

OPEN

IN BLACK

SOUND - The sounds of a crowd pierced by the unmistakable sharp pings of a boxing match signal bell.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and Gentlemen! The judges have come to a decision. After 10 rounds- Winner by split decision ... "Sizzling" Scott Jacobs!

Thunderous applause and cheers.

FADE IN:

INT. BOXER'S DRESSING ROOM - EVENING

A post fight press conference is taking place, a NEWSPAPER REPORTER, PHOTOGRAPHER, CORNERMEN and onlookers all focused on the man of the moment, SCOTTY JACOBS. A lean lightweight. An up and comer, in the regional boxing scene. At his side is MAX his trainer/manager.

REPORTER

Seems like your opponent gave you problems there, Scotty. Were you surprised by the outcome of the fight.

SCOTT

Yeah, surprised he was able to survive it. We were trading some hard ones there.

REPORTER

Right. But to come away with a split decision victory must give you and your camp concern against your next opponent, Bobby "Blue" Mitchell.

MAX

Blue Mitchell'll be singing the blues after we get through with him!

REPORTER

Is that a quote.

SCOTT

Well, I'm trusting my ability and uh, my main man, Max that we will

have our game plan intact! And that's a fact!

And Bobby "Blue" Mitchell, after he meets the Sizzler, hey, he better pack!

REPORTER

Okay Okay great. Great... See you in two months, Scotty.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Scotty! How bout one of you and Max for tomorrows Free press?

SCOTT

For sure.

He and Max lean in. Scott is all smiles, young man with a plan, on the way up.

FREEZE ON PHOTO SHOT- It's all there in his smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - FIGHT VENUE - COBO HALL

INT. BOXING RING - EVENING

We're in the mid-rounds. The fighting is fierce and close quartered we get the quick sense that Scott has had problems as Blue Mitchell dominates the action.

ANNOUNCER

Well, it's been one of the most brutal battles I've witnessed in some years, folks. Blue Mitchell has met every fight plan the Jacob's corner has come with tonight.

ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

Yes. One can one say that Scott's determination has kept him in what has become a clear case of moving up the ranks too soon against an opponent with too much.

A vicious hook sends Scott's mouthguard flying out of the ring.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

I don't know if it's to Scott's credit to take so much punishment.

Fights like these can ...

A solid combination sends Scott down to the mat. His face a contortion of pain and frustration.

INSERT SHOT -

The smiling photo taken earlier of Scott and Max.

We slowly tighten in on Scott, his then confident smile.

ANNOUNCER 2 V.O.

And down goes Scott! Down goes Scott. The referee is sending Mitchell to the neutral corner and picking up the count.

REFEREE (V.O.)

5-6-7-8-9-10!

Bell rings.

WE FADE TO BLACK-

On the future that could have been.

GRAPHICS - "THREE YEARS LATER"

ESTABLISHING SHOT

EXT. SCOTT'S HOUSE - MORNING

INT. SCOTT'S HOUSE

In the small bathroom, Scott, his face obscured by his hands is rinsing his face with water .

He peers up, looking into the mirror. The game has not been kind to him since last seen. A tooth is missing and a certain resolute sadness is etched in the lines of his face.

He pats himself dry with a towel.

MUSIC- Gil Scott-Heron - "Wash your Troubles Away"

CUT TO-

Montage -

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Scott jogging down the streets in a well worn sweat suit.

From the shots of the acknowledging people he passes by at

certain points, we get the feeling this is a daily routine.
He stops intermittently to do a boxer's shuffle

INTERCUT WITH

ESTABLISHING SHOT - VACANT HOUSE - EAST SIDE DETROIT - SAME

From within WE HEAR -

Voices of animated young men shouting mixed with the sounds
of dogs... growling, snarling, viciously.

BACK TO-

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Scott, running, closing in on -

ESTABLISHING SHOT - KRONK GYM -DAY

He keeps his pace into the building.

INT. KRONK GYM - DAY

The gym has a sparse crowd of athletes, trainers, onlookers,
etc.

BACK TO -

INT. DOG FIGHT HOUSE - SAME

TWO K, a young enterprising thug, is holding his dog, a huge
brown and white spotted PIT BULL, set for battle.

Next to them is SAMMY, Two K's partner in crime.

BACK TO GYM

INT. KRONK GYM - DAY

Scott, in the ring, gets last minute adjustments to gloves
and head gear.

IN OPPOSITE CORNER -

TY, a young prospect, dances lightly trying to stay loose.
Working with him is Max, Scott's old trainer. Max looks over
to Scott, points to his watch and shakes his head. Late again!

BACK TO -

INT. DOG FIGHT HOUSE - SAME

Two K, still holding his dog back, nods over to Sammy to

spread the bet money around, this is going to be a piece of cake.

O.S. - SOUND OF ROUND BELL

BACK TO -

INT. KRONK GYM - DAY -SAME

Just before Max puts in Ty's mouthguard.

TY

What's up, old man? Hard time
getting out of bed?

They engage in sparring - Ty dancing and working on technique; Scott blocking and just trying to weather the storm.

CUT BACK TO -

INT. DOG FIGHT HOUSE - SAME

In contrast, the dog fight is severely more vicious. The crowd yelling for blood.

BACK TO GYM -

INT. KRONK GYM - DAY - SAME

MAX

Work that jab, Ty. Work that jab!
Come on, Scott. Stay on him for
Christ's sake. Put some pressure
on him.

With Max's urging, Scott tries to press Ty into a corner. Ty sidesteps him and spins him into the corner instead. Scott gets peppered with a quick combo for his efforts.

SOUND - BELL RINGS

MAX

(continuing)

Time!

CUT BACK TO -

INT. DOG FIGHT HOUSE - SAME

Where as Scott was merely taking a beating, Two K's dog is literally getting killed.

Two K makes the transition from urging his dog on with

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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
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