It is Ricky's Dad now in a Member's Only jacket and white T-shirt.

REESE BOBBY

Hey Lucy.

LUCY

Don't talk to me. This is between you two.

REESE BOBBY

Look son, I saw what happened to you on the television. You saw the fear. It happens to all of us.

RICKY

Get the hell out of my home.

LUCY

It's my house...

The OLD MAN next door leans out his window and yells.

ELDERLY MAN (O.C.)

You people shut the hell up! I got a wife in an oxygen tent trying to sleep!

HANK

Go shave your balls you dusty old fart!!!

More dogs begin to bark in the neighborhood.

REESE BOBBY

You wanna race again. Just admit it.

Ricky Bobby is silent....but the dogs keep barking.

REESE BOBBY

You got unfinished business.

RICKY JR.

No I don't! I got a trophy that says I won the Daytona 500. They can't never take that away from me!

REESE BOBBY
So where is it?

RICKY
Carley took it away from me!

LUCY
He's the Devil Ricky but he can
drive.
(and then)
Shut those damn dogs up!!

REESE BOBBY
Look, Ricky... I'm fifty-nine years
old and all I got to my name is a
car and a duffle bag full of
underwear and sweet, stinky weed. I
need this. I screwed up raising you
as a boy, let me at least help you
as a man.

Everyone goes silent, even the dogs, as they wait for Ricky's
response.

REESE BOBBY (CONT'D)
Please....let me help you.

HANK
Do it Dad. Get your balls back. Go
fast again.

RICKY
Are you boys sure?

WILLIAMS JR.
Sure as a trip to the top of shit
mountain.

RICKY
Fine. But I ain't gonna call you
Dad.

REESE BOBBY
What are you going to call me?

EXT. DESERTED STREET - SATURDAY MORNING

Ricky and his Dad stand facing his Dad's muscle car.

RICKY
Alright Dickweed, so what's the
plan?

REESE BOBBY

Now basically what happened to you is that you saw the fear. And before you even think of doing any real driving you gotta make friends with the fear. So get in the car.

Ricky punches his Dad in the jaw.

REESE BOBBY

What the hell was that?

RICKY

I got a lot of unresolved anger towards you. So that might just happen sometimes.

Ricky gets in the car. He hears a terrible growl and turns around to see a COUGAR IN THE BACK SEAT. Immediately Ricky jumps out of the car and slams the door.

RICKY

What the hell!!! Ahhh!!! There's a goddamn cougar in the car!!!

REESE BOBBY

I know there's a cougar in the car! I put it in there! You gotta learn to drive with the fear. And there is nothing more God damn frightening than driving with a live cougar in the car.

RICKY

That's just stupid! I could've been killed. Where'd you get that thing?

REESE BOBBY

I trapped it. Been keeping it in my bathroom at the Motel. Feedin it old pizza. Now you get back in that car! You hear me!

RICKY

I'm not gettin' in that car!!

REESE BOBBY

Listen to me! If you're calm, that wondrous big cat will be calm. But if you're scared, that beautiful death machine will do what God made it to do. Namely, eat you with a smile on its face!

Beat as Ricky mulls this over. He takes a couple really deep breaths.

RICKY
So it really won't hurt me if I'm
calm? Okay, okay.... here goes.
Ah!! Here I go...Ah!

Ricky opens the door and immediately the cougar leaps on top of him, knocking him to the ground, mauling him.

RICKY
AWWWW!! He's on me!!! He's gonna
eat me!!

REESE BOBBY
Relax son!! Control your heart
rate!!

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Lucy is washing dishes. Ricky enters looking like hell.

LUCY
Hey Ricky. So how'd it go?

RICKY
He's a crazy dirtbag and I'm pretty
sure I'm wasting my time. Where're
the boys?

LUCY
They're at Bible study at my
church.

We see Hank and Williams Jr go running by across the back yard.

HANK
Devil Dick!!! Devil Dick!!!

WILLIAMS JR.
Good one Hank!!! I gotta remember
to call granny that!

LUCY
What in tarnation?

Lucy flies out the door. The two boys have gotten a hold of Lucy's garden hose and are spraying it through the neighbor's open window. We hear the screams of the Elderly Man inside the house.

ELDERLY MAN (O.C.)
What the hell??!! Ahhh!! God, that
water's cold!!!

WILLIAMS JR.
Enjoy your shower, you old crab
apple!

HANK
I hope you catch pneumonia and
die!!

LUCY
That's it! That is it!

Lucy turns the hose off. Grabs the children by their hair.
Ricky jogs over.

RICKY
Now Mama-

LUCY
No Ricky! No! I will not have my
grandchildren behaving like filthy
raccoons! From now on you children
will obey the rules. And if you do
not obey the rules, you will pay
the price! Understood?

HANK
Sorry Granny, you're shit out of
luck.

WILLIAMS JR.
We do what we want.

Lightning fast, both of their faces get slapped.

HANK
(beat of awe)
You're going to break us like a
wild horse, aren't you?

EXT. LITTLE DIRT OVAL TRACK - THE NEXT DAY

Ricky and his dad are standing by Ricky's car on a dirt oval
track.

REESE BOBBY

So all I want you to do today is to go around this track once.

Ricky gets into the car.

RICKY

Alright. How fast?

REESE BOBBY

Not fast. Slow. Real slow. I want you to literally take all day to do one lap.

RICKY

What?

REESE BOBBY

I want you to go as slow as you can. Like you're making love to Reba McEntire and you wanna savor it.

RICKY

How's this gonna help me get over the fear?

REESE BOBBY

This ain't about fear, this is about teaching you that the pedal to the metal ain't all there is.

Ricky pulls away as slow as he can.

RICKY

Like this?

REESE BOBBY

Slower! You should know every inch of Reba by the time you're done. With everything good in life you gotta go slow before you can go fast.

MUSIC CUE: Sultry Reba McEntire song.

TIME LAPSE: the sun going up and then starting to fall. We see Ricky crawl around the track at a snail's pace.

It's dark as Ricky crosses the finish line. He gets out and collapses.

REESE BOBBY
You did good today Ricky.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY - DAY

Hank and Williams Jr. are wearing orange mesh vests while cleaning up trash off the side of the highway. Lucy waits in her car.

WILLIAMS JR.
How much more of this Granny?

LUCY
I don't know. How many more times
are you going to give the finger to
a Marine?

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Ricky is behind the wheel with a blindfold on. His dad is next to him in the passenger seat.

RICKY
This is crazy. I can't see.

REESE BOBBY
Don't you get it? You drive with
your heart not your eyes. Now feel
the road. Let it live inside you.
Can you feel it?

Ricky inhales deeply.

RICKY
I think I can...

REESE BOBBY
Now drive...

Ricky puts the car into drive and proceeds to wreck into every parked car and tear across every lawn on the street. It ends with the car crashing into someone's house.

REESE BOBBY
This was a bad idea. You definitely
drive with your eyes.

RICKY
I really thought I could feel it.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Lucy is reading to Hank and Williams Jr. They are asking her questions. We see she is reading them Faulkner's The Bear.

WILLIAMS JR.

But doesn't the bear symbolize the old South and the new dog, the encroaching North?

HANK

Duh! But the question is, should the reader feel relief or sadness at the passing of the old South?

LUCY BOBBY

How about both?

HANK

(getting it)

Ahh!... I get it, moral ambiguity! The hallmark of all early Twentieth Century American fiction!

EXT. LUCY'S BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

Ricky is asleep in a hammock. Suddenly a bucket of water is thrown onto Ricky's face. He awakes with a start to find his dad with a beer in hand standing over him.

RICKY

Ah!

REESE BOBBY

Where'd stock car racing come from?

RICKY

What?

His dad throws another bucket of water on him.

RICKY

What the hell man?!

RICKY'S DAD

How'd stock car racing get its start?

RICKY

The rum runners during prohibition!
They'd have to have cars fast
enough to outrun the Feds. And then
they started racing each other.

REESE BOBBY

That's right.

His Dad throws another bucket of water on him.

RICKY

Ah! If I was right why'd you throw
another bucket on me?

REESE BOBBY

Cause I filled up three. Now
there's nothing like driving to
avoid jail. Nothing hones your
instincts and mind like necessity.

We hear sirens in the distance.

REESE BOBBY

So I taped a kilo of cocaine
underneath your car and called the
boys in blue. The way I figure it
you got two minutes before they
show up and you do five to ten.
Yesterday we went slow. Today we go
fast.

Ricky flies out of the hammock and into the front yard where
his car is sitting. It's already running.

RICKY

You sick crazy old-

We can see the cop cars down the street. Ricky has no choice.
He jumps in the car and tears off.

Reese watches as Ricky drives off. Hank and Williams Jr come
up to him.

HANK

Grandpa, would you like to take us
fishing and tells us life lessons
and stories of your childhood?

REESE BOBBY

I got another idea, why don't you
boys go dig a hole and I'll have a
beer.

EXT. HIGHWAY - THIRTY SECONDS LATER

Ricky is tearing ass onto the freeway with three cop cars behind him. He is driving very fast and very skillfully to get away.

RICKY
Son of a bitch. Son of a bitch. Son
of a bitch.

Ricky looks down at the speedometer to see he's going 160 mph.

RICKY
160?... Whooo!!! Whooo!!

He hits a U-turn in the middle of the freeway and turns off an exit losing the cops completely. He's really driving again.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - FIVE MINUTES LATER

We see a hand reaching under the car. It finds something.

RICKY
I gotcha.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Ricky unwraps the package to reveal a bag of Lucky Charms cereal, with a note in it. It reads, "FEELS GOOD GOING FAST, DOESN'T IT? BY THE WAY, DON'T TRY AND SNORT THESE LUCKY CHARMS."

RICKY
Okay...

MUSIC: Steve Earle's "I Feel Alright Now" kicks in.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Ricky is driving his Dad's car with the live cougar seated next to him. Ricky looks confident and at ease, so does the cougar.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Lucy has Hank and Williams Jr doing Tai Chi.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Ricky drives by a kid sitting on the curb. He stops and when he pulls away the kid now has Ricky's BMX bike.

INT. CHURCH -DAY

Hank and Williams Jr are in a large choir singing perfectly with angelic looks on their faces while Lucy watches on.

EXT. DMV OFFICE - MORNING

We see a sign that says Department of Motor Vehicles with a white line and a starting point for the drivers test. No car is there. Then after a beat we hear screeching tires and Ricky blows into frame doing a sideways turn into a screaming stop.

RICKY

There's your Mother flippin' driving test.

We see a TERRIFIED OFFICER next to Ricky in the car with a clipboard.

TERRIFIED OFFICER

Mr. Bobby... you are magnificent.

The cougar pops up from the back and growls.

TERRIFIED OFFICER

Ah!

RICKY

Down Karen! Down!

INT. DRIVER'S LICENSE PHOTO FLAT - FIVE MINUTES LATER

There's a quick flash of Ricky getting his picture taken. He gives a wink.

MUSIC: OUT

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - TEN MINUTES LATER

Ricky and Reese are driving home.

REESE BOBBY
I think we need to celebrate.
Heck. Let's go all out for once.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT - THAT NIGHT

Close Up of a WAITRESS stepping into frame.

WAITRESS
Hello and welcome to Applebee's!

We see Lucy, Susan, Ricky, Hank, Williams Jr. and Reese Bobby sitting at a table.

WAITRESS
My name is Dolly and I'll be your server tonight.

HANK
Hello Ma'am.

WILLIAMS JR.
You look lovely this evening.

DOLLY
Why thank you.

The table chuckles pleasantly.

RICKY
Dolly, tonight is a special night for the Bobby family.

WAITRESS
Well don't you worry. I'll take care of you.

CLOSE UPS OF FOOD BEING PUT IN FRONT OF THE FAMILY - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

ALL
Mmmm...that looks great...fantastic...thank you Applebee's!

Ricky bows his head to say grace.

RICKY

Dear Lord baby Jesus, in your swaddling clothes, laying in your ghost manger... we have so much to be thankful for. First off, my boys no longer act like retarded gang bangers, and also I have my balls back behind the wheel of a car. And now maybe I can win again and get back my wife Carley, whose warm bosom I still ache for deep within my lower half. But most of all we thank you for bringing my nasty delinquent, pot-dealing father back to us. For he was lost, but now he is found. Amen.

LUCY

That was beautiful. Except for the part about Carley, which was inappropriate.

HANK

What a lovely meal.

WILLIAMS JR.

It certainly does look delicious.

RICKY

Well I'll be damned if this isn't just about a perfect night.

Waitress pops by again.

WAITRESS

How's every one over here?

REESE BOBBY

I hate to be a pain darlin', but I asked for no onions on my steak sandwich.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry, I must not have-

REESE BOBBY

Okay... maybe don't interrupt me-

WAITRESS

I'm sorry I didn't mean to-

REESE BOBBY

Yeah, well I think you did mean to
and I also think you meant to put
the goddamn onions on my sandwich!
Cause I think you're a nasty,
nasty, little bitch!!!

RICKY

Dad, what's going on-

WILLIAMS JR.

Grandfather, can't we resolve this
conflict without anger?

WAITRESS

(almost in tears)

Let me just get you a new sandwich
sir. We'll make this right.

REESE BOBBY

Why don't you tell us what you're
really going to do Dolly! You're
going to go in the back, smoke some
reefer with the dishwashers and
come back out here and act like a
dirty hooker!!!

She leaves in tears.

RICKY

Dad why are you doing this?! We've
had a great two weeks!!

LUCY

You couldn't handle it could you
Reese? Things just got too good.

REESE BOBBY

I don't know what you're talking
about. I said no onions.

Manager walks up with crying waitress.

MANAGER

Folks I'm Jim Bohampton, the
manager. Is there a problem?

REESE BOBBY

Oh Jim thank god you're here. This alleged woman who is part of your staff, came up to us, on what is supposed to be an evening of celebration and said, in front of my grandchildren, "Would you like to see the specials?" She then proceeded to lift up her shirt and show us half a titty.

WAITRESS

Mr. Bohampton I did no such thing!

RICKY

Look I apologize for this old man-

REESE BOBBY

I will never back down from my statement!

Reese Bobby takes a sip from a can of beer between his legs.

MANAGER

Sir you are not allowed to have that in here. I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

REESE BOBBY

Jim here's the deal. I am feelin' rascally tonight and I'm not going anywhere. So let's light this fuse and see what happens.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Four muscular members of the Applebee's staff are throwing Reese Bobby out the front door. Ricky and the family are trying to calm the situation.

REESE BOBBY

Noooo! Awww!! I'm a veteran and diabetic!! Applebee's has rats! I found a whole rat in my cobb salad!!

They throw him down into the parking lot. Reese Bobby gets up and storms off.

RICKY

Dad! Where are you going?

Ricky starts to chase after him.

LUCY

Let him go Ricky! He's damaged!
He's got a broke soul!

REESE BOBBY

Get away from me Ricky! Let me go!
Don't you get it! Your daddy is a
live wire!

RICKY

Things were going good, weren't
they?

They've stopped in the middle of the road. Cars are going by
them with their headlights on.

REESE BOBBY

That's exactly why I had to blow it
up. I don't know what organ or bone
people have that makes them act
right, but I was born without it.
I'm no good, plain and simple.

RICKY

Arhh! Don't you get it? All those
races I won. It was all for you. I
did it just like you told me: If
you ain't first, you're last.

REESE BOBBY

What're you talking about?

RICKY

What you told me on that day at
school for Career Day...if you
ain't first, you're last.

REESE BOBBY

Ricky I was probably high when I
said that. I mean, hell, thinking
like that could set you up for a
life of poor choices and dangerous
risk-taking.

RICKY

Oh my God...I can't believe I
listened to you...

REESE BOBBY
Look Ricky, I gotta go. I'm sorry.
I really am.

Reese starts to walk off down the road.

RICKY
Hey Dad!

Reese stops.

RICKY
Why didn't you ever make it on the circuit?

REESE BOBBY
You wanna know why? Cause I wasn't as good as you. Catch you later cowboy.

Reese walks off leaving Ricky alone in the middle of the road with motorists honking their horns and yelling at Ricky.

CUT TO:

INT. RICKY'S BOYHOOD ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ricky is laying in his childhood race car bed surrounded by posters of great drivers from the early eighties. His Mom walks in.

LUCY
Hey Ricky. I made you some biscuits and grape soda. I thought it'd help you relax.

RICKY
What I'm I gonna do? Everything dad told me was crap. Now I got no reason to race.

LUCY
No reason to race? Ricky let me show you something...

INT. LIVIN GROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Lucy stands by the mantle. There are some little trophies and certificates on it.

LUCY

I'm a lunch lady Ricky. It ain't much, but I do it as well as I can. Do you see these awards? I've won lunch lady of the year six straight years. And I don't win for you or for the school or to get my name in the paper. I win for me. Cause all we can do in this life is to try and be the best at what we do. And you were born to be a driver.

RICKY

But Mama. I don't know if I can be the best... This Frenchman is good. I couldn't pass him.

LUCY

Then go find out. And don't beat him for your Dad or Carley or the sponsors or because he's French. Beat him for you.

RICKY

And if I lose?

LUCY

You listen to me Ricky. I'm the one who taught you to drive stick shift. I'm the one who took you to those go cart tracks and bought you your first car. I raised you! I know what you can do! Now you just race good and let the winnin' and losin' fall where it may!

RICKY

(chuckles)

I didn't know you were lunch lady of the year...

LUCY

I can serve three hundred kids potatoes au gratin in twenty minutes with a smile. Now go get yourself a damn crew before I get emotional and this whole thing gets messy...

EXT. STRIP CLUB - DAY

We see a strip club off of a dirt road with a sign that reads, "SMOKEY'S HOUSE OF ASS - LIVE GIRLS NUDE, WED. FAMILY NIGHT."

CUT TO:

INT. SMOKEY'S HOUSE OF ASS - CONTINUOUS

We hear the voice of Lucius, Ricky's former crew chief, as we see the stage.

LUCIUS (V.O.)

Put your hands together and make
some noise for our next young lady.
She looks to shake it and sometimes
she likes to bake it, she's also a
mother of three, give it up for Ms.
Jade or as I call her, Hot Tofu!

We see an Asian stripper come onto the stage. There are seven
drunks in the audience. The song "Panama" by Van Halen kicks
in. From across the room Lucius sees Ricky walk in.

LUCIUS

Well I'll be grilled and served
with hash browns! Ricky Bobby as I
live and breath!

RICKY

I swear to God, if you were twenty
years old, blonde and a woman, I'd
kiss you!

They laugh.

RICKY

But you're not. You're a fifty-year-
old, bald black man.

They hug.

LUCIUS

(laughing)

And you are a stupid cracker! And I
mean that! How you been old friend?

CUT TO:

INT. SMOKEY'S HOUSE OF ASS - LATER

Ricky and Lucius are having drinks at a table. During the entire length of their conversation, a stripper's bikini clad rump is positioned in between them and comes in and out of frame. They never acknowledge this in any way.

LUCIUS
So what brings Ricky Bobby to
Smokey's House of Ass?

RICKY
I wanna race again Lucius.

Lucius gets up and offers his hand.

LUCIUS
It was good seeing you Ricky.

RICKY
I'm not foolin' Lucius. I got my
nerve back.

LUCIUS
It's good you got your nerve back
but that's not enough. This
Frenchman's the best I've ever
seen. You gotta drive brave and
smart.

RICKY
I've changed Lucius. I'll listen to
you. I need this. Do you hear me? I
need this, for me.

Beat as Lucius looks into Ricky's eyes.

LUCIUS
Alright then. Let me make some
calls, get the team back together.
Oh by the way, I almost forgot to
tell you, I got married. This is my
wife, Diane.

Lucius points to the ass that's shaking between them. We hear
DIANE'S voice from behind her shaking rump.

DIANE (O.C.)
It's very nice to meet you Ricky.
I've heard a lot about you. How're
the kids?

RICKY

Uh, they're good...they, uh, grow up fast.

LUCIUS

Put your clothes on baby. It looks like we're going to Talladega.

CUT TO:

EXT. TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY - LATE MORNING

MUSIC: AWE INSPIRING

We pan over a road on a hill and see the Talladega Speedway off in the distance. Ricky's trailer with car in tow overtakes us and heads toward the race track.

We see Ricky squinting his eyes and taking in the mammoth speedway.

RICKY

Talladega... somehow it always comes down to you...

EXT. SPEEDWAY GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ricky and his newly reassembled team are unloading their car from the back of the trailer. It's covered with a tarp.

HERSHELL

Sure is good to be back Ricky. Working at the Midas Muffler is a far cry from all this...

GLENN

Midas offers quality service and affordable prices. It's the Midas guarantee.

RICKY

I missed you dudes. Even Glenn.

They all laugh.

RICKY

And once I get Carley back, it all be perfect.

Awkward silence. Someone coughs.

Ricky is then handed a cup of coffee. It's Susan.

SUSAN
Here you go Ricky.

RICKY
Susie! What a damn treat!

SUSAN
Ricky, you look great.

The car is off the truck.

RICKY
Now the sponsors I got aren't high
end but they kicked in enough to
get us this car...

Hershell pulls the cover off the car revealing the new
sponsors: RAVEN THONGS FOR MEN; JIM PRIDEWORTHY, ATTORNEY AT
LAW; FISHER PRICE GAS STATION PLAYSET; THE HULLMONT HIGH
SCHOOL SKI CLUB; CATWOMAN ON DVD and DR. LANE'S BATH SALTS
FOR MENOPAUSE AND RACCOON BITES.

HERSHELL
Raven Thongs for men? Aw man.

CREW
This is embarrassing... We're gonna
be a joke... etc.

SUSAN
Hey! Ricky has worked his ass off
to put this together! What did you
all sign up for? Because I thought
it was all about racing! Yes, these
are mangy sponsors but guess what?
Their money's green like everyone
else's. Besides, it's what inside
that takes you to Victory
Lane...and if these stickers ain't
pretty enough for you, then why
don't you go back to working at the
Pep Boys for six bucks an hour!!!

LUCIUS
Little lady's right. Let's see what
this baby's got under the hood.

They start to peek at the engine.

RICKY

Wow. I didn't know you could talk like that.

SUSAN

Hope I didn't say too much.

Susan blushes as Lucius lifts the hood to reveal the engine. It's a wreck. Some pieces are missing and it's a bit rusted.

HERSHELL

It looks like a giant robot took a dump!

GLENN

A wise man once said "Adversity is just opportunity with a bad haircut."

LUCIUS

This is difficult for me to say, but I agree with Glenn. Let's get to work.

Ricky starts to walk away.

SUSAN

Where're you going Ricky?

RICKY

I'm gonna go let Jean Girard know that I'm coming for him.

CUT TO:

EXT. MASSIVE GREEN MEADOW - LATER

Jean Girard, an ASIAN MAN in a white suit and two GORGEOUS MODELS all recline on a large, white blanket eating gourmet cheese and fruits while drinking wine. Ricky walks up as they just finish their conversation. He's being escorted by Jean's fashionable personal ASSISTANT, who is dressed like a bellhop at the Chateau Marmont.

JEAN GIRARD

....mais je l'ai dit ce n'est pas le tempf porte un chapeau!

Everyone laughs really hard.

ASSISTANT

Monsieur Girard, Ricky Bobby is here to see you.

JEAN GIRARD

Oh monsieur Bobby, thank you Bacco.

RICKY

You're a tough man to find, you know that buster?

JEAN GIRARD

The day before a race I like to stay away from the track. Plus, Gregory needs room to train his world class shepherds.

We see Gregory way off in the distance training his shepherds with intricate whistles and hand commands.

JEAN GIRARD

Would you care for a fan of Lenkada or a stripend of Busk?

RICKY

Honestly I don't know what a stripend of Busk is.

JEAN GIRARD

It's very simple. It's liquefied Cilsias mixed in a broth of Arnithen and Metrovine.

RICKY

(confused)

Oh right, yeah, I'll take one of those bad boys.

Ricky is handed what looks like a massive conch shell with an ear of corn sticking out of it. He starts to try and put his mouth on it, thinks better of it and then just holds it.

RICKY

This is good...

JEAN GIRARD

I'm being so incredibly rude. This is my dear friend world famous cellist Yo-yo Ma.

YO-YO MA

Hello Mr. Bobby. I loved your come-from-behind win in the Phoenix 400.

JEAN GIRARD
And this is Breeze.

RICKY
Which one of you is Breeze?

MODELS
Together we are Breeze.

JEAN GIRARD
Walk with me Ricky Bobby.

They walk off.

RICKY
Alright man, look. I just came to tell you that I'm coming for you tomorrow. And I don't know what's gonna happen, as far as, first, second or third place. But I'm going to put my heart out on that track and you better be ready to deal with it.

JEAN GIRARD
Tres bien Ricky Bobby. Tres bien.
(and then)
Do you know the reason I came to America?

RICKY
Money, fame, the giant water parks... the same reasons everyone comes to America?

JEAN GIRARD
No. I came here, for you to beat me.

RICKY
What the hell are you talking about?

JEAN GIRARD
My husband Gregory and I, wish only to retire and train dogs in Stockholm. But before I can do that I must be defeated by a driver who is truly better than I am. You are the one Ricky Bobby. You can defeat me.

RICKY

So you're going to lose on purpose?

JEAN GIRARD

No. I will battle you with the entirety of my being. And you will probably lose.

RICKY

Wow. This is like The Highlander.

We hear Gregory's whistle in the distance as the German Shepherds stand on their hind legs and make a circle.

JEAN GIRARD

They are beautiful animals, non?

RICKY

Those are fine dogs. I'm not going to argue with you.

JEAN GIRARD

But make no mistake about it, much like me, those animals will turn into vicious killers when the proper command is given. For me, it is the start flag. For them, it is a randomly chosen command word.

RICKY

So like, if you say "fire hydrant" they might go crazy?

JEAN GIRARD

How did you know that word?! I ask you, how did you know that word?!

In an instant we see the dogs stop, turn, snarl and break out into a full speed gallop.

RICKY

That was just an example. Hey look, they're running over here.

JEAN GIRARD

That was the word! You said the word! They are coming for you Ricky Bobby!!

We see the dogs, barking madly, running directly for Ricky.

RICKY

How did they hear me? They're a hundred yards away!

JEAN GIRARD

They are dogs! They have the good hearing!

RICKY

(starting to panic)
What should I do!? I can't outrun them!! What should I do!!!

JEAN GIRARD

Do not panic! The one who gave the attack command must give the heel command word.

RICKY

Well what is it?!! What is it?!!!

The dogs are getting close. They are going to eat Ricky Bobby.

JEAN GIRARD

Rhin-a-cer-rey...it is French for rhinoceros.

RICKY

Rhinoceros!! Rhinoceros!! Why aren't they stopping?!

The dogs are still coming.

JEAN GIRARD

You must do the correct pronouncement. Rhin-os-se-rey.

RICKY

Rhine-nay- cer-rae!! Rhine-nay-cer-rae!!!

The dogs are really close.

JEAN GIRARD

Non!! You must lay your tongue flat for the third syllable... watch: rhine-nos-cer-rey.

RICKY

Rhine-nos-cer-

The dogs go to leap on him to attack.

RICKY

...rey!!

Instantly the dogs become like puppies.

JEAN GIRARD

(fighting to catch his
breath)

Tres bien Ricky Bobby....if they
would have...gotten a hold of
you...they would have made your
face...a bloody, horror show.

RICKY

(also out of breath)

So anyway...God that was scary..
I'll see you...on the
track...tomorrow...and I'll be
giving you all I got.

JEAN GIRARD

Yes you will Ricky Bobby. Yes you
will.

INT. RICKY'S TRAILER - THAT NIGHT

Ricky and his sons are watching TV on the foldout bed. It is
the Speed Channel.

HOST OF SPEED WEEK

Of course everyone knows the
favorite tomorrow for the Talladega
500 is Jean Girard. He has simply
dominated this season. But there
are also several smaller stories
floating around this race and one
of them is the return of Ricky
Bobby, who disappeared from the
circuit almost six months ago.

HANK

They're talking about you Daddy!

HOST OF SPEED WEEK

Unfortunately it looks to be a sad
return as Ricky simply doesn't have
the smarts, the nerve or the car to
compete. Let's just hope this
tragic and emotionally damaged
driver doesn't hurt anyone...

Ricky turns off the TV with the remote.

RICKY
That's enough TV for tonight.

WILLIAMS JR.
Don't pay any attention to him
Daddy.

HANK
Oh my Gosh, look at the time. It's
past our bed time. We'd better
retire for the evening.

RICKY
Man your Granny did a good job with
you boys.

He turns out the lights and they get in the bed.

HANK
Daddy, even though we'll be proud
of you tomorrow no matter what...
win.

WILLIAMS JR.
Yeah daddy, win.

CUT TO:

EXT. TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY - THE NEXT DAY

The massive crowd is filling up the stands as the cars are
wheeled out onto the track.

FOX ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Ladies and Gentlemen, pull up a
chair, drop the kids off with their
aunt and take the phone off the
hook, because it is race day here
at the Talladega Speedway!

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

Ricky and his team are gathered around the car by pit row.
The team looks exhausted.

LUCIUS
These boys were up all night
working on this engine.

RICKY

I sure appreciate it. Now let's see
what we got.

Ricky pops the hood revealing a gleaming, impressive engine.

RICKY

Hot-dog. It's like looking up Pam
Anderson's skirt.

GLENN

Ricky, it's like your Excalibur,
the mighty sword King Arthur used
to bring together the Knights of
the Round Table until Lancelot
betrayed him by laying with his
queen...in a biblical sense.

The crew just stares at him, awkwardly. Someone coughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPEEDWAY PIT ROW - RACE TIME

All the drivers and their crews stand by their cars. Keith
Doby finishes the national anthem.

KEITH DOBY

...THE LAND OF THE FREE
AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE
SO GO HOME YOU LIBERAL HIPPIY
TERRORIST LOVERS!!!

A Nascar Official once again runs over to Keith.

NASCAR OFFICIAL

That's it! You're banned!!

KEITH DOBY

Go tell it to your friend Sadaam!

Ricky starts to walk back to pit row when Carley comes up.

CARLEY

Ricky I need to talk to you.

RICKY

Oh, Carley I missed you so much.
Where's John Daly?

CARLEY

He's gone Ricky.

RICKY

I knew it! We're going to get back together again.

Cal Naughton walks up.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Hey Ricky, I see you met my lady. Or did you two already know each other?

They're holding each other.

RICKY

Oh you gotta be kidding me!?

CARLEY

It's not how it seems. We just happen to live together and have a lot of sex.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Sorry Ricky, but if I see a Porsche with the keys in it, I take it for a spin. You have a good race, you hear?

Ricky just stares as they walk off with each other's hands in their back pockets.

RICKY

Ah, I think I'm gonna cry...I'm fightin' it, it's startin' to come up through my throat....around the sides of my eyes...it's hard to fight it.

Susan comes up, grabs him by the arm and pulls him by the arm.

SUSAN

Listen to me. Don't worry about them, that's teenage soap-opera crap. Now I talked to Lucius and had him loosen up the car, so that you could do some driving. Watch Girard in the turns, that's when he likes to make his pass.

RICKY

How did you get like this?

SUSAN

Three years of bring people coffee
at a racetrack, you learn something
about driving. Now let's go!!

EXT. SPEEDWAY PIT CREW - A FEW MINUTES LATER

P.A. ANNOUNCER

Drivers...start your engines!

We see Ricky behind the wheel of his car. His engine revs to life.

RICKY

This is it...

LUCIUS

"It" with a God damn capital "I"
Ricky Bobby.

MUSIC: RUNNING WITH THE DEVIL kicks in hard and powerful.

RACE MONTAGE: STYLIZED AND MUSIC VIDEO-ESQUE

1. Jean Girard looks into his rear view mirror and makes eye contact with Ricky. They nod.
2. The green flag waves and the cars explode with speed.
3. SLOW MOTION: The crowd cheers.
4. Two cars wipe out.
5. Cal Naughton Jr taps the back bumper of Girard's car.
6. SLOW MOTION: Ricky swerves for a second and then regains control.
7. SLOW MOTION: Lucius yelling.

LUCIUS

Ricky!!!!

8. We see the Spotter with binoculars finishing a cigarette high up over the track.
9. SLOW MOTION: A car goes off the wall. Ricky dodges the wreck expertly.
10. SLOW MOTION: Ricky's sons and his Mom cheer him on.

11. Ricky passes several cars. His face is pouring with sweat.

12. Ricky pulls in for a pit stop. His crew performs expertly. He high fives Hershell on his way out.

13. Close up of Ricky's wheels turning and screeching.

MONTAGE ENDS: MUSIC OUT

LUCIUS

Alright Ricky that's one lap down,
two hundred and thirty-four to go!

RICKY

Boy that felt like more than one
lap. You sure that was only one
lap?

LUCIUS

Let me double check...yeah that was
one lap. And because of that
unneeded pit stop you're in thirty-
first place. Come on Ricky, let's
shake a tail feather!

CUT TO:

TV COVERAGE - FOX

We see the race covered on TV with announcers and graphics.

FOX ANCR #1

Jean Girard, driving from the pole,
is out to a big lead.

FOX ANCR #2

As you know he's been doing that
all year. Earlier today we asked
him what has been his secret to
success.

CUT TO:

PRE-TAPE PACKAGE

Testimonial with Jean Girard in studio limbo.

JEAN

My secret to success? It is simple.
It is my lover and husband Gregory.

(MORE)

JEAN (cont'd)

Whether he is tickling my feet in the bubble bath or wearing the funny hats to make me laugh, he teaches me to not be so serious with life. And when the darkness comes he holds me and whispers "I am here for you Jean. I am here for you."

SMASH CUT TO:

TV COVERAGE - NBC

FOX ANCR #1

I'll be honest, a few months ago that would have weirded me out, but at a certain point you just have to commend them for having a loving relationship.

FOX ANNOUNCER #2

I'm still a bit weirded out by it, but darnnit, that guy can race.

CUT TO:

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

FOX ANCR #1

Now let's take a look at Ricky Bobby in the number 28 car.

We see the camera from over Ricky's shoulder showing the track and cars around him. Ricky leans in and looks at the camera.

RICKY

Hey, how's it going America? It's good to be back.

ANCR #1

Boy, he should really keep his eyes on the road. That is dangerous.

RICKY

I wanna say hi to my boys, Hank and Williams Jr. How you doin' fellas?

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

Lucius, furious, speaks to Ricky on the headset.

LUCIUS

Dammit Ricky! Stop looking into the damn camera! Stay focused. You hear me?

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

RICKY

Sorry Lucius! I lost my head.

We see Ricky Bobby start to pass some cars.

FOX ANCR #1

Ricky Bobby in the Thongs for Men car is making a big move. He's moved up from twenty-sixth to twelfth place. And now let's go to John Hannafin, who's in the stands with a country music legend.

EXT. STANDS - CONTINUOUS

JOHN HANNAFIN is in the stands surrounded by beer drinking fans.

JOHN HANNAFIN

Thank you Sean. I've got country music star Kenny Rogers here with me.

We see a HALF ASIAN OLDER MAN with a beard and a cowboy hat seated in the stands. At best he vaguely looks like a half-Asian version of Kenny Rogers.

JOHN HANNAFIN

Kenny, what do you think of the race so far?

HALF ASIAN OLDER MAN

It's good. They're going really fast.

FOX ANCR #1 (O.C.)

John, that's not Kenny Rogers-

JOHN HANNAFIN

In the song The Gambler you sang, "You gotta know when to walk away, know when to run." Should Ricky Bobby have stayed away from racing?

HALF ASIAN OLDER MAN
Mr. Bobby is very competitive. If
he want to race he should race.

FOX ANCR #1 (O.C.)
John, that's not-

JOHN HANNAFIN
This is John Hannafin here with
Kenny Rogers. Back to you Sean.

EXT. TV RACE COVERAGE - CONTINUOUS

We see Jean Girard extending his lead.

FOX ANCR #1
That of course, was not Kenny
Rogers. But meanwhile Jean Girard
has extended his lead. He's got two
cars on his tail, Cal Naughton Jr.
and Ricky Bobby who has made a big
move to come up from twelfth place
to third...

INT. CAL NAUGHTON JR'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cal Naughton is trying desperately to pass Jean.

INT. RICKY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He's driving next to Cal also trying to pass Jean.

LUCIUS (V.O.)
Ricky, I got Cal Naughton wanting
to talk directly to you.

RICKY
Put em through!

CAL NAUGHTON JR. (V.O.)
Ricky I know you and I don't like
each other much. And I know I'm
sleeping with your wife and all,
and I guess by now you know about
the time I took a piss in your
coffee-

RICKY
No, I actually didn't know about
that.

CAL NAUGHTON

Well there is nothing to know about because that was just another fun lie that I made up. Anyway, I'm going to give Frenchie a tap on his bumper and once I do, you run him straight up into the wall and you and I take over this race. Let's go.

Cal taps Jean's bumper and Jean fishtails slightly. Ricky doesn't do anything.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

What're you doing Ricky? Finish him off!!

RICKY

I don't want to win like that!

CAL NAUGHTON

Here's the deal. You help me finish him off and I'll give you Carley back. Now let's do this Ricky...for America!

RICKY

That's not American, that's cheating. And Americans only cheat on their taxes.

Ricky gives Cal a tap and he spins out into the infield.

FOX ANNOUNCER #1

Oh my God! Ricky Bobby just spun Cal Naughton out!

FOX ANNOUNCER #2

It looked like Ricky wanted to play that pass squeaky clean! That's not the Ricky Bobby I know.

EXT. WIDE ANGLE SHOT OF TRACK - CONTINUOUS

The caution flag comes out.

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

Lucius paces with his headset on.

LUCIUS

That's a real classy move Ricky Bobby.

HERSHEL

Now it's just Girard and Ricky.

GLENN

Mano a mano.

INT. CORPORATE BOX - CONTINUOUS

Wealthy sponsors eat finger foods and watch from the corporate box. Mr. Dennit with his Young Wife drinks a cocktail and watches.

MR. DENNIT

Come on Jean! You can take him.

EXT. SPEEDWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lucy, Hank and Williams Jr. watch the race from the roof of the trailer, sitting on lawn chairs.

LUCY

That's my boy!

EXT. TICKET WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

Ticket taker is talking to an unseen figure at the window.

TICKET TAKER

I just need to see some ID sir if I'm going to give you these tickets.

We see a hand slide an ID under the window, the driver's license picture is Reese Bobby. He's winking in the photo just like Ricky did in his.

EXT. SPEEDWAY - TEN MINUTES LATER

The restart flag is waved and the pace car peels away.

FOX ANCR #1

Very surprising to see Ricky Bobby turn down that assist from Cal Naughton.

(MORE)

FOX ANCR #1 (cont'd)
Because if there's one thing Ricky Bobby is known for, it's winning at all costs.

INT. PRETAPE PIECE

Ricky in an interview limbo talks to camera.

RICKY
I've always been a risk taker. And because it rhymes, I'm also a bit of a heartbreaker. You see what I did, risk taker...heartbreaker? It's fun to do that with words.
(He listens to an off camera question)
Why am I a risk taker? I think it's ingrained in all Americans to take risks. I mean if we didn't say "hey, horses suck, let's drive a car" then we wouldn't be here. Or if we didn't go, "hey, I like cold cuts and crackers but why can't I have them all together in one convenient package," then we wouldn't have Lunchables.

NBC COVERAGE - CONTINUOUS

FOX ANCR #1
Couldn't agree with Ricky more. Lunchables and cars, God bless this great nation.

FOX ANCR #2
Speaking of America, let's go back to our John Hannifan who's with an American icon, Bruce Willis.

EXT. SPEEDWAY

John Hannifan is standing in the stands with a burly WOMAN WITH GLASSES.

JOHN HANNAFIN
Bruce Willis, we love you in the Die Hard movies. Let me ask you this, what makes racing so much fun to watch?

WOMAN WITH GLASSES
My name is Linda. I'm a woman.

JOHN HANNAFIN
So sorry! Back to you guys.

INT. BOOTH -COVERAGE

FOX ANCR #1
Come on John! Pay attention!

FOX ANNOUNCER#2
Things have heated up as Girard is
boxing out Bobby for the lead!

EXT. PIT ROW - CONTINUOUS

LUCIUS
Alright Ricky, play it cool. You
run your race...

RICKY
Do I have room to pass Girard on
the inside?

SPOTTER (V.O.)
That's a negative Ricky. Very slim
squeeze. All you have is the
outside.

RICKY
If I take the outside I'm gonna
lose the damn race!!

P.A. ANCR #1
Ladies and gentlemen this is the
final lap!!

Girard is still boxing Ricky out of the inside.

RICKY
Dammit Lucius! What do I do?!!

LUCIUS (V.O.)
Ricky, you wanna make sure you walk
in your house tonight and have
supper with your foul-mouthed kids,
then you go outside and take second
place. You wanna win, then you go
inside and may God be with you.

Beat as Ricky mulls this over.

RICKY
Aw hell Lucius. I think I'm gonna
have some Taco Bell with my boys
tonight.

Ricky pulls to the outside for the final straight away.

LUCIUS
Well I'll be...

FOX ANNOUNCER #1
I can't believe it! Ricky Bobby
went outside!

Ricky grabs the outside and punches it hard.

RICKY
Tighten your seat belt baby Jesus!

THEY BOTH CROSS THE FINISH LINE AT THE SAME TIME.

FOX ANNOUNCER #2
That was one of the best outside
passes in the last thirty years.

FOX ANNOUNCER #1
I still can't tell who won!

QUICK CUTS ALL OVER THE TRACK:

WILLIAMS JR.
Did Daddy win?!

LUCIUS
What's going on?!

INT. THE ANNOUNCE BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

FOX ANCR #1
There is a strange quiet over the
track... no one is sure who's
first.

FOX ANCR #2
The video replay is no help. It is
too close to call. They're gonna
have to go to the photo.

We see Video Replay. It is impossible to tell.

EXT. RACE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

Ricky gets out of his car and rips off his helmet, while down pit row, Jean does the same thing.

RICKY
That felt good. Who won?

Susan runs up to him.

SUSAN
That was amazing Ricky!

RICKY
I almost don't care if I won. But seriously, did I win?

INT. DARK ROOM - ONE MINUTE LATER

We see a PHOTO TECH developing a photo in the chemical pan. As it comes into focus we see that the cars are dead even.

EXT. RACE TRACK - ONE MINUTE LATER

P.A. ANNOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen after reviewing several photographs and the video replay, it has been determined that the race is a perfect tie.

The crowd goes crazy with boos and cheers.

FOX ANNOUNCER #1
This is the only tie in the history of Nascar.

Ricky's crew throws down their helmets.

HERSHELL
That is bull crap!!

LUCIUS
Ricky, you should be proud. That's the best race you've ever run.

Jean comes up to Ricky looking sad.

JEAN GIRARD

Please Ricky... I want to go to
Stockholm with Gregory...you know?

Ricky turns to Lucius, Susan and his crew.

RICKY

Lucius, I know you told me to drive
smart. But I gotta do one more
thing.

Jean and Ricky both put on their helmets and jump in their
cars.

FOX ANCR #1

Well it looks like Jean Girard and
Ricky are taking a dual victory
lap. How nice is that.

FOX ANNOUNCER #2

I don't think so Ted. It looks like
they're going to race.

EXT. RACE TRACK STRAIGHT AWAY - THIRTY SECONDS LATER

Ricky and Jean pull up next to each other.

RICKY

One lap for all the marbles?

JEAN GIRARD

It is good.
(and then)
I'm going to beat you.

RICKY

Me too.

FOX ANNOUNCER #1

They are going to race! Ricky just
held up one finger! They're going
one lap for the whole enchilada!

Both cars rev on the start line. Gregory comes out holding a
red scarf and stands between the cars. He raises his arm and
drops the scarf and both cars tear off the line.

FOX ANCR #1 (V.O.)

This is highly illegal but if you
change the channel you are a moon
calf fool!

Ricky and Jean are neck and neck. Ricky takes the inside and Jean darts around him taking it back. They bump fenders. Jean takes the lead.

RICKY

Come on... give me all you got!

The crowd is going insane.

CARLEY

Ricky!!

Carley lifts up her shirt and flashes Ricky as he comes around the turn. He gets distracted for a split second.

RICKY

Wow...those are fantastic.

In that second he loses control of the car and bumps into Jean wrecking them both. The cars flip and roll before coming to a shredded stop.

FOX ANCR (V.O.)

Oh no! No! Jean Girard and Ricky Bobby have wrecked! That is such a shame!

Ricky can see Jean in his wreck. He undoes himself and staggers out of the car. Ricky's leg is hurt and we see a cut on his forehead as he rips off his helmet. Jean does the same. Ricky, in a slight daze, looks around. He and Jean look at each other for a beat. Ricky then looks in the direction of his pit crew, looking for guidance, only to catch eyes with Lucy, who has worked her way down to pit row.

LUCY

Finish this Ricky!

With that, slowly Ricky starts running to the finish line. Girard with a slight smile on his face, follows. The crowd goes ballistic.

FOX ANCR #1

These men will not quit!! They are running on foot to the finish line!!!

Bloodied and staggering, they both lurch towards the checkered flag. As they get near, they both fall with their hands outstretched.

FOX ANCR #1

Ricky Bobby wins!!! Ricky Bobby
wins!! You will never see anything
like that in a hundred lifetimes!!

FOX ANNOUNCER #2

Yup. That was good. That was real
good.

Lucius, the crew, Susan, the boys and Lucy celebrate.

LUCIUS

Wow. Wow.

LUCY

Holy shit! He did it!!

HANK AND WILLIAMS JR.

Yay!! Granny cursed and Daddy
won!!!

LUCIUS

My heart is full right now. Man I
love this sport.

GLENN

It's not the sport you love, it's
Ricky. Racing is a gorgeous thing
but you gave of your heart to Ricky
and today you harvested the fruits
of your labor. It's not cars. It's
love Lucius. Love.

He puts his hand on Lucius' shoulder and Lucius wipes a tear
away.

LUCIUS

Dammit Glenn, sometimes you see too
much. You know that man?

INT. CORPORATE BOX - SAME TIME

Mr. Dennit is stone-faced watching the end on TV. He takes a
sip of his drink.

MR. DENNIT

That was not supposed to happen
like that...

TEEN WIFE

Honey can we go home now? I wanna
watch Dora the Explorer.

EXT. VICTORY LANE - CONTINUOUS

Drivers and crew converge on Ricky. The fans are climbing over the walls and flooding onto the field. Carley pushes her way through the crowd towards Ricky.

CARLEY

Ricky!!

Ricky looks in her direction and pushes towards Carley.

RICKY

Baby!!

Carley goes to hug him but Ricky goes past her and gives Susan a big hug and twirls her around.

RICKY

We did it!!

SUSAN

You were amazing!!

CARLEY

It's you loss Ricky Bobby! I've got John Daly on my speed dial! He'll be back just like that!... Ricky?

Ricky and Susan walk away. They see Jean and Gregory waving to them with big smiles.

JEAN GIRARD

We are free Ricky Bobby.

GREGORY

Thank you mon ami!

Ricky gives them a half wave and a smile and then is sprayed with champagne by his crew. Cal Naughton Jr. walks up to Jean and Gregory.

CAL NAUGHTON JR.

Hey! Just for the record, I hate you Frenchie. And the next time we're on that track I'm taking you cut!

JEAN GIRARD

Thank you for the warning. I was wondering, what is the American word for the small metal stand that the firemen plug their hoses into?

CAL NAUGHTON JR.
Man you are a dumbass. You mean a
fire hydrant?

We hear dogs barking in the distance.

JEAN GIRARD
That's it. Thank you so much.

EXT. RACE TRACK PARKING LOT - TWO HOURS LATER

Ricky is leaving with Susan, Lucy and Hank and Williams Jr.
The parking lot is pretty much empty.

HANK
Come on! I'll race you to the light
pole!

Hank and Williams Jr take off running.

RICKY
(to Susan)
You know your way around a race
track. You ever think about co-
owning a team?

SUSAN
Maybe, with the right driver...

Hank and Williams Jr are arguing about who won their foot
race.

HANK
I won!

WILLIAMS JR
No I won! Daddy who won?!

RICKY
You both run the best you could?

HANK AND WILLIAMS JR
Yeah...

RICKY
Then it don't matter.
(then to Lucy)
Wow. What did I just do?

LUCY
You just did some Daddying.

They come upon Lucy's car.

VOICE (O.C.)

That was some nice driving cowboy.

We see Reese sitting on the hood of Ricky's car.

RICKY

Thanks Dad.

REESE BOBBY

Hey Ricky. Let me ask you, who'd you win that race for?

RICKY

I'll tell you one person I didn't win it for...you.

REESE BOBBY

Just the answer I was looking for.

There's a beat as they look around the empty parking lot.

REESE BOBBY

I gotta say things are pretty much perfect right now. And it's makin' me kinda of itchy.

RICKY

What'd you say we all get thrown out of an Applebee's?

REESE BOBBY

Yeah that'd probably do the trick.

HANK AND WILLIAMS JR.

Yay!

They jump in the car and drive off to the horizon line.

MUSIC: "I LOVE A RAINY NIGHT" - Eddie Rabbit

END