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"THE NEW SEASON"

Written by

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REV. FINAL DRAFT

May 24, 1979

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - NIGHT

1

The bright lights shine down on a minor league baseball game. The SOUNDS of a sparse CROWD fill the air.

On the field, the constant spill of CHATTER is HEARD from the players. On deck, BATTER #2, a strong, lean, young black man dusts his hands and swings a leaded bat.

A COACH claps his hands and sends down a sign to BATTER #1, an Ohio farm boy. Batter #1 sees the sign and steps into the batter's box.

The UMPIRE lets out a grunt as he squats behind the plate.

The catcher, RAY CARVER, a stocky black man in his early thirties, sends out a sign to the pitcher.

The pitcher, BUBBA NEWMAN, looks in to get a sign. Bubba is thirty years old and working hard. Bubba checks the runners at first and second bases. The runner at first leads off the bag. Behind the runner we SEE the scoreboard with the score: Visitors 2, San Jose 4. Bubba comes to a stretch position, checks the runners and throws.

Batter #1 smashes a basehit down the left field line.

The LEFT FIELDER chases the ball, gloves it and throws it home as the runner scores ahead of the throw and the late tag by the catcher. Bubba is standing behind the plate, backing up the catcher, disgusted. He walks back out to the mound.

BUBBA

(to Ray)

Gimme the ball.

Ray tosses the ball to Bubba. Bubba walks back out to the mound as many fans boo, others clap, and above it all a WOMAN'S VOICE is HEARD.

SHERRY'S VOICE

Come on, Bubba! You can do it!

Bubba looks toward voice and sees THREE YOUNG WOMEN, one of whom is SHERRY, an incredibly buxom lady wearing a baseball cap, and waving a pennant -- too. Bubba stares at her, flexing his elbow.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED;

1

Behind the plate, Ray notes the elbow rubbing and jogs to the mound.

RAY

What's happening, Bubba?

BUBBA

What is that?

Ray follows Bubba's gaze and sees Sherry.

RAY

I do believe that's some kind of female.

SHOT - ON CHESTY SHERRY

BUBBA

Certainly has all the symptoms.

SHERRY

Come on, Bubba, do it. I know you can do it.

BUBBA

She wants me.

(handing his
glove to Ray)

I hear America calling.

And while amused but surprised Ray holds the glove, Bubba jogs over to Sherry.

BUBBA

(continuing;
tipping cap)

Bubba Newman, San Jose Stallions.

SHERRY

My pleasure.

BUBBA

I certainly hope so.

From the crowd, "Hey, come on." "Play ball," etc.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I gotta go strike this guy out.

With which he kisses her on the cheek and runs back to the mound, getting mixed crowd cheers and boos. Ray hands him back his glove.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

RAY

Outrageous.

*
*

UMPIRE

Let's play ball, Newman!

RAY

Okay, Bubba, keep it down on this guy.

The manager, SCOTTY HANSON, a good-natured man in his fifties, grows impatient.

SCOTTY

Come on, Bubba. Get tough!

Bubba is energized by the incident, feels confident as Ray runs back to plate. Batter #2 steps into the batter's box. Bubba comes to a stretch position, checks the runners and throws. Batter lets the ball go by.

UMPIRE

Strike.

Ray throws the ball back to Bubba who is cooking now. He looks in to get his sign from Ray. Bubba checks the runners and throws. The Batter hits the ball solidly. Bubba can tell right away that it's a homerun. CAMERA STAYS ON Bubba as the runner rounds the bases. Bubba stands emotionless on the mound, staring into the sky, as the Batter touches home and is congratulated by his teammates. Scotty is walking out to the mound, signaling for his relief pitcher. Ray stands next to Bubba on the mound.

SCOTTY

Okay, Bubba. Go take a hot one.

Bubba starts to respond but doesn't and walks off the mound towards the dugout. Several fans boo Bubba. Bubba takes off his cap and waves to the fans -- like he's a winner.

2 INT. LOCKER ROOM

2

Bubba enters the locker room, a long room with rows of lockers, individual cubicles, benches. The game is PLAYING from a RADIO in the room. Bubba throws down his glove, slams his fist into one of the lockers, and kicks a garbage can as PHIL, the clubhouse man in his fifties, moves a towel bin out of Bubba's path.

PHIL

Not the pitching hand!

*

Bubba sits with his elbow in a tray of ice. Phil is massaging Bubba's shoulder as they listen to the game.

JERRY BANNOCK (V.O.)

The Stallions are down to their last out. It's up to Chuck Taylor.

PHIL

Flex your arm.

Bubba winces as he moves it.

PHIL

(continuing)

I'm tellin' you that elbow's not getting any better...

BUBBA

Just let it soak a little longer.

PHIL

I don't like it.

JERRY BANNOCK (V.O.)

The runners lead off first and second. Here's the pitch... and he booms it out into center field! It's going to the fence! Here comes Mazzullo, here comes Yeomans. He's gonna score! The Stallions win the ballgame six to five. How do you like that! Just when you think this team is headed for the showers with a tough loss, Chuck Taylor hits a ball straight away center to win the game. I gotta say, this team's got character...

*

Bubba reacts happily, splashing water on Phil.

BUBBA

I love it!

SOUNDS of the PLAYERS entering the locker room, WHOOPING, CLAPPING. Players pass Bubba, slapping his hand, congratulating CHUCK, a young ballplayer.

TONY

He pasted it. Yeah!

Bubba congratulates Chuck.

BUBBA

What you say, Chuckie baby!

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

CHUCK

I say all right.

*

Bubba sees Ray coming in, tired.

BUBBA

Hey, Mister Boom! We pulled it out.

Ray looks at Bubba, shaking his head, playing serious.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What's the matter?

RAY

I'm gonna have to punish you...

BUBBA

No way! We won the game!

RAY

I'm sorry, but you had a two-run lead and you blew it...

BUBBA

(starting to laugh,
plead)

Come on, now. Don't tickle me, Ray!

Ray puts his arms around Bubba as he has many times. Bubba surrenders knowing that it's useless to struggle. Ray tickles Bubba as Bubba screams, tries to splash him with water. The other players enjoy the struggle. Ray stops as Scotty approaches.

SCOTTY

(to Bubba)

How's the elbow?

BUBBA

Great. No problem. It's fine.

*

SCOTTY

Come on by my office when you're finished.

As Scotty passes, Ray starts to go after Bubba again, but Bubba holds up a bin of towels and defends himself.

4

INT. SCOTTY'S OFFICE

4

Scotty, still in uniform, is opening a small refrigerator, pulling out two beers.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED;

4

The walls of his office are covered with pictures, awards. Bubba sticks his head in the door.

SCOTTY

Come on in, Bubba.

He tosses Bubba a beer and sits in his leather armchair. Bubba sits across from him.

BUBBA

Hey, I'm sorry about the lady...

SCOTTY

Don't worry about it. We won the game. That's what counts. I love the way this team fights back.

BUBBA

They're tough. So what's up?

SCOTTY

(uncomfortable)

Yeah, they called me up about this kid they got in Double A. Supposed to be a real smoker. They wanna bring him up fast.

BUBBA

Oh yeah?

SCOTTY

So we gotta make some adjustments here on the roster.

BUBBA

Who are you cutting?

SCOTTY

Looks like it's gonna have to be you.

BUBBA

(staying cool)

Oh yeah?

SCOTTY

You got off to a slow start...

BUBBA

I always start slow. You know what happens when I get goin'.

SCOTTY

Yeah, except the last couple of seasons -- since your arm...

*

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA
But my arm's feelin' strong, and
I'm throwin' a slider now...

SCOTTY
Yeah, I know... Look, you've pitched
a lot of ballgames, Bubba, and...

BUBBA
Where am I goin'?

SCOTTY
Chattanooga.

BUBBA
No way.

SCOTTY
They got a good team...

BUBBA
I know what they got in Chattanooga.
I've been there... on the way up.

SCOTTY
Look, it ain't like I wanna do this...

BUBBA
I been kickin' around this place
for seven years trying to get up to
the majors, and now you're tellin'
me I'm goin' down?

SCOTTY
Maybe if you pitch a couple of
solid games down there...

BUBBA
I ain't got the time, Scotty! I'm
thirty years old! I ain't goin'.
That's it.

SCOTTY
What'll you do?

BUBBA
Oh, I'll rest the arm, and...
(forced gaiety)
... exercise everything else.

SCOTTY
Are you okay for money?

*

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED: (3)

4

BUBBA

How can I need money? You guys pay
almost as good as unemployment.

SCOTTY

Well, if there's anything I can do
for you...

BUBBA

There is...

(putting down
beer can)

... got anything real to drink?

And Scotty reaches into his desk, comes up with bottle
of booze.

5

INT. COUNTRY ROCK BAR - NIGHT

5

A band plays lively music as people dance. Bubba is
seated next to Sherry. Ray, Chuck, Tony and their
dates are seated around the table. Everyone is talking
animatedly except Ray who is watching Bubba out of the
corner of his eye.

*
*
*

RAY

You okay?

*
*

BUBBA

I'm fine.

*
*

RAY

Sure?

*
*

BUBBA

Don't worry about me! Sherry's
gonna keep me in shape. Isn't
that right?

*
*
*
*

SHERRY

I'll see what I can do.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

Bubba puts his arm around Sherry and grandstanding lays a lingering kiss on her. Sherry loves it. Ray is becoming convinced that Bubba is okay, so he now moves into high gear.

*
*
*
*

RAY

Now listen, Sherry, there's a few things you should know about Bubba before you get carried away.

SHERRY

What...?

BUBBA

(playful)

Don't listen to anything he tells you.

*

RAY

I don't suppose he told you about his snake collection?

*

SHERRY

No.

Sherry is interested; Bubba starts to laugh.

RAY

He's got big pythons and boa constrictors living in his apartment.

SHERRY

What?

*

RAY

... that love to wrap themselves around girls and squeeze...

*

BUBBA

The only thing in my apartment that loves to squeeze girls is me.

*
*

Bubba gives Sherry a big squeeze.

*

BUBBA

(continuing)

Let's boogie!

*
*
*

Ray takes his date; Chuck, Tony and their girl friends AD LIB as they go on dance floor.

5A DANCE FLOOR

5A

Bubba, Sherry, Ray, Chuck and Tony and the girls are among those dancing. The dancing has a competitive air to it, with Ray and Bubba trying to top each other with more outrageous stunts, jumping on each other's back, Bubba dancing with two girls at the same time, etc.

(CONTINUED)

5A CONTINUED:

5A

Bubba staggers from the dance floor as the MUSIC ENDS and goes to the bar.

BUBBA

Gimme a pitcher...

Bubba notices that the Monday night baseball game is on television. AL, a large man, is watching the game next to Bubba.

AL

(reacting to TV)

Now that is the dumbest-looking face I've seen all night. Uhhhhh
-- I hit ball with stick.

Other people laugh as Bubba looks up at the game, then taps Al on the shoulder.

BUBBA

Hey, don't talk about him like that.

AL

What's that?

BUBBA

He's a major league baseball player.

AL

Oh, yeah?...

BUBBA

That's right. He's playing with the best.

AL

Who are you -- the Commissioner of Baseball? Get back in your cage.

Bartender delivers a pitcher of beer and Bubba pays for it as Al turns away. Bubba picks up the pitcher and pours it on Al's head. Ray watches from the dance floor.

BUBBA

Sorry -- thought you were a beer mug.

Bubba starts to walk away as Al gets off his stool and yanks Bubba down to the floor from behind. Ray signals to Tony and Chuck that a fight is on and they rush to Bubba's aid. In moments a brawl is underway with Bubba leading the fight.

6

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE NIGHTCLUB

6

Bubba, Sherry, Ray and the other ballplayers and their girl friends come rolling out of the bar. Bubba has a cut lip, his shirt is torn, but he is in high spirits.

BUBBA

All right. Who we gonna take on next?

RAY'S GIRL

Let's do it!

RAY

(a little sore)

The next one you do by yourself.

BUBBA

I know this bar downtown...

RAY

Man, you know what time it is?

BUBBA

Come on, we're just starting to roll.

CHUCK

We better split. We got a day game tomorrow.

REACTION SHOT of Bubba realizing he will not be at the game tomorrow.

CHUCK'S GIRL

(wanting the evening to continue)

Oh come on, Chuck, it'd be fun.

BUBBA

(recovering)

Man, you guys are always runnin' out of gas on me.

RAY

Okay, okay, let's move it out.

The guys begin to walk their girls to the cars.

TONY'S GIRL

Watch out for the snakes, Sherry!

The others laugh, say goodbye.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

BUBBA
Go on home. Don't forget to say
your prayers.

Ray and his girl get into a car while Tony, Chuck, and their girls get into another car and drive away, honking, leaving Bubba and Sherry. There is a moment where Bubba feels his aloneness. He turns to Sherry, hisses like a snake and goes for her neck.

7
thru
14

OMITTED

7
thru
14

14A INT. BUBBA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

14A

Funky, sloppy -- Bubba does not run a tight ship. Various sport trophies, clippings and pictures (unframed) scotch taped to the walls. The only exception is a picture of Bubba as a little leaguer with his father, in military uniform, that is framed and in a prominent place.

It is a few days later, Bubba dressed, lounges in bed, drinking beer, with a movie on TV as he finishes looking at the sports section of the paper. For a moment he glances at the classified ads, gets up and goes to the refrigerator for a beer. The PHONE RINGS. He looks at the phone but decides not to answer it, deciding instead to leave his apartment.

As he prepares to go outside, he glances at the little area in the apartment with the trophies and the picture of his father and himself as a little leaguer. He puts his keys in his pocket, the phone stops ringing, and he walks out.

15 EXT. PLAYGROUND FIELD - NIGHT

15

Bubba walks into a playground, carrying a large bag with six-packs in one hand, while drinking from a bottle of whiskey held in the other hand, camouflaged by a bag.

16 EXT. BLEACHERS

16

Bubba sits in the bleachers, alone, staring at the ballfield in front of him.

17 OMITTED
thru
19

17 *
thru *
19 *

20 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD

20 *

Bubba carries his bag of beer cans as he walks out to the pitcher's mound. Bubba puts down the bag, crumples one of the empties and goes into a full windup, pitching the can towards home plate. He comes to a resting position as the field lights go out. Bubba looks up, then reaches in his bag.

21 SEVERAL SHOTS

21

We SEE Bubba crushing and then pitching several empty beer cans towards home plate, each being thrown with more intensity.

22 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

22

A group of ten kids stand around the sleeping body of Bubba on the pitcher's mound as other kids play in b.g. Michael is the oldest, tough, seated on his bicycle with its high handlebars, wearing his sleeveless vest, clearly in charge of the situation. PAUL, his brother, eight, is the smallest of the group, stands next to him. TANK, ten, overweight, fast thinking, Chicano. SHIRLEY, eleven, black, one foot in childhood, the other in adolescence, strong, tough like the boys. LISA, ten, loud, opinionated, Chicano. LARRY is eleven, black, close with Michael and his chief rival, but a follower. RANDY is ten, a girl, rides a bike and s-tries to keep up with the boys. MOLLY is nine, quiet, always watching.

PAUL

Is he dead?

LISA

I think so.

TANK

He's not dead. You can see his stomach moving.

PAUL

What's he doing here?

MICHAEL

He's drunk.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

RANDY

Can he hear what we're saying?

MICHAEL

Nah -- he's as drunk as a skunk.

The kids laugh.

SHIRLEY

Look at all that beer he drank.

MICHAEL

(holding up the
bourbon bottle)

This is the stuff that got him...
whiskey.

He smells the bottle and pretends to enjoy it.

MICHAEL

(continuing)

Ooooh-weeee!

PAUL

Let me smell it.

Paul smells the bottle, makes a face, hands it to the
others.

TANK

Look, there's a can that's not
open yet.

LARRY

Where?

TANK

Right next to his hand.

RANDY

Let's drink it.

LARRY

Yeah, let's get drunk.

MICHAEL

You can't get drunk on one can of
beer.

LISA

You better leave it alone. He's
gonna get mad if he finds out
somebody took his beer.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

LARRY

Ah, he's not gonna remember.

Larry pushes Molly forward.

LARRY

(continuing)

Go get it, Molly.

MOLLY

(scared)

Don't push me!

PAUL

(to Michael)

Should I get it?

MICHAEL

You want me to get it for you?

PAUL

No, I'll get it.

Paul gets off his bike and moves for the can. He extends his hand slowly around the can and begins to pull it away. He looks back at Michael with a big smile. Bubba's hand begins to move towards Paul's arm as he grabs Paul's wrist. Paul's face is struck with terror.

BUBBA

(like a troll)

That's my beer!

The kids scatter in different directions. Michael starts to go and sees his brother is being held by Bubba.

PAUL

Let go!

Michael jumps off his bike and kicks Bubba hard in the leg as Paul escapes. Paul and Michael grab their bikes and ride.

BUBBA

Oww! Hey, you little punk!

Bubba gets up, stumbling, as he runs after Michael. He slips and falls on the ground, giving up.

22A INT. PUBLIC RESTROOM - DAY

22A

Bubba is washing his face, looking at himself in the mirror, feeling the effects of the drinking.

22B EXT. PLAYGROUND

22B

Bubba walks out of the restroom, combing his hair, looking around.

MEGAN BARRET, a good-looking young woman wearing running clothes comes out of the playground office and locks the door, pinning the key to her trunks. She starts doing warmup stretches.

Bubba watches with pleasure.

Megan completes the stretches and prepares to run.

BUBBA

Don't forget those stomach muscles...

Megan looks over at Bubba as she starts to run across the field. As she crosses the baseball diamond she sees the beer cans scattered across the field. She stops, disgusted, and picks up some of the cans and carries them to a garbage can. Bubba walks over.

BUBBA

(continuing)

You drink all that beer by yourself?

Megan ignores him, picking up another load.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Here, let me give you a hand...

Bubba bends over and picks up a can. His face winces from the hangover as he bends over. He throws the can away.

BUBBA

(continuing)

You know...

Bubba turns to see that Megan has taken off again, running.

Megan runs methodically, breathing easily. She hears FOOTSTEPS behind her. *

BUBBA

(continuing)

You set a pretty good pace. *

Megan turns to see Bubba, who is running up to her side.

(CONTINUED)

22B CONTINUED:

22B

BUBBA
(continuing)
You know, I'm a professional
baseball player.

Megan doesn't respond.

BUBBA
(continuing;
extending his hand)
Bubba Newman, San Jose Stallions.

MEGAN
Never heard of 'em.

BUBBA
You never heard of the Stallions?
Where you been?

MEGAN
I've been busy.

BUBBA
You don't know what you're missing.

Megan sees Michael and Larry almost collide on their
bikes.

BUBBA
(continuing)
You never know who you might...

MEGAN
(cutting him off,
yelling at kids)
Watch where you're going, Michael!
I'll be over there in a minute.

BUBBA
That your kid?

MEGAN
They're all my kids. I supervise
the playground in this area.

BUBBA
Now I'm impressed.

JEEP, a nine year old boy, rugged, energetic, is riding
past on his bike. He looks at Bubba.

(CONTINUED)

22B CONTINUED: (2)

22B

JEEP
That the new coach?

MEGAN
No. I speed up the second mile.

Megan picks up the pace, moving ahead of Bubba. Bubba picks up his pace, meeting the challenge.

BUBBA
So where's the new coach?

No response.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Where's the old coach?

MEGAN
There isn't one right now.

BUBBA
How come?

MEGAN
He quit last week.

BUBBA
How come he quit?

MEGAN
He couldn't take it.

BUBBA
Take what?

MEGAN
He couldn't get along with the kids.

BUBBA
Kids? They're a snap. You just gotta know how to handle 'em.

MEGAN
Thanks. I'll remember to say that next time a coach quits on me.

BUBBA
So what's the problem. You just get somebody to take his place.

(CONTINUED)

22B CONTINUED: (2A)

22B

MEGAN
(preoccupied)

Yeah...

Bubba notices that Megan is disturbed.

BUBBA
What's this coaching job pay?

(CONTINUED)

22B CONTINUED: (3)

22B

MEGAN

Not that much.

BUBBA

How much?

MEGAN

It comes to about seven hundred
a month.

BUBBA

You could get rich working for that.

MEGAN

The job has its own rewards.

BUBBA

(looking at Megan)

I can see that.

Megan ignores the comment.

BUBBA

(continuing)

So what kind of a guy you lookin'
for?

MEGAN

Someone who can inspire these
kids to do something with their
lives.

BUBBA

I could do that.

Megan looks at Bubba who is trying to cast an impres-
sive image, and starts to laugh.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What're you laughing at?

MEGAN

Nothing... You don't look very
inspiring.

BUBBA

What are you talking about? I'm
a professional athlete!Bubba slows down, considers the situation, makes a
decision, and then sprints past Megan with a burst of
speed, heading for the high bar.

(CONTINUED)

22B CONTINUED: (4)

22B

Once he reaches the high bar he does many rapid chin-ups, climbs the rope and showboats with another feat before running back to Megan and rejoining her, stride for stride, as she runs. Megan has enjoyed Bubba's demonstration but restrains her enthusiasm.

BUBBA

(continuing;
completely out
of breath)

Now, why don't we have dinner
and we can talk about it?

MEGAN

No.

Megan slows down, having finished her run. Bubba looks back, slowing down.

BUBBA

At least we can have breakfast...

MEGAN

I don't eat breakfast.

BUBBA

Do you eat lunch?

MEGAN

Yes.

BUBBA

Great. I know a nice, cozy place
we can go...

MEGAN

(deciding to take
a chance)

I'll pick the place.

23 EXT. COFFEE SHOP (BURGER KING) - DAY

23 |

Bubba waits in front, nicely dressed in casual clothes, as Megan approaches.

BUBBA

Right on time -- I like that in
my women.

Megan looks at bubba with contempt as he holds the door open for her.

24 INT. COFFEE SHOP

24

It is the peak of lunch hour business, with kids crying, waitresses running, customers shouting. Bubba and Megan stand looking for a table.

BUBBA

You're real big on atmosphere,
aren't you.

25 TABLE

25

Bubba and Megan are eating lunch as they talk. Bubba is getting a little bored but pays attention.

MEGAN

These kids have either been abandoned or ignored or beaten down so much that they already act like they don't care what happens to their lives. Any way they look at it, it's hopeless. How do you motivate kids like that? If they could just see it another way...

BUBBA

I get the idea. So the city gave you a program to help these kids.

MEGAN

They didn't give us a thing. I had to fight to get this program started. And it's a fight to keep it going. The parks and recreation department want to see results or they'll drop the program. And their idea of results is they expect a team from this playground at the all city track meet in eight weeks.

BUBBA

So?

MEGAN

So we're trying. But there's never been a team from this playground and...

BUBBA

Well, like I always say, there's a first time for everything.

Megan notices his optimism but isn't convinced.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

MEGAN

Everyone's so sure it can't be done.

BUBBA

I'm not so sure. You just gotta get in there where you can make it happen. It takes time. You talk a little, you mess around, have a good time, put on a little music, dance...

*

MEGAN

(getting up)

I don't know why I take the time with people like you. You think about one thing all the time...

BUBBA

(pulling her down)

I was kidding you. Come on. It's a joke.

MEGAN

You're a joke.

BUBBA

Okay, listen. I'll do it. I'll take the job.

MEGAN

What do you mean, you'll take the job? Nobody's offering it to you.

*
*
*

BUBBA

Hey, I hear what you're talking about. You're right. It's not easy gettin' through to kids like that... I'll get your team for you. Trust me.

*
*
*
*
*
*

MEGAN

Why?

*
*

BUBBA

Why? You wanna know why? 'Cause I said I'll do it and I'm Bubba Newman.

*
*
*
*

Megan looks at Bubba, considers.

*

MEGAN

No.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED: (2)

25

BUBBA

Who else have you got? Why don't
you give me a shot? You don't like
what you see, I'll go.

MEGAN

What about your baseball team?

*

*

BUBBA

Ah -- I've been playin' ball
since I was eight. I got tired of it.

*

*

*

Megan considers.

*

MEGAN

I'll give you a week. And I'll
be watching you.

BUBBA

I hope so.

MEGAN

You better get a good night's sleep.
You're gonna need it tomorrow.

BUBBA

Let's get out of here.

Bubba reaches for the check. Megan gets to it
before Bubba.

MEGAN

I'll pay my half.

BUBBA

You can pay the whole thing!
You're the boss -- remember?

Bubba smiles.

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (NEXT DAY) 26

A pickup truck drives up and Bubba gets out.

27 ANGLE - BUBBA 27

as the CAMERA PANS UP Bubba, REVEALING first his baseball shoes, white athletic socks, shorts, a warm-up jacket, carrying an athletic bag, Bubba's jaw working on a piece of gum, sunglasses and a baseball cap. Bubba is sizing up the situation and is the coach.

He crosses the baseball field, passes some high bars with ropes. In the distance he sees a group of the kids.

28 BASKETBALL COURTS 28

Several of the kids are standing around Michael, on his bike, talking to Paul.

*
*
*

PAUL

But I was on the end last time.

MICHAEL

Doesn't matter. You gotta go where I tell you or you can't be in it.

TANK

If he's not gonna do it, let's forget it.

*

MICHAEL

Just stay there.
(to Paul)
Come here.

Michael and Paul move away.

MICHAEL

(continuing)

The reason why you're on the end is because you got more guts than any of these guys.

PAUL

I do?

(CONTINUED)

28

CONTINUED:

28

MICHAEL
'Course you do. Don't you know
that? Here, I'm gonna let you
wear this for me

Michael takes off his vest and gives it to Paul, who
puts it on. It's big, but Paul's proud. He walks back
to his place.

MICHAEL
(continuing)
Okay, now here we go. Everybody
get down. Nobody moves.

*
*

LISA
I want my dime now.

JEEP
Yeah, me too.

Bubba watches as Michael takes dimes out of his pocket
and hands them to the kids. The kids begin to get in
place.

*
*

MICHAEL
Come on... let's do it.

*

Michael rides his bike away from the kids as Bubba
approaches.

BUBBA
Hey -- what's happening?

*

PAUL
He's goin' over us on his bike.

*

BUBBA
That what you had in mind?

MICHAEL
That's right.

BUBBA
Well you can forget it.

MICHAEL
Why?

BUBBA
Because I said so.

MICHAEL
Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

BUBBA
(hesitating)
I'm the... new coach.

LARRY
Where's Megan?

BUBBA
She'll be around. Come on, you
can't do that. You could hurt
somebody.

MICHAEL
Nobody gets hurt. I've done it
before.

PAUL
But this is the first time with
eight kids.

BUBBA
There's lots better ways you kids
can spend your time. Okay
now, my name's Bubba Newman.
Some of you kids who go to
baseball games might know me.

No response from the kids.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Yeah, well I'm the new coach here.
So we'll get to know each other,
you're gonna be doin' certain
things here...

MICHAEL
Like what?

BUBBA
Like, there's this track meet
coming up in eight weeks.

MICHAEL
(to the others)
Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

BUBBA

You got a problem?

MICHAEL

No problem.

RANDY

We already heard about it.

LARRY

We're not interested.

TANK

We got our own things to do.

PAUL

That's right.

BUBBA

Like jump on each other with your bikes.

MICHAEL

You got it.

BUBBA

What's your name, pal?

MICHAEL

I ain't your pal.

BUBBA

(pulling a piece of
paper out of his pocket)
Listen, I got your names down here
on this list. You've been signed
up to be at this place every day.

JEEP

Not me.

*

LISA

Yes you are.

LARRY

Hey, you're that wino we saw out
on the field.

*

BUBBA

What'd you say?

SHIRLEY

You mean the guy who was sleeping
out there with all those beer cans?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (4)

28

LISA

Yeah, that's him.

Bubba surveys the kids -- all against him.

BUBBA

You kids think you're pretty smart, don't you.

PAUL

Was that you?

BUBBA

Yeah, that was me. And now, this is me. I'll be lettin' you know what's goin' on...

Bubba starts to walk away from the group.

TANK

Hiccup.

Bubba hears this and the kids laughing. He keeps walking.

29 INT. PLAYGROUND OFFICE - DAY

29

Bubba unlocks the door and goes inside, putting down his bag and hanging up his hat. It is dark inside. He looks around the office, then opens the venetian blinds to let some light in. Out the window he sees Michael getting the kids back in line for the jump.

*
*

BUBBA

Hey!

30 EXT. BASKETBALL COURTS

30

Michael is ready on his bike.

*

MICHAEL

Okay, here we go.

*
*

Bubba approaches from behind.

*

BUBBA

Hey, you!

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Michael is distracted by Tank getting up and has to stop his bike before going off the ramp. Michael sees Bubba coming.

MICHAEL

Let's go -- Hurry up.

The kids are caught in the middle.

Bubba reaches the group and approaches Michael as the kids move back.

BUBBA

Okay, you're out of here. Let's go.

MICHAEL

What?

BUBBA

I want you outta here, now!

MICHAEL

You can't make me go.

BUBBA

Are you gonna move that bike or am I gonna move it for you.

LARRY

That's cold.

Michael picks up his bike and moves it away from Bubba.

BUBBA

There's just a few rules around here, and the main one is I'm the law. If you don't like it, you can go someplace else.

MICHAEL

Let's go, Paul.

Paul looks for a moment at Bubba and then follows his brother.

TANK

Wait up, Michael,

RANDY

Yeah.

Tank, Randy, Jeep and Larry pick up their bikes and follow Michael. Bubba watches them as they go.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

SHIRLEY

Coach, will you give me a boost?

Shirley points to the high bar. Bubba nods and walks over with her, Lisa and Randy.

31 BUBBA'S POV OF THE BOYS

31

SHIRLEY (O.S.)

They think they're so hot.

LISA (O.S.)

The only reason Paul's going is because he does everything Michael tells him to.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)

He's Michael's brother. He's nice except when he's around Michael.

LISA (O.S.)

Which is always.

BUBBA (O.S.)

Who's the one with the big mouth?

LISA (O.S.)

And the big behind. That's Tank.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)

Tank thinks Michael's God.

LISA (O.S.)

He's the worst. I hate him.

MOLLY (O.S.)

Me, too.

They arrive at the high bar. Shirley reaches for the bar.

BUBBA

Ready?

He boosts Shirley up to the bar.

SHIRLEY

Are you really a baseball player?

BUBBA

That's right. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 31

SHIRLEY
(enjoying the
contact)
Just a second. It's slippery.

32 OUTSIDE THE FENCE 32

The boys sit on their bikes, watching, laughing.

TANK
Watch where you're putting those hands!

LARRY
That's just where she wants 'em.

*
*
*
*

32 BUBBA 32

realizes what they're laughing at and lets go of Shirley. She slips and starts to fall. Bubba catches her before she hits the ground. The boys are whistling, laughing.

LARRY
Not bad for the first day, Shirley!

DISSOLVE TO:

34 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - SAME DAY 34

MUSIC as Bubba has set up a wire target at home plate and is throwing balls through it from the pitcher's mound. A bucket of balls is beside him. Bubba is throwing hard and his arm is hurting him. Bubba continues to throw harder, trying to surpass the pain with more effort.

35 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE PLAYGROUND 35

The boys are playing an elaborate game of follow-the-leader, with Michael in the lead, going over curbs, around cars, etc. A car comes down the street being driven by Megan. Randy, behind the others, zooms out from behind a car right into Megan's path. She slams on the brakes, and narrowly misses him. Megan gets out of the car, upset.

MEGAN
Are you okay?

Randy nods.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

MEGAN

(continuing)

What are you doing out here? You're supposed to be on the playground.

MICHAEL

The coach kicked us out.

MEGAN

He what?

LARRY

That's right.

MEGAN

You get those bikes out of the street. I'll take care of him.

Megan gets back in her car.

36 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD

36

Bubba throws a pitch that causes him to really wince with pain. Angry, he kicks the bucket of balls and throws down his glove. Megan approaches quickly across the field.

MEGAN

Bubba!

BUBBA

What!

MEGAN

Did you kick those kids off the playground?

Bubba looks over at Megan.

MEGAN

(continuing)

Did you tell them to go ride in the street?

BUBBA

One of your underprivileged kids better learn that when I tell him not to do something, I mean it.

MEGAN

You've got no right to endanger their lives. Do you know that I almost hit Randy with my car?

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

No one told the others they had to go. That's their business.

MEGAN

Wrong. That's your business. Your job is to take care of these kids and you're not doing your job.

BUBBA

Listen, who's running the show here -- you or me!

MEGAN

Until you show me you can do the job, I am! And you haven't shown me a thing.

Bubba pauses, tries to justify himself.

BUBBA

I told that kid I didn't want him jumping over the other kids with his bike. You may not believe this, but the reason I told him that was 'cause I didn't want to see one of the kids with a bicycle tire in his mouth. Now if that's not taking care of the kids, then maybe you better lay it out for me one more time.

MEGAN

It's a little more complicated than that. Those little tricks he does are about all he's got to feel good about in his life. You come in here on the first day and tell him he can't do that, of course he's going to do it.

BUBBA

So what am I supposed to do -- call an ambulance and tell them to get ready.

MEGAN

We'll have to work something out. Now I'm going to bring them back...

BUBBA

Don't bring back Evel Knievel. He stays out for the rest of the day.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

I'm bringing them all back now.

BUBBA

No more tricks.

MEGAN

Listen, I can't be here to settle these things for you.

BUBBA

Yeah yeah.

MEGAN

I want you to talk to them, Bubba. Straighten it out.

Megan walks away towards the street.

Bubba watches as Megan talks to the boys and leads them back onto the playground. They ride defiantly past Bubba, circling around him as Bubba looks them over.

BUBBA

All right, now we've been talking here and I decided to let you guys come back, provided that you listen to what I say.

Megan shoots a threatening look at Bubba.

BUBBA

(continuing)

And I'm gonna listen to what you have to say. Just as long as you don't do any more of those tricks 'cause they're too dangerous...

Michael takes off on his bike, doing a wheely and then taking a leap over an obstacle. The other kids whoop it up and follow his lead. Bubba is furious.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Hey, why don't you just go jump off a building and get it over with!

Bubba starts to walk away disgusted, looks up and sees a troubled Megan looking at Bubba.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What're you lookin' at!

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED; (3)

36

Bubba looks back at the kids, and then at Megan as he walks back to the kids.

37 EXT. PARKING LOT OF BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

37

It is early Saturday morning as Bubba drives into the "Players Entrance" of the parking lot. The GUARD recognizes Bubba.

GUARD

Hey, Bubba, where you been hidin'?

Bubba waves, not stopping as he drives his car close to the stadium and parks. He walks past vendors, preparing their programs, souvenirs for the game. Bubba nods to them as they say hello.

38 EXT. CLUBHOUSE ENTRANCE

38

Bubba goes inside the clubhouse.

39 INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

39

Bubba walks in hoping to avoid seeing any of the players. Phil is working on Ray's knee in the whirlpool bath. Bubba hesitates when he hears Ray's voice.

*
*

RAY

It just started again last night.
I couldn't even move it. Ow.
Right there. Easy. You gotta
give me something to take for
it.

*
*

PHIL

You oughta have the doc look at
that.

RAY

Just gimme something for it. And
you don't have to go mouthin' off
to Scotty about it.

PHIL

Ray, that's my job.

RAY

And playin' is my job.

PHIL

All right, all right.

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED;

39

Bubba's taken all this in, now puts a smile on his face, comes out and crosses in behind Ray, tickles him.

RAY

Hey! What the...

He turns and sees Bubba.

PHIL

Say, Bubba.

RAY

Where you been, man? I been trying to find you.

BUBBA

I been around.

RAY

What 'around' -- I been leaving messages all over town.

BUBBA

Well, I guess you're leaving 'em at the wrong places.

RAY

What's happening?

BUBBA

I've been hanging out...

RAY

I bet you been in bed the whole time.

BUBBA

That's right.

*

RAY

With who?

*

BUBBA

Which night?

*

RAY

Listen to this guy.

*

*

*

BUBBA

Phil, listen, how do I get my hands on a batting machine?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

RAY

What you want with a batting machine?

BUBBA

I'm gonna wash the dishes. What do you think I want?

RAY

You planning on doing some heavy hitting?

BUBBA

I've always been a good hitting pitcher... Now I'll be a good hitting hitter. How much would one of those machines cost me?

PHIL

I could probably get you one for about six hundred dollars.

BUBBA

No, I mean, sort of, you know, a used one...

PHIL

That's a used one.

BUBBA

A bad, old used one...

Phil shrugs.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Yeah... well, let me know when they go on sale.

RAY

Well, hey, listen -- I don't care how you do it, you gotta get your butt back on this club.

BUBBA

I'll see what I can do. I ain't over yet.

RAY

All right. We're gonna get this team together!

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED; (3)

39

BUBBA

That's right.

Bubba starts to leave.

*

RAY

Hey, where you goin'?

*

BUBBA

I gotta go sign some autographs.

*

A39 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

A39

Bubba walks out of the dugout, onto the field. The field is empty except for a groundskeeper who is watering the field. Bubba looks around, takes it all in.

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

B39 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING (STOCK SHOT) B39

ESTABLISH San Jose City office's building.

39A INT. MEGAN'S OFFICE - DAY 39A

Her office is in a cubicle in a large, busy room with many offices, PHONES RINGING.

Megan is on the phone behind her desk as Bubba stares at the citations, a few pictures on her desk.

MEGAN

(on the phone)

I'm going to need the numbers on how many kids are signed up... yes, with economic and racial profile of the kids -- that's right... Thursday... okay... Thanks for your help on that...

Megan hangs up the phone.

*

BUBBA

(pointing to group picture)

Is that your boy friend next to you?

MEGAN

What?

Megan is unsettled by Bubba's question.

BUBBA

He's a hunk, isn't he.

*

MEGAN

Come on. I've got a meeting in five minutes.

Bubba knows he's getting to Megan. He walks around to a chair and sits.

BUBBA

You don't have to tell me.

MEGAN

(picking up check)

Look, we got a check yesterday and we're going to use the money to buy equipment for your playground.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED:

39A

MEGAN (CONT'D)

(looking at piece
of paper)

I want you to get hurdles, a high
jump bar and pit, baseballs,
uniforms for the kids, basketballs.
It'd be nice if we could get
running shoes for the kids...

BUBBA

How much money you got there?

Bubba reaches over and looks at the amount of money
on the check.

BUBBA

(continuing)

You know, sports equipment costs
a lot of money...

MEGAN

Six hundred and fifty is all we're
gonna get, so don't plan on
spending any more.

BUBBA

I'll see what I can do.

MEGAN

You know what we need, right?

BUBBA

(folding check)

Yeah. Don't worry. I'll take
care of it.

MEGAN

Why don't you take this list with
you.

She hands the list to Bubba. He takes it from her.
He smiles at her. She looks at Bubba as he starts to
leave, wondering if she's made the right decision.

*
*
*

40 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

40

The kids are standing in a semi-circle around Bubba.
Bubba is dressed for a workout, wearing T-shirt, stop-
watch around his neck.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

BUBBA

We're gonna see what kind of
shape you guys are in. If we're
gonna be ready for that track
meet coming up...

The kids groan.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Yeah, yeah. I already heard
about it. Now, since you haven't
got a real track out here, you
guys are gonna have to pretend
like there's one.

MICHAEL

Oh boy! We get to pretend!

The other kids echo "Oh boy!" and laugh.

TANK

And you can pretend I'm running
around it.

LARRY

Hey, I'm a kite and I'm floatin'
up there high in the sky.

JEEP

I'm the invisible man -- and I'm
gone!

The kids laugh some more as Bubba stops, looking at
them.

BUBBA

All right -- so what do you guys
want to do?

MICHAEL

We wanna get stoned.

KIDS

All right.

LARRY

I'll take some tequila with a
little lemon on the side.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

RANDY

I wanna cruise on my bike.

SHIRLEY

Put on some music and let's
boogie down!

Molly and Shirley start to dance.

LISA

It's too hot to run around.

PAUL

Yeah, we wanna stay cool.

MICHAEL

We didn't ask for no track meet
and we didn't ask for you, coach.

KIDS

All right.

Bubba assesses the united front against him. Bubba
strikes a pose or two mimicking the kids.

BUBBA

You fools are putting me through
some changes. I thought you
guys were supposed to be the real
thing.

LARRY

That's right. We are bad!

BUBBA

Well now, you're gonna have to
show me just how bad you are.

MICHAEL

Check it out, guys. The coach
is tryin' to use a little
psychology on us.

KIDS

Hey! Watch out! I see you comin'!
Can't fool me!

Bubba drops that approach, decides to talk straight.

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

All right now, dig this. We definitely got ourselves a problem here. Because my job is to get you guys ready for a track meet. And you see, the thing is... I don't mess around. When I decide I'm gonna do something, it's gonna get done. And what we're gonna be doin' here is gettin' you guys into some shape so you don't embarrass yourselves in front of the rest of the city at this track meet. 'Cause you are definitely gonna be there. Now I can't see a muscle out there...

Tank flexes his arm.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What's that supposed to be?

TANK

It's a muscle. Ain't you never seen one?

BUBBA

(pointing at
Tank's stomach)

What's this? You like walkin' around with all that? You wanna grow up and be some fat guy?

TANK

Yeah, maybe I do.

LARRY

Roll over him, Tank.

TANK

(to Larry)

I'll roll on you.

BUBBA

You guys look like you're asleep. Look at you.

The kids look around, think they look pretty good.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Now what you're gonna be doin' is gettin' to know your bodies.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (4)

40

SHIRLEY

(rubbing her sides)

How do you do!

The kids laugh.

BUBBA

That's right. You're gonna work out. You're gonna see how far you can go. And when you're all finished here, you're gonna feel good about your body. And that makes you feel good about yourself.

MICHAEL

Hey coach --

BUBBA

My name's not coach. My name's Bubba.

MICHAEL

Do we have to do it, Bubba?

Bubba looks at Michael, but doesn't respond.

BUBBA

No you don't have to do it. I wanna tell you guys something -- You know, nobody out there's gonna respect you unless you have some respect for yourself. Don't let the guy next to you tell you what to do. You decide what you want to do with your body.

The kids listen, consider. Paul looks to Michael who isn't impressed. Others look around.

BUBBA

(continuing)

All right now, let's get out there and do some warm-ups!

Bubba starts to run, turns and sees that the kids aren't moving. He sees that Michael still has the group though it's getting close. Bubba looks hard at Michael.

BUBBA

(continuing)

How much were you paying these guys to let you jump over them on your bike?

*

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (5)

40

PAUL

He gave us a d...

LARRY

(cutting off Paul)

A quarter.

BUBBA

All right, listen! Anybody who works out with me gets a quarter. But you gotta earn it. No quitting in the middle.

The kids look it over.

LARRY

I could use a little change.

Gradually the kids begin to spread out as Bubba watches.

PAUL

(to Michael)

You gonna do it?

MICHAEL

I can get money a lot easier than that.

PAUL

I'm gonna do it, okay?

MICHAEL

Do whatever you want.

Michael moves away from the group and takes a seat on the bleachers as the kids spread out.

MUSIC OVER. Bubba leads the kids through some warm-up exercises -- jumping jacks, burpies, stretches. Some of the kids have a tough time coordinating the motion.

Bubba and the kids set up benches so that they are like a series of hurdles. Bubba runs back and cheers the kids on as he times them for the race.

Bubba shows them how to climb a rope. He points to his feet and shows how they help him. The kids look up as Bubba talks, particularly Paul, who is afraid of the rope.

The different kids make their way up the rope. Bubba jokes, compliments them along the way. The kids are enjoying themselves.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (6)

40

NOTE: By the end of this montage, we should feel that the kids are enjoying themselves and will not need to be bribed again.

Paul tries to climb the rope, gets five feet off the ground and gives up.

BUBBA

What was that?

PAUL

I can't do it.

BUBBA

I thought you guys were tough.
You're a bunch of babies.

*

Paul is deeply hurt by Bubba's comment and sets out to prove that he's not a baby.

Michael sits alone on the bleachers, watching.

The kids try high jumping over a makeshift bar. Tank crashes through it.

The kids run a kind of relay race where they have to run on all fours. Paul is getting more exhausted, but pushing.

Bubba is timing the kids in the final activity of a long distance race. Paul is falling far behind but pushing to keep going. Bubba calls out times as the kids finish, exhausted.

BUBBA

Two twenty-five, two twenty-six...
Good... That's the way to go.

Only half finished, Paul keeps on and then collapses. Bubba sees him go down.

Michael sees his brother fall and runs out onto the field. The other kids follow after,

Paul is lying on the ground, face flushed as Bubba arrives, holds up his head.

PAUL

I can do it.

BUBBA

I know you can. You just lie there for a second.

PAUL

I'm not a baby.

*

Bubba looks at Paul as Michael and the other kids arrive.

41 EXT. PARKING LOT

41

Megan gets out of car, sees group in the distance.

42 FIELD

42

BUBBA

He's all right. Just give him some air.

MICHAEL

You okay, Paul?

Paul nods.

LARRY

He's fakin' it. He just wants his quarter.

MICHAEL

(pushing Larry)
Hey, shut up!

LARRY

What's the matter with you man!
Don't you push me!

Larry pushes Michael who stumbles. The two start to fight. Bubba watches, impressed with Michael's loyalty, does nothing to break up the fight.

43 MEGAN

43

is running towards the scene. She sees Paul on the ground, the fight in progress.

MEGAN

What are you doing? Stop it!
Stop fighting! Michael. Do something! Stop them!

Bubba moves in and pulls Michael away as Megan attends to Larry.

MEGAN

(continuing)
Just cool off, Larry.

LARRY

You don't push me around...

MICHAEL

You don't talk about my brother!

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

That's enough! What is happening here! What happened to Paul?

PAUL

(on the ground)

I'm okay.

MEGAN

(to Bubba)

What are you doing?

BUBBA

Just working out.

MEGAN

Why didn't you stop them?

BUBBA

Sometimes it's better just to let 'em fight it out.

MEGAN

What?

BUBBA

Gets it out of their system. Then they don't have to fight no more.

Michael and Larry look at Bubba.

MEGAN

Are you out of your mind? They're kids.

BUBBA

I know, just let them settle it their way, okay?

MEGAN

No! That's not the way you settle things. We're not living in a cave in case you hadn't noticed.

BUBBA

Ah, why don't you go home and bake a cake.

Tank, a few others clap, laugh.

MEGAN

Now you're getting to it. Now we're really talking like men. You are pathetic.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

Shirley and Lisa respond.

BUBBA

And you don't know what you're
talking about.

More response from boys.

MEGAN

And you do?

BUBBA

Yeah! That's right! And lady,
you don't know what you're doing
out here. You're so busy tellin'
everyone what to...

MEGAN

Just shut up!

JEEP

Hit her, coach!

MEGAN

Yeah, why don't you show the kids
how a real man does it.

SHIRLEY

Get down, mama.

RANDY

(to Jeep)

Shut your mouth.

Randy pushes Jeep.

JEEP

Who you pushin', girl?

He pushes her back.

BUBBA

Ah, forget about it.

Bubba throws his clipboard down and starts to walk
away as Randy and Tank stop pushing.

MEGAN

You're fired!

Bubba grabs his side as if he's been shot.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (3)

43

BUBBA

Ohhhhh!

He continues to walk away. Megan attends to Paul on the ground, trying to calm herself.

MEGAN

What happened, Paul?

MICHAEL

He's okay.

PAUL

Does that mean he's not coming back?

*
*

43A BUBBA

43A

continues walking towards the office. He hears Megan's voice.

MEGAN

Hey!

Bubba turns and sees Megan coming towards him. He continues walking.

MEGAN

(continuing)

I want the check back. Did you hear me?

BUBBA

Yeah, yeah...

The reminder of the money strikes Bubba. We see him considering what he should say next. He doesn't want to give that money back. They walk in silence to the office. Bubba opens the door and goes in ahead of Megan.

44 INT. OFFICE

44

Megan follows Bubba into the office.

MEGAN

And I want the keys...

BUBBA

(changing tone, to great reason)

Okay, now we can talk about this.

*
*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

44

MEGAN

There's nothing to talk about. I want the check.

BUBBA

You had me on the ropes out there. You were looking dangerous.

MEGAN

Come on. Let's go...

BUBBA

Look, I know you're the boss, but you can't run me down like that in front of the kids.

Megan listens, angry.

BUBBA

(continuing)

You think they'd respect me if I let you walk all over me.

MEGAN

That's not the point.

BUBBA

I got news for you -- Respect is the only point out there. If you can't get no respect, you can forget about the rest of it. Now, I'm glad you're here 'cause I wanted you to see what's happening. I think we got ourselves a track team.

MEGAN

I'm not talking about that!

BUBBA

Did you hear what I just said?

MEGAN

There's no excuse for what I saw going on out there.

BUBBA

Oh that... come on. He was sticking up for his little brother. I can't put him down for that.

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED: (2)

44

MEGAN

That may be how you solve your problems. But I want these kids to learn a better way to live where you don't have to hurt someone to get what you want.

BUBBA

I wasn't gonna let anybody get hurt.

Megan looks at Bubba not believing him.

BUBBA

(continuing)

All right. Next time I'll stop it. Okay? You happy?

MEGAN

(gesturing)

I want them to be happy.

BUBBA

Hey, everybody's gonna be happy.

MEGAN

And you're taking care of your equipment.

BUBBA

Yeah, don't worry about it.

Megan looks at Bubba, uncertain, but decides to keep him.

44A EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

44A

Bubba walks out of the office with a baseball and bat. The kids are standing around waiting.

BUBBA

(triumphant)

Guess I'm still the coach.

There is a mixture of reactions. Some of the kids walk away. Some hang around.

SHIRLEY

What're we gonna do now?

LISA

We're not gonna run no more, are we?

(CONTINUED)

44A CONTINUED:

44A

BUBBA
Nah, I think we're gonna play a
little baseball.

The response is mixed.

BUBBA
(continuing)
All right -- everybody over to the
diamond.

In the distance, as the kids start to go, Bubba notices
that Michael is taking care of Paul in the sandbox area.
Bubba tosses the ball in the air and slams it across
the field. He likes the feeling.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

45 EXT. PLAYGROUND FIELD - DAY (EARLY MORNING A WEEK LATER) 45

Bubba is sweating, hitting pitches being thrown at him by a batting machine he has purchased with Megan's equipment money. Bubba connects solidly with most of the fast moving pitches.

46 PAUL 46

rides his bike up to the backstop. He is wearing an old football helmet. He gets off his bike and watches Bubba. Bubba notices him.

BUBBA
(continuing to hit)
What're you wearin' that for?

Paul tries to look impressive.

BUBBA
(continuing)
It's the middle of the baseball season.

PAUL
So?

Paul watches Bubba hit.

PAUL
(continuing)
I can do that.

Bubba doesn't respond. Bubba misses one.

PAUL
(continuing)
I coulda hit it.

Bubba glances over at Paul.

PAUL
(continuing)
Can I do it next?

BUBBA
No.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

PAUL

How come?

BUBBA

Not big enough.

PAUL

(coming forward)

Yes I am. Come on, let me try it.

BUBBA

Stay back! It's too dangerous.

PAUL

I don't care. I'll do it.

BUBBA

Not now. Come on -- I'm concentrating.

Paul just stands, waiting. Bubba sees him.

BUBBA

Hey. Go put those balls in a bucket and bring 'em back here.

Paul doesn't move.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I'll give you a turn.

Paul takes off, running after the balls as Bubba hits them. Paul collects balls, returns with a bucket full of balls as machine fires, but is empty. Bubba shuts off the machine. Paul carries the bucket out to the machine. Bubba pours the balls into the machine. Bubba turns around to see Paul standing at the plate with a large bat in his hands. Bubba picks up a ball.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Ready?

Paul stands at the plate, ready. Bubba lobs the ball towards Paul. Paul doesn't swing at it.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What was wrong with that?

PAUL

I want the machine to throw it.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

BUBBA
Forget it. It goes too fast. You
can't hit it. Okay, one more.

PAUL
I want the machine.

BUBBA
Would you come on? I haven't got
time to fool around.

PAUL
You said I could have a turn.

Bubba comes towards the plate.

BUBBA
All right. Leave the helmet on.

Bubba sees Paul is holding the bat with his arms
crossed.

BUBBA
(continuing)
You gonna break your wrists holding
the bat like that.

PAUL
That's the way I hold it.

Bubba cracks up at Paul's fierce determination. He
squats down to correct how his hands hold the bat.

BUBBA
Put your hands like this.

He moves Paul's hands.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Now you can swing. You ready to
go?

Paul nods, serious. Bubba looks at Paul appreciatively.

BUBBA
(continuing)
You're a pretty tough guy, aren't
you?

Paul looks as fierce as he can.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (3)

46

BUBBA
(continuing)
You gonna be a ball player when
you grow up?

Paul glances over at Bubba, nods.

BUBBA
(continuing)
You got the right attitude. You're
all right.

Paul waits, afraid, but determined as Bubba adjusts the
machine to a much slower speed and turns it on.

BUBBA
(continuing)
All right. Here it comes.

The ball sails past Paul. He barely moves the bat in
time, swinging late. Another pitch goes by and Paul
isn't close.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Hold the bat out in front of you.
Just hold it there.

Paul waits for the ball. Another pitch is thrown and
misses.

BUBBA
(continuing)
One more.

The ball is thrown and it hits Paul's bat and dribbles
out in front of him. Paul's face light up.

PAUL
I hit it.

BUBBA
Run!

PAUL
Where?

BUBBA
First base. Over there.

Bubba starts to chase after him with the ball. As he
runs he sees Megan's car pulling up in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (4)

46

BUBBA

No, this way... Bring that bucket with you. Hurry up.

Quickly Bubba unplugs the machine and wheels it into a storage bungalow.

47 EXT. STORAGE BUNGALOW

47

Megan, dressed in a jogging outfit, is walking along as Bubba and Paul are playing catch.

MEGAN

Good morning. You're at it bright and early.

BUBBA

We're just throwing the ball around.

PAUL

How come we can't use the...

Bubba puts his arm around Paul, quieting him.

BUBBA

Okay now, here's the glove. Get out there.

Megan stops to watch. Bubba is aware that she is observing. Paul holds the glove up in the air as Bubba goes into a windup.

BUBBA

(continuing)

The bases are loaded, two outs, two and two on the batter. The pitcher looks in to get his sign. Yeah! He checks the runners... throws...

The ball goes by Paul who runs after it.

BUBBA

(continuing)

The ball gets away from the catcher! The runner is trying to score from third. Throw the ball! Here comes the runner. Here comes the throw ... and he is out!

Paul looks at Bubba like he doesn't understand what is happening.

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED:

47

MEGAN

(applauding)

That was wonderful, I could see
the runner.

PAUL

I wanna hit some...

BUBBA

Hey, Paul, does Megan know how
fast you're gettin'?

*
*

MEGAN

Is that true, Paul?

*

PAUL

I guess so.

*
*

BUBBA

Show her how fast you can run
around the field.

*
*
*

PAUL

The whole field?

*
*

BUBBA

On your mark... get set... go!

*
*

Paul drops the glove and takes off.

*

MEGAN

You look like you're having as much
fun as the kids out here.

BUBBA

Oh, I'm having a ball.

MEGAN

I was just downtown talking to
the people on the budget
committee. I think they're
finally starting to listen to
me about this program. And
when they see the team you've
put together at the track meet,
they'll have to support it.

Bubba listens without responding. Megan is concerned
for a moment.

MEGAN

The team's coming along, right?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (A2)

BUBBA

Oh yeah.

Megan looks around the field.

MEGAN

Where's the equipment? Did you
get it?

BUBBA

Yeah...

MEGAN

Good, I want to see it.

BUBBA

It's over here.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

They walk over to the equipment. Bubba shows her some old hurdles.

MEGAN

What's this?

BUBBA

What's it look like. It's a hurdle.

Bubba picks up hurdle and it comes apart.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Just needs a little paint. Take a look at this.

They walk over to several tires on the ground.

BUBBA

(continuing)

And this is the obstacle course.

Bubba walks Megan to the high jump bar with an old mattress being used for the pit.

BUBBA

(continuing)

And they land there so they won't get hurt. And when I get more time...

MEGAN

This is all you got?

BUBBA

No. I got some basketballs, baseballs, bats -- you know. And there's some more equipment being shipped out here. This guy I know, he's saving us some money.

*
*
*

MEGAN

When's it gonna get here?

BUBBA

Pretty soon.

MEGAN

Soon? When? The track meet's in five weeks!

BUBBA

I know...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (3)

47

MEGAN

We need it now.

BUBBA

Don't worry. We're doing fine.

MEGAN

What about the uniforms?

BUBBA

They're comin'. I promise you,
we'll be ready.

Megan is not satisfied.

BUBBA

(continuing; trying
to change the
subject)

I'm just worried about one thing...

MEGAN

What's that?

BUBBA

The time. I've been here awhile
and not that much is happening.

MEGAN

But you just told me you'll be
ready...

BUBBA

I mean with you and me. I never
even got to take you to my
restaurant. I'm beginning to
think you don't like me.

MEGAN

I think you're a very good coach.

BUBBA

Are we having dinner tonight?

MEGAN

What?

BUBBA

I want to talk to you about a
couple of these kids.

MEGAN

I think we can talk here.

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED: (4)

47

BUBBA

No. I'm thinking about the kids
when I'm here. I have to be able
to concentrate on what I'm saying.

MEGAN

I'll be happy to talk to you here...

Paul returns exhausted, dropping to the ground. Bubba
pretends to break down, falls to his knees.

*
*

BUBBA

(faking
sincerity)

For the sake of the kids, Megan,
don't say no to their coach.

*

MEGAN

(embarrassed,
laughing)

Get up... okay.

Bubba smiles and slaps Paul's hand.

*

48

EXT. PLAYING FIELD - DAY

48

The kids are out on the field with Bubba, engaged in
various activities, including high jump, relay race
baton passing. Lisa and Larry are running over a series
of hurdles as Bubba and a few other kids watch. Larry
finishes far ahead of Lisa.

BUBBA

(slapping Larry's
hands)

All right. That's the way to move.

Bubba sees that Lisa has stopped running.

BUBBA

(continuing)

What're you stoppin' for?

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED: (A)

48

LISA

The race is over.

LARRY

It was over before you started, girl.

BUBBA

It's not over till you finish it.
Nobody on this team quits. You
got that? Get going.

Lisa is hurt by Bubba's harshness. She starts to walk away. Bubba sees that she's feeling bad but is unable to reach out to her. He looks around at Tank and Shirley who are practicing passing the baton.

BUBBA

All right, let's see how you guys
are doing.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

Shirley starts to run towards Tank. As she passes the baton to Tank he stumbles and they fall over each other.

Michael sees this and applauds from his bike.

MICHAEL

Way to go, Tank.

Tank walks away, disgusted.

BUBBA

Hey, Michael, why don't you come over here and show him how it's done.

Michael waves him off.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Come on. You know, we might be able to win this thing if you run the anchor.

MICHAEL

No way.

BUBBA

(walking over to Michael)

What're you waiting for? You tell me what it's gonna take to get you over there.

MICHAEL

You ain't got what it's gonna take.

RAY

Hey, coach, I'll run the anchor for you.

Bubba turns and sees his baseball teammate, Ray.

BUBBA

(surprised;
embarrassed)

Hey, what're you doin' here?

Ray and Bubba walk away together. Michael watches them as they pass.

RAY

What're you doin' here?

(CONTINUED)

RAY

You never told me you were coaching kids.

BUBBA

It's no big thing. I'm making some bucks, keeping in shape, getting some laughs.

RAY

Man, you don't know nothing about kids.

BUBBA

Hey, you don't need to know nothin'. You just tell 'em what you want 'em to do. I got one of 'em chasing balls for me, when I do my hitting.

*

RAY

So this is what happened to Bubba Newman.

BUBBA

The hell it is. Man, I'm comin' back. I'm just about ready.

RAY

I'll have to call you coach from now on.

BUBBA

How you been doin'?

RAY

I missed a couple of games. My back's been botherin' me a little.

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

You're getting to be an old man,
Ray.

RAY

Speak for yourself, brother. I
still make my living playing
baseball.

BUBBA

Yeah, and you're gonna live forever.

RAY

That's right! Hey, you're coming
with us tonight.

BUBBA

What?

RAY

We're goin' out to dinner and then
we're gonna party.

BUBBA

Oh yeah? That'd be great, but I
got something I gotta do.

RAY

What're you talkin' about? I said
we're gonna party.

BUBBA

I already told this lady I'd have
dinner with her. See, it's my
boss...

RAY

Oh yeah? This don't have nothing
to do with why you're coaching,
does it?

BUBBA

Nah, I think she hates men.

RAY

But you're gonna change her mind.

BUBBA

We'll see.

RAY

I think I better come along just
to make sure she doesn't hurt you.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (4)

48

BUBBA
I don't think so, Ray. We'll do
it some other night.

RAY
Sounds to me like you're getting
a little uppity, coach.

BUBBA
What're you talking about. It's
just easier doin' this lady one
on one.

RAY
Don't you want her to meet your
friends?

BUBBA
Hey you know that's not it.

RAY
All I know is what I see.

Bubba looks at Ray, gives in to the pressure.

Paul comes up and slugs Ray's side.

PAUL
Hey -- we're workin' out.

Bubba picks up Paul and throws him around, holding him
in the air.

BUBBA
Don't you be hitting my friends,
sucker.

Ray sees Paul holding onto Bubba. There's a moment
where Bubba is embarrassed.

49 INT. MOROCCAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

49

Bubba is seated on the floor next to Megan at a table
with Ray, Chuck, Tony and their dates, eating the food
with their hands.

BUBBA
It's just a regular playground.
Bunch of kids riding their bikes
around...

Megan tastes one of the dishes.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

CHUCK

Hey, Bubba, you getting it on with any of the kids?

BUBBA

Sorry, Chuck, they're about ten years old.

TONY

Hey, that never got in your way before.

Megan looks at Tony, Bubba, not amused. A belly dancer comes into their area. Ray is transfixed, tries to dance with her as she passes. Tony and Chuck encourage Ray on, and things get progressively more raucous. Bubba is enjoying the dancer, but also aware that Megan is somewhat uncomfortable with all this.

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BUBBA

Come on, Ray, simmer down.

MEGAN

I think you'd be surprised if you saw him working with the kids. I think they're beginning to respect him and trust him.

TONY

Trust Bubba? Are you kidding?

CHUCK

You ever see Bubba pitch?

MEGAN

No I haven't.

TONY

He's got a bad slider -- gets right by you before you know it.

*

Others laugh at the suggestion. Megan is annoyed. Bubba is uncomfortable with all the talk but trying to go along with a difficult situation. Focus shifts to Megan.

*

MEGAN

He's not perfect but he's got a natural quality with the kids. A coach has to know how to relate to them and be sensitive to their problems...

(CONTINUED)

TONY

Oh he's sensitive...

CHUCK

Can we come watch you relate, Bubba?

BUBBA

Yeah, yeah...

RAY

I got news for you. The only
thing this guy relates to besides
foxy women is baseball.

Bubba is concerned about the turn of the conversation.

MEGAN

(taking a stand)

There's another side to your
friend that you might not know
about.

A waitress comes over to their table to clear dishes.
Bubba reaches over and tries to stick his spoon down the
waitress' blouse. The waitress pulls back, surprised,
embarrassed.

MEGAN

(continuing)

And I think he cares what happens
to...

The rest of the group break out laughing at Bubba's
stunt.

MEGAN

(continuing)

Did I say something funny?

BUBBA

No, they think everything's funny.

RAY

I'm trying to have a conversation
with the lady and you're sticking
your spoon down the waitress' dress.

Megan is caught off guard.

BUBBA

I wasn't sticking my spoon down
her dress. I thought she was
bringing me dessert...

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED: (3)

49

The other guys laugh loudly except Megan who gets up from the table.

MEGAN

Sorry, I don't find this very funny.

She walks away from the table. Bubba rolls his eyes for the others' benefit, who are laughing, muffled. We SEE that Bubba is concerned. He gets up and goes after Megan.

50

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

50

Megan is walking away from the restaurant as Bubba comes out holding his shoes in his hand, trying to put them on and catch Megan.

BUBBA

Megan! Hey, slow down!

She walks fast, angry. Bubba gets his shoes on and catches up with her.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Where you goin'?

MEGAN

Go back and play with your friends.

Bubba starts to touch her arm. She pulls away from him.

MEGAN

(continuing)

Leave me alone!

BUBBA

Come on. Don't get so mad.

MEGAN

(hurt, angry)

What am I supposed to do -- sit there while you make fun of me?

BUBBA

No one was making fun of you. We were just messing around.

MEGAN

Well I don't like it! They think everything's a joke!

BUBBA

What're you gettin' upset for?

MEGAN

Just go away. I'll get home on my own.

BUBBA

Come on. I'm sorry. I really am.

MEGAN

Oh you are?

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

BUBBA

Yeah, sometimes I get out of line when I'm around those guys. You know...

MEGAN

No, I don't know.

BUBBA

It's just... like we try to impress each other. You know.-- see who can do the wildest thing. It's kind of like the kids when they're on their bikes. You know?

MEGAN

But they're kids.

BUBBA

Yeah, I know. Sometimes it makes you wonder what you're doin'. It was a dumb thing to do.

Megan looks over at Bubba, softens a little.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Listen, I don't wanna go back in there. I'll take you home.

Megan doesn't resist the suggestion.

51 OMITTED

51

51A INT. BUBBA'S TRUCK - NIGHT

51A

Bubba is driving as Megan looks out the window, cool.

BUBBA

So, you still in love with that guy in your office?

MEGAN

What guy?

BUBBA

The guy in the picture.

MEGAN

Why don't you mind your own business.

BUBBA

Come on -- He your main squeeze?

MEGAN

My what?

(CONTINUED)

51A CONTINUED:

51A

BUBBA

You know -- your boy friend.

MEGAN

He's my brother-in-law.

There is a pause.

BUBBA

So which one was your boy friend?

MEGAN

(irritated)

I don't have a boy friend.

BUBBA

You don't go in for that kind of thing?

MEGAN

I was involved with a man for three years. It was very intense. Does that answer all of your questions?

*
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*
*

BUBBA

Three years? Man, the longest I've ever been with someone is three months.

*

MEGAN

Gee, I wonder why.

BUBBA

I'm on the road, you know, baseball. It all depends on what you're looking for. I haven't found the right person yet.

MEGAN

It might have something to do with how you look at women.

BUBBA

Nope -- just haven't found the right one.

*

51B OMITTED
&
52

51B *
& *
52 *

53 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

53

Truck pulls up to sidewalk. Bubba and Megan get out
and walk towards her apartment.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

I'll be by tomorrow morning. I
want to see how the work is going.

BUBBA

Fine.

MEGAN

You think Michael's coming around?

BUBBA

Hard to say. I doubt it.

MEGAN

That kid -- he acts like nothing
can touch him. You know he and
Paul live with their grandmother.

BUBBA

Oh, yeah?

MEGAN

They don't even know where their
mother is. The father left a
long time ago.

Bubba reacts, uncomfortable.

MEGAN

(continuing)

What do you think's gonna happen
to Michael?

BUBBA

He's gonna grow up, go to jail,
get married, have a few kids, get
divorced, lose his job, get drunk...
and the whole time he'll be
thinkin', why wasn't I nicer to
that guy Bubba when I was a kid.

MEGAN

I just wish there was some way to
get through to him.

BUBBA

Why don't you move into that office
down at the playground. And Michael
can come and live with you.

MEGAN

No, thanks.

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

You know, once in a while you ought to just enjoy yourself. Without bringing all that other stuff along.

MEGAN

What other stuff.

BUBBA

I mean, you're always talking about getting through to the kids. Why don't we talk about gettin' through to you?

MEGAN

What do you mean? You can talk to me.

BUBBA

Yeah, about work.

MEGAN

I care about my work. Is there something wrong with that?

BUBBA

No, there's nothing wrong with it. It'd just be nice to know how you feel about other things.

They arrive at Megan's apartment.

MEGAN

Like what?

Bubba leans forward and kisses Megan on the mouth.

BUBBA

How do you feel about that?

MEGAN

Not great.

BUBBA

Oh, yeah?

Bubba starts to lean in for another kiss. Megan moves.

MEGAN

No, definitely not.

BUBBA

Did I do something wrong?

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

No, I just don't want that to happen.

BUBBA

Why not?

MEGAN

I just think it's better that we left with a 'good night' and 'I'll see you at the playground.' Okay?

BUBBA

Sure. No problem. Is it all men or just me?

Megan looks at him.

MEGAN

It's just you.

Megan goes inside her apartment and closes the door, leaving Bubba. He recovers, strides away.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

54 EXT, BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

54

Bubba is standing in the batting cage hitting pitches thrown by a pitcher as Ray catches, and Scotty stands behind the backstop watching. Tony and Chuck are watching. Bubba is stroking the ball nicely. Scotty signals for the pitcher to throw harder and he does. Bubba misses the first pitch.

BUBBA

Who showed this guy how to throw
a spitter?

The players laugh.

CHUCK

You did, remember?

The next pitch Bubba hits solidly.

TONY

Sign him up, quick, before the
Yankees see him.

Bubba continues to hit the balls being thrown at him -- pointing to the various fields and then hitting the ball to that field. The players enjoy his showmanship and the display is impressive.

SCOTTY

Okay, let's give some of these
other guys some cuts. They need
it.

Bubba walks out of the batter's box, towards Scotty.

SCOTTY

(continuing)

You weren't kidding, you really
been working at it.

*
*

BUBBA

Even a natural like me has to do
a little work.

*
*
*

SCOTTY

You don't give up easy, do you?

BUBBA

No way. You know, you're gonna be
famous for this -- givin' me my
first hitting job.

(CONTINUED)

54

CONTINUED:

54

SCOTTY

Yeah, sure.

Ray calls over from the backstop.

RAY

Hey, Scotty, you're not givin' that bum a uniform, are you?

SCOTTY

Can you be ready by Monday?

BUBBA

I'll be ready.

Bubba walks over towards Ray, not revealing Scotty's decision.

RAY

What'd he say?

Bubba takes a deep breath.

BUBBA

He said you'd better make some room, Mister Boom, 'cause Bubba's back in town!

Bubba takes a jab at Ray's chin and the two start to box playfully as other teammates Chuck and Tony watch, laugh.

55 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (SAME DAY)

55

Bubba walks across the field, passing a gardener who is watering.

BUBBA

What it is, Bucky?

BUCKY

Hey, coach. They're lookin' for you.

Bubba waves as he passes.

Megan is working with the kids as Bubba comes across the field, late for work. Tank is hanging on the rope.

He sees Bubba coming.

(CONTINUED)

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55

CONTINUED:

55

TANK

Here comes Bubba. Will you tell
this woman this is as far as I go?

BUBBA

What's the matter with you?

TANK

The rope ain't gonna hold me.

BUBBA

Get up here.

(to Megan)

How's it goin'?

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

MEGAN

Where've you been? We've been waiting for you.

BUBBA

I had to take care of some business.

MEGAN

You've got business here. The trackmeet's in two weeks.

*

BUBBA

(preoccupied)

Yeah, I know.

Tank reaches the top, comes down.

BUBBA

(continuing; energetic)

Okay, now, who's next?

Shirley is next, with Paul behind her. Paul nervously awaits his turn.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Shirley, let's go.

SHIRLEY

You gotta give me a boost.

BUBBA

You don't need a boost.

SHIRLEY

Yes, I do.

Bubba gives her a boost. Michael is watching from a distance.

MICHAEL

Oh, Coach! It feels so good when you give me one of those boosts!

SHIRLEY

Shut your mouth, big boy!

BUBBA

Just climb the rope.

Bubba looks over at Michael.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Hey, Michael, why don't you come over here and show us how it's done.

Michael laughs it off.

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

(continuing)

You know, I hear a lot of talk from you, but I never see you do anything. Now I don't believe you know how to climb a rope. Any of you guys ever see Michael climb a rope?

The kids laugh, shake their heads.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Megan, you ever see Michael climb a rope?

MEGAN

No, I don't think so.

BUBBA

You know, Michael, I think you do a lot of talking 'cause you haven't got that much to show.

MICHAEL

You're real clever, Bubba.

BUBBA

And you're one big zero as far as I can tell.

MEGAN

Bubba...

Michael and Bubba face each other. Michael moves towards the rope. He looks at Bubba, at the rope. He grabs the rope and easily climbs it, touches the top and comes down.

MEGAN

(continuing)

That was terrific, Michael.

Michael ignores her compliment, looks at Bubba.

MICHAEL

How'd I do, Coach?

BUBBA

That wasn't so bad now, was it?

MEGAN

And if you do that in the track meet...

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

That's all you're gettin' from me.

BUBBA

Okay, who's next?

Bubba looks and sees Paul, who looks up the rope, takes a breath, and starts the long climb. Bubba stands back and watches. Paul inches his way slowly up the rope, using his feet. He gets halfway and stops. He starts to come down.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Wait a second. Where you goin'?

PAUL

I can't go all the way.

BUBBA

What're you talkin' about. How do you think you got that far? Just keep goin'.

PAUL

I can't.

BUBBA

Come on, Paul, you're halfway there.

PAUL

I'm afraid.

BUBBA

(committed)

I know you're afraid... Paul, listen, I'm not letting you come down that rope till you get up to the top. So you better get started. Let's go.

Megan looks at Bubba, concerned. Paul starts to inch his way up the rope.

BUBBA

(continuing)

That's it. Keep going.

TANK

Come on, Paul. You can do it.

(CONTINUED)

55

CONTINUED: (4)

55

Paul's face is locked with fear and determination as he begins to climb, slowly, the last half of the rope. He looks down.

BUBBA

Don't look down. You're almost there.

The other kids shout encouragement, Michael watches as Paul continues, until he reaches out and touches the top. The kids cheer.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Good! Now come down the same way!
Take your time.

Paul carefully comes down the rope and lands on the ground. His face is bursting with pride.

BUBBA

(continuing)

You're a tough kid, Paul.

Bubba and Paul hug each other. It's a big moment. Megan watches, pleased but holding back. The other kids congratulate Paul. Bubba sees that Michael is looking on. He is withdrawn and envious.

Megan notices Michael, also.

MEGAN

Michael, come on over here.

Michael doesn't move.

MEGAN

(continuing)

There's something special I have to tell the group.

Bubba looks on.

MEGAN

(continuing)

You've all been working so hard out here and I've got a surprise for you. We're all going to take a little trip this weekend.

Some of the kids respond.

(CONTINUED)

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55

CONTINUED: (5)

55

LARRY

I take a little trip every weekend.

Other kids laugh.

JEEP

(skeptical)

Where we goin'?

MEGAN

We're going up to the Fort Ross
Recreation Area. There's an old
Russian fort that's been
restored and there's a wonderful
museum up there.

*

The response is subdued as the kids look to Larry and
Michael for their response. Bubba reacts to the news,
concerned with his own plans.

MICHAEL

I ain't goin' up there.

MEGAN

Why not?

MICHAEL

'Cause I don't want to go.

MEGAN

But how do you know that? You've
never been there.

TANK

Yeah, why can't we go somewhere good?

Bubba sees Megan's disappointment at Michael's rejection.

MEGAN

Well, where would you want to go?

MICHAEL

Alaska.

LARRY

Yeah! Let's go to Alaska.

The kids enjoy the idea -- asking for the impossible.
We SEE Bubba looking at Michael and Megan, wanting to
rise to the challenge.

BUBBA

All right -- we're goin' to Alaska.

55

CONTINUED: (6)

55

Megan looks at Bubba like he's crazy.

BUBBA

(continuing)

We'll leave on Friday. You guys
better be ready.

MEGAN

Wait a minute.

MICHAEL

How we gonna get there?

BUBBA

We'll take my truck.

The kids cheer.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Now, the rest of you -- get up
that rope. Let's go.

The kids start up the rope.

MEGAN

(to Bubba)

What do you think you're doing?
You can't make promises like that.

BUBBA

That's all right. It'll be good for
these kids to get out of this place.

MEGAN

But...

BUBBA

Michael says he wants to go to
Alaska, we'll go to Alaska.

56 OMITTED

56

57 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

57

The kids are hiking on a mountain trail. The kids are having a great time.

MICHAEL

This isn't no Alaska. Where are we?

BUBBA

Just stay on the trail. We'll get there.

MICHAEL

This isn't even close.

MEGAN

How far are we goin'?

BUBBA

I'll let you know.

They march on.

57A EXT. TRAIL - DAY

57A

As the group moves along the narrow trail, Paul and Tank see a snake moving across the path. The snake stops.

PAUL

It's a snake!

Some of the other kids run up to see the snake. Others, including Megan, are frightened.

BUBBA

All right. Move back. You don't bother him, he won't bother you. This is his home. And he's a little scared of us.

The kids and Megan stands, watching the snake.

BUBBA

(continuing)

He's checking us out.

LISA

He's moving.

(CONTINUED)

57A CONTINUED:

57A

BUBBA

Don't move.

The snake goes into the bushes.

MICHAEL

I was gonna catch it and eat it.

The kids respond, disgusted, and then start to walk again. Megan and Bubba remain behind.

MEGAN

(to Bubba)

You handled that very well.

BUBBA

(cocky)

Oh, snakes -- nothing to it.

Bubba collapses in terror showing Megan the comedic timing that has made Three's Company the number one show in America today.

57B EXT. LAKE - DAY

57B

Most of the kids are playing in the lake, as Bubba swims in the deeper water with Tank, Jeep, Shirley and Lisa. Megan is with the rest of the kids, a little closer to the shore. Michael keeps his distance from Bubba. Larry is walking along the shore, throwing rocks, but not venturing into the water. Megan notices Larry.

MEGAN

Aren't you coming in, Larry?

LARRY

Nah -- too cold.

SHIRLEY

He's afraid of the water.

LARRY

You don't know what you're talkin' about.

SHIRLEY

Why don't you show me.

LARRY

Why don't you come over here and say that.

(CONTINUED)

57B CONTINUED:

57B

SHIRLEY

This is how Larry swims --

Shirley, Tank, and Lisa all pretend to drown, waving their arms. Bubba sees they're getting to Larry and moves towards him.

BUBBA

You know how to swim?

LARRY

'Course I do.

BUBBA

I got you. Come on.

LARRY

Nah -- I don't feel like it.

BUBBA

Forget about them. Come on.

The kids watch as Larry gradually moves into the water. We SEE that he doesn't know how to swim and is afraid of the water. The other kids laugh as Larry struggles in the water, held up by Bubba.

LARRY

They're laughin' at me.

BUBBA

So?

LARRY

Don't let go of me.

BUBBA

I'm right here.

Larry tries swimming as Bubba holds onto him and leads him back to shallow water. As Larry reaches the shore, Tank, Randy, and the others jump on Bubba, screaming... "Hold me"... "I'm drowning." Michael sees Bubba trying to take on all the kids who are trying to dunk him and joins in the effort. Megan tries to stop the kids but many of the kids go after her and dunk her. It is all done in high spirits.

58 OMITTED

58

59 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

59

Bubba is telling a ghost story to the kids. The kids are totally engrossed.

BUBBA

(scary and almost
in a whisper)

The next night the Indian Chief called out to his scouts... 'Is everything okay on the river?' And the scout answered, 'Everything okay on the river.' And asked, 'Is everything okay on the mountain?' And the scout answered, 'Everything okay on the mountain.' 'Is everything okay in the valley?' No answer. 'Is everything okay in the valley? Is everything... aaaaaaaaah!'

Bubba screams and the kids jump with terror, then laugh.

PAUL

That didn't scare me.

LISA

Let's hear another one.

MEGAN

No, that's it. Let's go, everybody in their sleeping bags.

The kids groan, "That's cold," etc. Megan herds the kids off towards the tents as Bubba is pointing to the fire, talking to Michael.

MEGAN

(continuing)

Come on, Michael.

(CONTINUED)

Michael's gonna help me put out
the fire.

Megan sees that Bubba wants to be alone with Michael
and follows the other kids to their tents. Bubba
looks to Michael.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Why don't you sit down?

MICHAEL
What about the fire?

BUBBA
We'll get to it.

Michael sits.

BUBBA
(continuing)
Listen, I just gotta tell you
something. You're older than
the other kids. I think you can
take it.

MICHAEL
What?

BUBBA
(mock whisper)
We're not goin' to Alaska.

MICHAEL
I know it.

BUBBA
Since you said you wanted to go
to Alaska, I figured we might as
well go for it. Beats goin' to
the museum, though, doesn't it?

MICHAEL
I guess.

BUBBA
You guess? Boy, you don't lighten
up for a second, do you?

Michael doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

(continuing; taking
a boxer's stance)

You know what it's like. It's
like if you're a boxer, and
you're always tryin' to protect
yourself so you keep your guard
up, but you're never gonna knock
out nobody unless you open up
and throw some punches, right?
You know what I'm saying?

Michael nods, not involved.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I just thought we'd talk, you
know, man to man, I think you
can hear me. All I'm sayin'
is give yourself a break.
Trust people a little. See
what happens.

Michael looks at Bubba.

MICHAEL

What about that batting machine?

BUBBA

What?

MICHAEL

How come you told my brother to
keep it a secret.

Bubba starts to respond and is cut off.

MICHAEL

(continuing)

When people keep secrets, that
means they got something to hide.

BUBBA

I've got nothing to hide. I
bought it and I use it to keep
in shape.

MICHAEL

You're gonna leave, aren't you?
You're gonna go back and play
baseball. And those fools don't
even know it.

(CONTINUED)

Michael looks at Bubba.

BUBBA

Listen, when you get a little bit older, you see that there's certain things that you gotta do. It wouldn't make any sense to you if I tried to explain...

MICHAEL

Yeah, I already heard this one.

BUBBA

(getting angry)
I'm tellin' you -- There's a lot of things about life you don't understand.

MICHAEL

Hey, don't get upset about it, Coach. It's cool. I got it down. Everybody does what they gotta do. That's what makes the world spin. Isn't that right?

Bubba doesn't answer.

MICHAEL

(continuing)
'Cause when you get down to it nobody really gives a damn what happens to you. You know that. I'm just talkin' to you man to man.

Megan passes Michael as he walks back to the tents. Bubba sits at the fire, serious. Megan comes up and sits down next to Bubba.

MEGAN

How'd it go?

BUBBA

Terrific.

MEGAN

What'd he say?

BUBBA

He's a pretty smart kid.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (4)

59

MEGAN
this is even better than the Fort
Ross Museum.

BUBBA
(preoccupied)
What?

MEGAN
I like what's happening with them
and with you.

Megan leans over and kisses Bubba. She backs away and
looks at him.

MEGAN
(continuing)
How do you feel about that?

Bubba is surprised. There are hoots and flashlights
from the kids who are watching.

KIDS
Whose tent you sleepin' in, Bubba?
Megan's? It's getting hot!

BUBBA
Go to sleep!

Bubba starts to put out the fire, his face troubled.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

60 INT. PLAYGROUND OFFICE - DAY (EARLY MORNING)

60

Megan comes in wearing a jogging outfit. Bubba is packing his things into his bag.

MEGAN

Good morning.

She sees him packing.

BUBBA

How's it going'?

MEGAN

Great -- three miles and I'm not even breathing hard!

She looks at Bubba packing.

MEGAN

(continuing)

What are you doing?

BUBBA

My old ball club called me up last night. They want me to play. So I'm gonna go back there and see what I can do.

MEGAN

What about the program here?

BUBBA

There's not much I can do about that. I mean we're on the road all the time...

MEGAN

But you said you'd take the job for the summer.

BUBBA

I never told anybody I was gonna stay the whole summer. I wasn't playin' ball at the time so I took the job. Now I'm playin' ball again.

MEGAN

It's not quite that simple.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED:

60

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Those kids were counting on you
to be with them until this program
is over.

*

BUBBA

Why can't you get another coach...

MEGAN

Because it's too late for that.
And if you leave, this whole
thing we've been trying to do
here is going to fall apart.
You think these kids would trust
anyone...

BUBBA

Yeah, I know. They've all had hard
lives and this is the one thing
they had to look forward to. Let
me tell you something -- You think
your dinky little summer program
stands a chance against the rest
of their lives? Do you? So you
show 'em some good times. Then
you split, go back where you come
from, and they're right back
where they started. So what is
that?

MEGAN

It's something where there was
nothing. And maybe it's not much
to you, but to them, for a while,
somebody showed that they care.

BUBBA

Look, I'm a baseball player. That's
what I do and that's where I'm goin'.
It's been real nice knowin' you...

MEGAN

Before you go out the door I wanna
say something to you. You may have
this all figured out for yourself
-- how it's okay for you to just
pack up and go. But you know what
you're doing. And you know it's
not okay.

BUBBA

Oh, yeah?

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

MEGAN

That's right. You know how much those kids care about you, and you know how much you care. So you can walk out now and say whatever you want, but you didn't fool me, Bubba. I saw you.

Bubba is affected by the speech but hangs on.

BUBBA

Come with me. I wanna show you something you didn't see.

61 EXT. PLAYGROUND

61

Bubba takes Megan to the closet where the batting machine is being stored. He unlocks the door and wheels out the machine.

BUBBA

This is your playground equipment. It's a batting machine. Nothing else is coming. No uniforms -- nothing. This is how I spent that money -- on me. You still think you know me? You better look again.

Megan looks at Bubba, shaken.

DISSOLVE TO:

62 EXT. PLAYGROUND - BLEACHERS - DAY

62

Megan approaches the kids who are seated on the bleachers as Michael and Larry ride their bikes close by.

MEGAN

Today we're gonna be working on the hurdles...

PAUL

Where's Bubba?

MEGAN

He's not here.

SHIRLEY

Where is he?

MEGAN

He's not coming today.

(CONTINUED)

62

CONTINUED:

62

PAUL

When's he coming back?

MEGAN

He's not. He's not coaching here anymore.

The kids react silently, but are hard hit.

MEGAN

(continuing)

He got a job playing baseball and since that is what he thinks he's supposed to do, that is what he's doing. But that doesn't mean that we're going to stop working...

MICHAEL

I told you he was gonna go, I told you a long time ago.

MEGAN

Well, you saw it a little clearer than I did. Okay, now we're going to show him and all those other people out there that we've got what it takes.

LARRY

Man, that is cold -- just walking out.

Other kids express their surprise, disbelief.

SHIRLEY

Maybe he's coming back.

TANK

What's he wanna come back here for? I'd just keep on goin'.

MEGAN

Now listen, we've got just a week until the track meet, and we're gonna be ready.

*
*

MICHAEL

Ready for what? For your little show where everybody gets to see what a good job you've done on those poor kids.

MEGAN

What?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

MICHAEL

See all the tricks you got us to
do -- we can climb a rope and jump
and run, just like normal kids do.

Megan is listening to Michael, affected by what he's
saying.

MEGAN

You've come a long way together
and you've worked hard getting
ready for this track meet, and
I'm not gonna let you give it up
just because Bubba gave up.

MICHAEL

You don't understand -- there
isn't gonna be no track meet.
You and your coach can go play
your games someplace else.
'Cause we don't need it!

Megan is hurt by what Michael is saying.

MICHAEL

(continuing)
And we don't need you.

Michael starts to walk away from Megan. The other
kids follow after him leaving Megan alone.

63 INT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

63

Activities of suiting up for a game are in progress,
a card game is going on with some of the players,
already dressed, playing. The door opens and Bubba
walks in wearing a baseball hat and carrying a huge
blown-up bat he has bought from a vendor. The other
players see him and laugh.

BUBBA

All right! Who's pitchin'?

Players welcome him back.

CHUCK

You better hurry up, boy. We've
got batting practice in five minutes.

*
*
*

BUBBA

That's only for you guys who need
practice.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

63

CONTINUED:

63

Bubba walks over to his locker. Tony stands in front of it, holding a towel which obscures the contents.

BUBBA

Do you mind? That's my locker.

TONY

A star doesn't have to open his own locker -- you got us fans to open it for you.

BUBBA

Okay, fan, open.

With which Tony whips away the towel in front of the opened locker. An inflatable rubber girl the towel's been holding back pops out and flies into Bubba's arms.

CHUCK

Nice catch, Bubba.

TONY

She's been waiting for you, Bubba.

BUBBA

(holding doll out)

They're all waiting for me!

At which all the guys laugh and whistle, etc., as Bubba cuddles the doll and gives it a kiss. Then, angled over the doll's shoulder he notes Ray taking a couple of pills at his locker and flexing his back. Bubba's expression reflects concern.

A64 MONTAGE

thru
G64

The focus of the MONTAGE SHOWS Bubba being separated from the action of the game. In SEVERAL SHOTS:

A64
thru
G64

- A) Bubba sitting in the dugout at the beginning of the game, everyone in clean uniforms. As the game goes on other players' uniforms become dirty -- his remaining clean.
- B) Bubba watches the intensity of the young players as one strikes out and throws his bat down violently as he walks back to the dugout.
- C) A player makes a great play and is congratulated by his teammates.
- D) Scotty talks to two young ballplayers in the dugout, as Bubba watches, feeling left out.

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*

(CONTINUED)

A64
thru
G64

CONTINUED:

A64
thru
G64

SCOTTY

Now listen, if he gets on base
we're playin' hit and run on the
first pitch. You got it?

The players nod.

SCOTTY

(continuing)

And you keep your eyes open.
Watch the signs. We're gonna win
this game.

Scotty further encourages the two players with some
friendly pats on the back.

- E) A fight on the field empties the bench. Bubba
is one of the few that don't rush out.
- F) Ray points out to Bubba a group of good-looking
women in the crowd. Ray whistles. A woman waves
back to them.

RAY

I know what we're doing when this
game is over.

Bubba goes along with Ray but without much enthus-
iasm.

- G) Bubba notices the intensity of the fans, the way
they scream at the players when they make a mis-
take.

64 ANGLE

64

It is now the eighth inning. Bubba is watching the
game, a little down, but trying to stay up. His team
is losing 2-1. Scotty looks down the bench.

SCOTTY

Bubba, get out there on deck.

Bubba picks a bat out of the rack as teammates encour-
age him.

65 EXT. FIELD

65

Bubba stands in the on-deck circle, swinging a leaded
bat.

(CONTINUED)

65

CONTINUED:

65

Various fans are calling out to him, "Hey, Bubba, you know how to use that thing?"... "Hey, Bubba, how 'bout a kiss?"... "He can't hit." The calls are evenly mixed, pro and con, and Bubba is hearing them clearly trying to ignore them. A bottle of beer goes flying by Bubba's head, barely missing him. Bubba turns to see where it's come from, angry. The man at bat gets a base hit, bringing up Bubba. Bubba steps up to the batter's box as the calls get more intense. The first pitch almost knocks him down. The fans laugh, cheer as the pitcher out on the mound smiles. Bubba gets up, dusts himself off, checks his coach, gets ready. The next pitch Bubba swings at and misses by a lot. The crowd turns on him, calls of "You missed it by a foot" ... "Give up, Newman"... "Go home you bum" ring in Bubba's ears. Bubba steps back into the batter's box. The next pitch Bubba connects and hits a ground ball past the third baseman. Bubba runs to second base with a double. Bubba stands at second base as the crowd cheers.

SECOND BASEMAN

Lucky hit.

BUBBA

Raw talent.

SECOND BASEMAN

You'll never make it as a pinch hitter.

BUBBA

That's not what your wife says.

Second Baseman glares, and goes to his position as Bubba takes a lead.

*

The next batter hits a long ball into the outfield. Bubba rounds third and scores the winning run ahead of the throw. He is congratulated by his teammates. They are all excited. Bubba accepts the congratulations but feels removed from the celebration. Somehow the fun's gone out of it.

65A INT. CLUBHOUSE

65A

The players come in in high spirits; Tony, Chuck, Ray, et al -- followed by Bubba.

CHUCK

We're gonna have to give our rookie here a special treat.

(CONTINUED)

65A CONTINUED:

65A

TONY

Whatta ya say we tie one on, and
then go see if we can't bust up a
few marriages?

BUBBA

Thanks, but not tonight, guys.

They continue to horseplay, but Bubba really wants to
be left alone.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Come on, lay off, will ya?!

TONY

(kidding)

Gees, the guy gets one lousy double,
ya can't talk to him.

Players are leaving, combing hair, closing lockers.
Only a few players remain. Bubba is sitting in part
of his uniform after the game, looking at a pile of
old jerseys. Ray comes up buttoning his shirt.

(CONTINUED)

65A CONTINUED:

65A

RAY

Hey, I know it's good to be back,
but you gotta take off the uniform
when you go home.

Bubba looks up at Ray. Ray sees that something is
wrong.

RAY

(continuing)

What's goin' on?

BUBBA

Nothin'.

RAY

You hurt?

BUBBA

I'm okay.

RAY

Well you better hurry up, boy.

BUBBA

I just want to sit here.

RAY

What's the matter with you? We
won the game.

BUBBA

It doesn't matter. It's over.

RAY

What?

BUBBA

I was just standing out there,
watching everything. I felt like
I wasn't there.

RAY

Okay, let's go... pants first.

Ray starts to come towards Bubba.

BUBBA

Just leave me alone, Ray. I don't
wanna play.

RAY

We're gonna have to work on your
attitude, son...

Ray starts to go after Bubba, tickling him. Bubba
resists, pushing Ray away with real force.

(CONTINUED)

65A CONTINUED: (2)

65A

BUBBA

I said cool it!

There is a feeling of a physical confrontation about to occur.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I don't want to do that no more.
Can't you hear that, man!

Ray reacts, pissed, like Bubba's putting him down.

RAY

You better cool off before you get yourself hurt.

BUBBA

Ray, it's over! I don't belong here! I'm hanging on 'cause I don't know what else to do with my life. The only thing I know is baseball and it can't go on forever. In a couple of years, I'm gonna be sitting here saying to myself, there's gotta be something else I can do...

RAY

Man, you gotta play this game one hundred percent today! You can't be thinkin' about what's gonna happen someday.

BUBBA

It's happening now.

*

RAY

No! You fought your way back. You got a hit tonight. If you wanna give up now, man, I got no respect for that.

*

BUBBA

(reaching out)

Ray, don't you see...

RAY

You know what I see? You were a ballplayer and now I see nothin'!

There is a moment of impact where Ray sees he's hurt Bubba. Bubba watches as Ray picks up his jacket and leaves the dressing room. Bubba sits there alone.

66 OMITTED

66 *

67 EXT. PARKING LOT OF PLAYGROUND - DAY

67

Bubba drives up, parks his car. Bubba gets out of his truck, and pulls out a sack filled with old jerseys. He walks towards the playground office. Tank is riding his bike and sees Bubba and almost falls over.

BUBBA

Hey, Tank...

Tank doesn't respond, watches Bubba go by, and then takes off.

68 INT. OFFICE

68

Megan is interviewing an athletic looking man, FRANK, for the position of coach.

(CONTINUED)

68

CONTINUED:

68

MEGAN

We have a special situation here
with these kids and I don't know...

Bubba walks through the door holding the sack. Megan
looks up and sees him. Bubba sees her, Frank.

BUBBA

I gotta talk to you.

MEGAN

I'm busy.

Bubba doesn't move. Megan tries to resume interview,
sees Bubba isn't leaving. Frank turns around.

FRANK

(to Megan)

You want me to wait outside?

BUBBA

Yeah... I gotta talk to you.

Megan looks at the situation.

MEGAN

(to Frank)

Would you excuse me for a minute?

Bubba waits till he sees Megan is coming and then goes
outside.

69

EXT. OUTSIDE PLAYGROUND OFFICE

69

Bubba stands waiting as Megan comes outside. Bubba
empties the jerseys out of the bag.

BUBBA

I brought you these. You can use
'em for the team if you want.

She doesn't take the jerseys and Bubba lets them drop.

MEGAN

We haven't got a team.

BUBBA

Why not?

MEGAN

What do you want?

(CONTINUED)

BUBBA

I thought I'd come over and see
how things are doin'. You got
yourself a new coach?

MEGAN

Maybe.

BUBBA

I saw Tank out there. He wouldn't
say hi to me.

MEGAN

What'd you expect?

BUBBA

Yeah. Hey, I just wanted to let
you know that I'm gonna be payin'
you back that money I spent on the
batting machine.

MEGAN

Forget about it. I don't want
your money.

BUBBA

No, I'm payin' you back. It's
gonna take a little while for me...

MEGAN

You wanna get to the point. I'm
talking to somebody in there.

BUBBA

No point. Just thought I'd come
by, drop these off. You can throw
'em out if you can't use 'em. And
I'll be getting you that money.

Megan looks at Bubba hard.

MEGAN

I don't want you coming around
here. Just stay away.

BUBBA

(walking away)

Okay okay...

Megan starts to walk towards the office. Bubba stops
walking.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

69

BUBBA
(continuing)
Hey, I'm not playin' baseball no
more.

Megan turns and looks at Bubba. She is hurt, angry and unable to respond. She walks into the office as Bubba stands there, watching as another person he cares about walks away from him.

70 EXT. STREET

70

Tank sees Michael and Paul riding their bikes around.

TANK
Hey! Bubba's back!

Both Michael and Paul respond.

MICHAEL
Where?

TANK
He's at the playground. I saw him
get out of his truck.

MICHAEL
I wanna see this.

Michael takes off on his bike followed by Tank and then Paul. Michael drives fast, recklessly, cutting across streets, through traffic. CARS HONK at the boys. Paul is not as sure of himself on his bike as Michael and Tank and falls behind.

71 INTERSECTION

71

Michael and Tank pass through an intersection. Paul follows after them, not looking as he goes.

A car is coming fast in cross traffic. We HEAR the SOUND of BRAKES. Paul sees the car coming toward him. The car hits Paul. Michael turns around and sees Paul go down. The DRIVER jumps out of his car.

DRIVER
Where did he come from? I didn't
see him!

Michael gets off his bike and runs for the intersection.

72 EXT. PLAYGROUND

72

Bubba is walking down across the field as Tank rides up to him, frightened.

TANK

Paul got hit by a car!

BUBBA

What!

TANK

Out there in the street.

BUBBA

Go tell Megan.

Bubba runs towards the street. Tank rides his bike towards the office.

73 OMITTED

73

74 EXT. STREET

74

Bubba runs up to the scene of the accident. A crowd of people have gathered around. Bubba sees Michael standing alone, looking down at his brother.

75 EXT. HOSPITAL STEPS - DAY

75

Bubba sits outside on the steps with the principal kids.

76 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

76

Michael and Megan get out of an elevator and walk towards the exit. Michael is walking fast, Megan trying to keep up, crying.

77 EXT. STEPS

77

Michael comes outside, looks at Bubba, Tank.

MICHAEL

(holding back)

My brother's dead.

Bubba is stunned, looks at Megan. They both look to Michael who is running away.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN:

78 EXT. CHURCH STEPS - DAY

78

Bubba, Megan and the kids are among the people coming out of the church. Everyone is dressed as best they can, sports jackets, dresses. Michael comes out helping his grandmother who is an old faltering woman. Other adults gather around helping her. Bubba watches Michael. Michael has retained control throughout. The grandmother is helped into a waiting car. Michael stands by. Megan goes up to Michael and puts her arm on his shoulder. He nods to her, waves an uncomfortable hello to the kids. They wave back. A MAN comes up to Michael.

MAN

We're going to take your grandma over to our house. Why don't you get in the front.

Michael doesn't respond. He looks at Megan, the kids, the adults.

MICHAEL

I want to go with you guys.

MEGAN

Sure. I'll take care of it.

Megan talks to the Man as Michael drifts over towards the other kids. There are awkward hellos between the kids.

79 EXT. STREET

79

The kids ride in the back of Bubba's truck. Bubba keeps looking in his rearview mirror at Michael, who is trying to keep himself together.

80 EXT. PLAYGROUND PARKING LOT

80

The kids get out of the truck.

BUBBA

Why don't we all go sit in the gym for a few minutes.

The kids slowly file towards the gym.

81 INT. GYM - DAY

81

The kids sit in the gym, still dressed in their good clothes. Megan watches Bubba as he closes the door and sits down with the kids.

BUBBA

I thought we'd spend a little time together before you go home. If anybody wants to say anything, you could say it here... I don't really know what there is to say. These last couple of days have been pretty rough for you guys, and I know you're feeling pretty low right now.

He looks around the room waiting for a comment. There is silence. Michael is looking down.

BUBBA

(continuing)

People say things to you like, you won't feel so bad after a while. But that doesn't do you much good when you're hurting, does it.

Again, there is silence from the kids. Megan wonders where Bubba is going with what he's saying.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I know you guys liked Paul a whole lot. He was a good guy.

Bubba stops talking. Again he looks at the kids and they are looking at him now. Michael still does not look at Bubba.

BUBBA

(continuing)

I don't know what I'm saying all this for. I'm hurting just like you guys are hurting. But I'm the coach so I got to keep it together. 'Cause big guys gotta be strong, and they can't let anybody know how they're feeling inside, because big guys gotta be tough all the time. You know what people gonna say...

Bubba fights for control. Megan watches.

BUBBA

(continuing)

Well, I'm gonna tell you something.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

BUBBA (CONT'D)

... And I don't care what anybody says. Because I feel like I just got smashed in the face. And I feel like I wanna hit back... And there's nothing to hit back at. So I gotta just sit here and I gotta take it. And take it. And it's hurting me a lot...

The kids are looking at Bubba as he struggles to talk. Michael is watching Bubba, not reacting.

BUBBA

(continuing)

And if you're hurting too, that's okay, man. Because it hurts. And what's the damn point if you can't even be who you are?

Bubba stops trying to talk. Megan watches.

LISA

It doesn't seem fair. Paul didn't do nothing to nobody. Why does it have to be him? Nothing's fair.

*

Bubba is listening now. He nods to Shirley saying nothing. More silence.

TANK

You know, my grampa died. He had a heart attack. They took him to the hospital. They wouldn't let me see him. They said it would upset me. I wanted to see him. I didn't get to say anything to him. I wanted to say goodbye...

Tank starts to cry, stops himself.

TANK

(continuing)

This is dumb.

BUBBA

Don't worry about it.

TANK

I'm always afraid somebody's gonna die. And then this happens to Paul. And now I'm waiting to see who it's gonna happen to next.

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED: (2)

81

Tank quiets himself as others look down.

LARRY

I have this turtle at home.

SHIRLEY

Be quiet, Larry.

*

LARRY

I do.

BUBBA

Let him talk.

LARRY

The guy in the store told me that he was only supposed to live for three months. And now he's lived for about four years.

Larry stops talking, thinks about what he's saying, what he doesn't want to say.

Bubba sees Larry struggling.

BUBBA

Go ahead,

LARRY

I wish he would have died when they said he was gonna die, 'cause I wouldn't have felt so bad. Now when he dies, I'm gonna feel terrible -- because I love him now... and I'm gonna miss him when he's gone.

SHIRLEY

This is making me feel worse than I was before. I want to go home.

*

Shirley starts to get up.

*

BUBBA

Let's stay together a little longer.

Shirley lets out a sigh and sits back down.

*

BUBBA

(continuing)
What're you thinkin' about?

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED: (3)

81

SHIRLEY

Me? Nothin'. I just think it's too bad, but I just don't feel like crying about it.

*

BUBBA

Nobody says you have to cry.

SHIRLEY

Yeah, but everybody thinks you don't care if you don't cry. And I feel as bad as anybody else does. I just don't feel like crying.

*

(trying to make a joke)
I'm just glad it didn't happen to me.

(honest)
I don't wanna die.

This echoes for everyone.

RANDY

I was thinkin' that, too.

BUBBA

Neither do I.

JEEP

I just don't know what you're supposed to do when somebody dies.

BUBBA

I don't think it gets much better than what we're doing here. I think what we can do is help each other face it a little. And then you still gotta keep on going. And nobody can do that for you. That takes what you got.

Bubba looks at Michael.

BUBBA

(continuing)

And I think you gotta give the people around you a chance. You see, they're just trying to get through all this just like you. They're making mistakes along the way and they're doing what they can to become somebody they can feel good about.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED: (4)

81

BUBBA (CONT'D)

And they're trying to show you that they care what happens to you. Don't shut them out of your life. Sometimes it's gonna hurt you and you have to get through that. But people can do good things too. And they can make you see that you've got something to give people. You know, all we really got here is each other to make some sense out of all this. Give it a chance.

Bubba looks at Michael and cannot really see what impact his words have had on Michael. The silence is finally broken by Shirley.

SHIRLEY

Can we go now?

BUBBA

(smiling)

Yeah, Shirley, we can go.

Shirley gets up, sees no one else is moving, sits down, embarrassed.

LISA

Are we still going to the track meet?

Bubba looks to Megan. Megan is coming to her own new understanding. She looks at Bubba, the kids before speaking.

MEGAN

Whatever you decide to do is okay with me.

Bubba looks at Megan, surprised.

MEGAN

(continuing)

All I know is how much all of you mean to me.

Michael is not looking at Megan.

DISSOLVE TO:

82 OMITTED

82 *

81 CONTINUED: (4)

81

BUBBA (CONT'D)

And they're trying to show you that they care what happens to you. Don't shut them out of your life. Sometimes it's gonna hurt you and you have to get through that. But people can do good things too. And they can make you see that you've got something to give people. You know, all we really got here is each other to make some sense out of all this. Give it a chance.

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Bubba looks at Megan, surprised.

MEGAN

(continuing)

All I know is how much all of you mean to me.

Michael is not looking at Megan.

DISSOLVE TO:

82 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (TWO DAYS LATER)

82

The kids are tie-dyeing the baseball jerseys with their sleeves cut off.

(CONTINUED)

83

EXT. TRACK STADIUM - DAY (TWO DAYS LATER)

83

A large crowd of people are milling around on the field, in the stands where the track meet is about to begin. Different teams are warming up, wearing matching shirts, shorts, warm-up suits. Through the crowd the kids from the playground appear followed by Bubba and Megan. Their uniforms are loud, colorful, a little sloppy but very special. They are walking proudly. The other kids notice them as they pass. A few laugh.

KID

Hey, look, they're wearin' their pajamas.

Tank looks over at the kid and starts to go after him. Bubba pulls Tank back in line.

BUBBA

Save it, Tank.

The kids continue walking. A man in a suit, wearing an official's badge (TRACK OFFICIAL), comes up to the group.

TRACK OFFICIAL

Where'd you kids get those crazy shirts?

SHIRLEY

We made 'em.

The group walks past the Track Official.

LISA

We look pretty weird.

LARRY

We are pretty weird.

84
thru
85G

OMITTED

84
thru
85G *

STARTING LINE

Bubba walks up with Shirley as Tank stands with Larry, looking around.

BUBBA

(to Shirley)

You're gonna do fine.

TANK

You see Michael?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Larry shakes his head no. The hundred yard dash is run. *
Shirley places third. *

SHOTPUT AREA *

Tank does his best as the kids cheer him on. *

HIGH JUMP AREA *

Larry and Lisa compete. They do not win. *

86 BENCHES

86

Bubba gets the kids ready for the relay as they stand around him.

MEGAN

You guys are doing fine.

BUBBA

(seeing the kids
are a little down)

Just remember to take your time.

TANK

And tell Larry not to start running
till I hand him the baton.

LARRY

You just better get there.

VOICE BOOMS OVER the PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.

TRACK OFFICIAL (V.O.)

Will contestants in the relay race
please report to the starting line.
All contestants...

LISA

My shoe's too tight.

Megan bends down to help Lisa.

BUBBA

Okay, listen, everybody. I'm real
proud of you guys.

(CONTINUED)

86

CONTINUED:

86

Bubba looks up and sees Michael running across the field, wearing cut-offs, a T-shirt, and tennis shoes. Michael is threading his way through the crowd towards Bubba and the kids. Bubba stops talking and stares at Michael. Tank turns and sees Michael.

TANK

It's Michael.

The kids turn and run to greet Michael. Michael greets them and keeps walking towards Megan and Bubba.

MICHAEL

I wanna run.

Bubba tosses Michael the jersey. Michael looks at the jersey. It is custom designed by Bubba -- a mess.

MICHAEL

(continuing)

I ain't wearin' this.

BUBBA

What're you talkin' about. It's custom designed by Bubba Newman.

Michael puts it on over his shirt. The kids look, laugh. Michael tucks it in, makes it look good.

MICHAEL

Hey, I make anything look good.

Bubba and Megan laugh. There is a moment between Bubba and Michael amidst the excitement where they connect. They clasp hands.

Bubba looks at Michael, smiles.

BUBBA

Come here, you guys.

The other kids and Megan put their hands in with Bubba and Michael and all AD LIB.

MICHAEL

Let's show these guys we got speed!

The kids run off leaving Bubba and Megan behind.

MEGAN

I like you.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

She kisses Bubba and without losing a beat goes off to resume her supervision of the track meet.

TRACK OFFICIAL (V.O.)
Final call for all contestants for
the relay race. Report immediately
to the starting area.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: (2)

86

Let's go!

MICHAEL

The kids walk together in a group through the crowd, passing other teams with good traditional uniforms, looking wild but together. Bubba and Megan stand next to each other, looking proudly at the kids.

87 STARTING LINE

87

Lisa lines up with six other kids. The Official SHOOTS his GUN. Lisa takes off with the rest of the kids. She runs for a distance. The kids cheer her on, but she falls behind.

In SEVERAL SHOTS we SEE each of the kids running, passing the baton, one stumbling, all trying hard. They are in third place, but in contention. It leads to the final pass of the baton to Michael. Michael takes it and starts to run, beginning to catch up with the leaders as we SEE Bubba and Megan cheering Michael on. Michael is running hard as we FREEZE on his image.

FADE OUT.

THE END