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Legendary

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Legendary

By

Joe C. England

A thesis screenplay presented to the

Faculty of the Department of
Screenwriting
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Feature Film Screenwriting

May 5, 2016

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy
for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Screenwriting

Student: Joe C. England Date: 12/15/15

Committee Co Chair (690): *Burt DeLo* Date: 12/15/15

Committee Co Chair (691): *Will Hoop* Date: 5/5/2016

Advanced Screenplay Project Title:

Legendary

Criteria for advancement to candidacy:

Student has demonstrated sufficient ability and knowledge to complete the thesis project.

Approved to Candidacy


Not Approved to Candidacy

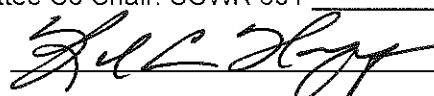
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ADVANCED SCREENPLAY PROJECT APPROVAL

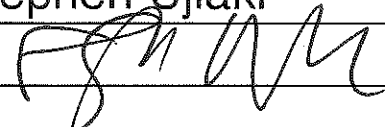
The Advanced Screenplay Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting submitted by the candidate fulfills the requirements and standards set forth in the University Bulletin by the Division.

Screenplay Title: Legendary
Student: Joe C. England Date: 12/15/15

Committee Co Chair: SCWR 690 Beth Serlin
Signed:  Date: 12/15/15

Committee Co Chair: SCWR 691 Karol Ann Hoeffner
Signed:  Date: 5/5/2016

Graduate Director: Karol Ann Hoeffner
Signed:  Date: 5/5/2016

Dean: Stephen Ujlaki
Signed:  Date: 5/15/16

This feature length screenplay written by
Joe C. England

under the guidance of a faculty committee
from the School of Film & Television at
Loyola Marymount University, and approved
by the members of the committee, has been
presented to and accepted by the Graduate
School in partial fulfillment of the thesis
requirements for the degree of Master of
Fine Arts in Screenwriting.

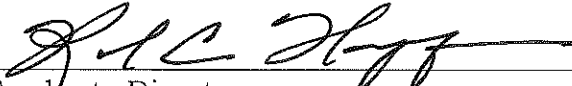
Advanced Screenplay Project Committee:



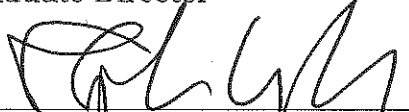
Committee Chair: SCWR 690



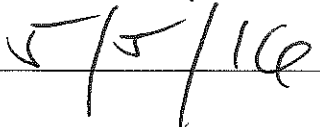
Committee Member: SCWR 691



Graduate Director



Dean, School of Film & Television



Date

Legendary

A Screenplay

Presented to

The Faculty of the School of Film & Television,
Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, California

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Fine Arts

By

Joe C. England

LEGENDARY

An eSports comedy...

by

Joe C. England

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FADE IN:

INT. RANDOM BAR - DAY

A BARTENDER, turns on the TV for a group of FANS.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

BIRD LEE, late 20s, More American than Chinese unless convenient otherwise, turns on his TV, sips a SLURPEE.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

A DAD, Korean, 40s, has just turned on their TV and joins his cute little family on a couch. Their TV matches what we see and eventually takes over our whole screen.

"Thunderstruck" by AC/DC and a beautiful, yet quick, aerial shot of Los Angeles eventually lead us to--

EXT. STAPLES CENTER - LCS NA CHAMPIONSHIPS - NIGHT

Searchlights dance in the sky and thousands of EXCITED FANS and PASSIONATE COSPLAYERS enter the stadium that's adorned in MASSIVE *League of Legends* LCS NA POSTERS.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to ESPN's first ever eSports coverage of the LCS NA Championships here in beautiful Los Angeles.

A BRACKET BOARD appears on screen with TEAM LOGOS.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Tonight, the top six teams of North America will compete in a best of 5 single elimination tournament to decide who will go on to World's this year.

The bracket fades out and takes us inside--

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

If you were impressed outside, now you're blood's really pumping. Beyonce's Tour ain't got nothing on this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Giant 50 foot screens display images and clips that make these gaming gods appear larger than life.

Stage lights, special effects, music, thousands of excited fans... you can't help but say hashtag awesome.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

The excitement is palpable, the stage is set and we are about to get underway as the final teams arrive to stake their claim in League of Legends gaming history.

INT. CASTING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

All the excitement can still be seen in the b.g.

In the f.g., facing the camera, wearing headsets, we find

MIKE CALL, 30s, suit, ESPN SPORTSCASTER. He knows it.

and JIMMY AMICO, 20s, the "face" of eSports. He's excited.

MIKE CALL

I'm your host, Mike Call and with me is Jimmy Amico who's going to help break things down for those new to the eSports scene.

JIMMY AMICO

Thrilled to be here!

A MAP of the DIGITAL BATTLEFIELD appears on screen. At it's far ends are two "Bases" that look like towers. In the middle are three lanes connecting the bases.

As Jimmy talks, the areas of the maps referenced HIGHLIGHT on screen for the audience.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Two teams of five converge down these three lanes in hopes of destroying their opponent's base and racking up kills and gold. Outside these three lanes there's treacherous terrain of rivers and jungles where enemy players wait to jump out and kill you. And, if you think that's bad, just wait till you see the computer generated monsters...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The map fades out. We go back to the--

INT. CASTING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

MIKE CALL

So you're saying everything in
this game wants to kill you?
(cracking himself up)
Sounds like Australia.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Uhm, yeah. Sure. Anyway, of course
there is an incredible amount of
strategy and teamwork that goes
into winning these games, but for
now, that's all you need to know.

MIKE CALL

Thanks, Jimmy. I like it. Die.
Bad. Kill. Good. The goal: take
down the enemy's base, right?

JIMMY AMICO

(a little unsure of
this guy)
More or less. As a team.

MIKE CALL

Right. Speaking of teams, it
sounds like the last one has
arrived: Team Dominate helmed by
superstar Erik Stone. Let's head
outside to Samantha and see if she
can get in close on the action.

EXT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

SAMANTHA, 20s, a streak of purple in her hair, yeah,
she's fun, holds an ESPN mic and address the screen.

SAMANTHA

Thanks, Mike and Jimmy. Team
Dominate's limo has just arrived.

Fans scream as a ERIK "BIG DADDY" STONE, late 20s, exits
the limo sporting a Team Dominate track suit, sunglasses,
fancy headphones, and the swagger of Tony Stark.

He drops his BIG DUFFLE BAG on the ground and raises his
hands in victorious triumph toward the crowds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK
WHO'S YOUR DADDY!?

The crowd CHEERS. Erik soaks it in like sunshine.

SAMANTHA
(amused)
That just never gets old.

Erik happily approaches his fans awaiting autographs and pics as his TEAMMATES begin to pile out of the limo.

Samantha and her cameraman muscle their way to him.

SAMANTHA
Big Daddy, big fan. Any thoughts
on today's matches?

ERIK
Sure...
(fishing for her name
flirtatiously)

SAMANTHA
Samantha.

ERIK
I like that. Well, Samantha I
don't even know why the other
teams showed up. Am I right?

His fans laugh and cheer.

SAMANTHA
The confidence is truly inspiring.
What about an entrance this year?
Any surprises for us?

ERIK
I'm full of surprises. In fact, I
have a surprise especially for you
after the game if you stick
around...

The reporter blushes. Not knowing what to do on camera.

SAMANTHA
Oh, well.

CRAZED GROUPIE (O.S.)
BE MY DADDY!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIK

(to crowd)

I'm all your daddy's!

(to Samantha)

Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got
a game to win.

Erik winks at Samantha as he grabs his bags and leaves.

The crowd laughs with delight-- Unlike his TEAMMATES.

AFROMOOM, 18, African American, SANGHEE 18, Korean,
GUNNER, 24, Mexican, EXSMITHY, 23, Eastern European,
TOSHI, 19, Chinese, watch from the limo with disdain.

AFROMOON

Doesn't he mean "we've" got a game
to win.

GUNNER

Let it go, man. He's not worth it.

They grab their gear and make their way toward Erik.

EXSMITHY

I'll be all your daddy's? That
doesn't even make sense.

SANGHEE

(heavy accent)

But you can't deny he's good with
the ladies. Damn, Gina.

Erik, carrying the duffle bag, heads through the excited
crowds signing autographs and such.

His team eventually catches up. Erik goes left and the
team starts right. Afroomoon notices and is concerned.

AFROMOON

Erik. ERIK.

Erik spins around.

ERIK

What?

AFROMOON

Isn't it this way?

Afroomoon loses confidence when he sees his teammates
looking away. Erik takes an annoyed breath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ERIK

(to the others)

Oh I'm sorry. Will somebody please
tell the newb how this works?

Erik walk away.

GUNNER

(to Afromoon)

Sorry, man. I should've mentioned
he's... Well... he's...

SANGHEE

(heavy accent)

A dick.

GUNNER

Yeah, that.

They all walk away. Erik ducks into a STAIRWELL.

INT. RAFTERS ABOVE STADIUM - DAY

Erik carefully makes his way across the rafters.

INT. VIEW OF STAPLES CENTER FROM RAFTERS - DAY

The fans below look like ants. They need to be at least
three times this size. *Zoolander* anyone? No? I digress.

INT. RAFTERS ABOVE STADIUM - DAY

Erik sets down the duffle bag and removes a COSPLAY
OUTFIT that resembles a medieval viking with spinning
swords(Fans know as Draven). Erik checks his watch.

ERIK

Right on schedule.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, please join
me in welcoming the finalists for
our Summer two-thousand sixteen
North American LCS Championship!

The Team Logic logo fills the screens as DUBSTEP MUSIC,
special effects, slow mo shots, and a large dose of hype
go the player intros one by one for the fans.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Erik secures the climbing gear as he watches the opposing team's intros on the big screens below with mild interest.

ON THE SCREEN:

The Team Dominate logo fills the screen.

The logo fades and, in the same hype fashion as before, the audience is introduced to Team Dominate.

--Afromoon folds his arm and gives a "What's Up" look to the camera. Above him in a cool font is his name.

--Gunner snaps his finger at the camera and his name appears as well.

--Sanghee makes a peace sign. Name Font.

--ExSmithy punches the camera. Name Font.

--Erik raises both hands in the air and looks up like he's praying, then he stares straight at the camera.

The crowd gets extra loud for Erik's intro.

INT. RAFTERS - CONTINUOUS

Erik, now dressed in the COSTUME and CLIMBING HARNESS pauses for a moment to enjoy the sound of adoring fans.

Next, he leans out over the rafters. Grabs the RAPPEL LEVER... He leans out and--

ERIK

And here comes Big Daddy!

The LEVER begins to lower him down when suddenly the rope catches on the cosplay costume, JAMS and flips him around.

ERIK

Oh shit.

Erik's suspended from the rafters, precariously upside down. He wiggles the lever. Nothing.

ERIK

Come on, come on.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

The fans, producers and teams all look around for Erik, expecting another great entrance but it doesn't happen.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

FANS watching the event on the bar TV are confused.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bird's perplexed as well.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

A cute little Korean family waits in anticipation.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

That's strange. I hope
everything's okay with Team
Dominate.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

The crowd continues to be puzzled. What's going on?

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Teams, please take the stage.

Team Logic takes the stage but for some reason Team Dominate doesn't.

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

CARL, 30s, suit, shiny shoes, stressed, returns from peeking out toward the crowds to--

A LEAGUE OFFICIAL, 40s, "by the books" type of guy.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

I'm sorry but you guys gotta get
out there with five guys right now
or forfeit. We can't wait.

COACH LEE, 20s, Korean. Team Dominate folder. Speaks with the intensity of a thousand suns--and only in Korean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Coach Lee's TRANSLATOR, 20s, American-Korean. Speaks with the intensity of a turtle.

COACH LEE

Deo isang sigan-i eobsda!!!

TRANSLATOR

(to Carl)

He says do you see him?

CARL

No I don't see him! Do you think my face would look like this if I had seen him?

The translator turns to Coach Lee. Coach Lee waves him off as he understood but the translator continues anyway.

TRANSLATOR

He says no.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

We need to move on this.
Everyone's waiting.

The Coach turns away to think.

COACH LEE

Ttong!

Translator turns very matter of fact to the team and Carl.

TRANSLATOR

He said "poop" in not a nice way.

Carl is not amused.

GUNNER (O.C.)

Forget Stone and put in SangHee.
At least he plays like he's part of the team.

Carl turns sharply toward the sound where--

GUNNER stands nearby with the rest of the team.

CARL

I'm not paying you for snarky remarks or coaching advice. I'm paying you to do what he
(points to Coach Lee)
tells you to do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Guys, you're out of time. What's the plan?

GUNNER

Yeah, what's the plan then?

Carl looks at Coach Lee. Everyone joins in. Coach Lee looks to Carl and shakes his head.

COACH LEE

Mianhae, Carlson.

(turns to Sanghee)

Sanghee, dangsin-eun eiss-eo.
gagja modu, lain-eob!

Sanghee, 18, Korean, excitedly lines up with the others as Coach Lee leads them away onto the stage. Carl stands, fuming, next to the Translator.

TRANSLATOR

He says--

CARL

--I got it!

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a last minute change up by Team Dominate. They will be putting Sanghee in for Big Daddy.

INT. RAFTERS - CONTINUOUS

ERIK

What!?

INT. BAR - NIGHT

FANS AT BAR

What?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BIRD

What?

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

The cute little Korean family CHEERS!

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Sanghee walks proudly to front right stage with his team.

INT. CROWDS - NIGHT

The Erik Stone FANBOYS "Boo". However, others cheer.

The stage lights, music and video feeds get louder and brighter than before as the five players from each team stand on their respective stage and wave to the audience.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

There they are ladies and gentlemen Team Logic and Team Dominate on the stage and ready to battle in front of millions of fans online and the lucky tens of thousands here with us tonight.

INT. CASTING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

JIMMY AMICO

Interesting last minute change by Dominate. Let's hope it's not "game over" for Erik Stone. Clearly many in the audience not happy about the change.

MIKE CALL

You're right, Jimmy. I think a big question on everyone's mind is what happened to Big Daddy?

INT. RAFTERS ABOVE STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Erik desperately tries to pull himself up. No luck!

He gives it everything he's got again.

ERIK

AHHHHHHH!

He gets a foot on the rafter. He's almost got this. But then loses his footing again. Back to square one.

INT. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - LATER

The first battle is in full swing. The crowd watches excitedly as the two teams battle it out on the screens.

The screen shows the various mythical "champions" battle it out on Summoner's Rift as the Casters call the game.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

What a move by BigRed and Team Logic. They've really got Dominate up against the ropes right now.

The crowd goes wild.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

They sure do, Jimmy! Look at that juking by Tenderfoot.

INT. VIEW OF STAPLES CENTER FROM RAFTERS - DAY

Erik continues to dangle. He stresses out to see his team losing down below.

ERIK (O.S.)

Damnit! Damnit! Damnit!

He shakes the ropes and equipment but they don't budge. The Cosplay outfit makes his movement awkward and it catches on the ropes causing even more frustration.

INT. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - LATER

The game continues.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

And here comes the minion spawn!

A whole bunch of little warriors come out of the turrets at either end of the game screen.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Oh and that was First blood! Drawn by Logic! This is not looking good for Team Dominate. They need to get their act together fast.

Coach Lee and Carl watch from the sidelines, nervously.

ON THE SCREEN:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Quick shots of the game. The teams start to engage in a five on five fight. It's not looking good for Dominate.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

The cute family watches with nervousness and excitement all rolled into one.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

BIRD's on the edge of his chair.

INT. BAR - DAY

All eyes on the TV. Something big is about to happen...

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

What a move by Sanghee Spartan!

Erik looks down to the big screens. His team is doing well which he never suspected.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Where did that come from!?

The crowd CHEERS loudly again.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Clearly Spartan has not been getting the screen time he deserves.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

An incredible save and reversal avoiding the pain train of Memeske and throwing it back in his face!

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

I just can't believe it! Maybe it was fortunate after all that Big Daddy was a no show today.

INT. RAFTERS ABOVE STADIUM - DAY

If Erik thought watching his team losing without him was bad, watching his team winning without him is even worse!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

It's certainly looking that way
more and more! Sanghee has made a
fan out of me!

ERIK

No! No! No!

Erik stretches with EVERYTHING he's got and manages to
untangle the ropes and gear! **Finally he begins to DESCEND!**

INT. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - CONTINUOUS

The teams continue to battle it out for a frenzied crowd.
The screens above them display the action.

MIKE CASTER (O.S.)

Things now looking great for
Dominate.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Yes, this team is really playing
well together. Something we really
haven't seen before.

**Suddenly, Erik, in the Draven costume, DROPS DRAMATICALLY
onto the stage where his team is and unhooks himself.**

The crowd CHEERS but the players don't notice. They think
the cheering is for them.

INT. CASTING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy covers his mouthpiece and leans over to Mike.

JIMMY AMICO

What do we do?

MIKE CALL

(covering mic)
Keep calling the game?

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Erik buoyed by the crowd, raises his hands in the air and
approaches the team from behind.

The TECHS and PRODUCERS backstage don't know what to make
of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Carl and Coach Lee can't believe it.

CARL
What's he doing?

A nearby PA, 19, turns to a PRODUCER, 30s.

PA
Can he do that?

The PRODUCER shakes her head as she watches in disbelief.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Bird leans in to the screen.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The players, oblivious to Erik who approaches from behind, continue to play excitedly.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)
An interesting strategy by Team Dominate.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The fans at the bar watch in suspense and confusion.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Erik places his hand on a very startled and confused, Sanghee (Spartan) who is still trying to play the game.

ERIK
Thanks, Sanghee. I'll take it from here.

INT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Next, Carl and Coach Lee notice Erik.

CARL
Oh... shit...

COACH LEE
(stressed beyond
belief)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COACH LEE (CONT'D)

Dodaechu geu babo neun mueos-
eulhago issneunga!!????!?

TRANSLATOR

(calmly to Carl)

He says what the hell is that
idiot doing!?

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Not sure what the strategy is or
if it's legal--

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Definitely not legal.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The players to the immediate left and right of Sanghee notice and try to figure out what's going on all while still playing the game as best as they can.

ERIK

On the count of three, you move
and I'll jump in your seat.

SANGHEE

(trying to pay
attention to the
game)

Are you crazy?

ERIK

The crowd will love it. Let's go!

Gunner notices.

GUNNER

What the hell! Pause! Pause!

But the game keeps going.

ERIK

I'll just... here.

Erik forcibly takes the HEADSET off of Sanghee and
MUSCLES Sanghee out of his seat! It's ugly.

There is an audible GASP from the crowd.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The family is pissed. Maybe a fist punch to the air!

INT. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

RANDOM FAN

Holy--

INT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Coach Lee SLAMS his playbook on the ground.

COACH LEE

TTONG!!!!

Carl pulls at his hair, he can't believe his eyes.

TRANSLATOR

He said--

CARL

I KNOW WHAT HE SAID!

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Erik sits on Sanghee and the two battle for control of the keyboard, mouse, and view of the monitor. It's getting even uglier.

SANGHEE

YOU'RE MAKING US LOSE!

ERIK

YOU CAN'T WIN WITHOUT ME!

Everyone but the players are glued to the struggle.

Erik tries to TAKE THE KEYBOARD which results in a TUG OF WAR with Sanghee.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BIRD

What the?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Wow! Look at Sanghee hold his own.
Big Daddy has at least 40 pounds
on him.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

You can say that again!

Afroman and Gunner jump in to help Sanghee.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Wow it looks like a Gank attack on
Big Daddy!

AFROMOON

LET GO, MAN! YOU'RE MAKING OUR
TEAM LOSE!

ERIK

I AM THE TEAM!

Erik loses grip on the keyboard which SMACKS Sanghee in
the face causing both he and Afromoon to go down hard.

The crowd GASPS again. People do not like this.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The cute family is PISSED!

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Erik's eyes go wide. Realizing for the first time things
have escalated a little too far. A pause. Then...

SANGHEE

AHHHHHHH!

...Sanghee JUMPS from the ground Karate Kid style and
ROUND HOUSE KICKS Big Daddy in the face mid-flight! Erik
goes down hard.

RYAN CASTER (O.S.)

Holy Ninja kick to the face!

MIKE CASTER (O.S.)

I did not see that coming!

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The family, especially the little brother, LOVES IT!

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The fans make a collective "OOOOOOOH"

RYAN CASTER (O.S.)
Talk about Attack Damage!

INT. SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

CARL
(concerned)
What do we do?

Coach and Translator have a pleased look on their faces. They secretly would've liked to have been the ones to kick Erik.

ERIK (O.S.)
AHHHHH!

Carl looks quickly back toward the stage.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Erik CHARGES at Sanghee and Afromoon, slamming them both into a few MONITORS.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)
Oh wow but look at that denial and dare I say double kill by the veteran Big Daddy!

Then all out chaos breaks loose as the rest of the team joins in. Elbows FLY. Someone uses a Mouse Cord to CHOKE another. Another Keyboard to the FACE. Bad news bears.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)
I did not see this coming!

SECURITY GUARDS charge the stage and try to break things up. Coach Lee, Carl and the translator join in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bird watches in disbelief.

INT. KOREAN LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The cute family also can't believe their eyes.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The bar fans shake their heads.

INT. CASTING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Both commentators stare at the screen in disbelief.

MIKE CALL
Uhhhhhh.

JIMMY AMICO
Uhhhhhh.

The screen goes BLACK.

SFX: NEWS STATION INTRO MUSIC plays and a KTV LOS ANGELES NEWS LOGO APPEARS ON SCREEN. Then news FOOTAGE of:

Erik getting yelled at by Carl as POLICE handcuff Erik and a whole bunch of disappointed producers and banged up teammates surround him.

ANCHOR 1 (O.S.)

In other news, a video game player was escorted out of the Staples Center tonight for assaulting his own team. You heard that right.

The police carry him away from the booing crowd.

INT. NEWS STATION - NIGHT

Two ANCHOR REPORTERS, 40s, turn to the camera.

ANCHOR 2

What's wrong with kids these days?

INT. YOUTUBER HOME STUDIO - NIGHT

An eccentric and excited teen YOUTUBER passionately speaks to the screen.

Background footage plays of Erik holding a BOX of stuff getting kicked out of the team's MALIBU MANSION. His teammates, Carl and Coach Lee glare at him as he goes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUTUBER

Check out this exclusive footy I
got of Big Daddy getting booted
out of Team Dominate Mansion! Hey,
Coach Lee, got a spot for me?

INT. ALL CHAT STUDIO - NIGHT

A hip-ly dressed nerd and a sloppy nerd, early 20s, sit
across from each other in comfortable lounge chairs.

HIP NERD

Let's talk about the suspension.
Agree disagree.

SLOPPY NERD

Agree. One hundred percent. Riot
takes bullying of any kind
seriously but violence, actual
violence on your own team members!
That's cold!

HIP NERD

(excited)
Let's watch the Ninja kick!

The screen shows Sanghee's kick in slow motion instant
replay over and over again.

SLOPPY NERD (O.S.)

That's gotta hurt!

HIP NERD (O.S.)

Oh man. Play it again.

KOREAN GAMER CHICK (O.S.)

Geuttae Sanghee eolgul eseo
geuleul chagi

ZOOM OUT TO:

INT. YOUTUBER KOREAN STUDIO - NIGHT

The same footage of Sanghee's kick in slow motion on
repeat now plays next to A KOREAN YOUTUBER REPORTER, 20s.

KOREAN YOUTUBER

(heavy accent)
Big Daddy

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOREAN YOUTUBER (CONT'D)
(forms an L on her
forehead with hand)
you loser!

INT. ERIK'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A very messy room. Our hero has fallen hard. Erik lays in bed under the covers and a pillow.

A KNOCK at his door.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I have good news.

Erik removes the pillow from his head.

SUSAN STONE, 40s, sweet and smart, stands in the doorway.

ERIK
My agent called?

SUSAN
I got you a job interview.

ERIK
What? No. I thought I made it
perfectly clear I didn't want a
nine to five.

Erik puts the pillow back over his head.

SUSAN
You're going.

Erik removes the pillow, annoyed.

ERIK
Mom, Any day now my appeal will be
granted and I'll be back in the
game.

SUSAN
Honey, it's been two months and
they've denied it twice already.
It's time you move on, sweetie.
(motioning to his
messy room)
This is no life for a thirty year
old.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

I'm twenty seven thank you. Now will you please leave me alone?

SUSAN

This interview is with your old friend Frank Lee.

ERIK

Bird? Are you serious? No! No way! I haven't spoken to him in like ten years!

SUSAN

You wanna play hardball? I can play.

Susan leaves. Her footsteps get fainter. Erik pokes his head out from the pillow. What is she doing?

He hears the sound of the fridge opening. Some ICE CUBES dropping into a bucket. The sound of running water.

Her footsteps grow louder. Erik gets nervous.

Susan enters with TWO PITCHERS FULL OF ICE WATER and without a second thought DUMPS one of them on Erik!

Erik JUMPS and SHRIVELS from the cold water and ice.

ERIK

AHHHHHHH! WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?

Susan is very calm and collected, and slightly proud of herself. She steps over to Erik's PC and desk area.

SUSAN

Oh it wasn't obvious? Not respecting your mother that's what.

ERIK

Mom! Come on!

She hovers the second water pitcher over the PC. Erik notices and his eyes go wide.

ERIK

What are you doing?

SUSAN

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm giving you a choice, Erik.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

You can go to this interview or
you can say goodbye to your
computer.

ERIK

Not Scarlet! That's not fair!
She's all I have left at this
point!

SUSAN

I never said life was fair. Life
is full of choices we get to make,
but we don't get to pick
consequences. And why did you name
your computer Scarlet?

ERIK

It's a thing. People name their
computer girl names. Like ships.
Now please step away from her.

SUSAN

No deal.

Susan begins to tilt the pitcher.

ERIK

Okay! Okay! I'll go!

Susan is pleased with herself. She removes the pitcher.

SUSAN

Also, now that I think about it,
until you get a job, I'm going to
need you to start mowing the lawn
again and doing chores around here.

ERIK

What? No! Do you even know who I
am now, mom?

SUSAN

Do you? And as long as you live in
my house you play by my rules.

ERIK

Geez! Where did you come from?

SUSAN

I've been listening to a lot of
podcasts lately. They really great.

Susan exits, the triumphant queen of her castle.

EXT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - DAY

A middle class home in the Sacramento suburbs. An American flag and a San Francisco 49ers flag hang proudly.

A SEDAN pulls up and COACH STONE, (Erik's father) 40s, sneakers, whistle necklace, exits and heads to the house.

Just as he's about to make it to the door, it OPENS and a startled, but well dressed, Erik stands in the doorway.

Neither one is pleased at the chance encounter.

COACH STONE

Son.

ERIK

Coach.

Coach Stone brushes past Erik who maintains his stoicism.

INT. FRANK'S FERTILIZER FACTORY - DAY

Erik sits on a chair near a RECEPTIONIST, 40s.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

You can go in now.

Erik looks over to her, stands and takes a breath.

INT. BIRD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bird stares at his door. He crosses his arms. Then again trying to look even more professional. He's missing a middle finger and can't decide to hide it or display it.

He displays it.

The door opens.

ERIK

Hey.

BIRD

Hey.

Erik stands awkwardly in the silence. He looks around.

BIRD

Have a seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Erik fights it for a split second, then sits.

Bird places his hand on the desk, displaying his missing middle finger even more clearly. He eyes it hoping Erik will get the hint. Nothing. He tries harder.

ERIK

What?

BIRD

Nothing. I just thought maybe now you've had some perspective you had something to say to me?

Bird looks at his missing finger again. Then back to Erik. Erik clues in.

ERIK

I thought I was here for a job interview?

BIRD

You are.

ERIK

Well, I don't want the job and I'm not saying sorry for your stupid finger.

BIRD

You blew off my finger!

ERIK

That was like ten years ago!

BIRD

And you never even said sorry once! You ruined my chances of going pro and you know it! At least you can admit it now!

ERIK

No. You're not putting that on me. I won't apologize for going after my dreams just because you were too chicken shit to go after yours. You were just as good as me and you know it.

The truth hurts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BIRD

You're an asshole! You know I had to stay back and take care of--

ERIK

I'm an asshole? You're an asshole! Pretending this was a job interview just to get some stupid apology. Who does that?

BIRD

Okay so maybe I was hoping for an apology but I was going to give you a job, too. Keyword: was!

ERIK

I already said I never wanted the job!

BIRD

Oh right because the league's gonna let you play again? Keep dreaming. And while you're at it, maybe dream yourself up a better personality and a unicorn that shoots rainbows out of it's butt because none of those things are going to happen!

ERIK

Looks like you need a finger

Erik stands to leave and FLIPS OFF Bird.

ERIK

Wanna borrow mine!?

Bird, fuming, stands up and points to the door.

BIRD

That was never funny!

ERIK

It's always been funny "Birdie."

Erik slams the door. Bird sits back down but the fight now makes his familiar office chair seem uncomfortable.

INT. CAR - DAY

Erik SLAMS the car door shut, grips the steering wheel in anger, closes his eyes in frustration. After a moment he takes out his CELL PHONE and makes a call.

ERIK

Trevor baby! Well I'm glad I called, too! What's the good news?...oh...I see... but isn't there...what about another angle?...they did?...so what am I supposed to do now?...but I don't want to do anything else...What am I paying you for?... Well I would pay you if you had won!... Hello?... I didn't mean that?... Are you there?... Hello?... Hello?

Erik throws the phone in frustration.

ERIK

Shit!

He looks out the window and notices a LIQUOR STORE.

INT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Susan and Coach eat dinner together with their daughter SIENNA, 18, tom boy, sarcastic, attractive. They hear the front door open and a CAR drive off.

ERIK (O.S.)

Aye and goodbye!

Erik STUMBLES into the dining room doorway.

ERIK

(strange accent)
Top of the morning, You are.

SUSAN

Have you been drinking?

SIENNA

He's doing his Irish Yoda voice.
He's drunk.

ERIK

Astute you are, mi lassy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Erik places his hands in a prayer pose and bows to Sienna awkwardly.

COACH STONE

Erik, why don't you have a seat
while I get you a glass of water.

ERIK

Ten Hut. Hut. Hut!

Erik goes to sit at the table but misses the chair and falls on the ground disappearing behind it.

SIENNA

Really drunk.

After a beat, he EMERGES abruptly, startling everyone.

ERIK

I missed. Did I. Indeed. Eye. Very
wise. Very wise.

He giggles to himself.

SUSAN

Erik, this isn't funny.

Erik's giggles turn to laughter.

SIENNA

It's kinda funny.

Both parents give Sienna a look.

COACH STONE

Erik. Stop it.

ERIK

Blue forty two.

Coach Stone frowns at the mocking reference. Erik laughs roll to a stop then he sits slowly on the floor.

ERIK

Be tired I. I'm just gonna lay
here for a minute.

Erik prostrates himself on the ground. He's asleep.

SUSAN

I'll get a blanket.

EXT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - MORNING

A WOMAN is at the door.

The doorbell rings.

POUNDING on the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Still on the floor, under a blanket, Erik tries to ignore the doorbell and pounding but it won't stop.

Doorbell.

Pounding.

Now Erik's really getting annoyed.

ERIK

DOOR!

No answer.

Pounding.

Doorbell. Even louder than before.

Erik, extremely annoyed, stumbles to his feet and grabs his head in pain as he makes his way to the front door.

INT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - HALLWAY - DAY

Erik OPENS the front door and squints at the bright light.

GRACE LEE

What the HELL did you tell my son!?

A very PISSED OFF ASIAN WOMAN, late 40s, stands akimbo staring accusatorily at Erik. This is GRACE LEE, 40s.

Erik cringes at the volume level of her voice. And then tries to process what she just said.

ERIK

What? What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GRACE LEE

Don't play stupid. This has you written all over it.

ERIK

Look, Mrs. Lee. I'm really tired--

GRACE LEE

(threatening)

No. You don't get to be tired until you fix this.

ERIK

Mrs. Lee I'm really confused with what you're saying right now.

Grace motions for Erik to look outside.

Erik's POV: Bird carries a COMPUTER BOX from a "Frank's Fertilizer" UTILITY TRUCK into his house.

GRACE LEE

You're confused? You're confused? I'm confused. I'm confused as to why my son thought it was a good idea to take out a second mortgage on our home to buy a video game team after you told him he was a chicken for not chasing his dreams!

ERIK

He bought a video game team?

GRACE LEE

(flabbergasted)

YES!

Erik perks up. Can this be true?

ERIK

Do you know which one?

GRACE LEE

NO! Gravity or something? I don't know. I don't care! Just go fix it!

ERIK

(interest peeked)

I'll go talk to him.

EXT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

Bird, now empty handed, exits the house for the truck as Erik joins him.

ERIK
(friendly)
Bird! Your mom just said something
crazy to me.

BIRD
Sounds about right.

Bird grabs another COMPUTER BOX from the truck.

ERIK
Did you really buy a video game
team?

Bird walks the box up the porch stairs.

BIRD
Yes.

Bird heads inside. Erik pauses then follows, curious.

INT. BIRD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bird carries the box through the living room which has a fireplace mantel that has a BIG OIL PAINTING of FRANK LEE Senior and his URN on it with a few candles and incense.

Erik double-takes the "shrine" as he follows Bird. He also can't help but notice the MANY CATS in the home.

ERIK
That's all you're going to say to
me about this?

BIRD
I know my mom sent you over here
to change my mind so let me just
save you the hassle and tell you
no before you waste any breath.

Bird heads down the basement stairs. Erik follows.

INT. BIRD'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Bird puts down the box on a big table in the center of the room that has been set up for a VIDEO GAMING STATION.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Wow so the team is gonna practice here? This is really happening.

Bird heads back up the stairs. Erik chases after him.

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bird walks out the front door with Erik in tow.

Grace surprises them from the side.

GRACE LEE

Honey--

BIRD

(startled)

Ma, seriously we've been over this. I'm not changing my mind.

GRACE LEE

What would your father say, may he rest in peace?

BIRD

I don't know, okay? But I'm guessing he'd be proud of me.

GRACE LEE

No he wouldn't. Not for this.

A crappy VAN pulls up in the b.g. Bird turns to look.

BIRD

Shit. They're early.
(turning back to Erik
and his mom)
Now scram both of you.

Bird walks down to greet the team. Grace and Erik follow.

GRACE WATERS

You don't tell your mother to scram.

The van doors open and out climb:

COACH COX, 30s, unhappy he was just purchased.

MYUNG "JOKEO" KO 18 but looks 14, Korean. He sips an ENERGY DRINK and consumes copious amounts of caffeine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RJ "Jitter" JONES, 18 African American, eating CHIPS from a big bag. Food helps calm his nerves, sorta.

KADUCHE "DINO" NAJAR, 25, Indian, nerdy, lovable and extremely superstitious. He carries with him a BIG VOODOO DOLL decorated in Indian fashion that he calls "Frodo."

GRACE LEE

(to the team)

I'm sorry you came all this way
but there's been a mistake. You're
not wanted.

BIRD

Ma!

GRACE LEE

We are requesting a full refund
and ask that you kindly go back to
wherever it is you came from.

Everyone on the team is confused. Bird's embarrassed.

BIRD

She's kidding.

GRACE LEE

I never kid.

Bird tries to push past the awkwardness.

BIRD

This is Grace Lee, your new owner.
And, I'm Bird, your new teammate.
Welcome!

ERIK

(blurts out)

And, I'm your new head coach.

COACH COX

What?

Everyone waits for an explanation.

BIRD

(to coach)

He's kidding.

ERIK

(to Bird)

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COACH COX

What the hell is going on?

ERIK

We just thought it would be better if the team was coached by a real champion from the LCS. No offense to you, sir.

Coach Cox turns to Bird and Grace for some answers.

GRACE LEE

(to Coach Cox)

Don't look at me. I'm expecting a full refund. You guys work it out.

Grace walks back inside the house.

COACH COX

Is this some sort of sick joke?

BIRD

(to Coach Cox)

No. I mean. I'm sorry. Will you excuse us for a moment please?

Bird grabs Erik and pulls him aside.

BIRD

(upset)

What are you doing?

ERIK

I'm serious. I'll be your coach.

BIRD

What? No. What do you know about coaching anyway?

ERIK

I'm a star athlete! I know how to win because I am a winner. What has that guy ever done?

BIRD

Go away, please.

Bird leaves Erik there and goes back to the group.

BIRD

Sorry about that. Where were we?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Erik watches from a distance as Bird greets the team.
Erik goes to leave, then he has an idea and turns around.

BIRD

Let me show you guys the set up.

Bird is about to lead the team into the house when Erik cuts him off.

ERIK

What's your record? Three and ten,
right?

Everyone looks at each other like "how'd he know that?"

ERIK

So unless I'm mistaken you need to win two out of the next three games to even have a chance at a wild card spot for the promotion tournament, right? And that's assuming you get enough points.

COACH COX

What are you getting at?

ERIK

What if I could guarantee you a spot in the majors? In the LCS?

COACH COX

And just how do you plan to do that, hot shot? With your coaching skills? You've never been a coach!

ERIK

Don't need to have been. I have something better.

COACH COX

This outta be good.

ERIK

You need a star to win.
Ever heard of "The Russian"?

Kaduche and Myung eye's go wide at the word "Russian."

RJ, Coach and Bird are skeptical. Especially Coach.

RJ

As in the greatest solo que player in the world?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ERIK

Exactly.

RJ

Yeah of course.

BIRD

So?

ERIK

I come with The Russian.

COACH COX

Bullshit.

ERIK

Try me.

BIRD

Quit wasting our time, Erik.
Everybody knows The Russian
doesn't play in public.

ERIK

Why not put it to a vote? See what
the team thinks?

COACH COX

This isn't a democracy.

ERIK

Maybe it should be?

BIRD

Let's have a vote if that's what
it takes to get you to leave.

Coach Cox looks at Bird like he's crazy. Bird nods for
him to play along, this will all be over soon.

BIRD

All who want to tell this Big
Mouth to take a hike, raise your
hand.

Bird and Coach Cot raise their hands. Nobody else does.

This really surprises everyone and upsets Coach Cox.

COACH COX

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RJ

Sorry, coach but if he's telling the truth... I'm not passing that up.

DINO

And you're not that good of a coach if you really think about it. No offense of course.

BIRD

Okay forget about the vote.

COACH COX

No. You know what? I don't need this crap!

Coach storms off and gets into the van while everyone exchanges looks and watches the show.

COACH COX

(to himself)

I should've listened to my mom and gone to college!

He fires up the van and PEELS AWAY. Erik turns to catch Bird's GLARING EYES.

ERIK

Don't worry about him.

BIRD

(angry)

Don't worry!? You just cost me my head coach!

ERIK

No I just *replaced* your head coach with someone much better plus I'm getting you a superstar. You really should be thanking me.

BIRD

I'm gonna kill you.

ERIK

Come on, Bird. That's not a nice thing to say.

BIRD

(frustrated)

Fine.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BIRD (CONT'D)

IF, and this is a strong IF, if you can get the real Russian to play on our team then I will give you one chance to be our coach. BUT, if we lose a single game, you're out.

ERIK

What? One game? That's--

BIRD

--What's the matter, hot shot? Don't think you can pull it off? Or was all that talk just a giant pantload?

Erik and Bird size each other up. Then, Erik gets a small smirk on his face.

ERIK

I'm gonna coach the shit out of you nerds. Let's go get ourselves a Russian!

The team can't help but smile back to an enthusiastic Erik who, puts his arm around Bird and walks him inside.

Kaduche leans over to RJ in the background.

KADUCHE

(whispers)

What's a pantload?

INT. THE CONSOLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A swanky LOUNGE/CLUB dedicated solely to game play from old school ATARI and NINTENDO to cutting edge VR TECH.

CELEBRITIES and MODELS mingle with NERDS turned Gods because of their talents with a mouse and 101 keys.

In short, this is a video gamer's VIP paradise.

Erik leads the rag tag team into the scene. They take in the sights and sounds with amazement.

ERIK

Welcome to "The Console," Los Angeles' underground club for the gaming elite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIRD

Is that Tobey Maguire over there?

ERIK

Yeah, he's always here. Nice guy
unless you beat him at Donkey
Kong. Then he's a real ass.

INT. THE CONSOLE - BAR - NIGHT

An attractive and edgy BARTENDER, 20s, pours drinks for
customers. She notices Erik and is annoyed. This is MILA.

INT. THE CONSOLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Erik as he approaches the bar followed by the team.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Mila goes back to work. Giving Erik little time of day.

ERIK

Hey.

MILA

Your Draven costume was stupid.

ERIK

(pleased)
So you were watching.

MILA

What do you want?

ERIK

I need a favor.

MILA

Unbelievable.

Mila goes back to the far end of the bar. Erik follows.
Bird tries to make sense of it all. Erik gets a few
stares from PATRONS.

PATRON

Hey, aren't you?

Erik enjoys being recognized by a fan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Yes, thank you. Always nice to meet a fan but I'm kinda busy right now, guys.

PATRON

No. Your stupid stunt cost me five hundred bucks.

ERIK

Oh. Well, sorry. If you'll excuse me.

PATRON

You don't understand. You owe me five hundred dollars.

ERIK

Right, buddy.

The Patron rises from his seat and gets in Erik's face.

PATRON

I'm really going to enjoy kicking your ass.

ERIK

I'd like to see you try.

And, just as things are about to get real...

MILA (O.S.)

ENOUGH!

Mila steps in between the two. Then...

MILA

Me first.

Without notice, Mila PUNCHES Erik right in the face! He goes down hard.

RJ

Oh shit!

Nobody can believe what just happened. Especially Erik. He blinks a few times trying to process it and then wipes blood from his lip.

ERIK

What was that for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MILA

If you have to ask you're dumber
than I thought.

(turns to Patron)

You, go. Your drinks are on the
house.

The patron and his friend hold their hands up in a "don't
shoot" fashion and walk away with a smile. Mila watches
them for a moment then goes back to work.

Erik stands and walks over to her.

ERIK

Okay maybe I deserve that.

Mila ignores him and wipes the bar down.

ERIK

I'm a coach now and I've got a big
opportunity for The Russian.

MILA

What idiot made you a coach?

ERIK

This idiot.

Bird steps up and extends his hand.

BIRD

I'm Bird. It's a pleasure.

Mila doesn't take his hand.

MILA

(to Bird)

Are you an asshole like your
friend here?

BIRD

No. But I agree one-hundred
percent he's an asshole.

ERIK

Hey.

BIRD

Shut up, asshole.

Mila smirks a little.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MILA

(to Erik)

I like this guy.

ERIK

(to Mila)

Will you at least give the Russian
a message for me?

MILA

Let's play a game so your simple
mind can understand. If you
challenge the Wizard to a duel and
win I'll help you out.

ERIK

But no one's ever won a Wizard
challenge.

MILA

Exactly.

ERIK

And if I lose I'm banished for
life.

MILA

(to Bird)

He's quick isn't he?

Mila walks away.

ERIK

Come on, Mila!

She keeps walking.

ERIK

Fine. I'll do it.

The bartender's surprised, but she hides it well.

ERIK

But, if I win you promise you--

MILA

You're not going to win.

She walks away. Erik watches her go.

RJ

Who's the Wizard?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Erik ignores the question and heads toward a roped off VIP SECTION. The team chases after. Mila glances over.

INT. VIP AREA - DAY

They arrive to the VIP area entrance where a BIG BODYGUARD stands watch.

ERIK
(to Bodyguard)
Tell the Wizard that Erik Stone
challenges him to a duel.

The bodyguard is a little taken aback.

BODY GUARD
Wait here.

The bodyguard disappears behind red curtains.

Suddenly, the house lights change dramatically. EPIC MUSIC plays. The current video game screens freeze.

Then, a DAPPER ANNOUNCER in a TUXEDO steps into the center of the floor and a SPOTLIGHT finds him.

DAPPER ANNOUNCER
Ladies and gentlemen... we have a
special treat tonight.

The crowd goes wild.

FANCY CASES and HYDRAULIC POSTS EMERGE from the ground to create an ARENA alongside Erik. The cases OPEN:

Each contains a set of GAME CONTROLLERS from all the major playing systems since 1972 held in velvet like "dueling pistols" from the 1800s.

ATARI. NINTENDO. POWER GLOVE. SEGA GENESIS. PLAYSTATION. NINTENDO 64. XBOX. WII. PC KEYBOARD. YOU GET THE IDEA. The team is awestruck with awesomeness.

KADUCHE
Wow!

BIRD
Okay that's kinda cool.

Erik takes a breath just as A SPOTLIGHT finds him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAPPER ANNOUNCER

In the black corner, I give you
the challenger, ERIK STONE!

BOOS come from few non-fans or ex-fans. Mild CHEERS from others. RJ tries to help swing the mood.

RJ

Let's go, Erik!

Mila stops to watch. Everyone does as the music gets even more dramatic...

DAPPER ANNOUNCER

And... In the red corner I give
you the defending house
champion... The one... the only...
THE WIZARD!

A SPOTLIGHT hits THE WIZARD, 40s, as he emerges from the red curtains in a silver suit. The crowd goes insane!

The Wizard gracefully walks down the stairs toward Erik.

TOBEY MAGUIRE

Damn.

The Wizard stands in front of Erik and sizes him up. Erik does his best to not look intimidated but he is.

THE WIZARD

Are you sure you wanna do this,
Erik Stone?

Erik nods.

THE WIZARD

Rock and roll.

The Wizard raises his hands in the air. The audience CHEERS. Then he turns to the row of controllers. He carefully evaluates his choices.

Erik and company watch, nervously.

ERIK

(sotto)

Please not the Power Glove. Please
not the Power Glove.

Finally, The Wizard decides.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE WIZARD

The Power Glove.

The crowd CHEERS. Erik grits his teeth.

RJ

(Kaduche)

Yes! "It's so bad."

The two laugh and bump fists.

THE WIZARD

And we will play... *Mike Tyson's
Punch Out.*

The crowd CHEERS even louder.

DAPPER ANNOUNCER

Gentlemen, take your places!

The Wizard places a Power Glove on his hand. The Bodyguard brings the other Power Glove to Erik.

Suddenly, MIKE TYSON'S PUNCH-OUT (the popular 80s Nintendo game) is PROJECTED VIA HOLOGRAMS on the floor.

BIRD

Now *that's* really cool.

KADUCHE

I very much like this place.

The Wizard and Erik take their places as the crowds gather around to watch "the fight".

Erik and The Wizard each select their "champion".

Hologram numbers hover center court and count down from 3, 2, 1...

FIGHT!

Erik and The Wizard swap hits. Erik is good but The Wizard didn't earn a name like The Wizard for nothing.

The crowd watches in excitement and anticipation. The bartender stops working to watch as well.

The Holograms move in unison with Erik's and The Wizard's control of the Power Glove. It's impressive and intense.

The fight rages on back and forth. Then, Erik gets a "lucky" hit. It looks like he may have a chance in this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Then Erik gets another great hit in! Wow, even The Wizard didn't see that one coming. The bartender is surprised. Bird is ecstatic.

BIRD

Yes!

Erik is hopeful. Bird is hopeful. The crowd is on the edge of their seats...

Then, The Wizard gets pissed.

Jab. Jab. Jab. Hook.

That's gotta hurt! Erik's avatar stumbles. Oh no.

Hook. Jab. Jab. Hook. Man this Wizard's good. The crowd watches in delight.

BIRD

Come on, Erik! You can do this!

Left, Right, Left, Right. The Wizard is really finding a rhythm now which is unfortunate for our hero.

Then...

As if things couldn't get any worse for Erik, The Wizard lands a powerful UPPERCUT! Erik's avatar goes down hard.

1, 2, 3, 4,

BIRD

Get up, Erik! Get up!

RJ

Come on, man!

Erik hits the buttons as fast as he can on the glove. His team watches on anxiously. Especially Myung.

5, 6, 7,

Erik desperately flails the glove around giving it everything he's got but it's not enough.

8, 9.

The game is over.

KADUCHE

Pantload!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DAPPER ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a
winner!

The Wizard throws his hands in the air. Everyone CHEERS!
Everyone except Erik and Bird, that is. They share a
somber exchange.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Mila smiles to herself.

INT. VIP AREA - CONTINUOUS

The Wizard hands the Power Glove to an EMPLOYEE in
exchange for a TOWEL. He dabs his face, then turns to the
Bodyguard and Employee.

THE WIZARD

You guys know the rules.
(to Erik)
Sorry, Erik. There can only be one
Wizard.

The employee and bodyguard nod respectfully.

Erik doesn't put up a fight as they take his Power Glove
away and the bodyguard escorts him out of the building
while the crowd taunts him. Bird follows them.

BIRD

Come on, guys.

The team follows Bird as well.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Mila watches the whole thing with a smile.

EXT. THE CONSOLE - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Erik is tossed out the door by the bodyguard.

BIRD

(sheepishly to
bodyguard)
Excuse us.

The bodyguard steps aside to let Bird and the nerds pass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIRD

Thank you.

The bodyguard SLAMS the door shut.

Erik takes a seat on the curb, defeated. Bird paces as the others join Erik.

BIRD

Do you mind explaining what the hell just happened?

ERIK

I lost.

BIRD

I noticed! So that's it? Was this all just a load of crap? Does the Russian even exist!? Because I--

ERIK

She exists.

BIRD

Wouldn't be-- wait, did you just say "she"?

RJ

He just said she.

ERIK

Yeah, The Russian's a girl.

RJ

No way.

BIRD

A girl? The Russian, the best solo que player in the world is a *girl*?

MILA (O.S.)

You got a problem with girls?

Bird's eyes go wide. Mila aka "The Russian" emerges from the shadows.

BIRD

No. Not particularly.

MILA

Good. Because I'd hate to be on a team with a sexist pig.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BIRD

Wait, so you're the Russian?

MILA

(motioning to Erik)

I thought he was the quick one?

RJ

I played the Russian in solo que once. He beat me in twenty minutes and was using Drago. So if you're--

THE RUSSIAN

She beat you with Alistar and it only took ten minutes. Men are always exaggerating how long they last.

Everyone but RJ and Kaduche chuckle. They are both shocked.

KADUCHE

You are The Russian.

Kaduche approaches reverently. He takes her hand.

KADUCHE

To think standing here in front of me is my Kobe Bryant. My George Washington. My Paul Merage.

Everyone gives Kaduche a look that questions that last "hero" reference.

ERIK

Who's Paul Merage?

KADUCHE

He invented the Hot Pocket. Frodo and I love Hot Pockets.

Kaduche steps back admiring his hand.

KADUCHE

I shall never wash my hand again.

RJ

Dude, that's gross. But I get it.

ERIK

But I lost?

The Russian pauses to find the words...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BIRD
Don't question the lady.

ERIK
Good point. Let's do this thing!

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The team pulls up to the curb in Bird's car.

INT. BIRD'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

DINO
You can bunk with me and Frodo,
Mila!

MILA
Who's Frodo? You keep saying tha--

RJ
You don't want that Voodoo stuff,
Mila. You'll bunk with me.

JOKEO
(Korean)
What about me?

MILA
I just met you dudes. I'm not
sleeping near any of you.

BIRD
Guys, come one. Mila will have my
room and we'll all sleep in the
basement together. Cool?

Erik exits the car. The others do as well.

ERIK
You guys have fun with that. I'm
headed to my comfortable bed.

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone else starts for Bird's house. Erik for his.

BIRD
(to Erik)
Whatever. Oh, what time should we
be ready for training tomorrow?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

What do we need to train for?
We've got the Russian now.

BIRD

I still think we should go over
some strategies, right? I mean the
game is just in a few days...

ERIK

Okay. Tomorrow when I wake up I'll
come on over and we will talk
strategy if you want. Cool?

Bird feels a little better about this.

BIRD

Cool. Come on, Mila. I'll show you
your room.

INT. STONE'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Erik quietly opens the door and enters his house. He
tries to sneak up the stairs when--

SUSAN (O.S.)

Where have you been?

Susan appears in her pajamas.

ERIK

Ma, I'm twenty-seven years old.

SUSAN

I will worry about you until I'm
dead. That's what mothers do. Next
time call or text, tweet, snapchat
or whatever kids do these days.

ERIK

I'm not snapchatting with you.

SUSAN

Whatever. Find a way to
communicate. And honey?

ERIK

Yeah?

SUSAN

I noticed the lawn still isn't
mowed and your chores...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Mom, you're killing me with the lawn thing. Can't we just pay some kid in the neighborhood to do it?

SUSAN

Why would I pay a kid in the neighborhood when I have a kid? Until you get a job and start contributing--

ERIK

I got a job, ma. So there.

SUSAN

(surprised)
You did? Doing what?

ERIK

Coaching.

SUSAN

(very surprised)
Coaching? Like your father. He'll be so proud.

ERIK

God no. I'm coaching a minor league video game team. For Bird if you must know.

SUSAN

And his mom's okay with this?

ERIK

(annoyed)
I don't know, mom. I'll I know is if I can't play anymore this is the next best thing so I'm doing it. Okay? Now, can I please go to bed without the twenty questions?

Erik starts up the stairs.

SUSAN

Fine, grumpy pants. But I expect a mowed lawn or your share of the rent this week, capiche?

ERIK

You're not Italian, ma.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUSAN

Pasta, Gelato, Pizza, Pepporoni!

ERIK

I'm going to bed.

SUSAN

You're no fun.

INT. ERIK'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The sound of a passing SPORTS CAR wakes Erik up. He looks at his phone. It's 10:45am. He has ten text messages from Bird that all say **"We're ready to start when you are."**

Erik groggily tosses the phone and sits up. He notices a STICKY NOTE on his computer that reads. **"Don't forget the lawn and other chores, please. Love, mama mia"**

Erik rolls his eyes and looks away. Then, he has an idea.

INT. BIRD'S BASEMENT - LATER

Erik has the team gathered around him.

ERIK

I know I said that we didn't need to train, but I was wrong.

Everyone nods in agreement. They had hoped to hear this.

ERIK

So the first things we're going to do are coordination and exercise techniques that have helped me acquire lightning fast reflexes and the endurance a champion needs. Sound good?

The whole team is on board.

ERIK

Good. Now... Let's see... I'm going to divide this up.

Erik scans the team. Erik zones in on Jokeo.

ERIK

Jokeo you get to do something I call "jungle balance training".

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK (CONT'D)

It looks as simple as mowing the lawn but we place a stack of books on your head that cannot touch the ground or you have to do fifty pushups. I used to do this all the time. It works wonders for balance and strength training. Got it?

Jokeo nods. Everyone's a little confused but they go along with it.

ERIK

RJ, you and Bird have a teamwork assignment. This will test your ability to communicate and work together.

They lean in, paying close attention.

ERIK

There is a broken sprinkler head in my front yard. Your mission is to find it and fix it in under four hours.

RJ

That sounds an awful lot like a job.

MILA

I agree.

BIRD

Yeah, shouldn't we be playing online instead? Doing scrimms and stuff?

Nobody's buying. Good thing Erik's fast on his feet.

ERIK

Ah my young padawons Don't you remember in Karate Kid where Mr. Miagi is having Danielson paint the fence and wax the car.

BIRD

Yeah.

ERIK

Think about it.

Erik walks away. Everyone's not sure what to think. Have they missed something or is Erik full of it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE CASTER (O.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ninth game of the Summer Split.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - SUMMER SPLIT OPENER - DAY

Team Gravity's on stage. The five players sit in front of their computers while Erik observers them and pumps up the crowd. Everyone including Erik has a HEADSET on.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Today Team Gravity faces off against Team Dignitas in quite the talked about event thanks to recent changes to Team Gravity.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

That's right, Mike. A huge surprise with Big Daddy coming back to the sport as a coach and as an even bigger twist to this story, he brings with him The Russian, who happens to be an incredibly attractive woman, you just can't make this stuff up!

Erik amps up the crowd.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

No joke, Jimmy. She is really attractive isn't she? Can I say that on air? I just did. Oh well. I don't think you could ask for a more exciting or more easy on the eyes game heading into the playoffs. Jimmy?

Team Dignitas tries to stay focused but is distracted by the attention The Russian and Erik garner from the crowd.

INT. CASTING BOOTH - DAY

Jimmy and Mike from before, address the camera.

JIMMY AMICO

Agreed across the board. The Russian is the number one solo que player in the world and easy on the eyes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY AMICO (CONT'D)

It's going to be awesome to see how she does in a five on five match up. I haven't been this excited since I beat Super Mario Bro 3 as a child!

MIKE CALL

Amen to that! Let's get this best of five party started!

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - STAGE - DAY

The crowd CHEERS as the game gets underway.

Erik sits back confident in his team. He loves being back in the spotlight.

Team Gravity vs Team Dignitas appear on a board. The scores is 0 to 0.

Shots of the players pounding the keyboards.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

And here comes the minion spawn!

Shots of the screen. A whole bunch of little warriors come out of the turrets at either end of the battlefield.

The Russian's champion kills another champion.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

Oh and that was First blood! Drawn by Gravity and The Russian!

Crowd reactions. Cheering for Gravity!

More action shots.

MIKE CALL

Another team fight. Let's see who it goes to...

Shots of the screen. All ten champions duke it out.

JIMMY AMICO

A great fight by both teams but man, I gotta say, The Russian is making quick work of Dignitas.

More shots of the players working hard.

The screen and champions fighting. You get the idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Finally, all of Team Gravity's champions surround Team Dignitas' base and lay into it with all they've got.

MIKE CALL

It looks like this one will go to Team Gravity...

JIMMY AMICO

Yes, there they go. Just blasting that tower. Dignitas doesn't stand a chance.

The crowd CHEERS!

ON SCREEN: The tower EXPLODES. The screen says **"Winner: Team Gravity!"**

MIKE CALL

And there you have it, folks! The first game goes to Gravity!

The scoreboard reads: **Team Gravity 1 Team Dignitas 0.**

QUICK MONTAGE OF THE GAMES

The team loses the next game.

Scoreboard: **Team Gravity 1 Team Dignitas 1.**

More shots of the game.

Scoreboard: **Team Gravity 2 Team Dignitas 2.**

INTERCUT APPROPRIATE GAME FOOTAGE and PLAYER FOOTAGE with the following dialogue:

MIKE CALL

Ladies and gentlemen, it has come to this final game and it looks like Gravity will take home the win. We've seen strong play on both sides but The Russian really seems to shine when she wants to and then she will make interesting choice that lead to her teammates death.

JIMMY AMICO

I'd have to agree. This Russian has really blasted anyone who has gotten in her way.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JIMMY AMICO (CONT'D)

I'm not sure this strategy would work in the LCS but I'm sure Team Gravity hopes to find that out.

MIKE CALL

True. If Gravity wins two out of these final three games and manages to maintain decent points, they very well could get at shot at the LCS Promotional tournament. Oh wait, looks like Team Gravity is going to be setting up another play. Possibly for the win. Do you think that's a good move, Jimmy?

JIMMY AMICO

They're up in gold, they're up in objectives, looks like a pretty easy win to me.

ON SCREEN: The avatars congregate.

MIKE CALL

Okay, we will see. Jokeo's going in. Look at that, he set that up beautifully. Yep, The Russian capitalized on that kill. And, Jokeo's dead. Shocker.

Jokeo's avatar dies and is re-spawning.

JIMMY AMICO

Well you know at least they managed to get a kill and The Russian's on a roll.

MIKE CALL

Now the enemy team's moving in on The Russian, but the rest of Team Gravity's coming in to peel.

JIMMY AMICO

Oh another death on both sides.

MIKE CALL

I've never seen so much death trading. Aside from The Russian, it's been nonstop one for one one for one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JIMMY AMICO

We're now down to the wire. Ohhh looks like The Russian's support Bird Lee just hit the dust. It will now just be The Russian facing off against Hoto of Dignitas. Should be an easy kill. Gravity has this in the bag.

All of a sudden, when Mila can easily win the game, she stops. **She folds her arms and stares at Erik.**

Everyone is confused.

ERIK

Mila, what are you doing?!

Mila doesn't say a word. She continues to stare down Erik as the enemy team lays into her champion on screen.

JIMMY AMICO

Is the game glitched?

MIKE CALL

No, it appears as if The Russian has just stopped playing?

JIMMY AMICO

Team Dignitas laying into The Russian and she's not fighting back. I've never seen this before in all my years of casting.

ON SCREEN: The Russian's champion gets killed.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Erik gets out of his seat, really frustrated now. Team Gravity looks over at Mila, upset. She doesn't care.

JIMMY AMICO (O.S.)

And there goes The Russian. Can Team Gravity re-spawn in time? I don't think so.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Team Gravity and Erik Stone clearly as confused as the rest of us.

ON SCREEN: Team Dignitas destroys Gravity's Tower.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

And that's the game. What an interested turn of events.

JIMMY AMICO

I'll say. I'd be real interested to see what they talk about in the locker room after this game. Whatever that was, Team Gravity clearly has some issues to work out or they can kiss that promotional tourney goodbye.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The team enters the locker room, pissed.

ERIK

(to Mila)

What the hell was that, Mila?

MILA

You're an asshole!

BIRD

What is going on!?

DINO

We lost.

BIRD

That's not helpful!

ERIK

(to Mila)

Why did you throw the game?

MILA

It's just a game.

BIRD

This isn't a game to me! I freaking mortgaged my mom's house. And now, if we don't win the next two games I'm royally screwed! And even IF we win, I'm still probably screwed thanks to you both! And by the way, your wax on wax off? Total bullshit! How could you use Mr. Miagi against us like that!? That was low!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RJ

Yeah, man. Super low.

ERIK

I'm sorry about that but I never told you to mortgage your mom's house, dude.

BIRD

And I never told you to let your crazy ex-girlfriend sabotage my one chance at actually doing something I like for a living! I trusted you, Erik!

ERIK

Bird--

BIRD

No. You know what, you two are perfect for each other! I need a drink!

(to other teammates)

You guys coming?!

(to Erik and Mila)

Not you guys.

ERIK

But you don't drink?

BIRD

I do now!

Bird storms out. RJ, Dino and Jokeo follow him and give Mila and Erik shameful stares as they pass.

Mila and Erik marinate in the awkward silence for a bit. The guilt starts to seep in. Eventually Mila speaks.

MILA

You know he's right. I went too far.

Erik sits down and puts his head between his knees.

ERIK

Yeah. Me, too.

MILA

We have to make this right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIK

How? He doesn't want us want us
within one hundred feet of him.
Actually, probably more like one
hundred thousand feet.

MILA

I know... but we gotta do
something. We can't just sit here.
Let's at least go apologize.

ERIK

We don't even know what bar he's
going to.

MILA

He's going to be at the closest
one. That's no excuse.

ERIK

Just give him some time to cool
down. We can apologize tomorrow.

MILA

When something isn't right, you
fix it immediately.

Mila stands.

MILA

Grow a pair.

ERIK

(snarky to himself)
I've got a pair.

Erik stands up and follows after her.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Bird and Mila enter a bar.

MILA

See. Right there.

They both look to see Bird. He appears very drunk and
just about to fight some TOOLS.

Erik rushes in and PUNCHES the HEAD WRENCH in the face.
Problem is, it hurt Erik's hand more than the dude's
face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK
 (to himself)
 Oh no.

Head Wrench PUNCHES Erik in the face. He goes down hard. The Nerds jump back--except for Mila who's as cool as the ice in a White Russian.

Bird suddenly fills with rage and DIVES into Head Wrench but, he doesn't budge: these tools are made of metal.

Vice Grip TWISTS Bird off of Head Wrench and throws him into RJ and Kaduche. DRINKS, FURNITURE and NERDS Fly.

Erik rises to his feet just to get knocked down again and this time it SPILLS Mila's drink on her shoes.

MILA
 (to Head Wrench)
 Now you've upset me.

He shrugs her off and is about to pick on the nerds again when... HIIIIYA! She does some sweet THROAT PUNCH on him.

Head Wrench GRASPS his neck in pain and struggles to breath as Mila calmly does a Ninja Spin KICK into Vice Grip's groin. He goes down hard.

Two SECURITY GUARDS rush in. Head Wrench and Vice Grips bolt for the door.

SECURITY GUARD
 Are you guys okay?

The group of misfits nod as they dust themselves off. A GAMEBOY falls out of Dino's pocket.

DINO
 My Gameboy!

He bends over to make sure it's okay.

The security guards shakes his head.

SECURITY GUARD
 (to himself)
 Nerds.

ERIK
 (to the guys)
 How much did he have to drink?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RJ
Only like half a beer.

MILA
Americans.

INT. BIRD'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Erik finishes brushing his teeth and exits the bathroom as Mila enters it. She notices his SCOOPY DOO T-SHIRT.

MILA
Nice shirt.

ERIK
Hey now don't dis Scooby Doo. This is my lucky shirt.

MILA
(playfully)
So now you think we need luck to win and not just "The Russian"?

ERIK
Well The Russian's turning out to be a pain in my ass so...

Mila shakes her head but she enjoys the banter.

MILA
It was a good thing we did today.

ERIK
If you're asking me out on a date the answer is yes.

MILA
That's definitely not what I said.

ERIK
Are sure about that? Because I am wearing this shirt. So if you play your cards right you might just get... lucky.

MILA
See you tomorrow, coach.

Mila, slightly amused, shuts the door in Erik's face.

ERIK
Almost, Scooby. Almost.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Erik smiles and walks away.

INT. BIRD'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

RJ, Mila and Bird sit around the breakfast table. Dino and Jokeo make plates in the b.g.

ERIK

Okay, next weekend's game is against Cloud Nine. I've pulled up their recent game footage. Our first step is to look for weaknesses we can exploit.

MILA

(to RJ)

Can you pass the salt, please?

RJ

Well that depends are you going to rub it into my wounds later?

Mila gives him a "real mature" look. Dino sits down.

ERIK

Okay obviously there are some things that need to be said. We need to clear the air so to speak. So come on, now's the time. Let's get it all out in the open.

RJ won't say a word. The others as well.

Dino thinks for a moment. Then--

DINO

(serious tone)

If you touch my Frodo Doll, a thousand year curse will befall you and your children.

Everyone looks around. Where did that come from?

DINO

(turning upbeat)

I just thought you all should know.

ERIK

Uhh. Thank you, Dino.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RJ
I have something.

ERIK
Okay great.

RJ
How do we know she's just not
going to screw us all over again?

MILA
I'm not.

RJ
We don't know that.

MILA
What do you want from me? I said I
was sorry. I came back. Why would
I do that?

RJ
Because you're crazy.

MILA
How can I prove you can trust me?

RJ is not budging. Then, he has an idea.

RJ
There is one thing...

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

MILA STANDS ON THE TALL ROOF LOOKING DOWN NERVOUSLY.

MILA
Are you crazy!?

EXT. BIRD'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Dino, Erik, Kaduche and RJ stand below Mina holding a
MATTRESS.

RJ
(up to Mila)
If you wanna be part of the team,
you gotta jump. That's the rules.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DINO

All we had to do was jump off the low dive into a pool?

RJ

She doesn't need to know that.

ERIK

Come on, Mila. Jump!

MILA

Don't rush me. This is really high.

ERIK

It's a Tempurpedic mattress, you'll be fine! Haven't you seen the commercials?

MILA

Of course I've seen the commercials! But what kind of person in their right mind would-

JOKEO

BANZAI!!!

Jokeo runs past Mila and JUMPS off the roof. As he does, he KNOCKS Mila off balance and she teeters on the edge.

RJ

Oh shit!

Jokeo flies through the air and crash lands on the mattress. The team is relieved for a moment but then--

MILA

AHHH!

They look up to see Mila's about to fall. They run the mattress over and barely manage to get it under her as she finally loses her balance and FALLS!

She's heading right for Jokeo who, at the last second manages to roll out of the way as Mila HITS hard.

A beat.

Everybody's wide-eyed and holding their breath. Then--

MILA

(muffled)
Ouuuuuch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Relief on everyone's faces. Especially Erik's.

Mila rolls over and turns to RJ.

MILA

We cool?

RJ smiles. That will do.

RJ

We cool.

CUE SOME SWEET ROCK MUSIC that takes us to:

AN EPIC E-SPORTS TRAINING MONTAGE

--The Team plays at their keyboards blindfolded. Erik walks behind them calling out moves.

ERIK

Use the force!

--Erik walks the team through game footage. He circles moves on the projected image. The team takes notes.

--In the backyard doing a team building exercise.

--The team STRUGGLES to runs stairs, well except for Mila. Erik yells words of encouragement.

ERIK

Exercise increases blood flow and
increased blood flow means more
oxygen to the brain which makes
you a better player! Pick it up!

--Erik has the team doing jumping jacks, pushups and other exercises. Mila is in so much better shape than all these guys it's laughable but they are trying.

--Erik draws plays on a whiteboard. Mila is the star and the efforts are focused on her but now more as a team.

--More watching footage.

--The guys

The guys struggle to lift a few pounds.

Mila easily puts up 200 pounds.

The awesome Montage music eventually transitions us to:

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - DAY

EXCITED FANS CHEER ON THEIR TEAMS IN THE STUDIO ARENA.

Team Gravity is on stage in the heat of battle.

CHRIS CASTER

Team Gravity's really firing on all cylinders! I did not see this coming.

Erik in a SUIT, coaches passionately from the sidelines.

MIKE CASTER

You said it, Chris! The Russian is still carrying this team but it feels on purpose today.

Team Gravity furiously pounds their keyboards with lightning speed and intensity. Sweat drips from RJ's forehead. Dino closes one eye.

MIKE CASTER

Look at that support. I must admit this feels like a different team.

More cool moves by Team Gravity and The Russian.

Team Gravity fans cheer.

Team Solo Mid fans get nervous.

ON SCREEN: Team Gravity's Champions gather around a large turret and start assaulting it with great firepower.

CHRIS CASTER

Team Gravity about to take down Solo Mid and there's almost nothing they can do about it. Wow an aggressive move by Bird.

MIKE CASTER

Oh my! There's his opening, Solo Mid did not see that coming. Why isn't Bird taking that shot?

CHRIS CASTER

Ah and there goes his chance!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE CASTER

Big mistake by Bird for Gravity.
That opens up the window for Solo
Mid to come back.

Solo Mid fans starts to regain hope.

Erik cringes along with all the Gravity fans.

Mila and the team do their best to recover but it's too
late. Solo Mid easily takes them out one by one.

Team Gravity struggles as their fans nervously watch.

CHRIS CASTER

Wow I must say I really thought
Team Gravity had that one in the
bag but that is definitely not the
case now.

MIKE CASTER

No it's not, Chris! And this might
be it. Team Solo Mid attacking
Gravity's tower.

Five Champions let hell lose upon Gravity's tower.

CHRIS CASTER

I would have to agree with you. It
would take a miracle for Team
Gravity to come back now.

The Tower is destroyed.

INT. BIRD'S BASEMENT - DAY

Jokeo flips his Zippo nervously. RJ eats. Kaduche works
on his Frodo shrine. Bird keeps refreshing the computer
screen. Mila paints her nails.

Erik walks in with some SNACKS.

ERIK

(to Bird)
Any word?

BIRD

(depressed)
Nothing yet.

Bird refreshes the page.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Don't worry. We've still got a chance.

BIRD

Wait.

Bird clicks a button. He's hopeful... Then, deflated.

BIRD

Team Haka House got picked.

Everyone on the team is bummed. Especially Bird.

ERIK

That's okay. There's still one spot left.

The phone RINGS. Could this be the call? Everyone waits with anticipation as Erik answers the phone.

ERIK

Hello? Yes...

Everyone holds their breath.

ERIK

Okay...

Could this be it? Come on Erik get off the phone!

ERIK

Okay... Sure. Thank you.

Erik hangs up. Not enough emotion one way or the other...

BIRD

So?

ERIK

My bank is offering a free gift card with any new savings account.

Not the news the team had for of course.

BIRD

Oh.

DINO

What bank? I could use a free gift card.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIK
Sacramento First.

BIRD
I need some fresh air.

MILA
Me too.

RJ
Me three.

Everyone shuffles outside. It's the thing to do.

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Everyone finds a seat or place to stand among the patio furniture and such.

BIRD
I'm sorry, guys. I blew it.

ERIK
Bird. Don't say that.

BIRD
No. It's true. If I hadn't of
hesitated on that play. The game
never would've shifted and we
wouldn't be here right now waiting
for some stupid call that's
probably not going to come.

ERIK
You don't know that.

BIRD
Yes I do.

RJ
I'm not mad at you, dude. I'll
admit I'm sad. It sure would've
been nice to have a shot at going
pro for once but one game never
decided that. We weren't LCS
material before your mom bought us
and we're not now--even with Mila.
That's why we were sold on eBay
and it's time we faced up to that.
I'm just sorry we couldn't help
you reach your dreams.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

But you guys are LCS material.
I've been in the LCS, remember? We
still may get the call.

BIRD

You're just saying that. Our
chances are as good as gone.

RJ

(to Dino)
Think I could get a job at your
mom's restaurant?

Dino nods, depressed.

ERIK

This is so depressing.

Erik stands up and heads toward his house.

MILA

Where are you going?

ERIK

I have an idea. I'll be right
back.

Erik exits around the corner.

BIRD

What about you, Mila? What are you
doing when this is all over?

MILA

I'm still waiting for the call.

JOKEO

Sj;ajsfd;alsdjf

RJ

Sorry, man.

INT. ERIK'S GARAGE - DAY

Erik digs through old boxes. Bingo. He finds the one.

ERIK

Jackpot.

Erik pulls the box off the shelf and removes a few SUPER
SOAKERS (big water guns) from it.

EXT. ERIK'S GARAGE - DAY

Erik uses a garden hose to fill up the water guns.

His phone RINGS. He gets hopeful. Then sees who it is.

ERIK

Trevor?

TREVOR

Erik baby! I've got great news!

ERIK

We got in!?

TREVOR

What? No. I said great news. A spot just opened up on the European LCS team Fanatik and they want you!

ERIK

Oh? I uhm-- Tommorrow? But--

TREVOR

Erik, I'm not feeling the excitement I need here. This is what you were pleading and begging me to get you just a few months ago. Remember?

ERIK

Yes, it's just... what about Gravity?

TREVOR

Gravity? I don't meant to be rude but who cares about Gravity? You guys aren't even in the Promotional tournament, right?

ERIK

It's not looking good. But even if we don't get in the tournament I can go after, right?

TREVOR

Sorry but no. You gotta leave tomorrow. They need someone asap for the playoffs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Tomorrow!? I gotta think about this.

TREVOR

What's there to think about? If we don't move on this today that's it. I can't pull any more strings for you. Got it? So are you in?

ERIK

Yes. Tell them I'll do it.

TREVOR

Great. That's my client I know and love. I'll email you the contracts later. Have a crepe for me!

Erik hangs up and pauses for a moment to reflect on the conversation.

EXT. BIRD'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Erik comes around the corner with FOUR SUPER SOAKERS.

ERIK

I don't know about you guys but I've found that a waterfight is the best way to take a mind off sad things.

Mila smiles at Erik's goofy and thoughtful gesture.

Erik throws THREE water guns in the middle of the group.

ERIK

Who's in? Three, Two.

Everyone looks at the water guns then to each other. Then-

They all DIVE for the guns.

ERIK

One!

It's on!

Jokeo grabs a gun and rolls out of the way before Erik can squirt him.

Instead, Erik SOAKS Mila and RJ as they dive for a gun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MILA

AHH!

Mila grabs the gun and returns fire.

RJ grabs the other and blasts Erik as well.

Dino grabs the final gun. Jokeo flanks him with water.

BIRD

Forget this!

Bird runs to the side of the house for the Garden HOSE.

DINO

AHHH!

The team exchanges fire and laughter.

Bird comes in with the hose and SOAKS EVERYONE!

They all gang up on him with their guns but they are no match for the waterpower of the hose.

Laughing, they drop their now empty guns and all try to wrestle the hose away from Bird. And, for that moment, nobody gives a damn about the LCS and it's wonderful.

Then--

GRACE LEE (O.S.)

Frankie! Frankie!

They turn to see an excited Grace Lee rushing toward them.

GRACE LEE

We're in! I just got the call!

Instantly the water fight is over for obvious reasons.

BIRD

We're in?

A giant smile grows across Grace's face. She nods.

"Celebrate good times come on! Let's celebrate now!"

Victory dances all around. Then a HUG from Mila to Erik which turns into a group hug. Even Grace gets in on the action as the team, soaked, soaks in the moment.

DINO

I need to tell Franko!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dino peels off and they all chuckle.

RJ

I just realized. Maybe I won't need to work in a restaurant?

JOKEO

Hsjdf;dsafs!

GRACE LEE

Who wants ice cream? My treat.

Jokeo, RJ and Bird think this is a great idea and start to head inside with Grace.

RJ

You just get me, Mrs. Lee.

And soon enough, Erik finds himself alone with Mila and can't help but notice how good she looks soaked in water. Apparently Erik looks pretty good too because...

MILA

We should go to the arcade tonight. To celebrate.

(flirtatiously)

If you can handle it that is?

ERIK

I can handle it.

Dang Mila looks good when she smiles. Helen of Troy.

MILA

Good. I'm gonna go dry off.

Mila glides past Erik who can't help but watch her leave. He's genuinely happy. Then he remembers France and the smiles leaves his face.

INT. FRANK'S FERTILIZER VAN - NIGHT

Grace drives the mostly happy team. Erik hides it well but something is on his mind. You know what.

And then there's Mila. It doesn't take this girl much to look good, but when she puts in a little effort, damn.

DINO

Do you think they will have Galaga? That's my jam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RJ

Galaga? No, man. Space Invaders is the jam.

BIRD

What? No I agree with Dino. In Galaga you can attack

DINO

In circular formations!
Exactly!

BIRD

In circular formations!

RJ

Yes, but the side to side formations in Space Invaders are what makes it more of a challenge and hence more fun.

JOKEO

Space Invaders. Better.

BIRD

Nah you guys are crazy. Erik, what do you think?

ERIK

Huh?

BIRD

Space Invaders or Galaga? Galaga right?

ERIK

Yeah.

MILA

Are you okay, Erik?

ERIK

Oh yeah. I'm fine. Thinking about what pizza I want.

DINO

I can never decide either.

Erik shrugs in agreement.

GRACE LEE (O.S.)

We're here!

Everyone looks out the window as Grace pulls off the road into the parking lot.

INT. PIZZA ARCADE - NIGHT

The doors open and the team piles into the arcade. Jokeo and Dino start racing to the arcade.

GRACE LEE

Hey! Tell the man what pizza you want first.

They double back. Grace is happy to have "kids" in her life again. RJ greets the PIZZA MAN first.

RJ

Tell me about your options. And don't leave out any details.

BIRD

Come on, RJ. We don't have all night.

MILA

I'm good with anything. Thank you.

ERIK

Me, too. Thanks.

MILA

(to Erik)
Come on.

Erik follows after her willingly into the arcade.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

Erik and Mila meander through the rows of games.

MILA

So what's your "jam"?

ERIK

Huh?

MILA

Is everything okay?

ERIK

Yes. Sorry. My jam? Well let's see... of course, there's the classics we need to pay our respects to.

Erik points out a PAC-MAN machine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Fun fact: Did you they were originally going to name it "Puck-Man" but then they realized kids would have a hey day with that.

MILA

(playfully)
Damn, kids.

ERIK

(enjoying the banter)
Seriously. And over there we have Space Invaders which is arguably the most influential video game of all time--

MILA

I get it. You're a giant nerd.

ERIK

Oh I see how it is.

Mila laughs. It's a nice moment.

ERIK

You wanna play something?

Then Mila brings up something she's been holding back.

MILA

That depends. Are you going to run out on me and never call again if I beat you at the game?

Erik knows what she's talking about. #backstory.

ERIK

I'm sorry. I was pretty stupid wasn't I?

MILA

I'd say more like really stupid.
(beat)
Lucky for you I'm half Russian.

ERIK

What does that mean?

MILA

We're not sensitive. So I'm willing to forgive you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Erik smiles. Clever girl.

MILA

Besides, what you're doing for Bird and the guys. Maybe you're not just the selfish asshole I thought you were?

That smile fades.

ERIK

Yeah.

MILA

Are you sure you're okay?

Shaking it off.

ERIK

I'm good. Good enough in fact to beat you at Space Invaders!

MILA

Bring it on!

The two flirtatiously race over to Space Invaders and right as they're about to get there, they get cut off by Bird, RJ, and Dino. They don't look happy.

Instantly Erik knows, you know, that they know.

Bird holds up his phone.

BIRD

Why did I just read online that you signed with Fanatik?

Mila looks at Erik, concerned.

MILA

Is that true?

Erik doesn't know what to say so he just says it.

ERIK

I--... Yeah it's true.

That warm vibe we were just getting from Mila turns cold like Russia in January.

MILA

When do you leave?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ERIK

Friday.

No bueno across the board.

BIRD

What!?

RJ

What?

JOKEO

(Korean)

Friday

DINO

But the tournament is Friday?

ERIK

I know. But I didn't think we were in the tournament when I accepted!

RJ

Great our on coach didn't even believe in us.

ERIK

Come on, RJ.

RJ shakes his head.

BIRD

But you're still going aren't you?

Mila already knows the answer and she's Fort Knox. Everyone else's guard rapidly rises awaiting a response.

ERIK

It's my chance to play again.

Defense shields at full power.

BIRD

Great. That's great, Erik. We're all really happy you get **your** chance to play.

Bird walks away.

ERIK

Bird!

The other guys follow after him.

ERIK

Guys! I'm sorry! I--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MILA

I guess I wrong. Once an asshole
always an asshole.

Mila leaves to join the group. Erik's all alone.

A nearby VIDEO GAME makes a noise. Erik looks over. It's flashing "**GAME OVER**". Erik can't help but see the irony.

Erik exits the arcade alone. He feels the heat of the upset eyes on his back as the door closes behind him.

INT. PIZZA ARCADE - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

The team turns away from the door. Everyone looks full from eating a giant steaming pile of buzzkill.

RJ

Great. Just great.

BIRD

I cannot believe him! What an
asshole!

Grace comes over in a chipper mood with the PIZZAS.

GRACE LEE

Whooooo's hungry!?

Bird stands up and walks away.

BIRD

Not now, ma!

Grace, confused, watches him leave then turns to the broken team.

GRACE LEE

Was it something I said?

Nobody feels like telling her the bad news.

INT. ERIK'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Erik packs his bags. A KNOCK at his bedroom door.

COACH STONE

Can I come in?

Erik keeps packing. Coach enters anyway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COACH STONE

Mom told me the news.

ERIK

Are you here to talk me out of it?

COACH STONE

No. I'm just off to the LA office and wanted to say goodbye because I'll be gone before you leave.

ERIK

Okay...

COACH STONE

But I do think you're making the wrong choice.

ERIK

There it is.

COACH STONE

Erik.

ERIK

Just like you thought it was a bad idea when I quit football.

COACH STONE

Erik.

ERIK

Just like you thought it was a bad idea when I joined my first league team!

COACH STONE

I--

ERIK

Or maybe the fact that you STILL haven't come to a single game of mine. Not one! Just because I do something you don't call a "real sport" doesn't give you the right to be an asshole about it!

COACH STONE

I put a roof over your head. I fed you. Sure I put up a fight when I thought you were doing the wrong thing. That's what parents do. That's what a family does.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIK

You know what else family does?
They support each other no matter
what but I guess you wouldn't know
anything about that!

Erik finishes packing his bag and storms out the door.

INT. UBER PRIUS - DAY

Erik stares at the window of the car. A HIPPIE DRIVER,
50's, Jerry Garcia reincarnated, mans the wheel.

HIPPIE DRIVER

So, where's your flight going?

Erik doesn't want to talk but he humors the guy.

ERIK

France.

HIPPIE DRIVER

Oh la la. Lots of babes in France.
Also, I happen to appreciate the
natural hairy armpit of a woman.

Erik makes a "gross" face.

HIPPIE DRIVER

They're a lot more common over
there if you're into that sort of
thing.

Erik just nods politely.

HIPPIE DRIVER

So it's a girl then?

ERIK

Girl?

HIPPIE DRIVER

That's making you skip town? You
don't seem excited for your trip
so... you don't get to be an Uber
driver with a rating as high as
mine without being able to read
people. Oh and I hand out these
free organic "brownies" I make.

The Hippie Driver hands back a basket of BROWNIES. They
probably are laced with POT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIPPIE DRIVER

Go ahead have one. It's my special recipe.

ERIK

I'm good thank you.

HIPPIE DRIVER

Your loss.

The Hippie Driver pops a brownie in his mouth, making Erik a little nervous.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - PROMOTION TOURNAMENT - DAY

The big day has arrived.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

Thank you to the game of games!
The tournament where the winners are made men and the losers go back to being boys. This is the LCS Promotional tournament.

JIMMY AMICO

That's right, Mike. Three teams from the Challenger League have been invited to go against three of the big boy teams of the LCS. And as I like to say "If you win, you're in! and if you don't, you're broke."

MIKE CALL

A tournament made to keep the Goliath's sharp and give the David's a chance. It hardly ever happens but if a Challenger team wins in a best of five, they are promoted to the LCS with all the fame, glory and actual paycheck that comes with and the losing team has to slug it out in the Challenger League the entire following year for another shot.

JIMMY AMICO

Stay tuned, folks! It all happens here in minutes. Only on ESPN.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

BIRD

What do you mean we can't play!

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

I'm sorry but the rules clearly state that you need a coach to play.

RJ

But our coach left us!

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Sounds like you need a new coach.

RJ

Thank you.

MILA

Dino, run out in the audience and just ask anyone to come stand in as our coach.

Dino starts to exit.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

I'm sorry but you can't do that either.

BIRD

What?

MILA

Why not?

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Changes in management or coaching need to be approved by Riot at least forty eight hours prior to a game to keep owners from back-door dealing.

DINO

That's stupid.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

I'm sorry but unless you have present who's on your roster I can't allow you to play. Better luck next year.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIRD

No wait! Can you just give us a minute? In private, please?

The official throws his hands up and exits.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Whatever. You have thirty minutes.

Once the official's gone, Bird turns to the team.

BIRD

Someone, lend me your phone.

RJ hands him his phone.

RJ

What are you going to do?

Bird gets a glint in his eye.

BIRD

Our roster says "Erik Stone" so we're going to give them Erik Stone.

INT. UBER PRIUS - DAY

Erik looks at pictures of Mila and the team on his phone. He eventually musters up the willpower to put them away.

Suddenly, the car makes a FUNNY NOISE.

HIPPIE DRIVER

Uh oh.

ERIK

Uh oh? What's uh oh?

The funny noise gets LOUDER. The car starts to stutter.

HIPPIE DRIVER

Damnit, Charlie!

ERIK

What? Who's Charlie. Are you pulling over.

The driver muscles the car off the road. It's dying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIPPIE DRIVER

The car's dying man! Got no choice.

ERIK

But I'm gonna miss my flight!

HIPPIE DRIVER

Sorry, man. I really am. Damn it, Charlie!

ERIK

Who the hell is Charlie? Why do you keep saying his name?

HIPPIE DRIVER

Charlie sold me on this new organic fuel made from banana peels. Apparently it doesn't sit well with my Prius. He's who you need to take this up with.

ERIK

What?

HIPPIE DRIVER

Unless... are you sure about this flight?

ERIK

What the hell is that suppose to mean? Yes, I'm sure. You gotta fix this stat or call Uber to get me another car asap!

HIPPIE DRIVER

I just feel like you're fighting the energy, man. And, that's one thing I've learned you never do if you don't mind me saying so?

ERIK

I do mind, crazy person! I'll figure it out on my own.

Erik grabs his bag and storms out of the Prius. He leans back in for "the final word."

ERIK

And lay off the brownies when you drive for the sake of Sacramento!

Erik SLAMS the door shut.

EXT. UBER PRIUS - CONTINUOUS

Erik slings both duffle bags over his back and walks up the road trying to get an Uber on his phone with his right hand and HITCHHIKE with his left hand.

A few cars pass. No luck. A honk or two maybe.

Then, off in the distance, the sound of a HARLEY slowing and REVVING loudly, catches Erik's attention.

Erik turns just as the Harley pulls up next to him. The RIDER wears full LEATHER and a HELMET with a tinted visor so Erik can't see who it is. The RIDER cocks his head.

THE WIZARD (MUFFLED)

Erik?

Now Erik's the one to cock his head. How does he recognize that voice? The Rider removes his helmet.

Erik can't believe his eyes. What are the chances? The Wizard looks back to the Prius and then to Erik.

THE WIZARD

Aren't you supposed to be in the promotion tournament today? What are you doing out here?

Erik's unsure what to say.

THE WIZARD

Hop on.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

RJ finishes up a lighter trick for the Official. He's doing his best to stall him.

RJ

Do you wanna see it again?

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

No. Thank you. Now--

RJ

What about with my eyes closed?

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

No. God now. Not again. Look, I'm sorry, guys. You've run out of time and we all need to face that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIRD

If you could please just--

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

I'm sorry. Better luck next year.

RJ

There's not going to be a next year for us.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Well then I'm extra sorry.

Suddenly Coach Stone appears in the doorway.

BIRD

Wait he's here!

COACH STONE

I got your message and came as soon as I could. What's the 911 emergency?

BIRD

Coach Stone. We need a big favor. How do you feel about coaching us today in this tournament?

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

What is this some kind of joke? I said--

BIRD

You said, we needed what was on our roster, right. Well on our roster it says Erik Stone and this is Erik Stone.

(to Coach Stone)

Go ahead, show him your I.D.

Coach Stone, skeptically hands over his I.D. to a likewise skeptical official. He reads it.

BIRD

So can we play?

The official, smirks and shakes his head.

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

It does say Erik Stone...

The team celebrates! They're in!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEAGUE OFFICIAL

Now get to the stage. You're on in less than five minutes!

BIRD

Thank you!

MILA

Thank you!

Dino puts his Frodo doll away. Apparently he was about to curse the Official if he said no.

COACH STONE

Frankie. You mean to tell me--

BIRD

I know it's bad but we had no other choice. I promise I will mow your lawn for an entire year if you stick around and pretend to coach us.

COACH STONE

An entire year?

BIRD

Yes.

COACH STONE

And you'll use the edger, too.

BIRD

Fine.

COACH STONE

You got yourself a deal.

They shake hands.

JOKEO

It's on!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Erik wears funny goggles and holds tightly to the back of The Wizard as they race down the highway.

Eventually, The Wizard slows and starts to pull off to the side of the road again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK (THROUGH THE WIND)
WHY ARE WE STOPPING?

THE WIZARD (THROUGH THE WIND)
MY BIKE'S NOT BUILT FOR SPEED.
THESE GUYS CAN GET YOU THERE MUCH
MUCH FASTER!

Erik looks ahead to see: **THE HELL'S ANGELS BIKE GANG.**

They start to go slow enough not to yell over the wind.

THE WIZARD
They're all big fans of yours.

ERIK
Who is?

The Wizard pulls the bike to stop.

THE WIZARD
The Hell's Angels. They crazy for
eSports.

ERIK
No way.

THE WIZARD
Hop off. Trust me.

Erik hops off and is greeted by TWO BURLY BIKER DUDES who are star struck when they see him.

BURLY BIKER 1
Damn it really is you. What an
honor.

BURLY BIKER 2
Let's get you to the game, Erik.

Erik turns back to The Wizard who gives him a "thumbs up"
Fifty bikers fire up their hogs. It sounds like thunder!

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - PROMOTION TOURNAMENT - DAY

The team is in the thick of their first match.

Coach Stone wears a headset and tries to be supportive
from the sidelines but he has no idea what's going on.

It's a tough match but they barley manage to win.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They exit the stage relieved.

JIMMY AMICO

Wow that was a close one. Gravity takes the first of the series.

MIKE CALL

That's right, Jimmy. Remember it's best of five so they are a long way from home free yet.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - PROMOTION TOURNAMENT - DAY

Next game.

It's on.

The team sweats.

This is getting harder and harder.

BIRD

(into mic)

Man, these guys are harder than the Challenger teams.

MILA

(into mic)

We can do this guys. Come on! Draw them out and I will take them on one by one.

RJ

(into mic)

I'm trying but they seem to be on to our strategy!

DINO

(into mic)

That's what I was gonna say!

COACH STONE

(into mic)

I'm sorry, guys! I had no idea there was so much strategy involved in this. I got nothing.

Then the game is over. They lose pretty bad.

JIMMY AMICO

Oh and that was just painful to watch.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY AMICO (CONT'D)

SKT clearly has figured out how to hit Gravity where it hurts. That ties things up at two.

Gravity heads backstage, depressed.

The bracket shows **Gravity 2 and SKT 2**

MIKE CALL

You're absolutely right. This has been a great showing on both sides but it looks like SKT has finally figured out how to counter all of Gravity's compositions.

JIMMY AMICO

Definitely, Mike. Gravity's got to think of something new or the Russian is really going to have to step it up because their current strategy is no longer working.

MIKE CALL

Amen to that. Drop the mic. We'll be back after these messages.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The team sits around the locker room, frustrated.

RJ

We're dying out there.

DINO

They know what we're going to do even before I do.

BIRD

Guys, come on. We can do this. Mila, right?

Mila shakes her head.

COACH STONE

I'm sorry, guys. I'm all out of ideas. I had no idea there was so much to this stuff.

ERIK (O.S.)

Dad?

Everyone turns to see Erik standing in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The team fights mixed emotions seeing him there.

BIRD
(defensive)
What are you doing here?

ERIK
I don't want to live in France.

They're not buying it. They need more.

ERIK
Look. I was wrong to go and I'm
sorry. I'd rather be losing with
you guys than winning with
Frenchies. Or anyone else.

RJ
Well you're just in time to watch
us lose.

MILA
Wait, so we're just taking him
back like that. We have a Coach.
We don't need him.

Coach Stone assesses the situation and steps in.

COACH STONE
If I may say something to my team?

Erik shrugs his shoulders.

ERIK
I guess they're your team now.

Coach Stone turns and faces the rag tag misfit bunch.

COACH STONE
All I'm gonna say is that a team
goes through a lot of ups and
downs together and you become like
family right?

They shrug, more or less agreeing. Coach Stone turns to
Erik when he says this last part.

COACH STONE
And something I recently learned
about family is you're supposed to
support each other no matter what.

Well played, Coach Stone. Well played.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COACH STONE

And besides. We all know he's the better coach here. You'd be nuts keep me on.

Coach Stone removes the headphones from his neck and goes to hand them to Erik.

COACH STONE

I'm sorry I never came to one of these before and was such a hard head. There's a lot to this game.

ERIK

You keep them. I could use a good assistant coach.

(turns to Bird)

That is, if you're willing to give me a second chance?

BIRD

You mean twenty second chance?

ERIK

Yes, that.

Bird fights a smirk.

BIRD

We started this basically together. We might as well end it together, too.

Everyone's on board. Mila's still a little defensive.

ERIK

Who said anything about ending?

RJ

They're killing us out there. We don't stand a chance.

ERIK

What's going on?

BIRD

At first we were holding our own out there but now they're on to our composition strategy. Every time we try to set up a play for Mila they see it coming from a mile away and shut it down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Mila shrugs. They're right.

RJ

Yeah, man. The last game was stupid embarrassing.

ERIK

I was wondering about that...

DINO

If it would be helpful to know, I've just cursed their whole team with Frodo so that should help.

ERIK

Thank you, Dino.

BIRD

Any ideas?

ERIK

I've got an idea. We're going to give them something they'll never expect.

Everyone looks to Erik. He smiles reassuringly.

ERIK

Let's huddle up.

Coach Stone is proud to see his son come into his own.

They all huddle around Erik.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - PROMOTION TOURNAMENT - DAY

The energy of the stadium is worthy of a RedBull and the suspense and tension held in the air would make Hitchcock himself proud. Let the final game begin!

MIKE CALL

And we're back ladies and gentlemen! The players have just wrapped up Player select. Nothing new there from Gravity. This may be over quickly.

JIMMY AMICO

You're right, Mike. I was hoping they would come up with a new strategy, especially when I saw Big Daddy back on stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE CALL

That was a nice surprise wasn't it. And now with his dad, apparently "Erik Stone, Sr." As his assistant coach for the day. A nice father son moment to share if they win. Something that will haunt their dreams and cause family fights for years if they lose.

Jimmy looks over to Mike with a "what the hell are you talking about" face.

JIMMY AMICO

And here we go. Everything looks fairly straight forward so far.

MIKE CALL

Standard stuff. You called it, Jimmy. I may have to bump up my dinner reservation.

INT. RIOT STUDIOS - PROMOTION TOURNAMENT - DAY

A little time has passed. It's not looking good for our guys but they are fighting hard. They communicate via the mics on their headsets as they play the game.

ERIK

Okay, gang. It's time. You ready?

RJ

Ready.

DINO

Ready.

MILA

Ready.

Silence.

ERIK

Bird?

MILA

Bird?

BIRD

I don't know guys. I think we can get them this time with Mila.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

Stick to the plan, Bird. You can do this.

Bird sweats heavily as he hits the keyboard and talks into his headset mic.

MILA

I believe in you Bird.

DINO

Me too!

RJ

Me three.

ERIK

Like you said, we're in this together.

Bird finds courage in those words.

BIRD

Ready.

ERIK

Great! Let's show SKT why they never should've stepped foot in this arena. Or at least die trying and have some fun while we do.

RJ

Preach it, brother. On my count we engage again. Get into position.

ON SCREEN: The "champions" move close together.

MIKE CALL

It looks like Gravity is setting up something we've seen before yet again. Why do they keep on this dead horse?

JIMMY AMICO

Well, Mike. As you know the saying, you can't look a dead gift horse in the mouth.

MIKE CALL

Gravity's down on gold, down on health. What are they thinking?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JIMMY AMICO

I'm not sure they are anymore. You're out there and things get really intense. Players can suffer from a tunnel vision of sorts.

MIKE CALL

Well clearly not much vision of any kind coming from Gravity at this point.

JIMMY AMICO

Oh and once again the Russian's been taking out by that Assassin.

MIKE CALL

That Ragner and his plays are just so hard to stop. What do you think Gravity's best option is at this point, Jimmy?

JIMMY AMICO

I don't have a clue and I don't think they do either. These engages are just not working for them and they are slowly losing this in dramatic fashion. And here we go again.

MIKE CALL

You're right, Jimmy. It appears they're trying to force yet another team fight but they're down on gold and it looks like their support Bird is going back to base. Why are they still trying to engage when it's a four v five?

JIMMY AMICO

I guess desperate times call for desperate measures. You know as well as I do that when teams are so far down they make risky moves trying to force hands.

MIKE CALL

Yes, but this is not a risky play, this is a suicide play.

JIMMY AMICO

Agreed. Jokeo engages on the enemy frontline. The Russian goes in. Oh Ragner comes out of the bush.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JIMMY AMICO (CONT'D)

The Russian is sidestepping
Ragner. Assassin is on her!

MIKE CALL

Wow no kidding! Team Gravity doing
their best to peel for her but SKT
is just not backing down. They're
setting up for their final kill of
the day it seems. Their entire
team is in this fight to the
finish--wait, was that a teleport?

Giant reaction from the crowd.

JIMMY AMICO

It was a teleport! Bird has
teleported into SKT's base alone!
He is attacking their tower. SKT
just realizing this and trying to
pull away from the fight but
Gravity is keeping them locked it!
I can't believe it!

MIKE CALL

Team Gravity is preventing SKT
from returning to their base to
stop Bird. Unbelievable!

JIMMY AMICO

Bird is destroying that base. If
he can hit it hard for another ten
seconds he may just have it--oh
no! Assassin has finally broken
off from the team fight and is
making his way back to Bird.

MIKE CALL

Man this is gonna be close!

The audience is going wild.

JIMMY AMICO

Oh my word! Team Gravity just
managed to kill three of SKT's
players but Assassin is laying
into Bird. He's losing health fast
but the base is almost destroyed.

MIKE CALL

Is he going to make it! Is he
going to make it!

Suddenly the screen PAUSES as Bird lands "LAST HIT!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

The enemy base EXPLODES!

The announcers JUMP out of their seat!

JIMMY AMICO

I can't believe it! Team Gravity
just backdoored SKT in an Xpeke
move!!!

BALLOONS fall from the ceiling. The lights FLASH and music RISES to celebrate our champions! And then there's the crowd. They are going BONKERS!

Erik and the team pull off their headphones and rush over to Bird. They pat him on the back. He's still in shock and a sweaty mess because he had been so nervous.

MIKE CALL (O.S.)

I did not see that coming! What a smart move by Coach Stone or whoever's idea that was! Using SKT's focus on the Russian against them and buying just enough time for that bold move by Bird. Nobody ever could've expected that!

The team continues to relish in their victory on stage. Even Coach Stone gets a hug from everyone. Then it's time for Mila and Erik to hug.

MILA

I guess I can give you one more chance but I swear to God if you blow it I will castrate you.

ERIK

I love it when you speak Russian.

They KISS as the balloons fall around them. It's pretty cool looking to be honest.

Coach Stone smiles. He knows his son has found the only thing better than sports. Then Dino diverts his attention.

MILA

I was thinking... Do you still have that ugly shirt?

ERIK

If by that you mean my awesome Scooby Do shirt than yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MILA

Good.

ERIK

Good.

They share that kind of smile that only two people in love share when they realize the feeling is mutual for the first time. It's a beautiful moment and they know it.

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS.

And just for fun to play during the credits...

THE BIG DADDY LOSES IT MASHUP VIDEO:

Auto-tuned voices, set to hip hop music, intercut with news clips and commentaries from Erik's original debacle.