

HELMET HAIR

Written by

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FADE IN:

The SCREEN is BLACK. The CHEERS of a LARGE CROWD ring out.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Laura Diamond drops back to pass;
she lets it go...Touchdown.
(Crowd erupts)
The Stallions win the Victory Bowl.

CUT TO:

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's quiet, dark. Moonlight illuminates through a window.

LAURA DIAMOND (33), lies in bed asleep; her eyes pop open; her beautiful eyes are intense. This blonde natural beauty may look like a rose, but you better watch out for her thorns.

ALARM CLOCK

On a night stand next to the bed. The time reads: **4:59 A.M.**

Laura sits on the side of the bed; she clicks on the bedside lamp. She wears a DALLAS STALLIONS FOOTBALL JERSEY and BOXERS.

Alarm clock RINGS.

LAURA
Beat you again, alarm clock.

Laura turns off the alarm clock; it shows **5:00 A.M.** She rubs her hands across her face, waking herself; it's time to face the day.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Laura, wearing a SPORTS BRA and boxers, walks into the kitchen, a kitchen you wouldn't find in a cheap apartment.

She's gorgeous, a true beauty, tall but under 6'0, and ripped. She the perfect combination of Beauty Queen and Body Builder.

She grabs a REMOTE from the counter and clicks on a wall-mounted FLATSCREEN TV.

SPORTSCENTER is on. SPORTS ANCHOR, (40), male, reporting.

Laura goes into the cabinet and takes out a GLASS and a BOWL and sits them on the counter.

SPORTS ANCHOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
On Sunday, six days from now, is
the start of the UFL regular
season; yes, football is back.

Laura opens the fridge and takes out a carton of eggs.

SPORTS ANCHOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
And so is Tommy Gunn.

Laura looks at the screen.

A headshot graphic of TOMMY GUNN (34), white, face of a Calvin Klein model, is on the screen next to the Sports Anchor.

LAURA
That's a cute picture of you,
Tommy.

Laura sits the eggs next to the glass and bowl. She cracks open two eggs into the glass. She scratches her butt, FARTS.

Laura drinks the eggs. She immediately spits them into the bowl. She looks grossed out, how can anybody drink that. She looks at the TV.

SPORTS ANCHOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
The future Hall Of Fame Quarterback
of the Dallas Stallions is entering
his 12th year under extreme
pressure to finally bring a
championship to Dallas. He's faced
much scrutiny during his career for
putting up elite numbers every
season, but not putting up elite
performances in the playoffs, which
the Stallions have only been to
three times since they drafted
Gunn, losing all three times in the
first round.

LAURA
He's a gorgeous choke artist. With
a sexy butt.

Laura pours the eggs she spit out back into the glass. She drinks, holds it in; spits it into the bowl again.

START MONTAGE

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

Laura runs up and down the bleachers.

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura exercises.

QUICK CUTS

Laura stretching.

Laura doing pushups.

Laura doing sit-ups.

Laura running a 40-yard sprint; she's fast, very fast.

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

Laura stands next to a rack of footballs. FOOTBALL DUMMIES are placed across the field.

She drops back before throwing each ball.

She has great accuracy and a really strong throwing arm.

She throws the last ball deep down field, hitting the dummy square in its center.

END MONTAGE

INT. GYM - DAY

Laura stands in front of a mirror watching her form as she curls dumbbells; her look is intense.

A GUY, 30s, muscle-bound jerkoff, watches Laura workout; he's obviously in to her.

Laura notices him and ignores him. She finishes her set of curls.

Laura walks to a weight bench. She adjusts the weights on the bar; the amount of weight she puts on is impressive, if she can actually lift it.

The Guy watches.

Laura sits on the bench, lies back, prepares to press; she lifts the weight convincingly.

The Guy nods, he's impressed. He walks to Laura.

Laura presses; the Guy stands and watches, a devious grin on his face.

GUY IN GYM

Wow, baby. Lift that thang.

Laura ignores him.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)

You ain't tired yet?

From Laura's perspective he's not even there. Laura presses a couple more times; she slowly pushes the weight bar up one last time, and sits it on the bench rack. She sits up.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)

What's your name, baby girl?

LAURA

Not baby girl.

GUY IN GYM

Then what is it? I'm Chuck.

Laura chuckles.

LAURA

Chuck.

GUY IN GYM

You look familiar. Where do I know you from?

LAURA

I don't know. Pretty blondes are everywhere; this is Texas.

The Guy laughs.

GUY IN GYM

That's true. I like you; you're smart.

LAURA

Shocker, huh?

GUY IN GYM

I got it! You're a Cheerleader for the Stallions. I don't know how I didn't know instantly.

LAURA

It's probably because I'm not dressed like a tramp at the moment.

The Guy laughs harder this time.

GUY IN GYM

So, what do you think about letting me take you out on a date, nameless woman?

LAURA

I think it's time for my next set.

Laura lies down on the bench, adjusts herself, lifts the weight bar; presses.

GUY IN GYM

What? You got a boyfriend or something?

LAURA

I do.

GUY IN GYM

That's too bad because if you didn't we--

LAURA

Even if I didn't.

The Guy doesn't like that.

GUY IN GYM

What? You think you're too good for me?

Laura stares at the ceiling, ignoring him.

The Guy walks closer, looks around; he grabs the weight bar, pushes down. Laura pushes up, struggling to resist.

The Guy pushes the bar down on her neck. Laura struggles to fight back.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)

Look at you, you're pathetic.

The Guy pushes down harder. The strain of being choked beams from Laura's eyes. Laura pushes with all of her might; she's able to create separation between the bar and her neck.

The Guy can't believe her strength.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)
 You know something? I'm too good
 for you.

The Guy let's go of the bar. Laura doesn't have the energy to fully lift the bar, she can barely manage breathing; she fights to keep the bar from choking her.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)
 Does the weak little woman need
 help? Here, let the big strong man
 help.

The Guy lifts the weight bar and sits it on the bench rack. Laura coughs and gasps for air.

GUY IN GYM (CONT'D)
 Later, darlin'.

The Guy looks around, still nobody. He walks away.

Laura breathes.

ESTABLISH

EXT. JAKE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

An apartment building somewhere in Dallas.

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The lights are off. The front door opens and Laura walks in. She turns on a light. It's a typical bachelor pad.

LAURA
 Jake?

There's no response. Laura walks through the apartment.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 Babe, you home?

She hears a woman's MOANS coming from the other side of a door.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Oh, yes!

Laura opens the door and walks in.

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The WOMAN, 20s, is on top of Jake, riding him; they don't notice her standing there.

JAKE

Yeah, ride that bull, Cowgirl.

Laura reaches into her purse. Pulls out a HANDGUN. She FIRES A SHOT into the headboard dangerously close to them.

The Woman hops off of Jake; they cover themselves with the sheets. They look at Laura.

Jake's expression is like a deer caught in the headlights. The Woman looks terrified.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Laura, babe. I wasn't expecting you.

LAURA

Yeah. I guess I should've called.

JAKE

(under his breath)

I shouldn't have given you a key.

Laura takes out the KEY and throws it at Jake, showing off that arm of hers.

Jake instinctively puts out his hands to block; the key hits his hands and he drops it.

LAURA

Wow. No hands.
(to Woman)
You can go.

WOMAN

I'm sorry.

LAURA

Don't be. It's not your fault. Go ahead and get dressed.

The Woman reaches from the bed and picks up her panties. She puts them on underneath the sheets.

She reaches for her bra and grabs it. She has STAR-SHAPED PASTIES covering her nipples.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Nice rack; love the nipple caps.

The Woman awkwardly smiles and puts on her bra. The woman gets out of bed.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Nice body too.

WOMAN
Thanks.

The Woman puts on the rest of her clothes.

LAURA
I don't go both ways. I just have an appreciation for having a good body. And I wanted to see what he cheated on me for. You're okay, but I've seen better.
(beat)
Me.

WOMAN
I know. I've seen you on TV. I love the Stallions. I have you guy's calendar. You have great muscle tone.

LAURA
(sarcastic)
Aww, thanks. I have great muscle power too. Especially in my trigger finger.

The Woman, now completely dressed, grabs her purse and walks to the door, reluctant to pass by Laura.

WOMAN
I didn't know he had a girlfriend.

LAURA
Key word, had.

The Woman walks out. It's just her and Jake now. He looks like a kid who got caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

JAKE
I guess it's a good thing you kept your apartment like you wanted after all.

LAURA

Good guess. Just out of curiosity,
was the problem me, or was it you
just being a typical greedy guy?

Jake alternates his horrified stare between Laura's angry
eyes and her aimed gun.

JAKE

The truth?

LAURA

It's the least you could do.

JAKE

It's you. You don't like me; you
don't like men. I understand that
men aren't the best species at
times--

LAURA

Most times.

JAKE

See, like that. You take male
bashing to a whole other level. I
just needed to feel loved by a
woman.

LAURA

And the Cowgirl made you feel
loved?

JAKE

Yes; but mostly she made my penis
feel loved.

LAURA

I appreciate your honesty.

JAKE

Look, Laura. You're a great girl,
woman. You just gotta lighten up;
you're too intense. I know it's
mostly because of your football
thing.

Laura waves the gun at him.

LAURA

Oh, my football thing?

Jake isn't subtle about moving his head out of the line of
fire.

JAKE

I mean, come on, Laura. Do you actually think you have a chance at playing male pro ball? You would die playing in the UFL; stick to cheering in it.

Laura nods; she respects his opinion.

Laura pretends to accidentally FIRE the gun. A BULLET whizzes pass the side of Jake's head and into the headboard.

Jake sits in bed practically hyperventilating.

LAURA

Oops. Sorry about that. It's a good thing I'm only a crack shot when I wanna be.

Laura gives him a look. Jake knows the look. He should be dead meat.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Bye, Jake.

Laura leaves.

Jake sits in bed. SIGH of relief. Hears multiple GUNSHOTS and his possessions being destroyed. He's mortified.

ESTABLISH

EXT. HOUSTON STADIUM - DAY

The stadium is huge and impressive; obviously a lot of money went into it.

FANS stand in line waiting to enter the stadium; other FANS tailgate in the parking lot.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

PLAYERS from the DALLAS STALLIONS and the HOUSTON GUNSLINGERS do pregame stretches and warm-ups.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

On the sideline, Laura and the other Stallions CHEERLEADERS stretch.

Laura watches Tommy Gunn throw a football back and forth with STEVE, 40s, white, Quarterbacks Coach.

RAMONA "MONA" DIAMOND, 30, Laura's gorgeous blonde sister, stretches next to Laura. She catches Laura staring at Tommy.

MONA

See something you like?

LAURA

Yeah. But not what you think.

MONA

I think it is what I think. He does have a sexy butt.

Laura looks; how did she?

MONA (CONT'D)

I heard you in the kitchen this morning when I went to go tinkle.

LAURA

Yeah. So? That's still not what I was looking at.

Laura walks over to Tommy.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura stands and watches Tommy throw. Eventually, he notices her.

TOMMY

Sorry, Laura. I'm not signing autographs right now.

LAURA

That's cute. But, no thanks. The only players worth getting autographs from have rings.

TOMMY

Ouch.

Laura continues watching him throw.

LAURA

You do have a great arm though.

TOMMY

Thanks, I guess.

LAURA
You mind if I try?

Tommy hands her the football. Chuckles.

TOMMY
Go for it.

Laura snatches the football.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Feisty. Do you want me to tell
Steve to move closer?

LAURA
Nah. I'm good.

Laura throws the football, showing off her strong arm.
Tommy's shocked and impressed.

TOMMY
Wow. At least your arms aren't
overly tone for nothing.

Steve throws the football; Laura catches it.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Wait a second.

Laura halts.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
(yells)
Hey, Steve. Step back ten yards.

Steve smiles and steps back.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
(to Laura)
Go ahead.

LAURA
You could've had him step back
twenty yards.

TOMMY
Excuse me.
(to Steve)
Go back ten more yards.

Steve steps back ten more yards.

ON THE FIELD NEARBY

HEAD COACH CHUCK HERN, 60s, white, the no nonsense type, converses nearby with COACH DANNY GREEN, 50s, black, the Defensive Coordinator.

Coach Hern spots Laura and watches; Coach Green looks and does the same.

LAURA

Do you want me to do a three-step drop?

TOMMY

Sure. By the way, you look very cute in your Cheerleading warm-ups.

LAURA

(like a ditzy blonde)

Like, oh my God. Thanks.

Tommy laughs. Laura does a three-step drop back and slings the football down the field to Steve, who's fifty yards away.

Steve catches the ball.

Tommy, Steve, as well as Coaches Hern and Green are impressed.

Players on both teams notices as well; what they been feeding her.

TOMMY

You can throw.

LAURA

Not bad for a woman, huh?

TOMMY

Not bad for anybody.

Laura's flattered. Tommy signals for the ball. Steve throws it to him.

LAURA

Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of playing quarterback in the pros.

TOMMY

Yeah? Too bad there's not a female football league; besides the one where they play in their panties.

LAURA
I wanna play with the men.

TOMMY
Yeah, that's definitely a dream.

LAURA
What? You think a woman couldn't
play with you guys?

TOMMY
Uh, hell no. She would die from the
first hit. I don't know how you
think a woman could.

LAURA
There's ways to avoid taking hits.
Get rid of the ball quickly; and
I'm a great scrambler.

TOMMY
Your brain would get scrambled. No
matter how hard you try not to,
you're gonna get hit. This is
football. That's the problem with
women; you really think you're
equal to men in every single way.

LAURA
If I got the chance to play, I bet
I could take the Stallions to the
Victory Bowl, something you haven't
been able to do since they drafted
you, 12 YEARS AGO; some number one
pick.

That one stung.

TOMMY
Don't you have some cheering to get
ready to do? Later.

Tommy goes back to warming up. He throws the ball to Steve.

Laura turns to leave, huge grin on her face, knowing she put
him in his place.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - LATER

It's Gametime. The stadium is packed, the CROWD ROARING.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

The first game of the season is about to get underway. You can tell by the roaring of the crowd that they're ready for some football.

The Gunslingers line up to kick the ball off. The Stallions prepare to receive.

The Gunslingers' KICKER, 20s, white, signals and kicks the ball.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Here we go.

The football sails down the field.

The Stallions' KICK RETURNER, 20s, black, catches the ball in front of the endzone; runs. He avoids a couple of hits before being tackled on the 20 YARD LINE.

The Special Teams run off the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Tommy stands next to Coach Hern, helmet already on.

COACH HERN

Go get it, Tommy. This is the year. We got you everything you need on Offense.

Coach Hern pats Tommy on the butt. Tommy runs onto the field.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Tommy jogs to meet the rest of the Offense who are already on the field.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

This is a big year for Tommy Gunn. When the Stallions drafted him number one they didn't think ten years would go by and still no Championship. Tommy is a great quarterback statistically, but we all know players are measured by championships. Maybe this is finally the year he gets the Stallions over the hump.

Tommy and the Offense huddle while the Gunslingers' DEFENSE stand in wait.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Here's his first test against the
Houston Gunslingers who are the
favorite to win the Victory Bowl.

The Stallions break huddle and walk to the line of scrimmage.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura and the rest of the Cheerleaders shake their pom-poms, her eyes focused on the Offense.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy is under Center.

TOMMY
(shout)
Blue 88, Blue 88; set hut.

VICTOR ROSS, 30s, white, the Center, snaps the ball to Tommy. Tommy drops back.

BERNIE DIAZ, 20s, Latino, Offensive Lineman, gets beat by a Gunslingers DEFENSIVE END.

The Defensive End lays a brutal hit on Tommy, falling on top of him as he brings him down.

Tommy hits the turf, breaking his fall with his right shoulder, his throwing shoulder. There's a loud SNAP.

The Defensive End gets off of Tommy and celebrates getting a sack. Tommy rolls on the turf in pain, clinching his right shoulder.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Clyde Simpson celebrates getting
his first sack of the season.
Tommy's hurt bad. The first play of
the game; that's unfortunate.

The Stallions' MEDICAL STAFF run out onto the field. The Stallions TEAM DOCTOR checks on Tommy.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura looks on in suspense.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Offense stand around Tommy, hoping it's not too bad, but their body language shows they know it is.

RICKY JACKSON, 20s, black, Stallions Runningback, is on one knee, supporting his weight on his helmet as he PRAYS.

Bernie looks distraught. MIKE JONES, 20s, black, Offensive Lineman, comforts his teammate with a pat on the shoulder.

MIKE
Don't trip, my dude.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

KYLE TURNER, 23, white, backup Quarterback, warms up his arm, throwing a football back and forth with a TRAINER.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

STALLIONS TEAM DOCTOR
Let's get you to the locker room.

Bernie, guilt on his face, helps the Team Doctor stand Tommy on his feet.

BERNIE
I'm sorry, Tommy.

TOMMY
It happens.

Tommy, the Team Doctor, Bernie, and the Medical Staff walk off the field. They walk to Coach Hern who's clearly concerned.

STALLIONS TEAM DOCTOR
It's his collarbone.

That's not what the Coach wanted to hear.

COACH HERN
Hang in there, Tommy.

Tommy and the Team Doctor head to the locker room; they walk by the Stallions' Cheerleaders.

Laura watches Tommy walk to the tunnel. She has an opportunistic look on her face.

START MONTAGE

EXT. INTERSTATE - DAY

Laura drives along in her heavy duty truck.

INT. LAURA'S TRUCK - SAME

Laura wears an open FLANNEL SHIRT over a Stallions T-SHIRT and JEANS, has no makeup on her naturally beautiful face, and her hair in a "I don't give a damn" ponytail with the facial expression to match.

Mona rides shotgun. Dressed in a TIGHT STALLIONS T-SHIRT and even tighter jeans. She looks into the mirror of a MAKE-UP KIT, touching up her photoshoot ready face. The HAIR is glam.

INT. INTERSTATE - SAME

Laura drives by a HIGHWAY SIGN that reads: AUSTIN City Limit.

EXT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Laura drives up to the two-story home that sits on a ranch.

END MONTAGE

Laura gets out of the truck. Mona gets out.

ELIZABETH DIAMOND, 60s, a blonde natural beauty like her daughters, walks out of the house and onto the porch. She smiles at the sight of her two girls.

The Girls smile back. They walk to each other.

LAURA

Hey, mama. How are you?

Laura and Elizabeth kiss on the cheek; hug.

ELIZABETH

I'm good, sweetie.

Elizabeth opens up her arms to Mona.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

You next.

Mona and Elizabeth kiss on the cheek; hug.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
So, how's Dallas been treatin' you girls?

LAURA
Okay. Me and Jake are over.

ELIZABETH
Oh, sorry to hear that. What happened?

LAURA
His penis got a job as a mechanical bull.

ELIZABETH
(amused)
Oh, I see. His loss.

LAURA
Clearly. Where's daddy?

ELIZABETH
He's in the stable.

MONA
Dallas' treating me fine.

Laura rolls her eyes. Elizabeth laughs.

ELIZABETH
(teasing)
Oh, I'm so sorry, baby. How's your life? Amazing I know.

WALTER DIAMOND, 60s, Laura's father, big mustache, cowboy hat, a true Texan, walks up, taking off WORK GLOVES.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Look, honey. We have guests.

Walter smiles.

WALTER
I see.

Walter kisses Laura on the forehead; they hug tightly for a beat.

LAURA
Hey, daddy.

Walter pats Laura on the shoulder like she's one of the guys.

WALTER

Wow, baby girl. You have more muscle than I do. Are you planning on being a body builder or something? Don't get too muscular. I wanted a boy, but two girls I got, and two girls I wanna keep.

ELIZABETH

Laura's always been your little boy.

Laura rolls her eyes.

MONA

Hey, daddy.

WALTER

Hey, the one I was hopin' to be the boy I didn't get the first time.

Mona laughs. Walter kisses Mona on the forehead; they embrace.

WALTER (CONT'D)

So, what do we owe this wonderful visit?

ELIZABETH

Are you girls staying for dinner?

LAURA

Yeah. I have something to tell you guys.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Walter, Elizabeth, Laura, and Mona sit at the table eating steak, potatoes, and corn.

Laura is the only one actually eating. The other three look at her in a state of shock.

Laura looks up at them as if she doesn't know what their problem is.

LAURA

What?

WALTER

So, let me get this straight; you wanna replace Tommy as quarterback for the Stallions?

LAURA

Yeah.

MONA

You do know Tommy plays quarterback for a team, the team we cheer for, that's in the UFL? The United Football League?

LAURA

Yes. I'm aware.

MONA

Are you freaking nuts?

ELIZABETH

I agree with Mona.

LAURA

Maybe. But I can do it. This is my chance.

MONA

So, that's what the quarterback display was about. And all the training you do. Are you on some super feminist, I am woman, hear me roar psycho kick?

WALTER

Wow, Mona. You didn't know? You're Laura's shadow; I mean you guys are best friends.

ELIZABETH

I'm all about women being able to do anything a man can do, but what you're suggesting is frankly, stupid as hell.

MONA

Yay, mom.

ELIZABETH

I thought you were done being one of the guys. Walter, say something.

WALTER

(excited)

I think she can do it. It's cool.

Laura smiles.

MONA

Dad, you can't be serious?

ELIZABETH

What are you saying, Walter? You think she can play the toughest game on earth with a bunch of muscle bound freaks?

WALTER

There's ways to avoid getting hit.

LAURA

That's what I said.

ELIZABETH

Who else have you told this to?

LAURA

Tommy.

ELIZABETH

He thought it was ridiculous too, right?

LAURA

Tommy's a idiot.

ELIZABETH

So I'm an idiot?

WALTER

Look, guys, Laura is beautiful, but she's always been a tomboy. She's tougher than half the guys in Texas.

LAURA

Thanks, daddy.

WALTER

Laura, don't misunderstand, I'm not as agreeable with this as you think. It's a known fact that men are physically more powerful than women. As much as women hate that fact, it is just that; fact. And these aren't just average men. But I've been your father for 33 years and I know better than to doubt you. You were an amazing girl and now you're an amazing woman.

Laura's touched.

LAURA
Thanks, daddy.

WALTER
Be careful, Laura.

LAURA
I will.

WALTER
So, what's next?

MONA
Her funeral.

ELIZABETH
Let me guess; a test to see if you
can take a beating?

LAURA
Basically. I've been training my
body for this for the last ten
years.

ELIZABETH
My God.

Everyone eats. Mona shakes his head, his sister's crazy.

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura, wearing an OLD PRACTICE UNIFORM, stands on the field
next to COACH VANS, 60s, white, head coach.

The OFFENSE and DEFENSE also stand on the field, dressed in
full pads. They look confused as to what's going on.

COACH VANS
This is Laura. She's a cheerleader
for the Stallions.

COLLEGE PLAYER #1, white, smiles as he checks Laura out.

COLLEGE PLAYER #1
The hottest one.

The Players laugh.

COACH VANS
I've known her family for years
down in Austin. I've known her
since she was a little girl;
(MORE)

COACH VANS (CONT'D)
back when she was kickin' the
little boys' butts in sports,
especially football. The obvious
question is why is she dressed like
a player? The answer is because she
plans to be one, for the Stallions.

The Players look at each other; is she serious?

COACH VANS (CONT'D)
She wants to take over for Gunn.
She's been coming here for years,
throwing the ball around; she does
have the arm.

COLLEGE PLAYER #2
She doesn't have the gender.
There's no way a female could play
in the UFL.

COACH VANS
Well, this female can. Laura's here
because in line with what you just
said, it's highly unlikely that a
woman can handle the punishment
that comes with playing this game
on that level.

COLLEGE PLAYER #1
Pop Warner is always in need of
quarterbacks.

The Players laugh.

COACH VANS
We're gonna run a scrimmage to see
if she can take a hit.

COLLEGE PLAYER #1
This is gonna be quick.

The Players laugh. College Player #1 has a big smile on his
face. Laura looks at him like she wants to take his head off.
He immediately wipes that stupid smile off his face.

LAURA
(to Players)
Don't hold back.

The Players look at her; this chick isn't playing around.

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The Offense is lined up against the Defense. Laura, now with a helmet on, along with the rest of the Players, is under CENTER, white, preparing to take the snap.

LAURA
(shout)
Ready, set, hut.

The Center snaps the football to Laura; she drops back. College Player #1, who's a Defensive End, easily gets by an Offensive Lineman and rushes Laura.

Laura throws the football just before she takes a hard hit. She stays down.

Everyone stops, waiting to see if she can get up. Laura winches in pain, but makes it to her feet.

Coach Vans, standing on the SIDELINE, smiles.

COACH VANS
(yells)
You alright, Laura?

With a look of agony on her face, Laura gives Coach Vans the thumbs up.

The Players look at Laura, impressed. College Player #1 looks upset that she was able to get up.

Laura looks at him, smiles and winks. She looks around at all the Players.

LAURA
Again.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - DAY

Laura walks down the hallway with Mona. Laura looks determined.

MONA
I can't believe you're really doing this. You're crazy, you know that?

Laura looks ahead.

LAURA
Sure do.

Laura walks through the doors of the locker room.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PLAYERS walk around half dressed, some wearing only a towel. Mona enjoys checking out the man candy.

The Players walking around, as well as Players sitting at their lockers notice Laura and Mona; what are they doing?

Laura walks to Coach Hern's office, not acknowledging the men. Laura barges into the Coach's office.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - COACH HERN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Coach Hern sits at his desk, has on reading glasses, looks over paperwork.

He looks up at Laura and Mona.

COACH HERN
Please, come in.

LAURA
Sorry, Coach.

COACH HERN
Forget it. What can I do for you ladies?

LAURA
You can give me the starting quarterback job.

Coach Hern takes off his glasses.

COACH HERN
Give you what now?

LAURA
I wanna take over for Tommy.

Coach Hern has a good laugh; he coughs.

COACH HERN
Great joke, Laura. I didn't know you were a Cheerleader and a Comedian.

Laura looks at him.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
You do understand how ridiculous what you're asking is, don't you?

MONA
He's right, Laura.

LAURA
Look, Coach. I know what I'm asking
seems ridiculous.

COACH HERN
Ha. Seems.

LAURA
I promise I'll work my butt off. I
can make all the throws and I have
a really strong arm.

COACH HERN
I don't care if you have Superman's
arm; a woman can't play football
with men. There's guys in this
league who have forearms bigger
than your head. If you wanna commit
suicide, do it somewhere else. I
suggest you call a hotline.

LAURA
Coach Hern, please.

COACH HERN
Please shut the door behind you.

Coach Hern puts his glasses back on and continues looking
over papers. Laura is visibly frustrated.

LAURA
What is it with you Chucks?

Coach Hern looks up, kind of offended, kind of confused.

Laura storms out. Mona leaves, shuts the door behind her.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - DAY

Laura walks down the hallway with GLORIA STONE, 50s, latin,
dressed in a woman's business suit; they both mean business.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - COACH HERN'S OFFICE - DAY

Coach Hern sits at his desk, reading glasses on, looking over
papers, the usual routine.

There's a KNOCK.

Coach Hern looks up.

COACH HERN

Come in.

Laura enters with Gloria.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)

You're not going to do this
everyday, are you?

Coach Hern takes off his glasses. Gloria walks to the desk,
extends her hand. Coach Hern stands, shakes Gloria's hand.

GLORIA STONE

Hi, I'm Gloria Stone, women's
defense attorney.

COACH HERN

Chuck Hern.

Coach Hern glares at Laura. Laura doesn't flinch.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)

You're really not taking no for an
answer.

GLORIA STONE

Nor should she.

COACH HERN

So, you plan to sue the team,
Laura?

LAURA

I don't want to. I love the
Stallions. They've been my favorite
team since I was a kid.

COACH HERN

I know that.

LAURA

Just let me play.

COACH HERN

Laura.

GLORIA STONE

Is it not common for undrafted
players to earn their way onto
teams?

COACH HERN
She's not a player.

GLORIA STONE
What is she then? According to my client, she is a player. If you're hinting at her gender, I understand your concern. Still, she has the right to equal opportunity in this occupation just like any other. Unless, there's a rule banning women from playing this sport that I don't know about?

COACH HERN
Yeah, the common sense rule. The Owner will never go for this.

GLORIA STONE
Let's find out.

Gloria steps to the side, gestures toward the door.

GLORIA STONE (CONT'D)
After you, Coach.

Coach Hern looks at Laura. He walks from behind the desk and to the door.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - JERRY JOHNSON'S OFFICE - DAY

JERRY JOHNSON, late 40s, white, dressed to kill in a tailored suit with the shirt open at the collar and no tie, an expensive rolex and pinky ring, and a cowboy hat, stands in the center of his spacious office.

He plays a GOLF VIDEO GAME on NINTENDO WII on a GIANT FLATSCREEN TV that's mounted on the wall. He prepares to putt using a GAME CONTROLLER that's shaped like a GOLF CLUB.

Jerry takes a deep breath; the pressure is on.

JERRY JOHNSON
You got this, Jerry.

Jerry putts.

ON FLATSCREEN TV

The Golfer hits the ball; it rolls 10 feet and drops into the hole. The Golfer celebrates the successful putt.

Jerry celebrates as well. He puts the golf club game controller between his legs and rides it like a horse, going around in a circle, smacking himself on the butt.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Jerry doesn't hear it, too busy celebrating.

The door opens and Coach Hern, along with Laura and Gloria, walk in.

Jerry continues to circle the room on his horse, smacking that butt. He takes off his cowboy hat and proceeds to smack his butt with it.

Coach Hern looks disgusted, this guy's a moron. Gloria agrees with Coach. Laura smiles, she's loving it.

Coach Hern loudly clears his throat.

Jerry finally notices them; he's not a bit embarrassed.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Oh. Hey, Coach.

Jerry sits the cowboy hat and game controller on his desk.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

I just sunk a putt that put me ahead three strokes.

COACH HERN

Great. You have guests. You know Laura.

Jerry shakes Laura's hand.

JERRY JOHNSON

It's good to see you, Laura.

LAURA

Hey, Jerry.

COACH HERN

This is Gloria Stone.

Jerry shakes her hand.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)

A woman's defense attorney.

Jerry pulls his hand back.

JERRY JOHNSON

It's not good to see you. What's this about?

COACH HERN

Laura wants to replace Tommy.

JERRY JOHNSON

Replace him doing what?

COACH HERN

What do you think?

Jerry looks confused. Laughs.

JERRY JOHNSON

Quarterback?

COACH HERN

Bingo. I told her yesterday there's no chance, but she's insisting. Hence, Ms. Stone.

GLORIA STONE

If my client isn't allowed a fair chance at playing we will proceed with our lawsuit. I don't think the team needs that kind of distraction. You're already reeling from the loss of Tommy Gunn.

JERRY JOHNSON

(to Coach Hern)

Well, can she throw the ball?

COACH HERN

Who gives a damn? You're missing the obvious.

LAURA

Look, Jerry. Ever since I decided to do this I've heard nothing but doubt; from Tommy, my family, Coach, even from my own common sense. I fell in love with this game at first sight and I refuse to let my gender keep me from playing, from trying. If I get hurt, die, whatever, the team won't be held responsible. I know the risk; and you don't have to pay me, other than my cheerleading salary.

JERRY JOHNSON
Sounds good to me.

Laura smiles. She looks at Gloria. They smile at each other.

COACH HERN
What the hell are you saying?

JERRY JOHNSON
I wanna see if you can throw.

COACH HERN
I saw her throw already; at the
Houston game.

JERRY JOHNSON
Well, can she throw?

COACH HERN
Yeah. And?

JERRY JOHNSON
I wanna see.

EXT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Players stand around, stretching and chatting with each other.

Coach Hern, Jerry, Laura, and Gloria walk onto the field.

The Players notice them and wonder what's going on. Tommy, right arm in a SLING looks at Laura, he knows this can't be good.

COACH HERN
Clear the field except for Victor
and Andre.

The Players do what Coach says.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
We need a ball.

The EQUIPMENT MANAGER, 19, white, runs onto the field and hands Coach Hern a football. The Equipment Manager walks off the field.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
Victor.

Coach Hern tosses the ball to Victor; he catches it.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
 Laura, you're up.

VICTOR
 What's going on, Coach?

COACH HERN
 We all know Laura, right? Well, she
 wants a promotion from Cheerleader
 to Quarterback.

The Players laugh, good one. Coach Hern isn't laughing.

VICTOR
 Coach, you can't be serious?

COACH HERN
 I wish I wasn't.

VICTOR
 You got a death wish or something?

LAURA
 I'll be okay. Even though Tommy
 didn't benefit from it, you guys
 still are the best O-Line in the
 league.

Bernie looks down, remembering that it's his fault Tommy got hurt.

ANDRE
 Isn't there a rule against this?

LAURA
 Apparently, the common sense rule.

GLORIA STONE
 Which doesn't really exist, by the
 way.

JERRY JOHNSON
 Come on, guys. It's a brave new
 world and women are doing amazing
 things in it. Let's just see what
 she can do. Coach?

COACH HERN
 Laura, throw a ten yard slant.
 Victor, Andre, line up.

Reluctantly, Victor lines up at center and Andre at receiver.
 Laura lines up under Center.

LAURA
(shout)
Ready, set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back.

Andre runs the ten yard slant route.

Laura throws a bullet to Andre; he drops the pass.

Jerry's eyebrows raise. The Players and Coaches are shocked as well.

JERRY JOHNSON
Wow. What a arm? Andre? You dropped
it?

The Players can't believe he dropped it either.

ANDRE
I didn't expect her to be able to
throw that hard.

JERRY JOHNSON
Expect the unexpected. Let's see
the deep ball.

Victor, Andre, and Laura look at Coach. He nods, do it. They line up.

LAURA
(shout)
Ready, set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back.

Andre sprints down field.

Laura stands in the pocket, giving Andre time to run down the field. She throws a perfect spiral down field.

Andre catches the ball as he runs into the endzone.

Jerry slow claps, excited.

JERRY JOHNSON
Hot damn, Laura. You're a bad
woman.

Laura smiles.

Tommy walks up to Coach Hern.

TOMMY

Coach, this is crazy. You can't let Laura play.

JERRY JOHNSON

He doesn't have a choice. This is my world, you just live football in it.

TOMMY

Jerry, come on, man. Is money all you care about?

JERRY JOHNSON

I care about Championships too. But, mostly money. That's why you're still here.

Tommy doesn't have a comeback. Laura cracks a subtle grin.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Look, you all keep bringing up how crazy it is for a woman to play because of the inevitable serious injury she would receive, right? If that's the case, then this will be over soon. Until then--

Jerry shakes Laura's hand.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Laura Diamond, welcome to the Dallas Stallions; you know what I mean.

Laura laughs; she's excited.

LAURA

Yeah. Thanks, Jerry.

JERRY JOHNSON

What number do you want on your jersey?

LAURA

Seven.

JERRY JOHNSON

Seven it is. This is gonna be great; your jersey sales are gonna be great. We'll hold a press conference tomorrow and present you to the entire sports world.

LAURA

Okay.

Coach Hern and Tommy don't look too happy.

JERRY JOHNSON

Coach, Tommy, don't look so excited.

Jerry smiles at them; he leaves. Laura and Gloria hug each other, excited. Victory!

GLORIA STONE

Congratulations, Laura.

LAURA

Thanks, Gloria.

Laura looks at Tommy and smiles, "I told you, jerk."

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The conference room is packed with CAMERA CREWS and SPORTS REPORTERS.

Jerry stands at a podium. Laura, wearing a NICE DRESS with her HAIR and MAKEUP done, and Coach Hern, stand beside him.

JERRY JOHNSON

The Stallions Organization is very excited, and very proud to be the first team to have a female player. This is still Tommy's team, but we're confident that Laura can steer the ship until he returns. Who knows, if she plays great, we may let her continue to play even when he's healed.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #1 (O.S.)

If she survives.

JERRY JOHNSON

That too. I know you're eager to ask Laura some questions. So, with no further adieu, I present, Laura Diamond, the starting Quarterback for the Dallas Stallions.

Jerry steps away from the podium. Laura steps to it.

LAURA

Hello, everybody. Let me start off by addressing the obvious elephant in the room. Yes, I'm a woman. Yes, I understand that women aren't physically as strong as men, and the men in this sport are very, very strong. Even so, I still believe I can do this. I won't get hit all the time. I'm confident that the Stallions Offensive Line, the best in the league, will help me to that effect. I love the Stallions Organization; I have since I was a child. I've been a cheerleader here for the past ten years, doing my part to help this team from the sideline; now I'm gonna help from the pocket. Questions?

FEMALE SPORTS REPORTER #1

Hi, Laura. As a woman, as a feminist, I'm all about being on an equal playing field with men, but this is football. There's a lot of men who can't handle playing this game, so what makes you think you can? What makes you think you'll survive the first hit?

LAURA

Obviously, if I gave it much thought I wouldn't be doing this.

Everyone laughs.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #2

So, did you get tired of cheering and thought you'd help the team in a more hands on way?

LAURA

That's cute. But, yeah.

(ditzzy)

"Cheerleading," really isn't my thing. My younger sister Mona loves it though. She cheered in high school, and now with the Stallions. For me, it was a means to an end. Look at it like workin' your way up from the mailroom.

Male Sports Reporter #2 smiles, good line.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #2
About the hits; have you done any type of training which would make the Stallions, as well as yourself, somewhat confident that you can take the punishment?

LAURA
Yes. I had a college defense hit me again and again to see if I could hold up. And here I am.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #2
Well, college kids are one thing. These are grown men.

LAURA
I assure you they hit like grown men.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #3
You're obviously going to play immediately; are you familiar with the Offense?

LAURA
Yes, actually. I still need to immerse myself in the playbook, but like I said, I've been with this organization for ten years and I love the game of football. I always watch the team practice, so I'm pretty familiar with what they do. I also played QB on the Boys Varsity Team in high school. But, like I said, I still need to get down and dirty with the playbook. Coach Hern is a great coach, so I'm sure I'll be fine for Sunday and beyond.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #3
What about your height? Those Linemen will be like skyscrapers.

LAURA
It's called great footwork in the pocket. There's been a few short guys that have played QB.

FEMALE SPORTS REPORTER #2
Why are you doing this? And have you always wanted to be a Pro Quarterback?

LAURA

Didn't I already answer the first part? I see why players don't like doing this.

Everyone laughs.

LAURA (CONT'D)

But to answer your second question, yes, I've always dreamed of playing quarterback in the UFL. I grew up watching the greats lead their teams to victory in fourth quarter game-winning drives, winning the Victory Bowl and becoming World Champions. I dreamed of knowing what that felt like just like the little boys did. Knowing that I'm not a boy is why I haven't pursued it until now.

FEMALE SPORTS REPORTER #2

Why now? You're 33 years old.

LAURA

Tommy's 34; and it's common knowledge that most quarterbacks don't peak in their early 30s. I spent the last ten years training my mind and my body to play quarterback. I didn't want Tommy to get hurt, and I'm not saying this is fate. I'm saying thanks to Jerry Johnson for giving me the chance to be a Victory Bowl Champion, something you can't do in the Bra & Panties Football League.

Laughter fills the room. Jerry steps to the podium.

JERRY JOHNSON

Okay, that all, folks. Isn't she great? Coach?

Jerry and Laura step away from the podium.

Coach Hern walks to the podium.

MALE SPORTS REPORTER #4

What do you think about Laura being your quarterback?

COACH HERN

I think it is what it is.

Coach Hern steps away from the podium.

A STALLIONS EMPLOYEE, 30s, female, walks to Laura and Jerry carrying a FOOTBALL JERSEY. She hands the jersey to Jerry then walks away.

Laura stands between Jerry and Coach Hern, holding up her jersey with the back of it facing out; DIAMOND is written across the top with the number SEVEN beneath.

They pose for a photo.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Laura sits on the couch in GYM SHORTS and a TANKTOP eating a pint of ice cream out of the carton.

She grabs the remote; flips through channels.

ON TV

She stops on a SPORTS TALK SHOW.

Three MEN sit around a table in front of a LIVE STUDIO AUDIENCE.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #1 (V.O.)

(filtered)

Jerry Johnson is a complete moron. I can't believe the Stallions are letting a woman quarterback their team; a cheerleader.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #2 (V.O.)

(filtered)

She's not too bright either, if she really thinks she can play with 250 pound behemoths. This ain't high school.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #3 (V.O.)

(filtered)

You know something, I'm sick of this overly feminist, I can do whatever a man can do crap. If she wants to get broken in half like the twig she is, then so be it. I can't wait for Sunday.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #1 (V.O.)

(filtered)

Whoa. Somebody's angry.

(MORE)

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #1 (V.O.)
 I don't blame you though. This decision makes absolutely no sense. Maybe to women, but I doubt it. Poor Coach Hern; a 20 year future Hall Of Fame Head Coach shouldn't be subjected to this kind of foolishness; especially being a former Defensive Player in the League; Safety. For the Stallions by the way; but that was before Jerry Jackass' time.

Crowd LAUGHS.

Sports Talk Show Host #1 looks into the camera.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #1 (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 We feel for ya, Chuck. Hey, Laura Diamond; chick, you're crazy.

The other Hosts laugh OFFSCREEN.

SPORTS TALK SHOW HOST #1 (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 Stick to shaking pom-poms.

Sports Talk Show Host #1 simulates shaking pom-poms. The other Hosts, as well as the Studio Audience laugh.

Laura clicks off the TV. She ponders with a look of anger and determination on her face.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

It's quiet. The Players get dressed for practice. They all looked annoyed, irritated, disgusted, you name it.

Laura walks in with Steve, the QB Coach; she carries a sports bag.

The Players stare at her.

Steve and Laura walk to a locker. Inside the locker hangs Laura's PRACTICE UNIFORM; the JERSEY is red.

STEVE
 Here's your locker.

Steve hands her a PLAYBOOK.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 And your playbook.

LAURA
Thanks. Where do I change?

STEVE
Here.

Steve walks away. Laura looks around; the Players haven't stopped staring.

LAURA
(to herself)
Okay?

Laura drops her sports bag and sits the playbook in the locker. She takes off the hoodie she wears, revealing a tanktop underneath.

The Players watch like vultures as Laura strips down to her underwear.

A STALLIONS PLAYER, 25, latino, Safety, wearing only a towel wrapped around his waist, walks by Laura grabbing his crotch as he checks her out.

Laura ignores him.

Another STALLIONS PLAYER, 25, black, Defensive Back, walks up to Laura wearing only a towel. She looks. He opens the towel(WE DON'T SEE). She holds in her anger.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Aren't you a black guy?

GUYS IN LOCKER ROOM
(teasing)
Ooh!

The other Stallions Players laugh and joke.

The Stallions DB smirks at her; he knows she got him. Laura gives him a cheeky smile. He closes the towel. Walks off.

Laura grabs the TUGS and puts them on. She snatches the jersey out of the locker.

INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Laura and Mona sit relaxing, getting pedicures from two ASIAN PEDICURISTS.

MONA
Are you nervous for Sunday?

LAURA
A little.

Mona skeptically looks at Laura.

LAURA (CONT'D)
A lot.

MONA
Thought so. You're gonna be fine.
You're the toughest chicka I know,
besides me.

LAURA
(sarcastic)
Yeah. You're real tough.

Laura smiles.

MONA
How was practice?

LAURA
Degrading.

MONA
What do you mean?

LAURA
The locker room is apparently co-
ed.

MONA
Ooh, girl. That sounds delicious,
not degrading.

LAURA
Yeah, for a slut like you.

They laugh.

MONA
Look, trick. Don't make me beat you
down.

Laura laughs.

LAURA
I'm so terrified.

MONA
We'll miss you on the sidelines.

LAURA
I'll miss you guys too.

MONA
We'll be cheering for you.

Laura smiles, recognizing the pun.

LAURA
Thanks. You better be the loudest.

MONA
You know it.

Laura smiles. She leans her head back, shuts her eyes, relaxes.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laura walks into the room wearing a robe with stringy wet hair, obviously just coming out of the shower. She talks on her cellphone.

LAURA
Stop worrying, mom.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth sits in bed talking to Laura on a CELLPHONE. Walter sits in bed next to her reading something on an IPAD.

ELIZABETH
I can't stop worrying. I'm a mother; it's my job. And what you'll be doing tomorrow has me working overtime.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laura sits on the bed. She sighs and rolls her eyes.

LAURA
I'll be fine. Anyway, I need to get to bed, big day tomorrow.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth and Walter still in bed.

ELIZABETH

Okay. Well, we just wanted to wish you a good and safe game.

WALTER

(so Laura can hear)
Break a leg, baby girl. Wait, don't do that.

Elizabeth shakes her head at her silly husband.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laura still sits bedside. She laughs.

LAURA

I'll try my best.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth and Walter still in bed; Walter still on the Ipad.

ELIZABETH

Good night, Laura. We love you.

WALTER

(yell)
Love you.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laura laughs.

LAURA

Love you guys too. Bye.

Laura sits the cellphone on the night stand. She turns the lamp OFF.

EXT. LONE STAR STADIUM - DAY

FANS crowd the front of the stadium as they go in. All over, FEMALE FANS have on LAURA'S JERSEY.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The Players suit up for the game. Laura sits in front of her locker in her tugs, cleats, and a tanktop; she has black marker under her eyes and her hair in a french braid.

Laura stares admiringly at her JERSEY, her last name plastered across the back like a Marquee.

Laura stands. She grabs her SHOULDER PADS and puts it on, along with her QUARTERBACK JACKET. She grabs the jersey and puts it on.

Coach Hern walks in.

COACH HERN

Okay. Listen up.

Everybody in the locker room turns their attention to Coach.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)

This is gonna be a tough game. Miami is a good ball club, and very physical. Are you ready, Laura?

LAURA

Yeah, Coach.

The other Players look disgusted.

COACH HERN

You better be. Everybody, stick to your assignments, play fast, play smart, play football. Let's get to it.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The stadium is LOUD and there's not an empty seat in the house.

CORNER OF ENDZONE

The Stallion Cheerleaders stand in two lines facing each other, shaking their pom-poms as they await the home team to run out of the TUNNEL.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - TUNNEL - SAME

The Stallions wait to run out onto the field, helmets on. Laura stands at the back of the group. She looks extremely confident; ready.

STALLIONS STADIUM ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(filtered)

Dallas, make some noise for your team, the Stallions.

The Stallions run out of the tunnel.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The Stallions run out onto the field in between their Cheerleaders.

Laura runs out onto the field. A mixture of BOOS from the males, and CHEERS from the females ring from the Fans.

Nobody cheers harder for Laura than Dana. Laura and Dana lock eyes; they smile and wink at each other.

Laura looks around at the FANS. She spots a GUY holding up a SIGN that reads: UR GONNA DIE POM-POMS.

Laura looks and spots a WOMAN, who wears her jersey, holding a SIGN that reads: YOU CAN DO IT GIRL!!!

Laura smiles as she jogs along.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter sits in a recliner while Elizabeth sits on the couch. They watch Laura on television. They both have a BEER in their hand; they drink.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The MIAMI PIRATES KICKER stands lined up with the rest of the KICKOFF TEAM, preparing to kick to the Stallions Kickoff Return Team.

The Pirates Kicker boots the football down field.

The Stallions Kick Returner tracks the ball from inside the endzone. He catches the ball and sprints up field.

Connors runs to the Stallions 20 YARD LINE and is immediately brought down by a TACKLER. Both Special Teams exit the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura stands next to Coach Hern, holding her helmet, about to put it on. Coach Hern leans to Laura.

COACH HERN
Power I Right Read Fly.

LAURA

Got it.

Laura shoves on her helmet and runs out onto the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura runs to the huddle to the sound of more BOOS mixed with CHEERS.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Walter and Elizabeth sit, eyes glued to the TV. WE HEAR it.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

(filtered)

Laura Diamond takes the field to a wave of boos and cheers.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Laura reaches the huddle. The Offense huddles around her; they look at her with contempt.

LAURA

Power I Right Read Fly on two.
Ready, break.

They break huddle and walk to the line of scrimmage where the PIRATES DEFENSE awaits. They line up.

Laura lines up under Center, Ricky in the backfield. Laura scans the menacing Defense while shouting cadence.

LAURA (CONT'D)

(shout)

Green 87, Green 87.

(deep breath)

Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura. She drops back and hands the ball off to Ricky who runs RIGHT.

Ricky dodges a PIRATES DEFENDER with a spin move, and with blazing speed runs to and by the FIRST DOWN MARKER; he's tackled A YARD beyond the marker.

The Players head back to their corners, their huddles. A REFEREE picks up the football and tosses it to another REF who resets it for the next play.

Laura stands and waits for the rest of the Offense to join her in the huddle. Phil talks to Laura via HELMET EARPIECE.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
(filtered)
Laura, Trips Right Weak 48 Sweep.

Laura huddles close to the other Players; they're huddled but standoffish.

LAURA
Trips Right Weak 48 Sweep. Ready,
break.

MIKE
You gone work today, twenty-eight.

Ricky smiles.

MIKE (CONT'D)
(to Laura)
And stop saying ready break. We
ain't friends.

The Players laugh. Laura looks at Mike, what's his problem? They break huddle and approach the line.

They line up in SHOTGUN FORMATION. Ricky lines up on Laura's LEFT.

Laura sticks her hands out in preparation to catch the football. She scopes out the Defense.

LAURA
Orange 25, Orange 25; set hut-hut.

Victor snaps the ball, flinging it to Laura. She catches the football and hands it off to Ricky who speeds RIGHT.

Near the line of scrimmage, Ricky cuts inside and is tackled just beyond the line for a minimal gain. The Players ready for the next play.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
(filtered)
Trips Left Strong 17 Sweep.

Laura shakes her head in disappointment with the play call.

The Offense huddles.

LAURA
Trips Left Strong 17 Sweep.

The Offense breaks huddle and lines up; Laura under Center. She looks at the Defense's formation.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (shout)
 Blue 55, Blue 55; set hut-hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back and hands the ball off to Ricky who runs LEFT.

A PIRATES LINEBACKER shoots the gap between two Offensive Linemen and tackles Ricky in the backfield for a loss in yardage.

The Pirates Linebacker celebrates making the big play. He looks mockingly at Laura.

PIRATES LINEBACKER
 What's the matter, bimbo? Throw the ball.

The Pirates Linebacker runs off to his sideline. Laura jogs to the Stallions sideline with the rest of the Offense.

LAURA
 (to herself)
 Believe me, I want to.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

Laura stands outside the huddle.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 Big I Left 24 Counter.

Laura rolls her eyes in frustration. She looks over at the sideline.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 I wonder if they are gonna let her throw the ball. 3rd and 14 would be a good time.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 Big I Left 24 Counter.

Laura turns to the huddle.

LAURA
Gun Trips Right Open 52 GO on
three.

The Players are caught off guard.

VICTOR
What's the actual play?

LAURA
Guns Trips Right Open 52 GO.

VICTOR
Come on, Laura. The play-clock's
running.

LAURA
I just said the play.

VICTOR
There's no way they just called
that.

LAURA
Break.

Victor looks defiantly at Laura.

LAURA (CONT'D)
The play-clock's running.

Victor turns and goes to line up. The rest of the huddle does
the same.

Mike and Victor stand at the line of scrimmage. Mike leans in
to Victor.

MIKE
If she wanna throw the ball, let
her throw the ball.

Victor looks confused; Mike gives a devious grin. Mike looks
at Bernie.

Victor turns to Bernie. Bernie nods, he's already in on the
plan.

They kneel down into position.

Laura walks up to Victor and lines up under Center.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME
Coach Hern notices the formation. He looks at Phil.

COACH HERN
You called this play?

PHIL
I guess she saw something I didn't.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME
Laura under Center, scans the Pirates Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Blue 29; set, hut-hut, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back, stands in the pocket, looking to pass.

Mike lets the PIRATES DEFENSIVE END, black, he's blocking easily get by him; the Defensive End rushes Laura.

Laura sees him, spins to avoid the sack, and rolls out LEFT. She throws a short pass to Ricky, who stands in the flat, 5 yards ahead of the line of scrimmage.

Ricky catches the football and runs. He gets a FIRST DOWN and is tackled after gaining 5 YARDS more.

The Fans CHEER.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME
Walter and Elizabeth jump out of their seats and CHEER.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME
Coach Hern and Phil look at each other; "not bad."

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY
Mike, Victor, and Bernie look at each other, disappointed with how the play turned out.

The Pirates Defensive End circles Laura like a shark, taunting her like prey.

PIRATES DEFENSIVE END
 I see you can move. That's what's
 up. I'm gone get ya though. Oh,
 yeah; I'm gone get ya.

The Pirates Defensive End goes to rejoin his Defense.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 How about this time you run what
 play I say run, which is a running
 play; Tiger Buck Sweep. By the way,
 good play.

Laura smiles. The Offense walks up to Laura; they huddle.

LAURA
 Good job, Ricky.

RICKY
 Back at ya.

The other Players look at Ricky; are he and Laura best
 friends now?

LAURA
 Tiger Buck Sweep.

VICTOR
 That sounds about right.

Laura cuts her eyes at Victor.

LAURA
 Break.

The Stallions break huddle and walk to the line. Laura stands
 in Shotgun Formation. Ricky is on Laura's LEFT.

Laura scans across the Defense.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (shout)
 Green 60, Green 60; set, hut, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she catches it and hands the
 ball off to Ricky. He runs RIGHT.

Ricky cuts inside to avoid a pursuing PIRATES DEFENDER and
 runs straight ahead between two Teammates who block DEFENDERS
 for him.

Ricky has a head on collision with a PIRATES SAFETY. Ricky lays forceful buck on the Defender, knocking him back. Other Pirates Defenders run up and tackle Ricky.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
(filtered)
Wedge Left 31 Blast.

Laura and the Offense huddle.

LAURA
Gun Trey Right 82 Flood.

VICTOR
(angry)
Call the right damn play.

LAURA
Okay. Gun Trey Right 82 Flood.

The Players disperse. Victor stares angrily at Laura. Laura stares back; she's not backing down.

Victor turns and goes to line up. Laura walks behind him.

Victor kneels down into position; Laura stands behind him, puts her hands under his butt, awaits the football.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Coach Hern and Phil notice it's not the right play.

PHIL
Not again.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura surveys the Pirates Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Green 18, Green 18; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back.

Mike lets the Pirates Defensive End get by easily.

The Pirates Defensive End sprints towards Laura and plows into her like a steam engine.

ENTIRE CROWD OF FANS
Ooh!

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Walter cringes, shakes his head; that was a brutal hit.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)

Wow. She's in obviously agonizing pain. I can't believe she's still conscious after that hit.

Elizabeth looks at Walter, visibly upset; there's nothing he can say.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Laura lies on the turf wincing in pain. The Pirates Defensive End celebrates the sack. He looks down at Laura as he walks back to his huddle, taunting her.

Mike and Bernie smile at each other.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Coach Hern, Phil, and Tommy, as well as the rest of the Team, look on.

Coach Hern turns to Kyle, the backup quarterback.

COACH HERN
Kyle; start warming up.

PHIL
Wait, Coach. She's getting up.

Coach Hern, Tommy, and Kyle look out onto the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Laura struggles to her feet. The roar of the female Fans' CHEERS rise like a tidal wave. The male Fans are stunned.

The Players on the field and both teams on the sidelines can't believe she got up.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Coach Hern nods to himself; he's impressed.

COACH HERN
Well I'll be.

PHIL
Nevermind, Kyle.

Tommy looks upset, kind of jealous; impressed, but jealous.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter CHEERS in excitement; Elizabeth looks relieved.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
I can't believe she actually got
up. She gives new meaning to the
phrase tough chick.

WALTER
That's my tough chick.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura walks gingerly to the huddle. The Players look at her in disbelief. Laura's eyes are watery, fighting back tears and pain.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
(filtered)
Way to go, girl. I gotta say, I'm
impressed. How do you feel about 62
X Shallow. Can you handle it?

Laura looks over to the Stallions sideline at the Phil.

Phil looks at Laura; she smiles at him and gives the thumbs up.

Phil smiles.

Laura turns to the huddle.

LAURA
62 X Shallow.
(looks at Victor)
And this time it's the right play.

They break huddle. Mike has a look in his eyes; Laura's due another free hit.

The Stallions Offense lines up. Laura stands behind Victor, surveying the Pirates Defense. She puts her hands under Victor's butt to receive the snap.

LAURA (CONT'D)
(shout)
Blue 20, Blue 20; set-hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back and stands in the pocket, looking to pass.

A PIRATES SAFETY sprints towards Laura. Mike doesn't block him; it's obvious for all to see.

The Pirates Safety rams Laura, hard, square in her back. Laura's body whips back from the force and she fumbles the football.

A PIRATES PLAYER falls on the ball and secures it for a turnover.

Laura lies facedown on the turf.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter and Elizabeth stare intensely at the television.

ON TV

The REPLAY of Laura getting hit.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
Mike, the Offensive Lineman, just lets the Pirates Safety run by him; he literally moved out of the way.

ELIZABETH
See; I knew I wasn't seeing things. They're purposely letting Laura get hit. Mike Jones did the same thing the first time she was hit.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura gets on all fours, breathes heavily, grimaces in pain.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - PIRATES SIDELINE - SAME

The HEAD COACH and surrounding ASSISTANT COACHES and PLAYERS pity Laura, some shake their heads; poor girl.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Laura slowly rises to her feet; her breathing calms.

Laura walks gingerly to the Stallions' sideline, takes off her helmet as she walks.

Laura stops next to Coach Hern, looks at him.

LAURA
I'm going back in.

Laura heads to the bench.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - LATER

QUICK CUTS

*Laura takes the snap and drops back. A PIRATES DEFENDER rushes her immediately. She quickly throws the football. The Defender bumps her.

*Laura stands in the pocket looking to throw. The Pirates Defensive Linemen push the Stallions Blockers back into Laura, causing the pocket to collapse on top of her.

*Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back. Bernie lets the Pirates Defensive Lineman he's supposed to block run by him. The Defensive Lineman slams into Laura head on, driving her into the turf. Laura rolls over from her back to her side in pain.

*Laura drops back to pass; a PIRATES DEFENDER chases her. Laura runs for her life toward the Stallions sideline still looking to pass. The Pirates Defender runs her down, grabs her by the jersey, and flings her to the turf.

*Victor snaps the ball to Laura who stands in the Shotgun. She catches the football, looks to pass. Mike and Bernie let their respective blitzing Pirates Defensive Lineman run by them. Laura gets hit high and low by the two D-Linemen. The D-Linemen celebrate their shared sack.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
Wow. This woman is really taking a beating.

Laura struggles to her feet.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
But somehow she keeps getting up.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Elizabeth can't take anymore. She gets up and walks out.
Walter watches her leave.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Stallions DEFENSE lined up against the Pirates OFFENSE.
The PIRATES QUARTERBACK looks around at the Stallions
Defense.

PIRATES QUARTERBACK
(shout)
Hut.

The PIRATES CENTER snaps the ball; the Pirates Quarterback
kneels down on one knee. The Players walk off the field
toward their respective sidelines.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
The Pirates Quarterback takes a
knee, and with that we go into
Halftime. Despite everything, the
Stallions are only down three
touchdowns. The Score, Pirates 21,
Stallions nothing.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura sits on the bench. The Players and Team Staff leave the
field, heading to the locker room.

Laura grabs her helmet and stands up. She walks, taking her
time.

Laura walks by the Stallions Cheerleaders. Mona runs up to
her and gives her a pat on the butt. Laura turns to her.

MONA
Hang in there, girly.

Laura cracks a painful smile and nods; she walks.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The Players, Coaches, and Staff walk into the locker room; everyone's quiet. Players drop their helmets as they sit at their lockers. Coach Hern converses with Phil.

Laura stands at her locker; she looks to be in a bad mood. She bangs her helmet against the locker, gaining everyone's attention.

LAURA
You guys like losing or something?

Laura drops the helmet and gingerly walks to the center of the room.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I don't. And on the issue of you guys letting me take sacks; let me guess? Rookie hazing.

Tommy chuckles to himself.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I know you don't want me here, but I'm here; and I wanna win. I wanna win this game, and the next one, and the next one, and the next one. And I definitely wanna win the big one.

Some of the Players nod, they're feeling that.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I don't need you guys to like me, I don't need you to respect me.

Laura looks at the Offensive Linemen, particularly Mike and Bernie.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I need you to block for me.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter sits waiting for the game to come back on.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
We're back for the start of the second half.

Elizabeth walks in carrying TWO BEERS.

Elizabeth hands a beer to Walter.

Elizabeth sits on the couch.

They crack open the beers and unintentionally in unison take a gulp.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions KICKOFF TEAM and the Pirates KICKOFF RETURN TEAM are lined up on the field.

The Stallions KICKER signals the kick. He runs to the football and kicks it down the field.

The Pirates KICK RETURNER catches the football inside the endzone. He runs.

The Pirates Kick Returner avoids a few tackles and runs pass the 30 yard line; the 40; he's hit hard by a Stallions PLAYER and fumbles the football.

Another Stallions PLAYER falls onto the loose ball securing the turnover.

The Stallions Kickoff Team celebrates.

A REF signals turnover; Stallions ball.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura sits on the bench looking over IN-GAME SNAPSHOTS of Offensive plays from earlier in the game with Phil and Tommy.

Coach Hern looks toward the bench at Laura.

LAURA

Laura. Turnover; let's go.

Laura grabs her helmet and walks to Coach Hern.

COACH HERN

Power I Right 45 Blast.

LAURA

Coach, we need to throw the ball.

COACH HERN

We need balance.

Annoyed Laura acquiesces. She shoves on her helmet and runs out onto the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura runs to the huddle.

LAURA
Power I Right 45 Blast.

The Stallions break huddle and walk to the line of scrimmage and line up on the Pirates 40 YARD LINE.

Laura gets under Center, surveys the Defense.

LAURA (CONT'D)
(shout)
Blue 90, Blue 90; set, hut-hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back and hands the ball off to Ricky; he runs RIGHT.

Ricky cuts inside, avoiding a Pirates DEFENDER and runs between his blockers past the line of scrimmage.

Ricky is tackled after gaining 5 YARDS.

Laura stands on the field.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
(filtered)
63 Z Dig. There you go.

Laura smiles. The Stallions huddle.

LAURA
63 Z Dig.

Mike and Bernie look at each other with bad intentions. They break huddle.

The Stallions line up, Laura under Center. She scans the Defense.

LAURA (CONT'D)
(shout)
Black 88, Black 88; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back, fakes a handoff to Ricky. Laura stands in the pocket looking to pass.

Bernie lets the PIRATES DEFENSIVE LINEMAN he's supposed to block run by.

The D-Lineman lays a vicious hit on Laura, swallowing her up as he falls on top of her. Laura holds onto the football.

The Pirates Defensive Lineman does a happy dance to celebrate getting the sack.

Laura rolls around on the turf in agony.

MALE FANS look on with pity; what did she expect? FEMALE FANS look horrified.

Mike and Bernie grin at each other; Ricky notices.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

The Team Doctor and his Staff prepare to run out onto the field; Coach Hern stops them.

COACH HERN

Not yet.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura struggles to her feet.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Coach Hern smiles. Tommy is impressed as well. Phil gets on the radio to talk to Laura.

PHIL

Way to hang tough, Laura. 68 All Streak.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions huddle up.

LAURA

Wow, Bernie. You're getting beat off the line a lot today.

BERNIE

It happens.

LAURA

Does it now?

Ricky looks sick of what his Teammates are doing to Laura.

LAURA (CONT'D)

68 All Streak.

The Stallions break huddle and line up. Laura stands behind Victor, surveying the Pirates Defense. She gets under Center.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (shout)
 Black 45, Black 45; set hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back and stands in the pocket, looks to pass.

Mike lets the Pirates Defensive End run by unblocked. The Defensive End charges at Laura.

Out of nowhere, Ricky runs into the Pirates Defensive End, knocking him away from Laura.

Laura looks down field. She throws the football down the field to Andre who catches the ball in the endzone for a TOUCHDOWN.

The Fans CHEER.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Walter and Elizabeth CHEER.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Coach Hern, Tommy, and the rest of the Stallions celebrate.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Laura jumps up and down like the cheerleader she is. Her body immediately reminds her she's been taking a beating. She grimaces in pain.

Laura gingerly runs to Ricky and pats him on the helmet. He pats her on her helmet.

LAURA
 Thanks.

RICKY
 I wanna win too. Great throw.

Laura and Ricky smile at each other. They run off the field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

STALLIONS OFFENSIVE HUDDLE

The Players look charged up, ready to score another touchdown, except for Mike and Bernie.

LAURA
Let's win this game, guys. Blue
Right 92.

RICKY
Mike, Bernie; block.

MIKE AND BERNIE
Yeah, yeah.

LAURA
Let's do this.

The huddle breaks.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter and Elizabeth stare tensely at the TV.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
The Stallions have fought their way
back, but are still down four
points, 28/24, with only a minute
to go and no time-outs. They have
to score a touchdown. Laura Diamond
finds herself in her first game,
and her first possible game winning
drive. The Stallions are on the 50.
Can she do it?

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the Pirates Defense.
Laura is under Center. She scans the Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back and stands in
the pocket looking to pass.

The entire Offensive Line blocks for Laura, giving her a ton
of time, living up to what Laura pointed out earlier about
them being the best Offensive Line in the League.

Laura stands tall in the pocket. She spots Andre down field. She slings the ball the field, showing off her shockingly strong arm.

Andre runs a step ahead of the PIRATES DEFENSIVE BACK who tries to keep up.

The football drops right in front of him; a perfectly placed pass.

Andre puts out his hands and catches the ball. He runs into the endzone for a Touchdown.

The Crowd goes wild.

Laura emphatically pumps her fist. She looks over at the sideline.

STALLIONS CHEERLEADERS

Mona shakes her POM-POMS and CHEERS like crazy. She points a pom-pom at Laura.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Laura points back at Mona, smiling.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Coach Hern and the rest of the Team celebrate.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Elizabeth CHEERS. Walter jumps out of his recliner as he CHEERS.

WALTER

Yeah. That's what I'm talking about, baby girl.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura runs to Ricky and jumps into his arms. He holds her up while she holds up a clinched fist as they celebrate.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

(filtered)

Touchdown! She did it. The Stallions win; the Stallions win.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The Stallions charge into the locker room, pumped up over the victory.

Laura goes to her locker; she can't stop smiling. She drops her helmet and pulls off her shoulder pads.

Jerry walks into the locker room. He celebrates with the Team, giving out high-fives.

JERRY JOHNSON
Alright, alright, alright. Way to
get it done, gentlemen.

Coach Hern stands in the center of the locker room holding a football.

COACH HERN
Listen up, Stallions.

The Team quiets down.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
Great win. A lot of mistakes to
clean up, but way to fight back.

Jerry walks to the center of the room and stands next to Coach Hern.

JERRY JOHNSON
Speaking of fight; Laura, that was
the most amazing display of
toughness I've ever seen. You
alright?

LAURA
I'll live. Maybe.

Jerry laughs. He looks around.

JERRY JOHNSON
Game ball. Where is it?

COACH HERN
I was getting to that. Good job,
Laura.

LAURA
Thanks, Coach.

JERRY JOHNSON
You mind, Coach?

Jerry gestures that he wants the football Coach Hern is holding.

COACH HERN
Knock yourself out.

Coach Hern hands Jerry the football. Jerry holds up the football.

JERRY JOHNSON
I think every person in here will agree that the toughest man on the field today was a woman. Mike and Bernie understand that better than anybody.

Mike and Bernie look unapologetic.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)
This game ball goes to the one and only, Laura Diamond. Congrats.

The entire team claps for Laura. Kidding around, Jerry drops back like a quarterback and throws the ball to Laura. She catches it and smiles.

Ricky who stands at his locker that's next to Laura's, gives her a strong congratulatory shoulder rub. Laura smiles and reacts, "you're being a bit rough, buddy."

LAURA
Thanks, Jerry.
(to the Offensive Linemen)
And thanks for blocking O-Line.

MIKE
You alright, number 7.

Laura smiles and nods.

Laura looks at Bernie. Bernie looks to still be against her.

Bernie smiles at her and nods. Laura smiles.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Laura soaks in an ice tub, enduring her soreness.

LAURA
Wow, this is fun.

Mona walks in. Laura straightens up.

MONA
Hey, girly.

LAURA
Hey.

MONA
You alright? You took a beating.

LAURA
I'm okay. It was nothing.

Laura smiles.

MONA
Girl, that wasn't no nothing. I gotta say, I'm impressed. I still can't believe you were able to do that.

Coach Hern walks in.

MONA (CONT'D)
Hey, Coach. Our girl did good, huh?

COACH HERN
Yeah, she did.

Dana perceives that Coach wants to talk to Laura.

MONA
Well, I'm gonna go. See you later, sis.

LAURA
Bye.

MONA
Good game.

LAURA
Thanks.

MONA
Bye, Coach.

COACH HERN
Bye, Mona.

Mona leaves.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
How you holding up? Enjoying that ice bath?

LAURA
I'm playing next week.

COACH HERN
Wow. That good, huh? I didn't get to say this earlier, but damn good effort; damn good.

Laura appreciates the respect.

LAURA
Thanks, Coach.

COACH HERN
Listen, don't misunderstand; I'm still against you playing. It's absolutely absurd. Don't get hurt; if you do, you won't get another chance. You shouldn't have had this one.

Laura looks at Coach Hern, who's obviously still the enemy.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
I'll let you finish soaking. Study that playbook.

Coach Hern walks out.

LAURA
Bye, Coach.

Now that she's alone, Laura lets her guard down and displays the agony she's in. She slowly sinks deeper into the ice bath, up to her chin. She shuts her eyes.

EXT. LONE STAR STADIUM - DAY

Laura walks out of the stadium wearing EVERYDAY CLOTHING and her SPORTS BAG on her shoulder.

The stadium grounds is clear of people, everyone has gone home it looks like.

Laura is on her cellphone. She looks beat.

LAURA
You may get your wish, mom.

A YOUNG GIRL, 12, white, blonde, obvious tomboy, wearing Laura's jersey, runs up to her.

YOUNG GIRL
(excited)
Hi. I'm Gracie.

LAURA
Mom, let me call you back.

Laura puts her cellphone away. She tries to perk up. She smiles at the Young Girl.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Hi, Gracie. I'm Laura.

YOUNG GIRL
I know. I've been waiting hours to meet you. A Security Guard said this is where you would come out.

The Young Girl points at a MAN and WOMAN, both 40s, standing together at a distance. They wave.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
Those are my parents.

Laura waves at the Parents.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
Can you sign my jersey?

LAURA
Sure.

The Young Girl whips out a MARKER, hands it to Laura. The Young Girl turns her back to Laura.

YOUNG GIRL
Sign the back, please.

LAURA
Okay.

Laura signs the back of the jersey.

LAURA (CONT'D)
There you go, Gracie.

The Young Girl faces Laura. Laura gives back the marker.

YOUNG GIRL
Thanks. You were so awesome in the game today. You're even better than Tommy Gunn.

LAURA
Thanks. I agree.

The Young Girl laughs. Laura laughs.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I think he's better at taking pain,
though.

YOUNG GIRL
Are you gonna quit playing?

Laura hesitates to answer.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
Please don't. Everybody said you
wouldn't be able to do it; they
said you'd be lucky to survive; and
you did. The Stallions won because
of you. I think you can lead us to
the Victory Bowl; and win it.
You're the spokeswoman for tough
chicks like us.

Laura smiles, that's cute.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
You're a role model; you're my role
model.

LAURA
How old are you?

YOUNG GIRL
Twelve.

LAURA
You sure?

The Young Girl Smiles.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I'm not going
anywhere, except to the Victory
Bowl.

The Young Girl Smiles. Laura smiles.

START MONTAGE

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - MORNING

Laura scarfs down an enormous breakfast.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Laura uses a WEIGHT MACHINE, works her throwing arm.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Laura eats an enormous dinner full of protein and pasta. She studies the STALLIONS PLAYBOOK.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - OUTDOOR PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Laura is under Center on the 20 YARD LINE preparing to run a play from scrimmage. She looks around at the Defense.

LAURA

Hey, Defense.

(tugs red practice jersey)

I know red means stop, but today it means hit me.

STALLIONS DEFENSE

No problem.

Laura smiles, their eagerness is funny.

LAURA

(shout)

Blue 25; set hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back.

INT. TOPLESS STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura stands in the pocket around the Stallions' 30 YARD LINE, itching to throw. A PHILADELPHIA HAWKS LINEBACKER hits her a second after she gets rid of the football. She plows onto the grass.

INT. DRUGSTORE - NIGHT

The CASHIER, male, latino, 40s, hands a male CUSTOMER his BAG, then his RECEIPT and CHANGE. The Customer walks off.

Laura walks up to the counter carrying as many ASPIRIN BOTTLES as she can hold. The Cashier looks at all the bottles; that's a lot of aspirin.

The Cashier looks at Laura. She looks physically drained.

CASHIER
Football's a brutal game.

LAURA
Apparently.

The Cashier chuckles as he rings up the aspirin.

INT. THE MOTOR DOME - DAY

Laura stands in the pocket around the DETROIT MOTORHEADS' 10 YARD LINE. She throws a bullet into the endzone. A STALLIONS TIGHT END catches the football for a Touchdown.

The Stallions Tight End does a touchdown dance in the endzone.

Laura as well as other Teammates give the Stallions Tight End celebratory pats on his helmet and back.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
The Stallions win again in an upset
against the Detroit Motorheads.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Laura sits in bed in a Stallions tanktop and short shorts and her hair in curlers. She studies the playbook while eating a GIANT SANDWICH.

INT. DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura stands in the pocket around the Stallions' 20 YARD LINE, looks to throw. She spots a MINNESOTA RAZORBACKS DEFENSIVE END. She gets hit really hard; lies on the turf for a BEAT.

Laura winces in pain, rolls over. She looks towards the STALLIONS SIDELINE. Looks at Coach Hern. He gives Laura a smug look, remembering what he told her.

Laura gets it together and rises to her feet, still shaking off the pain. She looks at Coach Hern; she's up. Coach Hern smiles, she had better got up.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

The Players cheer Laura on as she bench presses an impressive amount of weight.

INT. DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the ST. LOUIS GENERALS on the Generals' 40 YARD LINE.

Laura under Center.

LAURA
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops backs, looks to pass. She spots Andre. Throws the football inside but Andre cuts to the outside towards the SIDELINE.

The football travels behind Andre and is INTERCEPTED by a GENERALS' DEFENSIVE BACK. The Defensive Back gets tackled after running a couple of yards.

Laura and Andre chat about what just happened during the play as they walk to their sideline.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
It's obvious that Laura is still getting acquainted with the Offense and her Receivers.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Laura stands at the counter reading her PLAYBOOK. She has a GLASS OF RAW EGGS in her hand. A BOWL nearby. Laura drinks the eggs. Tries to swallow but immediately spits the eggs into the bowl.

INT. TOPLESS STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Stallions Offense lined up against the KANSAS CITY COBRAS' DEFENSE on the Stallions' 20 YARD LINE. Laura under Center.

LAURA
(shout)
Blue 55.

Laura looks to her left at a Stallions Receiver; looks to her RIGHT at Andre who looks back at her.

Laura scans the Defense.

LAURA (CONT'D)
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura. She drops back.

Andre runs his route.

Laura spots Andre. Throws the football.

Andre completes his route. He looks for the ball; the pass is there on time. Andre catches the football. Runs for a TOUCHDOWN.

Laura celebrates as she trots to the sideline. She spots Coach Hern staring at her. He doesn't look pleased. It's obvious to Laura he's still gunning for her.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - POST GAME - NIGHT

Coach Hern stands at a podium before the MEDIA.

FEMALE SPORTS REPORTER (O.S.)
Coach, how do you feel about your
female quarterback?

Coach Hern's expression is cold.

COACH HERN
We're winning.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Laura walks out of the supermarket carrying a couple of GROCERY BAGS.

A CROWD OF FEMALE FANS await her.

Laura walks to her truck. The Crowd surrounds her.

A YOUNG GIRL is the first to ask for Laura autograph. The Young Girl hands Laura a MARKER then holds out a FOOTBALL so Laura can sign it.

INT. DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura stands in the pocket around the 50 YARD LINE, looking to pass. She can't find an open Receiver.

She tucks the football and runs. She shows off her impressive speed as she runs pass the FIRST DOWN MARKER.

Laura slides just before being hit by an ATLANTA BUCKS DEFENDER.

A REF blows a WHISTLE. The play is over.

Laura gets up. The Hawks Defender who was about to hit Laura checks out her legs in that tight spandex.

ATLANTA BUCKS DEFENDER
I know you're glad QBs can slide.

Laura smiles.

LAURA
I'm glad you didn't hit me anyway.

Laura turns her back to the Bucks Defender, heading to her huddle. The Bucks Defender grabs Laura's butt and gives it a squeeze.

Laura turns around in a rage and shoves the Bucks Defender.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Hey.

ATLANTA BUCKS DEFENDER
What? That's what we do in
football.

LAURA
That was more than a pat.

ATLANTA BUCKS DEFENDER
What can I say? Us Bucks like to
grab butts.

Out of nowhere, Mike runs at the Bucks Defender and BUCKS him with a hard shove that knocks the Defender onto the turf.

Mike and Laura look at each other; a bond has obviously been established.

LAURA
Thanks.

Mike pats Laura on the helmet. Walks off.

INT. TOPLESS STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the DENVER MOUNTAINEERS' DEFENSE on the Stallions 30 YARD LINE.

Laura under Center. She surveys the Defense; she looks confused.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
The play clock is winding down. She better hurry.

LAURA
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back. The rushing DEFENDERS get blocked, except for a MOUNTAINEERS SAFETY that runs freely at Laura.

The Mountaineers Safety smacks into Laura with a blind side hit. Laura slides FACEMASK FIRST into the turf, landing on top of the football, avoiding a FUMBLE.

STALLIONS SIDELINE

Coach Hern secretly celebrates Laura getting whacked with a subtle FIST CLINCH.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Laura winces as she slowly rises to her feet.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
She obviously got fooled by the Defense with that last formation. There's a lot of fancy or exotic coverages that Defenses use in the pros. It's nothing that more time in the film room won't fix.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - FILM ROOM - NIGHT

Laura studies OPPONENT GAME FILM on a PROJECTOR. The room is dark, except for the light illuminating from the projector. She eats ASPIRIN out of the bottle like it's popcorn.

INT. TOPLESS STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

It's a beautiful day to play football in SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

Laura under Center on the Stallions' 20 YARD LINE. She surveys the SURFERS DEFENSE. She does HAND SIGNALS at the line and points out what the Defense's doing.

LAURA
(shout)
Silver 28; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball. Laura drops back and stands in the pocket.

The Surfers BLITZ.

The Stallions Offensive Line holds back the rushing Surfers Defensive Players, giving Laura lots of time.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
They pick up the blitz. Diamond has all day to throw. The Stallions Offensive Line is really living up to their moniker, The Road Block; and the Defense is definitely blocked from getting to the quarterback.

Laura throws the ball deep down the field. Andre runs with blazing speed and catches the football and takes it to the house.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
(filtered)
Touchdown! What an arm?!

Laura raises both hands to the sky; Touchdown.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Laura competes against Mike and Bernie in a HOT WING EATING CONTEST. All three ravish individual bowls of wings. The rest of the Offense sit around and spectate. Laura's holding her own.

INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Laura and Mona get pedicures. FEMALE and MALE FANS crowd the front of the salon.

Laura and Mona stare at the crazed Fans through the LOOKING GLASS. Laura and Mona smile and laugh; it's all so exciting.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - OUTDOOR PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Laura stands at the edge of the field surrounded by FEMALE FANS, women and girls. She's signing autographs. The Players and Coaches look smugly at her; she thinks she's hot stuff.

MIKE

Whoa. Look at the Superstar.

The Guys laugh.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PARKING LOT - DAY

Laura walks to her car after a long day of practice. She looks at her truck. All four wheels have been stripped and the truck sits on cinder blocks.

Laura walks to the truck; who could have done this? A NOTE is pinned to the windshield under a wiper. Laura grabs the note.

It reads: YOU'RE STILL A ROOKIE. SUPERSTAR.

Laura smiles; they got her.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions lined up against the NEW ORLEANS GATORS DEFENSE on the Gators' 10 YARD LINE. Laura under Center.

LAURA

(shout)

Hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back, looks to pass. She throws. The football is batted down by a GATORS DEFENSIVE LINEMAN.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Laura's height disadvantage has finally reared it's short heard. She's done well up to this point finding good throwing lanes, but every now and then a ball still gets batted. It's 4th down.

Laura's upset with herself. She takes out her MOUTHPIECE, sticks it in her facemask. She heads to the sideline.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Number 7 knows she missed an
opportunity. You gotta capitalize
in the Redzone.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Laura is alone. She runs POCKET PRESENCE DRILLS working on her footwork.

INT. TOPLESS STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the SAN FRANCISCO MINERS DEFENSE on the 50 YARD LINE. RAIN beats down on them.

Laura under Center. Scans the Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball; Laura drops back. The Miners DEFENSIVE LINEMEN get a good push. Laura moves around fantastically in the pocket, avoid D-Lineman as they try to get a hand on her.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Wow. Great movement in the pocket.

Laura steps up in the pocket, nothing stands in the way of her throwing the ball. She spots Andre running along the SIDELINE; he's a step ahead of the DEFENDER. She throws.

The football wobbles a bit as it sails down field; it's raining. The ball reaches Andre none the less. He catches it and runs into the endzone.

Laura passionately clinches her fist. She looks over at Coach Hern who stands on the sideline fuming.

Laura smiles, nods at him. She just loves rubbing her success in his face.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Tommy stands on the field next to a BIN filled with FOOTBALLS. He takes off his sling, rotates his arm, loosening it up.

Tommy grabs a football. He throws it as far as he can down field.

The football travels a long distance; the ball wobbles, but not bad.

Tommy grabs another football; he throws it down field. The force behind the ball is stronger and the ball has a tighter spin; Tommy Gunn is back.

END MONTAGE

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The FANS have the stadium rocking with noise. Laura is under Center surveying the SEATTLE LIONS DEFENSE. The Stallions are lined up on their own 5 YARD LINE.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

The Stallions find themselves in another nail biter. Diamond has done well tonight under the primetime lights, but the Seattle Lions are the toughest Defense they've faced so far this season, especially when they've tried to run the ball.

LAURA

(shout)
Orange 80--

Laura does hand signals, making changes at the line. Mike looks like something heavy is weighing on his mind. He looks over at the sideline; at Coach Hern.

Coach Hern gives Mike a serious look, then nods. Mike looks upset, turns his head to face the Defense.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

On a positive note, The Stallions Offensive Line has kept Laura safe the entire game. Her quarterbacking, pre-snap, has really improved as she makes adjustments at the line.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - SKY BOX - NIGHT

Jerry stands, looks down on the field intently.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Jerry Johnson has to be thrilled with his quarterback's performance, leading the Stallions to four straight wins, and a possible fifth as they go into their Week 8 Bye directly at the mid-season mark.

He looks out at the giant SCOREBOARD. The score reads: VISITOR: 24; HOME: 17. The GAME CLOCK reads: 3:55. The scoreboard also indicates that it's FIRST DOWN.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura surveys the Lions Defense. Mike really looks troubled.

LAURA

(shout)

Set, hut.

Victor snaps the football; Laura drops back into the endzone. The blocks hold up as she stands in the pocket looking to throw.

A LIONS SAFETY blitzes Laura late. He runs full speed towards Laura; Mike has a chance to block him but doesn't. The Safety pummels Laura with a big hit from her blind side. She slams into the turf.

A REF signals SAFETY.

The Lions Safety celebrates getting a sack as well as a safety. Laura lies facedown; she isn't moving. Everyone in the stadium notices.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Wow. Laura got hit hard; she's not moving.

ON MONA

Standing on the sideline with the other Cheerleaders. She looks horrified.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Mike signals to the sideline to send out the medical team. Everyone in the stadium looks worried as Laura lies lifeless.

The Offense stand around Laura. The Stallions Team Doctor and his Staff run up to Laura. The Doctor checks her out. Laura is unconscious; she still has possession of the football.

The Team Doctor pries loose the football. On three, he and his Staff cautiously turn Laura onto her back.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Hoping she's okay is stating the obvious. Even after getting whacked and knocked out cold she never let go of the football. That's true toughness.

Mike looks over at Coach Hern standing on the sideline; gives him a disgusted look. Coach cracks a devious grin.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

The entire Team looks concerned. Some Players are on one knee, praying. Tommy goes and stands next to Coach Hern; they give each other regretful looks.

TOMMY

I knew this would happen; it was inevitable.

COACH HERN

Yeah, me too.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Walter and Mona sit on a love seat. Walter reads on his IPAD and Mona messes around on her SMARTPHONE. Elizabeth sits in a chair at Laura's bedside.

Laura sleeps.

Elizabeth gazes at Laura, worry all over her face.

ELIZABETH

(whisper)

You silly girl.

Laura awakens, slowly opening her eyes.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Walter, Matt, she's awake.

Walter and Mona hurry over to the hospital bed.

WALTER
How you feeling, baby girl?

LAURA
Like crap.

MONA
That's accurate because you
definitely look like it.

Mona chuckles.

MONA (CONT'D)
I'm just kiddin', sis. Glad you're
okay.

There's a KNOCK. The DOCTOR, male, peeps in.

ELIZABETH
She's awake, Doctor.

The Doctor walks in and walks up to the bed.

DOCTOR
Hi, Laura. Do you remember what
happened to you?

LAURA
What happened?

DOCTOR
You were knocked unconscious during
a professional football game.

LAURA
I remember the game.

DOCTOR
Well, after the hit you sustained a
concussion.

LAURA
Good thing we have a Bye. I can
rest without losing my job for a
game.

DOCTOR
Laura, I really think you should
consider quitting your job. You
took a really hard hit which
resulted in extensive brain trauma.

LAURA
I don't feel that bad.

DOCTOR

That's because you're lucky.
Personally, I don't believe in
luck. Another hit like that could
do permanent damage; it could leave
you brain damaged, it could leave
you dead.

ELIZABETH

Oh, my God.

DOCTOR

(to Elizabeth and Walter)
She's clear to go, so you can take
her home when you're ready. Make
sure she relaxes; she needs to let
that brain rest.

WALTER

Thank you, Doctor.

The Doctor nods and walks out. The three look at Laura,
concerned.

Laura looks over and spots a GIANT TEDDY BEAR WEARING A
FOOTBALL HELMET AND UNIFORM; Stallions of course.

A GET WELL SOON CARD shaped like a football is tucked under
the teddy's arm like he's carrying it.

LAURA

Where did that come from?

They look over at the teddy bear.

ELIZABETH

The Team. Tommy brought it over.

Laura gazes at it.

EXT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A SUV drives up to the house. Walter gets out the driver's
side; Mona gets out of the back. Elizabeth gets out the
passenger. She opens the backseat door.

ELIZABETH

(to Laura)
Come on, dear.

Elizabeth helps Laura out of the SUV. Walter walks around the
front of the vehicle and helps walk Laura inside of the
house. Elizabeth and Mona follow.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LAURA'S OLD ROOM - NIGHT

Laura lies in bed on top of the covers in the fetal position, clinging to her body in agonizing pain, quietly crying. She trembles.

LAURA

Oh, God.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Walter, Elizabeth, Mona, and Laura sit at the table eating a hearty breakfast. Laura has a solemn aura about her, still concuss. There's an awkward silence. Walter glances at Laura, concerned.

Walter looks at Elizabeth who looks back at him just as concerned.

WALTER

How you doin' over there, baby girl?

LAURA

I'm okay, daddy.

WALTER

That's good. I bet you can't wait for that concussion to be gone so you can go back to cheering.

Laura looks up at Walter.

LAURA

You mean playing.

ELIZABETH

He means cheering.

LAURA

I don't care what you guys say; I'm playing. Players get concussions all the time.

ELIZABETH

You're not a player.

LAURA

Oh, no? Then what am I?

ELIZABETH

You're a woman.

There's silence.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Women aren't equal to men in every single way there is. That's a concept you've struggled to accept your entire life. You need to accept it.

LAURA

If that we're true, I wouldn't have survived playing this long.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, look at you; you definitely survived.

LAURA

When I was a little girl I didn't pretend I was a princess, I pretended I was a quarterback leading her team to a Victory Bowl Championship. Why do you think I became a pro cheerleader? It was the next best option; Pom-poms aren't really my thing. Now I'm actually living a dream that my gender told me I couldn't; and I don't wanna wake up. I'm not gonna wake up.

Elizabeth bangs her fist on the table.

ELIZABETH

Cut the crap, Laura. You gonna get seriously hurt if you keep playing.

LAURA

It's too late for that.

Laura points at herself, concuss person right here.

MONA

Mom, Laura's tough. She can handle it.

ELIZABETH

Shut up, Ramona. Do what you want, Laura. I don't care.

Elizabeth rises from the table and walks out. Walter watches her walk out. He looks at Laura; Laura looks back at him. She eats her breakfast.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The ARIZONA BUFFALOES KICKOFF TEAM stand in formation. The Buffaloes KICKER signals he's about to kickoff. He kicks.

The football sails high and far.

The Stallions Kickoff Returner tracks the ball. He backtracks into the endzone. He catches the football. Takes a knee.

A REF blows the WHISTLE. The Stallions Kickoff Returner tosses the football to the Ref then jogs off field.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

In their first game back after the Bye, the Stallions look to keep their winning streak going. What Laura Diamond has been able to do is absolutely amazing. Just to be fair, she hasn't done it alone. The Stallions have really come together as a team.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Coach Hern stands with Tommy who's ready to take the field. Laura stands behind them, upset, but not being a brat about it. Phil gets Tommy's attention.

PHIL

Let's see that arm. 61 Y Choice.

Tommy runs out onto the football field.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The MALE FANS in the stadium CHEER for Tommy, happy that he's back and that chick is out of there.

Tommy shoves on his helmet as he jogs to the huddle.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Whoa. What's this? We knew Tommy was healed but I didn't think he play considering how well Laura has been playing. Coach Hern must still be worried about her.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Laura glares at Coach Hern. He looks back at her; he doesn't care that she's mad. He looks out at the field.

Laura walks to the bench and sits. She's obviously containing her anger.

JUSTIN, 15, white, equipment boy, walks up to Laura. He sits next to her.

LAURA

Did you take care of it?

JUSTIN

This is gonna be fun.

LAURA

I love you, Justin.

JUSTIN

I'm single.

Laura laughs. Laura looks out onto the field, cracks a devious grin.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the Buffaloes DEFENSE.

Tommy under Center. He surveys the Defense. His face changes, he looks uncomfortable. He shakes it off.

TOMMY

(shout)

Blue 52, Blue 52.

That uncomfortable looks shows itself on Tommy's face again. He stands upright. Grabs his stomach. His eyes WIDEN. Quickly calls TIME-OUT.

Tommy puts his hand on his butt hole and hurries to the sideline. He gets halfway there and stops. He rips off his helmet and emphatically gestures of the Offense to come to him.

The Offense looks confused. They take their time moving.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hurry.

The Offensive Linemen run over to Tommy as he places his HELMET on the turf like it's a toilet. They surround him.

The Stadium becomes SILENT. The sounds of FARTS and DIARRHEA ring out.

The Stallions Offense stand on the field grossed out. The Buffaloes Defense is also grossed out, but they find it hilarious.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Oh, wow. That's embarrassing.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Laura sits on the bench laughing with Justin. They fist pound.

Coach Hern turns and looks at Laura. If looks could kill.

LAURA
(to Justin)
That's my cue. Later.

Laura grabs her helmet. Heads to the field. She stops next to Coach Hern. Looks at him, doing a poor job to hide her glee.

LAURA (CONT'D)
When you gotta go, you gotta go.

As Laura is about to run on the field, Coach Hern grabs her arm. He leans in close. Looks her dead in the eyes with cold stare.

COACH HERN
You think you're slick, don't you?
You little bitch.

Laura glares at him. She obviously wants to knock his lights out.

LAURA
No. I think I'm playing? Unless,
you wanna put Kyle in? I wonder how
that's gonna look? Now, let me go,
before I make you let me go.

Coach Hern smiles with his teeth, curses her with his eyes. He lets go of Laura's arm.

EXT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Walter and Elizabeth sit on the porch in matching rocking chairs. Elizabeth sits with her legs crossed, sipping a glass of lemonade; Walter sips a beer.

Laura drives up in her pickup. She hops out of the truck wearing a FLANNEL SHIRT, form-complementing JEANS, COWGIRL BOOTS, her blonde hair flowing, letting no one forget she's a looker.

Laura walks to the house.

Walter and Elizabeth have prideful grins on their faces, knowing they created a wonderful and gorgeous person.

LAURA

Hey, guys.

WALTER

Well, hey there, baby girl. Where's that Ramona?

LAURA

She's got a date tonight.

ELIZABETH

You look great; on the outside. What's wrong? Is it because you got benched? Coach must have wanted to give Tommy some game speed reps. It was just one game.

LAURA

No, it's every game.

WALTER

Sorry, baby girl.
(joking)
Maybe Tommy can get diarrhea again.

LAURA

A man shouldn't have to get the runs in order for a woman to play.

ELIZABETH

I know you don't believe me, but I'm sorry too. I know how much playing meant to you; means.

LAURA

Yeah. I'll be out back.

Laura goes inside the house.

Elizabeth looks at the door, making sure Laura's gone. She excitedly hits Walter on the arm, smiling with absolute glee.

ELIZABETH

I love that Chuck Hern.

Walter shakes his head; he knew she was up to no good.

EXT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Laura stands in the spacious field of a backyard holding a FOOTBALL. A sack full of footballs sits at her feet. She sets up to throw.

Laura throws the football through a TIRE that hangs from the branch of an OAK TREE, 30 FEET away.

Laura grabs another football. She throws it; it goes through the tire.

Laura grabs another football out of the sack.

Walter walks up. He watches her throw a tight spiral through the hanging tire.

WALTER

Way to keep it nice and tight.

Laura grabs another football.

LAURA

Hey, dad.

Laura throws the football.

WALTER

I remember when you were a little girl. You used to come out here and throw at that tire from sunup to sundown; like you were training or something, which you apparently were. You stood a little closer back then.

Laura gives a light chuckle. She grabs a football.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Maybe it's for the best. I would love to continue to have my daughter be in one piece and fully functional.

Laura throws the football with extra force through the tire.

LAURA

It should be my choice.

WALTER

It should. So, what now? Are you gonna dust off the pom-poms?

LAURA

No. I'm gonna continue helping my team, as the backup.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Laura and Tommy stand next to each other in their HELMETS and RED PRACTICE JERSEYS doing a throwing exercise.

TOMMY

Hey, Diamond. How you holding up?

LAURA

Don't act like you care that I lost the starting job; had it taken, actually.

TOMMY

I don't act. I'm a quarterback, not an actor. Don't get me wrong; I want my job, but what happened to you was messed up. You saved our season.

While doing the throwing exercise, Laura looks at Tommy, heeding what he says.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

And you're the toughest player in the history of football. You should have been done after the first hit. But, you got up, and you kept getting up; and you kept winning. You know, except for the last game. How's the noggin?

LAURA

It's fine.

TOMMY

Well, that's all I wanted to say.

Tommy continues with the throwing exercise. Laura looks at him, gives a subtle bashful grin. She continues throwing.

START MONTAGE

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Laura walks down the aisle searching for a particular section of books. She finds what she's looking for.

BOOKSHELF

BOOKS ABOUT FOOTBALL sit on display.

Laura grabs a BOOK. She looks at the cover; it reads:
FOOTBALL FOR DUMB-A**ES.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Laura works her throwing arm on the CABLE MACHINE. She looks like her workout is intense.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Laura sits at the table studying her STALLIONS PLAYBOOK and eating a small buffet that's spread out across the table.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Laura is under Center as she runs a scrimmage with the SECOND TEAM.

SIDELINE

Tommy and the rest of the Starters watch.

PRACTICE FIELD

Laura scans the Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Hut.

The CENTER snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back. She stands in the pocket, looking to pass. Laura throws a bullet to a RECEIVER who runs across the middle of the field.

The football reaches the Receiver on time; the football placed out in front of him, allowing him to catch the ball in stride.

The Receiver turns upfield and sprints to the endzone.

SIDELINE

Tommy and the rest of the Starters nod, impressed by Laura's improvement in passing.

INT. STALLIONS FACILITY - FILM ROOM - NIGHT

The room is movie theater dark; GAME FILM plays from a WALL PROJECTOR.

Laura sits at a table that's dimly lit by a TABLE LAMP. She has the FOOTBALL FOR DUMB-A**ES book open in one hand, and the STALLIONS PLAYBOOK in the other.

Laura looks back and forth between the game film and the books.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

During a game, while the Defense is on the field, Laura sits on the bench next to Tommy watching he and Phil go over and discuss the IN-GAME SNAPSHOTS from earlier on Offense.

Laura leans back on the bench; she looks bored out of her mind. She reveals a bottle of ASPIRIN in her hands; she pops one into her mouth like a tic-tac, chews aggressively.

EXT. TEXAS COLLEGE - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura in full helmet and pads gets hammered by College Player #1 who sacks her. College Player #1 helps her to her feet.

COLLEGE PLAYER #1
You alright?

LAURA
That's the best you got?

Laura isn't fazed. She smiles at College Player #1. He smiles back.

END MONTAGE

ESTABLISH

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - NIGHT

The football game is already in full swing. The dome is packed to capacity and the HOME FANS are rowdy.

SUPERTITLE: EFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - THE BOURBON DOME - NEW ORLEANS, LA.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

Tommy is under Center; he surveys the New Orleans Gators Defense. He points and signals, making changes in protection at the line of scrimmage.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

This is the Eastern Football Conference Championship match up we expected, very competitive, with the winner claiming their spot in the Victory Bowl. Tommy Gunn hasn't played well, unlike his 4 touchdowns/0 interceptions game last week in the Divisional Round. Thanks to Laura Diamond, they beat the Gators the first time they played. They may need her again.

TOMMY

(shout)

Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy; he drops back and stands in the pocket looking to pass. Tommy throws the football; it's INTERCEPTED. The Gators DEFENDER is tackled.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

The Team reacts with disgust, especially the Defense. A Stallions LINEBACKER, Brooks, is livid. He slams his helmet on the ground.

BROOKS

Damn, Tommy.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Tommy and the rest of the Offense walk off the field toward the sideline.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Wow. That's the fifth interception he's thrown in the game, one of which resulted in a pick six. It's entirely thanks to the Stallions Defense that the score is only 7 to 3, with 9 minutes left to go in the fourth quarter. Once again, Tommy Gunn may fail to take his team all the way.

Tommy reaches the sideline, takes off his helmet. He walks past Coach Hern heading to the bench. Brooks walks by Tommy, purposely bumps him. Tommy turns and looks back at Brooks.

TOMMY

I know, Brooks.

Tommy goes and sits on the bench next to Laura. He puts his head down. She looks at Tommy, feeling sorry for him.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Stallions Offense is lined up in Shotgun Formation on their 30 YARD LINE. Tommy surveys the Defense.

TOMMY

(shout)

Blue 57; set, hike.

Victor snaps the ball; Tommy catches the snap, looks to pass.

Andre gets some separation from the Gators DEFENSIVE BACK.

Tommy spots Andre and throws the ball down field, releasing the football just before he takes a hit.

The football sails too far ahead of Andre, preventing him from having an opportunity to catch it.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern stands in between Laura and the Phil. That one was hard to watch; it would have been a touchdown.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Tommy is frustrated with himself.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 Wow. That would've given the
 Stallions the lead with less than 3
 minutes to go in the game and their
 Defense playing lights out.

Mike stands on the field visibly frustrated.

MIKE
 Enough of this crap.

Mike charges at Tommy full speed, sacking him. Tommy lies on
 the turf in pain.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern, Laura, Phil, everybody looks confused.

PHIL
 What the?

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Stallions Team Doctor and his Staff run over to Tommy and
 tend to him.

Victor shoves Mike.

VICTOR
 What crack is you smokin'?

MIKE
 Man, I'm not losing this game.

VICTOR
 If so, then why you goin' all
 Defensive Tackle on our QB?

MIKE
 Because Coach ain't gone take him
 out the game.

VICTOR
 What are you talking about?

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Laura looks out onto the field. Coach Hern looks at Laura.

COACH HERN
 Laura.

Laura looks at Coach, hopefulness in her eyes.

LAURA
Yeah, Coach.

COACH HERN
Go get Kyle.

Laura's bubble is burst.

LAURA
Okay, Coach.

Laura walks off.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Tommy slowly rises to his feet.

STALLIONS TEAM DOCTOR
You alright to play?

TOMMY
I'm alright.

MIKE
You won't be after I knock you out?

Mike goes for Tommy. Victor and Bernie restrain him.

TOMMY
Hey, man, what's your problem?

MIKE
Yo' quarterback play is my problem.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern walks over to a nearby REF. He taps the Ref, gestures a time-out.

COACH HERN
Time-out.

The Ref BLOWS his whistle and indicates that a time-out has been taken.

REF
Time-out; Stallions.

Coach Hern steps out onto the field.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Coach Hern stops and stands.

COACH HERN
(yell)
Hey, idiots. Get over here.

Victor and Bernie let go of Mike and they all walk to the sideline.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
What's the problem, fellas?

MIKE
We're a touchdown away from winning
this game and being on our way to
the Victory Bowl. Just one
touchdown.

Laura walks up with Kyle.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Put Laura in.

JERRY JOHNSON (O.S.)
Yeah, put Laura in.

Jerry Johnson walks up in an expensive suit and Cowboy Hat and Boots.

COACH HERN
Absolutely not.

MIKE
Coach, do you wanna win?

COACH HERN
What do you think?

MIKE
Then act like it.

Coach Hern gives Mike a look; who does he think he's talking to?

MIKE (CONT'D)
Put Laura in. Let her get this one
for us. It's just one drive. She
won't get touched. Right. O-Line?

The Offensive Linemen give an intense nod.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Let's get this touchdown and then
let the Defense finish 'em off.

Coach Hern ponders his decision for a moment.

COACH HERN
Kyle, get out there.

Kyle, already holding his helmet, goes to put it on. Mike
walks up to him.

MIKE
Get on the bench, Kyle.

COACH HERN
Get on the field, Kyle.

Kyle looks at Mike who imposes his size upon him. Kyle looks
at Coach Hern.

KYLE
Are you gonna help me fight him?

Kyle waits for a response. He gets none.

KYLE (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.

Kyle turns and walks to the bench.

COACH HERN
Laura it is.

The Ref BLOWS the whistle, signaling the end of the time-out.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
Laura, Tight Queen Right 87 Post.

LAURA
Got it.

Laura runs and grabs her HELMET, comes back.

Laura, Mike, Victor, and Bernie walk onto the field to resume
play.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura looks at Mike.

LAURA
Thanks, Mike.

Laura smiles with childlike glee and shoves on her helmet.

Mike shakes his head, she's silly.

The Stallions huddle. Laura tells the rest of the Offense the play.

STALLIONS OFFENSE

Break.

The Stallions break huddle. They line up against the Gators Defense.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Laura Diamond is back on the field,
Ladies and Gentlemen. She's done it
in the past, can she do it now?
It's 2nd Down and 10.

Laura is under Center. She surveys the Defense. She grins, recognizing what formation the Defense is in.

LAURA

(shout)

Green 97, Black Hawk; Razor, Razor.

Victor grins, impressed with Laura's improvement in knowing the offense.

Laura pats her hip. A Stallions RECEIVER shifts around in the formation.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern and the Phil stand together.

PHIL

Great audible.

COACH HERN

Yeah, she's learning.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Laura under Center, surveys the Defense one last time.

LAURA

(shout)

Green 97; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back, fakes the handoff, looks to pass.

Andre puts a DOUBLE MOVE on the Gators DEFENSIVE BACK who's covering him and sprints up the field WIDE OPEN.

Laura spots him immediately. She slings the ball down field.

The football spins in a perfect spiral down field, catching up with Andre 40 yards down field.

Andre catches the football and high steps into the endzone.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

The Team erupts in celebration. Jerry puts both arms up, signaling Touchdown.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Laura jumps up and down, putting those cheerleader skills to use as she celebrates.

ENDZONE

Andre does a TOUCHDOWN DANCE.

INT. THE BOURBON DOME - VISITOR'S LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The Stallions celebrate their victory wearing their EFC CHAMPIONSHIP HATS & T-SHIRTS and spraying each other with CHAMPAGNE.

Laura stands in the eye of the storm. She and the others jump up and down repeatedly. The Players CHANT.

STALLIONS PLAYERS

Laura, Laura, Laura, Laura, Laura,
Laura, Laura.

They spray Laura with Champagne. She happily shields herself.

Coach Hern walks in with a big smile on his face. He walks to the center of the room. He gestures for everybody to quiet down.

It quiets down.

COACH HERN

Great effort, guys, and gal. You're
Eastern Football Conference Champs.

(excited)

(MORE)

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
 And we're goin' to the freakin'
 Victory Bowl.

Everybody CHEERS.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
 Listen up. We already know who our
 opponents are; the big bad Houston
 Gunslingers. They got us in the
 first game, but they're not gonna
 get us in this last one.

Everybody CHEERS.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
 We got two weeks to prepare. Let's
 make em' count.

Everybody CHEERS.

COACH HERN (CONT'D)
 And, Tommy, try not to get injured
 this time.

Everybody gets serious. The mood turns awkward.

LAURA
 Tommy? But, I--

COACH HERN
 One drive, remember?

LAURA
 That's not fair.

COACH HERN
 That's football. Tommy starts in
 the Victory Bowl.

Coach Hern walks out, leaving dead silence in his wake.

MIKE
 That's messed up.

Laura walks to her locker. She picks up a her HELMET and bangs it repeatedly against the locker. She throws down the helmet and beats on the locker with her fist.

Laura stops the assault, exhausted. She sits on the floor, leans against the locker. She buries her face into her hands and WEEPS.

The Players feel for her, especially Tommy. The only sound that can be heard is Laura's weeping.

ESTABLISH

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - DAY

It's MEDIA DAY during VICTORY BOWL WEEK. The field and Stadium is crawling with MEDIA, PLAYERS, and FANS.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy sits at an INTERVIEW BOOTH in his SPECIAL VICTORY BOWL EDITION STALLIONS JERSEY before a crowd of MEDIA CAMERAS and REPORTERS.

TOMMY

I'm happy to finally be here. It's been a long journey. And I guess it's only right that it be against the Gunslingers. Being a born and bred Dallas boy, I've loved being a part of this historic rivalry. And they're the only loss on our record this year.

MALE MEDIA DAY REPORTER #1

You already have the statistics, and now you have a chance to finally win the hardware and silence your critics. If the Stallions win, will the fact that Laura Diamond is the reason the Stallions are in the Victory Bowl, instead of you, diminish in your opinion, you finally bringing Dallas a Championship?

TOMMY

Not at all. It's no secret that when a team makes it to the Victory Bowl or any Championship Game in any sport, it's because of the efforts of the entire team. There's no I in team, right?

MALE MEDIA DAY REPORTER #1

Do you think she deserves to play in this game?

TOMMY

I think Coach Hern made the decision; and I think I'm still Tommy Gunn.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Laura sits at an INTERVIEW BOOTH in her SPECIAL VICTORY BOWL EDITION STALLIONS JERSEY before a crowd of MEDIA CAMERAS and REPORTERS.

MALE MEDIA DAY REPORTER #2

How do you feel about not playing in the Victory Bowl even though you're essentially the reason the Stallions are here in Houston?

LAURA

That's football. Coach Hern made his decision. I have to live with it like any player would.

MALE MEDIA DAY REPORTER #2

The Gunslingers Defense has always had Tommy's number, which you obviously know; so if Tommy struggles, maybe your Left Tackle, Mike Jones, will force him out of the game again.

The Media laughs. Laura laughs as well, hoping that notion becomes more than a joke.

ESTABLISH

EXT. HOUSTON STADIUM - DAY

OVERHEAD SHOT of the Stadium. The stands are packed with FANS and the football field looks beautiful enough to play on.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

It's a beautiful day for some championship football.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The GUNSLINGERS KICKER and the rest of the KICKOFF TEAM line up to kick the ball to the Stallions.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

The Victory Bowl is about to get underway.

The Gunslingers Kicker signals, he runs to the football, the rest of the Team follows; he kicks it down the field.

The Stallions Kickoff Returner stands in the endzone. He looks up, tracking the ball; he catches it and kneels down.

A REF blows the whistle.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Tommy stands next to Coach Hern, ready to go out on the field. Laura and Phil stand nearby.

COACH HERN

(to Tommy)

Let's show em' we mean business.
Tight Wing Left Flop 41 Sabrina.

Tommy smiles; he's ready.

TOMMY

Yeah, let's.

Tommy runs to the huddle--

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

He joins the huddle.

TOMMY

Tight Wing Left Flop 41 Sabrina on
three; ready.

STALLIONS OFFENSE

Break.

The Stallions Offense breaks huddle and lines up against the Gunslingers Defense, remembering their first encounter earlier in the season.

Tommy gets under Center, scans the Defense. They're on the Stallions 20 YARD LINE.

TOMMY

(shout)

Brown 27, Brown 27; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy; he drops back, stands in the pocket, looks to pass.

Andre does a DOUBLE MOVE and blows by the Defender, sprinting upfield WIDE OPEN. He calls for the ball.

Tommy already spotted him; he slings the football down field.

The ball cuts through the air with a pretty spiral.

Andre puts out his hands as the football drops right in front of him; he catches it in stride and runs into the endzone for a TOUCHDOWN.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

The Stallions erupt with excitement.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - ENDZONE - SAME

Andre does a TOUCHDOWN DANCE. Tommy and other players on Offense run up to him and give him congratulatory pats on the helmet.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - SAME

Coach Hern looks at Phil with a smug expression.

COACH HERN

That's the way to start a game.

Phil smiles.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Stallions are on Offense on their SECOND DRIVE. Tommy is under Center, reading the Defense.

TOMMY

(shout)

Blue 27.

Tommy looks confident.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy; he drops back to pass. He looks for who's open.

A Gunslingers Defensive End does a quick spin move and gets by Bernie.

Tommy spots the rushing Defensive End and quickly throws the football as the Defensive End plows into his chest, knocking him back and onto the turf.

The football is intercepted by a Gunslingers Defensive Back. He's tackled immediately.

The Defensive Back hops up and celebrates "getting a pick" with his Teammates.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

That looks more like the number one Defense in the League. Their nerves may have gotten to them during the opening drive touchdown by the Stallions, this is their first time playing in the Victory Bowl; but they seem to have settled down.

START MONTAGE

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Stallions Offense lined up against the Gunslingers Defense. Tommy under Center.

TOMMY

(shout)

Hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy. He drops back, looks to pass.

Mike gets beat by a Defensive Lineman.

The Gunslingers Defensive Lineman rushes Tommy and lays a vicious hit on him.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy stands in the pocket looking for an open Receiver. He throws the football to a Stallions Receiver near the sideline.

A Gunslingers Defensive Back cuts in front of the Stallions Receiver and intercepts the ball. He runs it in for a Touchdown.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Coach Hern, Laura, and Phil stand near each other. They can't believe that just happened.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy yanks off his chin strap in anger.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Another interception. This time a
pick six.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy stands in the pocket. He throws the football to Andre who runs across the middle of the field at about midfield.

Andre is hit by the Gunslingers Safety like a car in a head on collision. He fumbles the football.

A Gunslingers Defender falls onto the football. A Stallions player touches him, ending the play.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Wow; what a hit. It's a good thing
Laura Diamond isn't playing.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - DAY

Coach Hern, Laura, and Phil stand together.

PHIL
Wow, they really hittin', Coach.

COACH HERN
Yeah. That's football.

PHIL
Yeah.

Laura intensely stares out onto the field.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy is under Center; he surveys the Defense.

TOMMY
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy. He drops back.

A Gunslingers Linebacker rushes free up the middle.

Tommy quickly gets rid of the ball as he gets hammered by the Linebacker.

The ball is picked off by a Gunslingers Defensive Back and he runs it in for a Touchdown.

The Stallions Offense stands on the field, defeated.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
This can't be real. Another pick
six.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - LUXURY BOX - DAY

Jerry Johnson rises out of his chair and slams his cowboy hat on the floor.

JERRY JOHNSON
Damn it, Tommy.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Tommy walks to the Stallions sideline.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
This is vintage Tommy Gunn, choking
in big games. He's letting his Team
and the city of Dallas down.

END MONTAGE

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Gunslingers Offense is lined up against the Stallions Defense.

GUNSLINGERS QUARTERBACK
(shout)
Set, hut.

The Gunslingers CENTER snaps the ball. The Gunslingers Quarterback drops to one knee.

A REF blows the whistle.

The Teams head off the field and back to the locker rooms.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
That'll do for the first half of
the Victory Bowl.
(MORE)

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

The score is Gunslingers
35/Stallions 7. We'll see if Tommy
Gunn can turn things around in the
second half.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - VISITOR'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The Stallions sit around the locker room, silent, and recovering from the beating they just took in the first half.

Laura sits in front of a locker. She looks around at the Players. She shakes her head; she doesn't understand what their problem is.

Laura stands. She walks to the center of the room; everyone notices. She has their attention.

LAURA

Should I go tell the Gunslingers we said they can have the trophy? Listen, I love football. I fell in love with this game as a little girl sittin' on the couch with her daddy, watching players who look like superheroes clobber each other.

Tommy smiles.

LAURA (CONT'D)

And like every little boy, I dreamed of being in that big moment where you rise up and make the big play that wins your team the game. I wanted to do it as a quarterback, and as a female. Football is a game about domination. For as long as I can remember, I've hated men; hated how you look down on us, how you treat us like we're weaker than you just because we're weaker than you.

Emphatic looks from the other Players fill the attentive locker room.

LAURA (CONT'D)

This all started when our quarterback, Tommy Gunn, told me I could never play quarterback in the pro's, even though he said I can throw the football as good as any guy. Of course, the reason he said I can't do it is obvious.

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)

(looks at Tommy)

Never tell a woman what she can't do.

Laura gives Tommy a smug grin. She winks at him. Tommy smiles.

LAURA (CONT'D)

You guys didn't accept me at first, but once I proved myself, you guys accepted me as one of your own; as your teammate; as your equal. I thank you for that. I wish I could be on the field doing everything I can to help this team win, but since I can't, I thought I'd give a pep talk. After all, I know a thing or two about pep.

Laura strikes a cheerleading pose. The Team laughs.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Stallions; making history is at our doorstep. Let's open the door and show the world who's the best team in Texas.

The Players CHEER loudly; they're fired up.

START MONTAGE

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Stallions Defense lines up against the Gunslingers Offense on the Gunslingers' 40 YARD LINE. The Gunslingers QB is under Center.

GUNSLINGERS QUARTERBACK

(shout)

Set, hut.

The Gunslingers Center snaps the football to the QB; he drops back, stands in the pocket, looks to pass.

A Stallions Defensive End shoves a Gunslingers Offensive Lineman out of his way and rushes the quarterback.

The Gunslingers QB quickly gets rid of the football; he gets hammered by the Stallions Defensive End immediately after he throws the ball.

The football is intercepted by a Stallions Linebacker; he runs in open field to the endzone and scores a Touchdown.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

The Team CHEERS.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - ENDZONE - NIGHT

The Stallions Linebacker strikes a cocky pose, showing off to the Fans.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Tommy stands in the pocket, looks to pass. He spots Andre running down field.

Tommy slings the ball from the Stallions 30 YARD LINE; the ball soars down field.

Andre runs, catches the deep pass near the Gunslingers' 10 YARD LINE, and runs into the endzone.

Tommy celebrates the touchdown pass with an emphatic gesture.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Wow. What a throw! Tommy Gunn
showing off that strong arm of his.

Tommy looks toward the Stallions sideline at Laura.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Laura looks at Tommy; she smiles. She clinches her fist; he did good.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Tommy smiles, clinches his fist back at her.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Stallions Offense lined up against the Gunslingers Defense on the Stallions 10 YARD LINE.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 The Stallions are backed up on
 their own 10 yard line after the
 punt.

Tommy is under center. He surveys the Defense.

TOMMY
 (shout)
 Hut.

Victor snaps the football to Tommy. Tommy hands the ball off
 to Ricky.

Ricky runs up the middle between two Stallions Blockers; he
 turns on the jets and sprints past the Gunslingers second
 level of Defense and beyond into nothing but green grass.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 (excited)
 Jackson is out in the open field.
 He's off to the races.

Ricky runs. He dives across the threshold of the endzone,
 scoring a Touchdown.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 Touchdown, Stallions.

Ricky celebrates scoring a TD. His other teammates on Offense
 run to him and celebrate with him. Tommy pats him on the
 helmet.

END MONTAGE

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Stallions Offense lines up against the Gunslingers
 Defense; they're on the Gunslingers' 10 YARD LINE.

Tommy lines up under Center.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 After starting off as a blowout,
 this has actually become a game.
 The Stallions are down only one
 score and are in the redzone
 looking to tie things up with three
 minutes left to go in this
 Championship game.

Tommy surveys the Defense.

TOMMY
 (shout)
 Blue 57; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Tommy; he drops back, looks to pass. There's pressure from the pass rush.

Tommy throws the ball quickly and with force.

The football is just out of reach of Andre, who tries to catch the ball in the corner of the endzone while being well covered by a Gunslingers Defensive Back.

Tommy reacts; he's disappointed, almost had that one.

SIDELINE

The MARKER PERSON changes the DOWN MARKER to display the number 4, signifying 4TH DOWN.

FOOTBALL FIELD

The Stallions FIELD GOAL UNIT runs onto the field and lines up to kick.

The football is snapped.

The HOLDER catches the football and places it on the turf.

The Kicker kicks.

The football sails through the center of the FIELD GOAL POST.

The Players on the Stallions Field Goal Unit congratulate the Kicker on a successful kick.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 The kick is good. The score is now,
 Gunslingers 35, Stallions 31, with
 a little over two minutes to go in
 this exciting Victory Bowl Matchup.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT - LATER

The Gunslingers prepare to punt the football. They're lined up on their own 30 YARD LINE.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 The Gunslingers prepare to punt
 after the Stallions forced a quick
 3 and Out.

The LONG SNAPPER snaps the ball to the Gunslingers PUNTER. He punts the football.

The ball goes high and far.

The Stallions Punt Returner tracks the football. He discerns that the ball will land behind him so he gets out of the way.

The football hits the turf, bounces, then tumbles down the field.

A Gunslingers Punt Team PLAYER catches up to the ball and watches it tumble until it loses momentum on the Stallions 1 YARD LINE.

The Gunslingers Punt Team Player picks up the football, ending the play.

A REF blows the WHISTLE.

The Gunslingers Punt Team Player and the rest of the Gunslingers Punt Team celebrate the big play.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Wow, the 1 yard line; you couldn't
ask for a better punt. The
Stallions have to score a
touchdown, and they'll have to
travel 99 yards to do it.

Tommy and the rest of the Offense take the field.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Let's see if Tommy Gunn will
finally silence his critics and
finally bring Dallas a
Championship.

The Stallions huddle. Tommy gives the play. They break huddle and line up.

Tommy scans the Defense from under Center; he looks like something besides the Gunslingers Defense is on his mind.

Tommy signals a time-out.

A REF blows the WHISTLE.

Tommy heads to the sideline.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern and Laura stand together. Everyone looks confused.

Tommy walks up.

COACH HERN
What's the matter?

TOMMY
Put Laura in.

COACH HERN
Come again?

TOMMY
Yeah, you heard me.

COACH HERN
You got somewhere you need to be?

TOMMY
She deserves to play.

Tommy walks up to Laura.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Laura, you deserve to play.

LAURA
You said that. Why are you doing this?

TOMMY
We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you. If you were a guy, there's no question you would've started this game. To be honest, you're the reason we have a chance to win now; that was the best halftime speech I ever heard.

Laura's flattered.

LAURA
You played like it.

Tommy smiles. He looks toward the bench, signals someone to come over. Laura turns and looks.

Justin, wearing Laura's JERSEY, walks up carrying Laura's HELMET. He hands it to her.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Thanks.

Justin puckers a kiss at Laura and winks. He reacts quickly with a surrendering smile.

JUSTIN
I'm just playing.

Laura and Tommy laugh.

Tommy gets Laura's attention. They look into each other's eyes. There's tension of the sexual kind.

TOMMY
Go out there and show 'em why you never tell a woman what she can't do.

Laura smiles; she has that look in her eyes.

LAURA
You're lucky people are watching.

TOMMY
So are you.

Laura gives Tommy a cheeky grin. She shoves on her helmet.

Phil walks up.

PHIL
Laura.

Laura looks.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Pro Right 34 Lead. We need to get you some breathing room.

LAURA
Got it.

Laura readies to run out onto the field; Tommy pats her on the butt.

TOMMY
Go get 'em.

Laura pretends to be offended by Tommy's flirtatious butt pat.

Laura takes the field.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura runs to the huddle.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

What's this? Laura Diamond is running out to play. This is history in the making, folks. A quarterback in professional football, who's a woman, has the chance to lead her team on a game-winning drive, in the Victory Bowl.

STALLIONS HUDDLE

The Guys are happy to see their cheerleader.

MIKE

Make up your mind. Do you wanna be a cheerleader on the sideline or a player on the field?

Laura smiles.

LAURA

My mind is made up. Pro Right 34
Lead on three.

VICTOR

(angry)

Call the right play, Laura. Ain't no way they called a running play.

Victor smiles; they get the joke.

LAURA

You're hilarious.

VICTOR

I try.

LAURA

Let's show the Gunslingers how to play Texas football. Stallions on three; 1,2,3--

STALLIONS HUDDLE

Stallions.

The Stallions break huddle and line up on the 1 YARD LINE.

Laura is under Center, Ricky in the backfield, which is inside the endzone.

Laura scopes the Defense.

LAURA
(shout)
Yellow 28, Yellow 28; set, hut-hut,
hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura.

Ricky sprints forward and takes the handoff from Laura.

A Gunslingers Linebacker runs through a gap in the offensive line, heading straight for Ricky. It looks like Ricky is going to be tackled in the endzone for a Safety.

Ricky spins away from the Linebacker and runs through a gap between blocks and runs for 30 yards; he's tackled from behind by a pursuing Gunslingers Defender.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern runs to a nearby REF. He gestures a time-out.

COACH HERN
Time-out.

The Ref blows the WHISTLE, signals time-out.

VICTORY BOWL REF
Time-out. Stallions.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
The Stallions use their final time-out with 55 seconds left in the game.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Laura takes out her MOUTHPIECE, sticks it in her facemask, walks to the sideline.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern goes to meet her. Tommy stands nearby, observing.

COACH HERN
Laura, you're sure you wanna do this? They know we have to throw the ball and this is the best blitzing Defense in the League.

LAURA

They're the best Defense at everything; so what? I'll be fine, Coach.

JERRY JOHNSON (O.S.)

Yeah, she'll be fine, Coach.

Up walks Jerry Johnson. He pats Laura on the shoulder pad, smiles; he looks pleased.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Laura Diamond, my cheerleading Quarterback. I know you're gonna win it for us.

Jerry walks to Tommy; the look on his face shows he has something very serious to say.

JERRY JOHNSON (CONT'D)

When your career is all said and done, and they vote you into Canton, when they ask what was the main reason you got in, first ballet by the way, they'll say it was that first play on the final drive in the Victory Bowl. When Tommy Gunn called that time-out and he took himself out of the game during its biggest moment and handed over the reigns to Cheerleader/Quarterback extraordinaire, Laura Diamond. Because he did that, the Dallas Stallions won their very first Victory Bowl. So thank you, you future H.O.F. It'll be a proud day in Ohio.

Tommy looks dumbfounded.

TOMMY

Wow.

(sarcastic)

I appreciate you saying that, Jerry. You're welcome.

Laura grins; she can't believe Jerry said that; it was funny though.

A REF blows the WHISTLE, ending the time-out.

COACH HERN
 Okay, Laura. Let's go. Gun Tight
 King Right 6 Lead Option.

LAURA
 Got it.

Laura puts back in her MOUTHPIECE and runs out onto the field.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Laura jogs to the huddle.

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

The Players lean in close to Laura.

LAURA
 Gun Tight King Right 6 Lead Option;
 ready--

STALLIONS OFFENSE
 Break.

The Stallions break the huddle and walk to the line of scrimmage; this is it.

They line up in SHOTGUN FORMATION on their own 31 YARD LINE.

Laura studies the Gunslingers Defense, who can't wait for the ball to be snapped so they can get after her; they look like a hungry pack of dogs.

LAURA
 (looks around at Offense)
 Kill, kill. Zero, Nebraska.

The Stallions Offense shifts in formation; Laura walks and lines up under Center.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 Number seven audibles. She's really
 gotten settled into the Stallions
 Offense. She's a Pro Quarterback.

Laura points at Defenders, signifying Pass Protection.

LAURA
 (shout)
 Blue 57.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern, Tommy, and Phil stand together observing the game.

PHIL
Somebody's been studying.

COACH HERN
Yeah. If I didn't know any better,
you would think that's a real
quarterback out there.

TOMMY
That is.

Coach Hern chuckles.

COACH HERN
I was just kidding, Loverboy.

Tommy grins.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Laura under Center, prepares to take the snap.

LAURA
(shout)
Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back, fakes a handoff to Ricky.

Ricky steps out to block.

Laura looks for an open Receiver. She spots Andre running a SLANT ROUTE across the middle of the field.

Laura throws the football; the ball comes out of her hand like it was shot out of a cannon.

The football zips 40 YARDS down field.

Andre catches the football and immediately gets whacked by a Gunslingers Defender; the impact is like crashing into a steel wall. He holds onto the football despite the hard hit.

The play ends where Andre lies on the turf; on the Gunslingers' 10 YARD LINE. Andre quickly gets up.

Laura signals as she and the rest of the Offense run up field; they hurry to line up.

The Stallions and the Gunslingers line up. Laura is under Center.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (shout)
 Set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura. She quickly throws the football at the ground in front of her.

A REF blows the WHISTLE.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 Laura Diamond spikes the ball,
 stopping the clock with 30 seconds
 to go in the Victory Bowl.

Laura stands waiting for the Offense to huddle around her.

LAURA'S HELMET EARPIECE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 You got this, Laura. Gun Tight Left
 62 Whip.

The Stallions huddle up.

INSIDE STALLIONS HUDDLE

Laura looks around at the Guys; everybody fights to contain their excitement.

LAURA
 I know this feels good, but we
 aren't the best team in Texas yet.
 We got four downs to get it done.
 Let's get it done.

The Players nod with determined looks on their faces.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 Gun Tight Left 62 Whip; ready--

STALLIONS HUDDLE
 Break.

The Stallions break the huddle and line up. Laura lines up under Center, surveys the Defense.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 This is the first time the
 Stallions have been in the red zone
 the entire game.
 (MORE)

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

They have a chance to win it, but it's going to be tough. The Gunslingers were ranked number one in red zone defense during the regular season.

LAURA

(shout)

Green 47, Green 47; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back, looks to pass.

Laura spots the Tight End inside the endzone, near the front.

Laura throws the football as pressure from the pass rush nearly gets to her.

A Gunslingers Defensive Back cuts in front of the Tight End, intercepts the pass. He gets his hands on the football.

The GASPS from everyone in the stadium is all that's heard.

The Gunslingers DB juggles the football and drops it; there's nothing but open field in front of him.

The Gunslingers DB shows his frustration with himself.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Wow. He dropped the interception; that would've ended the game. He's clearly upset with himself, knowing that would've not only ended the game, but added a pick six in a Victory Bowl to his resume.

Laura knows that was a close one.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Tommy watches anxiously.

TOMMY

(to himself)

Calm down, Laura.

Tommy looks up at the SCOREBOARD. It displays: STALLIONS 31; GUNSLINGERS 35; 2ND DOWN AND 10; 25 SECONDS LEFT TO GO in the game.

Tommy looks out onto the field.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

STALLIONS HUDDLE

LAURA

Well that was a close one.

The Players laugh to keep from crying.

LAURA (CONT'D)

It won't happen again. Tight Queen
Right 43 Franco; ready--

STALLIONS HUDDLE

Break.

The Stallions break huddle and line up; you can feel that this play is going to decide it.

Laura stands behind Victor, pointing at Defenders, calling out Pass Protection.

Laura steps up and gets under Center.

LAURA

(shout)

Black 28, Black 28; set, hut.

Victor snaps the ball to Laura; she drops back, looks to pass.

Andre runs up the right side of the field toward the endzone. He reaches the endzone, puts a move on the Defender who's covering him, and cuts to the back corner of the endzone.

Laura spots Andre wide open, as well as a Defender running at her.

Laura stands tall in the pocket, sets her feet, and throws the football as she takes a vicious hit.

Andre catches the football in the endzone.

The Crowd CHEERS.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Touchdown!

Andre celebrates in the endzone.

Laura runs to Andre and jumps on him, full of excitement; you would never know she took a vicious hit a moment ago.

The rest of the Offense joins in on the celebration.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
The Dallas Stallions have won their
very first Victory Bowl.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - STALLIONS SIDELINE - NIGHT

Coach Hern, Phil, Tommy, Jerry, and the rest of the team celebrate.

INT. LAURA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Walter and Elizabeth jump up and down, celebrating.

WALTER
That's my baby girl.

Walter does a happy dance, which is more like a prideful strut than a dance.

INT. HOUSTON STADIUM - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

CONFETTI falls from the sky as it's dumped out of a PLANE flying over the stadium.

Players celebrating with their KIDS, Coaches, MEDIA, FANS, all sorts of PEOPLE, are on the field.

Stallions Players celebrate with Teammates.

MID FIELD

Laura stands, looks around with pure elation and satisfaction and pride on her face; Mission Accomplished.

Coach Hern walks up to Laura. She looks; what does he want? He extends his hand. Laura hesitates. Shakes his hand.

Coach Hern smiles. Laura smiles. He walks away.

Mona approaches, walks pass Coach Hern.

MONA
Congrats, Coach.

Coach Hern smiles, keeps walking.

Mona smiles at Laura. She runs and jumps on Laura, wrapping her arms and legs around her. Laura smiles.

MONA (CONT'D)
Way to go, big sis.

LAURA
Thanks.

TOMMY (O.S.)
Yeah. Way to go, big sis.

Laura, still holding Mona, turns around. Tommy stands there smiling. Mona hops off of Laura.

MONA
Thanks for doing right by my
sister.

TOMMY
She deserved it.

Mona smiles. Walks away.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Hey there, MVP. Or should I say,
MVC; Most Valuable Cheerleader.

LAURA
I like Victory Bowl winning
Quarterback. We did it.

TOMMY
Yeah, we did.

LAURA
Thanks again for--

Tommy steps closer to Laura, puts his finger over her mouth. He removes his finger.

TOMMY
It was an honor to watch you play;
this whole season. You wanna know a
secret?

The passion surges between the two.

LAURA
What?

TOMMY
You're my favorite Quarterback.

Laura smiles; she's flattered.

Tommy leans in for a kiss.

LAURA
I have a secret too.

TOMMY
What?

LAURA
You're my favorite Quarterback too,
always have been.

Laura grabs the front of Tommy's jersey, pulls him closer.
They kiss.

ESTABLISH

EXT. LONE STAR STADIUM - DAY

The camera hovers above the stadium on a beautiful day for football.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
It's a beautiful day for some
football here in Dallas, Texas.

INT. LONE STAR STADIUM - SAME

The stadium is packed with SCREAMING STALLIONS FANS. It's almost gametime.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
This crowd can't shut up as they
await their beloved Stallions, the
Defending Champs, to take the field
in their Season Opener.

CORNER OF FOOTBALL FIELD

The Stallionettes stand opposite each other in two lines shaking their pom-poms and waiting for the Team to run out of the tunnel.

Laura stands at the end of one of the lines, closest to the tunnel, in her CHEERLEADING UNIFORM, shaking POM-POMS, hyping up the Crowd.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
The Stallions and the city of
Dallas have their Quarterback,
Laura Diamond, to thank.
(MORE)

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

I bet nobody in Dallas thought they would owe their very first Championship to one of the cheerleaders; Coach Hern has her to thank as well, for that matter. She retired after only playing one season, and because of what she did in that season, the Hall of Fame Committee said she will be put on the ballet and legitimately considered for enshrinement five years from now.

The Stallions, the Champs, run out of the tunnel. The Fans GO CRAZY.

STALLIONS GAME COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Here they are. Your Victory Bowl Champions, the Dallas Stallions.

Tommy is the last to run out. He spots Laura and jogs to her. They look at each other lovingly.

TOMMY

You look beautiful; you looked even better in this uniform.

LAURA

I agree.

TOMMY

It was only a year, but you got a ring out of it.

Laura raises her LEFT HAND, shows off an ENGAGEMENT RING.

LAURA

Yeah, two; this one's my favorite. I can't wait to be your wife.

TOMMY

Of course you can't; I'm Tommy Gunn.

Tommy cracks a smile; he's kidding. Laura smiles. She grabs Tommy by his jersey, pulls him in for a kiss.

LAURA

Go get 'em, Stallion.

TOMMY

I got 'em. Oh, and be ready; I might get hurt.

Tommy smiles. Laura smiles, shakes her head; don't be stupid.

Tommy turns to leave. Laura pats him on the butt as you do in football. Tommy looks at her. He smiles.

Laura smiles at him; everybody gets the joke. Tommy runs to join the rest of the team. Laura watches him as she CHEERS and shakes those pom-poms.

LAURA
Go Stallions!

Laura flashes her beautiful cheerleader smile.

FADE TO BLACK.