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ANARENE, TEXAS

Written by Alan Nafzger
FADE IN

EXT/INT. ANARENE BAPTIST CHURCH - SUNDAY MORNING

It’s a quiet West Texas town.

NEVEAH (17), attractive but rough and poorly dressed, opens the church doors only an inch. She looks in through a crack on the door. She sees the back of the parishioners. At the front is a fiery fundamentalist minister. Neveah is apprehensive/hesitant about entering.

Neveah opens the door and enters. Most everyone turns to look who is entering, especially turning is the preacher’s daughter BETHANY (17), pretty and smartly dressed.

Neveah sits on the back row and pulls out her cell phone. She types a message.

PHONE SCREEN
How much longer?

Bethany’s phone vibrates. Bethany reads the message.

Bethany’s MOM (38), whispers to her.

MOM
Stop that and listen to your father.

Neveah becomes bored and put off by religion. She exits the church.

EXT. ANARENE BAPTIST CHURCH – DAY

Neveah exits and sits on the steps of the church.

REBECCA (24) an incredibly rough and unattractive girl pulls up across the street. She drives a late model pickup. Neveah watches a boy, HASTINGS (19) bring her a wad of cash. Rebecca in turn hands him a sack of drugs. They aren’t worried and don’t even scan the horizon before making the exchange; everyone who could hurt them are inside churches.

Neveah looks broodingly at them.

Rebecca pulls away and down the street.
Only now does Hastings notice Neveah watching.

HASTINGS
What are you doing? Just sitting there spying? Fuck off or I’m coming over there.

Neveah remains. Hastings begins to walk over and confront Neveah, but the church doors swing open and the congregation begins to file out.

TITLES MONTAGE – CITY CAFÉ – DAY

At the TITLES appear, Neveah and Bethany sit at a booth together. Neveah’s parents and their younger kids eat at a table.

Bethany shares her chicken-fried-chicken with Neveah. Bethany is popular in school, thin, pretty and never a big eater. Neveah is neglected and under-nourished at home by an alcoholic mother. She has a young brother.

Bethany stops the waitress.

BETHANY
Can I have some more rolls please?

The waitress isn’t amused but who is going to argue with the daughter of the Baptist minister in a small Texas town. Bethany is about to close to the rank of “princes” as is possible. The waitress brings some rolls and smiles. Neveah is pretending not to be eating, but she’s eaten half Bethany’s meal. And she’s still hungry. Neveah waits a beat or two and then grabs a roll and eats it hungrily.

The pastor and his wife can hardly eat; people keep stopping by their table greeting them. Neveah and Bethany are finished with their meal and occupy their time while Bethany’s family finishes eating.

Neveah and Bethany record silly cell phone videos. They laugh and giggle. Clearly they are an odd match, the lower and top tiers of the social strata, but they are obviously best friends.
NEVEAH
Are you looking at me?

Macho female look. They giggle.

BETHANY
As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again.

She stuffs her face with a roll. They giggle.

NEVEAH
I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse.

They giggle. The minister and wife don't approve.

BETHANY
Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

They giggle.

NEVEAH
You don't understand! I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I could've been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am.

Bethany is girly. Neveah has a gender bending edge to her.

The minister and family rise and begin to leave the café. Bethany waves to her friend in the booth.

BETHANY
Call me.

NEVEAH
Wanna hang out later?

BETHANY
My dad. It's Sunday, (beat)
But...

END TITLES MONTAGE
INT/EXT. CITY GROCERY - SUNDAY

Bethany and Neveah enter the food store and split up. Neveah is rather crafty/sneaky with her shoplifting. Bethany is totally obvious and she attracts the attention of the MANGER. He’s confident he will have to confront the preacher’s daughter (a huge scandal might be brewing), but just as Bethany approaches the checkout, she pulls out all the food, snacks and drinks, a hairbrush and some “Baby Alligator Grosgrain hair ribbons and places it out on the counter.

Timing is everything, just as Bethany approaches the counter, Neveah slips out of the store. Unnoticed.

Neveah walks down the alley behind the grocery. She, probably by habit, looks into the garbage bin. She pulls out a cartoon of eggs. Perhaps three or four of the dozen are broken. She takes them with her as she makes her way toward the school playground.

Bethany pays with a card her daddy gave her. Neveah moves to the school’s playground across the way from the baseball field. She puts her haul out on the merry-go-round. Seconds later, Bethany adds her haul to the pile. They eat snacks and drink soda and go-around and-around in circles, laughing.

Still on the moving merry-go-round Bethany brushes Neveah’s hair and places a bow in it. Neveah is distracted by a boy pitching from the mound to his FATHER catching behind home plate. Bethany notices Neveah’s attraction for the boy and smiles.

EXT/INT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

The boy is SANDY (17) lefty and prime for a career in major league baseball! His FATHER is coaching him. Bethany and Neveah take the eggs and sneak into the press box and watch the boy practice.

FATHER
Why do you want to have your own style?

Sandy shrugs.
FATHER
It’s done this way and when you do something different...

SANDY
I just need to free myself up. Might learn something new.

FATHER
New? You’ll learn more new by doing it the old traditional way, I’m telling you.

INT. BASEBALL FIELD PRESS BOX – DAY

Generally voyeurism is the purview of males, but Neveah seems to be leading the girls into it.

BETHANY
A total lack of technique. All emotion and he’s such a bull. It’s an art sure but also a science. Mechanical and robotic.

NEVEAH
His father is trying to tell him, the right way?

BETHANY
He won’t listen.

NEVEAH
Arrogant?

BETHANY
Of course. He will be at a college next year they say, regardless.

NEVEAH
He’s a big dog?

BETHANY
You like him?

NEVEAH
Not my type.
BETHANY
You talked to him?

NEVEAH
No.

BETHANY
He doesn’t dance.

NEVEAH
Come on, let’s go.

The girls sneak out of the press box and hide behind the dugout. Regardless of what she said Neveah is bothered by Sandy’s muscles and the sounds he makes exerting himself.

The gate at both dugouts are locked. There is a gate open in the outfield wall.

The girls peak around the corner at Sandy who continues to throw. He’s worked himself up and is throwing very hard, almost like he’s trying to knock his dad over. The ball smacks into the catches mitt making a loud noise.

Neveah takes the eggs and is about to throw them over the dugout at Sandy, but she looks lustily at him around the corner. Neveah hands Bethany four eggs and she takes four. They pitch them over and run. Eggs hit here and there around the pitches mound and then one last egg hits Sandy in his baseball cap.

Sandy wants to catch them and he runs to the dugout, but can’t get out though the locked gate.

FATHER
Son, don’t go.
(half beat)
It’s not worth it.

Sandy then sprints to the outfield gate... through they and he runs to were the girls launched from. Sandy isn’t too mad. He’s mostly curious at the event. He chases after the girls.

Neveah turns back toward Sandy; they make eye contact for a brief second. Sandy is mesmerized and not paying too much attention to anything else. He has an idea that he’ll catch
Neveah but he’s about to cross the highway and is almost hit by a 18-wheeler truck. He misses death by a foot or less.

The girls move out of site behind come houses.

Sandy stops and chuckles. He probably doesn’t want revenge. He doesn’t take it as an insult but just girls’ innocent flirting.

EXT. SCHOOL – MORNING

Neveah is walking. She arrives at school just in time to see all the popular and rich kids arrive in their big fairly new trucks. Even the cheerleaders drive huge trucks. Neveah is one of the poor kids and she knows it. It shouldn’t bother her but it does.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA – DAY

Half the stuff that was stolen the previous day is out on the lunch table. Neveah and Bethany are sitting at the table.

NEVEAH
A soda, candy bar, beef jerky, gum. My tatter tots are included. Two dollars.

A FRESHMEN boy approaches and buys the lot. She pockets the money and tries to hand the freshman her lunch tray. The freshman waves it off but takes the junk food.

Neveah takes it as an insult and she eats the tatter-tots two at a time until they’re gone.

NEVEAH
I have a lighter.

FRESHMAN #2
How much?

NEVEAH
Fifty cents.

FRESHMAN #2
That’s shit.
NEVEAH
They won’t sell you one at the store.
(beat)
You can’t smoke you aren’t old enough.
They won’t.

Long beat. The bell rings to return to class.

NEVEAH
You got a quarter?

FRESHMAN #2
Show me it works.

Neveah looks around. The students are leaving in mass; it’s clear so she flicks her Bik.

Freshman #2 gives her a quarter.

ADMINISTRATOR
Okay, pack up; here he comes.

A school administrator is on the way to their location. She stuffs all the remaining stuff into her backpack.

ADMINISTRATOR
Get a move on girls.
(half beat)
Class is about to begin.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Neveah and Bethany are in a speech communications or vocational class of some type. The teacher is conducting mock job interviews.

TEACHER
Can you tell me something about yourself?

NEVEAH
Well, I’m currently a weapon’s specialist at Smith and Wesson, where I test our new firearms mostly on coyotes, skunks and possums; you know, critters. Before that, I worked in the
U.S. Army pretty much shooting Muslims in Iraq.

The class chuckles. The teacher makes a discouraging face at the class. But returns to character.

NEVEAH
I’m proficient with a variety of weapons. And while I really enjoyed the work that I’ve done, I’d love the chance to shoot some old people and since you operate the nation’s largest chain of retirement homes, I’d love the opportunity.

The class rudely laughs.

NEVEAH
I’m so excited about this opportunity with Final Rest Health Homes.

TEACHER
This is not a joke.

NEVEAH
It’s all on my resume.

TEACHER
No, ma’am.

NEVEAH
But I’m really looking forward to this job.

TEACHER
Well, start again.

NEVEAH
Why?

TEACHER
You have this grin on your face... it’s not sincere.

NEVEAH
But you said, “smile” and “have fun”.

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TEACHER
But this time remember something important. And that is sincerity.
(half beat)
No one is going to hire you if you’re a smart-aleck and a racist.

NEVEAH
Oh, I can think of a few smart-ass and racist football coaches.

TEACHER
No.

NEVEAH
Oh, you want their names.

TEACHER
Oh, please Neveah.

NEVEAH
So, do I get the job?

The class chuckles again.

TEACHER
One last chance. Or do you want the grade you just earned?

NEVEAH
Okay.

Neveah gives the teacher an even more exaggerated smart-ass smile.

TEACHER
Are you really going to smile like that?

NEVEAH
I’m a very friendly person.

Again the class laughs. Presumably she is NOT a friendly person.
NEVEAH
See, I’m a funny person too. Everyone’s laughing.

TEACHER
This is a major grade people.
(half beat)
Put your back against the chair and sit up straight.

NEVEAH
How’s this?

Neveah throws her pencil across the room.

TEACHER
That’s it. I don’t have any more patience. Why would you do that?

NEVEAH
Okay, I’ll calm down.

TEACHER
You’re role playing. Pretend you are an applicant.

NEVEAH
It isn’t real.

TEACHER
I know it isn’t real. We are working on our people and communication skills.
(half beat)
Throwing a pen across the room will always get you fired. And it will also get you a failing grade.

NEVEAH
You’ll never get rich working for someone else.

TEACHER
Sit down.
(half beat)
Bethany will you please take her place?
NEVEAH
Go on.
(half beat)
This job was made for a preacher’s kid.
Sit back in the chair and smile but
don’t smile too much.

The teacher is upset and isn’t smiling when Bethany sits.

TEACHER
(not smiling)
Welcome.

NEVEAH
(to the teacher)
Well, you’ve already forgotten the basics. You must smile when greeting people in the business place.

Beat.

NEVEAH
The first thing! Unforgivable.

TEACHER
Don’t you talk to me like that.

NEVEAH
Don’t you talk to “me” like that.

Neveah mocks the teacher’s gestures.

TEACHER
That’s it. Go to the principal’s office.

NEVEAH
I don’t need this shitty class.

TEACHER
Oh, ya? What are you going to do with your life?

NEVEAH
Like everyone, I’m going to make money.
(half beat)
I’m going to drive a F-250. Crew cab, 440 horse power and black.

TEACHER
I tried to help you but just go.

NEVEAH
Help me do what? Paid twice a month and felt up by the boss once a week?

TEACHER
Jobs, like rules, are necessary.

NEVEAH
Bill Gates, Michael Dell, Mark Zuckerberg.

TEACHER
You’re so stubborn.

NEVEAH
So?

TEACHER
So, you’ll never accomplish anything. You refuse to listen.
(half beat)
Go!

NEVEAH
What have you accomplished? Look at your clothes.

TEACHER
Go to the principal. We’re done here.

NEVEAH
Fine, I’m going to tell him you called me a loser. You make barely $2000 per month and I’m the loser?

TEACHER
Fine I’m going to call him and he’ll come get you.

NEVEAH
I’ll make 10 times more money than you.
Neveah leaves the classroom. In fact, she leaves the entire campus.

Bethany is ashamed and feels sorry for her friend, but also it seems this has happened before.

INT. ANARENE, TX - DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT - DAY

Neveah goes to a bar. Clearly under age, nothing is said. Her mother works there.

Neveah’s MOTHER (38) is drunk and doing something like a belly dance (it doesn’t fit the music) delivering drinks to various tables.

NEVEAH
Mom, you have food at home?

MOTHER
Well, the Lone Star card is empty but... Yeah, we’re eating.

NEVEAH
You traded the card for booze again?

MOTHER
Why do I need to trade my card for booze, I work in a bar. I get all the booze I want.

NEVEAH
It’s not your card, technically it’s for me and my brother.

MOTHER
It’s always about you, isn’t it?

NEVEAH
I don’t need it; I can take care of myself.

Neveah runs behind the bar and takes all the dirty glasses and few plates into the kitchen. She begins to wash them.

Her cell phone vibrates. She stops working to read the message from Bethany.
PHONE SCREEN
Did you quit school?

Neveah contemplates and then continues washing the glasses.

INT. ANARENE, TX - DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT - NIGHT

The crowd intensifies. Time passes. The bar tender goes to the back to bring up some cases of liquor.

Neveah brings clean classes back out to the bar area. Neveah’s mother is so drunk she doesn’t even notice her daughter behind the bar.

MOTHER
Three beers.

Mother drinks a beer as she waits.

NEVEAH
Mom, stop drinking.
(half beat)
I’m going soon.

MOTHER
Your fucking one of those boys from the school. I’m your mom, I know these things.

NEVEAH
I have to study at Bethany’s.

MOTHER
You’re not studying for your Ph.D.
(half beat)
You can go to Bethany’s later.

Neveah is still drinking her beer.

NEVEAH
They go to bed early.
(half beat)
Mom, the boss.

The boss enters the bar and walks to the bar.
MOTHER
Boss, you’re so handsome.

Neveah’s mom takes three beers toward a table.

BOSS
You’re here again.

NEVEAH
Just helping out.

BOSS
You know I’m not paying you.

NEVEAH
But you’re paying my mom.
(beat)
Two for the price of one. Right?

BOSS
Hand me a beer?

Neveah hands him a beer.

Mother delivers the beers but spills the tray.

Neveah, with broom and dustpan, goes to help her mother clean up the broken glass and spilled beer. But her mother stops her.

MOTHER
Look at my beautiful daughter. Did you ever see an ass that nice?

NEVEAH
Mom, you’re embarrassing me.
(half beat)
Stop it.

Neveah begins to clean up the mess.

The boss comes and strong arm Neveah’s mother. He’s moving her out of the bar.

BOSS
Come on, get out.
She resists.

BOSS
Get out.

NEVEAH
Wait. What are you doing?

The boss has the mother almost out the front door.

NEVEAH
Get your hands off my mother. I’m not joking you, pig.

BOSS
You’re both crazy.
(half beat)
I want you both out of here.

NEVEAH
I’ll burn this bar to the ground.

MOTHER
She will!!!

NEVEAH
You sick fucking pig.

BOSS
Don’t come back.

EXT. ANARENE STREET - NIGHT

Neveah and mother walk home.

NEVEAH
Mom, you embarrass me everywhere I go. Everywhere!

Mother drunkenly laughs.

NEVEAH
This was your work; this is how we ate.

Mother drunkenly laughs.
NEVEAH
What are we going to do?

Mother drunkenly hugs her.

NEVEAH
Mother, please behave.

Mother drunkenly stumbles and falls down.

NEVEAH
Do you torture me on purpose?

Neveah helps her mother up and they continue.

INT. ANARENE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Bethany gets a map (or a Google maps location) to a party. It’s an invitation. She shares it with Neveah. They both seem excited about the opportunity.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Bethany sits next to a BOY (18) with Neveah on the passenger side. They cross a cattle guard and leave the road. They cross over a slight rise and just hidden is a low spot and the perfect place for a party.

There are about 20 trucks in a cattle pasture. Music from a truck stereo is blasting. There are 50 high school kids drinking and conversing a few of the boys are throwing a football (in the moon light) probably high on meth. Rebecca has the nicest truck and a bathtub of iced down beer.

REBECCA
I’m going to open a night club in Wichita Falls. Hookers, drugs and live country music.

PERSON
You can’t; the Wilson family. They’ll burn you out.

REBECCA
Shot, not if I burn their clubs first.
PERSON
Won’t that look strange three clubs
burn and yours open the next week.

REBECCA
I don’t give a shit.
(half beat)
No one cares about me out here.
(half beat)
In town, I can make big bucks and party
at the same time. There are a 100,000
people there and 10 percent of them
party.

HASTINGS
That’s not counting the people that
drive into the town.

Everyone chuckles and laughs.

Neveah looks and listens. Rebecca is sly about it but the
party is a ruse so they can sell dope. Hastings is the
distributor. It appears that Rebecca is just a generous
provider of beer.

Neveah appears aware of the situation and looks on, even
admiring it. Clearly she admires Rebecca.

EXT. ANARENE STREETS – DAY

Neveah walks though the city. She greets kids on bikes. She
stops by a very small rundown house. There is a rundown
mother with three hungry kids.

NEVEAH
I have some peanut butter for you.

WOMAN
I can’t pay you.

NEVEAH
I know, Rebecca told me.

WOMAN
The rent took all of my check and I’m
my Lone Star Card is drained right now.
NEVEAH
Forget it. It was free for me.

WOMAN
Thank you.

The woman and the kids disappear inside.

INT. NEVEAH’S HOME – DAY

Neveah enters her rundown home. Mother and her FRIEND are at the table drinking margaritas. Neveah’s mother is sobbing and her friend is brushing her hair.

FRIEND
Stop blubbering. No one is dead.
(half beat)
It’s just a man. Ted, Ted Ted. Ted’s not a cowboy name anyway. He sounds like a banker from Wichita.
(half beat)
I say good riddance. A man is nothing more than a Kleenex.

Neveah’s mother continues to sob. Neveah’s heard it all 100 times before and isn’t fazed at all by it. She just ignores the women.

There are some beans on the stove, but the cupboard looks bare. Neveah opens her school bag and puts three or four items in the kitchen – rice, beans, bread and peanut butter. And she puts three or four items in the bathroom – soap and shampoo.

MOTHER
I’m so stupid.
(half beat)
He told me he loved me.

FRIEND
Love?
(half beat)
What is love? Men don’t love. They only fuck. They think with their dick for a week and then move on.
(half beat)
It’s normal.
MOTHER
It’s wrong.

More sobbing.

FRIEND
The more beautiful you are the more you suffer.

NEVEAH
(to her mom)
Eat. Starving won’t bring him back.
(half beat)
I’ll get you some beans.

Neveah moves to the stove and puts bean in a bowl. They look less than delicious. She hands it to her mother. It’s almost like her mother is debilitated.

Neveah leaves the house and sits on the front porch messaging Bethany with her cell phone.

EXT. ANARENE FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

Neveah is walking to or from school. Hastings has been sleeping in the football stadium’s press box. It’s odd someone sleeping in the football stadium. Rebecca drives up and gets out. Hastings exits the press box. He is incredibly hangover and haggard. But they shake and make a gesture of solidarity. Neveah ducks into a secluded spot to watch.

BETHANY
You slept up there?

HASTINGS
Times are tough.

BETHANY
I pay you plenty.

HASTINGS
Well, shit happens.

They exchange money and drugs.
BETHANY
The cops are gonna find you up here.

HASTINGS
They parked in the parking lot for two hours last night.

Rebecca looks at him suspiciously.

Rebecca drives away and Hastings walks back up to the press box. He then exits and press box and walks away.

Neveah continues to school. Bethany’s father pulls up beside her on the street. Neveah is frightened and jumps out of her socks.

PASTOR
Hi, Neveah. You want a ride to school?

NEVEAH
No, thank you.

PASTOR
You sure?
(beat)
Okay. You don’t come to church anymore. You used to like it.

NEVEAH
No. I should.

PASTOR
Well, come. You’re always welcome.

NEVEAH
See you around. Thanks.

PASTOR
Take care of you mother.

NEVEAH
Okay. I will.

PASTOR
Hey, good news. We’re getting Bethany a car next week. I’m sure she’ll give you a ride every morning.
EXT. ANARENE FOOTBALL STADIUM – DAY

After school, Neveah walks to the football stadium and climbs up to the press box. She enters and searches it. She finds Hastings stash of dope.

She exits and runs all the way home.

EXT. FAT BOY DRIVE IN RESTAURANT – DAY

Bethany has her car and pulls into a stall just to the left of Rebecca. Neveah is on the passenger side.

   BETHANY
   What if she gets upset? Some people like to eat uninterrupted.

   NEVEAH
   She won’t, she’s a businesswoman. It’s a job interview.

   BETHANY
   Well, you know how that worked out last time.

Neveah hesitates, but rolls down the window.

   BETHANY
   Are you mental?

Neveah sticks her head out, but Rebecca doesn’t roll her window down.

Neveah reaches far out of the window, he hips almost out of the car to reach. She taps on Rebecca’s window. Rebecca’s window is seriously tinted.

A seriously handsome COWBOY is driving. We can’t see Rebecca yet. Neveah is taken aback and just stares. This cowboy might be the most handsome man she’s ever seen. Even Bethany is looking longingly at him.

   COWBOY
   Yeah?
NEVEAH
Rebecca? I thought this was her truck.

COWBOY
It is.

NEVEAH
I want to ask her about a job.

Rebecca rises up from the floorboard.

There is a long beat as Bethany and Neveah process it all. Their eyes are as big a saucers.

NEVEAH
Can I have a job?

Rebecca nods.

REBECCA
You got to the high school?

NEVEAH
Yeah.

REBECCA
Okay.

Rebecca disappears again and the cowboy rolls up the window.

Later...

The Cowboy exits her truck. He smiles at Neveah, tips his hat to her. The Cowboy gets in his truck. And drives out of the drive in.

Rebecca is in the passenger seat of her truck now. She rolls down her window.

REBECCA
What is this an employment agency?

Neveah hands her a brown paper bag from the drive in.
REBECCA
What’s this?

Rebecca looks in the sack and see the dope she’s previously given Hastings.

NEVEAH
With me your stuff will be safe.

REBECCA
You stole this from Hastings?

No he left it up in the press box at the football stadium.

REBECCA
So you robbed him to get his job?

NEVEAH
No I’m just returning your property.

REBECCA
Does he know about it?

NEVEAH
Nope.

REBECCA
You got

REBECCA
You know where I stay?

NEVEAH
Yep.

REBECCA
Come see me tomorrow? I’ll give you something to do.

Neveah gestures “mission accomplished”. And slaps low five to Bethany.

REBECCA
Oh, don’t drive right up to the house. Drive to the windmill and then over to the house.
If you come straight up the drive your tires will get ruined.

INT. ANARENE BASEBALL FIELD PRESS BOX – DAY

Bethany and Neveah are in the press box getting high. Out on the field, the baseball team is practicing. They smoke and peak out at the boys. Bethany chuckles and lusts over several of them. Neveah is looking for Sandy but he doesn’t seem to be out there. She is relieved when she sees him running out to the field.

COACH
You’re late.

SANDY
Mrs. Adams kept me.

COACH
Maybe you aren’t up to it.

SANDY
I’m up for it coach.

COACH
I don’t have time to talk. Get out there.

The coach hands him a baseball.

SANDY
It’s up to you how far you go.

Sandy runs out to the mound. Now it’s Neveah’s turn to lust. She watches him intently as he throws. Several players get in the batters box but can’t connect. The coach watched emotionlessly. He fears if he shows approval, Sandy will ease up and work less.

BETHANY
You hear that?

NEVEAH
What? The ball hitting the glove?
BETHANY
No, this little grunt when he releases the ball.

NEVEAH
Yeah. He does that doesn’t he.
I’d go down on him.

BETHANY
You did that already?

Beat.

NEVEAH
No.

BETHANY
You better not have and not told me.

NEVEAH
But I would.

BETHANY
You would?

NEVEAH
Sure, I would.
(half beat)
Wouldn’t you?

BETHANY
Uh... I guess.
(half beat)
I thought you thought he was a dick.

NEVEAH
Who cares about that. Just look at him. It wouldn’t bother me a bit.

They smoke some more weed.

EXT. ANARENE CAR WASH – DAY

Neveah washes Rebecca’s truck. Not just with the power sprayer but with a sponge and a bucket of soap. Then she power washes it.
Hastings and Rebecca are in the cab of the truck waiting for Neveah to finish.

HASTINGS
Why do you want her hanging around.
Paying her good money for washing your truck.

REBECCA
Leave her alone. She’s mine.

HASTINGS
You never washed your truck since it was new.

REBECCA
So?

HASTINGS
Do I have to pay you back for the dope?

REBECCA
Of course you do. Plus some.

HASTINGS
I thought we were family.

REBECCA
The only family I have is cash.

HASTINGS
The only family you have is cash?

REBECCA
Right!

Bethany arrives with hamburgers for everyone. There are four burgers. Rebecca and Hastings eat in the cab at first, but Rebecca kicks Hastings out and she signals for Neveah to come sit with her in the cab. Bethany and Hastings, an odd moment, they sit in Bethany’s car silent.

REBECCA
Can you ride a motorcycle?
NEVEAH
Of course.

EXT. FARM – DAY

Neveah is on a dirt bike learning to drive. Bethany is there and she’s found a BOY from school to teach Neveah how to ride. There is also the boy’s dog that is barking and excited about Neveah on the bike.

BOY
The hand clutch lever is on the left handlebar and you use it to disengage the power from the rear wheel when shifting gears. The gear shifter is by your left foot and is used to shift one gear up or down while you’re pulling the clutch lever. The gas is on the right handlebar. The brake is the lever on the right handlebar. The lever on the right side of the bike near your foot works the rear brake. Basically, the left side controls gears, while the right side controls the gas and brakes.

Neveah is on the bike and the going is rough. She is wobbly and kills the engine twice, but we can see that she is slowly improving and learning. And we can also see that she is fearless.

Neveah rides slowly in circles around them, still in first gear.

NEVEAH
Don’t look, you’re making me nervous.

BETHANY
You can’t accelerate and brake at the same time.

The boy chuckles.

NEVEAH
So you’re the teacher now? (half beat) I’ve forgotten that you don’t know how to ride a motorcycle either.
BETHANY

Sorry.

The dog jumps out and Neveah panics and dumps the bike over. Rebecca runs over to help her but stops when Neveah waves her off.

NEVEAH (to the boy)

Sorry.

BOY

It’s okay. Get it up.

Neveah struggles to right the bike.

BETHANY

Why did you say you could ride?

NEVEAH

Because I can!

She climbs on and starts it again.

BETHANY

Can you bring her into town?

(half beat)

I have to go, or I’ll be in trouble.

Before Bethany gets to the highway leading back into town, Neveah’s riding well enough to chase her down. She passes Bethany on the ranch road and stops in front of her. There is a cloud of dust.

Bethany must slam on the brakes to avoid hitting her.

NEVEAH

I did it!!!

Bethany nods to her like, “so what”

Neveah guns the bike and races out across the prairie.
Bethany continues back into town but smiles to herself in approval. Bethany knows how tenacious and head-strong her friend is.

EXT. GASOLINE PUMPS – NIGHT

Neveah has a motorcycle too big for her tiny frame. You might even call the motorcycle a hog. But she’s on it and riding. It’s almost like slowly Neveah is becoming a man. Bethany in her car and Neveah on her bike pull up to the pump.

Bethany swipes her daddy’s card for the gas. She fills her tank and then fills Neveah’s gas tank. Neveah in the mean while details the bike and it is nearly spotless.

BETHANY
How’d she get this?

NEVEAH
Debt. Some guy owed her money and so she took this instead.

BETHANY
Can I ask you something?

NEVEAH
Sure.

BETHANY
You alright?

NEVEAH
Nightmares.

BETHANY
Really. I don’t dream. Or I don’t remember them in the morning maybe.

NEVEAH
I do. I woke up in a hospital tied down to the bed and being observed by lots of doctors, psychologist and a “preacher”. I had no idea what the hell was happening and why I got tied down but I felt I was extremely physical exhausted and wanted only to sleep. I
asked them several times what the hell has happen to me so they show me this video. I’m tied down in a different room with surveillance cameras, scientist, doctors, physiologist and the same preacher. I was in rage there, my eyes was blood red talking, shouting in tongues I didn’t understand. I had extreme physical strength and got myself loose. I was jumping weirdly like 5 feet up in the air, screaming, scratching on the walls... hanging up from the ceiling supported by “one finger”, some kind of impossible physical strength not just anyone can perform. I just woke up in my bed sweeting and shaking.

BETHANY
What do you think it means?

NEVEAH
I figure there are demons inside me.

Bethany and Neveah hug each other. A bunch of DRUNK COWBOYS drive by, whistling out their window.

   DRUNK COWBOY #1
   Lesbians!

   DRUNK COWBOY #2
   Slip her the tongue.

And the cowboys drive past...

Sandy pulls up for gas. He hesitates (afraid the girls will speak to him) but he exits just as Neveah and Bethany pull away.

INT. CAFÉ – DAY

Hastings, Rebecca and Neveah sit at a table. Rebecca hands Neveah a wad of cash and that she pockets.

   REBECCA
   I’m sending you to town.
   (half beat)
Put it in the cellar.
   (half beat)
You’re in charge of transportation now.
   (half beat)
Where do you and your mom live?

NEVEAH
Down by the water treatment plant.

Hastings chuckles.

HASTINGS
You’ll catch TB from the air down
there.

NEVEAH
Tell me did you ever go to school?

It looks as if Neveah and Hastings might fight right there.

REBECCA
So, I can find you there.
   (half beat)
I’m putting you to use.
   (half beat)
And at school.
   (half beat)
Hastings, dumbass, here. They got wise
at the school and they’re gonna
trespass him if he shows up there
again.

This is a major promotion for Neveah.

REBECCA
Use this.

Rebecca hands Neveah a new high dollar cell
phone.

NEVEAH
No way. This is $600.

REBECCA
If there’s any trouble destroy the SIM
   (half beat)
There are a bunch of fake names and number.
(half beat)
See you tomorrow.

Neveah gets up and exits the restaurant.

HASTINGS
Why are you spoiling her?

EXT. HIGHWAY TO WICHITA FALLS - DAY

Neveah and Rebecca ride the hog into Wichita Falls. They go to the mall.

EXT. MALL IN WICHITA FALLS - DAY

Park and buy clothes, shoes and accessories. They look at the displayed items.

Neveah reads, mesmerized.

NEVEAH
(half beat)
Navy, Blue, Black and Red.

They look like biker chicks, hair a mess and dressed in black. But they buy the most “girly” items.

Sandy is there in the mall as well; the girls don’t see him. He stands at a distance, in the men’s department hiding behind a rack of shirts. Sandy watches them try on dresses.

He follows them to the parking lot and they don’t notice him watching them.

They drive back to Anarene, Rebecca holding designer clothes eight bags from the back of the hog.

EXT. ANARENE SIDEWALK - DAY
Rebecca, Bethany and Neveah are taking a walking tour of the downtown area.

REBECCA
The drug task-force are in a white Crown Vick or a blue Malibu. They don’t come out here often, but keep an eye out for them. If the local yahoos think they have something they won’t do anything until they’re here. Understand.

NEVEAH
Okay, that’s good to know.

REBECCA
(to Bethany)
How’s it going. The family.

BETHANY
Family?

REBECCA
Yeah, you’re the minister’s daughter.
(half beat)
Don’t tell me you don’t have a family.

Bethany takes the comments as a veiled threat.

They walk past a THUG leaning against a wall.

REBECCA
This is my girl, replacing Hastings. And this is her lookout. Good?

THUG
Good.

The continue walking.

REBECCA
And watch that fucker. He’ll try to take our clients.

NEVEAH
How do you know?
REBECCA
He’s got nothing else. Move, fight, snitch or starve.

NEVEAH
You just told him who we are. He’ll rat.

Beat.

REBECCA
He’ll be dead if he does, and you’ll never see me again.
(half beat)
I’m moving to Wichita as soon as I can anyway.
(half beat)
I’ll put you in charge out here when I do.

NEVEAH
Sweet!

REBECCA
I don’t want any fuss.
(half beat)
Any trouble. I don’t know you and you don’t know me.

Rebecca gets into her truck and leaves the girls standing there.

Neveah looks confident and content. Bethany looks worried.

INT. GYM – DAY

Both girls are wearing rayban sunglasses. They are on stationary bikes, looking out a large plate glass window. Neveah is burning up the stationary bike – 30 MPH. Bethany looks depressed and not energetic anymore. Bethany is casually riding her bike – 5 MPH.

NEVEAH
We should make a veiled youtube video.
No one will know we’re dealing.
BETHANY
You’re in with Rebecca now. She’s told half the town.

NEVEAH
Stop it. The cash is about to be flowing in.

BETHANY
All we’re getting here is toned.

NEVEAH
Try to look ahead a bit.
(half beat)
Just imagine we’re in Fort Worth – I’m banging this huge cowboy with a BIG belt buckle. Sensodyne whites. I pay for the Brazilian buffet, he buys me a diamond bracelet but it’s my F-250. And I’m driving!
(half beat)
You’re not coming with us?
(half beat)
Peddle harder.
(half beat)
Okay, I’ll go without you.

BETHANY
No, I’ll go.

NEVEAH
You’re gonna have to work that ass girl or we’re leaving you here.
(half beat)
Faster. Go faster.

The girls have a friendly contest and Bethany now tries harder. They exhaust themselves and collapse off the bikes but smile in friendship.

NEVEAH
I’m gonna slap his ass, when you know...

BETHANY
You think he’ll like that?
NEVEAH
I don’t really give a rat’s ass if he does or not. I’m doin’ it.

INT. BASEBALL FIELD PRESS BOX – DAY

Neveah sneaks into the press box and places money into a container that is well hidden.

Leaving Neveah notices Sandy has arrived. He has twenty or more baseballs and a tripod and a radar gun. He’s about to begin throwing into a pitching target with a net to catch the strikes. He throws, a few pitches at 70. And a few at 80. And he reaches the high 90s. He throws, trying to knock the target over backwards.

Neveah might be able to sneak out of the press box unobserved but she stays watching the boy. She finds a pair of field glasses in the press box and she’s monitors Sandy and the radar machine.

Sandy stops and glances up at the press box. He might or might not be aware of Neveah there. Just the glance raises Neveah’s blood pressure. Sandy hits 101 MPH and it’s a great victory for him. He raises his hands in the air, the classic ROCKY victory gesture. He definitely is looking up at the press box.

First Neveah is elated at the accomplishment; she doesn’t entirely understand it but she’s happy for him. He tips his hat to her, and she realizes that he’s aware she’s up there. Maybe she’s showing off for her? Sexual tension builds.

EXT. BASEBALL GAME – NIGHT

Neveah is standing at the gate as people file in, advertising. Rebecca approaches.

BETHANY
Fifth inning, 10 strike outs.

Beat.

BETHANY
He’s doing good.
NEVEAH
So?

A nasty looking tweeker pulls into the parking lot and approaches Neveah. The car is a smoking piece of shit, his hair and clothes (neither) have been washed in weeks, and his teeth are rotted.

REBECCA
Shit, that’s a sale, coming.

NEVEAH
You’re catching on pretty quick, girl.

Rebecca walks away so she’s not identified. But she is watching like a she wolf protecting her puppies.

TWEEKER
You seen Hastings?

I’m Hastings.

TWEEKER
What do you mean?

What do you want?

TWEEKER
For a hundred.

Neveah takes the guy out into the parking lot. Between two jacked up trucks, out of sight.

NEVEAH
Got the cash?
    (half beat)
Here

Neveah pulls out a sack from her pocket. She is about portion it out $100 worth, but the tweeker grabs the entire sack.

TWEEKER
What are you doing?

He punches Neveah and she goes down.
TWEEKER
Give me my money.

Neveah puts the money in her mouth.

The tweeker gets down on her and tries to pry her mouth open.

NEVEAH
You think I’m a bitch?

TWEEKER
What did I tell you, give me the money!

NEVEAH
Give me back the dope.

He slams the back of her head into the gravel.

He hits her in the face several times.

She doesn’t give up the money.

TWEEKER
Open your mouth and give me the money.

NEVEAH
You’re messing with Rebecca. You want to mess with Rebecca.

Bethany is getting worried when Neveah doesn’t return.

He stops beating her.

TWEEKER
Take your shit dope.

NEVEAH
Get out of here.

TWEEKER
Give me the money.

NEVEAH
No, you deal with Rebecca. If you want it ask her for it.
The tweeker kicks her in the ribs and leaves.

Neveah leans up against a truck wheel waiting on Bethany.

Bethany arrives and sees Neveah in bad condition. Bloody face and broken ribs.

    BETHANY
    Neveah?  Fuck, what happened? What did he do to you?

    NEVEAH
    Listen. Look.

    BETHANY
    Is he gone?

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bethany takes Neveah to her home and cleans her up. First aid to the face.

    BETHANY
    I don’t think it’s broken.
    (half beat)
    But I don’t think your gonna be blowing any cowboys for a while.

    NEVEAH
    What about baseball players?

    BETHANY
    Something you didn’t tell me.

    NEVEAH
    Nope. I was just kidding. But your eyes got really big.

    Beat.

    BETHANY
    You did good. You kept your dope and the money too.

Neveah looks in the mirror.
NEVEAH
I can’t let me mother see me like this.

BETHANY
You can sleep here if you want.

NEVEAH
Thanks, but I have to get back. My mom, she doesn’t feed my brother right. It’s a huge hassle.

Bethany lets down Neveah’s hair. And she runs her fingers through it.

BETHANY
Your hair is so fine.
(half beat)
Why do you wear it up all the time? I fix it for you and the next day its up again.
(half beat)
You could be more beautiful than you are.
(half beat)
And you’re a little delicate to be fighting tweakers in the school parking lot.

Neveah puts her hair up again and leaves.

INT. GYM – DAY

Neveah is punching the hell out of a punching dummy/bag. Bethany is leisurely riding her stationary bike. INTERCUT: Neveah’s combat sport instruction and dope sales. Evidently, Bethany has found a boy trained in martial arts to help Neveah. He teaches her the “dragon stomp” death move; they practice it. INTERCUT: between Neveah’s bag work, her growing stash of cash, more spying on the baseball player, and more dope sales. Another trip to Wichita Falls shopping.

INT. HOME – DAY

Neveah arrives home and her mother is drinking on the couch. Neveah’s brother is watching TV as well. Neveah gives her brother some candy.
MOTHER
I thought you were dead.

NEVEAH
Why would you even joke about that?

MOTHER
It’s just a figure of speech.

NEVEAH
I brought you something.

MOTHER
For me? You bought me something?

Neveah gives her mom a gift wrapped box. Her mother opens it and it’s perfume.

FRIEND
Where’s it from?

NEVEAH
The mall.
(half beat)
This is for the rent.

MOTHER
Oh, you don’t have to.

FRIEND
Where’s the money from?

MOTHER
Don’t worry about it. Make the most of it.

FRIEND
Here, let me smell it.

MOTHER
Sweetheart, you aren’t dancing in Wichita?

NEVEAH
Oh, I’m not pretty enough for that.
FRIEND
Nor old enough.

NEVEAH
I swear.

MOTHER
I love you.

The three women, Mother, friend and Neveah (gender bent version) get into a ratty old jeep with the top down. It’s Neveah’s new ride. They ride around Anarene, wind in their hair. They drive past the baseball field. Neveah half rings her neck looking at Sandy. Both mother and friend notice and chuckle.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH – DAY

It’s Sunday morning. Neveah (feminine version) is on the back row, late again. Another CLIENT arrives and sits beside her. They exchange drugs for cash. The client leaves. Neveah remains listening to Bethany’s father.

INT. BASEBALL FIELD PRESS BOX – DUSK

Neveah takes money to deposit into the press box stash. But it’s gone. It’s not where it was hidden. Neveah panics and runs of the press box. She runs onto the field.

NEVEAH
Hey, you.

She pushes Sandy.

NEVEAH
Where’s my money?

SANDY
I can’t break 100 unless your up there.

NEVEAH
Who cares?

SANDY
Plenty of people.
(half beat)
Just hold this ball. Please.
Tries to hand her a baseball. She refuses it.

NEVEAH
(combatively)
I’m not interested.

She is about to hit him, but he catches her fist.

SANDY
Why do you watch me for hours? Huh?

She tries to hit him with the other fist. He grabs it as well.

He exerts just a bit of pressure and she goes down on her knees. For just a second it’s erotic for her, she looks at his crotch. Her muscles melt and stops resisting. And he bends over face to face.

SANDY
Why do you watch?

NEVEAH
(quietly)
Let me up.

He rolls her backward onto her back and he lays upon her.

SANDY
What’s your game? Now what will you do?

Neveah struggles.

SANDY
Is that all you got?

She actually rolls him off her so she is now on top.

She slugs him in the side of the head. And he stops struggling. It was wrestling but now he’s not interested in a slugging match.

She stands up and goes into his sport bag and dumps it out in the grass.
SANDY
Wow. You’re stronger than I thought.

NEVEAH
I’m going to kick your ass if I don’t get my money.

She pops up from the sports bag and grabs him by the hair. He grabs her by the hair. They are locked in an embrace not entirely hostile and clearly erotic.

He kisses her. She doesn’t kiss him back. But she doesn’t struggle against it.

He reaches the first button of her jeans and unbuttons it. Beat. She seriously contemplates it and kisses him back.

She clocks him really good. He’s dazed for a moment. She runs away.

INT. REBECCA’S HOUSE – DAY

Bethany and Neveah are trying on clothes. Rebecca is supervising.

BETHANY
I can’t do it.

NEVEAH
You have to.
(half beat)
You should wear...

BETHANY
No, it’s not me.

REBECCA
Sure it is. The police never stop a woman in a dress. So, put it on. It’s the new you.
(half beat)
Why do you stay poor, because the rich take it all.

NEVEAH
Because the rich don’t care.
REBECCA
You have to dare to be rich. Visualize the money and it will come.

NEVEAH
I’ll just visualize it and it will come?

REBECCA
Money is energy. (half beat)
It’s a flow. (half beat)
You have to demand it.

NEVEAH
I dare to be rich. (half beat)
I dare to be rich. (half beat)
I dare to be rich.

REBECCA
You want to be a beggar? (half beat)
Never lose sight of the money. (half beat)
Do everything to get it. (half beat)
You dress for money. (half beat)
If you can dress for success, you can have $100,000.

NEVEAH
What?

BETHANY
We’re listening.

REBECCA
You gotta use your brains. Not just those tight bodies. (half beat)
Fetch my phone. (half beat)
You seen this guy?

BETHANY

In Wichita?

REBECCA

Guido. My old supplier. Taught me everything I know.

(half beat)

Fucker.

(half beat)

He’s paranoid.

(half beat)

He’s suspect his mother. And unfortunately me too.

(half beat)

One night he was totally out of it and he told me were he kept his money. One hundred thousand.

(half beat)

It’s always in his house.

(half beat)

And you two are gonna get it for me.

Neveah chuckles and clearly she is up to it. Bethany isn’t up for it and she’s turned pale at the idea.

NEVEAH

How?

REBECCA

With your clothes.

He’s into that?

REBECCA

He won’t be able to resist you.

(half beat)

Hot young chicks are his weakness. And it’s not the tight jeans. He wants them in a dress.

(half beat)

He’s at a club every Saturday night. He needs to take you home.

BETHANY

He’s not taking me home.
REBECCA
Guys are like dogs. They smell fear and they will eat you up. You look scared a lot.

BETHANY
I’m not scared.

REBECCA
Boo!

Bethany jumps in fright.

REBECCA
See you’re scared.

Rebecca pulls a pistol out of a cupboard and points it at Bethany.

REBECCA
Are you scared now? Yes or No?
(half beat)
Open your mouth.

NEVEAH
What are you doing?

REBECCA
You want me to blow her brains out?

NEVEAH
Of course not.

REBECCA
Are you scared?

NEVEAH
We’re both scared. Okay?

She puts the pistol down.

REBECCA
You caress...

Rebecca runs her fingers through Neveah’s hair.
REBECCA
... and then you strike.

Rebecca almost punches Neveah in the face, her fist only a inch from her nose.

INT. JEEP ON HIGHWAY TO WICHITA FALLS - NIGHT

Neveah and Bethany drive into Wichita Falls.

NEVEAH
I hear there’s 100,000 dollars here. Please hand it over.

Bethany is terrified.

REBECCA
Let’s see a movie instead. Far safer than this crazy plan.

NEVEAH
A hundred grand. A hundred grand.

REBECCA
We can’t do this; you can’t fool him; he’s a grown man.

NEVEAH
He’ll run a mile for either of us.
(half beat)
If he wants me, you can just come pick me up when I’ve got the money. Do not lose your phone. Not tonight.

REBECCA
Stop it.

NEVEAH
Guido, just a little kiss. That’s all you get, until we get home.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Music. Dancing. The girls dance and Guido just watches.

FRIEND OF GUIDO
What ya doing?
GUIDO
Looking for something to fuck.

FRIEND OF GUIDO
Well shit, take your pick.

Both girls are decked out gorgeous and prime. Both are young, under age. Neveah provocatively dances with every guy that asks her. Neveah tries to make eye contact with Guido, but he’s not playing. Bethany is dancing only a bit, but isn’t too much into it. She turns down a lot of guys.

Guido, picks Neveah to dance with. They dance and Neveah is frightened; she’s just a kid. She’s nervous and standoffish. Bethany encourages her, “please” and gestures for her to hold him tighter. And Bethany gestures for her to talk to him. Neveah responds for her friend. She holds Guido closer and she whispers something in his ear. He responds and clearly Neveah has his attention. But the song ends and Guido walks to the bar and takes up with a different girl there.

The girls have failed.

INT. JEEP RETURNING TO ANARENE – NIGHT

REBECCA
You almost had him. He was looking at you like an ice cream sandwich in August.

NEVEAH
Well, to bad.

REBECCA
Listen that could have gone really bad.

NEVEAH
But, I sure hate giving up.

REBECCA
I can’t do this stuff. I don’t punch punching bags. I don’t have the killer instinct. And I don’t want to die.
Okay. I understand. Can you have my back, if we try again?

INT. NEVEAH’S HOME – NIGHT

Neveah enters the house and her mom is in bed with the tweeker who beat her up and tried to rob her. She sits at the kitchen table.

The tweeker comes to the refrigerator and doesn’t even notice Neveah sitting there in the dark. He opens the refrigerator revealing nothing. The tweeker shuts the door and Neveah punches him eight times in the kidneys. He goes down and she drags him outside.

So you fucked my mom?

How the hell do I know who your mom is?
(half beat)
You gonna hit me again.

I’m gonna kill you, fucker.

She kicks him about eight times and jumps up to do a “dragon stomp” on his neck. He narrowly avoids a crushed trachea and death.

He rolls out of it. And she miraculously stops. The rage melts into depression. Neveah runs away instead of perusing him. The tweeker can’t believe his luck.

Neveah runs into the house and gets the tweeker’s cloths and throws them out into the yard. She closes and locks the door.

She turns and puts her back to the door. He mother is there.

What are you doing?
(half beat)
You fucked that piece of shit, meth head.
MOTHER
Don’t talk to me that way.

NEVEAH
What the fuck got into you?

MOTHER
If I want to screw, I screw.
   (half beat)
You’re never here so what do you care?
   (half beat)
And now in the middle of the night, you
show up, attack my friend and lecture
me.

NEVEAH
Fucking hell.
   (half beat)
When will you understand?
   (half beat)
All this shit flows down to me.
   (half beat)
You’re making me the whore.

MOTHER
I’ve not done anything wrong.

Neveah is on the verge of attacking her mother. But she
doesn’t.

She gets on her motorcycle and texts Rebecca. She drives to
pick up Rebecca.

EXT. BETHANY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bethany sneaks out of the house and waits outside.

BETHANY
What’s going on?

NEVEAH
Grab your dad’s gas can.
   (beat)
Please.
Bethany walks into the back yard and returns with a gas can.

**BETHANY**
It’s about half full.

**NEVEAH**
It’s windy and dry and it will be just fine.

They drive to the baseball field.

**EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT**

Neveah gets off the motorcycle. Licks her finger and checks the wind direction.

**BETHANY**
What are you gonna do?
(half beat)
They still have games.

**NEVEAH**
One more game.
(half beat)
Give me that.

Neveah takes the gas can and points...

**NEVEAH**
Stand over there please.

Neveah pours gasoline along the north edge of the grass. She pulls out a lighters and sets it ablaze.

**NEVEAH**
Now, I’m showing you!

The wind is just so the entire field will be burned.

They leave, drive a few blocks, and watch. Neveah pulls out her cell phone and records the fire.

**BETHANY**
Your mental. I can’t take anymore.
(half beat)
This is too much.
NEVEAH
Relax, it’ll grow back.

BETHANY
Next year, right.

The police arrive and look around.

Neveah chuckles. Rebecca ducks behind a dumpster.

A fire truck arrives with one fireman. A private vehicle and then a second arrive. The volunteer firemen don their suits and equipment. But the damage is done. They fire spills off the field into the playground area, but the fire truck is on it. Another police car arrives and a second fire engine. Ten more private vehicles arrive but the event is over.

We see a bunch of white guys standing around scratching their heads.

BETHANY
You’re not even ashamed.
(half beat)
I’m sick to death of this.

Rebecca pulls up to watch the fire. Other young people arrive. There isn’t much of a show remaining but they all come to watch. A few people begin to go home; Rebecca signals for her to come with her.

BETHANY
Please don’t go.
(half beat)
I’m not going.

NEVEAH
You can find your own way home then.

Bethany grabs Neveah by the arm.

BETHANY
Don’t…

NEVEAH
Let go of me.
(half beat)
When did you become my mother?

BETHANY
Please, I think I let you get in over your head.
(half beat)
I messed up and I should have stopped you before.
(half beat)
I’ve thought about it now, and need to try to reason with you. I never said anything before.
(half beat)
Just walk away, tell Rebecca you want out and take me home.
(half beat)
And then not another word. I’ll shut up.
(half beat)
Let’s be friends again. Please.

Neveah is just in a daze. She contemplates.

Half the high school is watching this exchange. Most have it figured out; Neveah burned the field.

Neveah fires up the hog and follows Rebecca out of town.

EXT. REBECCA’S HOUSE – NIGHT

The tweeker is standing out in front of the house waiting on them. Rebecca pulls and then Neveah arrives.

REBECCA
Watching all that; I know just how fucked up you are.
(half beat)
Why’d you burn that field?

NEVEAH
Huh?

REBECCA
What did I teach you?
(half beat)
Keep a low profile.
(half beat)
You’ll have the police watching you now.

(half beat)
Do you want to ruin my business?

TWEEKER
I warned you about her.

REBECCA
Give me the keys to the cellar.
    (half beat)
Give them to me!

NEVEAH
I’ll make it right.

REBECCA
Shut up.
    (half beat)
The cops will be all over this in the morning.

REBECCA
The keys!

NEVEAH
Here.

Neveah hands over the keys.

NEVEAH
He fucked my mom.

REBECCA
Everyone fucked your mom.

NEVEAH
I’ll pay you back.

REBECCA
Get the fuck out of here.

Neveah gets on her hog and leaves.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM – DAY
Several 18 wheelers have sod for the baseball field. There are 20 illegal aliens laying sod. The school has hired the field covered with sod. The police department are standing guard, it appears. The fire department are wetting the grass. The streets department have machinery pressing the sod down.

Not only the sod but the school is also replacing the stadium lights. The dugouts and press box are being painted. A new PA system and speakers are being hooked up.

Bethany and other students watch from the high school as the work progresses. Sandy has a rather obvious shiner approached Bethany and whispers in her ear.

SANDY
(quietly)
Your friend’s a nut.

BETHANY
(slightly louder)
What did you do to her?

SANDY
(louder)
Nothing I kissed her and she slugged me.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
Hey you’re getting a new field; why are you bitching?

FEMALE STUDENT #2
You rapist!

She said that?

FEMALE STUDENT #2
She didn’t have to!

BETHANY
I don’t think... No one said that. She didn’t say a word to me.

FEMALE STUDENT #2
Maybe you aren’t as close as you think.
The female student leaves to spread rumours.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
Really, one game and all this? My daddy if pissed.

MALE STUDENT #1
Why?

FEMALE STUDENT #1
Something about property taxes wasted on sports.

MALE STUDENT #1
It needed to be re-done anyway.

MALE STUDENT #2
Why didn’t they just move the game into Wichita?

MALE STUDENT #1
Some pro-scouts supposed to be here.

MALE STUDENT #2
They are flying into Wichita, they have fields there.

BETHANY
Well, they don’t want people to know someone burned the field.

MALE STUDENT #2
Newspaper said it was an accident caused by the draught.

BETHANY
You believe that don’t you?

SANDY
I do. Totally an accident.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM – NIGHT

The entire city is out to watch the game and see the scouts. And of course applaud every called strike (or “boo” every ball).
Sandy is warming up in the bullpen only feet from a chain link fence.

NEVEAH
Hey!

COACH
Oh, no not today.

SANDY
Coach, it’s my girlfriend. He forgot her keys that’s all.

Sandy stops throwing.

The catcher comes over to the fence.

CATCHER
Leave him alone.

SANDY
No, no. It’s okay.
(half beat)
Just give us a second.

SANDY
You’re not going to screw this up for me are you?

NEVEAH
That depends.

SANDY
One of those guys in the front row wants to give me a million dollars.

NEVEAH
But I need my money.

SANDY
I know. I was just trying to lure you out here. For luck. And to keep you out of trouble.

SANDY
What?
NEVEAH
I have bills. Forget that, I want my money.

SANDY
Not if you’re shouting.

NEVEAH
I’m going to shout, if I don’t get my money back.

SANDY
The entire town is watching, you know that.

Neveah turns and looks and he wasn’t kidding. The entire town is watching them.

NEVEAH
Oh, this is embarrassing.

SANDY
Half of them think I raped you.

NEVEAH
Half of them think I fucked you. And in this town I don’t know what’s worst.

SANDY
Well, I had my eithers... I’d prefer the later.

NEVEAH
Oh, your so witty.

SANDY
I tell you what. Go sit with my parents. There is a seat there, see it? And if your good I’ll give you your money back.

NEVEAH
You’re a controller. I hate that.

SANDY
Just sit and watch me.
(half beat)
Enjoy the show.
(half beat)
I’m sure you’ll bring me luck.

Sandy’s father throws out the first pitch and is given the ceremonial baseball. He runs off the field and up into the stands.

COACH.
Son, we’re waiting on you.

SANDY
Pinky shake?

Sandy puts his pinky through the chain link fence. Reluctantly, but smiling, she extends her pinky and they shake on it.

The catcher and the pitcher walk toward the field.

CATCHER
Feisty, huh?

SANDY
A little.

They run the rest of the way.

Neveah comes up in the stands. She sits next to Sandy’s MOTHER and father. Neveah smiles and extends her hand. It seems a match. Sandy’s mother takes out box from the florist. It’s a flower and a canister. The canister was what contained the money. But Neveah focuses on the flower. As hardcore as she’s been, this opens an entirely new chapter.

NEVEAH
Oh, my.
(beat)
I don’t know what to do.

SANDY’S MOTHER
Oh, dear. Let me help you.

Sandy’s mother takes the flower and pins it to Neveah’s blouse.
SANDY’S MOTHER
Welcome dear. I’m glad you are up here.

The home team takes the field and the crowd stands and applauds.

Neveah gets the money out of the flower box. And she bolts down out of the stadium but on the stairs down she makes eye contact with Sandy. Sandy is out on the mound watching her. She stops dead in her tracks. She returns to her seat.

The game begins.

Later, Neveah has a question and she asks Sandy’s mother. The mother is polite and refers her to Sandy’s father. Sandy’s has a baseball in his pocket.

Sandy looks up in the stands and his father is showing Neveah the various pitches and what it does to the ball’s path. Mostly gestures.

SANDY
You like it.

NEVEAH
Sort of.

SANDY
I saw you; you liked it.

NEVEAH
I love... your parents.

SANDY
That’s a start.

NEVEAH
Well, no one is going to accuse you of rape now.

SANDY
This town, I swear. Oh, but that’s not the reason I...
(half beat)
I needed the luck.
NEVEAH
Luck? You something like a stud horse.

SANDY
Huh? Why do you say that?

NEVEAH
Strong. You know like your pick of the litter.

SANDY
Oh, okay. I get it. I eat a lot.

NEVEAH
And you have muscles to prove it.

SANDY
Thanks, but I needed to be picked.

NEVEAH
Picked?

SANDY
For the show.

NEVEAH
The show?

SANDY
Major league baseball.

NEVEAH
Rebecca said...

SANDY
She almost bit my head off today first period.

NEVEAH
We’re close, you know?

SANDY
That’s good.

NEVEAH
Thanks for my money.
SANDY
I didn’t steal any of it.
(half beat)
You’re supposed to go to church with us Sunday.

She shakes her head... no.

SANDY
How long should I chase after you?

She shakes her head... no.

NEVEAH
Tough.

Neveah walks away.

SANDY
Hang on. Aren’t you hungry.

NEVEAH
No.

INT. GROCERY - NIGHT

Neveah and Sandy are shopping. Neveah throws various staple foods into a cart.

SANDY
Beans.
(half beat)
Rice.
(half beat)
Potatoes.
(half beat)
You know, if you were on an island and could have three foods.

NEVEAH
I might not starve?

SANDY
You know?

NEVEAH
I know.
You forgot oatmeal with blueberries.

SANDY
Not hungry then?
(half beat)
Want to slow down a bit?

Neveah’s brother is at home and probably hungry. She’s not had the money to feed her family for more than a few days.

Neveah and Sandy are standing at the checkout counter. The checker gives them a curious look. Teenage couples typically don’t shop for groceries together. Neveah and Sandy are oblivious to the look.

NEVEAH
Is this were you bring all your dates?

SANDY
Only the girls that punch me in the face. The others get to see a movie.

NEVEAH
Okay, I’m sorry.

INT. NEVEAH’S HOUSE – NIGHT

Neveah’s mother and young brother are there. Her mother is passed out on the couch. Her brother is in the floor watching TV. He isn’t entirely healthy.

Neveah goes over the house bathroom, kitchen. There isn’t any food in the house, but booze? There’s plenty.

Sandy brings in the grocery bags. Neveah points to the counter and he puts them down.

Neveah puts some oats on the stove. She takes her brother’s dirty clothes and puts them in the washing machine.

The brother seems to know who Sandy is; he goes to his room and brings back a pen and a baseball.

Sandy smiles and signs the baseball. The brother is happy about it.
Nothing is said in this scene. The poverty is just there for the audience to see.

EXT. OUTSIDE SANDY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gender bender. Neveah and Sandy dismount the hog and she walks him to his front door.

SANDY
   You think you might like baseball?

NEVEAH
   I do.

SANDY
   I don’t cheat.

NEVEAH
   That was weird.

SANDY
   I just wanted to tell that.

He won’t kiss her good night.

So after a awkward time she leans into him.

And he flinches a bit. She laughs.

NEVEAH
   You need to kiss me.

SANDY
   You’re not going to slug me are you?

NEVEAH
   I’m gonna slug you if you don’t.

SANDY
   Fair enough.

Kiss.

INT. REBECCA’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rebecca meets Neveah at the door.
REBECCA
You didn’t respond to my texts.
(half beat)
Guido was looking for you at the club
and you were at a baseball game.
(half beat)
Here, call him.

NEVEAH
Hello.

GUIDO
Who is it?

NEVEAH
Diablo.

GUIDO
Who are you?

NEVEAH
I’m a dancer. You know who I am.
I don’t.

NEVEAH
I’m a friend Rebecca. What are you
doing tomorrow?

GUIDO
Want to go to a concert?

NEVEAH
I got stuff to do.

Rebecca grabs her by the throat. Neveah drops the
phone.

NEVEAH
What are you doing?
(half beat)
Getting your revenge on me?
(half beat)
Listen, if you don’t do this we can’t
have his money, if we can’t have his
money, I’m going to be very very
disappointed.
GUIDO
Are you there? Diablo?

NEVEAH
Yeah.

I’d really like to see you.

NEVEAH
Okay, I’ll go.
(half beat)
Why don’t you text me the address?
(half beat)
Okay, bye.

REBECCA
Stop sulking.
(half beat)
I know I’m hard on you but 100 thousand it a lot of money.
(half beat)
I know I made it tough on you.
(half beat)
But it’s only because you have potential.
(half beat)
You’ve proved it.

NEVEAH
Here is your money.

REBECCA
It’s peanuts.
(half beat)
We’ll have that fucker Guido on a platter.
(half beat)
We’ll be rich.

INT. BETHANY’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Bethany hears the hog in the middle of the night. She goes to her window and opens it. Neveah makes her way across the lawn. Neveah enters through the window.

They hug each other.
BETHANY
I thought we wouldn’t be friends for much longer.

NEVEAH
Remember kindergarten?

BETHANY
I remember you kicking Johnny Tomes in the mouth.

NEVEAH
He messed with the wrong girls.

BETHANY
My dad said the devil has a hold of you.

NEVEAH
How does he know that?

BETHANY
My dad he said he wants to go to the police about the fire.

NEVEAH
It was my fault, that is for sure.

BETHANY
Sorry.

They hear a noise in the hallway.

BETHANY
Lie down.

They get into the bed together, under the covers.

BETHANY
What did you do today?

NEVEAH
Nothing.

BETHANY
What’s wrong?
NEVEAH
I need to magically move to Frisco. Get an apartment.

BETHANY
Go for it, girl.

NEVEAH
I’m gonna get that $100,000 and disappear to there.

BETHANY
I’m gonna be in Fort Worth. But I have to live in the dorms.

NEVEAH
I’m scared.

BETHANY
I’m scared too.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD – NIGHT

Sandy is lying on the infield grass, looking up at the stars. He’s waiting on Neveah. She enters the field through the outfield gate. She’s in the blue sequined dress.

He jumps up and stands very near her.

NEVEAH
It’s Venus.

SANDY
What?
   (half beat)
That?

NEVEAH
Yep?

SANDY
You look pretty.
   (half beat)
You did that for me?

NEVEAH
Well, I am a girl you know.
SANDY
Obviously.

NEVEAH
Sometimes we just do this.

SANDY
I’m going to Frisco over by Fort Worth.  
(half beat)
Can you come to that first game?  
(half beat)
My parents can give you a ride.

NEVEAH
Sure. Just call me “Luck on wheels”.  
(beat)
Frisco?  
(half beat)
How long you gonna be there?

SANDY
Not long I hope, but maybe a year.

NEVEAH
I’ve been thinking about one of the 
community colleges here.

SANDY
Hey, that’s not a bad idea.

NEVEAH
If it works out, it works out.

SANDY
Why would you say that?

Neveah smiles and laughs it off. They kiss and they fall into the grass.

INT. CONCERT – NIGHT

Guido and Neveah sit at the concert. Neveah wears red.

INT. CONCERT PARKING LOT – NIGHT
Guido and Neveah are walking. Guido is fixated on a “star” in the night sky.

   NEVEAH
   It’s Mars.

   GUIDO
   What?
   (half beat)
   That?

   NEVEAH
   Yep?

INT. GUIDO’S HOUSE – DAY

Guido’s house is hardwood floors and expensive hard wood furniture. In fact, Guido has four or five bottles of aerosol furniture polish scattered about the room.

Guido does a line or two of cocaine.

He puts his hand on Neveah’s thigh.

He moves to kiss her. Neveah, of course, is cold and unresponsive to his touch.

Guido sense something is wrong… and crawls off of her. He stares at her, contemplating.

   GUIDO
   Don’t you like me?

   NEVEAH
   Yes, I do.

She touched his face, affectionately.

   GUIDO
   I’m going for a shower.
   (half beat)
   Want to join me?

   NEVEAH
   I’ll be right here when you get out.
   Waiting.

She smiles seductively at him.
Make yourself comfortable.

Guido disappears and Neveah immediately begins searching for the money. She starts in the living room. She opens every kitchen cupboard and drawer. She enters his bedroom and opens every drawer. She searched the closet.

The shower was a ruse. Guido is paranoid and sensed something was not right. Guido catches her going through his things.

GUIDO
Can I help you?

NEVEAH
I was looking for cigarettes.

GUIDO
I don’t keep them here.
(beat)
You’re beautiful.

He touched her face, like he’s in love with her. He’s tender and then he hits her with a devastating hook.

He lifts her off the floor by the hair.

GUIDO
What were you looking for?
(half beat)
Who sent you?

Neveah doesn’t even flinch.

GUIDO
Anyway you want it.

Guido begins to slam her head into the wall.

Each time she hits her head, she sees a fraction of a second in Sandy’s pitch. And the sound of the ball hitting the catcher’s mitt turns out to be her head hitting the wall.
She is about to pass out. He stops and she falls to the ground. He drags her by her hair to another part of the house.

She’s knocked out and laying on the floor, face bloody. When she wakes up, Guido is going through her cell phone’s calendar.

GUIDO
Frisco?
(half beat)
You should have gone to Frisco?
(half beat)
What furniture shopping?

NEVEAH
Something like that.

Guido fumbles with removing her dress, but she fights. She bites and claws and struggles to her feet. She punches and kicks. She sprays him in the face with furniture polish. And she proceeds to kick his ass. Lamps, pieces of broken hard wood furniture. She actually fights like a man. She’s successful and Guido is seriously injured. She’s wound up to do the dragon stomp and kill him. And she does but at the last minute she lands on each side of his neck. He’s spared.

She finishes searching the house and eventually finds the cash. She doesn’t hesitate counting it or celebrating. She bags it up and rushes out of the house.

INT. REBECCA’S HOUSE – DAWN

Neveah brings the bag of money. Rebecca is sitting in the house with Bethany tied to a chair.

BETHANY
Don’t come in here. Just leave and go to Frisco.

REBECCA
Shut up.

NEVEAH
I’m already here and I’m taking you home.
(half beat)
I did it. Here’s your money.
(half beat)
Now let Bethany go.
(half beat)
You can have the money.

Neveah opens the bag to show her the money.

REBECCA
I’ll just take it from your now.

Neveah soaks the moneybag with gasoline.

Rebecca grabs the remainder of the gasoline and pours it over Bethany. Bethany struggles and half the gasoline falls on Rebecca. It’s a meth lab and there is a money bag and two women soaked with gasoline. Two of the three woman are holding cigarette lighters. And it’s Mexican standoff.

The floor isn’t level and there is a low spot just inside the door where Neveah is standing. The gasoline that’s reached the floor runs to that spot.

Rebecca is savvy and notices the gasoline puddle under Neveah. To break the standoff, Rebecca throws her lighter under Neveah. Neveah dives out of the way and escapes being burned. Neveah torches the money. Rebecca tries to rescue the money and sets herself on fire.

Neveah extinguishes the fire on Rebecca. Rebecca could leave the burning building but she stays to fight the fire.

Neveah drags Bethany’s chair outside and unties her.

On the distance horizon, Neveah and Bethany see a fire truck and a police car approaching. The girls mount the hog and take off across the prairie, toward town but avoiding the authorities.

The fire trucks get flats as they approach the house. They can’t fight the fire. The house explodes, and most will assume Rebecca has died inside.

FADE OUT