

3RD AND GOAL

Written by

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INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Several pictures are displayed on the mantle:

-- Helen in front of a waterfall.

-- Sam on a college football sideline, clipboard in his hands.

-- Helen and Sam on their wedding day.

-- Helen standing with her very pregnant 17-year-old sister Sally. Neither looks happy.

HELEN RAMEY (late 20s), motherly natured, stands with her husband SAM RAMEY (30), a football coach's persona. Both tote a look of disbelief.

SALLY HARRIS (17) lingers before them with a 2-week-old baby girl in her arms. Tears roll down Sally's cheeks as she gazes at her daughter.

Sally kisses the infant's head. Arms trembling, she hands the baby to Helen. Helen gratefully accepts the little bundle, but her heart breaks for Sally at the same time. So does Sam's.

Unable to stand strong any longer, Sally flees the house.

Sam gives Helen a look, then chases after Sally. He disappears from sight.

Helen watches the doorway with unease as she cuddles her new baby.

Sam returns, moving much slower. He closes the door and offers Helen a slight shake of his head.

Helen releases a troubled breath. Sam moves to Helen's side and lays an arm around her shoulders. Tears, both happy and sad, leak from Helen's eyes.

Helen sniffs back the tears and smiles at their new daughter. Sam beams over the precious addition to their family.

CLOSE ON: The baby girl's face.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTHRIDGE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The stands are filled with excited college FANS watching one helluva game. Scoreboard reads: Northridge - 20, SYU - 24. Nine seconds left in the 4th quarter.

SUPER: 22 YEARS LATER

The Northridge offense breaks from a huddle and moves out to their opponent SYU'S 40-yard line. The QUARTERBACK is confident as he takes his position behind the center.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Two ANNOUNCERS sit at mics before the large windows with a perfect view of the field.

ANNOUNCER #1

What an impressive season this has been for Northridge!

ANNOUNCER #2

Ramey's gotta` be feeling the pressure as we move into the final moments of this spectacular ballgame!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The quarterback glances side-to-side down the line. The CHEERING and YELLING from the stands drowns out his cadence.

At the snap, both teams collide like armies. The quarterback steps back, scans the field. He spots MICHAELS, his main receiver, hauling ass downfield, looking back mid-sprint.

The quarterback throws long, right before an SYU LINEMAN crushes him. He immediately rolls over to see...

The football sailing through the air. Four hands enter the frame. They belong to Michaels and his SYU COVERAGE.

Michaels miraculously makes the catch. Ball tucked, he bolts for the end zone. Maneuvers through a minefield of opponents in route. It's poetry in motion.

The REF holds up both arms. Touchdown! The fans go wild.

From both knees, the quarterback raises his arms in victory.

SYU's coaching staff and players are deflated. Northridge celebrates from both the field and their sideline.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The announcers are as excited as the fans.

ANNOUNCER #1

My oh my oh my! Just when you thought it was over, Ramey delivers a 40 yarder to Michaels, putting Northridge up by two and in position to seal this thing!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

The entire sideline shares a celebratory uproar. COACH BRAXTON closes his eyes in gratitude for a sweet well-earned victory.

The offense arrives as Special Teams head out. The quarterback removes his helmet, only this isn't your typical football player. A ponytail falls free.

This is JENNA RAMEY (22), a pretty girl under all the protective gear, a born natural who knows this sport well.

LOWER STANDS

Sam, more than two decades older but looking great for his age, remains collected while boasting a gratifying grin.

SARAH LINTON (22), glasses complimenting her natural beauty, high-fives fellow FANS around her.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Northridge kicks the point after. It's good. More raucous CHEERING from the stands. This one's over.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The announcers are on their feet.

ANNOUNCER #1

History has been made here today as Northridge defeats #1 ranked SYU 27-24!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Players from both teams swarm the field. Cameras and REPORTERS mix in. Coach Braxton shakes hands with SYU's COACH.

SYU COACH

That's some quarterback you've got there, Bill.

Braxton looks over at Jenna with admiration.

BRAXTON

Don't I know it.

The media charges Northridge players. Flashbulbs pop. Microphones are shoved forward. Video cameras roll.

Jenna removes her scrunchie. Allows long hair to fall shoulder-length. We now see how beautiful she really is under the dirt and sweat of a football uniform.

MIKE TYLER, ESPN jacket, steps to Jenna, microphone ready. He motions to his CAMERAMAN to start filming.

TYLER

Mike Tyler... ESPN, here with Northridge quarterback, Jenna Ramey. Jenna, congratulations. You displayed some terrific talent here today.

JENNA

Thanks, Mike.

TYLER

I've watched you overcome some major obstacles during your time here at Northridge. Convincing a group of guys to follow a woman on the field, that's no easy task.

JENNA

You're telling me.

A few teammates pat her back. They adore Jenna.

TYLER

How does it feel to lead your team to their first bowl game win ever?

JENNA

Um, incredible! SYU's a tough team and I have nothing but the utmost respect for them.

TYLER

Now that you have gone as far as you can in football, what's next?

The question blind-sides Jenna. Before she can answer, two Northridge players arrive to whisk her away.

TYLER

Guess we'll have to wait for that answer. Mike Tyler, ESPN...

The PRESIDENT of the Northern Conference arrives with the trophy and hands it to Jenna. She raises it high in the air, surrounded by her coaches and other teammates.

The image slows down and segues into...

INT. ESPN STUDIO - NIGHT

... a frozen image on a TV screen behind two COMMENTATORS.

COMMENTATOR #1

I'm telling you, this woman has turned the college football world on its head. Let's talk about Ramey.

COMMENTATOR #2

She's had a remarkable season, I'm not disputing that. But that's where this Cinderella story ends.

COMMENTATOR #1

Why? Because she's a woman?

COMMENTATOR #2

Precisely.

COMMENTATOR #1

Not only did she hit for 24 of her 32 pass attempts, she ran for 118 yards and threw two touchdown passes against the #1 ranked team in the country. Add that to her season numbers. Any male player with stats like that would be in contention for a first round draft pick.

INT. WALLACE MANSION - MEDIA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The ESPN Sports broadcast continues on a 70" plasma TV in this lavish space.

COMMENTATOR #2 (ON TV)

I've talked to a lot of scouts and every one has said that she has no chance of making it in the NFL...

The TV is MUTED.

DAVE WALLACE (47), dressed in a \$5,000 suit and gold Rolex, stands before the TV, the remote in one hand and a shot of scotch in the other. He downs it.

ROGER BLANE (30s), cheap suit and tie, opens the door. He holds a small box of DVDs.

ROGER

I've narrowed down our choice to three quarterbacks. Michaelson from Oklahoma, Nichols from Michigan State, and Connors from Baton Rouge.

Roger sets the box on a desk, next to a very expensive monitor.

On the muted TV, ESPN shows a series of clips: Jenna running various plays during the season. She looks every bit the professional, but showcases imperfection at times.

DAVE

I was thinking of going in a different direction.

ROGER

Avery? The kid from Alabama?

DAVE

Ramey.

Roger's shocked gaze turns to the TV, to Jenna's footage still playing.

ROGER

But Ramey's a--

DAVE

Goldmine. A goddamn goldmine.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The joint THUMPS with music as a young crowd has a great time. Several players from Jenna's team are present.

Jenna, Sarah, and a few female FRIENDS sit at a table together, having drinks.

SARAH

To Jenna! Way to kick ass on the field tonight!

The girls CLINK their glasses together in a toast, then down the contents. A new SONG plays, very upbeat.

FRIEND

I love this song!

The girls hit the dance floor, except for Jenna and Sarah.

SARAH

I've watched you make a lot of comeback plays but that last one tonight was magic.

They share a one-armed hug.

SARAH

Can I ask you something?

JENNA

Sure.

SARAH

What was your answer to Mike's question, about what you're going to do next?

JENNA

(sighs)

I suppose I'll try to stick around the game. Maybe I can study to be a trainer.

SARAH

Will you be okay with that, not getting to play, I mean?

JENNA

I guess I'll have to be.

Sarah gives Jenna's shoulders a squeeze.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pictures adorn the mantle - Jenna at various ages. Most depict Jenna in football uniform, either posing for a camera, or in action as quarterback on the field - pee-wee, junior high, high school, and college.

Trophies fill the room. Many are Jenna's from over the years. Even more belong to Sam, from playing halfback in college and for coaching college ball.

A plaque with Sam's picture hangs off to the side. Inscription reads "Midwest Region Football Coach of the Year."

The curtains are closed. Sam enters from the kitchen with a cup of coffee and a newspaper. He takes a seat on the couch. Looks through the paper as he sips from his coffee.

He stops on the front page of the sports section.

INSERT - FRONT PAGE

A picture of Jenna throwing the winning TD pass. Headline reads: Local Gal Leads Northridge University to Bowl Victory.

BACK TO SCENE:

Sam smiles, like only a proud father can.

Jenna enters the room and sits down next to Sam. Throws her arms around him like a loving daughter.

JENNA

I'm glad you came to the game.

SAM

Are you kidding? NOTHING would have kept me away.

Jenna catches a glimpse of the sports page.

JENNA

That's me.

SAM

(teasing)

I see you got your brains from your mom's side of the family.

Jenna playfully nudges him. She takes the paper and studies the article.

JENNA

Wow. The media's really making a big deal over our win.

SAM

I don't think it's the win so much as it is you. Face it, honey. You have done more in football than any woman ever has, or might ever will. A story like yours only comes around once in a lifetime.

Jenna lays the paper on the coffee table.

JENNA

You know how it is. They probably forgot all about me by now.

Sam fights a smile as he goes to the curtains.

SAM

Think so?

Sam opens the curtains. Through the window, mass REPORTERS are visible waiting on the front lawn with their cameras.

Jenna stands before the window, awe-struck over what she sees. DENNING (30s) takes notice, snaps a picture of Jenna inside. Others join him, filming and taking pictures.

The house phone RINGS. Sam answers the cordless.

SAM

(into phone)

Hello?... Good, how are you?...

Just a moment.

(holds out phone)

Coach Braxton.

Jenna takes the phone.

JENNA

(into phone)

Hello?... Hi, Coach... Okay...

Sure, I can do that. See you then.

(hangs up)

He wants me to come by his office. Something concerning my football career. I wonder what...

(excited)

Oh, my God. Maybe he's going to offer me a coaching position!

SAM

Wouldn't surprise me. If I was still coaching, you'd be on my sideline.

Jenna gives him a quick peck on the cheek and grabs her purse. Sam amusingly shakes his head.

Jenna exits, bombed by the media as soon as she sets foot outside. Denning is especially pushy.

DENNING

Jenna, how about an exclusive?

Jenna ignores him and keeps going.

DENNING

Come on, now. Be nice!

INT. NORTHRIDGE CAMPUS - FILM ROOM - DAY

Coach Braxton watches game films on a large screen. He runs the footage back and forth, looking for nuance. Looking for something.

Jenna opens the back door and slips in.

JENNA

Isn't this officially the off-season?

Braxton's eyes remain on the screen.

BRAXTON

There is no off-season. You of all people know that.

Jenna takes a seat. She looks small in the large room.

JENNA

I can't remember a time when I didn't have a next season to plan for.

Braxton switches off the film. A play diagram takes its place on the screen. Braxton continues to click through plays. Jenna only eyes them briefly as they talk.

BRAXTON

Any thoughts about what you want to do next?

JENNA

I've given it some thought.

BRAXTON

Good. You're an incredible talent and need to think about your future.

JENNA

Isn't that why I'm here?

BRAXTON

We'll see.

Braxton stops on a play diagram of very intricate X's, O's, lines, and arrows.

BRAXTON

What play is this?

JENNA

That's a trips right, 40 go, with a tight end out.

BRAXTON

Two screens ago?

Jenna thinks for a moment, but just a moment.

JENNA

QB pitch to the halfback, with a fake end around to the wide-out.

BRAXTON

Four screens before that?

Again, another moment to think.

JENNA

Fullback fake dive to the right, with a QB rollout left - depending on the defense, quick hitch to the slot receiver over the middle.

Braxton clicks back through the plays. His expression shows that she got them all right. Jenna never had a doubt.

JENNA

So, do I get the job?

BRAXTON

What job is that, Ramey?

Jenna looks off as she thinks quickly, then back.

JENNA

Um, I'm not sure. Assistant coach? Play designer?

BRAXTON

Is that really what you want to do? You've got a football mind that would make Vince Lombardi jealous.

Jenna slouches, clearly disappointed at the prospect of never playing again.

JENNA

I'll miss playing, but there's really not many options for me, are there?

BRAXTON

What about pro ball?

The question catches Jenna off guard.

JENNA

You're not serious.

BRAXTON

You don't think you're good enough?

JENNA

Maybe, but I know I would make an excellent coach.

BRAXTON

And you'd be happy with that?

JENNA

I do know the sport better than anyone. You said so yourself.

BRAXTON

Playing it from the sidelines is a whole different ballgame.

JENNA

It's the only thing I've ever seen myself doing after college.

BRAXTON

You're a helluva player, Ramey. Maybe you'll never be a starter, but you're well-rounded in all your skills, and your talent for play design has helped this team almost as much as your ability. I'd like to see you achieve the greatness you deserve.

Jenna ponders Braxton's suggestion and grins slightly.

JENNA

But the NFL? No one wants to play with a girl.

BRAXTON

Tell that to the 44 players who had your back this season. Do yourself a favor and think about it. And if you ask me, the only one stopping you from making it is you.

JENNA

(perplexed)
Thanks, Coach.

Jenna gets up and leaves.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the darkened room, Sam sits in his recliner, sipping from a beer. A series of home movies plays on the TV.

INSERT - TV

-- Barbies and their accessories fill a coffee table. WHAM! A football lands in the middle of them. Dolls and accessories explode in every direction.

2-year-old Jenna runs to the table and pushes aside the dolls, snatching the football.

-- A tire hangs from a tree by a rope. 3-year-old Jenna throws a football. It drops well short. Another misses by a mile. Jenna crosses her arms and sticks out her lip.

Helen walks into frame and forces a hug on Jenna.

HELEN

It's okay, sweetie.

Jenna pulls free.

3-YEAR-OLD JENNA

I hate football!

Jenna stomps off screen. Helen faces the camera with a smile.

HELEN

She's got your temperament, Sam.

SAM

And that's a bad thing?

Both laugh.

-- Jenna, now 4 years old, sleeps with a football and Teddy Bear. The Teddy Bear wears a football helmet.

-- Jenna (5) throws a football at the tire. It just misses. A few more attempts go over, under, and beside it. Jenna sighs.

-- 6-year-old Jenna throws a pass to Sam. He attempts to run past her. Jenna grabs his legs, trying to bring him down. Sam picks her up. Jenna laughs.

SAM

I'll just take you to the end zone
with me.

Sam carries Jenna and the football to a space between two trees. He spikes the ball.

6-YEAR-OLD JENNA
No fair, Daddy.

SAM
Maybe I should spike you, too.

Sam holds out Jenna, ready to spike her. She laughs.

BACK TO SCENE:

A tear comes to Sam's eye as he watches with a smile.

The door opens. Without hesitation, Sam shoves the beer underneath his shirt in an attempt to hide it.

Jenna removes her key from the lock and slowly approaches.

SAM
You kind of snuck up on me there.

JENNA
You should be in bed.

SAM
I can take care of myself, you know.

Jenna notices the bulge underneath Sam's shirt.

JENNA
You're not supposed to be drinking with your medication.

With a nervous grin, Sam pulls out the beer.

SAM
One beer isn't going to kill me.

Jenna frowns.

SAM
Sorry.

Jenna looks to the TV, where a football strikes the tire. Another bounces off, just short of the hole. 7-year-old Jenna grins, less distressed than in her previous attempts.

JENNA
Oh, Lord. Not the home movies.

Sam pauses the movies.

SAM

You got something against memories?

JENNA

No, but you're a little obsessive with them sometimes.

SAM

(nods)

So, what did Coach Braxton want?

JENNA

He thinks I should enter the NFL draft. That I'd have a chance.

Jenna waits for a response. Sam takes a big drink of beer.

JENNA

What do YOU think?

SAM

Well, I'd love boasting to my friends about having a daughter in the NFL. But this is about you and what you want. You'll make the right decision.

Jenna kisses Sam on the forehead.

JENNA

Good night.

Jenna starts up the stairs, stops to look back at her dad.

Sam's attention returns to the TV. The home movies play. 9-year-old Jenna faces the camera.

9-YEAR-OLD JENNA (ON TV)

Why did Mom have to die?

SAM (ON TV, O.S.)

It was just her time to go, honey.

A tear drops down Jenna's cheek.

JENNA'S BEDROOM

Several posters of Cincinnati Bengals players on the walls, including one of Jonathan Hadley, quarterback in his 30s.

This looks more like a boy's room, except for a select few pictures on the nightstand - Jenna with her mom, with her dad, and with a handsome young man, Chad Pennington (21).

Jenna enters and closes the door. She sits down on the bed, picks up a picture from the nightstand of Jenna (9) with her mom, and looks at it sadly.

JENNA
What should I do?

INT. NORTHRIDGE UNIVERSITY - COACH BRAXTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Braxton's desk phone RINGS. He answers it.

BRAXTON
(into phone)
Braxton... Ramey, how are you?...
You sure?... You've made the right
decision... You got it. Bye.

Braxton hangs up the phone and smiles.

BRAXTON
You'll make believers out of them
too, kid.

INT. NORTHRIDGE CAMPUS - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Jenna builds up her arms on a complex weight system. Next to her stands agent/trainer AARON DAWSON (30s), buff, dressed in sweats. A NEWS CREW from ESPN watches Jenna work out.

REPORTER #1
Jenna, do you really think you have
a chance of being picked up?

JENNA
Just look at my passing average.
But hey, if no one wants to win
games, it's their loss.

AARON
Not only is my client a solid
quarterback, she has a gift for
play design. Any team would be
lucky to have her on their roster.

Jenna switches over to the leg press.

REPORTER #2
Many believe a woman can't handle
the physical punishment of pro
ball.

JENNA
I've played the sport since I could
walk, and eaten my share of turf...

Laughter from the crew.

JENNA

... but I hold my own. People should look at my skill level, not my gender.

REPORTER #1

The draft starts next week. What happens if you don't make it?

JENNA

With my combine scores? Owners want a winning team they can profit from. Someone will pick me.

AARON

If no owner can see that my client is a valuable asset, gender aside, then professional football is in a downward spiral.

Jenna dries her sweaty face with a towel.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is dark and quiet.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - JENNA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna sleeps peacefully. A RUCKUS breaks out on the street.

MAN (O.S.)

Take this, freak!

Jenna startles awake, looking to the window. Glass BREAKS downstairs. Jenna jumps out of bed and races to the...

UPSTAIRS HALL

Sam hurries out of his room at the same moment. They share a quick look before Jenna jogs down the steps.

SAM

Jenna, wait!

Sam follows after Jenna.

LIVING ROOM

A brick lies on the floor with a note tied to it. The front window has been shattered. Glass shards everywhere.

Outside, the sound of a TRUCK driving away, along with enthused YELLING, disappears into the distance.

Jenna throws open the door and looks out.

Dodging the shards with his bare feet, Sam picks up the brick and unties the note. He opens it to read the writing.

Jenna closes the door hard and locks it. Goes to Sam's side.

JENNA

What does it say?

Sam sadly hands the note to Jenna.

INSERT - NOTE

It reads "Stay off the field or else."

BACK TO SCENE:

The note bothers Jenna. Sam puts an arm around her.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - BACK DECK - NIGHT

Jenna sits in a chair, feet propped up on another. Arms crossed, she's heavily troubled.

Sam leaves the house. He pauses a moment to study her.

SAM

The police just left.

Sam waits for a response. Jenna continues looking out to the yard. Sam takes a seat next to her.

SAM

What's going on inside that head?

JENNA

I have some things to re-think.

SAM

You're gonna let one group of idiots dictate your life?

JENNA

What if it isn't just one group?
What if a lot of people feel the same way?

Sam grins in an adoring manner.

SAM

My daughter has always faced obstacles head on, but instead of letting them defeat her, they have made her stronger.

JENNA

So you think I should go for it.

Sam sighs. This is difficult for him.

SAM

I can't make that decision for you, but I can tell you what NOT to do.

Jenna looks at him curiously.

SAM

Don't give up on your dreams. They make life worth living.

Jenna gazes at Sam, then hugs him. Sam holds his little girl to him with fatherly love.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

An INSTALLER puts the finishing touches on a home security system while WORKERS replace the busted window. Sam stands back, watching.

Jenna and Sarah enter through the front door. Jenna curiously looks at the installer as she moves to Sam.

JENNA

(worried)

You shouldn't have to go through--

Sam momentarily places a finger to her lips.

SAM

We're in this together and I'll jump through any number of hoops to help you get what you deserve.

Jenna gives him an appreciative smile. Sarah joins them.

SARAH

Resistance is part of change.

JENNA

That's very profound, coming from you.

Sarah gives her a playful nudge.

EXT. RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL - NIGHT

Groups of REPORTERS, FANS, and GUESTS enter.

INT. RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL - SAME TIME

Before a crowd of seated REPORTERS, prospective DRAFTEES, and ONLOOKERS, an EMCEE announces draft picks at a podium.

Jenna, dressed in a nice pantsuit, is seated with Sam on one side and Coach Braxton on the other.

EMCEE

In the first round, for New
England... West Virginia running
back, Terrell Johnson.

APPLAUSE as JOHNSON makes his way to the podium.

Sam pats Jenna's knee.

JENNA

It's okay. Aaron says I'll be
picked in the second round.

MONTAGE - MORE DRAFT PICKS

EMCEE

... Steve Washburn...

DISSOLVE TO:

EMCEE

... Anthony Radcliff...

DISSOLVE TO:

EMCEE

Next in the second round, for
Cincinnati...

Jenna straightens with anticipation.

EMCEE

... Michigan State fullback, Allen
Carpenter.

Confused panic shows on Jenna's face.

JENNA

What the hell? That was my pick.

BRAXTON

Relax, Ramey. Probably a trade pick situation.

Jenna picks at her nails. Sam's concern for her shows.

EMCEE

... Lawrence Filmore...

END MONTAGE AND BACK TO SCENE:

The crowd around Jenna APPLAUDS. She's heard enough.

JENNA

This is stupid. I'll be in the car.

Jenna starts to get up. Sam stops her.

SAM

Stay. The point is, you tried.

JENNA

It's like I'm on an elementary school playground again. "Don't pick the amazon, even though she's the only girl who can throw a football more than two feet." Let's just go.

EMCEE

Next in the second round, for Cincinnati... Northridge quarterback, Jenna Ramey.

Jenna's shocked. So is Sam - as is the whole room. Braxton smiles and starts applauding. Around him, people join in.

Across the room, Aaron smiles and gives Jenna a thumbs up.

Jenna steps up to the podium. Cameras flash.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The parking lot is full of cars.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

A college graduation takes place. The seats are full of STUDENTS in their robes sitting to the front with FAMILY and FRIENDS everywhere else. On stage, a DEAN calls out names of graduating students waiting to the side.

DEAN

Jenna Marie Ramey.

Jenna walks onto stage. Shakes the dean's hand and receives her diploma. She looks out to the audience as she leaves the stage, spotting Sam. They share a smile.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - DAY

Jenna leaves the house, carrying a full duffel. She lays it inside the trunk of her car.

Sam exits with another bag that he struggles to carry. Jenna hurries to take the bag from him.

JENNA

I told you to leave it for me.

Jenna places it inside the trunk and closes it.

SAM

Leave me my dignity, will ya`?

JENNA

You have defined dignity your whole life. It's time to take it easy.

Sam grips Jenna's hands.

SAM

The NFL. I still can't believe it.

JENNA

You're the one who pretty much tattooed 'football' on my forehead when I was born.

Jenna becomes very serious as she gazes at Sam.

JENNA

Dad, promise me you'll take care of yourself while I'm gone. Take your medicine. Go to your doctor's appointments. I want you around to see me play.

SAM

Yes, Mother.

Jenna puts on a fake smile for Sam's benefit.

JENNA

Guess I should get going.

Jenna hugs Sam. He holds her for a long moment.

JENNA
I love you, Daddy.

SAM
Around the end and back again.

Jenna opens the driver's door to her car. Takes one last look back at Sam.

SAM
How tough?

JENNA
Ramey tough.

Jenna tears her gaze from Sam and climbs inside her car. She waves at Sam and drives down the street.

Sam watches sadly. He's already lost without her.

EXT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Dozens of Cincinnati OFFENSIVE PLAYERS practice football drills under the guidance of COACHES. Dave and Larry watch the events.

With them stands WILL STANTON (51), Cincinnati's head coach. Gray-haired, serious demeanor, but a Teddy Bear underneath.

Quarterback coach MARV HOWARD (40s) oversees several QUARTERBACKS, including JONATHAN HADLEY (40), weathered and sour. A grueling NFL career has taken its toll on his aging body.

PARKING LOT

Jenna's sedan parks, followed by an ESPN van. A NEWS CREW leaves it with their equipment, cameras rolling.

Jenna steps out of the car. Grabs a duffel from the trunk. She heads to the field. The crew follows.

REPORTER #2
Jenna, how does it feel to arrive at training camp?

JENNA
Great! I love playing with the guys.

Laughter from the crew.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Dave, Larry, and Stanton watch her approach.

STANTON
She's a goddamn media circus.

DAVE
Look, Stanton. I want you treating her like one of the guys. Got me?

STANTON
You're asking the impossible.

DAVE
I can ask whatever I want because I pay your salary. Your head is on the chopping block. Screw this up and I'll be cutting it off.

Stanton gives Dave a disapproving gawk.

Jenna arrives, news crew in tow.

JENNA
Sorry I'm late.

DAVE
That's all right, Jenna.
(gestures)
This is Coach Stanton. Coach...

STANTON
Yeah, yeah. The lady quarterback. I think the whole country knows who she is by now.

JENNA
(hand extended)
Nice to meet you, Coach.

Stanton looks at her hand for only a moment. No indication of taking it. His piercing glare causes Jenna to withdraw.

DAVE
I see we're off to a good start here.

Dave and Larry step off to the side with the news crew.

REPORTER #2
Mr. Wallace, what are your expectations for Jenna?

DAVE

I know she'll do wonders for this team...

Stanton continues to glare at his new arrival.

JENNA

Look, Coach. Just so you know, I don't expect preferential treatment.

STANTON

Give me a couple of laps.

JENNA

What?

STANTON

The men run laps when they're late. You're one of the guys, ain't ya`?

Jenna drops her bag and jogs down the sideline. Many of the players she passes by stop what they're doing to stare.

Stanton removes a stopwatch from his pocket and clicks it. He steps toward the equipment area, tripping over a cord belonging to the reporters. He looks back as he storms off.

LATER

Slightly out of breath, Jenna trots to the equipment area, where Stanton waits. He clicks his stopwatch.

STANTON

Good hustle... for a girl.

Stanton points to a nearby building.

STANTON

Locker room's in there, third door on the right. You've got five minutes. Time starts now.

Jenna grabs her duffel and jogs quickly toward the structure.

Stanton watches her go. A LINEBACKER walks up to him.

LINEBACKER

Want me to see what she can do, Coach?

Stanton's focus remains on Jenna. He cracks a crooked smile.

STANTON

Nah. I'll take care of this one.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sam pushes a cart with a few bags of groceries inside up to his car. As he loads them into the trunk, a wave of pain strikes his chest. His breathing becomes labored.

He puts the empty cart into a corral and gets in behind the wheel of his car. Pulls a bottle of pills from his pocket and drops one into his mouth. Eyes closed, he tilts his head back and rides the roller coaster of pain.

EXT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Stanton hands a football to Jenna and leads her to a vacant area of field. She stands on the 20-yard line. Stanton moves out to the near 30.

STANTON

Pass me the ball. I want to see your release point.

JENNA

You can stand further back.

STANTON

Baby steps, Ramey.

Jenna pulls back her arm, ball in hand. She lets it rip.

The ball hits Stanton hard in the chest. He catches it, his face twisting in pain.

JENNA

Hey, I'm pretty good!

STANTON

There's no room in pro ball for a comedian.

JENNA

Then stop treating me like I'm a joke.

STANTON

You have to earn my respect.

Stanton tosses the ball back to Jenna.

STANTON

I'm your defender. Make the pass to the end zone, IF you can get by me.

JENNA

Are you sure, Coach? I don't want you dropping over or anything.

STANTON

Don't worry your pretty little head. Show me what you've got.

Stanton takes his position in front of Jenna. She grips the ball across its laces.

Stanton holds his arms in the air and charges, cutting off Jenna's passing lane.

Jenna maneuvers left, then right. Stanton stays with her, all the while trying to get her in his grasp. Jenna blows by him. Stanton's outstretched arms barely miss.

Jenna runs all the way to the end zone. She holds up the ball in celebration.

JENNA

Touchdown!

Players around them eye Jenna as they continue their drills.

Stanton appears ready to explode.

MONTAGE - THE DRILL

-- Jenna dodges Stanton. He pursues her with everything he's got. Forces Jenna out of bounds.

-- Stanton faces Jenna. He struggles to catch his breath while Jenna doesn't look tired at all. Stanton comes at her.

With an impressive move, Jenna maneuvers around him and runs for the end zone. She slows several yards away and walks the ball in.

STANTON

Goddamn it! I said to throw the ball in. Are you deaf?

Jenna trots back out to Stanton with the ball.

JENNA

(tossing ball)
I hear fine, Coach.

-- They try it again. Stanton manages to get his hands on Jenna, but she slips out of his grasp and jogs to the end zone. She stops a few yards short and looks back at Stanton.

He watches with hands on hips. Jenna tosses the ball into the end zone.

JENNA

How's that?

Stanton huffs.

END MONTAGE

INT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Alone in the room, Stanton explodes on Jenna.

STANTON

What the hell was that out there? I told you over and over to throw the goddamn ball!

JENNA

Quarterbacks should be able to run the ball. Coach Braxton always made a point of that...

STANTON

I don't care what you learned or where you learned it! Northridge is flag football compared to what we do here!

Jenna stares at him calmly.

JENNA

You done?

STANTON

I ain't gonna be responsible for you dying on my field. Conversation's over. Leave!

JENNA

So you draft me but don't want me here?

STANTON

Not no, but hell no! So be a good little girl and run on home and leave football to us men.

They face off inches apart. Jenna's steaming but reserves her true feelings. Stanton's livid.

JENNA

You could really use a goddamn vacation.

(exiting)

Be seeing you on the field.

Stanton just stands there. A grin slowly widens across his face.

LATER

Players in various stages of cleaning up come and go. Jenna enters, her clothing dirty and drenched in sweat.

Players turn to gawk. Some whistle.

Dressed in clean clothing, TODD MANNIX (28), tall and fit, a man who melts women with his good looks, passes by Jenna with a grin. Her gaze trails after him.

Jenna appears indecisive. Stanton steps up to her.

STANTON

Is there a problem, Ramey?

JENNA

There's nowhere for me to shower.

STANTON

Look, I don't have time for this shit. You can either shower with the guys, shower when they leave, wait until you get back to your room tonight, or grab a bucket and soap and find a closet.

Stanton exits the locker room.

PLAYER #1 looks over at Jenna.

PLAYER #1

There's a closet down the hall with a shower.

JENNA

Warm water?

PLAYER #1

Yeah.

JENNA

Thanks.

Jenna grabs her duffel and exits.

Players left behind laugh quietly.

INT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - JANITOR'S CLOSET - DAY

Cluttered with a drain off to the side. A showerhead and curtain transform the corner into a primitive shower.

Jenna enters, carrying the duffel and bathing essentials. She eyes the shower area with disapproval.

CORRIDOR

Many players crowd around the janitors' closet door, listening.

O.S. A SHOWER turns on. Jenna SCREAMS.

The players laugh.

INT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Full of players having dinner. Jenna sits alone at a table. She draws part of a passing play on the pad before her.

Todd approaches with a drink and plate of partly eaten dinner. He sits across from Jenna.

TODD

I hear you're after my job.

Jenna glances at him.

TODD

Go ahead. Take it. I'd much rather be a receiver anyway. I was a better passer than the quarterbacks on my college team. Before I knew it, I was drafted as a quarterback.

JENNA

Well, at least you get to play.

TODD

Have you ever seen me play in a regular season game?

PLAYER #2 passes by, making smooching sounds at the couple.

PLAYER #2

Hey, Mannix. Scoring on her playing field tonight?

Players in the area laugh. Jenna continues drawing on her pad but seems distracted.

TODD
 Don't pay them any mind. They're
 afraid of change.

Jonathan gives Jenna a disapproving look as he walks past.
 Her eyes trail after him.

JENNA
 Wow. I've watched him play since I
 was a little girl.

TODD
 It's Hadley's last year. No one
 wants a 40-year-old has-been.

Jenna's eyes lock on Jonathan as he sits at a table with
 several key players.

EXT. MINI TRAINING CAMP - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Jenna stands next to Todd, each throwing to a receiver.
 Howard oversees them.

HOWARD
 Good style, Ramey. Don't be afraid
 to throw it downfield. You have the
 arm. Now find the confidence.

A player leaves the main building and speaks with a fellow
 player MOS. They head back to the structure.

TODD
 And the cuts begin. At least you
 were drafted. That gives you a
 better chance of staying.

Jenna looks over to the main building with unease.

LATER

Several key players sign autographs for FANS at the front
 rail of the stands.

Jonathan sees Jenna off to the side, signing autographs for a
 good-sized crowd - mostly female. With a scowl, he heads to
 the locker room.

MONTAGE - JENNA AT MINI TRAINING CAMP

-- Looking at the calendar in her room, turned to July.
 "Training Camp" is written on each day.

-- Taking snaps with a small group of players while watching
 Jonathan working with the starters on complex plays.

-- Getting fitted for custom padding that gives a woman's body better protection.

-- Clock reads 1:45 AM. Jenna looks wide-awake as she pours over a playbook in her room. Next to her is a notepad with her own plays written out.

ESPN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Jenna Ramey survived the second round of cuts for Cincinnati today. All eyes are on this gal as she tries to become the first woman to play pro football.

-- Cincinnati players watching game film. Jenna pays extra attention and takes notes.

-- Signing autographs for a group of pre-teen GIRLS.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - DAY

Jenna parks her car. From the trunk, she removes two large duffel bags and carries them to the main building.

INT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - MAIN BUILDING - ENTRY - CONTINUOUS

Stanton, holding a clipboard, stands beside fellow coaches.

Jenna enters with her bags.

STANTON
 One of the first here.

JENNA
 I'm ready to play some ball.

STANTON
 (glances at clipboard)
 4-B.

Jenna boards a nearby elevator.

Offensive Coordinator STEVE MITCHELL steps up to Stanton.

MITCHELL
 I've rarely seen such fire in a young quarterback.

STANTON
 She's trying extra hard, that's all.

MITCHELL

Her agility is incredible. More than makes up for her shortened range.

STANTON

It's not a question of whether she's got what it takes. It's an issue of her lacking something all the guys have.

Stanton checks off Jenna's name from his clipboard.

MITCHELL

Shouldn't it be an issue of whether she can help this team win games?

Stanton shakes his head with a light-hearted chuckle.

EXT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The gang's all here. The linemen, receivers, quarterbacks. A few of them eat turf as the coaches issue plays with body language only understood by those in the league.

Among them is Jenna, holding her own on her four-man squad. The WHISTLE. Jenna's squad tackles the sled hard. Drives it downfield like bulls.

Stanton gives a long blast on his WHISTLE.

STANTON

Ten minutes, ladies! Get some water.

AT THE REFRESHMENTS' TABLE

Jonathan sips a cup of water. Jenna jogs over and pours a cup.

JENNA

I was at the Indianapolis game in '03 when you threw six touchdown passes. That was amazing.

Jonathan ignores her.

JENNA

I thought the vet quarterbacks were supposed to work with the rookies.

JONATHAN

If you survive the cuts, this whole sport becomes a joke. The team will be laughed at.

JENNA

People have been laughing at it for years.

JONATHAN

Get over yourself, sweetheart. You're not all that.

JENNA

Oh, yeah?

Jenna clears off a long table and grabs a stack of orange cones. She spreads out ten of them, nearly a foot apart.

Players trickle over to watch. Soon, the whole team now crowds around them, coaches included.

PLAYER #3 stands next to Jonathan.

PLAYER #3

What's up?

Jonathan shrugs.

Jenna grabs a bag of footballs, takes out two. She keeps one and hands the second to Jonathan.

JENNA

You think I don't belong here? Let's find out.

Stanton pushes his way to the front of the crowd.

JENNA

Each gets five throws from 20 yards out. Whoever knocks over the most cones wins.

JONATHAN

This is crazy.

JENNA

Scared?

Jonathan straightens.

JENNA

If I win, you treat me like one of the guys.

JONATHAN
And when I win?

JENNA
I quit the team.

Players exchange looks. Stanton is shocked.

JONATHAN
You can't do that.

JENNA
Of course I can, IF I lose.

JONATHAN
And if by some miracle we tie?

JENNA
Mutual respect.

Jenna moves to the field, a good 20 yards from the table of cones, dragging the bag of balls with her. Jonathan hesitates before joining her.

JONATHAN
Ladies first.

JENNA
Age before beauty.

Players laugh. Stanton cracks a grin.

MONTAGE - THE CONTEST

-- First throw - Jonathan hits a cone. His followers root him on. Jenna hits her cone. A slightly lesser following supports her. Jonathan scowls.

-- Second throw - Jonathan misses. Jenna hits her target.

-- Third throw - Jonathan takes careful aim and throws. He hits his second cone. Jenna barely misses. Jonathan gloats.

-- Fourth throw - Jonathan hits his target. Jenna takes out a cone. Tied up at three each.

-- Fifth throw - Jonathan rotates the next ball in his hand. He takes careful aim at one of the four remaining cones and throws. A hit. He rotates his aching throwing arm.

JONATHAN
Pressure's on.

Jenna gives an annoyed look, makes a confident throw. The ball strikes a cone. Several players congratulate Jenna.

JENNA
Looks like a tie.

Jonathan storms off.

Todd watches him from Jenna's side.

TODD
Would you really have quit?

JENNA
Losing was never an option.

Jenna goes to pick up the balls and cones.

Stanton watches her with a glint of admiration.

END MONTAGE

INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Expensive furniture, lots of football memorabilia from his lengthy career - game balls, trophies, plaques, etc. A diploma from Ohio State University with Jonathan's name holds a special place on the wall.

Jonathan drags inside, the strap of a duffel slung over one shoulder. He hurls his bag across the room. It crashes into a decorative football lamp from Ohio State, knocking it off a table where it SHATTERS upon hitting the floor.

CASSIE (32), superficial, rushes into the room from the hall.

JONATHAN
She's breathing down my neck. I'll be a laughing stock if she ends up taking my job.

Cassie steps into the kitchen.

Jonathan stoops next to the broken lamp pieces, picking up a few and trying to fit them together. No use.

Cassie returns with two cold beers. She hands one to Jonathan and guides him to the sofa. Jonathan takes a big drink.

CASSIE
Better?

JONATHAN

I never thought she would last this long.

Cassie sets aside both bottles. She cuddles Jonathan, kissing his neck and slowly working her way up to his lips.

Jonathan's gaze stays trained ahead as he's distracted by something else.

JONATHAN

Maybe if I leak a rumor to the media... a secret cocaine addiction.

(pause)

Oh! Even better. I could pay some woman to say she had a fling with Jenna. People already suspect she's a lesbian.

Cassie jumps up, gathers a few scattered belongings of hers throughout the room - purse, jacket, shopping bag, keys.

JONATHAN

You're leaving?

CASSIE

It's bad enough you have a fear of commitment, but now you're letting an obsession with that girl ruin what little we do have.

Cassie hands Jonathan a key from her key ring and throws open the main door.

JONATHAN

Don't go, Cassie. I need you.

CASSIE

What you need is a therapist.

Cassie bolts outside, slams the door closed.

Jonathan stares after her. He sits on the edge of the coffee table and runs fingers through his hair.

EXT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - DAY

TOMLIN (27), quarterback, passes to Todd, who fills in as his receiver. Todd makes some exceptional receptions. Other quarterbacks, including Jonathan and Jenna, warm up.

Jenna takes a drink break. As she sips, she eyes Todd. His flawless catches hold her attention.

NEARBY

Stanton oversees a small group of players. Jenna trots up to him.

JENNA
Coach, did you notice how good
Mannix is looking out there?

Stanton watches Todd make a couple of skilled receptions.

STANTON
Not bad.

JENNA
I was thinking it might be good for
the team if he changed positions.

STANTON
(grinning)
Is that a fact? I think you should
get back on the field and let me do
the coaching.

Smiling, Jenna walks away. Stanton blows his WHISTLE.

STANTON
That's enough warm-ups. Let's get
this party started.

LATER

Offense lines up against defense on the 50-yard line.

Jonathan watches from the sideline. He nods at DENNIS (30), a husky guard. Dennis nods in return.

Jenna hangs back. She stares at LANDERS, the center, who's bent down in front of her with the ball ready to snap.

STANTON
Ramey, I want to see how well you
think on your feet. Gentlemen, no
tackling. Grasp whoever has the
ball - stop when I blow the
whistle.

All eyes go to Jenna. She approaches Landers and reaches to the gap between his legs. Landers straightens with unease.

LANDERS
I can't do this, Coach.

JENNA

You prefer a man's hands between
your legs?

Players laugh.

STANTON

(to Landers)

Your job is to hand off that ball.
If you can't do it, I'll find
someone that can.

Landers returns to his position. Jenna places her hands
between his legs. The snap. Jenna's in the pocket.

Dennis purposely lets a 300 lb. lineman through. Jenna's
looking downfield when she sees something scary. The lineman
plows her. Players grimace. Jenna groans as the lineman rolls
off her, a satisfied smile on his face.

PLAYER #4

Help, I've fallen and can't get up.

STANTON

Give me two laps.

Disgruntled, PLAYER #4 takes off jogging around the field.

Stanton kneels beside Jenna, who stares at the sky.

STANTON

You dead?

JENNA

Feels like it.

STANTON

Want me to call for a trainer?

JENNA

I'm fine, Coach.

As Stanton walks away, he blows his WHISTLE quickly to all.

STANTON

Let's try it again!

Jenna rolls onto her side. She grimaces under clenched teeth
while making it to her feet.

Both sides line up. Jenna is slow moving into position as
every muscle in her body now aches. The snap.

Tackles attempt to fight their way through the guards. Jenna scans downfield.

Unnoticed by Jenna, a tackle breaks through the line. He runs up behind her, arms wide. Jenna's head cocks toward him.

Just as the tackle prepares to grab Jenna, she ducks, spins, and darts to the side. She throws 20 yards to BRANSEN.

Stanton nods at Jenna.

STANTON

You've got some pretty quick moves there, Ramey. How did you know Faulkner was behind you?

JENNA

I could smell him.

The tackle sniffs his underarm with a scrunched face. Players laugh. Even Stanton chuckles.

Jonathan fails to see the humor.

INT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - JENNA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Very small. Used to be an office. Jenna hobbles in, helmet in hand. She's taken a real beating today, the pain etched into her perspiring face.

She slowly lifts her practice jersey and looks down at the bruises on her ribs.

Voices come from the corridor.

LINEMAN (O.S.)

You see me hit that broad? Wham!

PLAYER #5 (O.S.)

Got a "G" that says she's out in five.

LINEMAN (O.S.)

If you wanna just let me take your money then. The nerve of these broads.

Jenna closes her eyes in frustration. She suddenly hurls her helmet hard into the opposite wall.

INT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - TRAINERS' OFFICE - DAY

Jenna drags in after changing into street clothes. Sore muscles everywhere make it difficult for her to walk.

STAN KENDALL (50s), balding and glasses, the team's doctor, organizes supplies in a cabinet. He stops to study Jenna.

KENDALL

Looks like practice didn't go well.

Jenna leans on a table just to remain standing.

KENDALL

Need me to check you over?

JENNA

I just wanted to see what you'd recommend so I'm not too sore in the morning.

Kendall puts a handful of pills into a prescription bottle, then several of another pill into a different bottle. He writes on the labels.

KENDALL

Looks like you could use something to take the edge off the pain, and maybe a muscle relaxer, just for a couple of days, though.

Kendall hands the bottles to Jenna. She reads the labels.

JENNA

I don't mind the muscle relaxer, but do you really think Vicodin is necessary?

KENDALL

I'll leave that up to you. There's only ten so use them wisely. If the muscle relaxer works, you may not need anything else.

JENNA

Thanks.

Jenna trudges out of the room.

INT. FULL TRAINING CAMP - JENNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jenna lies back on her bed, studying a playbook. A summer breeze gently tosses the open curtains on her window. She picks up one of the prescription bottles from her nightstand and rolls it in her hand as she thinks.

She removes a Vicodin and takes it with some water from a water bottle.

O.S. A RUCKUS. Men LAUGH and YELL.

Jenna sets aside the book and curiously opens her door to look out. Several players, Todd included, drag two rookies past Jenna to the elevator. Everyone enjoys themselves.

JENNA
What's going on?

TODD
Hazing of the new guys.

Todd follows after the group.

Jenna closes her door and goes to her window, which overlooks the practice field.

Outside, players tie the rookies to the closest goal posts. The culprits grab a water hose and blast their prisoners.

Jenna watches with disappointment.

MONTAGE - JENNA IMPROVES

-- Being sacked during a play but getting right back up, slapping the tackle on the helmet and moving into position.

-- Signing a few autographs, mainly for KIDS. An ESPN CREW films the event.

-- Watching game film with half the players.

-- Making a big play. Coaches clap.

-- Working with a larger group of players - glancing over at Jonathan still working with the starters.

-- Watching game film all by herself. Stanton walks in. Impressed, he nods with the hint of a grin.

-- Signing a LOT of autographs, some adult FANS along with many KIDS. Nearby, Jonathan signs autographs for only a few FANS. He eyes Jenna with scorn.

END MONTAGE

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - STANTON'S OFFICE - DAY

A few articles on Stanton's career, as quarterback for Detroit, quarterback coach for San Francisco, and head coach for Cincinnati hang on the walls. Stanton works at his desk.

JENNA (O.S.)
Let's try the 30.

Stanton goes to the window and looks out.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jenna works with DALEY (22), a rookie kicker, timid in appearance. She holds the ball for him at the 30-yard line.

Stanton watches from his large office window.

JENNA

C'mon, Daley. You can do it.

Daley kicks. The ball nicks an upright and tumbles through. Jenna and Daley high-five.

At the window, Stanton gives a slight nod.

INT. TRAINERS OFFICE - DAY

PLAYER #6 lies on the examining table. Kendall extends one of his legs in and out.

KENDALL

Any pain?

PLAYER #6

No, Doc.

Jenna enters in street clothes, a little uneasy.

KENDALL

(to player)

You're free to go.

Player #6 hops down and exits.

KENDALL

What can I do for you, Ramey?

Jenna pulls a prescription bottle out of her pocket.

JENNA

I was wondering if I could get a refill.

Jenna hands the bottle to Kendall. He glances at the label.

KENDALL

You're still in pain?

JENNA

Just muscle aches, but they keep me from sleeping.

KENDALL
I really don't like--

JENNA
It's the last time. I'll only take
them when I really need to.

Kendall thinks a long moment and softens.

KENDALL
I'll give you 30 this time, but use
them sparingly.

Kendall gets to work counting out Vicodin to the bottle.

Jenna watches with a glint of relief.

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jenna exits the players' locker room, carrying her game
uniform, #11 on back of the jersey.

STANTON (O.S.)
Ramey! Where are you going?

Jenna turns to see Stanton, hands on his hips.

JENNA
To my office.

STANTON
There's been a change.

INT. CHEERLEADERS' LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Many CHEERLEADERS, some half-dressed, prepare for the game.
They throw on their uniforms. Do their makeup and hair.

LISA (22), a feminine girl who oozes arrogance, chats with
three cheerleader FRIENDS her age.

Jenna enters, a bag of gear under one arm, her uniform draped
over the other.

Numerous cheerleaders hurry to greet her.

VARIOUS CHEERLEADERS
Nice to meet you. Good luck today.
What you're doing is awesome.

JENNA
(surprised)
Thanks.

Jenna finds a vacant locker. Lisa goes to her.

LISA
What are you doing?

JENNA
This is where I change from now on.

The cheerleading coach, TAMERA WINTERS (30s), very perky, enters the locker room.

TAMERA
All right, ladies. It's show time.

The cheerleaders follow Tamera out of the room. Lisa lingers behind, passing Jenna a bitter look. Jenna locks eyes with her, not really bothered.

Lisa exits.

Jenna pauses a moment but shrugs it off and starts to change.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Jenna exits a tunnel, in full uniform, helmet in hand. She stops to look around the huge stadium. Stanton joins her.

STANTON
Ready to play some ball?

Jenna turns to him, ready to answer but doesn't get the chance. Dave leads a group of REPORTERS, cameras and microphones in hand, over to them.

REPORTER #3
Jenna, how does it feel to prepare for your first NFL game?

Jenna searches for the right words.

JENNA
Exciting, scary...

REPORTER #4
Coach Stanton, will Jenna see any playing time today?

STANTON
I plan to put her in some, to see what she can do in a game situation.

REPORTER #5

Mr. Wallace, is Jenna living up to your expectations?

Dave places a friendly arm around Jenna's shoulders.

DAVE

She's everything she was in college and so much more. I think she'll do wonders for this team.

OFF TO THE SIDE

Jonathan eyes the reporters as he warms up with Tomlin.

JONATHAN

It just ain't right. The media's never swarmed me like that.

TOMLIN

That's because you have a dick.

Jonathan playfully throws a super hard pass that Tomlin bobbles and drops. They laugh.

NEARBY

Todd passes to the receivers. Coach Stanton jogs up to him.

STANTON

Mannix, how do you feel about playing wide receiver for me?

TODD

Just for today?

STANTON

That depends.

Stanton trots off the field. Todd smiles big.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Sally Harris Williams, looking much older than her brief 39 years, sits propped up in bed, watching the game on TV. Gravely ill, she stares at the TV proudly.

Her husband, JEFF WILLIAMS (early 40s), fluffs her pillows.

On the screen, Jenna is visible on Cincinnati's sideline.

SALLY

(excited)
There she is!

Jeff looks as he sits next to the bed.

JEFF

She's turned out to be a beautiful girl, just like her mom.

Sally squeezes his hand and smiles. Both turn to the TV.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CINCINNATI SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

Jenna examines the microphone inside her helmet. A NEWS CREW stands around her, filming Jenna's every move.

SAM (O.S.)

Jenna!

Jenna turns to find Sam pushing his way through the crowd.

JENNA

Dad, you're late.

SAM

I made it, didn't I?

Jenna notices Stanton in the area.

JENNA

Coach!

Stanton turns in her direction. Bumps into a CAMERAMAN in his way. He squeezes through the media to face Jenna.

JENNA

Coach, this is my dad, Sam Ramey.
Dad, Coach Stanton.

The men shake hands.

STANTON

One of the best college coaches around.

SAM

You're quite the coach yourself.
You've just been given a bum deal.

STANTON

Now if you could just tell that to the media...

They laugh.

ASSISTANT COACH (O.S.)

Coach!

STANTON

Excuse me.

Stanton dashes off toward the ASSISTANT COACH, having to struggle his way through the excessive media.

Sam beams as he grips Jenna's arms and gives her a once over.

SAM

I've stood on a lot of sidelines
with you but this is beyond my
wildest dreams.

JENNA

(teasing)

Just remember, you're here to watch
and cheer, not coach.

SAM

I promise I'll be good.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - SAME TIME

STEVE and BRENNAN, resident announcers, dressed in red jackets, sit before the large windows. They wear headsets.

STEVE

The big game for today is
Cincinnati. The whole country is
watching Jenna Ramey to see if she
can perform in a pro environment.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The game is against Tennessee. The stands packed with fans. Cincinnati players hustle out of the tunnel. The crowd reacts, more BOOS than CHEERS.

IN THE STANDS

A small group of WOMEN holds up a sign, "Go Jenna!" Next to them, a gathering of drunken MEN holds up their own sign, "No Girls Allowed!"

Throughout the stands, signs showcase both approval and disapproval toward Jenna from each gender, an equal following on both sides heavily in favor of her NOT playing.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton assembles his offensive starters, led by Jenna.

STANTON

Ramey, watch your left. If they
line up to blitz, drop into
shotgun.

Perspiring, Sam watches the scene. Suddenly, he grips his chest. Agony sweeps his face. He whips out his prescription bottle from his pocket and takes a pill.

A new wave of pain overtakes him. He battles against shaky legs but loses out, collapsing to the ground. Eyes closed, he lies still.

One-by-one, players and staff notice. They crowd around him, creating a commotion. TRAINERS perform CPR.

Jenna pushes her way through the onlookers. Her face illuminates with shock when she sees Sam lying motionless on the ground. She hurries to kneel beside him.

JENNA

Dad!

Stanton gently pulls Jenna out of the way. She watches in terror as the trainers fail to revive her dad.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The scene plays out on TV. Sally and Jeff watch sadly. Their hearts break for Jenna.

SALLY

I think it might be time to write
that letter.

Jeff squeezes her hand.

MONTAGE - SAM'S FAREWELL

-- Sam is laid out in an oak casket. His fellow COACHES and COLLEGE PLAYERS are present. Jenna sits in the front row, staring at her dad in shock. Sarah is seated next to her with an arm around Jenna's shoulders. She rubs Jenna's back to try and calm her.

-- Coach Stanton walks in, dressed in a suit. He steps up to Jenna and lays a hand on her shoulder. Jenna attempts to grin through her tears.

-- At the cemetery, Sam's closed casket stands over an open grave. Jenna lays a wreath in the shape of a football on top, then walks away, head hung low.

END MONTAGE

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenna enters after the funeral. A strong feeling of emptiness brings tears to her eyes.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A Cincinnati scrimmage. Stanton stands with Howard. A ROOKIE QUARTERBACK runs the offense.

ROOKIE QUARTERBACK

Set hut!

He has a clear shot to Todd on a short pass. The ball sails far over Todd's head. Stanton blows his WHISTLE.

STANTON

Goddammit. Mannix was wide open!
Try it again!

The formation lines up. The rookie quarterback fumbles a good snap. A tackle takes him to the ground.

Stanton's hand goes to his face. Howard leans in to him.

HOWARD

Makes you miss Ramey, doesn't it?

Stanton turns to him with a furrowed brow.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenna, in pajamas, eats a bowl of cereal in front of the TV. Her ratty hair and lack of makeup showcase severe grieving.

The prescription bottle stands on the coffee table. Jenna picks it up and contemplates.

The doorbell RINGS. Jenna sets aside the bottle and opens the door to Coach Stanton. He brushes past Jenna to enter.

STANTON

You haven't been to practice.

JENNA

I thought I was granted some time
off, Coach.

STANTON

Time for the funeral. That's over.

Jenna plops down on the couch.

STANTON

Look, I'm very sorry for your loss,
but I'm responsible for a team, one
you're expected to be an active
part of.

Stanton watches Jenna for a moment. He feels for her.

STANTON

I know it's too soon, and you're
hurting. Life throws these
curveballs at us sometimes. But you
were given an opportunity to do
something special. Don't throw it
away.

Stanton goes to the door, stands with it open.

STANTON

If you don't come to practice
tomorrow, I'll have to talk with
Wallace about letting you go.

Stanton leaves.

Jenna sinks back into the couch, deep in thought. She looks
over to a picture of Sam and her, in Sam's healthier days.
Pops a pill from her bottle.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Players wait around in their practice attire. Stanton scans
the crowd, then the stadium entrances.

ASSISTANT COACH

All right, everyone. Let's hit it!

The players begin their daily drills.

Jenna jogs up to Stanton. He fights a grin.

JENNA

Am I late?

STANTON

Right on time.

Jenna runs to the field. Stanton trots further out.

STANTON

Big game tomorrow! Let's be ready!

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is dark and peaceful.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - JENNA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna sleeps peacefully until:

The security ALARM wails. Jenna instantly bolts up, takes a moment to think, then hurries out of the bedroom.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Jenna arrives from the stairs. Flips on the light. No sign of anyone but the atmosphere still feels creepy.

The phone RINGS, startling Jenna. She grabs the handset.

JENNA
(into phone)
Hello?

SECURITY MEMBER (O.S.)
(filtered)
Is everything all right, Miss
Ramey?

JENNA
I don't see anyone inside.

SECURITY MEMBER (O.S.)
(filtered)
Police are on the way. Don't open
the door until they arrive.

Jenna hangs up the phone. Runs fingers through her hair.

LATER

A POLICE OFFICER joins Jenna standing near the couch.

POLICE OFFICER
There are a few footprints by the
rear door. Someone probably tried
to open it and set off the alarm.
We'll have patrols drive by during
the night for a while.

JENNA
Thanks.

The officer opens the main door and steps out.

Jenna locks the deadbolt and lays her head against the door.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - DAY

Mass FANS arrive, dressed in their hometown apparel.

INT. CHEERLEADERS' LOCKER ROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna finishes putting on her uniform, her movements slow and pained due to aching muscles. She grabs the prescription bottle from her locker and shakes a pill into her hand. Pops it and washes it down with water from a bottle.

The door SQUEAKS open. Stanton peers inside.

STANTON

Ramey, let's go. Move it.

JENNA

Coming, Coach.

Jenna finishes with her uniform and shakes off the pain as she follows her coach.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Cincinnati's quarterbacks warm up near their sideline.

ACROSS THE FIELD

Two hefty Miami TACKLES eye Jenna.

TACKLE #1

I just can't do it, man. Feels like abuse or somethin`.

TACKLE #2

Yeah, but it's OUR asses on the line. What choice have we got?

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - DAY

Steve and Brennan are ready for the big game.

BRENNAN

Ramey missed Cincinnati's first pre-season game when her father, former UC Head Coach Sam Ramey, died from a heart attack on the sideline.

STEVE

Our hearts go out to Jenna. Hopefully she can overcome the tragedy on the field today.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Game in progress. Scoreboard reads: 3rd quarter. 1:23 on the clock. Ball on Miami's 31-yard line. 3rd and 12. Miami - 21, Cincinnati - 17.

IN CINCINNATI'S HUDDLE

Tomlin barks the orders.

TOMLIN

Just like it's written up. Ten
curl, break inside, on nine.

Cincinnati lines up against Miami. At the snap, Todd runs out ten yards, curls toward the inside, then breaks harder, throwing the DEFENDER off-balance, another cut and then toward the outside. Wide open.

He catches the ball and scores easily. The crowd goes wild.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Jonathan sits on the bench, heat on his shoulder.

Offense arrives. Special Teams take the field. Stanton gives Todd a congratulatory pat on the helmet.

STANTON

Good job, Mannix.

Tomlin approaches.

STANTON

Great pass.

TOMLIN

The whole play design was
incredible.

STANTON

It's Ramey's.

Tomlin looks over at Jenna, who appears bored on the bench.

LATER

Stanton turns to Jenna, still on the bench.

STANTON

Ramey, take over for Tomlin.

Players all look their way.

PLAYER #7

But Coach. We have the lead.

Stanton marks on his clipboard.

STANTON

Four laps at practice tomorrow.

PLAYER #7 sulks.

Hesitating, Jenna grabs her helmet. The rest of her offense heads to the field. Jenna trails them.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Jenna arrives to a lot of BOOING, mixed with some CHEERING. She looks around at the packed stands.

ANNOUNCER (ON SPEAKERS)

Taking over at quarterback for
Cincinnati, #11, Jenna Ramey!

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan watch the field anxiously.

STEVE

Ramey comes in to take over for
Tomlin. This will be her first
appearance on a pro football field.

BRENNAN

With a 98 quarterback rating for
Northridge, fans expect to see a
lot from Ramey today.

STEVE

If she fails on the field, her
career in the NFL may be over.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Cincinnati's offense lines up. Miami's defense faces them. The snap. Jenna throws a shuffle pass to a tight end. A Miami PLAYER jumps in front of him and knocks away the ball.

Cincinnati huddles, lines up against defense. The snap. The defense rushes Jenna. She throws away the ball. Defense laughs. Jenna stares at them on her way back to the huddle.

Offense meets defense at the line of scrimmage. The snap. A gaping hole opens up in the middle. Jenna notices but freezes. A TACKLE takes her to the ground.

The ball flies out of Jenna's hand. A defensive PLAYER makes the fumble recovery. The crowd BOOS.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton turns away.

STANTON

Shit.

His offense leaves the field. Jenna gives Stanton a quick glance on her way to the nearest bench, where she plops down. She removes her helmet and holds her stomach.

INT. CHEERLEADERS' LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Jenna enters in uniform. Lisa and friends, in street clothes, pass by as they exit. Lisa fails to hide a smirk.

Jenna watches them suspiciously. She arrives at her locker, straightens when she finds "Dyke" written across the front in red lipstick.

Tamera strolls inside. As she goes to her own locker, she glances at Jenna.

TAMERA

Hi.

Tamera grabs a whistle from her locker and starts to leave. She notices the writing on Jenna's locker and looks closer.

TAMERA

Who did that, do you know?

JENNA

(hesitating)

My teammates. We're always pranking each other.

Jenna opens the locker and pulls out a Playboy magazine lying inside. Tamera takes it from her for a long gander.

TAMERA

Not very funny if you ask me.

Tamera hands Jenna the magazine and leaves.

Jenna looks back at the doors with a frown. She rips up the magazine, dropping the pieces on the floor.

Suddenly, she runs out of sight to the shower area. We hear her THROWING UP.

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Stanton waits between the players' locker room and the cheerleaders' locker room. Players, dressed after the game, trickle out. Jenna leaves the cheerleaders' locker room.

STANTON
Ramey, in my office.

Jenna nods. Head hung low, she walks down the hall.

Jonathan exits the players' locker room with Tomlin.

STANTON
Hadley, as senior quarterback,
you're supposed to work with Ramey.

JONATHAN
What's the point, Coach? She won't
be around long.

STANTON
You're getting well paid for your
time. If I tell you to spend it
teaching her, then you damn well
better do what I say. Got it?

JONATHAN
Yeah, Coach. I got it.

Jonathan sulks away with Tomlin. Stanton steps off in the direction Jenna went in.

INT. STANTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Jenna sits before the desk. Stanton takes his seat.

STANTON
What the hell happened out there?

JENNA
I guess I was nervous.

STANTON
This coming from someone the
media's followed for years. Get
over it.

JENNA
It's been a rough week for me.

STANTON
You're a hundred times better than
what I saw today.
(MORE)

STANTON (CONT'D)

You had 1st down yardage right in front of you. Your job is to get the yards, no matter what. If you want to stick around, you'll have to get over the jitters and all the other baggage, and play like a pro. Got me?

JENNA

Yes, sir.

STANTON

Second chances are rare in football. That's all.

Jenna hesitates, then nods. She leaves.

CORRIDOR

Jenna leans against the wall, devastated. She shakes a pill from her bottle into her hand and takes it with water from a fountain. Looking unsteady, she makes her way down the hall.

INT. CINCINNATI STADIUM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jonathan and Tomlin leave an office, each holding a small stack of mail. They look through the letters as they walk.

JONATHAN

I can remember needing a box to carry all of my fan mail.

TOMLIN

Yeah, well, things change. Out with the old and in with the new. You're lucky you have any fans left.

Jonathan gives him a playful nudge. He pulls out a letter from his stack. The return address reads, "Sally Harris Williams". His hands shake as he removes the letter inside.

As he reads, Jonathan looks more and more stunned.

TOMLIN

What is it?

Jonathan shoves the letter back into the envelope.

JONATHAN

Nothing. Just a crazed fan letter.

Jonathan walks ahead. Tomlin looks suspicious as he follows.

EXT. CINCINNATI SIDELINE - DUSK

Empty stands and field. Todd, dressed, leaves the tunnel. He spots Jenna sitting on a bench.

Unaware of his presence, Jenna jumps up and kicks over an empty trashcan.

TODD

Whoa there, Jenna. What's wrong?

Jenna glances back, then storms off to the tunnel.

TODD

Hey!

Jenna stops at the tunnel's entrance.

JENNA

I... don't... lose.

TODD

Welcome to Cincinnati, Jenna. We do a lot of losing here.

Jenna suddenly grows disoriented and puts a hand against the wall to remain standing. Todd hurries to her.

TODD

Jenna?

Jenna blinks a few times and then collapses into Todd's arms. Her purse drops to the ground and spills some of the contents, including the prescription bottle.

Todd is taken to the ground with Jenna. He lifts her head. Her eyes are nearly closed. Todd notices the pill bottle and examines the label. A lightbulb goes off in his head.

INT. CINCINNATI LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Todd nearly drags Jenna inside, back to the:

SHOWERS

He turns one on full-blast. It soaks both. Jenna's eyes snap open. She attempts to get free but Todd holds her in the water stream.

They slide down the wall to the floor, where Jenna calms.

TODD

You all right?

Jenna lays her head against her bent knees.

INT. CINCINNATI LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Jenna is seated on a bench, in her wet clothes. A towel hangs around her neck. She looks troubled.

Drying off, Todd sits down next to her.

TODD
Feeling better?

Embarrassed, Jenna barely gives him a nod.

TODD
Why?

JENNA
Have you ever thought you needed something you really didn't?

TODD
Sure.

JENNA
I won't do it again.

TODD
I need to report this, Jenna.

JENNA
(alarmed)
No! Todd, you can't.

TODD
An overdose is serious.

JENNA
That will give them a reason to kick me off the team. Please, Todd. Don't do that to me.

Todd gazes into her face and breaks down.

TODD
You swear that's it.

JENNA
(crosses heart)
Cross my heart, but I don't hope to die, and I'll never stick a needle in my eye.

They give each other a grin.

TODD

Okay, but don't let me down.

Jenna hugs Todd.

JENNA

I won't.

Her eyes don't look so sure.

INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jonathan plops down on the couch with a beer and high school yearbook. He opens it to a photo of football cheerleaders. Sally kneels proudly in the front row.

He turns the page. Various football players are showcased. Jonathan is one of them. He grins at the picture.

Some printed pictures are shoved between pages. He looks through them - pictures of Jonathan during high school, his friends, Sally.

He selects one of Sally and him. In it, he stands behind Sally, both in their uniforms, his arms around her.

The sight brings a tearful smile to his face. He picks up the letter Sally wrote lying on the coffee table and sits back, thinking.

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - OWNER'S BOX - DAY

Luxurious in every way. On the wall hangs a photo of an older man, Dave Wallace Sr. - 1928 to 2003. He stands on barren ground holding a gold shovel.

The younger Dave Wallace studies the photo as he drinks down a shot.

Stanton ambles in.

STANTON

Ramey's a liability. I don't want her here.

DAVE

She's here. Get used to it.

Stanton looks down at the field. It's being prepped for a game. Some fans file in.

STANTON

It's nothing personal. She's got a lot of potential but she comes with too much baggage. I'm tripping over the media everywhere I go. She's unpredictable.

DAVE

Jersey sales for that gal are surpassing Hadley's. Girls across the country want `em. I'm appearing on Oprah next week. Anything with Ramey's name on it will sell like hotcakes after that.

STANTON

You could make her a junior coach. She gets to stay around the game and design plays.

DAVE

People are flocking to games to see her take the field, not stand on the sideline.

STANTON

Yet that's exactly where you'll have her.

DAVE

Fans will expect her to play, but in the end, they won't care about her not playing if we win games.

Frustrated, Stanton looks away. Looks back.

DAVE

When we signed Jenna, we sold 5,000 season tickets that day. 5,000.

STANTON

So it's only about the money.

DAVE

It's about the money and the attention, and the fame and the glory and the history we're making.

STANTON

Eventually, the novelty is going to wear off and you'll realize what you're doing is wrong.

Stanton storms from the room.

Dave pours another shot from his wet bar.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Jonathan parks in the driveway and leaves the car, holding Sally's letter.

ON THE PORCH

Jonathan pauses, summons the courage to ring the BELL.

Jeff opens the interior door and peers through the screen.

JONATHAN
Hi. Is Sally home?

JEFF
Jonathan. She said you'd come.

JONATHAN
If I could just speak to her...

Jeff opens the screen door for him.

JEFF
We need to talk.

Jonathan looks ill as he enters.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

St. Louis warms up for a game against Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Jenna sits down on a bench with a cup of water, trying to stretch her sore muscles.

Stanton notices.

STANTON
What's wrong?

JENNA
Cramp.

STANTON
(disgruntled)
Great.

PLAYER #8, sitting next to Jonathan, laughs.

PLAYER #8

Here we go, "I got cramps, Coach."
Ain't no way she's gonna make the
next cut.

Jonathan watches Jenna with concern.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - DAY

Steve and Brennan watch St. Louis's kickoff team take the field to start the game against Cincinnati.

BRENNAN

We're seconds away from this pre-season face-off between the Rams and Bengals. It'll be interesting to see if Ramey gets any playing time today.

STEVE

I'd be shocked if we didn't see her play in the second half. The clock is running out for her to prove herself at the pro level.

BRENNAN

I, for one, hope she can. There's the kick, and this one's underway.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Cincinnati receives the ball for the return. A decent run that places Cincinnati on their own 32-yard line.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton looks to the owner's box a moment, then turns to the field and players.

Tomlin puts on his helmet and joins the offense as they prepare to run out.

STANTON

Tomlin, hold up.
(turns to bench)
Ramey, you're in.

Jenna is caught off guard but stands.

Tomlin raises his arms out to his sides in protest. The offense hangs back, confused.

TOMLIN

I thought I was starting.

STANTON
Change of plans.

Everyone stares at him.

STANTON
Did I stutter? Tomlin, off. Ramey,
get out there. If you still want a
spot on this team, show me.

Jenna and the offense take the field.

Tomlin steps away and throws his helmet to the ground.
Stanton whirls to him with a heated look. Tomlin worriedly
picks up the helmet.

CINCINNATI HUDDLE

Jenna receives the play over her helmet speaker.

JENNA
43 right, on two. Break!

All players, except for Todd, break.

TODD
Wait!

All stop and return to the huddle. BOOS rise in the stands.

TODD
I've got an idea.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Brennan and Steve watch the field anxiously.

BRENNAN
Seems to be some confusion on the
field.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Cincinnati lines up in running play formation. Jenna calls an
audible. The formation shifts to passing play. Todd moves out
on the wide right. Jenna drops back into shotgun. The
backfield shifts.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton looks to Mitchell.

STANTON
What the hell is she doing?

Mitchell shrugs.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Two seconds on the play clock. The snap. Jenna receives the ball and the two lines collide. Todd is on a go, sprinting past the defense and heading toward the end zone. His DEFENDER tries desperately to close the gap.

Jenna has plenty of time in the pocket. She launches the ball long - a perfect throw.

Todd catches the ball in stride and scores easily. The crowd comes alive.

Jenna raises her arms in celebration. She starts off the field, eyeing Todd as she goes. Todd points to Jenna - nice throw. Jenna points back - nice catch.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

The offense congratulates Todd.

DENNIS

Nice catch, Mannix. Great call!

Nearby, Jenna glances their way. She feels left out.

TODD

Team effort, my man. Great protection, and Jenna's pass put the ball on my fingertips. Easy in.

Jenna gives Todd a grin, then gets a quick drink. Stanton approaches, looks mad enough to bite her. Jenna waits for the lashing to come.

Stanton's demeanor softens, just slightly.

STANTON

Hell of a pass, Ramey. For a running play.

Stanton turns and barks to the team:

STANTON

Let's keep it going!

Jenna looks at Jonathan, catching his stare. Her smile fades.

INT. STANTON'S HOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Leroy Neimann football paintings hang on the walls.

Stanton enters, still wearing his coach's cap. Immediately, his wife CAROL (45) greets him from the hall. Stanton gives her a quick kiss.

CAROL
You're late.

STANTON
I've been driving around.

CAROL
Uh-oh. Something's bothering you.

STANTON
I have a lot on my mind.

Carol leads her husband to the:

DINING ROOM

Expensive handmade oak furniture, including a huge hutch and fancy stereo system with all the frills. Around the room, candles burn for a romantic atmosphere. On the table, a lit candle stands between two plates of food.

Stanton surveys the display.

STANTON
What's all this for?

CAROL
I thought you might want to relax
with your favorite meal and...

Carol turns on the stereo to some soft, romantic MUSIC. She returns to Stanton, grips his hands.

CAROL
... some nice, quiet music.

Stanton takes her into his arms.

STANTON
I like how you think.

They share a romantic kiss. Carol seats Stanton at the table and massages his shoulders. He moans with pleasure.

CAROL
Still have that stress?

STANTON
Afraid so.

Carol sits across from him. Stanton picks at his food.

CAROL

Will, you have to stop letting everything get to you. It's not good for your blood pressure.

STANTON

Believe me, honey. No NFL coach has low blood pressure.

CAROL

You're extra tense this season.

STANTON

I've never had to deal with a female player before.

CAROL

Is she that bad?

STANTON

No, that's just it. She's not bad.

Stanton cuts a piece of meat and eats it.

CAROL

I don't see the problem then.

STANTON

What happens if she screws up again? And again? I'll be the famous coach that brought his team down because he let a girl play.

CAROL

Don't worry about what people think. Do YOU believe in her?

His meal barely touched, Stanton pushes his plate to the side. He sits back and sighs.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Practice. Offense, Jonathan in charge, lines up against defense. The snap.

Jonathan turns to his left to hand off the ball. No one there. The defense sacks him. Stanton blows his WHISTLE. The tackle helps Jonathan to his feet.

STANTON

Hadley! What the hell were you doing?

JONATHAN
I thought I was handing off left.

STANTON
Didn't I tell you to study the new
play additions?

Jenna watches from the sideline.

Stanton steps closer to Jonathan.

STANTON
Maybe Tomlin should be my starter.
At least he follows orders.

Jenna trots out to them.

JENNA
Coach, it wasn't his fault.
Jonathan wanted to work with me
last night. We were up really late.

Jonathan looks puzzled. Stanton stares at Jenna, torn about what to do. To Jonathan:

STANTON
I'll cut you some slack THIS time.
(to all)
Let's try it again!

As both sides move into position, Jonathan and Jenna exchange a silent look. She breaks away to jog off the field.

Jonathan's eyes stay on her as he takes his position. The snap. He steps back and makes a long throw to Bransen.

LATER

During practice, Jenna and Todd walk toward a group of players. An ASSISTANT hustles up to them.

ASSISTANT
Ramey, Stanton wants to see you.

The assistant heads back toward the offices.

JENNA
Uh-oh. Coach might be serious about
cutting me this time.

TODD
This time?

JENNA
You had to be there.

ASSISTANT
Now, Ramey!

Jenna jogs after the assistant. Todd watches her go.

INT. STANTON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jenna sits down before the desk. Stanton stands at the window. Looks out at the players practicing on the field.

STANTON
Some decisions are easy and some
are hard. Easy decisions sometimes
have harsh repercussions.

Jenna, on the verge of panic, stares at the desk.

STANTON
You get what I'm saying, Ramey?

JENNA
No, sir.

STANTON
I'm having a hard time figuring out
how I'm going to deal with the
media shit storm when they find out
you made the team. Any ideas?

JENNA
(surprised)
I made the team?

STANTON
Yeah, you made it. 70% on ability
and 30% on intangibles. You have a
brain for football. I'll give you
that.
(pause)
Now get the hell out of here.

Jenna nearly skips from the office.

Stanton smiles.

IN THE CORRIDOR

Beaming, Jenna heads down the hall. She starts to pass by the open door to the trainers office. Stops to peer inside. No one there. She takes a look around her and enters.

TRAINERS OFFICE

Jenna scans the cabinets with see-thru doors. She spots a large bottle of Vicodin and tugs on the locked door. Frustration shows on her face.

A TRAINER enters, reading a folder in his hands.

Jenna whirls around just in time.

TRAINER

Ramey, is there something I can help you with?

JENNA

I was just looking for Dr. Kendall.

TRAINER

He's off today. Maybe there's something I can--

JENNA

No, that's okay. Thanks.

Jenna hurries out of the office.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

A large headstone with a football engraving stands above Sam's grave. Next to it is a headstone that reads "Helen Ramey, 1970-2004."

Jenna approaches slowly. She kneels at the foot of Sam's grave and stares at the headstone.

JONATHAN (O.S.)

I've watched dozens of his games.

Jenna looks back. Jonathan steps up to her.

JONATHAN

He was an incredible coach.

JENNA

(standing)

How did you know I'd be here?

JONATHAN

Call it a gut feeling. Can I buy you a beer?

Jenna looks at him inquisitively.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Country MUSIC vibrates from within.

INT. BAR - SAME TIME

Jenna and Jonathan sit across from each other in a booth. Each sips on a beer while they talk.

JONATHAN

I was always focused on my career.

JENNA

Nothing wrong with that.

JONATHAN

I don't think Sally would agree.

JENNA

Who?

JONATHAN

We were high school sweethearts. Even had plans to marry someday. She was the one, or so I thought. Just before I left for college, she stopped seeing me. Wouldn't even take my calls.

JENNA

Sounds like she moved on.

JONATHAN

Turns out, she had a daughter after I left. Mine. I had no idea. She was adopted out.

JENNA

Oh, well, I'm sure she's had a good life, even without you in it.

JONATHAN

I don't know. Have you?

JENNA

Have I what?

Jonathan stares at her. Realizing, Jenna stares back.

JENNA

What are you saying?

Jonathan grips her hand.

JONATHAN

I know how much you loved Sam
Ramey, but Jenna, I'm your birth
father.

Stunned, Jenna yanks her hand free and jumps up.

JENNA

This isn't funny.

Jenna grabs her purse and races out of the bar.

JONATHAN

(following)
Jenna!

EXT. BAR - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Jenna nervously fumbles inside her purse for keys. Unlocks
the door of her car and starts to slide in. Jonathan catches
the door from closing.

JONATHAN

Jenna, listen to me.

JENNA

It's not true.

Jonathan moves into the open doorway to keep the door open.
He reaches inside his jacket and pulls out the folded letter.

JONATHAN

I wouldn't lie about something like
this. Read her letter and decide
for yourself.

Jonathan lays the letter on the dashboard and walks off.

Jenna stares at the letter. Finally, she picks it up and
reads it.

INSERT - LETTER

A section reads, "My sister Helen Ramey and her husband Sam
adopted Jenna. They were unable to have children of their
own."

BACK TO SCENE:

Jenna's eyes widen in shock at the revelation.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - DAY

A sporty little coupe is parked next to Jenna's car.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - JENNA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna and Sarah look through the mostly tomboyish clothing inside the closet.

JENNA

What am I gonna wear to the party?

SARAH

Celebrating the finalized team roster is a biggie. You have to look good.

JENNA

I know. The guys will dress up, and I don't want to look out of place.

(sighs)

I guess that's impossible, no matter what I do.

Sarah lays her hands on Jenna's arms.

SARAH

If you're gonna look out of place, you might as well go all the way.

Jenna stares at her with worry.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Very swanky. Dozens of tables set with silverware and glasses on top of lace tablecloths. A BARTENDER works the open bar across the room. MUSIC plays.

The whole team's here from trainers to players to coaches. Everyone has a good time. The roar of chatter suddenly ceases. Many eyes look at the main doorway.

There stands Jenna, wearing a beautiful dress with her hair done and full makeup. A vision. She scans the crowd with a nervous grin. Sulks over to the bar, hoping to get lost in the crowd.

PLAYER #9, still staring, comments to his companions:

PLAYER #9

There goes one hot quarterback.

Jenna speaks MOS with the bartender. He fixes her a drink. Jenna catches sight of Todd at a far table. They share a look and a smile.

Jonathan appears in front of Jenna.

JONATHAN

Jenna, come sit at our table.

Jonathan leads Jenna by the hand over to a table, where other starters sit, and pulls out a chair for her.

Jenna takes the seat. Jonathan scoots in the chair for her. He sits in the next chair over. Jenna scans the crowd. Some continue to stare but most return to socializing.

Jonathan struggles to find his footing with Jenna.

JONATHAN

Have you given any thought to...
you know.

JENNA

It's ALL I've thought about. Just
give me some time, Jonathan. It's a
lot to process.

JONATHAN

Of course.

Jenna sips her drink as her eyes scan the room.

LATER

Many of the players leave, passing by Stanton at the doorway.
It's Jenna's turn.

STANTON

I'm gonna have a hard time yelling
at you on the field after seeing
you like this tonight.

JENNA

No preferential treatment, Coach.
I'm just one of the guys.

Jenna flashes Stanton a beautiful smile as she leaves.

EXT. CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Jenna exits and heads to her car. Jonathan follows.

JONATHAN

Jenna.

They stop.

JONATHAN

I can't take this anymore. How do
you feel about me?

JENNA
I don't blame you. You didn't know.

JONATHAN
Are we good then?

JENNA
I don't know yet.

Jonathan gives a nod.

JENNA
Did you go see her? Maybe you could
take me--

JONATHAN
She died last month. Ovarian
cancer.

Jenna saddens. She turns and heads to the:

PARKING LOT

She finds Todd waiting by her car.

TODD
You're a popular girl tonight.

JENNA
I'd rather be popular on the field.

TODD
Are you busy later?

JENNA
If you consider channel surfing
busy.

TODD
Would you like some company?

JENNA
Fraternizing with a teammate. You
talked me into it.

TODD
Great. I'll follow you.

Jenna gets in her car.

Todd enters his vehicle. He follows Jenna out of the lot.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Todd and Jenna sit together on the couch in the dark room. Sodas and snacks are on the coffee table. They watch a romance movie on TV.

TODD

I never pictured you liking chick flicks.

JENNA

You're sitting here watching it too, aren't you?

TODD

Damn. I forgot what it's like to date a smart girl.

Jenna leans in to him. Todd takes the cue and slips an arm around her. Jenna turns to gaze at him. Each closes in until their lips meet. The kiss starts out romantic but quickly swells into passion.

INT. JENNA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kissing passionately, Todd and Jenna enter and fall back to the bed. Clothes start to come off.

LATER

Todd climaxes and rolls off of Jenna. Both lie back and catch their breath. Todd notices the picture of Jenna and Chad on the nightstand and picks it up.

TODD

Who's this?

JENNA

Chad. We dated in college.

Todd returns the picture to its spot.

TODD

He must mean a lot to you to keep his picture out.

JENNA

We thought we'd go the distance. Then he went off to grad school in California. Neither of us wanted a long distance relationship.

Todd stares off. Jenna notices.

JENNA
If it bothers you--

TODD
No, it's fine.

Todd kisses Jenna's hand. Something troubles her.

JENNA
You're not going to tell anyone you scored tonight, are you?

TODD
No. Are you?

JENNA
Girls don't kiss and tell.

TODD
Trust me, I know some who do. They want to date an NFL player just for bragging rights.

JENNA
Looks like you've been meeting the wrong kind of girls.

TODD
Maybe I've finally met the right kind.

Jenna smiles at him.

Something flickers outside in the yard, seen through the window. A COMMOTION takes place, someone YELLING in alarm.

Jenna and Todd quickly throw on their clothes and race out of the room barefoot.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jenna and Todd run out to the porch and pause there.

IN THE YARD

A mannequin dressed in a football uniform, "#11 Ramey" on the jersey, is tied to a stake and blazing. A NEIGHBOR MAN already starts to douse the flames with a water hose.

Todd rushes to Jenna's water hose, turns it on, and helps to put out the fire.

Jenna wanders closer, staring in shock at the burning figure.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lights from a fire truck and police car dance about outside. Jenna storms in, close to tears, and slams the door closed. Todd opens it. He pauses a moment before approaching Jenna. Tries to lay a hand on her shoulder. Jenna jerks away.

TODD

Don't do this. You're giving them what they want.

JENNA

They set fire to my lawn. What if it had reached the house?

Jenna looks at Todd with concern.

JENNA

What if you--

Jenna stops short and turns away. Todd holds her from behind.

TODD

Setting the bar high for women comes with risks but if people just caved, where would women be now? When you do what you believe in, you need to feel sorry for these people. Then you prove them wrong.

Todd turns Jenna to face him.

TODD

Am I right?

Jenna looks into his face and grins. She falls into Todd's arms and he holds her.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A game against Pittsburgh. Heimer kicks off. He twists his leg in the process and drops to the ground, gripping the injury. The play is blown dead.

LATER

Tomlin receives the snap on the Pittsburgh 31-yard line. His receivers are well-guarded. Tomlin runs forward, brought down by Pittsburgh after 3 yards.

Scoreboard reads: 2nd quarter. 4th Down and 4. Pittsburgh - 10, Cincinnati - 7. 9 seconds left in the half.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton paces. The offense charges off the field.

STANTON

Let's go for the field goal.

The field goal unit assembles.

STANTON

Ramey, hold for Daley.

The unit darts to the field. Jenna pats Daley's shoulder.

JENNA

Just like we practiced.

DALEY

Right.

Each puts on their helmet as they rush to the...

FOOTBALL FIELD

The CROWD BOOS. Jenna looks around at the fans with a frown.

The field goal unit assembles. Daley takes in a deep breath. Jenna receives the ball, sets it up with the laces to the side. Daley exhales, runs forward, and kicks.

The ball just clears the uprights. A REF signals "it's good". Teammates congratulate Daley. Jenna stands alone, isolated.

LATER

Cincinnati's offense lines up against Pittsburgh's defense.

Scoreboard reads: 4th quarter. Cincinnati - 31, Pittsburgh - 24. 4:42 on the clock. Ball on the Pittsburgh 27-yard line.

Tomlin receives the snap. A TACKLE charges through the front line and slams into him. Tomlin rolls on the ground in agony.

A ref's whistle BLOWS. Injury time-out. Team trainers rush the field, along with Stanton. The trainers examine Tomlin.

TRAINER #2

Could be a broken arm.

Stanton looks over at the bench.

Jonathan's shoulder is wrapped in heat. Jenna unemotionally watches the action on the field.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

The team phone RINGS. Stanton rushes to answer it.

STANTON
(into phone)
Yeah?

INT. OWNER'S BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Dave stands at the window, phone to his ear.

DAVE
(into phone)
How's Hadley's shoulder?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

STANTON
He needs another week on the bench.

DAVE
Put Mannix in.

STANTON
That's gonna cause problems... his
number, making a substitution...

DAVE
I don't give a shit, Stanton. Do
whatever you have to so he goes in.

Stanton's mouth opens to speak. CLICK. Stanton lowers his handset in a daze-like state. He glances back and forth between Jenna and Jonathan on the bench. Undecided. Then:

STANTON
Ramey! Grab your helmet.

Jenna looks up. So do all the other players. Nobody moves.

STANTON
You're not getting paid to decorate
the bench. Get out there!

Jenna grabs her helmet and puts it on. As she makes her way to the field, Stanton joins her.

STANTON
I'll call running plays to eat up
the clock. All you have to do is
hand off the ball. Nothing fancy,
you hear me?

Jenna nods and runs onto the...

FOOTBALL FIELD

Jenna arrives, surveying the stands. Fans spring to their feet upon Jenna's arrival. A mixed reaction - many BOO, but far more CHEER.

ANNOUNCER (ON SPEAKERS)
Taking over at quarterback for
Cincinnati, #11, Jenna Ramey!

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan watch the field intently.

BRENNAN
With a little over four minutes
left, Ramey comes in with a 31-24
lead. Just one touchdown separates
these division rivals.

STEVE
What do you think, Brennan? Ramey
is still wet behind the ears. Can
she handle her first appearance in
a regular season game?

BRENNAN
We're about to find out.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jenna's offense huddles. She joins them.

JENNA
HB counter on six. Break!

Cincinnati's offense moves to the line of scrimmage.
Pittsburgh's defense faces them. Jenna studies the defensive
TACKLES, who glare at the quarterback. The snap.

Jenna turns to the side, where Donaldson runs forward. In the
process of handing him the ball, a tackle spins Jenna to the
ground. The ball comes loose.

The tackle scoops it up and runs for Cincinnati's end zone.
Cincinnati players chase after him. A REF signals touchdown.
The entire crowd BOOS.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton throws his clipboard.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Todd helps Jenna to her feet. She looks upfield, where Pittsburgh still celebrates. Walks toward Cincinnati's sideline in silence. The offense exits with her.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton's focus mainly goes to Jenna. She removes her helmet. Avoids eye contact with her coach.

STANTON

Shake it off.

Special Teams take the field.

Jenna sits on a bench and holds her back with a pained face. She catches Jonathan staring at her.

JENNA

What?

Dave charges out of the tunnel and over to Stanton.

DAVE

Stanton! Have you lost your mind? I told you to play Mannix.

STANTON

I'm the head coach here.

Stanton removes his cap long enough to indicate the words "Head Coach" across the front.

STANTON

Read the hat.

Stanton puts the cap back on. The crowd's JEERS are still very prominent in the stands.

DAVE

Hear the fans? That's because of Ramey. Put Mannix in.

STANTON

You can fire me after the game, but I'll do what I fucking want here.

DAVE

You're forgetting who gives the orders, Coach.

STANTON

The same man who only drafted Ramey for media exposure? No, I haven't forgotten.

The two stare each other down. Dennis steps forward.

DENNIS

I let the guy through. It's my fault she fumbled.

In the B.G. Pittsburgh kicks the point after.

DAVE

Don't make excuses for her. She belongs on the bench, posing for the cameras like a good little girl.

Jenna stares at him sadly.

Dennis gets in Dave's face. Dave swallows hard. Intimidated.

DENNIS

Yeah?

(to Jenna)

Let's show this asshole what you can do. What do you say, guys?

The entire front line forms a circle, each placing a hand in the middle. They wait for Jenna, who is suddenly rejuvenated and lays her hand on top. All raise their hands into the air.

ALL

Right!

STANTON

(to Dave)

Now, get the hell off my sideline.

Dave glances back as he storms into the tunnel.

DAVE

This may be your sideline, but it's MY stadium!

Stanton turns to his players.

PLAYER #9

Way to stand up to him, Coach.

Others praise Stanton for standing up to the owner.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Stamper receives the kick at the 6-yard line. Runs it back to the 22. Special Teams hurry off the field.

Cincinnati's offense hustles out from the sideline, Jenna in charge. BOOING continues from a rowdy crowd. Offense huddles.

JENNA

Make me look good out here,
gentlemen.

The offense moves to the line of scrimmage, where defense waits. The snap.

Jenna's guards work extra hard to keep the tackles from her. She hands off the ball to Donaldson. He plows through the crowd for 9 yards.

Jenna loosens up. Grows more confident. The offense huddles. Moves to the line of scrimmage. The snap.

A full blitz. Four tackles fight their way through the guards instantly and close in on Jenna. She takes a knee. A whistle BLOWS to stop the play. An unruly crowd BOOS.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Shocked, Stanton falls back onto a bench.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan are stunned over what they just saw.

BRENNAN

I don't know what Ramey is doing,
but it isn't playing football.

STEVE

The only hope Cincinnati has is
that the clock will run out before
Pittsburgh can score again. Then we
still have to deal with overtime.

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jenna leads her offense to the huddle.

GUARD

What the hell was that?

JENNA

I call the shots. Remember that.

Both teams assemble at the line of scrimmage. The snap. Defense holds back, not trying very hard to get Jenna. She runs through a hole to the right.

A linebacker charges her. Jenna slides for 13 yards.

ANNOUNCER (ON SPEAKERS)
1st down, Cincinnati!

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan fly high with excitement.

STEVE
Holy cow! What was that?

BRENNAN
We might have underestimated Ramey.
She's playing head games with the
Pittsburgh defense.

EXT. PITTSBURGH SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

Pittsburgh's HEAD COACH signals time-out. His main tackles run up to him.

PITTSBURGH COACH
What the hell are you doing out
there?

PITTSBURGH TACKLE
She's a girl, Coach.

PITTSBURGH COACH
She's a quarterback! Your job is to
take her down. Do it!

The tackles head back to the field.

ON THE FIELD

Cincinnati's huddle breaks. Offense lines up against defense. The snap.

The defense blitzes but Jenna's guards protect her well. Jenna throws downfield. Todd catches the ball for 8 yards.

Jenna pumps her fist as she leads her offense to their huddle.

MONTAGE - CINCINNATI DRIVE

-- Jenna receives the snap at Pittsburgh's 48-yard line. Hands it off to a fullback. He breaks through the crowd, runs for 17 yards.

-- On Pittsburgh's 31-yard line, the snap. Defense charges Jenna, forces her to run through an opening to the left. A tackle charges from the front. Jenna slides to the 26-yard line. The crowd CHEERS.

-- Jenna gets sacked for a 6-yard loss.

-- Scoreboard reads: 4th quarter. 28 seconds left in the game. 3rd and 14. Pittsburgh - 31, Cincinnati - 31.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CINCINNATI FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Jenna leads her offense to the line of scrimmage, running play formation. Defense lines up to face them, setting up for a full blitz.

Jenna calls an audible. Her offense changes to passing play formation, Jenna in shotgun.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Jonathan joins Mitchell and Stanton. They straighten at the sight of their offense switching.

STANTON

Oh, no.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Landers hikes back the ball to Jenna. A large tackle plows through the front line. Jenna scans her receivers downfield. The tackle runs up behind her. Closes in, arms wide.

Jenna ducks last moment. The tackle misses. Jenna runs out to the side. Two more tackles give chase. Jenna throws.

The ball drops into Todd's hands at the 7-yard line. His defender takes him down in bounds. Jenna signals time-out.

Key players from both teams head to their sidelines.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

Stanton turns to Jenna, his stern glare and bulging neck vein suggestive that he's ready to explode. Instead:

STANTON
 Good call out there, Ramey.

The field goal unit assembles.

STANTON
 Go get `em, Daley.

Daley, more confident than before, leads his unit to the...

FOOTBALL FIELD

Jenna stays by his side. They assemble at the 7-yard line. Jenna receives the ball and sets it up. Daley runs forward to kick. A defensive PLAYER gets a hand on it. Inadvertently bounces it back to Jenna.

She scoops up the ball and dashes off to the side. Defensive players stay in her path. Daley runs with Jenna, slightly behind her, just like this play was carefully orchestrated.

The end zone's game clock ticks down: 7, 6, 5...

As Jenna nears the sideline, she pitches backwards to Daley. With the ball firmly in his hands, he darts to the outside of Jenna, just inches inward of the sideline.

The only tackle close enough changes course for Daley. Jenna blocks him at the right moment. Daley crosses the end zone's front corner. Touchdown!

A ref's whistle BLOWS to end the game. The crowd chants "Daley! Daley!". He does a little victory dance.

Jenna's head lowers. No recognition for her.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan bounce with excitement.

BRENNAN
 What a play!

STEVE
 Ramey and Daley looked like a well-oiled machine.

INT. CINCINNATI LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Players enter. One gives Jenna a playful jab.

PLAYER #11
 Helluva play back there, Jenna!

Jenna beams.

Stanton, holding a football, gathers his players.

STANTON

You guys played hard. We'll be working even harder this week to prepare for our next game. Hit the showers.

The men disperse. Stanton tosses the football to Jenna.

STANTON

Game ball. You earned it.

Jenna glances back at Stanton with a smile as she heads to the exit. He returns it.

The MEDIA, led by Dave, charges inside. They cut off Jenna from leaving.

REPORTER #6

Jenna, how do you feel about your performance out there today?

JENNA

I... I guess I did okay, being my first real game and all.

DAVE

She was incredible, just as I knew she would be when I told Coach Stanton to put her in.

Grinning, Stanton shakes his head. Jenna looks over at him.

REPORTER #7

(to Dave)

So it was your call to play Jenna when Tomlin went out?

DAVE

Absolutely. I make all the major decisions regarding this team. I knew Jenna wouldn't let us down.

Jenna pushes her way through the media and exits.

The reporters turn to Dave with baffled looks.

DAVE

All of this attention is overwhelming for the young lady.

REPORTER #6
Mr. Wallace...

INT. CINCINNATI STADIUM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jenna, dressed, exits the cheerleaders' locker room. Angered, she slams the door shut.

Stanton walks up to her, folders in hand.

STANTON
Look, I know Wallace is an ass, but don't let him get to you. He's the one who gave you this shot.

JENNA
Yeah, as some kind of media magnet, not so I could actually play.

STANTON
Who cares? You're here, and the team needs you.
(nudges Jenna)
That's what's important, right?

Jenna looks at him with the highest admiration.

STANTON
Rest up. I want you working with the starting offense for a while.

Stanton walks down the corridor.

STANTON
And get together with Mitchell. Our playbook is as outdated as my wardrobe.

Jenna walks in the opposite direction.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Jenna arrives at her car, keys in hand. She spots Jonathan getting into his vehicle nearby and hurries to him.

JENNA
Hey.

JONATHAN
(getting out of car)
Hey.

JENNA
I'll never be able to call you Dad.

JONATHAN
That's fine.

JENNA
I wouldn't trade the dad I had for
anything in the world.

JONATHAN
Understood.

JENNA
Maybe we can hang out sometime, off
the field, I mean.

JONATHAN
Sure. Whenever you want.

Jenna nods. She walks off to her car.

A proud grin crosses Jonathan's face.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Todd and Jenna hold hands as they walk along a shady path.

JENNA
It's nice... getting away from
football for a while.

TODD
(teasing)
Who are you?

JENNA
(laughs)
I know. Football seems to be
everywhere I go.

Jenna stops Todd and grips his other hand. Gazes at him with genuine feelings.

JENNA
But there are some things just as
important.

They come together in a kiss.

Denning suddenly jumps out from behind a tree and snaps several pictures of the couple. They break out of the kiss, both already annoyed.

JENNA
What the hell?

DENNING

Come on, Jenna. Posing for the cameras is what you're best at.

JENNA

Get lost, Denning.

TODD

You know this guy?

JENNA

We've crossed paths a few times.

Denning moves to get a better angle of the couple.

DENNING

Go ahead and kiss again.

(to Jenna)

I'll get a lot more for the pics if you show a little skin.

Todd charges Denning and grabs him by the shirt.

TODD

I suggest you get the hell out of here while you're in one piece.

Jenna pulls Todd back.

JENNA

Let him go. He's not worth it.

The couple turns away, ready to walk off.

DENNING

What's the matter, Jenna? Afraid your little boy toy isn't man enough to protect you?

Jenna whirls back and delivers a fist right to Denning's face, knocking him on his ass.

Shock comes to Todd's face.

JENNA

I protect myself, thank you.

Jenna storms off down the path.

Todd looks back at Denning with a smile.

TODD

Now THAT would have been a great picture.

Todd follows after Jenna.

Denning rubs his sore jaw.

EXT. BAR/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Popping with activity.

INT. BAR/RESTAURANT - SAME TIME

Todd finishes dinner with some of his teammates. He leaves his table and heads to the exit.

Lisa, wearing a short, sexy dress, steps up to him.

LISA

Todd, hi.

TODD

Lisa. Did you just get here?

LISA

I was having drinks with some friends. They left, then I discover my car won't start. Could you take a look?

TODD

Sure.

They head to the exit together.

EXT. BAR/RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Todd looks under the hood of Lisa's car. She watches.

TODD

Connections look good. It's probably your starter.
(closes hood)
You'll need to have it towed.

Lisa pulls out her cell phone.

LISA

I guess I'll call a cab.

TODD

I'll give you a lift.

LISA

Sure you don't mind?

TODD
Not at all.

Todd leads the way to his car. Smiling, Lisa follows. Todd opens the passenger door. Lisa gets in.

Todd drives the car away.

INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lisa unlocks the door and turns on the light. Todd hangs back in the apartment hall.

LISA
Won't you come inside for a minute?
The least I can do is get you a
cold drink.

Lisa grabs Todd by the arm and pulls him inside. Closes the door behind him.

She steps into the kitchen. As she looks through the refrigerator, she makes sure to bend over so Todd gets a good look at her legs.

Todd does notice and starts to perspire.

Lisa pulls out two sodas and returns to Todd. She hands one to him.

LISA
Sorry it's warm in here. The air
conditioning comes and goes.

Seductively, she rubs the cold can across her neckline. Todd can't help but to notice her cleavage. He opens his soda and takes a big drink.

LISA
You know...

Lisa sets aside her soda and does the same with Todd's. Then she presses against him.

LISA
... I've always had the biggest
crush on you.

Todd backs up.

TODD
Whoa there, Lisa. I'm kind of
seeing Jenna.

LISA
Kind of?

Lisa moves forward until she backs Todd into a wall.

LISA
Doesn't sound very serious.

TODD
It could be.

LISA
Why don't we do a test to see how
much you really like her, or don't.

Lisa kisses Todd. Taken by surprise, he allows it.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - JENNA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna is lying on her bed, staring at Sam's picture. She pulls out her cell phone and presses a button. The phone on the other end RINGS.

INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Todd and Lisa are together in a heavy kiss. Todd's cell phone RINGS. He pries himself out of Lisa's grasp and pulls out the phone on the last RING. Looks at the display. Jenna.

Lisa tries to kiss Todd again. He backs away, a look of shock on his face, and leaves in a hurry.

Lisa stands there with a dropped jaw.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - JENNA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenna turns off her phone. She throws it onto the nightstand and cuddles a pillow to her.

Her phone RINGS a few times, then stops. Jenna eyes it.

INT. TODD'S CAR - PARKED - CONTINUOUS

Todd looks at the phone in his hand. Disappointed, he lays his head back against the seat.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS

-- Sarah watches a game on TV, Cincinnati vs.. Philadelphia. Jenna ducks and dodges TACKLES to make an amazing throw downfield. Todd catches it and scores.

ESPN ANNOUNCER (ON TV, O.S.)
Touchdown, Cincinnati.

SARAH
Woo hoo! Go, Jenna!

ESPN ANNOUNCER (ON TV, O.S.)
Cincinnati has really come on
strong midway through the season,
eyeing a playoff spot.

-- Scoreboard reads, Indianapolis - 14, Cincinnati - 17 at
the end of the game. Cincinnati players congratulate each
other on the field. Stanton pats Jenna on the back.

STANTON
Great game, Ramey. Great game.

-- Jonathan throws to a receiver at practice. Jenna trots by.

JENNA
Shoulder's looking better, Hadley.
Guess I'll have to start sharing
the spotlight.

Jenna jogs off. Jonathan smiles with admiration.

-- Cincinnati vs. New York Jets. Jenna completes a 30-yard
pass to Todd. 1st down.

-- Later in the same game, Jonathan makes a 60-yard pass to
Bransen in the end zone.

ESPN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Cincinnati could make the playoffs
for the first time in a decade. The
whole team is playing with a fury
that hasn't been seen in years.

-- Jenna leaves a walk-in clinic with a prescription in her
hands. She stops to look at it. It's written out for Vicodin.
Jenna chews her lower lip as she contemplates.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jenna sits on the couch, studying the prescription in her
shaky hands.

The doorbell RINGS. Jenna slides the prescription underneath
the couch cushion and opens the door to Jonathan. He holds
his yearbook.

JONATHAN

(entering)

I have something I thought you'd like to see.

LATER

Both sit on the couch, looking through the yearbook. Jonathan points out a picture of himself in a football uniform.

JONATHAN

There I am.

Jonathan turns the page, points out Sally in a softball uniform.

JONATHAN

And there's your mom. She did cheerleading, softball, basketball, track, and soccer.

JENNA

I had all I could handle with football.

They smile.

JENNA

I never met my Aunt Sally. She lived on the west coast. My Mom rarely talked about her. I'd receive gifts in the mail for birthdays and Christmas, but I never understood why Aunt Sally didn't want to visit, or why we didn't go see her. Now I guess it all makes sense.

Jonathan barely grins, unable to speak.

Jenna turns a few pages, finds a picture of Jonathan (in football uniform) standing with Sally (in cheerleading uniform) after they were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

JENNA

I guess I got my mom's pompoms and my dad's ball-handling.

JONATHAN

You could say that. Oh...

Jonathan reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small jewelry box.

JONATHAN

... her husband asked me to give you this.

Jonathan hands the box to Jenna. She opens it. A silver locket on a chain is inside. She removes it.

JONATHAN

Sally wanted you to have it.

Jenna opens the locket. Teen pictures of Sally on one side and Jonathan on the other. A few tears come to Jenna's eyes.

JENNA

I wish I could have met her.

JONATHAN

Jeff said she followed you in football from a young age, and she couldn't have been prouder.

Jonathan takes the locket from Jenna and puts it on her. They come together in an embrace.

EXT. CINCINNATI STADIUM - PARKING LOT - DAY

Jenna leaves the stadium. Her pace slows when she finds Lisa waiting beside her car, blocking the driver's door.

JENNA

Move.

LISA

No.

Jenna shoves Lisa out of the way with ease and opens her door. Lisa's face tightens with anger.

LISA

Todd's been coming over to my place. I thought you should know.

Lisa starts to walk away. Jenna turns, hurt in her eyes.

JENNA

I don't believe you.

LISA

Don't believe me all you want, but ask yourself this: Why would any man choose you over me?

With a smug grin, Lisa walks off toward her car nearby.

Jenna slouches with sadness.

EXT. RAMEY HOUSE - DAY

Todd parks out front. He goes to the porch and RINGS the bell. Waits a few moments, then RINGS it again.

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenna opens the door. Todd enters.

TODD
Hey, what took so long?

JENNA
I was busy.

TODD
If you don't feel like going out to dinner, we can stay in.

JENNA
Why don't you take Lisa out instead?

Jenna sits down on the couch, arms folded.

TODD
Why would I take Lisa anywhere?

JENNA
So you just sleep with her?

Todd is more confused than ever. He sits down next to Jenna.

TODD
What are you talking about?

JENNA
She told me how you've been seeing her behind my back.

TODD
And you believe her? She's had a chip on her shoulder toward you all season. You know that.

Todd reaches out to touch Jenna. She flinches away from him.

TODD
Oh, I see. You're really going to take her word over mine. That's how little I mean to you.

Todd storms out of the house.

Jenna wipes her teary eyes with the back of her hand.

MONTAGE - JACKSONVILLE GAME

-- Jenna takes the field with her offense. The crowd chants "Ramey! Ramey!" Amazed, Jenna scans the stands.

-- Jenna takes the snap. A TACKLE (#67) is on her. Jenna makes the throw, taking a late hit by the tackle. A REF throws a flag. Dennis charges up to #67.

DENNIS

What the hell's wrong with you?

Dennis pulls up a shaken Jenna by the hand.

#67

That's what she gets for playing a man's game.

Dennis and #67 start a shoving match. A REF blows his whistle as he attempts to break it up.

-- Jacksonville scores a touchdown.

-- Jenna takes the snap. #52 is all over her. She is forced to throw the ball away. Cincinnati huddles.

JENNA

#52 is all over my ass. I need someone to cover him.

BUBBA, a 300 pound lineman who makes the field look small, volunteers.

BUBBA

I got him.

The huddle breaks. Offense lines up against defense, Bubba across from #52. Bubba growls. The tackle swallows hard.

The snap. Bubba plows #52, who lies on his back, moaning.

-- Jacksonville kicks a field goal.

-- Steve and Brennan watch the action on the field.

STEVE

Things aren't looking well for Cincinnati. They need to defeat Jacksonville for the chance at a wild card berth.

BRENNAN

Ramey is doing all she can but the Jacksonville defense is determined to stop her.

-- Jenna takes a snap. The defense is instantly on her but she runs along the line of scrimmage to avoid them. As she makes a long throw, a tackle crashes into her legs, bending her right knee back. Pain is etched into Jenna's face.

Bransen catches the ball in the end zone. Touchdown!

Jenna hobbles off the field with her offense. Stanton slaps her back.

STANTON

Awesome play, Ramey.

JENNA

Thanks, Coach.

Jenna sits near Jonathan, stretches out her injured knee.

JONATHAN

You're hurt.

JENNA

It's nothing.

JONATHAN

Let me get the trainers.

JENNA

I need a teammate, not a mother.

Jonathan sulks.

END MONTAGE

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CHEERLEADERS' LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Cheerleaders arrive after a game. Lisa opens her locker, finds a Barbie Doll in a football uniform inside.

Lisa takes it out. A note pinned to it reads, "Barbie Dolls come and go, but a real woman is here to stay."

CANDACE, an older cheerleader, steps up to Lisa. Takes her doll and looks it over with a smile.

CANDACE

Don't you just love Jenna?

Angered, Lisa heads for the door.

CANDACE

Come on, Lisa. You had it coming.

INT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jenna leaves the cheerleader's locker room. A purse hangs over her shoulder.

NOTE: Jenna's knee stays wrapped or in a brace from now on, discretely hidden beneath clothing.

An unrecognizable man steps out of a doorway and grabs Jenna from behind. She shrieks. Her captor clasps a hand over her mouth and pulls her inside a...

ROOM

Entrances on opposite sides of the large office. Jenna struggles against the much bigger man. She elbows him in the ribs, causes him to release her.

Jenna races for the far door and opens it. Key Cincinnati players stand on the other side, including Todd and Jonathan.

Dennis, Jenna's abductor, holds his aching side. Several players lift Jenna over their heads. She laughs.

JENNA

What are you doing? Put me down!

The players carry her from the room.

EXT. CINCINNATI'S FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The men tie Jenna to a goal post.

TODD

Seems we missed hazing one of the rookies back at training camp. Can't have that now, can we, guys?

ALL

Hell no!

DENNIS

We've got a reputation to uphold.
(to Jenna)
First, you need a nickname.

JONATHAN

I know. Tough as Nails.

TODD

Jenna "Tough as Nails" Ramey. I like it.

JENNA

It's stupid.

DENNIS

Go ahead, Todd. Spray her.

JENNA

It's freezing out here!

Todd grabs something from a large metal box on the ground. Conceals it behind his back. Jenna worries.

JENNA

Dammit, Todd.

TODD

Stop squealing. You know you've wanted this.

Todd opens fire with a can of Silly String. Other members of the team grab cans, blasting Jenna with the silly substance until it runs out. Jenna is covered in it.

Laughing, the men head back to the tunnel. Todd picks up Jenna's purse.

DENNIS

That's a good look for you.

JONATHAN

Now we know what to get you for Christmas.

Todd playfully shoves Jonathan.

JENNA

Come on, guys. You can't just leave me here.

The players disappear into the tunnel.

Jenna works against the knot tied behind her. It starts to come loose.

Todd returns. He hangs the purse strap around Jenna's neck and gazes at her with a fond look.

TODD

I couldn't leave you like this.

Jenna works her way out of the rope and stands, picking the Silly String off of herself.

JENNA

I'm okay.

TODD

I know you are, but I had to be sure.

Jenna returns his gaze.

TODD

I've missed you so much.

JENNA

We see each other everyday.

TODD

You know what I mean. I swear, nothing happened with Lisa. She kissed me and I stopped it. Maybe I could have stopped it sooner, and I'm sorry for that, but it's you I want to be with.

Jenna softens into a smile.

JENNA

She just gets under my skin so much and it--

Todd places a finger to her lips. Then he lovingly touches Jenna's face and kisses her. Jenna breaks out of the kiss and looks around them.

JENNA

No Denning. So that's what privacy feels like.

Todd smiles at her. They kiss.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - SIDELINE - DAY

Cincinnati players warm up on the field.

Tamera leads her cheerleading squad out of the stadium and to a vacant area of the nearest sideline for practice. The girls wear street clothes.

TAMERA

Lisa, a word, please.
(to all)
Do your stretches.

The girls do their warm-up stretches. Lisa moves off to the side with Tamera.

LISA
Something wrong, Coach?

TAMERA
It was brought to my attention that you've been behaving in an inappropriate manner.

LISA
What? That's crazy.

TAMERA
I know all about the comments to Jenna, defacing her locker. Even trying to steal her boyfriend. Jesus, what were you thinking?

LISA
She told you that? It's all a lie.

TAMERA
Pack up your shit and go.

ON THE FIELD

Jenna eyes Lisa as she does sit-ups with her group.

ON THE SIDELINE

Tamera starts back to her squad.

LISA
She did things to me, too. Did she tell you how she put a Barbie in my locker?

Tamera stops to look back.

TAMERA
So she gave you a doll? Sounds like a nice gesture on her part.

Again, she starts toward her squad, but Lisa isn't through.

LISA
You can't fire me!

Fellow cheerleaders stop stretching to watch.

LISA
This squad ain't shit without me!

All of the cheerleaders look offended by the comment.

Irritated, Tamera returns to Lisa.

TAMERA
Correction, Lisa. You aren't shit
without us.

The cheerleaders smile in amusement. Tamera returns to them.

TAMERA
All right, ladies. I have a new
routine for you today.

As Tamera performs a routine for her girls:

Lisa crosses her arms angrily and stomps into the stadium.

ON THE FIELD

Jenna watches her, no joy in her expression.

EXT. PAUL BROWN STADIUM - PARKING LOT - LATER

Jenna leaves the stadium in street clothes. She goes to her car and searches her purse for keys. As she finds them:

LISA (O.S.)
You bitch!

Jenna turns. Caught off guard, Lisa easily shoves her back against the car.

JENNA
Hey!

LISA
You told my coach I'm harassing
you!

JENNA
You've got the wrong scapegoat.

LISA
Oh, come on, Ramey. Of course it
was you. You couldn't wait to get
me fired.

JENNA
(annoyed)
I didn't do it!

CANDACE (O.S.)
I did.

Candace steps up to them.

CANDACE
It made me sick watching you
undermine Jenna.

LISA
(chuckles deliriously)
I don't believe this.

CANDACE
Believe it.

Lisa storms off to her car.

Jenna moves to Candace's side. Both watch Lisa.

CANDACE
I'm sorry for how she's behaved.
It's not how the rest of us feel.

JENNA
I know. Hey, would you like to go
grab a bite?

CANDACE
I'd love to. Do you like
Giovanni's?

JENNA
I love Giovanni's. Meet you there.

They pass each other a smile. Candace heads to her own car.

Jenna pops her door locks, gets in, and drives off.

SERIES OF SHOTS - CINCINNATI EXCELS

-- Jenna on the cover of "Sports Illustrated", full uniform,
preparing to make a pass. Headline reads, "Doing It All!"

-- A Cincinnati defensive player plowing Denver's
QUARTERBACK, causing a fumble. Another defensive player picks
up the ball. Runs it in for the score.

-- Todd, in full uniform, on the cover of "Sports
Illustrated." Headline reads "Former Quarterback Turns Into
Leading Receiver!"

ESPN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Cincinnati has become the talk of
the NFL. What an amazing
transformation.

-- Jonathan running for a touchdown.

-- At a sports store, Jenna and Jonathan signing autographs for a long line of fans. Dave watches over them, very pleased.

-- The Cincinnati defense sacking the opposing QUARTERBACK.

-- Jenna eluding two TACKLES, making a great on-the-run throw to Todd in the heavy snow. He scores. Stadium screen flashes, "Cincinnati Wins Wild Card Berth!"

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS - STREET - DAY

Jenna stops in front of a pharmacy. She removes the Vicodin prescription from her purse, looks at the pharmacy, the paper, and back to the pharmacy. Thinks. She enters.

LATER

Jenna exits with a prescription bag. She takes out the bottle of pills and starts to remove the lid.

Three GIRLS (around 12) hurry up to her. They wear matching T-shirts that read "AFC Wild Card Game #1 - Cincinnati vs. New England" on the front and look at Jenna star-struck.

GIRL #1

You're Jenna Ramey.

Jenna shoves the pill bottle back into her bag.

JENNA

That's right.

GIRL #2

We think you're awesome.

GIRL #3

We never even liked football until you started playing.

JENNA

I'm very flattered.

GIRL #2

We got great seats for the game tonight.

GIRL #1

We even have matching shirts.

The girls turn. On the back of each shirt is a picture of Jenna in uniform, helmet off, her name underneath. Caption above picture reads, "Girls Can Do Anything."

JENNA

And don't ever forget it.

The girls smile big at their idol.

JENNA

Tell you what. Come by the locker room before the game and I'll autograph some footballs.

GIRL #1

Wow.

GIRL #3

Thanks, Jenna!

GIRL #2

Good luck!

The girls hurry off down the street.

Jenna watches them with a smile. It fades as she looks down to the bag she holds.

With a newfound strength, Jenna pitches the bag into a trash can and smiles as she walks away.

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The stands are full. The field is groomed. Balloons float to the sky. Stadium monitor flashes "AFC Wild Card!"

MOMENTS LATER

Cincinnati and New England players dash out of the tunnel, along with team staff. The crowd ROARS.

EXT. CINCINNATI SIDELINE - NIGHT

Players pace with nervous energy. Stanton stands off to the side, marking on a clipboard. Dave ambles up to him.

DAVE

Who's starting at quarterback?

STANTON

Hadley. We need experience out there.

DAVE

Put Jenna in first. She has a real following here, and in millions of homes around the world.

Stanton's mouth opens to speak.

DAVE

DO IT.

Dave heads into the stadium.

Stanton looks over at his quarterbacks.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - SAME TIME

Steve and Brennan sit together, ready to broadcast.

STEVE

Brennan and I would like to thank the NFL commission for choosing us to broadcast the big game.

BRENNAN

It is such an honor to be here in Foxborough. We wish both teams luck.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - SAME TIME

A Wild Card party takes place. Lots of YOUNG PEOPLE, decorations, and food. Sarah is present.

INSERT - TV

New England starters stand together. Cincinnati starters are present with them, except for Jenna.

ANNOUNCER (ON SPEAKERS)

And starting at quarterback for Cincinnati, #11, Jenna Ramey!

Jenna jogs onto the field, waving to the FANS. The crowd jumps to their feet, CHEERING.

BACK TO SCENE:

The entire room erupts in cheering for Jenna.

MONTAGE - FIRST HALF HIGHLIGHTS

-- New England receives the kick. Their KICK RETURNER charges full-speed through an opening, runs for the touchdown.

-- Jenna throws from the New England 36-yard line. Todd makes the catch, spins away from his DEFENDER, and scores.

-- Jenna throws from mid-field. A DEFENDER jumps in front of Bransen for the interception. Eludes Cincinnati players in a runback. Jenna stays in his path. The defender attempts to run around her. Determined, Jenna tackles him hard.

-- From the Cincinnati 9-yard line, a New England HALFBACK pushes through the crowd to score.

-- Cincinnati receives a punt. Stamper brings it out to their own 32-yard line.

END MONTAGE

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - CINCINNATI SIDELINE - NIGHT

Jenna grabs her helmet. Stanton paces before his offense as Special Teams come off the field.

STANTON

Let's end the half with a tie.

Jenna leads her offense to the field.

MONTAGE - CINCINNATI DRIVE

-- Jenna hands the ball to Riley, who gets 9 yards.

-- At Cincinnati's 41-yard line, Jenna hands off the ball to Donaldson. He makes it to the 50.

-- A TACKLE strips the ball from Jenna's hands. Players on both sides chase after it. Jenna recovers the fumble.

-- Jenna throws to Bransen for 8. He runs 10 more yards.

-- Hand-off to a fullback. He moves ahead for 8 yards. Jenna signals time-out.

END MONTAGE

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Scoreboard reads: 2nd quarter. 8 seconds left. New England - 14, Cincinnati - 7.

Cincinnati's offense huddles.

JENNA

Time for one play. My call. QB split center charge on two.

Her offense passes each other looks.

TODD
Are you sure?

JENNA
They won't be expecting it.

They line up at New England's 29, Jenna in shotgun. The snap. A hole opens up in the middle. Jenna dashes through it toward the goal line. TACKLES from every direction come at her.

As Jenna reaches the end zone, a tackle rams her hard. She barely makes it across the line before she crashes to the turf, her bad knee twisting as she goes down.

The tackle lands on top of her. A REF signals touchdown. The tackle stands, unscathed. Jenna struggles to sit up.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan are on their feet, ecstatic.

STEVE
Touchdown, Cincinnati! What an incredible play by Ramey to tie up this game at the half!

BRENNAN
Cincinnati still has to kick the point after, but I agree. Great play call by Ramey!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah drifts closer to the TV, concerned for Jenna.

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jenna gets to her feet. A little unsteady, she limps to:

CINCINNATI'S SIDELINE

Jenna removes her helmet. Special Teams rush past her for the point after.

Showing concern for Jenna, Stanton moves in closer.

STANTON
You all right, Ramey?

JENNA
(lying)
Yes, Coach.

Jenna sits down on a bench and stretches out her leg.

Stanton eyes her for another moment, then turns back to the field action.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Cincinnati kicks the point after. A ref's whistle BLOWS to end the half. Both teams head for the tunnels to massive CHEERING from the fans.

CINCINNATI SIDELINE

A few team personnel, including Stanton, remain behind with Jenna. Stanton sits down next to her.

STANTON

That was a bold call.

JENNA

Well, all the media talks about is how I can't run the middle. I figured the defense would have heard.

STANTON

Intelligence, cunning, and quarterback senses. How can we lose?

They exchange a smile. The trainers remove Jenna's knee brace, check her swollen knee. Jenna's face twists in pain.

STANTON

You've been playing on a bad knee. You know better than that.

JENNA

I couldn't let you down.

STANTON

What?

JENNA

You've been my biggest supporter, Coach. You needed me out there.

Stanton absorbs the compliment, then pats her back.

STANTON

Take care of yourself for me.

Stanton jogs into the tunnel.

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The big halftime show concludes with FIREWORKS.

LATER

Cincinnati receives the kick. Stamper brings it out to the New England 27-yard line. Cincinnati's offense and New England's defense take the field.

MONTAGE - GAME HIGHLIGHTS

-- Jonathan throws a 40-yard pass. Todd catches it at the New England 5-yard line, runs it in for a touchdown. Cincinnati goes for the extra point. Jonathan runs it in.

-- At Cincinnati's 10, a New England FULLBACK scores.

-- Cincinnati (without Jenna holding for Daley) kicks a short field goal. It barely makes it through.

-- A New England HALFBACK fumbles the ball. A Cincinnati player picks it up, gets tackled after 5 yards.

-- During the point after for New England, a Cincinnati defender tips the ball. It misses its target.

-- Scoreboard reads: 4th quarter. 1:59 left in the game. New England - 27, Cincinnati - 25.

-- Cincinnati (without Jenna) makes an easy field goal attempt. Daley misses by a mile.

-- Jonathan throws a short pass to Bransen, who finds a gaping hole. He breaks through near the sideline, finally brought down out of bounds at the New England 45.

-- A long pass to the sideline. Todd snags it at New England's 27-yard line. His DEFENDER brings him down in bounds.

-- At New England's 33, Jonathan is sacked for a 6 yard loss. Game clock reads: 9 seconds left in the 4th quarter.

END MONTAGE

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - CINCINNATI SIDELINE - NIGHT

The offense comes off the field.

STANTON
 Good job, men.
 (to Jonathan)
 (MORE)

STANTON (CONT'D)
I knew you still had some fire
left.

The field goal unit assembles. Daley appears unsure as he looks over at Jenna on the bench. She returns his stare.

STANTON
Daley, put it through the uprights.

Jenna hobbles over to the group, helmet in hand.

STANTON
Get back on the bench.

DALEY
I need her, Coach.

Jenna puts on her helmet. Jonathan confronts her.

JONATHAN
Don't be stupid.

JENNA
Don't be such a wuss.

Stanton looks at Daley, then at Jenna. He nods. Jenna limps behind the field goal unit out to the field.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan can't believe their eyes. The crowd is on their feet, giving Jenna a STANDING OVATION.

STEVE
Incredible. We were told Ramey
suffers a leg injury.

BRENNAN
Yet she's taking the field to hold
for Daley. This gal is tough!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Both sides set up for the 54-yard attempt. Jenna kneels, moaning with her bad leg. The snap. It's too high. Jenna leaps, barely catches the ball in her fingertips. The defense charges.

Jenna runs left, limping like a wounded animal. The end zone game clock ticks down: 5, 4, 3...

Jenna reverses course, only to be surrounded by most of New England's defense. She avoids the first TACKLE. Raises her throwing arm to make a pass to the end zone.

Her facemask is pulled by another TACKLE (#62). Jenna is taken to the turf; her head receiving a pounding. The end of game whistle BLOWS. A ref's whistle BLOWS for a penalty as well, a yellow flag drifting to the ground.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Brennan jump to their feet with excitement.

STEVE

If this is a penalty on the defense, the game clock will reset and Cincinnati will have one final play to try and win this game.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jenna is dazed and attempts to shake the cobwebs from her head. Teammates crowd around her.

DALEY

Jenna?

JENNA'S POV: The stadium, the players, REF #4, the football, are all distorted.

Ref #4 leans over Jenna.

REF #4

You okay?

JENNA

Yeah.

Players disperse. Jenna wobbles as she struggles to sit.

Team trainers step onto the field. Jenna waves them back.

REF #4

Facemask, #62 on the defense. 10 yard penalty. The game clock will reset to one second.

Jenna somehow manages to stand.

DALEY

Jenna!

Jenna glances back to see Daley in position on the 29, along with both teams. A look over at the play clock: 15, 14, 13...

Jenna hustles to her position, as fast as she can with a bum leg and head swimming. The play clock continues: 8, 7, 6...

Landers tosses back the ball to Jenna. The ball slips from her hands and she's just able to get it upright - but the laces are wrong. Still, no time left and Daley kicks.

SLOW MOTION

The ball sails through the air toward the uprights. It curves left, more and more as it closes in on its target.

Daley leans, trying to give the ball some "english" to coax it where he wants it to go.

Jenna, lying on her back, attempts to look through the linemen in her path.

The ball DOINKS off the left upright and bounces off to the side. A ref signals "no good."

END SLOW MOTION

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Atmosphere inside the booth is dismal.

STEVE

Cincinnati misses their field goal attempt, losing to New England 27-25.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The excitement around the room fades into silence as everyone watches Jenna on the TV. Sarah's hands go to her mouth.

EXT. GILLETTE STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The fans, all on their feet, watch the field in silence.

Jenna, heavily dazed, still lies on her back, staring upward. Daley arrives first by her side.

DALEY

Jenna. Jenna?

Stanton and the trainers join the players around Jenna. A trainer carefully removes her helmet.

JENNA'S POV: The people are nothing but blurs that blend together in a whirl of colors. Their voices are distorted.

TRAINER #1

Jenna, can you hear me?

BLACKNESS takes over as Jenna's eyes close.

STANTON (O.S.)
Get an ambulance out here, now!

FADE IN:

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

People come and go.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - SAME TIME

Jenna, propped up in bed, watches Cincinnati/New England Wild Card Game highlights on TV.

Jonathan enters.

JONATHAN
How are you doing?

JENNA
Great, thanks to lots of
painkillers. Ironic, huh?

JONATHAN
I think most of us have been there.
If I hadn't set up that hit back in
training camp--

JENNA
Water under the bridge now. No
one's to blame but me.

Jenna watches herself throw the interception.

JENNA
I never want to see that again.

JONATHAN
Get used to it. You're now part of
playoff history.

Jenna observes the final play of the half with a scrunched
face - her running the middle, the tackle slamming her.

JONATHAN
Hey, guess who they offered the
quarterback coaching job to.

JENNA
Congrats, Jonathan. You deserve it.

JONATHAN

I thought I'd take you out for ice cream and a pony ride when you're better. Got a lot of years to make up for.

JENNA

Can't wait.

They laugh. Jonathan turns and leaves.

Moments later, Todd enters.

TODD

There's that tough quarterback.

Todd kisses Jenna and grips her hand. Smiles at the woman he loves. She smiles back.

Stanton leads several key players, still in uniform, into the room. Jonathan holds a football loaded with autographs behind his back.

Stanton moves to Jenna's side, lays a hand on top of hers.

STANTON

You doing all right?

JENNA

All in all, I think I took the hit pretty well.

STANTON

Think you can lead us to the playoffs again next year? With your old man retiring, I need a new starter. You up for it?

JENNA

Hey, I'm ready to play now.

Laughter from all.

STANTON

But if you want to play for me, you will never hide an injury again.

Jenna barely holds back a grin.

JENNA

Yes, Coach.

Stanton fights a grin of his own.

Jonathan tosses the football to Jenna.

JONATHAN

Game ball, signed by all the
players.

JENNA

Wow. Thanks, guys.

The group exits, except for Todd. He stares at Jenna. She
pulls him in for a kiss. When it ends, both beam.

TODD

Get some rest.

Todd leaves the room.

Jenna spins the football on her finger.

FADE OUT.