

A FIST FULL OF FAITH

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

In a dark jail cell. TIYESHA KAYLA OJO (18) A tough, street-smart, black female with an aggressive temperament, Sits slumped against the wall staring at the ground.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

God created us with the capacity to make decisions, he did not give us the authority or the ability to determine for ourselves what is right and wrong. For that, he wants us to rely on him.

Tiyesha slowly lifts her head up to reveal a swollen eye and scuffs to her face.

SUPER: 4 HOURS EARLIER....

EXT. RUN DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

We open on a run down neighborhood. A deprived area, boarded up homes, covered in graffiti.

INT. HOME - DAY

Inside a small cramped house. ANGIE OJO (40s) A proud black religious lady, rushes around whilst getting ready for Church.

ANGIE

I don't want you getting up to no good whist I'm at Church.

On the couch, her rebellious daughter, Tiyesha. Frowns at her Mom's request as she channel surfs.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Unless of course you'd like to come with me?

Tiyesha turns to Angie.

TIYESHA

I'm fine right here on the couch.

Tiyesha stops on a channel showing a boxing match. She begins imitating the boxers on the TV. Angie stops and stares at the television.

ANGIE

What are you doing watching this violence?

TIYESHA

I love boxing.

ANGIE

It's a sinners sport.

TIYESHA

No it's not.

ANGIE

As long as you are living in this house, under my rules. I don't want you watching this.

TIYESHA

Fine.

Tiyesha switches off the television.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Happy now.

ANGIE

People violently punching each other in the face, to hurt one another. They should be smart, use their head for something other than a boxing bag.

TIYESHA

I think you're getting confused with UFC Mom.

ANGIE

It's all violent to me. Why can't you be like your brother Anton. He used his head and now he's a lawyer, working for a big firm.

TIYESHA

(unimpressed)

Oh, there it is. The why can't you be like your brother talk.

ANGIE

I'm off to Church.

As Angie is about to exit. She turns to Tiyesha.

TIYESHA
I'll pray for you.

Angie exits.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
What's that supposed to mean?

Tiyesha grabs the remote and switches the boxing match back on the television.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Tiyesha roams the streets, suddenly a sports car pulls up next to her. Sitting in the car are Tiyesha's friends SHANICE WILLIAMS (18) Black brash female and REUBEN JACKSON (19) Black aggressive male.

SHANICE
Yo T! Check out my ride.

TIYESHA
How did you pay for a car this nice?

SHANICE
Don't worry about the small details.

REUBEN
Jump in and come for a ride.

TIYESHA
I have to head home. My Mom finishes up at Church soon and I don't want another lecture.

REUBEN
Ah, come on Tiyesha. Live a little.

SHANICE
I'll let you drive.

TIYESHA
You'll let me drive?

SHANICE
Sure, we just need to make a quick stop on the way. But feel free to drive us.

TIYESHA
I really should be heading home.

Tiyesha looks on unsure.

SHANICE
Twenty minutes, tops.

TIYESHA
Alright.

SHANICE
Alright T. Hop in.

Shanice gets out of the drivers seat as she swaps with Tiyesha.

REUBEN
Have you got a drivers license?

TIYESHA
No?

REUBEN
Me neither.

They both look at Shanice.

SHANICE
Don't look at me! I haven't got one.

They burst out laughing.

REUBEN
Let's get this stereo cranked up to the max.

Reuben cranks up the volume blasting out an instrumental rap beat.

REUBEN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna drop a beat, Yo! You ready?

Shanice and Tiyesha sit amused.

TIYESHA
Oh, here he goes. Fifty no sense.

REUBEN
Spitting out lyrics through my mouth as I cruise with my girls from da south.

SHANICE
That's sick.

REUBEN
Tearing through the streets as I
spit out this beat.

Shanice jumps in.

SHANICE
Your beats are so fly. People
jealous of my ride as I drive by.

REUBEN
Yo T, what you got?

TIYESHA
It's TKO, check my flow, headlining
the show. How did you afford this
car? They must have took pity.
We're all from the poorest part of
the city!

Reuben burst out laughing.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
You approach me on the street. Now
you want me to drop a beat.

REUBEN
What are you saying Shanice?

SHANICE
Yo, T. You better get a move on.
Your Mom's still at church getting
her groove on. Except for us three,
we ain't down with the G-O-D.
I ain't no believer. I'm just my
families biggest under achiever!

REUBEN
Yo. That was tight.

Tiyesha sits in deep thought as Shanice's lyrics hit home.

TIYESHA
I need to go home.

Reuben turns down the volume.

REUBEN
What?

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

A police car passes them slowly while looking into the car. Shanice looks in the rear view mirror and spots the car turning around.

SHANICE

Oh no.

Tiyesha looks out of the rear view mirror and spots blue lights flashing as the police car begins to pursue them.

TIYESHA

Should I pull over?

SHANICE

No. We can't.

TIYESHA

Why not?

REUBEN

You see that package?

Tiyesha looks over at the sealed box on the floor.

SHANICE

There's 2 ounces of weed in that box.

TIYESHA

Are you mad?

Tiyesha tears through the streets with the police car in pursuit.

REUBEN

This is probably a bad time to mention this T. But the car is stolen too.

TIYESHA

Yeah, I guessed that the second you pulled up.

SHANICE

Don't worry, you can lose this fool.

The chase continues as the police car begins to lose ground on them. Tiyesha tears down a back alley, the trio spot a collection of blue flashing lights with lots of police vehicles blocking their exit.

TIYESHA
We are so screwed.

The police car pulls up behind them. OFFICERS rush over to the car.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Hands in the air now!

The trio sit with their hands in the air, as the officers pull open the door, they drag Reuben and Shanice out of the vehicle.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)
On the ground now!

The officers throw them to the ground as they wince in pain.

SHANICE
Pigs! Get off me.

And Officer turns to Tiyesha.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Get out of the car with your hands
in the air.

Tiyesha steps out of the car with her hands in the air. The officers march towards her with their batons drawn. She clenches her fists ready to fight.

TIYESHA
Touch me and you're getting knocked
out!

An officer takes a swing with his baton and misses. Tiyesha throws a punch to the officer, which sends him stumbling to the ground.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
World star!

The second officer swings his baton but Tiyesha dodges it and hits him with a crunching body shot.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
How do you like that?

She looks up and sees more officers charging towards her. Tiyesha stands, fist clenched, ready to fight.

POLICE OFFICER 3
On the ground now.

Tiyesha looks down at her hoodie and spots a red dot, she looks up and sees an officer holding a taser.

POLICE OFFICER 3 (CONT'D)
I said, on the ground now!

She drops to her knees as the officers begin restraining her. They slam her head to the ground. Officer two swings his baton towards her face, knocking her out cold.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Tiyesha sits and reflects inside the police cell, slumped against the wall with a swollen eye. The door opens as Angie stands next to the GUARD (40s) Stern male.

POLICE GUARD
Time to go.

The Guard walks off as Angie confronts her daughter.

ANGIE
(angry)
What were you thinking?

TIYESHA
I didn't know the car was stolen
Mom.

ANGIE
You were caught with drugs.

TIYESHA
They weren't mine.

ANGIE
Then tell the police that!

TIYESHA
I can't. I'm not a snitch.

ANGIE
If they were your so called friends
then they'd be owning up to all of
this.

TIYESHA
But that would be breaking the
street code.

ANGIE

You promised you wouldn't get into any trouble whilst I was at Church.

TIYESHA

I didn't intentionally mean to get into any trouble.

ANGIE

Stolen car. Drugs. Assaulting an officer.

TIYESHA

Have you seen what they did to me. Look at my face. So much for black lives matter.

The pair walk to the front desk.

POLICE GUARD

A court date has been set. You'll receive it in the mail.

TIYESHA

Can't wait.

Tiyesha and Angie head for the exit.

ANGIE

I don't want you seeing Shanice and Rueben again.

TIYESHA

That's impossible, they're my friends.

ANGIE

For nothing will be impossible without God.

TIYESHA

Oh, just stop! Stop with all the God talk. I'm sick of it.

Tiyesha abruptly exits the station as Angie looks hurt by the comment.

INT. COURT - JUDGES ROOM - DAY

JUDGE MALCOLM HARRIS (50s) Black male, prepares for his hearing. There is a knock at the door.

MALCOLM

Come in.

The door opens, A black male. ANTON OJO (30s) enters the room.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Anton, how long has it been?

ANTON

Too long! It's good to see you, Judge.

MALCOLM

What are you doing in my court today?

ANTON

I'm defending a case. Not by choice, as a favor.

MALCOLM

Which case?

ANTON

My sisters.

Malcolm looks at a piece of paper on his desk.

ANTON (CONT'D)

Tiyesha.

MALCOLM

I Didn't connect the dots that Tiyesha was your sister. This is a serious case, she's looking at jail time.

ANTON

That's why I wanted to talk to you. Personally, I don't think prison will do anything for her?

MALCOLM

What are you suggesting?

ANTON

You were there for me when my Dad passed. I was never there for Tiyesha. She's never had a father figure in her life. She just needs some guidance. Similar to what you were to me. A mentor.

MALCOLM

This long list of charges doesn't help her case.

ANTON

I know, but I'm just thinking about my Mom that's all.

Malcolm looks at a distressed Anton.

MALCOLM

OK. Leave it with me. I have something in mind.

Anton shows his gratitude to Malcolm as he exits the room.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Judge Harris sits behind the bench.

MALCOLM

What this case shows me is your lack of discipline and let's face the facts. Putting you in prison. Isn't going to solve your lack of respect for authority. So I'm going to sentence you to sixty hours community service.

Anton stares at Tiyesha with a serious look on his face.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

At P.C.B.A.

TIYESHA

What's P.C.B.A?

MALCOLM

Pitbull christian boxing academy. Each day you will report to Johnny Pitbull. He will whip you into shape in no time, Court adjourned.

Judge Harris stands up from behind the bench and exits the court room, Tiyesha turns to Anton.

TIYESHA

Yo bro, I thought they were gonna lock me up and throw away the key.

Anton abruptly interrupts Tiyesha.

ANTON

Tiyesha! You are so lucky. All those charges. You should be in jail. And for the record, I didn't do this for you. I did it for Mom.

Anton gathers his belongings from the desk.

ANTON (CONT'D)

You better not screw this up.

Anton exits the court room.

EXT. RUN DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Tiyesha walks towards a run down building. She stops and stares at the sign above the door.

TIYESHA

Pitbull Christian boxing academy.
Great, sixty hours at this dump.

Tiyesha enters the building with a chip on her shoulder.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Eyes glare at Tiyesha as she walks through the gym. The sound of punches connecting with punch bags echo through out the building. She walks over to a MALE hitting a punch bag.

TIYESHA

Are you Johnny Pitbull?

The male points towards the ring as Tiyesha spots a short stern male, JOHNNY PITBULL (60s) wearing an English flat cap, standing in the ring, holding punching pads whilst giving instructions to two young fighters.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Jab, one two.

Tiyesha walks over to the ring with an attitude.

TIYESHA

Yo! You Johnny Pitbull?

JOHNNY

I'm Johnny Pitbull.

Tiyesha giggles to herself.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

TIYESHA
Nothing. It's just..

Johnny interrupts.

JOHNNY
What's your name?

TIYESHA
Tiyesha, I'm here for community
service.

Johnny looks down at Tiyesha unimpressed by her attitude.

JOHNNY
Follow me.

Johnny climbs out of the ring as Tiyesha follows him.

TIYESHA
So what's this christian boxing
place all about?

JOHNNY
We do two things here. We preach
and we teach.

Johnny pulls open a door to reveal a filthy looking bathroom.
The smell hits Tiyesha.

TIYESHA
Whoah! Somebody needs to give this
place a clean.

JOHNNY
And that's your first job of the
day.

TIYESHA
I ain't here to clean no toilets.

JOHNNY
After your done in here. Get
cleaning the gym.

Johnny walks away leaving Tiyesha looking on frustrated. She
enters the bathroom, looking around wondering where to begin.

TIYESHA
They never said I'd be cleaning
toilets.

Suddenly a flush is heard from one of the cubicles, out steps TINY (18) Short quirky black female.

TINY

That's gonna need another flush.

Tiny exits the bathroom, covering her nose with her t-shirt as Tiyesha looks on mortified.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha wipes around the gym while looking on in awe. She begins to pick up loose boxing gloves. Suddenly a pair of boxing gloves land next to her. She looks up and spots Tiny.

TINY

(sarcastic)

Sorry.

She picks up the gloves while glaring at Tiny.

TIYESHA

You will be.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha mops around the gym. Tiny stands with two trainees who incite her. She takes a mouthful of water and walks towards Tiyesha, whilst her back is turned. Tiny spits water onto the floor.

TINY

Oops.

Tiyesha turns around and spots Tiny laughing with the two trainees.

TINY (CONT'D)

Sorry. You missed some.

Tiyesha clenches her fists. In a rage, she throws a solid shot at the nearest punch bag so hard, it disconnects from the ceiling falling to the ground. The whole gym comes to a halt as they look on in shock.

TINY (CONT'D)

I was just playing. I didn't mean..

Johnny climbs out of the ring and slowly walks towards Tiyesha. He looks down at the fallen bag then looks up at the ceiling.

JOHNNY
You boxed before?

TIYESHA
No.

JOHNNY
Never?

TIYESHA
I've never boxed before.

JOHNNY
For someone that has never boxed
before. Nobody hits a bag like that
and causes it to fall off the
ceiling.

TIYESHA
Straight up, I've never boxed.

JOHNNY
Follow me.

Johnny climbs into the ring as Tiyasha follows, everybody in
the gym looks on intrigued.

TIYESHA
But I thought you said I had to
clean the gym.

Johnny stands opposite her holding up two pads.

JOHNNY
Give me a left jab, then a right.

Tiyasha hits the pads.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Left, right, hook.

Tiyasha throws a powerful jab left, then right followed by a
hook.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You got some power kid.

TIYESHA
Really?

JOHNNY
Yeah. If you could just control
that anger. I think we may have a
prospect on our hands.

TIYESHA

You put anyone in the ring with me
and i will destroy them.

JOHNNY

You think that's what boxing is all
about?

TIYESHA

Yeah.

JOHNNY

Boxing is not about harming someone
like you would on the streets. But
to compete against them in a sports
like manor.

TIYESHA

But this is a Christian academy.
How can you compete against people?

JOHNNY

Because Faith and Boxing run
parallel with one another.

TIYESHA

How?

JOHNNY

Boxers train intensely, they aim
for precision. They still have to
restrain themselves from
distractions. Just like a good
Christian. We need to exhibit self
control, aim for our spiritual
goals and avoid wasting effort.

TIYESHA

My Mom, she's a good Christian. But
she hates boxing, says it's a
sinners sport.

JOHNNY

Boxing is far from a sinner sports.
Here at Pitbull christian boxing
academy, we teach our students to
be kind, respectful. Patient,
joyful and to be more self
controlled. We preach faith here.
Because we want to help our
students find that spiritual
fulfillment.

TIYESHA
So when can I step into the ring
and start training?

JOHNNY
Depends.

TIYESHA
On what?

JOHNNY
When we can adjust that attitude.

Tiyesha has a moment of realization.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Now finish cleaning the gym.

A confused Tiyesha climbs out of the ring and heads over to the mop and bucket as Johnny smiles to himself, whilst training resumes in the gym.

TINY
Let me just clean that up for you.

Tiny takes the mop and cleans up the water she spat on the floor. She extends her hand.

TINY (CONT'D)
I'm Tiny.

Tiyesha shakes her hand.

TIYESHA
Tiyesha.

TINY
I've never seen anyone punch a bag
off the wall before, that was
insane!

Tiyesha laughs.

TIYESHA
What's your deal?

TINY
Got summoned here for community
service.

TIYESHA
Me too. How long have you been
here?

TINY

Three years.

TIYESHA

Three years?

TINY

I was only supposed to be here for twelve months. But this seems to be the only place I find myself staying out of trouble.

TIYESHA

Has Johnny ever got you competing?

TINY

No, my height stops me. It's hard to find opponents my size.

TIYESHA

What about the kinder-garden class?

They both laugh at Tiyesha's comment.

TINY

I'm seventeen years old.

TIYESHA

Tiny by name, Tiny by nature.

TINY

Exactly! Truth is, I actually want to be a boxing coach, just like Johnny and give kids the same guidance he's given me. I'm still on that path to finding my spiritual fulfillment. But I'm getting there.

TIYESHA

Has anyone else ever competed here?

TINY

No. Johnny is a straight up dude. If he thinks your a prospect. Then maybe, but he is instrumental in the community. He transforms teenagers lives. He's been like a father to me.

Tiyesha looks on in deep thought. She continues cleaning the gym.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Tiyesha arrives home. As she walks through the door, she is greeted by Angie.

ANGIE

Hello. How was your day?

TIYESHA

You know what. I actually had a great day.

ANGIE

Really? What did you get up to on your community service?

TIYESHA

I erm.. Cleaned. Did a lot of cleaning.

ANGIE

Good to hear.

TIYESHA

In fact i did so much cleaning. I'm ready to go to bed. I've got an early start in the morning.

ANGIE

Wow. This community service is doing you good.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha enters the gym, the trainees greet her upon her arrival giving her a nod of approval. She spots Johnny and walks over to him.

JOHNNY

Cleaning cupboard, vacuum and mop.
Then fix the boxing bag you destroyed yesterday.

Tiyesha sighs as she heads towards the cleaning cupboard as Johnny looks on.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

The Sound of punch bags being pounded echo in the gym as Tiyesha stands on a ladder.

TIYESHA
Yo Tiny, give me a hand.

Along with two other trainees, Tiny walk over to Tiyesha.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
You lift the bag and I'll re-attach
it to the ceiling.

The trio lift the bag as Tiyesha uses a socket wrench to
tighten the bolts.

TINY
Just don't go punching it off the
ceiling again.

The trio's laugh is broken up by Johnny as he approaches
Tiyesha.

JOHNNY
Start training this afternoon.

Johnny walks away as Tiyesha begins to step down from the
ladder with a big smile on her face.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Johnny stands in front of the trainees.

JOHNNY
Today we welcome Tiyesha into our
family. As always, when a new face
begins their training with us. We
say a prayer.

Tiyesha looks around as everyone gets ready to pray. She puts
her hands together.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
A fist full of faith. One of the
best ways to fight battles is to
ball up your fists... And pray.

The trainees stand focused as Tiyesha continues to adjust her
hands ready to pray.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Lord Jesus. You are a shield around
me. Strong in love, heavy with
power, shaped with hope and guided
with truth. I will fear no evil,
for you watch over me.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You defend and deliver me, In this day, this hour, this moment. I put my trust in you. Amen.

TRAINEES

Amen.

JOHNNY

Okay, everyone grab a skipping rope, let's warm up.

The noise of skipping ropes whipping the floor echo in the gym.

PAN DOWN LINE OF TRAINEES SKIPPING.

Johnny looks on bemused at Tiyesha, as she attempts to skip, only managing two skips before the rope tangles between her feet.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You've never skipped before have you?

TIYESHA

No.

JOHNNY

Like a lot of things in boxing. It's all about timing, Tiny if you could demonstrate.

Tiny begins to showcase her skipping skills.

TINY

It's all about keeping your knees soft and pushing off your toes.

Tiny demonstrates.

TINY (CONT'D)

Little hops, pushing the balls off your feet into the ground.

Tiyesha attempts it and manages a few more skips.

JOHNNY

At least we have something to work on. Lets have some push ups.

The group of trainees get down and begin doing push ups.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Time.

A relieved Tiyesha looks thankful.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Sit ups.

Tiyesha looks exhausted as she gets down to perform some sit ups, she tries to take a few seconds but Johnny catches her.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Tiyesha, it will be 2 minutes if you don't give us at least twenty five.

Tiyesha begins to perform her sit ups with strain on her face as she tries to power through.

TIYESHA

15.

JOHNNY

Come on Tiyesha. Ten more.

The trainees begins counting.

ALL

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Tiyesha face begins to strain as the pain takes over.

TIYESHA

9

ALL

10

The group of trainees give Tiyesha a round of applause, as she lies on her back whilst heavy breathing.

JOHNNY

Time.

Johnny looks at Tiyesha.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

We like to take care of our bodies and treat them as temples of the holy spirit. Every day we push harder.

TIYESHA

I think I'm going to throw up.

Tiyesha rushes towards the bathroom as the group of trainees burst out laughing.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - LATER

JOHNNY

Let's run some drills.

The trainees get into a line. Laid out in front of them, an agility ladder and cones.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Start outside the ladder, then side steps in and out, when you're done I want you to sprint to the cone. Then jogging backwards to the starting line.

The first trainee starts the drill, up next, Tiyesha takes her position. She begins to side step through the agility ladder showing good foot work, next she sprints to the cone, then jogs backwards towards the starting line.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Nice footwork Tiyesha.

The trainees continue to take it in turns, Tiyesha turns to Johnny.

TIYESHA

When are we going to do some actual boxing training ?

JOHNNY

This is boxing training.

TIYESHA

With all due respect, We're just running.

JOHNNY

Everybody stop!

The trainees stop what they're doing.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to stop you all, but Tiyesha here has just brought up a valid point. She claims we aren't boxing training.

A groan rumbles amongst the trainees.

TIYESHA
All we're doing is running.

JOHNNY
Tell you what, out of everybody
here, who do you want to face off
against?

TIYESHA
For real?

JOHNNY
Yeah, have a look around, You can
pick anyone.

TIYESHA
The Big guy at the back.

The big guy looks around pointing to himself.

JOHNNY
Tommy, step forward.

TOMMY (18) A six foot male steps forward.

TIYESHA
Are we getting into the ring?

JOHNNY
Not quite.

Johnny pulls down a big Tyre that rests against the gym wall.

TINY
Oh no! Not the Tyre!

JOHNNY
Get on.

TIYESHA
What?

JOHNNY
Step onto the Tyre.

Tiyesha steps onto the tyre whilst laughing to herself.

TIYESHA
What is this?

JOHNNY
I like to call it, dodge the
noodle.

Tiyesha laughs.

TIYESHA
Dodge the noodle?

JOHNNY
If you don't. Tommy here, will
knock you off this tyre.

TIYESHA
Yeah right.

Johnny grabs a foam noodle and hands it to Tommy.

JOHNNY
Tommy.

Tommy looks at Tiyesha and shrugs his shoulders before
hitting Tiyesha with the foam noodle.

TIYESHA
Ow! You didn't tell me he was going
to hit me with it.

Tommy hits her once more with the noodle, causing Tiyesha to
fall off the tyre.

JOHNNY
Told you.

TIYESHA
I didn't know he was going to hit
me with it.

JOHNNY
What did you think he was going to
do, tickle you with it?

The group of trainees laugh.

TIYESHA
Do it again.

Tiyesha steps onto the tyre. Johnny nods as Tommy begins to
swing the foam noodle at her and once again she loses her
balance and falls of the tyre.

JOHNNY
Come on Tiyesha, you're making it
way too easy for him.

TINY
I can't bare to watch this anymore.

Tiny speaks up.

TINY (CONT'D)
Your balance, plant your feet.

TIYESHA
What?

Tiny demonstrates to Tiyesha.

TINY
Plant your feet, point your toes
towards me.

Tiyesha looks at Johnny. Tommy begins to hit her with the noodle, but this time, she doesn't budge.

TIYESHA
Ha! Ain't knocking me off this tyre
now are ya!

JOHNNY
Okay Tommy, that's enough. My turn.

TIYESHA
What?

Johnny takes the foam noodle from Tommy.

JOHNNY
I want you to try and block my
shots.

TIYESHA
Easy.

Johnny tries to hit Tiyesha in the ribs but she blocks the noodle from connecting, he tries the other side and again she blocks it. He catches her in the face.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
You hit me in the face!

JOHNNY
Better get used to it, if you don't
keep those hands up.

Johnny hits the noodle towards her face but this time she blocks it. Johnny goes crazy with the noodle trying to catch Tiyesha but is unsuccessful as she blocks every shot.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Good. Step down of the tyre.

Tiyesha steps down.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Footwork and balance. Fundamentals of boxing. We don't run drills for the sake of it. We prepare you, So you're ready to step into the ring.

Johnny walks away as the realization sinks in for Tiyesha.

EXT. RUN DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Tiyesha practices her skipping technique outside her home. Shanice and Reuben walk up on her.

SHANICE

T? What are you doing?

REUBEN

She's skipping.

The pair begin to laugh as Tiyesha continues practicing her technique.

SHANICE

I never had you down as a girl who enjoys skipping.

REUBEN

We've been trying to get hold of you T. Haven't seen you since the night you got us arrested.

TIYESHA

You mean the night you got me arrested?

REUBEN

Whoa! Show a brother some love. Where have you been hiding?

TIYESHA

Haven't been hiding anywhere. I've been doing community service.

SHANICE

Where?

TIYESHA

Pitbull's Christian boxing academy.

SHANICE

Wait, did you say the christian
boxing place?

REUBEN

They actually let you in that
place.

SHANICE

I mean you're like the most non
religious person I've ever met.

TIYESHA

So, Is this why you're here? To
mock me about my community service.
Because If my memory serves me
correctly. The reason why aren't
doing community service with me, is
because I was the one to take the
rap.

Reuben and Shanice look at each other.

REUBEN

And look, we appreciate that you
didn't snitch. So we thought we'd
reward you and offer you a chance
to earn some mega money?

TIYESHA

Doing what?

REUBEN

Being our muscle.

SHANICE

Basically T, the cops took that
package from us. So I owe a dealer.

TIYESHA

How much?

SHANICE

Lots of money.

REUBEN

Our plan is, we rob him and sell
his stash, then pay him back.

SHANICE

And here comes the best bit.

REUBEN
Then rob him again, taking back the
money we made on his stash.

TIYESHA
No thanks.

Reuben looks at Shanice.

REUBEN
Is she for real?

SHANICE
Do you not realize how much money
you could make from this.

Tiyesha throws down the skipping rope.

TIYESHA
You expect me to trust you? I
suggest you get out off here right
now.

Tiyesha clenches her fists.

REUBEN
Come on. Let's go.

SHANICE
What is wrong with you?

Reuben pulls Shanice away, as the two disappear into the
darkness of the night. Tiyesha picks up her skipping rope and
continues practicing.

INT. HOME - DAY

Tiyesha lays in bed sleeping. She slowly opens her eyes as
Angie stands next to the bed.

TIYESHA
Mom?

ANGIE
You need to come and see this.

TIYESHA
What is it?

Angie exits the room as Tiyesha follows.

INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Angie diverts her attention to the TV screen.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

In the early hours of the morning. A male and female have been killed in what is believed to be a gang related incident. They have been identified as Shanice Davis and Reuben Tyrell. The identity of a third person also found dead at the scene, has yet to be confirmed.

Tiyesha slumps onto the couch.

TIYESHA

They came to me last night. Wanting me to be apart of their crazy plan.

ANGIE

You know what stopped you.

TIYESHA

What?

ANGIE

Faith.

Tiyesha looks on shocked.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

God is watching over you. I know, because I asked him to.

Tiyesha and Angie embrace each other with a hug.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha works on her footwork drills as Johnny watches on from the side. He notices something isn't right with her and calls her over for a chat.

JOHNNY

Tiyesha.

Tiyesha makes her way towards him.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

What's up?

TIYESHA

Nothing.

JOHNNY
Something is affecting your
training. Talk to me, what is it?

TIYESHA
Two of my friends were killed last
night.

JOHNNY
Are you referring to that incident
reported on the news?

TIYESHA
Yeah.

JOHNNY
Close friends?

TIYESHA
They were.. Sort of. It's just.

Tiyesha pauses.

JOHNNY
What?

TIYESHA
Last night they approached me and
asked me to be apart of this
ridiculous plan. My head just keeps
playing over and over that If I had
said yes. It wouldn't be here right
now.

JOHNNY
God created us with the capacity to
make decisions, he did not give us
the authority or the ability to
determine for ourselves what is
right and wrong. For that, he wants
us to rely on him.

TIYESHA
I'm started to think that
everything you preach has some
merit to it.

JOHNNY
Acceptance to faith gives you the
power to move forward. Everybody in
this gym was once like you. Until
they made their acceptance.

Johnny begins walking away.

TIYESHA

I accept.

Johnny turns to Tiyesha.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Consider this my acceptance.

Johnny shows some gratitude towards her.

JOHNNY

I do have something that will cheer you up.

TIYESHA

What's that?

JOHNNY

Now that the fundamentals are getting there, today I'm going to teach you how to punch.

TIYESHA

It's about time!

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Johnny stands in front of the trainees.

JOHNNY

I'm going to show you how to throw a hook punch. If done correctly, it can have a great affect on your opponents.

Johnny walks up to the punch bag to demonstrate a step by step guide.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

The power comes from your hips, when you throw the hook it's elbow up and twist your body putting your weight behind the punch.

Johnny demonstrates in fast time, rocking the bag upon impact.

TIYESHA

Ouch.

JOHNNY

It's left jab, then right jab, then left hook.

Johnny twists his body as he hits the bag, leaving the bag rocking.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Who's up first.

The trainees get in line ready to attempt the left hook, the first trainee steps up and hits the bag.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Pivot the foot more, transfer the weight, next.

Tiny steps up and hits the bag.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Good Tiny.

Tiyesha steps up to the bag and plants her feet, she hits the bag with a hard left jab followed by a right, then hits the bag with a hard left hook, rattling the bag.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You see. The power comes from the hips.

TINY
I hope you've got building insurance.

The trainees laugh at Tiny's comment.

JOHNNY
Good work today everyone.

The trainees begin to gather their belongings as Johnny summons Tiyesha.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Tiyesha.

Tiyesha looks a little bewildered as she makes her way over to Johnny.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You did good today kid.

TIYESHA
I think that's the first time in my life someone has ever said that to me.

JOHNNY
Tiyesha, out of all my trainees.
You have so much potential.

TIYESHA
You think so?

JOHNNY
Yes. Which is why I'm considering
entering you into a local amateur
competition.

TIYESHA
You serious.

JOHNNY
Oh, absolutely. But.

TIYESHA
I knew there'd be a but.

JOHNNY
I need your Mother's blessing.

TIYESHA
What?

JOHNNY
You said she thinks boxing is a
sinner sports. I need her blessing
in order to enter you into the
tournament.

Johnny hands Tiyesha a consent form.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
She needs to sign here. Then I need
you to bring that form back to me
on Monday.

Johnny exits as Tiyesha looks on concerned.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Tiyesha sits opposite Angie at the dinner table, as Angie
prepares to say grace.

ANGIE
Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us
and these thy gifts which we
receive from thy bountiful
goodness, through Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen.

Tiyesha reaches for a piece of chicken.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Not hungry tonight?

TIYESHA
Not really.

ANGIE
That's unlike you.

TIYESHA
Mom, Can I talk to you about something?

ANGIE
Not like you wanting to talk to me about something. What have you gone and done now?

TIYESHA
Oh, it's nothing. I mean, It's to do with my community service.

ANGIE
What about your community service?

TIYESHA
You know the place where I've been doing my community service.

ANGIE
P.C.B.A?

TIYESHA
Yeah, Do you have any idea what P.C.B.A is all about?

ANGIE
I thought it was a rehabilitation centre.

TIYESHA
It stands for Pitbull christian boxing academy.

Angie looks on shocked.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
The owner thinks I have a lot of potential. He wants me to compete in a local tournament. But I can't do it without your blessing.

ANGIE

No! Absolutely not.

TIYESHA

I knew you'd react like this.

ANGIE

You want to compete in a sinners sport? You have not got my blessing.

TIYESHA

Boxing is not a sinners sport.

ANGIE

Going out to hurt someone is a sin in the eyes of the lord.

TIYESHA

But Mom, that's not what boxing is all about. Strikes are not done out of hatred or anger.

ANGIE

Do you realize how seriously injured you can get from boxing?

TIYESHA

But Mom, I could get seriously injured slipping in the shower. Falling down the stairs. There are rules in boxing to minimize the risk of a serious injury.

ANGIE

I want you to respect my decision. I do not want you competing.

TIYESHA

Mom. I know I haven't been the best daughter. I know you wish I could be more like Anton. But it was actually Anton's idea to send me to P.C.B.A.

ANGIE

What are you talking about?

TIYESHA

Anton saved me from going to jail. Instead, I got sent to P.B.C.A. Which has done me the world of good.

Tiyesha begins to get emotional.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
For the first time in my life.
Someone actually said that I was
good at something.

Angie shows empathy towards Tiyesha.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
If God is for us, who can be
against us?

Angie nods towards her daughter.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
Something I have learned since
being at PCBA is when we fight the
good fight of faith. The only good
fight, is the fight that we win.
When God is on your side, you'll
always win.

Tiyesha slides the consent form towards Angie.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)
I don't want to get in the ring to
hurt people. I want to compete in a
physical sport. It takes hard work
and dedication. And the one thing
i've got is dedication. I know
that, because I've got it from you.

ANGIE
Me?

TIYESHA
You've dedicated your whole life to
faith. I wanna dedicate my life to
faith and boxing. All i need is
your blessing.

Tiyesha gets up from the table. She exits the room as Angie
stares at the consent form, unsure what to do.

INT. HALL - DAY

Tiyesha enters the empty hall, she stands staring at the
empty boxing ring. Johnny walks up beside her.

JOHNNY
Did you get that consent form
signed?

Tiyesha shakes her head.

TIYESHA
No. Sorry, My Mom didn't consent.

JOHNNY
That's okay. I respect her
decision. At least you can be here
for morale support.

Suddenly Angie enters the hall with the consent form in hand.

ANGIE
Tiyesha you forgot this.

TIYESHA
Mom?

ANGIE
If you're willing to dedicate your
life to something that will keep
you off the street. Keep you out of
jail. And keep you out of hospital.

Angie glances towards Johnny.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Then you have my blessing.

For the first time in a long time. Tiyesha hugs her Mom
tightly.

TIYESHA
Thank you so much. You have no idea
how much this means to me.

ANGIE
There is one condition.

Tiyesha pulls away.

TIYESHA
What condition?

ANGIE
I can't sit through any fights. I
will be at home, praying for you.

TIYESHA
Deal.

Angie turns to Johnny.

ANGIE

Please make sure my daughter
doesn't get hurt.

JOHNNY

I promise.

Angie exits the building as Tiyesha turns to Johnny beaming
with pride.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Well kid. Better go get ready.
Tournament starts shortly.

Tiyesha smiles towards Johnny.

INT. BOXING RING - DAY

The MC Stands in the middle of the ring with a microphone.

MC

Ladies and gentleman welcome to the
over 18's lightweight tournament.

The crowd cheer.

MC (CONT'D)

Fighting out of the red corner from
left hook boxing club, Georgina
Perry.

GEORGINA PERRY (20) steps forward wearing a red head guard as
she raises her gloves to the crowd.

MC (CONT'D)

Her opponent. Fighting out of the
blue corner from Pitbull christian
boxing academy, Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

Tiyesha steps forward wearing a blue head guard, whilst
punching the air.

JOHNNY

This is your first fight. Don't
rush. Take your time.

Tiyesha nods looking psyched and ready, Johnny places her gum
shield in her mouth.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round one.

The bell rings as both fighters make their way to the middle of the ring. Georgina begins throwing jabs as Tiyesha avoids them.

JOHNNY
Dodge the noodle.

Tiyesha throws a jab back which misses Georgina. Tiyesha shows good footwork as she moves around the ring. Georgina throws a jab and catches Tiyesha as the bell sounds for the end of round one.

JOHNNY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Good work Tiyesha.

Both boxers head to their corners, taking a seat on their stools as Johnny gives out instructions.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Close first round, just loosen up a little out there.

Tiyesha nods.

MC (V.O.)
Seconds out, round 2.

The bell sounds as Tiyesha marches to the centre of the ring with a purpose. She throws a hard jab which catches Georgina. Tiyesha moves in and hits Georgina with a left and right jab.

JOHNNY
Hook!

Tiyesha hits her with a hook punch, which sends Georgina crashing down to the canvas.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Wait a go!

The referee sends Tiyesha to her corner and begins the count. Georgina tries to get to her feet on the count of 8 with glazed eyes and jelly legs, the referee waves off the fight.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Yes!

Johnny jumps inside the ring to celebrate with Tiyesha.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Well done kid!

MC

The winner of this bout and
advancing to the semi-finals from
Pitbull christian boxing academy.
Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

A beaten Georgina makes her way over to Tiyesha and shakes
her hand.

TIYESHA

Thank you for the fight. God bless
you.

INT. BOXING RING - LATER

The MC stands in the centre of the ring as Tiyesha stands in
her corner staring at her opponent TRINITY JACKSON (21) black
fierce looking female.

MC

Ladies and gentleman, this is the
semi-final's of the lightweight
tournament, fighting out of the red
corner from Bomb squad boxing club.
Trinity Jackson.

Trinity salutes the crowd.

MC (CONT'D)

Her opponent fighting out of the
blue corner from Pitbull christian
boxing academy. Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

Tiyesha soaks up the cheers from the crowd.

JOHNNY

This girl is tough. She will come
at you and try to put you on the
back foot.

Tiyesha nods as her gum shield is placed into his mouth.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Remember. Footwork is key. Move in
an out. Plant your feet when you
take those shots.

TIYESHA

Okay.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round 1.

Trinity marches out of the corner with her gloves up, Tiyesha plants her feet and throws a jab, which knocks Trinity back as Tiyesha moves in, she hits her with a left then right followed by a vicious uppercut, which sends Trinity to the canvas on her back.

JOHNNY

Where did that come from?

Tiyesha looks over at Johnny shocked. Trinity tries to get up but the referee spots she is in no condition to continue and waves the fight off.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You did it kid!

Johnny jumps into the ring.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Where did you learn to uppercut like that?

TIYESHA

It just came natural.

MC

The winner of the contest and advancing to the finals, Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

JOHNNY

You're one more fight away from winning this tournament!

Tiyesha raises her arms in victory. She makes her way over to Trinity as the pair embrace with a hug.

INT. HALL - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Johnny holds up two pads as Tiyesha throws left and right jabs to warm up. Suddenly a famous former world champion PHIL SCOTT (50s) small, muscular male, walks past Johnny as the two exchange pleasantries.

PHIL

Johnny.

JOHNNY

Phil. How are you?

Tiyesha looks on intrigued as LOLA SCOTT (20s) Pretty, but feisty young lady, emerges next to her dad.

PHIL
Lola's just signed her first
professional contract.

JOHNNY
Oh really, with who?

PHIL
Don Davies.

JOHNNY
Your old promoter?

PHIL
Yeah. Has all the best world
champions on his roster. She is
heading for greatness.

Tiyesha looks on in awe.

JOHNNY
What weight you fighting at Lola?

LOLA
Featherweight. But I eventually
want to move up to lightweight.

JOHNNY
That's a big jump in weight.

PHIL
She wants to follow in my
footsteps. After all I was
Featherweight, super featherweight
and light weight champion.

PHIL (CONT'D)
I bet you haven't had any great
Featherweight's since Lola left
your gym.

JOHNNY
No. But I've found a hard hitting
lightweight. This is Tiyesha.

Tiyesha extends her hand, as Lola stares her down, the pair
exchange an awkward hand shake.

PHIL
Anyway, its nice to see you Johnny.
Make sure you catch Lola on pay per
view.

Phil and Lola walk away as Tiyesha turns to Johnny.

TIYESHA

I can't believe you know Phil Scott? He's a legend.

JOHNNY

I trained Phil. He was a hell of a fighter, but money and fame got the better of him. He brought Lola to the academy, requesting I help train her.

TIYESHA

So what happened?

JOHNNY

I told him no.

TIYESHA

No? Why did you tell him no? He's a former world champion.

JOHNNY

I don't train pro fighters anymore.

TIYESHA

Why not? You're a great trainer.

JOHNNY

Because I have seen first hand what money and fame does to a person. It breaks my values as christian.

TIYESHA

Did you see the way she looked at me? Too bad i'll never get a chance to get in the ring with her.

JOHNNY

No, she's a feather weight. You're a lightweight, who has a match to prepare for. Left jab.

Tiyasha hits the pads with solid left jab.

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

The two finalists stand in the middle of the boxing ring. In the red corner JADA DOUGLAS (19) black female, opposite her in the blue corner. Tiyasha looks on psyched and ready to fight.

MC

Ladies and gentleman, this is the final of the lightweight tournament.

Johnny gives Tiyesha her final instructions.

JOHNNY

This is it. You're here in the final because you deserve to be here! Go out there and make your Mamma proud.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round 1

The bell sounds as both fighters make their way to the centre of the ring. Tiyesha throws a jab which catches Jada as she moves around the ring with Tiyesha closing in.

JOHNNY

Use the jab Tiyesha.

Tiyesha throws a quick left and right jab as Jada covers up.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

She's open.

Tiyesha targets the body. She catches Jada with a hard body shot, causing her to drop to her knees.

The referee sends Tiyesha to the corner and begins the count. Jada gets up on the referee's eight count still trying to catch her breath.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Go after her.

Tiyesha moves in with a barrage of punches as Jada covers up showing good defense.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

To the body!

Tiyesha moves back down to the body and puts Jada down with another body shot. This time Jada rolls around in pain as the referee waves off the fight.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Yes!

Johnny jumps into the ring.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
I knew you could do it!

MC
The winner of the over 18's
lightweight tournament. Tiyesha
Kayla Ojo

INT. HALL - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

In the changing rooms, Johnny sits cutting the tape off Tiyesha's hands.

JOHNNY
I don't know if you know this, but
as of today, your community service
is officially up. You're free to
go.

TIYESHA
I'm not going anywhere! You've got
me for life.

The pair laugh at Tiyesha's comment.

JOHNNY
In that case, how about we get you
back in the gym on Monday and start
preparing for the women's winter
box cup.

TIYESHA
You serious? That's a pretty big
deal.

JOHNNY
God puts dreams and desires into
people's hearts. The way you
carried yourself in and out that
ring today, shows me how committed
you are to the values of Pitbull
christian boxing academy. I'm
really proud of you.

TIYESHA
Thank you Johnny.

Johnny finishes removing the tape from Tiyesha's hands.

JOHNNY
Enjoy your weekend and I'll see you
in the gym on Monday, bright and
early.

The pair engage in a fist bump.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Tiyesha arrives home with her giant trophy. She hides it behind her back.

TIYESHA

Mom?

She is greeted by Angie.

ANGIE

How did you get on?

TIYESHA

I erm..

ANGIE

It's okay. It's the taking part that counts.

TIYESHA

I won!

ANGIE

You won?

Tiyesha reveals the big trophy. As Angie takes hold of it.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Congratulations. I am so proud of you.

TIYESHA

Thanks Mom. That means a lot.

ANGIE

Almighty God, today you have blessed us.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

In the gym, Tiyesha looks on focused.

JOHNNY

At the woman's winter cup. You'll be coming up against more experienced competitors. That means, we need to get you faster and stronger.

Tiyesha nods towards Johnny.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. PITBULL BOXING CLUB - DAY

- Tiyesha shows a vast improvement on her skipping.

JOHNNY

Time to face an old foe.

- Johnny pulls down the tyre.

- Tiyesha squats down lifting the tyre up then flipping it over from one side of the gym to the other.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Hit it with everything you got.

- Tiyesha hits the tyre with a sledge hammer.

- Tiyesha runs from one side of the gym to the other with the tyre strapped to her, working her legs as she pulls the heavy tyre along.

- On the tyre, Tiyesha stands with her feet planted as Johnny swings two foam noodles at her as she blocks every shot.

- Tiyesha stands on the tyre shadow boxing showing great movement and balance.

END MONTAGE.

INT. WOMEN'S WINTER CUP - HALL - DAY

Tiyesha and Tiny look around the empty venue taking everything in.

TIYESHA

Do you think I've got a chance here today Tiny?

TINY

I'm here to support you no matter what.

TIYESHA

Whilst nobody is here. Let's get in the ring.

TINY

Get in the ring?

TIYESHA

Yeah, before people start arriving.

Tiny and Tiyesha climb into the ring as Tiyesha begins to move around while shadow boxing.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Tiny. Me and you. Sparring session.

TINY

I'm not a fighter.

Tiyesha and Tiny joke around in the ring, suddenly the door burst open. Lola Scott enters with a small entourage.

LOLA

The champ is here!

Tiny turns to Tiyesha.

TINY

That's Lola Scott. Phill Scott's daughter.

TIYESHA

You don't say.

LOLA

Oh look. Johnny Pitbull's new puppet.

Lola climbs into the ring.

LOLA (CONT'D)

You competing in this crappy tournament?

TIYESHA

What's it to you?

Lola turns to her entourage.

LOLA

Is this chick for real? I get into the ring, to come and talk to you. You should be privileged that you are standing in front of greatness.

TIYESHA

I didn't invite you into my ring.

Lola's entourage react to Tiyesha's comment.

TINY

Uh oh!

Tiny climbs out the ring as Lola steps up to Tiyesha.

LOLA

When you're surname is Scott.
Daughter of a boxing legend. I
don't need an invite.

Lola and Tiyesha's face off. Suddenly Johnny enters the venue and walks over to the ring.

JOHNNY

Tiyesha. Lola, Everything alright?

TIYESHA

Yeah. It's fine Johnny.

Lola exits the ring as Tiyesha watches on. She begins walking away with her entourage and turns to, NIKKI FURY (18) tough looking female, covered in tattoo's.

LOLA

If you come up against this punk, I
want you to teach her some manners.

Nikki nods as Lola and her entourage exit.

JOHNNY

What was that all about?

TIYESHA

Nothing, just Lola Scott trying to
intimidate me.

JOHNNY

She holds a grudge against the
academy, don't take it personal. I
need you to stay focused.

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - DAY

At ringside Tiny stands cheering on Tiyesha as she unleashes punches on her opponent. Quick combinations of left and rights followed by an uppercut sends her opponent down.

TINY

Let's go Tiyesha!

The referee waves off the fight as Tiyesha advances to the final of the Women's winter box cup. Tiny and Johnny jump into the ring to celebrate.

JOHNNY

You're beating everyone that is put
in front of you.

MC (V.O.)

The winner of the contest and
advancing to the finals. Tiyesha
Kayla Ojo.

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - LATER

In the ring the two fighters stare down each other.

MC

Ladies and gentleman, this is the
final of the Women's winter box
cup.

The crowd cheer.

MC (CONT'D)

Fighting out of the red corner,
Notorious Nikki Fury.

Nikki Fury salutes Lola at ringside.

MC (CONT'D)

Her opponent, fighting out of the
blue corner. Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

The crowd cheer for Tiyesha.

TINY

This is your time Tiyesha!

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round one.

The bell sounds as the fight gets underway with Nikki Fury
coming forward throwing her jab. Tiyesha moves around the
ring throwing her jab back.

LOLA

That's it Nikki. You show her who's
boss.

They try to work each other out as Nikki continues to throw
her jab catching Tiyesha but to no effect. The bell sounds as
both fighters make their way to the corner.

JOHNNY

She's a tricky fighter this girl.
I know her game plan already.

TIYESHA

What's her game plan?

JOHNNY

She's going to try and out-box you
and hope to steal it on points.
Throw some combinations, give her
something to think about.

Tiyasha nods at Johnny.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, Round 2

Tiyasha moves to the centre of the ring with purpose, She
begins to circle in on Nikki Fury, throwing her jab, stalking
her every move.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

That's it Tiyasha. Keep busy.

Nikki shows her impressive footwork slipping and sliding
catching Tiyasha with some scoring shots. The bell sounds as
a frustrated Tiyasha heads to her corner.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

That was her round. She got the
scoring points. You need to go for
the win.

TIYESHA

Okay.

JOHNNY

Be prepared, She's going to run for
the whole round.

Tiyasha nods at Johnny looking determined.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, Final round.

Tiyasha marches to the centre of the ring as Nikki moves
around the ring trying to avoid being caught.

LOLA (O.S.)

Doing great Nikki.

Tiyasha moves in and begins to throw her jab which catches
Nikki who looks shaken by the shot.

JOHNNY

Go after her!

Nikki begins slipping and sliding avoiding punches, but Tiyesha unleashes heavy bombs.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha hits the tyre with the sledge hammer.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - DAY

Tiyesha catches Nikki with a hook to the body. Nikki crumbles to the canvas, wincing in pain. Lola looks on furious.

LOLA
Nikki, get up!

The referee waves off the fight as Tiyesha throws her arms in the air to celebrate.

TINY
Yes! Tiyesha.

Lola turns to her entourage.

LOLA
We're out of here.

As Lola exits the venue. Johnny jumps into the ring.

JOHNNY
You did it.

MC
The winner of the Women's winter box cup. Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Tiyesha stares at the Winter box cup trophy.

TIYESHA
I can't believe it.

JOHNNY
You did great Tiyesha. That last fight was tough. But you came through. I'm proud of you.

TIYESHA

Without you, none of this would have been possible. I'd be in jail right now or probably dead.

JOHNNY

We will Keep building your amateur record. I'm thinking of entering you into the best of the best tournament.

TIYESHA

Isn't that a televised event?

JOHNNY

Sure is. It's one of the best amateur tournaments out there.

TIYESHA

Sign me up.

INT. HOME - DAY

Angie stares at the winter box cup trophy in awe.

ANGIE

Another one to add to the collection.

TIYESHA

Johnny is entering me into the best of the best tournament. It's a televised event.

ANGIE

That sounds exciting.

TIYESHA

Maybe you could watch me on the TV.

ANGIE

If I do. I will probably watch with my hands covering my eyes.

TIYESHA

That's a good start.

ANGIE

But i'll be praying for you girl.

TIYESHA

Why don't we pray together?

Angie looks at Tiyesha confused.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Angie and Tiyesha stand outside the local church.

TIYESHA

Ever since my community service finished, I've been thinking about the path I want to continue on. I don't want to fall back into old habits. Instead, I wanna continue to be guided by faith.

ANGIE

Well, this is the perfect place. Let me introduce you to everybody.

Angie and Tiyesha proudly enter the church together.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha enters the gym looking focused as Johnny stands in the ring, leaning on the ropes.

JOHNNY

Today, we start preparations for the best of the best tournament.

TIYESHA

I'm ready.

JOHNNY

I wanna work on your reflexes. With this.

Johnny holds a tennis ball up.

TIYESHA

Are we going to have a game of tennis?

JOHNNY

More like dodge ball.

Tiyesha looks on confused.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha stands with her back against the wall. Johnny stands opposite her.

JOHNNY

We're gonna work on that hand and eye co-ordination. Your rhythm, your focus.

Johnny holds up the ball.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I want you to dodge the ball.

TIYESHA

What are you talking about dodge the ball?

Johnny launches the ball towards Tiyasha, she ducks out the way as the ball bounces back to Johnny.

JOHNNY

Good.

Johnny throws the ball harder as Tiyasha ducks out the way. The ball bounces back to Johnny.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

This time they're coming straight at you. You got three options. Duck, block or take a shot.

Johnny throws the ball at Tiyasha, she ducks out the way.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Duck. Nicely done.

Johnny throws the ball at Tiyasha, this time she puts her guard up to block the ball.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Nice block.

Johnny retrieves the ball and throws it towards Tiyasha. She throws a straight jab, punching the ball across the gym.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Impressive.

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - DAY

An MC stands in the middle of the ring.

MC

Ladies and gentlemen. This is the best of the best tournament.

(MORE)

MC (CONT'D)

By tonight, we will crown one winner, who will be recognized as the best of the best. Let's have our first match up.

Johnny stands next to a focused Tiyesha.

JOHNNY

Don't worry about the cameras. You focus on the tournament.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME - DAY

Angie sits watching the tournament on the television.

MC (V.O.)

Our opening contest will be Sonia Barnes from the heavy hitters boxing gym versus Tiyesha Kayla Ojo from Pitbull christian boxing academy.

Angie looks on concerned. She begins to pray as the bell sounds.

ANGIE

Dear Lord, may you be with Tiyesha every step of the way and grace her with ravishing luck and prosperity. Amen.

TV COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Tiyesha taking centre of the ring, going straight after Barnes.

Angie tries to watch the fight through her fingers.

TV COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Tiyesha catches her and the referee waves it off. Tiyesha Kayla Ojo wins in just under sixty seconds.

Angie removes her hands from her face.

ANGIE

She won? Thank you Lord.

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - DAY

Tiyesha stands in the ring opposite her opponent.

BEGIN MONTAGE

- Tiyesha shows her great reflexes as she dodges and blocks punches from her opponents.

- We get a flashback of her reflex training in the gym which is clearly implemented in the ring.

MC (V.O.)
Advancing to the next round.
Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

- Tiyesha continues to impress with her box and move style.

JOHNNY
Win this fight and you're through
to the finals.

- Tiyesha dodges jabs from her opponent, she counters with a left then a right followed by an uppercut which sends her opponent crashing to the canvas.

MC (V.O.)
The best of the best. Tiyesha Kala
Ojo.

- Tiyesha celebrates as she holds the trophy in the air. Whilst Johnny looks on proud.

INT. HALL - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Tiyesha sits opposite Johnny as he cuts the tape of her hands. Next to her, the best of the best trophy.

TIYESHA
This is my favorite trophy I have
won so far.

JOHNNY
It's the biggest one yet.

TIYESHA
So what's next coach?

JOHNNY
You deserve a rest. Then we will
look at entering some more local
tournaments.

Suddenly a Man enters clapping his hands together. DON DAVIES (60s) Sleaze ball boxing promoter.

DON
Wow! Impressive performance
Tiyesha.

TIYESHA
Thanks.

DON
I'm Don Davies. Boxing promoter, So
when are you turning pro?

Tiyesha looks at Johnny for support.

JOHNNY
She's not turning pro.

DON
Are you kidding me Johnny? This
girl will light up the light weight
division.

JOHNNY
Don, you know I don't train pro
fighters.

DON
And that's why Lola left your gym.

JOHNNY
Is that all?

DON
Great to meet you Tiyesha.

Don exits the room as Johnny continues removing tape.

TIYESHA
Do you not think I'm good enough to
turn pro?

JOHNNY
It's not that. If you wanted to
turn pro. I would respect your
decision. But I wouldn't trust Don,
at all.

TIYESHA
If I did turn pro. Would you train
me?

JOHNNY
I don't train pro fighters.

Tiyesha looks on disappointed as Johnny removes the final pieces of tape.

EXT. HALL - NIGHT

Tiyesha exits the building carrying her best of the best trophy. Behind her, Don Davies beckons her.

DON

Tiyesha.

Tiyesha looks around and spots Don Davies stepping out of the shadows.

TIYESHA

Don?

DON

Look, I saw your face when Johnny said he doesn't train pro fighters. I wanted to put forward a proposal.

TIYESHA

What proposal?

DON

You leave Johnny and i'll get you hooked up with Eddie Fernandez. He trains seven world champions, currently training the hottest prospect in boxing, Lola Scott. You come and join me and you'll be a world champion in no time.

TIYESHA

Thanks for the offer Don. But my loyalty's lie with Johnny. The man saved me. I can't just turn my back on him.

DON

What, so you just want to compete in these worthless tournaments. You could be earning great money as a prize fighter. Lola Scott is earning a fortune.

TIYESHA

Look, I appreciate the offer..

Don interrupts Tiyesha.

DON
My personal number is on this card.
Think about it.

Don hands Tiyesha a business card. She stares at it pondering what to do as Don exits.

INT. DON'S OFFICE - DAY

Don Davies sits at his desk. Suddenly there is a knock at his door.

DON
Come in.

Phil and Lola Scott enter Don's office.

DON (CONT'D)
Thanks for coming.

An anxious Phil takes a seat opposite Don alongside Lola.

PHIL
What's the emergency Don?

DON
Lola's opponent has pulled out the fight.

PHIL
Why?

DON
Injury.

PHIL
Great.

DON
Don't worry, we will still get Lola on the card, we just need to find her a suitable replacement.

PHIL
Don, do you know how hard Lola has trained for this fight.

DON
I know, believe me, I'll find her an opponent. Trust me.

Don gives off a sleazy grin.

INT. HOME - DAY

Angie enters the living room, shocked to see Tiyesha sat on the couch.

ANGIE

Tiyesha? Why aren't you at the academy?

TIYESHA

I didn't feel like training today. I texted Johnny, He understood.

ANGIE

I can tell something is bothering you, what is it?

TIYESHA

What's your thoughts on earning money through boxing?

ANGIE

The bible contains many verses about money and using your God-given talents, just like in Proverbs 10:4, diligent hands bring wealth.

TIYESHA

I mean, is there a sin to creating wealth through boxing.

ANGIE

Money can be the root of all evil. It depends if it causes you to be distracted by your faith.

TIYESHA

I feel that's what Johnny is afraid off.

ANGIE

It's about not giving into temptation.

TIYESHA

I've been offered to join a very successful boxing promoters stable. There's just one problem.

ANGIE

What's the problem?

TIYESHA

Johnny doesn't train pro fighters
and I don't want to lose Johnny,
but I also don't want to throw away
this opportunity.

ANGIE

My best advice is, let the lord
guide you.

INT. DON'S OFFICE - DAY

Don sits at his desk, frantically flipping through his book
of contacts. He makes a call on mobile phone.

DON

Hi Jim, It's Don Davies. I was just
calling you to find out the
availability of Destiny Diamond? OK
No worries. Thank you.

Don ends the call and leans back into his chair looking
frustrated.

DON (CONT'D)

Why is no one available to fight?
Wait a second.

Don makes a call on his mobile.

DON (CONT'D)

Deborah. I'm heading out for a few
hours. Any important calls, just
tell them I'm out on business for
the afternoon.

Don ends the call, he gets up from his seat and exits the
office.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Johnny stands opposite Tiyasha holding up two pads as she
throws left and rights.

JOHNNY

Nice work. Grab some water.

Don Davies enters the building.

DON

Johnny. Can I have a quick chat?

JOHNNY

Sure. What can I do you for Don?

DON

I just wanted to stop by and offer Tiyesha an exclusive fight on my next pay per view.

JOHNNY

Oh yeah, and who will she be facing?

DON

Lola Scott.

JOHNNY

No.

DON

Hear me out.

JOHNNY

I said no.

DON

Trainer with new blood against someone you refused to train.

JOHNNY

I take it the fight will be at lightweight?

DON

No... Featherweight.

JOHNNY

Absolutely not.

DON

I'm prepared to pay Tiyesha forty thousand dollars. It would be the co-main event. It's a win - win situation.

JOHNNY

And when is the fight scheduled?

DON

In six weeks.

JOHNNY

Six weeks. Forget it.

TIYESHA

Hold on Johnny. Can't we talk about this?

JOHNNY

There is no way you can lose the weight in time to make Featherweight.

DON

I get it, you're worried about Lola's skill set compared to Tiyesha's. Remember Johnny, you had the opportunity to train Lola but you turned it down.

JOHNNY

Have you finished disrupting my training session?

DON

Think about my offer.

Don exits the building with a grin on his face.

TIYESHA

You don't think I can beat her do you?

JOHNNY

Tiyesha it's not that, you know how I feel about pro fights.

Tiyesha storms out the building as Johnny watches on.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Tiyesha wait!

INT. HOME - DAY

Tiyesha arrives home feeling dejected.

TIYESHA

Mom, I'm home.

Tiyesha checks the kitchen.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Mom?

She enter the living room to find Angie passed out on the floor.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Mom!

She rushes over to her Mom.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Mom? Mom?

Angie doesn't respond. Tiyesha pulls out her mobile phone.

OPPERATOR (V.O.)

911, what's your emergency?

TIYESHA

I need an ambulance. Hurry!

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Tiyesha sits in the waiting room, a female doctor approaches her.

DOCTOR

Miss Ojo?

Tiyesha jumps up from her seat.

TIYESHA

Yes.

DOCTOR

Your Mom is stable. We're still running tests to determine what caused the fall.

TIYESHA

Is she gonna be okay?

DOCTOR

She will remain in hospital until we conclude all our tests.

TIYESHA

Okay, thank you doctor.

Tiyesha takes a seat in the waiting area. A man in a suit sits next her, Tiyesha turns to see Don Davies.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

(shocked)

Don? What are you doing here?

DON

I stopped by at your home. Your neighbor said your Mom had some kind of fall, so I wanted to come and see how she was doing.

TIYESHA

They're going to run a few tests to determine what caused the fall.

DON

Hopefully you'll get some answers.

TIYESHA

Hopefully.

DON

The reason I'm here is because, I wanted to speak to you away from Johnny.

TIYESHA

Is this about the fight.

DON

Hear me out. Your Moms medical bill. I'll take care of it.

TIYESHA

Really?

DON

Providing you sign the contract to fight Lola Scott.

TIYESHA

I don't know, I mean Johnny..

Don interrupts.

DON

Forget Johnny. Think about you Tiyasha. Forty thousand dollars. And your Moms medical bill taken care off. All you have do is sign on the dotted line.

Don pulls out the contract. He hands it to Tiyasha.

DON (CONT'D)

Once the fight is over. You'll walk away with forty thousands dollars. It will be in your account the next day.

Tiyesha hesitates.

TIYESHA
Okay, I'll sign it.

Don hands Tiyesha a pen.

DON
Congratulations Tiyesha.

Don stands up with a huge grin on his face.

DON (CONT'D)
There is one stipulation.

TIYESHA
What's that?

DON
If you don't make the weight. Then
you won't get paid.

TIYESHA
Wait? You never told me that.

DON
I just wanted to make it clear. By
weigh in day. If you haven't made
the weight. The fight is off and
you don't get paid.

Don exits the building as Tiyesha looks on regretting her
decision.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Tiyesha enters the building.

JOHNNY
You're late.

Tiyesha looks at Johnny. Her face full of remorse.

TIYESHA
Johnny I'm sorry.

JOHNNY
It's fine. Just don't be late
again.

TIYESHA
I signed to fight Lola.

JOHNNY

You did what?

TIYESHA

My Mom she had a fall, I was at the hospital and Don blind sided me with a contract.

JOHNNY

You do realize. You have six weeks to make weight.

TIYESHA

Johnny, I know you don't train pro fighters. But I need you. Without you I can't do this.

JOHNNY

Sorry Kid. You're on your own.

Johnny turns his back and begins walking away.

TIYESHA

Johnny before you walk away. Are you practicing what you preach.

JOHNNY

Kid, I told you from the start I don't train pro fighters.

TIYESHA

Ask yourself, what would God do? Right now I need your help. You know the holy thing to do is to help me. Christians help each other. I can't do this without you Johnny.

Johnny stands torn, unsure what to do.

TIYESHA (CONT'D)

Johnny, I promise you. I will give you my all.

JOHNNY

You realize this will be the toughest fight of your life. You're giving up weight, there's no head guards. It's not like the amateurs.

TIYESHA

I know. But with you in my corner and God by my side. I know he will lead us to victory.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Tiyesha helps Angie through the door.

TIYESHA

Take it easy.

ANGIE

I told you I don't need help. All
My test results came back fine.

TIYESHA

Mom, you had a fall because you've
been doing too much lately, the
doctor said you gotta rest up and
take care of yourself.

ANGIE

What am I going to do with myself?
I can't just sit around all day.

TIYESHA

Between training I'll be coming
home to take care of you.

ANGIE

Don't worry about me, you have to
stay focused for your big fight.

TIYESHA

Mom, you've taken care of me all my
life. It's about time I repaid the
favor.

Angie looks at her daughter with pride.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

Johnny stands opposite Tiyesha.

JOHNNY

We have six weeks until the big
fight. Let's begin!

BEGIN MONTAGE

- Tiyesha runs on a treadmill wearing a sweat suit as she
shows struggle on her face whilst dripping in sweat.

INT. HOME - DAY

- Tiyesha prepares dinner, she places two plate on the table and fills one plate with jerk chicken, rice and peas. Angie Sides the plate towards her.

ANGIE

Looks great. Thank you.

- Tiyesha places a plain chicken breast with some broccoli on her plate. as she sits eating it looking frustrated as her Mom tucks into her delicious looking food.

EXT. RUN DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

- Tiyesha jogs through the run down neighborhood.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

- Tiyesha weighs herself on the scales to see 135 pounds.

- In the gym, Tiyesha continues to work on her cardio, sweating it out on the exercise bike.

- Tiyesha weighs herself to see 134 pounds.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

- Tiyesha sits on the couch watching TV, she begins channel surfing, every channel shows tasty looking food commercials, she continues to flick through the channels only to see more food related shows, she turns the TV off in frustration.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

- Tiyesha sprints on the treadmill on an incline, wearing an high altitude mask.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Tiyesha helps her Mom into bed.

TIYESHA

Night Mom.

ANGIE

Good night my dear.

Tiyesha heads to her bedroom. She crashes on her bed, looking exhausted.

INT. PITBULL CHRISTIAN BOXING ACADEMY - DAY

- Johnny watches on as Tiyesha spars with her opponent in the ring. He nods to himself knowing she has given her all.

- Tiyesha weighs herself, she looks down at the weight looking on relieved to see 125 pounds.

END MONTAGE

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

A crowd gather for the fight weigh in and press conference. First up Tiyesha steps onto the scales.

MC

Tiyesha Kayla Ojo, 125 Pounds.

Tiyesha salutes the crowd as she steps of the scales. Next up Lola steps on the scales whilst flexing to the crowd.

MC (CONT'D)

Lola Scott, 126 Pounds.

The crowd cheer for Lola. As Don gets them to face off for the cameras.

DON

Okay Ladies. Let's have a head to head.

They stare each other down.

LOLA

You're going to wish you never stepped in the ring with me.

Tiyesha keeps her composure as she stares down Lola.

DON

Face the front.

The two ladies face the front, flexing and posing for the cameras.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

At the press conference table, Lola sits alongside her Dad Phil, whilst Tiyesha is accompanied by Johnny.

DON

This Saturday we have a great co-main event, featuring the breakout star of boxing. Lola Scott who takes on Tiyesha Kayla Ojo, who is making her professional debut. Questions?

REPORTER 1 (V.O.)

Lola, obviously your original opponent pulled out due to injury, how do you feel about her replacement?

LOLA

Honestly.. It's a massive step down.

Tiyesha interrupts her.

TIYESHA

Step down?

LOLA

You heard me a step down.

REPORTER 2 (V.O.)

You say step down, but Tiyesha has a really good amateur record. Boxing experts are expecting this to be a tricky fight for you.

LOLA

Everyone has a good amateur record. When they turn pro. It's a different story. And Tiyesha will find that out on Saturday night.

TIYESHA

We'll see.

REPORTER 3 (V.O.)

Tiyesha you did an interview this week and said boxing saved you. Could you elaborate more on that.

LOLA

Allow me. This girl is a criminal,
She's nothing more than a street
thug. On Saturday night... Not even
God will be able to save you from
the beating you're about to get.

Tiyesha stands up ready to fight.

JOHNNY

Tiyesha.

Johnny looks at Tiyesha.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

It's what she wants.

Tiyesha takes a seat.

TIYESHA

You keep running that mouth of
yours. I'll do my talking in the
ring on Saturday night.

DON

There you go folks. What a fight we
have on our hands.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - BACKSTAGE - DAY

Tiyesha and Johnny make their way backstage.

JOHNNY

You did good out there kid. She was
just trying to get in your head.
Her Dad was the master of getting
into his opponents heads.

TIYESHA

I held back on so many things she
said.

JOHNNY

Which is good. Your self control
and discipline were on point.

TIYESHA

Do you think I've got a shot at
winning.

JOHNNY

I think if you carry out the game plan. You have a great shot at winning.

TIYESHA

Thanks Johnny.

JOHNNY

The fight won't be easy. But I have all the faith in the world that come Saturday night. Your hand will be raised in victory.

INT. HALL - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

It's fight night and backstage in Tiyasha's dressing room, Tiny sits in the dressing room, soaking up the atmosphere whilst Tiyasha hands are wrapped. An eagle eyed Phil watches over Johnny's shoulder.

JOHNNY

Phil, do you want to check these.

Phil begins to check over Tiyasha's hand wraps.

PHIL

I'm not happy with these.

JOHNNY

What's wrong with them?

PHIL

It feels like you have put something over the knuckles.

JOHNNY

Phil, how long have you known me?

PHIL

Besides the point, this is my daughters life on the line. You're going to have to do them again.

A frustrated Johnny begins to unwrap his hand wraps as a smug Phil watches.

INT. HALL - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Tiyasha stands in the dressing room wearing her shorts with the words "TKO" on the front. Don Davies enters the room.

DON
It's showtime.

TINY
Good luck Tiyesha. I'll be cheering
from ringside.

Tiny exits the dressing room, followed by Tiyesha and Johnny.
Leaving Don by himself.

DON
Good luck. You're gonna need it.

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - NIGHT

Tiyesha begins her ring walk as Johnny walks beside her.

MC
Ladies and Gentleman Please welcome
to the ring, Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

The crowd boo heavily as she makes her way to the ring, she
remains focused and ready. Tiyesha climbs into the ring as
the crowd greet her with loud boos.

MC (CONT'D)
And her opponent. Lola Scott.

Lola makes her way towards the ring as the crowd cheer for
her loudly. She climbs into the ring and receives huge
applause from the crowd.

MC (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentleman this is a 10
round featherweight contest.
Introducing first, making her
professional debut. Tiyesha Kayla
Ojo.

The crowd boo.

MC (CONT'D)
Her opponent Lola Scott.

The crowd cheer for Lola. In the corner Johnny gives Tiyesha
some final instructions.

JOHNNY
Take your time. Don't rush your
shots. Remember everything we've
worked on, tonight it all comes
into play.

A psyched up Tiyesha nods.

MC (V.O.)
Seconds out, round one.

The bell sounds as both fighters head to the centre of the ring, Lola throws a jab but misses.

JOHNNY (O.S)
Three options. Duck, block or take
that shot.

Tiyesha throws a jab back which catches Lola. Tiyesha shows off her footwork and movement as he slips and slides, making Lola miss her shots. She gets caught with a quick one two combo by Tiyesha.

TIYESHA
Told you I'll do my talking in the
ring.

The bell sounds as both fighters make their way back to their corner stools. Johnny squeezes some water into Tiyesha's mouth as she sits listening to his instructions.

JOHNNY
Good round. You're making her miss
her shots. When you see the
opportunity. You take your shots.

Tiyesha gets up of her stool.

MC (V.O.)
Seconds out, round two.

Round two get's underway and we're straight into the action, Tiyesha throws her jab which catches Lola, she moves in and unloads a flurry of punches catching Lola with some hard shots. Lola raises his arms in the air to taunt Tiyesha.

LOLA
I ain't hurt.

The pair trade shots as round two becomes explosive, the bell sounds as the crowd cheer while the pair exchange words.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Keep coming, you ain't lasting ten
rounds.

TIYESHA
We'll see.

In the corner Johnny applies vaseline over Tiyesha's eyebrows whilst giving her some instructions.

JOHNNY

Don't use all your energy. Your energy levels will drain quicker than hers. Be smart with your punches.

TIYESHA

Okay.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out. Round three.

Tiyesha gets up from her stool as the bell sounds, she heads to the centre of the ring as Tiny cheers Tiyesha on from the ringside.

TINY (O.S)

Doing great Tiyesha.

Tiyesha throws a jab which catches Lola, Tiyesha continues to show her impressive footwork moving around the ring as Lola tries to cut her off.

LOLA

You can't run from me the whole fight.

Lola moves in and throws a couple of shots catching Tiyesha as she tries to cover up, she grabs hold of Lola who throws a sneaky body shot before the referee pulls them apart.

LOLA (CONT'D)

Felt those shots didn't you.

The bell sounds for the end of round three as they head back to their corners.

JOHNNY

Every time you throw your jab it's troubling her, keep hitting her with the jab.

Tiyesha nods and gets up from her stool as they head into the fourth round, both fighters head to the centre of the ring with their gloves up ready. Tiyesha throws her jab which catches Lola as she continues to move around the ring.

PHILL (O.S)

Come on Lola. You gotta work her.

Lola rushes his punches missing Tiyesha each time. Tiyesha punishes her as she hits her with the jab. Lola continues to walk forward but gets caught with Tiyesha's jab each time.

LOLA

Dam-it.

The bell sounds as a frustrated Lola heads to her corner. She takes a seat on her stool as Phil gives out some instructions.

PHIL

You need to start putting combinations together, she is out jabbing you, so hit and move, one two, move.

Lola nods as she gets up off the stool.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round five.

The round gets underway as Lola begins to move in throwing combination shots at Tiyesha, who gets caught by a left jab followed by a right.

PHIL (O.S.)

There we go! That's what I'm talking about.

Lola begins to up her work rate, throwing more shots in the round catching Tiyesha who tries to cover up. The bell sounds as Lola heads to her corner.

PHIL (CONT'D)

That was a better round.

Over in Tiyesha's corner, Johnny gives Tiyesha some important instructions.

JOHNNY

That was her round. Don't worry you're still ahead. Cover up and throw that jab. Don't let these rounds slip away from you.

Tiyesha gets up of her stool for round six.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round six.

The bell sounds as both fighters head to the centre of the ring, with Tiyesha throwing her jab catching Lola, Tiyesha throws a left followed by a right jab that catches Lola.

PHIL (O.S)
Jab and move. Jab and move.

Lola responds with a jab of her own, the pair trade shots as the last part of the round turns into a slugfest with both fighters throwing everything they've got.

JOHNNY
No! Cover up. Cover up.

The bell sounds as the crowd erupt. A tired looking Tiyesha heads back to her corner, she takes a seat on her stool while breathing heavy.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
How you feeling?

TIYESHA
Tired.

JOHNNY
Here, drink some water.

Tiyesha drinks some water before spitting it into the bucket.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Don't get drawn into a slugfest.
You're playing into their game
plan.

MC (V.O.)
Seconds out, round seven.

A tired looking Tiyesha heads out as Lola puts the pressure on her, throwing her jab which catches Tiyesha, the pair tie up as Lola hits her with a body shot until the referee pulls them apart.

TIYESHA
Referee, Cheap shot.

LOLA
Shut up.

Tiyesha throws her jab which misses as Lola catches her with a left then right as a tired looking Tiyesha grabs holds of her opponent.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Regretting stepping into the ring
with me yet?

Lola throws a left jab followed by a right to the body, the bell sounds as Lola makes her way to her corner confidently.

PHIL
 She's tired. She ain't got nothing
 left.

In Tiyesha's corner she sits on her stool breathing heavily.

JOHNNY
 Nine minutes to go. Breathe, keep
 breathing. Don't let this fight
 slip away.

MC (V.O.)
 Seconds out. Round eight.

Tiyesha gets up of her stool ready for round eight as the
 bell sounds.

LOLA
 Ready to lose another round.

Tiyesha heads to the centre of the ring and begins putting
 Lola under pressure throwing her jab which connects flush
 with Lola's chin stunning her.

JOHNNY
 You hurt her!

Tiyesha moves in and unloads a fury of punches sending Lola
 down to the canvas as the fans erupt and begin a loud "TKO"
 chant.

TINY
 Wait a go Tiyesha! Wait a go.

Tiyesha heads to her corner as the referee begins his count.
 He gets to five as Lola gets back to her feet.

JOHNNY (O.S)
 Be smart. Don't leave yourself
 open.

Tiyesha moves in ready to pounce but Lola is saved by the
 bell as both fighters make their way back to their corners.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 Great round, you are two rounds
 away from winning this. You saw the
 opening, you took it. How you
 feeling.

TIYESHA
 I'm running on empty.

JOHNNY
It's time to find that reserve.

MC (V.O.)
Seconds out, round nine.

Tiyesha gets up from her stool and heads to the centre of the ring as Lola rushes towards her trying to catch her with jabs that miss due to Tiyesha's footwork and movement.

JOHNNY
Nice work Tiyesha.

As Lola moves in on Tiyesha, she continues to glide around her opponent, until their feet tangle, causing Tiyesha to slip on the canvas. The referee begins the count.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You gotta be kidding me! She slipped.

A worried Don Davies looks over towards the judges table. He nods at two of the judges scoring the fight. MARCO LOPEZ (40s) and JEAN-PIERE LAMAR (60s).

TIYESHA
Referee, I slipped.

As the bell sounds, a frustrated Tiyesha makes her way to the corner.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Angie sits in front of the television.

ANGIE
What? Are you kidding me? She slipped?

INT. HALL - BOXING RING - SAME

Tiyesha sits on her stall, shocked by the referees decision.

TIYESHA
The referee counted that as a knock down. I slipped.

JOHNNY
I know you did. It's like what I told you before.
(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You can't trust Don Davies. That's
now a knockdown each.

Over in Lola's corner, Phil gives his final instructions to Lola.

PHIL

This is the last round, make every
shot count and do what ever it
takes to win.

In Tiyesha's corner, Johnny instructs Tiyesha.

JOHNNY

You fought a tremendous fight here
kid. They're trying to cheat you
out of victory. This is your round.

MC (V.O.)

Seconds out, round ten.

The crowd cheer as round ten gets underway, Lola moves in
weary of Tiyesha's jab.

JOHNNY (O.S)

This is your round!

Tiyesha moves around the ring as Lola continues to stalk her
every move. Lola misses with a jab, as the pair tie up near
the ropes

REFEREE

Break.

The referee pulls the pair apart. Lola moves in throwing
several jabs as Tiyesha moves her head side to side.

JOHNNY (O.S)

Remember, duck, block or take the
shot.

Lola throws a straight jab which is blocked by Tiyesha. She
sees an opening and throws a vicious jab at Lola which stuns
her.

JOHNNY (O.S) (CONT'D)

Take the shot!

Tiyesha moves in and catches Lola with a deafening hook, as
Lola winces in pain. She tries throwing a jab back, but
Tiyesha treats her like the noodle and dodges every shot.

TINY (O.S)

Go Tiyesha!

A straight jab followed by a hook to the head is enough to send Lola to the canvas. As the referee send Tiyesha back to her corner.

PHIL
Referee. Elbow! Elbow!

Johnny looks on confused by the allegation. As Phil jumps up on the apron complaining to the referee.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Referee, she caught her with an elbow.

Lola gets to her feet complaining.

LOLA
That was an illegal shot.

Tiyesha turns to Johnny.

TIYESHA
I caught her with a flush shot?

The referee indicates to the judges.

REFEREE
No knock down.

JOHNNY
What?

The bell sounds as the fight comes to an end, the crowd heavily boo. As a disappointed Tiyesha walks over to her corner.

TIYESHA
How can the referee not score that as a knock down.

JOHNNY
Don't worry, it's in the judges hands. I've got you several rounds up.

Tiny joins them in the ring.

TINY
You won that fight.

The referee summons both fighters to the centre of the ring.

MC

Ladies and Gentleman. After ten rounds of boxing, we go to the judges score cards.

TINY

Here we go.

MC

Judge George Mendez scores the contest 95 - 94 to Tiyesha Kayla Ojo.

The crowd cheers.

MC (CONT'D)

Judge Marco Lopez and Jean-Piere Lamer both score the contest. 95 - 95. The contest is a draw.

The crowd boo, as Johnny shakes his head in disbelief, whilst Don Davies looks on uncomfortable.

INT. BOXING RING - SAME

A TV interviewer gets into the ring to interview the fighters.

INTERVIEWER

Lola, if we could grab a quick word from you.

The crowd boo.

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

How do you sum up your performance tonight? Do you think the score cards reflect on your performance?

LOLA

I felt I caught her with the more cleaner shots. She caught me with an elbow.

The crowd boo.

INTERVIEWER

Our broadcast team reviewed the footage and it appears she caught you with a clean shot.

The crowd cheer.

LOLA

My team will review the footage.
The point is, she didn't win the
fight.

INTERVIEWER

And neither did you?

LOLA

But I didn't lose either.

Phil interrupts the interview.

PHIL

We're done now.

Phil and Lola exit the ring to huge boos from the crowd.

INTERVIEWER

Tiyesha..

The crowd erupt for their new favorite.

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

How do you feel about the judges
score cards, did you think you did
enough to win the fight?

TIYESHA

I felt I won a lot of the rounds, I
caught her with a clean shot and
knocked her down twice.

INTERVIEWER

Will we see a rematch?

The crowd cheer.

TIYESHA

I'd love to do it again, I think
these people would love to see it
again. Am I right?

The crowd cheer.

INTERVIEWER

Tonight, you certainly caught the
fans imagination. Congratulations.

Tiyesha raises her hand in victory as the crowd salute her.

INT. HALL - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Tiyesha walks backstage congratulated by everyone she passes.

TIYESHA
That fight was never a draw.

JOHNNY
You won that fight kid.

Tiny interrupts.

TINY
I can't believe the judges didn't
score the second knock down.

TIYESHA
One of them did.

Suddenly Don Davies bumps into Tiyesha, Tiny and Johnny
backstage.

JOHNNY
What sort of a decision was that
Don?

DON
These.. Foreign judges. It's hard
to understand what they look for
whilst scoring a fight.

DON (CONT'D)
Look, let me make it up to you.

JOHNNY
Don, after tonight, we're done.

DON
Hear me out. Tiyesha surprised a
lot of people tonight, myself
included.

JOHNNY
Not me.

Tiyesha looks at Johnny.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
I see the work this girl puts in
day in, day out! I knew she was
going to come here tonight and win
the fight. Which she did.

DON

Well it was a draw. But anyway, Tiyesha has put me in a little spot. You see, tonight Lola was originally set to compete in a world title eliminator. But her opponent pulled out. Which means the winner of this fight would have the opportunity to face the featherweight world champion.

TIYESHA

So what are you trying to say Don?

DON

The winner of the rematch. Will go on to face the champion.

TIYESHA

There's just one problem Don.

DON

What's that?

TIYESHA

I've just retired at featherweight. If Lola wants a rematch. It's light weight or nothing.

DON

But.. But..

Tiyesha, Tiny and Johnny enter the dressing room as Don stands outside the door desperate.

DON (CONT'D)

You could fight for the world title.

INT. HALL - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

They enter the dressing room with smiles on their face.

JOHNNY

Really proud with how you conducted yourself through out the whole of this.

TINY

Yeah, that Lola Scott is a nasty piece of work.

TIYESHA

From now on Johnny, I promise I will not agree to any fights without consulting you about it first.

JOHNNY

That's alright kid. I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

TIYESHA

You think I should continue as a pro.

JOHNNY

I think we should discuss it over Pizza.

TIYESHA

Now we are talking!

TINY

Did you say pizza?

TIYESHA

I have starved myself for six weeks. I am so ready for some pizza.

JOHNNY

Great, get changed. I'll meet you out front.

Johnny exits the dressing room.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

In the hallway, he notices Don Davies entering a room with the two judges Marco Lopez and Jean-Piere Lamer.

JOHNNY

What do we have here?

Tiny and Tiyasha exit the dressing room.

TIYESHA

Where's Johnny?

They spot Johnny standing outside the room.

INT. BACKSTAGE - ROOM - NIGHT

With the door slightly ajar. Don pulls out two envelopes out his jacket.

DON

No one will ever suspect a thing.
This is for you.

Don hands an envelope to Marco.

DON (CONT'D)

And for you.

He hands another envelope to Jean-Piere.

DON (CONT'D)

Keep your heads low for a while.

As Don exits the room, he is met by Johnny, Tiyesha and Tiny.

DON (CONT'D)

Johnny, Tiyesha. Little person. How long have you been here?

JOHNNY

Long enough.

DON

Listen, it's not what it looks like. Johnny, I can explain.

TIYESHA

Oh, we're all ears.

DON

Lola was guaranteed a title shot, I couldn't let anyone jeopardize that. I had to make sure she didn't lose the fight.

TIYESHA

Well tonight God guided me to victory.

DON

Oh please, spare me with the god talk.

Tiny throws a straight jab at Don's nuts. His face shows excruciating pain as drops to his knees holding onto the injured area.

TINY

Get your judges to score that shot.

Don flops to the ground holding his nuts. Johnny looks at Tiny.

TINY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Lord, I have sinned. But he deserved it.

JOHNNY

Pizza time?

TIYESHA

Pizza time.

The trio exit leaving Don on the ground holding his nuts in pain.

TIYESH (O.S.)

I can't believe you punched Don Davies in the nuts!

TINY (O.S.)

I told you my height stops me completing. It was the perfect shot for someone my height.

The trio head for the exit.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

One of my favorite verses from the Bible is from Psalm 37:5. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act.

Our last image is Johnny leading Tiyesha and Tiny out of the building, similar to Jesus leading his disciples.

FADE OUT.