

DECIMATION DAY

Written by

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Black screen.

A fight crowd cheers. A FIGHTER'S face appears in silhouette on a twilight sunset. The cheering builds to crescendo. A bare foot (Digger's) strikes in slow motion the side of the fighter's face creating a quarter moon of sweat droplets. A sickening thud is heard as the fighter's head hits the canvas and reverberates. Eerie gurgling emerges deep within the fighter. The screen changes to deadly red.

EXT. STADIUM -- NIGHT

Photographers' flashlights explode in a blinding scream as DIGGER, 35, unkempt and crazy-eyed, angrily pushes through REPORTERS bombarding him with questions. REPORTER ONE grabs Digger's arm.

REPORTER 1  
That's the third fighter you've  
killed in the ring....

REPORTER 2  
Did you mean to kill him, Digger?

Digger's threatening glare silences the reporter who immediately releases Digger's arm.

REPORTER 1  
What about Decimation Day?

The reporter indicates a billboard promoting a coming attraction: DECIMATION DAY featuring a life-sized photo of Digger. Under Digger's name is SHOVEL ONE.

REPORTER 1 (CONT'D)  
Can we expect you to bury anyone  
else?

Digger's glare is icy.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE/GYM -- DAY

Cigarette smoke wafts as the camera pans over a newspaper-cluttered desk. Headlines read: Ban Boxing, Legalised Murder and Shovel One. Photos on the wall show various boxers but mainly Digger.

BIG ARCH (O.S.)  
This is a promoter's dream. The  
dogooders want to ban fighting...

CORBETT, 38, Digger's Manager, looks out the office window at fighters training below in the gym. He sees Digger, carrying an empty sports bag, enter the gym. Digger nods to TOBIAS, 25, training by himself.

Tobias, lightening fast, is performing Kyokushin Karate exercises. He smiles acknowledgment to Digger.

BIG ARCH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 ...the punters threaten to punch  
 the dogooders' lights out...

INT. LOCKER ROOM -- DAY

A poster on the locker room wall promotes Decimation Day.

BIG ARCH (O.S.)  
 ...we sit back and watch the money  
 roll in.

Digger's hand opens a locker cluttered with training paraphernalia. The hand scoops the paraphernalia into a sports bag.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE/GYM -- DAY

BIG ARCH, 60, the Promoter, lights a cigarette from the butt of another. He laughs throatily as he squashes the butt in an overflowing ashtray.

BIG ARCH  
 All you've gotta do is keep him in  
 the ring.

Corbett watches Digger hurriedly leave the gym. The fighters stop training, except TIGER ONE, who is sparring an opponent in the ring. Tiger One grins at his stationary opponent before hitting him in the face with snappy lefts.

Corbett darts out of the office, confusing Big Arch by his premature exit.

EXT. GYM/STREET -- DAY

Corbett catches up to Digger who continues walking.

CORBETT  
 Mate, this is what we planned for,  
 what we dreamed of.

DIGGER  
 (Stopping)It's over.

CORBETT  
 Decimation Day. The ultimate. The  
 best fighters in the world. You  
 can go down as the greatest ever.

Digger drops his eyes.

DIGGER  
I'm finished.

CORBETT  
Mate, carn, what's there to be  
scared of?

Digger unemotionally stares at Corbett.

INT. AIRPORT -- DAY

PROSAK, a colossus with pale face make-up, wearing fighting gown, bursts through the international arrival gates at the Airport. He is accompanied by his trainer/manager, androgynous-Titan-like MARCUS. ANDY DOLT, hand out, greets Marcus who ignores him. Dolt hurriedly pursues them.

DOLT  
Um, I've been instructed to go  
through the rules with you.

MARCUS  
We don't fight under rules.

DOLT  
No gloves, elbows, knees are legal  
except for biting or eye gouging.

Marcus rolls his eyes at Prosak.

DOLT (CONT'D)  
Um, I've, um arranged a press  
conference.

Prosak smiles.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE -- DAY

Prosak sits at a table with Marcus in front of a large poster advertising Decimation Day. The poster highlights Digger and shows five other fighters, including Prosak. Prosak stares autistic-like at a female reporter. Dolt nervously watches from the side. Television cameras and photographers record events.

REPORTER 1  
Have you ever been defeated?

MARCUS  
(laughing) Next question.

REPORTER 2  
What do you think of Australia?

MARCUS  
Oh gawd!

FEMALE REPORTER  
Do you like Australia?

Marcus sits back on his chair. Prosak grins at the female.

PROSAK  
When I strike my opponent, I see, I advance, I strike. I do not consider. I do not judge. There is no intention involved in my action. Understand? Do I like Australia? Now you tell me what is the intention of Australia? Hmmmmmm? Can you tell me that?

The reporters look at each other, bemused.

REPORTER 2  
Um...Do you see what you do as violent and...?

REPORTER 3  
Immoral?

MARCUS  
We have to go now.

PROSAK  
(restraining Marcus) A tornado when it strikes is violent. A bullet...A Tidal wave can kill thousands yet do you ask a tidal wave, are you immoral?

REPORTER 1  
There is a rumor...

The reporter looks at Dolt who freezes.

REPORTER 1 (CONT'D)  
...that you've applied for a job here as a Prison Warder.

The reporters laugh.

PROSAK  
It is true.

DOLT  
It is?

PROSAK  
I like a captive audience. Now I need my beauty sleep.

They start to leave.

FEMALE REPORTER  
Are you relieved Digger won't be  
fighting?

Prosak freezes like a block of ice, looks questioningly at  
Dolt who nods.

PROSAK  
(to Reporter 1) Do you have Zen  
here in Australia? Hmmmmmm?

Reporter 1 shrugs his shoulders.

PROSAK (CONT'D)  
I see.

FEMALE REPORTER  
(Flirting) As in enlightenment  
through meditation and insight?

Prosak allows a smile to escape. Marcus attempts to pull him  
away but Prosak balks. Prosak goes to the female Reporter.

PROSAK  
Lipstick?

She hands Prosak her lipstick. Prosak draws the outline of a  
dead female body on the wall next to the poster.

PROSAK (CONT'D)  
If Digger is there I take a  
position, a body length from him  
and before he can attack and  
without moving a single muscle I  
calmly and spontaneously strike.

Suddenly Prosak smashes the photo of Digger on the poster,  
shattering the wall.

PROSAK (CONT'D)  
If there is no one there then  
nothing can happen.

Prosak returns the lipstick to the female reporter. He  
sneers at the damaged poster.

PROSAK (CONT'D)  
I think I'll like Australia.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Digger's frightening image fills the screen. A finger  
presses stop on a remote control. The image fades. JO KING,  
owner of Joking Productions, dubiously smiles at Corbett.  
The room is covered in photos of sporting greats, including  
the promotion for Decimation Day.

CORBETT

How hard would it be? A one-off documentary, Digger the greatest, up there with Cathy Freeman and Tiger Woods. The script almost writes itself.

Jo is skeptical. DEAN, an employee of Joking Productions, is eager for the challenge.

JO

You've just had the most publicised death in sporting history. He's seen as a murderer, not a hero.

SHANDY, 28, sashays past. Corbett is immediately struck by her beauty. His attempt to catch her eye is met with aloof avoidance. Shandy is accompanied by a traditional ABORIGINE, dressed fashionably, but uncomfortably.

CORBETT

Put a new spin on it. Good family values, Christian man....Something patriotic like: Australia needs Digger in the ring fighting for you....

DEAN

On a background of Anzacs coming over the hill...

JO

I thought he retired.

CORBETT

He doesn't retire until I say so.

Corbett notices a photo featuring a traditional Aborigine in the outback using a mobile phone. He realises the Aborigine in the photo is the Aborigine he just saw.

CORBETT (CONT'D)

Who shot that?

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

SHANDY is directing a commercial for QUIT. Two teenage SCHOOLKIDS, one white, one Aboriginal, smoke behind a shelter shed. On the other side of the shed two primary SCHOOLKIDS, one white, one Aboriginal, smoke lolly cigarettes, in imitation of the bigger kids.

JO (O.S.)

You'll never get her to agree.

CORBETT (O.S.)

Wanta bet?

Jo and Corbett enter the studio.

JO  
(whispering) She has a boyfriend.

Corbett smiles at Shandy who, annoyed at the intrusion, indicates to wrap it and gives the thumbs up to the youthful actors who leave with the Traditional Aboriginie.

INT. OUTSIDE STUDIO -- DAY

Shandy hurries away with Jo and Corbett hotly pursuing her.

SHANDY  
No.

JO  
I told you.

CORBETT  
She wants to.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Shandy, revealing shapely thighs, sits on a couch. The office is surrounded by photos of traditional indigenous people with various electrical appliances.

SHANDY  
(to Jo) You know I hate violence.

Corbett's eyes linger on Shandy's thighs. She purposefully covers them. Corbett scrutinises posters on the walls.

CORBETT  
Professional fighting isn't violence.

SHANDY  
(raising an eyebrow) Yeah right, and bin Larden's not a terrorist.

CORBETT  
Do you know anything about professional fighting?

SHANDY  
You pulverise your opponent's face and if that fails you kick each other to death. Did I forget something?

CORBETT  
Only its history, its values, its importance to civilization....

Shandy laughs, shaking her head

SHANDY  
As in the decline of civilization?

CORBETT  
If you don't know anything about it  
how can you be so against it?

SHANDY  
I don't know anything about foot  
binding, cliterectomeries, nipple  
piercing but I'm against them.

CORBETT  
(to Jo) What's wrong with nipple  
piercing?

Shandy shakes her head in disgust. Jo gives Corbett an 'I  
told you' so look.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
He runs masterclasses for  
Aboriginal kiddies.

SHANDY  
Great, let's rip off the  
underprivileged!

CORBETT  
How about as a favour to me?

SHANDY  
If you'll excuse me.

She puts a poster, about a documentary on the harmful effects  
of mobile phone radiation, on a work bench.

CORBETT  
Good one, let's rip off the  
priviliged!

Corbett puts his mobile on the poster.

SHANDY  
There's documented evidence linking  
radiation....

CORBETT  
Manufactured!

SHANDY  
If you choose to fry your  
brain.....!

Corbett stands in front of the Aborigine with the mobile  
phone photo.

CORBETT  
 Did you tell your indigenous  
 friends about the dangers of  
 radiation poisoning?

Shandy can't reply.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
 Hmmmmmm?

Corbett winks at Jo.

SHANDY  
 (to Jo) I'll meet him. If I don't  
 like what I see I'm out of it.

EXT. SUBURBAN PARK, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FOREGROUND/BACKGROUND  
 - DAY

We see the back of an Instructor (Digger) working with a group of KIDS in a park attached to an industrial estate. Some of the kids are physically handicapped. The Instructor demonstrates slowly with a GIRL how to defend herself while the others work in pairs.

In the background Corbett and Shandy, carrying a digital video camera, approach. Corbett gives her a photo of Digger with blood streaming down his face while aggressively holding aloft a championship belt

CORBETT  
 I'm thinking, maybe highlight his  
 rough exterior, you know, a  
 barbarian chic look. Chicks love  
 it.

SHANDY  
 What's your stake in this?

CORBETT  
 You married?

SHANDY  
 Ten per cent, right?

CORBETT  
 Fair go, I don't get outa bed for  
 less than fifteen. Try twenty.

Shandy grabs Corbett's arm.

SHANDY  
 I want to watch from here.

Corbett smiles at her touching him. She immediately removes her hand.

Digger turns. His hair is neatly trimmed and his suave appearance belies his previous look.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
That's him?

Corbett can't believe his eyes.

They watch Digger allow the girl to 'throw' him. The girl is overjoyed. Other kids high-five the girl. Digger feigns pain. The handicapped kids goes to assist. Digger hugs them giving them kisses. Shandy smiles as she films.

CORBETT  
What're you doing tonight?

Shandy gives him a 'you must be joking' look.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
You're not one of 'them' are you?

SHANDY  
Not that it's any of your business  
I have a boyfriend and no I'm not  
interested in an affair with you.

CORBETT  
For someone who's against violence  
you sure know how to hurt a bloke.

A gang of TEENAGE KIDS on trailbikes surround Digger's group.

SHANDY  
Gawd, how clichéd.

DIGGER  
Please don't interrupt, boys.

BIKKIE 1  
What're you gonna do, granddad,  
tell our parents?

The Bikies rev their bikes. The handicapped kids become agitated.

DIGGER  
I'm asking politely. Leave us  
alone.

BIKKIE 1  
Make it worth our while.

BIKIE 2  
Give us your wallet.

Bikie 1 rides through the group scattering them. Digger momentarily bristles.

Bikie 2 pushes a handicapped kid in the chest causing him to crash to the ground. Digger picks up a brick.

CORBETT  
Shit! No, Digger.

SHANDY  
Isn't this what you planned?

Bikies 1 immediately pulls a home-made pipe-gun.

CORBETT  
Don't film this!

Corbett runs towards Digger. The bikies move on Digger.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
(screaming) Don't, Digger!

Suddenly Digger karate chops the brick. The brick disintegrates as does the nerve of the bikies who ride off.

Corbett arrives.

DIGGER  
Just in time.

CORBETT  
Arseholes! For a moment there...

Shandy warily joins them.

SHANDY  
Was that a real brick?

DIGGER  
Who're you?

Corbett smiles.

CORBETT  
This is your new best friend.  
Shandy. She's gonna make you  
famous.

Digger grins seductively, holds his hand out to Shandy.

DIGGER  
I'm already famous.

CORBETT  
Forget it, she's got a boyfriend  
and she could be a pacifist.

SHANDY  
My boyfriend's the pacifist. I  
just don't like fighting.

Digger returns to the kids.

DIGGER  
Neither do I.

CORBETT  
He's just pretending. You know, in front of the kids.

Shandy watches Digger with restrained interest. He lines the kids up. They bow and he dismisses them. Shandy walks around them, filming.

DIGGER  
I'm not interested. You should respect that.

CORBETT  
I do, mate. I do. It's to build your profile, that's all.

DIGGER  
I don't want to build my profile.

CORBETT  
We're talking videos here, CD's, your own web page.

DIGGER  
Not interested.

Shandy smiles triumphantly at Corbett and puts her camera away.

CORBETT  
They're trying to ban fighting, for Christ sakes! You want that!  
(aside to Digger) Do it as a favour for me, mate. She needs the work.

Digger shakes his head and turns to leave. Shandy turns to leave in the opposite direction.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
What is it with people? We have a country with a million wanta-be Kung Fu experts. Who's gonna guide them? Eh? (to Digger) You with your head in the sandpit? (to Shandy) Or you with your feminist bullshit?

Shandy and Digger look at each other bewildered.

DIGGER & SHANDY  
Piss off, Corbett!

Digger and Shandy smile at each other.

CORBETT  
Hey, I saw her first!

EXT. CITY -- DAY

A Tribal Aboriginal BUSKER is near the end of performing Al Jolson's Mammy. A group of HOMEBOYS stand to the side. The Busker comically covers his body in white handprints. The appreciative crowd throw money into an old billy.

The Homeboys surround the billy. The LEADER picks it up.

HOMEBOY LEADER  
Rent, for my boys letting you use  
our land.

BUSKER  
I'll have to confer with the  
Elders. Meet Elder One.

The Busker smashes the Leader in the mouth, elbows another Homeboy behind him.

BUSKER (CONT'D)  
Elder Two.

He uses alternate feet to kick two others.

BUSKER (CONT'D)  
Three and four.

The other Homeboys scam. The Busker casually retrieves his billy, looks at the semiconscious Leader.

BUSKER (CONT'D)  
By the way, sorry.

EXT. BILLBOARD - DAY

A Billboard promotes Decimation Day, highlighting six life-sized photos of fighters. We pan from Digger's photo to see Prosak written under his photo and The Busker under The Busker's photo. The other photos are not revealed.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -- DAY

Shandy, Corbett and Stan are served coffee by a WAITRESS.

SHANDY  
What anyone sees in two grown men  
attempting to kill each other,  
beats me.

CORBETT  
(LAUGHING) 'Beats' me too.

WAITRESS  
Are you Digger?

CORBETT  
He sure is.

The waitress nods excitedly to another WAITRESS. Shandy rolls her eyes. The waitress folds the bill and hands it to Digger.

WAITRESS  
This one's on me, (winking) if you know what I mean.

Digger smiles and winks. The Waitress hurries off. Shandy takes the bill from Digger and reads: Melissa - 93869712. Shandy looks at the Waitresses excitedly talking.

SHANDY  
I'd like to ask some personal questions.

CORBETT  
Not too personal!

Shandy films Digger.

SHANDY  
Why quit?

DIGGER  
I don't know.

SHANDY  
You feel guilty killing someone?

CORBETT  
He didn't kill him.

SHANDY  
He's dead, isn't he?

CORBETT  
It was an accident.

DIGGER  
Maybe.

SHANDY  
You scared it could be you next?

Digger smiles and shakes his head.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Are you too old?

CORBETT  
The best fighter in the world is in his sixties. He kills bulls with one punch.

SHANDY  
Just what we need, a one-man abattoir.

DIGGER  
Don't worry. He's in Spain.

SHANDY  
Do you see yourself as a killer?

DIGGER  
Have you ever stood outside the gates of hell?

SHANDY  
Where?

Digger stands, puts twenty dollars with the bill and leaves the bill and the money on the table.

CORBETT  
Good one.

SHANDY  
(Yelling) We need to go to my office. (QUIETLY) Sign some papers.

CORBETT  
That's my job.

SHANDY  
(Leaving) Don't take this personally, Corbett, but this film won't be about you.

CORBETT  
Tell him we've got a meeting with Big A in one hour.

EXT. SUBURBAN PARK, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - DAY

Shandy catches up to Digger.

SHANDY  
You always do what Corbett wants?

DIGGER  
He's my friend.

Her look challenges Digger.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
That means leave him out of it.

SHANDY  
Who's Big A?

DIGGER  
No one.

Shandy laughs.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
What?

SHANDY  
My father answers that way when he  
doesn't want me to know something.

DIGGER  
Maybe he doesn't want you to worry.

SHANDY  
I said, "If you shut me out, Dad,  
you can't expect me to trust you."  
Know what he said? "Shandy, I'm  
having it off with Mrs Lamb across  
the road."

DIGGER  
Big Arch is a promoter, the man  
behind Decimation Day. I was their  
drawcard. He thinks I'm screwing  
him for more appearance money.

Suddenly the Bikies fly past scaring the living daylights out  
of Shandy. One throws a flour bomb that splatters over  
Digger's head. Shandy laughs.

SHANDY  
Are you?

DIGGER  
What?

SHANDY  
Screwing him?

Digger squints disbelievingly through the flour.

INT. SUPERMARKET -- DAY

THE COMEDIAN, an awesome sight in full bikie regalia, wanders  
the aisles of a supermarket. He spies a bearded MAN in the  
toiletries section.

COMEDIAN  
Have you seen Bluey?

BEARDED MAN  
(confused) Bluey who?

The Comedian king-hits the Bearded man crashing him to the ground. The Comedian throws disposable Gillette razors on him.

COMEDIAN  
Bluey Gillette.

EXT. SUPERMARKET -- DAY

THE COMEDIAN approaches a Security Guard outside the supermarket. He offers his hand to shake.

THE COMEDIAN  
Who is my name.

The Security Guard looks at him as if he's stupid.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)  
Knock knock.

SECURITY GUARD  
(send-up) Who's there?

THE COMEDIAN  
Practice yer king-hits.

SECURITY GUARD  
(send-up) Practice yer king-hits  
who?

COMEDIAN  
Okay.

The Comedian smashes the Security Guard.

EXT. BILLBOARD - DAY

The Comedian is written under his photo on the billboard.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Inside Shandy's office Digger examines numerous awards on the walls.

DIGGER  
World champion, eh?

Shandy hands him a document.

SHANDY  
It's a release form.

DIGGER  
I leave that to Corbett.

SHANDY  
I don't deal with middle men.

Digger, bemused, sits on the couch.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
You're giving me complete artistic control to make a half hour documentary.

Jo enters, nods to Digger.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
If I don't like what I see, too bad.

JO  
Peirre's on his way over. Not a happy chappie.

SHANDY  
Lost the case?

Jo nods and mouths 'the boyfriend' to Digger before leaving.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
I want to meet Big A.

DIGGER  
Not a wise move.

Shandy photographs Digger using an old camera.

SHANDY  
I'll decide what's wise.

Digger grins. They hold eye contact. PEIRRE enters.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Peirre..

She hurries to kiss Peirre who politely kisses her then pulls away, appraising Digger.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
This is...um, Digger.

Digger eagerly shakes hands with a reluctant Peirre.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Digger's a fighter.

Peirre can't conceal his disgust.

DIGGER  
Retired.

SHANDY  
Peirre was defending Jeanine Rankin.

DIGGER  
Greenpeace.

Peirre is surprised at Digger knowing Rankin.

SHANDY  
Um, look we have a meeting to go to.

Peirre kisses Shandy.

PEIRRE  
I'm having a victory celebration Saturday night.

Digger raises an eyebrow.

PEIRRE (CONT'D)  
When the courts reveal their stupidity it's a victory.

DIGGER  
For who?

PEIRRE  
Humanity. (TO SHANDY) Bring your latest project along?

Peirre abruptly leaves.

SHANDY  
He was joking.

Digger's look implies he doesn't believe her.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Digger and Shandy enter the gym. Fighters acknowledge Digger. Above, Big Arch talks to BERT LONNIGAN, a Director of International Cable.

Tiger One spars an OPPONENT in the ring.

Tobias, hanging upside down from a horizontal bar, does repetition stomach crunches.

Tiger One, aware of Digger and Shandy, rushes his opponent sending him to the canvas with a flurry of hard punches. Tiger One's TRAINER jumps into the ring and pushes Tiger One away.

TRAINER

Enough. That's enough. I said  
enough.

Tiger One reluctantly backs but grins menacingly at Digger.  
Blood streams from the opponent. Shandy races outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE GYM -- DAY

Shandy, nauseous and breathing deeply, leans against the gym  
wall. Digger appears, causing her to shudder.

DIGGER

You get used to it.

SHANDY

I can't cope with violence.

DIGGER

That's not violence. Violence  
is.....

Suddenly Corbett grabs her waist from behind. She freaks.

CORBETT

When you're not expecting it.

She pulls away, forces a smile.

DIGGER

.....when it's unnecessary.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE -- DAY

Big Arch sits behind his antique desk. Digger sprawls on a  
couch. Corbett stands uncomfortably. Shandy, irritated by  
Big Arch's chain smoking, observes the photos of the  
fighters.

BIG ARCH

(to Corbett) Sit down, for Christ  
sake.

Corbett sits.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

You're like an exposed wire. (to  
Digger) See what you've done to  
him.

Shandy films the photos on the wall. Big Arch appears  
uncomfortable with her presence. Corbett smiles to appease  
him.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 (to Shandy) He's the best fighter  
 in the world, karate,  
 streetfighting, play stations, you  
 name it.

Shandy looks into the gym where Tiger One is fighting  
 OPPONENT 2. Tobias is rigorously working on the bag.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 (to Shandy) I gave him his start.  
 (to Digger) You were fighting  
 polukas in pubs. Am I Right?

Digger smiles.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 You would've been brain dead by now  
 if it hadn't been for me.

Corbett rolls his eyes at Shandy.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 I turned you into a millionaire.  
 Look at you. You've got  
 everything.

DIGGER  
 I owe you a lot, Arch.

BIG ARCH  
 (to Shandy) See. (to Digger) So  
 why do you want to send me to the  
 poor house? (to Corbett) Hey?  
 Why's he doing this to me?

Corbett is unable to answer.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 Hey? What have I done? What  
 haven't I done? You wanta marry  
 one of my daughters?

Digger laughs.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 Which one? (to Shandy) I've got  
 three. (to Digger) You want two of  
 them?

Digger smiling shakes his head.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 Then what is it?

DIGGER  
 It's the way I feel.

BIG ARCH  
 Don't tell me you've lost your nerve because I won't have it. (to Corbett) You've put him up to this, I know!

CORBETT  
 Come on, Arch.

BIG ARCH  
 Then I want him to tell me.

DIGGER  
 I just don't want to fight anymore.

BIG ARCH  
 I already know that! Why?

Digger shakes his head, unable to respond.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 I'll set up a fund for, whatisname, who didn't make it...?

CORBETT  
 Pablo Perez.

BIG ARCH  
 His family'll be able build their own chilli factory.

Digger's steely eyes pierce Big Arch.

CORBETT  
 He was Australian.

BIG ARCH  
 I know that!

Big Arch puts his arm round Digger's shoulder.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 You tell me you've lost your nerve, that you're scared and I'll never ask you again. But you tell me this is about more money (to Corbett) and I'll skin you alive like a blanched tomato.

DIGGER  
 I'd fight for nothing if it was about money. I've done that plenty of times.

BIG ARCH  
 You look me in the eyes.

Digger looks him deep in the eyes.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

You tell me it's not about courage.  
You tell me you haven't opened the  
gates, Digger.

Digger turns away. Big Arch angrily hits the desk.

SHANDY

It takes courage to walk away.

BIG ARCH

Who're you, his shrink?

SHANDY

It takes more courage to turn the  
other cheek than fight.

DIGGER

Hey!

SHANDY

Oops, sorry. I forgot. A woman  
doesn't have the right to an  
opinion.

BIG ARCH

Not in here she doesn't!

SHANDY

(laughing) Is that what you think,  
he needs a shrink?

CORBETT

Look, can we work on a contingency  
plan?

BIG ARCH

This's what I'll do for him.

Big Arch points to the list of seven ranked fighters on the  
electronic board in the gym. He types. Digger is removed  
from the electronic board, promoting the others one place and  
leaving a blank at seventh. Corbett groans.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Tiger One and Tobias light up on seeing the blank seventh  
position.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE -- DAY

BIG ARCH

I'm giving you a wild card.

Corbett breathes a sigh of relief.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 (to Shandy) You know what that means?

SHANDY  
 Um...

BIG ARCH  
 Course you don't! (to Digger)  
 Anytime, anytime during the first and second round he can challenge any fighter on the board and they have to fight him.

DIGGER  
 You're wasting your time.

BIG ARCH  
 It's my time to waste. He beats them, he takes their place on the board. Can I be fairer than that?

CORBETT  
 No, that's good, Arch.

BIG ARCH  
 It's more than good. It's downright generous.

DIGGER  
 I appreciate it, mate, but I'm not interested.

Big Arch nods disbelievingly.

CORBETT  
 I won't forget this Arch.

BIG ARCH  
 Now I want you at the Bluestone Challenge.

CORBETT  
 The prison?

DIGGER  
 I told you I'm not fighting.

BIG ARCH  
 I don't want you to fight!

INT. GYM -- DAY

Tiger One and Tobias train ferociously.

BIG ARCH (O/S)  
 Your spot'll be taken by the winner  
 of Tiger and Tobias. I'm holding  
 that elimination in the prison. I  
 want you there.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE -- DAY

BIG ARCH  
 The Prison Governor, he's a fan of  
 yours.

Digger nods.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Digger, Corbett and Shandy walk through the gym. Big Arch,  
 watching from above, opens his window.

BIG ARCH  
 Digger, there's one exception to  
 that wild card.

The main door opens. Prozak and Marcus enter capturing the  
 attention of the fighters and trainers. Prozak looks at his  
 new ranking on the electronic board.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 I don't want to lose my other  
 drawcard.

Shandy films Prozak. He stands in front of her, smirking.

PROSAK  
 If the first question is, do I eat  
 and breathe, the answer is yes. If  
 the second question is why, the  
 answer is, you must learn to depend  
 on yourself.

Tiger One jumps in front Digger.

TIGER ONE  
 You and me.

DIGGER  
 I'm busy.

TIGER ONE  
 It's not an option.

Tobias shapes up to Tiger One but Prozak walks between them  
 then smashes the heavy punching bag, shattering it. Tiger  
 One gulps.

PROSAK

(to Shandy) That was called measuring the length of the bamboo. Maybe we'll make a beautiful movie together.

SHANDY

Don't steroids leave you impotent?

Tobias laughs loud. Prosak glares at Tobias who pretends he's scared and performs a send-up karate stance. Digger laughs. Tobias beams. Digger and Corbett walk to the door.

PROSAK

(to Shandy) The true spirit of understanding, my dove, is through oral communication. (running his tongue round his lips) It is important to practice diligently.

Shandy hurriedly leaves. Bert Lonigan appears next to Big Arch in the window above.

EXT. BAYSIDE BEACH -- DAY

FEROCITY MAN, bean-pole, whitish, whippet-fast and wearing sun glasses, performs extraordinary bounding and rhythmic exercises on the beach. Off-shore, jet-skis hoon in and out of terrified SWIMMERS. Ferocity Man puts on steel mesh gloves.

EXT. 50 METERS OFF-SHORE -- DAY

A HOON nearly hits a group of swimmers with his jet-ski. The hoon turns, stops the jet-ski and prepares to speed at the swimmers. Suddenly Ferocity Man, plus sun glasses and gloves, breaks the surface in front of the jet-ski, nearly giving the hoon a heart attack. Ferocity Man repeatedly punches the jet-ski until it sinks. The Hoon swims to safety.

EXT. BILLBOARD - DAY

Ferocity Man is written under the photo of Ferocity Man on the billboard.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Shandy and Jo work on a graphic design for a publicity poster about Greenpeace. Corbett enters carrying two boxes of videos. He plonks them on the poster. Shandy glares at him.

CORBETT  
Everything from his first communion  
to his first you know what.

SHANDY  
In colour I hope.

CORBETT  
That can be arranged.

SHANDY  
Is there anything that happens  
without your involvement?

CORBETT  
There'd better not be. What's say  
we hit the clubs? You into table  
top?

Shandy laughs derisively. Jo eyes her mischievously.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
You know it's only a matter of  
time.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Shandy, wrapped in a towel and lying on her bed, watches a  
video of Digger easily winning a fight. Shandy takes notes.

Peirre, also in towel, enters with a tray of sliced fruit.  
He puts it on the bed, frowns at the video.

PEIRRE  
Look at him. He's positively  
getting off on it.

SHANDY  
(eating cantaloupe) That's what  
fascinates me.

PEIRRE  
That he's addicted?

SHANDY  
That he no longer wants to.

Shandy fast forwards, then rewinds and plays.

PEIRRE  
It's associated with brain damage.

SHANDY  
Was your father brain damaged?

The question hurts Peirre.

PEIRRE

Probably.

Peirre gently brushes the back of his hand down her back. Digger is winning another fight.

PEIRRE (CONT'D)

You know what I think?

Shandy smiles and faces Peirre.

SHANDY

Sometimes.

PEIRRE

That you're lucky to have someone as understanding as me.

He unhooks her towel and kisses her breasts. She switches the video to mute and responds passionately. As they make love she glances at the video of Digger fighting.

INT. GYM -- DAY

The gym is in full swing when the front door bursts open. NOSTRADAMUS, resplendent in 16th century costume, enters.

BIG ARCH

Nostradamus, you fraud.

Big Arch leads Nostradamus to his office.

NOSTRADAMUS

I tell you all, there will be a great ring of destruction from which one man will emerge.

BIG ARCH

And who will that be?

NOSTRADAMUS

A great man will emerge vanquisher, my noble patron.

Big Arch laughs.

EXT. BILLBOARD - DAY

Nostradamus appears under the photo of Nostradamus on the billboard.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Digger and Tobias work out together in the park. Digger has the boxing pads while Tobias throws alternating kicks and punches.

LATER: Tobias sprints between three padded trees, throwing a flurry of punches at each tree.

DIGGER  
You're off balance. Focus.

TOBIAS  
I won't be fighting trees.

DIGGER  
The hardest fight is when there is no opponent.

TOBIAS  
Because you don't know what's coming?

Digger smiles.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)  
Where do you fix your concentration? The face or the feet?

DIGGER  
The center. That way you don't need to see your opponent.

TOBIAS  
But if you can't see him...!

Digger closes his eyes.

DIGGER  
Attack me.

Tobias hesitates.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Attack!

Tobias tentatively throws a punch but Digger parries it. He throws another, then another which Digger successfully parries. He kicks and Digger blocks.

TOBIAS  
How did you learn that?

Digger opens his eyes.

DIGGER  
By fighting trees.

EXT. FOREST -- NIGHT

Moonlight illuminates a forest. Massive arms surround a tree. A grunting figure, CYPRUS, rips the tree from the ground. Cyprus, wearing padded head-band, holds the tree behind his neck while performing squats. Standing straight, he lets the tree fall behind him then savagely headbutts another tree.

EXT. BILLBOARD - DAY

We pan along the billboard, past Cyprus written under his photo, to a question mark under a silhouetted photo of the last fighter.

INT. PEIRRE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

In a rustic mudbrick home Peirre is giving a party for Greenpeace devotees. The house is a shrine to environmental causes with posters of Greenpeace, Save The Whale, Ban Woodchipping, etc.

The front door opens. Corbett, dressed in nightclub attire, is grinning.

CORBETT

So, who do you want killed?

Peirre is horrified. Digger appears. Shandy laughs.

PEIRRE

(derisive) Everybody, this is the Digger.

Some giggle. Digger smiles.

PEIRRE (CONT'D)

(tongue in cheek) Most of you have probably been to his fights.

There is polite laughter.

LEN

Not another lawyer.

The group laugh. Corbett pours himself a large glass of wine.

SHANDY

Can I get you a drink?

DIGGER

Any water?

SHANDY

When it rains.

Shandy pours Digger a glass of tap water, adds ice.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
You don't drink alcohol?

DIGGER  
Sometimes. But never when I want  
to.

SHANDY  
That's original.

CINDY offers Digger a joint. He politely shakes his head. Shandy puffs hard, returns it. Digger looks at two KIDS outside pushing and shoving.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
You don't approve?

DIGGER  
I don't judge people.

SHANDY  
Then how d'you know who to trust?

DIGGER  
I just don't like being outa  
control.

Shandy films Digger.

SHANDY  
Were you ever out of control when  
you were fighting?

Digger considers before answering.

DIGGER  
That's what you train for. To be  
in control. If it's not Digger in  
the ring, who is it?

SHANDY  
And lately has it been Digger in  
the ring?

Digger's not sure how to answer. Shandy lowers her camera but searches his face for clues. Peirre observes them before putting his arm round Shandy.

PEIRRE  
Digger, there's people simply dying  
to meet you.

Shandy playfully elbows Peirre in the ribs. Digger follows Peirre. Corbett, stoned, blows smoke down the back of Shandy's dress.

CORBETT  
So, that's my competition?

Corbett gently pats her on the bum. She angrily glares at him.

Peirre introduces Digger to a group obviously bemused by Digger. Shandy films the group.

CINDY  
Peirre tells us you earn your living fighting.

DIGGER  
I'm retired.

RHONDA  
A retired fighter. There goes an oxy moron.

CINDY  
(jokingly looking round) Where? Where?

There is polite laughter.

RHONDA  
Wasn't it....Pablo...?

DIGGER  
Parez.

They look at Digger as if he's just confessed to murder.

CINDY  
That poor man. It must have been horrible, I mean for you of course.

Shandy watches Digger's reaction. Digger slightly nods.

PEIRRE  
That's what fighters are trained to do, isn't it? Be unemotional, outside the pain of it?

LEN  
You're simply like us, old boy.

PEIRRE  
Does it concern you, knowing you killed someone?

SHANDY  
Peirre!

PEIRRE  
Not being a fighter I wouldn't know how it feels.

CORBETT  
That's right! Fighters aren't for  
your type, are they? Except when  
you need them and ough then they're  
your best friends!

There is an uneasy silence.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
(To Shandy) You so-called  
pacifists, you always see  
yourselves as the good guys. If  
someone hits you what do you do,  
turn the other cheek?

RHONDA  
Why not?

CORBETT  
Because people who turn the other  
cheek get their whole fucken head  
blown off.

RHONDA  
Are you familiar with the works of  
Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mr  
Corbett?

Peirre smiles. Corbett rolls his eyes.

RHONDA (CONT'D)  
I thought not. We don't expect you  
to understand.

DIGGER  
Ghandhi wasn't above throwing the  
odd cut lunch....in the playground.

CORBETT  
If they had of been into a bit of  
the biffa they might have scared  
off the lunatics who blew them  
away.

RHONDA  
Rubbish!

Suddenly a little BOY runs screaming into the house. He is  
being chased by a little GIRL. Rhonda grabs the girl.

GIRL  
He deserved it!

Corbett laughs.

RHONDA  
(To Corbett) The point is Pablo  
Parez didn't deserve to die.

Digger, upset, quietly leaves. Shandy wants to follow but doesn't.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Digger's upset reaction appears on a computer screen. Shandy is editing rushes. Corbett enters, drops an envelope in front of her. On the envelope is written Bluestone Challenge - pass.

CORBETT  
You can't be serious about derriere Peirrie.

SHANDY  
He's more courageous than you'll ever be.

Corbett laughs.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Courage isn't about aggression.

CORBETT  
He hides behind bullshit, in coward's castle.

SHANDY  
You and I couldn't be more different.

CORBETT  
Opposites attract.

SHANDY  
If opposites attracted, Corbett, there wouldn't be violence in the world.

CORBETT  
Admit it, deep down you really crave a barbarian.

SHANDY  
In future, use the mail.

Corbett laughs.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Digger demonstrates a hip swivel exercise where he switches weight from leg to leg by transferring the center of gravity through the hips. Shandy films, moving around Digger.

DIGGER  
No! No! No! Watch.

Digger demonstrates the exercise again.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Get your hips through. Set up a  
whiplash.

Digger follows with a savage punch.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
You're punching with your arm and  
not your body.

Tobias feels chastised. He awkwardly attempts the hip  
swivel. Frustrated he kicks the air.

TOBIAS  
Fuck!

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

Digger steps onto a road, into the face of oncoming traffic.  
He dodges a car, almost miraculously. Shandy, extremely  
concerned, films.

DIGGER  
Here.

Tobias tentatively follows. Digger weaves in and out of  
passing cars. Tobias is nearly run over. Cars beep their  
horns but Digger continues. A truck approaches.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Use your peripheral vision.

SHANDY  
That's stupid!

Digger evades the truck. The DRIVER screams abuse.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
(lowering her camera) I'm not  
filming this!

DIGGER  
Calm. Always remain calm, then you  
avoid being manipulated by your  
opponent.

Tobias successfully dodges a car. Shandy angrily puts her  
camera away. Digger and Tobias stand on the edge of the  
road.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Good. Now, can you do it with eyes  
closed?

SHANDY  
Digger!

TOBIAS  
Shit no!

DIGGER  
Neither can I.

Digger roars laughing. Shandy storms off.

SHANDY  
That was stupid....

Suddenly Digger pulls her out of the way of a wayward motorist. He holds her tight.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
....really stupid!

He smiles and she is unable to prevent herself smiling, but pulls away.

EXT. CAFE -- DAY

Shandy and Digger sit outside a cafe.

SHANDY  
Did you always want to be a  
fighter?

Digger shakes his head.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Who got you into fighting?

Digger momentarily relives his foot hitting the fighter's face from scene 1. The head hits the canvas.

EXT. SCHOOL SPORTS OVAL -- DAY

FLASHBACK, 20 years. A shot-put sprays sand as it smashes into the shot-put area.

SCHOOLBOY 1  
Wow.

Digger, 16, standing in the shot-put ring, smiles.

SCHOOLBOY 2  
(measuring) Fourteen meters.  
That's easily a record, Sir.

ATHLETIC COACH

Gotta do it in competition to get the record. Go for height this time.

PETER, 17, skips with a rope, occasionally observing Digger. Digger throws another put. It lands slightly further but this time Digger falls out of the ring as he throws. The kids cheer and clap the distance.

ATHLETIC COACH (CONT'D)

Foul. You've gotta stay in the ring.

Peter watches the Coach.

ATHLETIC COACH (CONT'D)

Shorten your hop across. Give yourself room to steady.

Digger throws the put and shortens his hop across. The put falls a metre shorter than the first two. The kids moan. The Coach walks away.

PETER

Got nothing to do with shortening your hop. Get your hips through, that'll whiplash your body first then use your arm.

DIGGER

I'll be out of the ring before I've thrown the bloody thing.

PETER

(walking away) Okay.

DIGGER

You throw the thing with your arm. Any idiot knows that.

Peter halts. Momentarily there's fire in his eyes. He smiles.

PETER

How much money you got? I've never picked up one of these but I'll throw it further than you.

DIGGER

Five bucks.

Some of the kids listen and gather round.

PETER

Rich, eh. One throw.

DIGGER

You're on.

PETER

One condition. Not allowed to throw it with your arm.

DIGGER

What?

PETER

(demonstrating with the shot) Keep it under your chin, come across, let it go without using your arm. No practice, one throw.

DIGGER

That's bullshit.

PETER

Forget it then.

DIGGER

You go first.

PETER

Uh ah, you're the expert.

Digger confidently picks the shot up with one hand, pushes it up and down a few times then puts it under his chin. He stands at the back of the ring, facing the direction of his throw, strongly hops across and lets the shot go without using his arm. A schoolkid eagerly marks the spot, around four meters.

Digger smiles confidently. Peter uses both hands to pick the shot up, carefully places it under his neck, stands at the back of the ring but faces away from the direction of his throw. In slow motion we see Peter kick back with one leg, hop across but continue facing the back of the ring. When both feet are firmly planted he drives his hips through while his shoulders face the back of the ring, then whiplashes his body. The shot shoots from his neck and splashes in the sand double Digger's distance.

SCHOOLBOY 1

Wow.

Peter grabs his rope and continues skipping. Digger walks to where the shot landed and looks at the mark in bewilderment.

DIGGER

How'd you do that?

He drops the rope.

PETER  
 (demonstrating) It's the same as  
 throwing a punch. You get your  
 hips through first then you can  
 punch with your entire body.

Peter demonstrates his hip mobility.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP -- DAY

DIGGER  
 Needless to say I didn't amount to  
 much as a shot putter.

SHANDY  
 And Peter? (Digger doesn't reply)  
 Did he become a good fighter?

Digger drops twenty dollars on the table and leaves a puzzled Shandy.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Digger and Tobias do hip flexibility exercises in the park. Shandy curiously watches the intensity of Digger.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Later: Digger and Tobias, bare-chested, lie on their backs while the kids run across their stomachs. Shandy films.

DIGGER  
 (to Shandy) Come on.

Shandy removes her shoes and tentatively steps on Digger's stomach.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
 You've got to do it properly.

Digger grabs her leg and she falls on him. There is a moment of awkward eye contact between them. The kids laugh as she gets up.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- DAWN

Peirre, in bed, frowns as Shandy packs a sports bag. She is aware of Peirre's attitude. A car horn is heard. Shandy attempts to kiss Peirre but he subtly avoids her. Disappointed, she leaves.

EXT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Through the window a naked Peirre watches Shandy get into the front passenger seat of Digger's car. Tobias, in the back, waves to Peirre who immediately disappears.

INT. DIGGER'S CAR -- DAY

They drive through snow covered mountains. Romantic music plays on the radio. Tobias sleeps. Digger smiles at Shandy.

EXT. SNOWFIELDS -- DAY

Digger and Tobias train barefoot and bare-chested in the snow. Tobias kicks into the pads while Digger moves around him in the snow.

DIGGER

Hips through, hips through....

LATER: Digger and Tobias continue the exercise in freezing knee-deep water.

DIGGER (CONT'D)

Hips through, hips through.....

LATER: As Shandy changes film, Digger drops a snowball down the back of her jumper. She screams and chases him. Digger trips and tumbles down a small ravine.

SHANDY

Serves you right.

Tobias hits her on the head with a gigantic snowball. Laughing, Shandy tumbles down the ravine.

INT. JACUZZI -- DAY

Digger and Tobias, in briefs, sit in a steaming jacuzzi. Shandy, in skimpy bikini, enters. Digger and Tobias roll their eyes and slide underwater. Shandy jokingly shakes her head.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Shandy tiptoes into her bedroom. Suddenly Peirre sits up, eyes open.

SHANDY

Da, da.

Shandy hits him in the face with a snowball and shrieks laughing. Peirre angrily darts out of bed after her.

INT. BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Laughing and breathing heavy, Shandy closes the bathroom door behind her, leans against it. Suddenly a face presses against the outside window. Shandy screams as the window opens. Peirre jumps through the window.

PEIRRE  
Come here, wench.

She attempts to open the door but he traps her, nuzzles his chin into her neck.

SHANDY  
(laughing) No! No! You haven't  
shaved!

They kiss passionately, sliding to the floor.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Jo and Shandy watch rushes of the doco, showing the snowfields.

JO  
It's got the feel of being made by  
a woman.

Shandy, hands on hips, looks angry.

JO (CONT'D)  
You did ask.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Peirre, in bed, studies a legal brief. Shandy puts her make-up on.

SHANDY  
Please come. For me. Please. I  
need you there for support.

Peirre is unmoved.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
I'll do anything.

Peirre gives her a mischievous grin.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Except that.

Peirre returns to his brief.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
Oh, alright.

Shandy exits. Peirre smiles.

LATER: Shandy returns to the bedroom carrying croissants and steaming percolated coffee. While Peirre scoffs a croissant Shandy nibbles the end of one.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
They're full of chemicals you know.

PEIRRE  
(smiling) So are most of the people  
I defend.

EXT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Corbett parks outside Shandy's house in his convertible with Digger and Tobias in the back. Shandy and Peirre are waiting.

CORBETT  
We have to hurry.

Corbett is disappointed when Peirre hops in the car.

SHANDY  
You don't mind, d'you?

CORBETT  
Course not.

Corbett speeds off.

DIGGER  
With Corby driving, you always need  
a good lawyer.

INT. CORBETT'S CAR -- DAY

Corbett merges into heavy traffic along a freeway. He continually glances at Sandy sitting next to him filming Digger, Peirre and Tobias in the back. Tobias relaxes, listening to music through headphones. His eyes are closed but he moves to the music. Talkback radio plays on the car radio. The car hits slow moving traffic. Corbett drives dangerously. Shandy glances disapprovingly.

CORBETT  
Gotta be there by two.

The clock on the dash shows ten to two. Corbett turns the radio up and looks at Shandy's partly bare thigh. She discretely moves her legs. Corbett smiles to himself.

TALKBACK CALLER 1

....all be banned. It's getting to the point where if you bump someone you're likely to be stabbed in the back with a cutlass. In my day you fronted a bloke one out. What's the world coming to..?

CORBETT

In my day. Listen to the pickle!

DIGGER

He's right. Too many kids running round with knives.

COMMENTATOR

I reckon we should lock them up and throw away the key...

Corbett drives recklessly in and out of traffic.

TALKBACK CALLER 1

Bring back the lash.

COMMENTATOR

Why not? My old man flogged me and it didn't do me any harm. This is your say and I'm Kevin Boswell. We're asking the question should violent sports be banned. 1116 2039.

Music plays. The traffic slows. Corbett rings his mobile. A MOTORIST in the next laneway points her finger indicating it's wrong to talk on the mobile while driving. Corbett pretends it a battery shaver. The woman shakes her head.

CORBETT

Gedday. I wanta talk to Kevin Boswell.....Corbett. I manage Digger and Tobias Long.....Fighters...Look, I'm about to board a flight in two minutes. (to Shandy) Always works.

The music abruptly stops.

COMMENTATOR

Sorry about that folks, must be a faulty disk. Never mind because we have on the line someone who makes his money managing fighters. Gedday, Corbett.

CORBETT

Kevin, how're they hanging?

COMMENTATOR  
 You must be feeling the squeeze  
 these days what with all the anti-  
 violence sentiment around?

CORBETT  
 Not at all, Kev.

COMMENTATOR  
 We're getting a lot of anti  
 reaction from women who're are  
 genuinely concerned...

CORBETT  
 The most aggressive people I've  
 come across lately have been women.

While talking he holds the phone at arms length then puts it  
 to his mouth.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
 I seem to be breaking up. You  
 might wanta know I just got off the  
 end of the new freeway and there  
 was a seven car pile up, outward  
 bound. Bad one. Your listeners  
 should get off before the end.

COMMENTATOR  
 Thankyou, Corbett. Avoid that one,  
 listeners. I'll put you back to  
 our producer. We're sending you a  
 copy of the latest street  
 directory....

Corbett switches the radio off.

CORBETT  
 Idiot!

Up ahead, cars can be seen leaving the freeway. Corbett puts  
 the car into another gear and speeds up.

MOMENTS LATER: they near the end of the now deserted freeway.

EXT. PRISON -- DAY

The car pulls up next to an OB van, marked INTERNATIONAL  
 CABLE. Digger stares at the gates to the prison which appear  
 foreboding.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION -- DAY

The prison reception is fortified with the latest video  
 surveillance. Two armed GUARDS man the reception desk.

As the group enter, the Guards recognize Digger. Reception Guard 1 hands Digger a pen and paper.

RECEPTION GUARD 1

Could I get your autograph, Digger?

Digger signs the paper. Reception Guard 2 checks names against a list. The group in turn pass through a sophisticated metal detector.

RECEPTION GUARD 2

(to Peirre) Sorry, there's no paperwork on you.

CORBETT  
Oh, that's my fault. He was a late inclusion.

Shandy angrily glances at Corbett.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
Sorry, mate.

RECEPTION GUARD 2

Out of my hands, sorry.

SHANDY  
I was told I could bring an assistant.

RECEPTION GUARD 2

But he hasn't been approved.

PEIRRE  
It's okay. I'll get a taxi home.

Corbett smiles to himself.

SHANDY  
If you'll just ring....!

RECEPTION GUARD 2

Sorry.

DIGGER  
If he can't enter, neither can I.

CORBETT  
Shit!

RECEPTION GUARD 2

But.....!

RECEPTION GUARD 1

Everyone's expecting you.

DIGGER  
Then everyone'll be disappointed.

PEIRRE  
It's alright. I mean it.

CPO DAVIS enters.

CPO DAVIS  
What's the problem?

SHANDY  
Dad.

RECEPTION GUARD 1 & 2

Dad?!

CORBETT  
Dad?

CPO DAVIS  
This I take it is The Man?

Digger and CPO Davis shake hands. The phone rings and Reception Guard I answers.

CPO DAVIS (CONT'D)  
I'll take responsibility for Peirre.

Davis pats Peirre on the back, ushering him through.

RECEPTION GUARD 2

But.....!

CPO DAVIS  
That's an order!

RECEPTION GUARD 2

Yes, sir.

CPO DAVIS  
We'd better hurry.

SHANDY  
Thanks, Dad.

RECEPTION GUARD 1

I'm sorry, miss but you can't take your camera.

SHANDY  
What! Why not?

Reception Guard 1 glances at a video surveillance camera.

RECEPTION GUARD 1

(to Davis) Orders.

CPO DAVIS  
Oh, that'll be to do with  
television rights. Sorry, luv.

CORBETT  
We're late.

Shandy, disappointedly hands her camera kit to the Guards,  
but first removes a small bag.

SHANDY  
Need my make-up.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR -- DAY

The group hurry down a space-like corridor.

INT. CHANGING ROOMS, PRISON - DAY

The atmosphere is akin to back stage at a rock concert. Two  
girls, ROMPER and STOMPER, immodestly change amidst BOXERS,  
WRESTLERS and KICK BOXERS. Raucous chanting from the  
PRISONERS outside can be heard. Big Arch anxiously checks  
his watch.

Corbett, Digger, Tobias, Shandy and Peirre feeling out of  
place, are escorted in. Big Arch breathes a sigh of relief.

BIG ARCH  
How about an exhibition, a simple  
training drill?

Digger shakes his head. He indicates Tobias.

DIGGER  
He's gonna be the next world  
champion.

BIG ARCH  
 And I'm gonna donate my wealth to  
 the Sisters Of Mercy.

Corbett has a sneak look at the girls changing. When Shandy catches him he laughs.

SHANDY  
 Is there a toilet?

INT. PRISON TOILET -- DAY

A bed sheet separates a section of the male toilets. The GUARD stands in the male section.

INT. PRISON MAKE-SHIFT TOILET -- DAY

Shandy attaches a miniature video cam to a brooch between her cleavage.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The control room is equipped with a wall of monitors showing various prison locations, including the changing rooms and the make-shift toilet. BISCUITS ARNOTT, an employee of International Cable, has set up an integrated video production mix, incorporating the security monitors with his equipment. A master monitor shows Shandy in the toilet.

CONTROL SECURITY GUARD 1

What did she just do?

CONTROL SECURITY GUARD 2

Who?

A monitor zooms in on Shandy, now applying lipstick.

CONTROL SECURITY GUARD 2

Forget her.

Control Security Guard 2 zooms his monitor in on the naked backsides of Romper and Stomper.

INT. TUNNEL TO PRISON HALL -- DAY

The fighters, including the girls, wearing gowns with hoods, are escorted through a tunnel by armed GUARDS. The roaring from the prisoners is deafening. The entourage follows.

INT. PRISON HALL -- DAY

The auditorium is a state of the art chrome-steel and mesh containment chamber with a mesh-encased fighting ring in the center. Prisoners are sectioned in self-contained units circling the ring like theater-in-the-round.

One unit contains GOVERNOR LYNCH, wearing sunglasses. Next to him is Lonnigan. Another unit holds camera crew and members of International Cable. A television camera and a security camera circle on overhead mono-rails. At the back armed GUARDS form an outer-protection.

As they emerge from the tunnel into the auditorium PRISONERS erupt into cheering and screaming. When the Prisoners see Shandy they give an extra cheer. Shandy forces a smile. CPO Davis is not happy. Davis seats Shandy and Peirre in a special Unit for Visitors.

The Prisoners are treating the occasion like beach volleyball. The COOKS are dressed in white, the BODYBUILDERS in shorts and skimpy singlets, TRANSVESTITES dressed to the nines, ABORIGINES in tribal paint, etc.

THE FOOL, a colorfully dressed prison dwarf, continually encourages prisoners to participate.

TV cameras film the entrance. The Governor stands and claps.

Another unit of prisoners, contains BLACKIE, a massive Aboriginal, wearing a red, black and gold bandanna and SNOWY, white, elderly (60) and overweight, sitting silent and unemotional.

As the entourage enter, a PRISONER waving a sign: I'M INNOCENT, jumps and screams. The cameras film him. The Governor runs his finger across his throat to the cameraman who immediately returns to filming the entrance. GUARDS drag the protesting prisoner away.

Albert, microphone in hand, is in the middle of the ring.

ALBERT

This is the finest array of  
fighting talent ever assembled  
under one roof.

The entourage is assisted into the ring by PRISONERS. Digger remains outside the ring. Corbett looks out at the sea of prisoners. Shandy observes Corbett recognising Blackie, who nods.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

In the Security Control Room one monitor plays a preview for the Decimation Day, others scan the Prisoners. Control Security Guard CLARKE sits alongside Arnott.

CLARKE  
Blackie Lovitt, murderer, life.

Clark zooms in on Blackie. Arnott types. MURDERER - LIFE appears in a caption under the image of Blackie on the master monitor. Next to Arnott is an up-to-the-second rating calculator presently displaying ratings in the mid-range area.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Jo and STAFF watch the Bluestone Challenge on a screen in Jo's Office. Murderer - Life appears under Blackie's image.

JO  
A nice boy like him, a murderer?

The Staff laugh.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The Governor greets Digger, shakes his hand and offers a seat next to him. Lonnigan leans over, offers his hand.

LONNIGAN  
Bert Lonnigan, Head of  
International Cable.

Corby is covertly observing Shandy. The entourage sit in the unit for visitors. Some PRISONERS make seductive gestures to Shandy who ignores them, but Peirre is annoyed.

ALBERT  
I'm gonna hand you to the man who  
made all this possible. One of the  
few men in the country prepared to  
give an ex-crim a job, Big Arch  
McDonald.

The Fool does a back somersault. The crowd roar approval as Albert hands Big Arch the mike.

BIG ARCH  
Thanks, Albert. There's a job  
waiting for you the moment you get  
out.

ALBERT  
I bet you say that to all the  
lifers.

Everyone laughs.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

A monitor shows Albert with the caption: MURDERER - LIFE. Arnott smiles at the rating's calculator now fractionally higher than before.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

BIG ARCH  
I've brought with me the greatest  
fighter ever. World champion for  
seven years.

The Fool chants Digger. The Prisoners join in.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

A monitor shows Digger. Arnott types. DIGGER - 7 YEARS appears. Clark laughs.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Digger bows. The crowd erupt into an almighty roar. Digger sits but the roaring continues. Shandy surreptitiously films the prisoners. Big Arch raises his arms. The Prisoners quieten.

BIG ARCH  
Digger has retired so you won't see  
him fight.

The Prisoners groan and begin booing.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
But he is available for autographs  
so bring your files along for him  
to sign.

The booing increases in intensity. Big Arch indicates for the two wrestlers to get ready.

PRISONERS  
(chanting) We want Digger...We want  
Digger...

The Wrestlers strip off their gowns and immediately stalk each other. The chanting ceases. Big Arch referees.

BIG ARCH  
Brutus, in the red, is a one man  
thrashing machine

The Wrestlers tangle and go through their preplanned routine.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 He's fighting Hannibal Leftovers.  
 Hannibal's that savage he'll even  
 back up for prison food.

The prisoners are not convinced the wrestlers are fair  
 dinkum. Hannibal picks Brutus up and dumps him. Prisoners  
 stand.

PRISONER 1  
 Bite his nose off.

PRISONER 2  
 Get up him while he's still warm.

Shandy squirms but continues covertly filming. Hannibal runs  
 into an average fore-arm jolt and staggers round half-  
 conscious. Some of the prisoners boo. Suddenly The Fool  
 jumps into the ring and boots Brutus in the arse. Arch  
 laughs. The Prisoners laugh and cheer. Brutus, caught  
 unawares, freezes, allowing The Fool to kick him in the shins  
 and when he doubles over he hits Brutus under the chin with  
 the heel of his hand, sending him to the canvas. The  
 Prisoners boo. The Governor is apprehensive.

Big Arch motions for the girls to hop into the ring. Romper  
 and Stomper, wearing boxing gloves, strut around the ring but  
 the prisoners continue booing. Suddenly the girls remove  
 their gowns, revealing skimpy bikini costumes. The booing  
 instantly stops. Corbett winks at Shandy who ignores him.  
 The girls go to opposite corners. The Transvestites perform  
 over-the-top female impersonations during the bout.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

One monitor focuses on the girls another on the prisoners.

ARNOTT  
 Get me a secko.

A monitor brings up a PRISONER. Arnott types. RAPIST - 12  
 YEARS appears under the Prisoner on the master monitor.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Many of the Prisoners are on their feet screaming.

BIG ARCH  
 Romper in red and Stomper in blue.  
 This is a demonstration match only,  
 boys. (to the girls) I want a  
 clean contest, girls. No biting,  
 scratching or pulling hair.

PRISONER 1  
 Show us your tits.

PRISONER 2

We want tits.

THE FOOL

(to Prisoner 2) You'd look real funny with tits, luv.

The prisoners roar laughing. The bell rings and the girls tentatively suss each other. The girls throw a flurry of punches but not serious. The Prisoners cheer them on. Romper accidentally clocks Stomper on the nose causing blood to flow. The Prisoners go wild. Shandy grimaces.

CORBETT

Jab, jab, use your right....

Corbett screams for the girls to get into it. Stomper hits Romper hard in the abdomen and it's on. Big Arch lets them go. The Prisoners are on the point of frenzy. Stomper knocks Romper down and before Big Arch can get between them Stomper reigns blows on Romper. Corbett fists the air. Shandy squirms. Big Arch drags Stomper, still throwing punches, away. Romper is unconscious and bleeding. Big Arch attempts to bring her round. Digger jumps into the ring to help.

PRISONER 1

Let me give her mouth to mouth.

THE FOOL

Someone loosen her clothing. I'll do it.

Romper recovers, grabs Digger and kisses him on the mouth. The Prisoners roar. Stomper goes to her and the girls hug.

BIG ARCH

That's what boxing'll do for you, boys. Make a man of you.

Corbett smiles at Shandy who ignores him. The prisoners chant to the girls: Get your gear off. It builds in intensity and the two girls are quickly escorted out by Guards. Big Arch waves. Prosak slowly enters the ring. Marcus watches from the side. The Prisoners quieten.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

This is a man I believe you all know.

The Prisoners are silent.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

Prosak, the invincible.

The Governor slowly claps, then the Guards clap. The Prisoners remain silent.

Prosak performs shoulder loosening exercises as two watermelons hanging from portable basketball rings are brought into the ring by PRISONERS, dressed seductively as females. Two beefy GUARDS, carrying baseball bats, enter the ring. Prosak sneers at Digger.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

This is a demonstration of what lies ahead for the winner of our next bout.

Tobias and Tiger One glare at each other. The Guards each hold a baseball bat tightly. Suddenly Prosak smashes one bat with a kick and the other bat with a karate punch, turns kicks one watermelon sending pieces flying into the audience and karate chops the other melon neatly in half. As it falls he boots it into the audience. There is not a murmur from the Prisoners. Prosak turns to Digger.

PROSAK

Attack decisively with the attitude of one punch. Certain death.

Blackie punches his fist into his hand and all the Prisoners do likewise, building in intensity. Prosak is unaffected.

DIGGER

(to the Governor) Could it get out of hand?

GOVERNOR

Dixon, get here.

The Fool hurries to the Governor.

THE FOOL

Sir.

GOVERNOR

Dixon, name?

THE FOOL

Dixon, Sir.

GOVERNOR

Get back.

The Fool returns.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D)

The moment they give me their name they're mine.

The Prisoners appear to be on the edge of erupting. Shandy carefully films. The Governor smiles and speaks into his mobile. Instantly mesh screens drop, partitioning units into sections. Tear gas enters the Prisoners' units from pipes in the roof. The Prisoners prepare for evasive action.

The Governor speaks into his mobile again. A switch is thrown and the tear gas is sucked away.

ANNOUNCEMENT (O/S)  
Attention, this is a trial run. I  
repeat, this is a trial run.  
Please remain seated.

The partitions retract and the prisoners sit quietly. The Governor smiles triumphantly at Digger.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The monitors show what's happening in the auditorium, but the control monitor shows an advertisement for Decimation Day.

ARNOTT  
Fantastic. Great footage. Could  
we do that again?

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Prosak seductively smiles at Shandy as he leaves the ring. Shandy cringes. Davis watches Prosak from above.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

A monitor shows Shandy, then zooms into her face.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Tobias and Tiger One are in opposite corners of the ring.

BIG ARCH  
No rules, no rounds, last man  
standing. The winner to fight on  
Decimation Day.

The bell rings. Tobias races at Tiger One, leap frogs over him, turns and shatters Tiger One's leg with one almighty kick. Tiger One writhes in agony. Even Digger is surprised, but not Tobias who performs a backward somersault then fists the air. The Prisoners are annoyed with the fight finishing prematurely. Digger smiles at Big Arch.

TOBIAS  
I told you. I can beat anyone. I  
need a workout, Digger. Put  
someone else in with me.

DIGGER  
No!

Blackie stands. Tobias smiles.

THE FOOL

Blackie.

PRISONERS

(chanting) Blackie...Blackie...

BIG ARCH

Come up here, lad.

BLACKIE

Not me, him.

Blackie turns and points to SNOWY. Big Arch laughs. Snowy stands and the prisoners chant.

PRISONERS

Snowy.....Snowy.....

Digger is weary.

TOBIAS

(to Arch) Give me Blackie. I won't hurt him. I promise.

Snowy stumbles to the edge of the ring. The Fool helps Snowy into the ring. Snowy can hardly hold himself up and staggers forward.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

CLARKE

Snowy Boyd.

Arnott types and Lifer - Triple Murderer appears under the image of Snowy.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Tobias laughs as Snowy removes his shirt.

BIG ARCH

(to Tobias) Don't hurt him. I don't want a riot on our hands.

Big Arch motions for Tobias and Snowy to meet in the center. Tobias bounces in. Snowy lumbers across.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

(seriously to Tobias) This is a demonstration only. Three minutes. I don't want any serious hitting. Now shake hands...

Tobias holds his hands out for Snowy to touch. Suddenly, in slow motion, Snowy turns his hip and follows through with an almighty straight punch to the solar plexus that poleaxes Tobias.

The Governor discretely nods to Lonnigan.

Tobias struggles to breathe. Digger hurries to him. Snowy, grinning, turns on the spot, stumbles to the ropes and nearly falls straight through, but is assisted by The Fool.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
(to Digger) World champion, eh?

BLACKIE  
Shovel One.

Digger looks up at Blackie, ringed in a halo of lights.

BLACKIE (CONT'D)  
You and me one out.

Digger ignores him and tends to Tobias who appears unable to move his chest.

THE FOOL  
What's the matter, champ, the old man put the wind up you?

The Governor grins at Lonnigan.

BLACKIE  
(shouting) Is the ex-world champion a coward?

Blackie makes his way to the ring. Guards prepare to advance but the Governor motions them back.

DIGGER  
Some other time.

Shandy notices something in Blackie's hand. She looks at the Governor. Light bounces off the Governor's sunglasses.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The monitor zooms in on Blackie.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Blackie slowly moves towards Digger.

BLACKIE  
In my world you fight to the death.

Shandy directs her camera at Blackie.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The monitor zooms in on Shandy's cleavage.

CONTROL SECURITY GUARD

I knew it!

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Digger turns his back. Blackie sets himself to attack. A shot rings out. Blackie puts his hand to his ear and discovers his hand covered in blood. Blackie looks up. Davis, at the back, is aiming a rifle at him. Blackie freezes. The Fool takes a knuckle duster from Blackie and disappears. Blackie waves his arms to indicate he's unarmed. Lonnigan leaves hurriedly.

BLACKIE

(to Digger) I'll be seeing you.

DIGGER

I doubt it.

BLACKIE

Count on it.

Guards escort the entourage out. Blackie seductively licks his tongue at Shandy who shivers.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Lonnigan smiles at the rating's meter now in the highest rating zone. Lonnigan types. Would you appears on the master monitor now showing an advertisement for Decimation Day.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Would you pay to see Digger fight Snowy? Phone 11440099? appears under the ad for Decimation Day on their screen. Two of the boys eagerly throw their wallets on the table. Jo feigns disgust.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Arnott has Shandy in close up on a monitor.

ARNOTT

(to Lonnigan) There's something you should see.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION -- DAY

The entourage are checked out one by one. Shandy is last. She anxiously awaits the return of her camera kit.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR -- DAY

Arnott and two Guards hurry down the corridor.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION -- DAY

A Guard hands Shandy her camera kit. Arnott and the Guards appear.

ARNOTT

One moment.

Shandy freezes as the two Guards move towards her.

ARNOTT (CONT'D)

Would you remove your blouse,  
please?

SHANDY

What!

ARNOTT

I believe you have something of  
ours.

Arnott motions to the Guards who grab her. Davis appears.

CPO DAVIS

Let her go.

GUARD 1

But...!

CPO DAVIS

Immediately.

They unhand her. Arnott storms off.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Shandy plays Jo the tape of the Bluestone Challenge. It shows the tear gassing in the segmented units.

JO

This is sensational. I mean it,  
Shandy.

SHANDY

We can't use it.

JO  
Bullshit!

SHANDY  
It'll get Dad into trouble.

JO  
Then why are we watching it?

The tape shows Blackie acknowledging Corbett.

INT. DIGGER'S HOUSE -- DAY

Digger, Tobias and Shandy watch the tape in Digger's expensively furnished flat. Tobias has bandages round his ribs. Digger rewinds the tape.

DIGGER  
I want to see it again.

SHANDY  
Thought you'd be interested.

Digger stops the tape then plays it in slow motion. It shows Snowy getting his hips into place before hitting Tobias.

TOBIAS  
Ouch!

SHANDY  
He'll do anything to get you to fight.

DIGGER  
See. Hips through, then pow. (to Shandy) Brilliant. You're good, you know that.

Shandy shakes her head.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
(to Tobias) That's what we work on, every moment of every day, hips through, both legs, till you're the best, as good as the old bloke.

Shandy, disappointed, starts to leave.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Corby's known Blackie all his life. I've known Blackie all my life. He used to bash me when I was a kid. Then I used to bash him when we were teenagers.

SHANDY  
 (leaving) That's all you still are,  
 bloody teenagers.

TOBIAS  
 She likes you.

Digger and Tobias smile at each other. Digger rewinds the tape and watches Blackie and Corbett.

EXT. SUBURBAN PARK, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - DAY

Digger and Tobias jog around the park. Tobias shadow boxes as he runs. Shandy is running with them. Exhausted, she stops as they continue. She gets her camera.

LATER: Digger and Tobias stop. Tobias immediately goes into stretching exercises. Shandy films Digger.

SHANDY  
 You want to get back into the ring,  
 don't you?

DIGGER  
 If it was Peirre...What would make  
 Peirre change his mind?

Shandy considers.

SHANDY  
 Me.

DIGGER  
 You sure?

Shandy doesn't respond. Digger smiles.

INT. BIG ARCH'S OFFICE -- DAY

Big Arch is seated at his desk with Lonnigan. Digger and Corbett enter. Lonnigan immediately stands and offers his hand to Digger.

LONNIGAN  
 Digger. How's that kid of yours  
 doing?

DIGGER  
 He's doing fine.

Big Arch scoffs.

BIG ARCH  
 Andy has an offer you can't refuse.

LONNIGAN

As you're no doubt aware we had the rights to broadcast the Bluestone Challenge...

Shandy hurriedly enters.

SHANDY

Sorry, bloody traffic.

BIG ARCH

This is Mrs Speilberg and Lucas all rolled into one.

Lonnigan nods acknowledgment. Shandy prepares her camera.

SHANDY

Ms, thankyou.

LONNIGAN

Our backers are prepared to pay one million dollars, that's US one million, for you to go back and fight the old bloke..

Lonnigan puts a contract on the table. Corbett reads through it.

LONNIGAN (CONT'D)

It's already been approved by the authorities.

BIG ARCH

The Prison Governor himself's behind it.

Digger shakes his head. Shandy smiles which is noticed by Big Arch.

LONNIGAN

Give me a minute.

Lonnigan dials his mobile and turns away. Big Arch goes to the window.

BIG ARCH

Come here, Digger.

Digger joins him. They watch Tobias working by himself, getting his hips through.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)

He's a good kid, but what's gonna happen when Prosak gets hold of him? Is that what you want, spend your life training cannon fodder for the likes of Prosak?

Lonnigan has finished his call.

LONNIGAN

Right, I've got approval, and this is irrespective of the outcome, for you to walk away with one mil and another mil to go to any charity of your choice.

CORBETT

(indicating the contract) Mate, this is solid. Rock solid.

BIG ARCH

Think of what those kids can do with one million.

LONNIGAN

We're gonna promote it world wide. The footage of that old bloke stiffening your bloke, is truly awesome.

DIGGER

I appreciate everything and the charity thing, but I'm not interested.

Corbett is devastated. Big Arch pleads with him to influence Digger.

CORBETT

Mate....

DIGGER

I'll ask Tobias if he's interested.

LONNIGAN

(screaming) Why would I want the fucken monkey? I want the organ grinder.

DIGGER

(leaving) Sorry, mate.

SHANDY

(leaving) If it's the organ grinder you want maybe you should get in the ring yourself.

Big Arch gives Corbett a filthy look.

EXT. OUTSIDE GYM -- DAY

Corbett chases after Shandy and Digger.

CORBETT  
Mate, one fight, one, and you walk  
away on top of the world.

DIGGER  
I'm not interested. Understand?

CORBETT  
I wouldn't ask you, mate if it  
wasn't important.

Corbett looks at Shandy and she tactfully moves away.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
Have I've never asked you for  
anything in my life...?

DIGGER  
You're in trouble. (Corbett looks  
away) How much?

CORBETT  
Don't even ask.

DIGGER  
I'll help you out.

Corbett laughs and shakes his head.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
I will.

CORBETT  
It's more than money, mate. It's  
goodwill.

DIGGER  
Are we talking about your life  
here?

Corbett can't answer. He walks away.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
Corby.

SHANDY  
What was that all about?

He looks deep into her soft eyes. She senses he wants to  
embrace her. After a moment of uncertainty she follows  
Corbett.

EXT. CORBETT'S CAR -- DAY

Corbett is in his car, ready to drive off. Shandy arrives.

SHANDY  
You know he doesn't want to fight.

CORBETT  
Get in.

Shandy hesitates then reluctantly gets in.

INT. CORBETT'S CAR -- DAY

Corbett drives along a Boulevard.

SHANDY  
Where are we going?

He doesn't reply.

EXT. RIVER -- DAY

Corbett pulls up under a tree overlooking a River.

CORBETT  
This is where we met. I was being  
chased by a gang. He was fishing.  
It was awesome. Pure poetry.

SHANDY  
Why were you being chased?

CORBETT  
What matters is we're mates. And  
that means I can ask him anything.  
Isn't that what it's like with you  
and Perriere?

She doesn't reply. Corbett leans over and gently kisses her  
on the lips. She doesn't respond. He pulls her towards him.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
Admit it, you do like me a little.

SHANDY  
I like you a little.

CORBETT  
And you like this?

He leans over to kiss her but she avoids him.

SHANDY  
Yes, but not as much as I could.

Corbett stares straight ahead momentarily before driving off.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Digger and Tobias train in the park. Shandy watches.

SHANDY  
You're going to fight, aren't you?

Digger gently strokes her hair. She moves slightly. He stops stroking.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
You will, I know it.

She leaves.

INT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Romantic music plays as Shandy enters her semi-darkened lounge. Peirre has prepared a candlelit dinner.

SHANDY  
I'm impressed.

He fills her glass with wine and sits her down.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
How long did this take?

He gets his glass from the kitchen. There are stacks of dirty plates and cooking utensils.

PEIRRE  
Oh, ten minutes.

SHANDY  
(playfully) You fibber. You had a caterer come in.

He kisses her. She returns his kiss lovingly.

PEIRRE  
I love you.

SHANDY  
I love you.

He holds her face in his hands.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
I really do, Peirre. Very, very much.

PEIRRE  
Marry me.

Shandy, taken by surprise, reaches for a large strawberry.

PEIRRE (CONT'D)  
I love you, so very, very much.

Shandy smiles warmly, softly strokes his hand. Suddenly the front door smashes open and the room is plunged into darkness. A hooded figure rushes in. Shandy screams. Peirre stands but is clubbed to the floor.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The room is illuminated slightly by light through partially closed Venetians. Shandy, gagged, is tied face down on the bed. Peirre sits on the floor, his back against the wall. He has eye contact with Shandy. Blood trickles from a head wound. A cricket bat is on the floor in front of him. The attacker, wearing balaclava, pushes a chest of drawers against the closed door. Peirre is frozen with fear. The Attacker stands at the foot of the bed, runs his hand along Shandy's leg. Shandy Struggles. The Attacker laughs, speaks in a distorted French accent.

ATTACKER  
(to Peirre) What's your name?

Peirre doesn't answer

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
Name?

The Attacker squeezes Shandy thigh. She grimaces in pain.

PEIRRE  
Peirre. It's Peirre. Don't!  
Leave her. This is wrong, it's  
silly. If it's money you want.....

ATTACKER  
Shut-up!

PEIRRE  
Take anything you want. I can get  
you money if....

The attacker squeezes harder.

ATTACKER  
I said, shut-up!

Shandy arches her body. Peirre stops talking.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
Ah, he understands English.

PEIRRE  
I'll give you anything you...

The Attacker squeezes Shandy's leg. She grimaces. Peirre stops mid-sentence.

ATTACKER  
Anything?

The attacker pushes Shandy's dress up. Most of the following is told through Shandy and Peirre's reactions.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
Are you going to play hero, Peter?

Peirre looks at the cricket bat. Suddenly the Attacker spins and smashes the wall above Peirre's head with his boot. Peirre cowers against the wall.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
HMMMMMMMMMMMM?

Shandy's underwear is ripped. Peirre's fear is shown through the reflection in Shandy's eyes.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
Then pick up the bat.

Through the reflection in Peirre's eyes we see the Attacker undressing.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
I'll even give you a free hit.

The attacker purposefully turns his back allowing Peirre the perfect opportunity to grab the bat.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
You want Peter to hit me with the bat? HMMMMMMMM?

Shandy's eyes plead for Peter to do something.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
(turning) Oh I get it, Peter's a non-combatant. You're really dangerous, Peter. You know that? Would you like to see the devil in action? HMMMMMMMM?

The Attacker kneels behind Shandy. He whispers in her ear.

ATTACKER (CONT'D)  
And you, my delicate petal?

The attacker thrusts. Peirre screams hysterically and thrashes about as if restrained.

EXT. STREET, SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Car wheels screech as they U-turn, mount the nature-strip and speed away.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Shandy, her clothes torn and disheveled, sits on the end of the bed. Peirre picks items off the floor and returns them to the chest of drawers. Peirre goes to turn the light on.

SHANDY

Don't.

Peirre sits next to her, puts an arm round her shoulder. She unemotionally stares ahead.

INT. SHANDY'S, LOUNGE -- NIGHT

Peirre picks up the phone, dials 000. Shandy's hand prevents him continuing.

INT. SHANDY'S, BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Shandy, under the shower, allows the water to cascade over her hair and face. Peirre enters the bathroom. Shandy immediately draws the shower curtain. Peirre is devastated.

INT. SHANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Peirre, wearing rubber gloves, carefully folds the sheets and blankets. Shandy, in dressing gown pulled tight, enters carrying cleaning equipment.

PEIRRE

There'll be samples. They can get DNA.

Her hair and face drip as she wipes everything the Attacker might have touched.

PEIRRE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

SHANDY

(softly and calmly) I don't want you to blame yourself.

Shandy continues cleaning, wiping harder.

SHANDY (CONT'D)

There was nothing you could have done. Nothing.

Peirre doesn't respond.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
I'm going to carry on as if this  
never happened. Because it didn't.

A tears roll down Peirre's face. Shandy stops wiping.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
I want to be alone now. I know  
you'll understand.

Peirre leaves.

EXT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Shandy, holding flood light and camera, exits the broken front door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Shandy videos the tire marks on the nature strip.

EXT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Shandy vacuums the path leading to her front gate.

EXT. STREET, SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Shandy vacuums the road and nature strip. Lights in near-by houses are turned on.

INT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Shandy sits in the dark staring out her window at the street.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Shandy tidies her desk, empties drawers. A mobile bin is full of discarded photos and work sheets. Jo enters, watches. Shandy doesn't acknowledge her.

JO  
What's happened?

SHANDY  
It's spring.

Jo leaves.

LATER: Shandy scans photos of the tire marks into her computer and wall papers her desktop with it. Jo appears, looks over her shoulder.

JO  
Either you go to the police or I will.

SHANDY  
I knew he'd tell you.

JO  
You can't let him get away with it.

SHANDY  
I have no idea who him was.

JO  
The police will find him.

Shandy scoffs.

SHANDY  
No, the police will not find him. Because I don't want them to find him.

JO  
(hugging her) Oh, darling.

SHANDY  
I don't want him to exist ever again. I have already erased him. He is merely an image. I can delete with a press of a button.

Shandy touches her keyboard and the image disappears.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Shandy enters the gym, walks immediately to Digger and Tobias who are working with the pads. Digger stops when he sees her. She searches Digger's eyes, uncertain.

DIGGER  
What happened?

SHANDY  
What d'you mean?

He reaches a hand to touch her cheek.

DIGGER  
You've got a bruise.

She immediately pulls away and puts the back of her hand to her cheek

SHANDY

Have I?

DIGGER

Should have been ducking when you were weaving, eh?

SHANDY

No, nothing like that.

He looks deep into her eyes. She turns away.

DIGGER

Is there anything I can do?

She doesn't answer.

DIGGER (CONT'D)

I wouldn't say that unless I meant it.

SHANDY

(smiling) Thanks but I'm fine.

DIGGER

(joking) You should tell Peirre to look after you better.

Her demeanor nearly crumbles. Big Arch watches from above.

DIGGER (CONT'D)

Where's your camera?

SHANDY

I've got everything I need so I won't be bothering you anymore.

DIGGER

(forcing a smile) Great.

She abruptly turns to leave.

DIGGER (CONT'D)

I mean it's great you've finished. Shandy.

She stops.

DIGGER (CONT'D)

You weren't bothering me.

She contemplates telling him but two teenage girls, KAREN and JILL, skimpily dressed, enter as if they own the place. Some of the fighters whistle. Shandy leaves.

EXT. GYM -- DAY

Shandy leans against the door of the Gym, allowing the sun to warm her. Suddenly the sun is blocked out.

CORBETT  
Some people get it easy.

Shandy is startled.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
You look like shit.

Shandy searches his face.

SHANDY  
So would you if you had to put up  
with blokes like you all the time.

CORBETT  
You wish.

Corbett opens the gym door. Shandy can see Digger signing the belly of Karen with a Texta. Karen moves Digger's hand towards her groin.

SHANDY  
I'm finished.

CORBETT  
When do I see it.

SHANDY  
Jo'll let you know.

CORBETT  
How about dinner?

She glares at him.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
To celebrate.

She walks away.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
What did I say? What is it with  
you fucken women?

INT. SHANDY'S CAR -- DAY

Shandy drives through traffic. Suddenly a HOON cuts her off, gives her the finger. She U-turns, forcing traffic to swerve.

EXT. GYM -- DAY

Shandy parks outside the gym, steels herself, then decides to tell Digger about the rape. As she's exiting the car Digger emerges with Karen who's amorously clinging to him. Shandy watches them playfully get into Digger's car.

INT. SHANDY'S LOUNGE -- NIGHT

Unopened take-away food is on the table. The television is on but the sound is mute. Shandy browses through old photo albums showing her hugging her dad, sitting between her mum and dad on a blanket, at the zoo, etc. The phone rings. Shandy nostalgically smiles. She continues looking at the photos, stops at a photo of her at the beach with her parents. The phone stops. Tears swell in her eyes. She dials the phone.

SHANDY  
(softly) Dad.

LATER: Shandy sips tea. Davis pours himself a cup. Shandy looks at her father then breaks down. He hugs her. She blinks the tears away. Behind her the television shows Digger, handcuffed and surrounded by REPORTERS, being led into a police station.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

The scene is near chaotic with reporters bustling to interview Digger and police attempting to escort Digger inside the police station. Corbett arrives.

REPORTER 1  
Why did you rape her, Digger?

REPORTER 2  
Did she lead you on?

REPORTER 3  
Is this the first girl you've raped?

Corbett violently pushes reporters away. Two POLICE restrain him.

CORBETT  
Back off, you vultures!

REPORTER 1  
What have you got to say for yourself, Digger?

The Police usher Digger inside the police station and prevent Reporters entering.

INT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

Digger, still handcuffed, is being put into a holding cell in the reception area. Corbett enters, immediately goes to the counter.

CORBETT

This is stupid. (to Digger) Don't worry, mate. I'll have you out straight away.

POLICE RECEPTIONIST

If you're not his lawyer, out!

The Reception Officer indicates to Police to remove Corbett. Corbett leaves before they can touch him.

INT. SHANDY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Shandy sits, staring out a window.

INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Corbett, Big Arch and FRANK MONTE, a QC, approach the reception counter.

MONTE

I believe my client is your guest.

Corbett smiles at the Police Receptionist.

POLICE RECEPTIONIST

Not him.

Monte tosses Corbett a pen.

MONTE

He's my stenographer.

Corbett smiles.

POLICE RECEPTIONIST

Strip search him.

Corbett's smile immediately vanishes.

INT. CELL - NIGHT

Digger is in a cold and austere cell. He looks mournfully up at Corbett, Big Arch and Monte.

CORBETT

We're gonna get you out, mate.

MONTE

It won't be as easy as that I'm afraid.

CORBETT

This is Frank Monte. He's the best, mate. Big Arch got him.

Digger looks at Big Arch who is unable to hide his disappointment. Digger smiles and shrugs his shoulders.

BIG ARCH

Mate, if you wanted a piece of tail, all you had to do was ask.

Digger looks straight through Big Arch.

CORBETT

He didn't fucken do it!

Monte indicates for them to quieten. Big Arch coughs violently.

MONTE

I've seen her statement. She's a convincing witness.

Corbett is dismayed. Big Arch sits next to Digger.

INT. COURT -- DAY

Shandy sits at the back of the court. Corbett turns to acknowledges her but she ignores him. Digger, dressed in suit, sits impassionate in the dock. Karen is giving evidence from the witness box. Her face is still bruised. The Prosecutor is Rhonda.

KAREN

He seemed really nice, you know. Then he turned, just snapped. One moment he was all nice. Smack! Next thing I'm on my back and he's all over me, ripping my underwear and....

She breaks down.

RHONDA

Take your time, Karen.

Monte searches Karen's eyes but she refuses to look at him or Digger.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Did you assist in any way?

KAREN  
No. He was a pig. A pig!

RHONDA  
Did you encourage him...?

KAREN  
No!

RHONDA  
...in any way?

KAREN  
No! You should've seen him.

RHONDA  
But you did go willingly to his  
apartment?

KAREN  
Yes.

RHONDA  
Why?

KAREN  
Because I...I thought he'd be nice.  
That we'd just talk and things, you  
know.

Corbett rolls his eyes. Big Arch, coughing violently, leaves  
the court.

RHONDA  
What sort of things?

KAREN  
You know.

RHONDA  
Kiss?

KAREN  
Maybe. But I'm not...I don't do  
that. Not on the first time.

RHONDA  
And you had no intention of going  
to his place for sex?

KAREN  
Ugh! Course not!

RHONDA  
I tender these photos, Your  
Worship.

Rhonda's ASSISTANT gives the MAGISTRATE and Monte a series of photos. One photo shows Karen's severely bruised face. During the following two speeches we focus on Shandy who remains unemotional.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

You will notice bruising of her back, inner thighs. You will also notice the scratch marks on the defendant's back. Evidence will prove skin samples taken from under Miss Wilson's fingernails match the defendant and semen taken from Miss Wilson belongs to the Defendant.

Peirre enters, sits next to Shandy. Rhonda acknowledges Peirre.

MAGISTRATE

Thankyou, Ms Prosecutor, as this is a bail application, not a committal or trial, I'll accept that evidence in a hand-up brief. Do you have any problems with that, Mr Monte?

MAGISTRATE (CONT'D)

No, your Worship.

Corbett is agitated.

MAGISTRATE (CONT'D)

Do you wish to question the witness?

MONTE

No, Your Worship.

CORBETT

What!

Digger doesn't react.

MAGISTRATE

You may step down.

CORBETT

The bitch is lying!

MONTE

(quietly to Corbett) That bitch is not going to change her story and if this is a set-up, anything I ask gives her the advantage of being forewarned.

Corbett angrily folds his arms.

MONTE (CONT'D)

Your worship, we wish to make it abundantly clear we will be strenuously denying all charges. My client is a man of impeccable character.....

Monte's voice fades as we slowly penetrate Digger's iris.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION -- DAY

Digger, still handcuffed, is led into prison reception. Six GUARDS eagerly wait. Two hit batons into their hands. In the background a PRISON BILLET mops the floor.

INT. PRISON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor watches a monitor in his office showing Digger in Reception.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION - DAY

Davis enters. He stands in front of Digger, staring straight at him. Digger returns the stare stolidly. Satisfied, Davis leaves.

GUARD 1

Give the officer your name.

Digger looks incredulously at the instructing guard.

DIGGER

You know my name.

Guard 2 whacks Digger on the back of his legs with the baton. Digger bristles. Guard 3 goes to whack Digger. The Governor arrives. The Guards stand to attention. The Governor motions to the Guards and they stand easy.

GOVERNOR

I'm sorry to see this, son. I couldn't believe it when I heard it.

DIGGER

I'm innocent.

GOVERNOR

I'm sure you are. I've brought you here instead of leaving you in remand because it's full of shitheads all looking to make themselves a reputation. You understand?

DIGGER

Sure.

GOVERNOR

Some of the shitheads are so stupid they forget it's mandatory two years jail to touch one of my officers, for any reason.

The Governor stands to the side and nods to Guard 2.

GUARD 2

Give the officer your name.

Digger looks at the unemotional Governor.

DIGGER

Digger.

GUARD 1

Your real name!

DIGGER

Digger. That's it. That is my name.

Guard 2 whacks Digger again.

GUARD 2

Sir.

DIGGER

What?

Digger looks disbelievingly at the Governor who smiles.

GUARD 1

It's Digger, Sir.

Digger shakes his head disbelievingly. The Governor nods and Guard 1 and Guard 2 ferociously baton Digger. The Billet keep working without watching. Prosak enters, watches.

GUARD 2

Give the officer your name.

Digger hesitates.

DIGGER

Digger, Sir.

The Governor smiles at Prosak.

INT. SHANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Corbett enters Shandy's office. Shandy indicates the two boxes of videos on her desk which Corbett gave her.

CORBETT  
You're not going to show it, are you?

SHANDY  
It's for the best.

Corbett scoffs.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
You think he's innocent!

Corbett waves a document.

CORBETT  
What my bank manager  
euphemistically calls a second  
mortgage, in case they granted  
bail.

SHANDY  
You only want him to fight.

CORBETT  
What would you care? You were  
doing a hatchet job from day one.

SHANDY  
That's not true. I was genuinely  
interested in why he quit.

CORBETT  
Bullshit!

SHANDY  
Something was wrong. If you were  
his real friend you would have seen  
it. You would have wanted to know  
why too.

CORBETT  
I know why.

Shandy scoffs.

CORBETT (CONT'D)  
You really are full of shit!

SHANDY  
Get out! Get out!

Shandy attempts to push Corbett out. Corbett stands his ground. Shandy breaks down, sits on the couch while Corbett searches the boxes for a video tape which he inserts into the cassette player.

CORBETT

You didn't even look at them, did you?

The tape shows Digger fighting Perez. But it's obvious Digger's not trying.

CORBETT (CONT'D)

They'd never fought. It was Perez's swangsong. Digger didn't want to fight him. But with Digger fighting, Perez was guaranteed a big purse. You can tell he wanted Perez to win.

The tape shows Digger allowing himself to be easily hit by Perez.

CORBETT (CONT'D)

But Perez wouldn't allow that. He just stood there.

The tape shows the slow motion kick from Scene 1.

CORBETT (CONT'D)

The kick was soft. They do it in training a thousand times. It hit his temple. They went way back, to school days. It was Perez who got Digger into fighting.

SHANDY

His name was Peter?

CORBETT

Pablo sounds more Mexican.

Corbett removes the tape, picks up the boxes and goes to leave.

SHANDY

Why would that girl make it up?

Corbett stops.

SHANDY (CONT'D)

Why would any girl make up being raped?

CORBETT

Why should blind men pay electric light bills? How do I know? Did he ever put the hard word on you? Did he?

Shandy shakes her head, looks at him, smiles.

CORBETT (CONT'D)

What?

SHANDY

Nothing. I just eliminated you from a long list, that's all.

Corbett gently touches her arm.

CORBETT

Suppose a fuck's outa the question?

Shandy laughs at his effrontery.

SHANDY

Right at this moment, Corby, I'm not interested in sleeping with anyone.

CORBETT

What a waste.

INT. PRISON, SHOWER YARD -- DAY

The steel-barred gate to the shower room is opened. Digger enters.

GUARD 2

Strip off.

Digger removes his clothes. Prosak nods to two GUARDS.

GUARD 1

Shower up.

The other Guard turns a fire hose on. Digger is brutally hosed around the yard. Prosak leaves.

INT. PRISON, OUTSIDE SHOWER -- DAY

PROSAK nods and Blackie walks towards the showers. Davis enters from the opposite direction. Blackie disappears.

INT. PRISON, SHOWER YARD -- DAY

Davis enters the showers.

CPO DAVIS

Turn it off.

The Guard turns the hose off. Davis hands Digger a towel.

CPO DAVIS (CONT'D)

Get dressed, son.

INT. PEIRRE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Peirre sits in the dark. Suddenly a blind coils open letting in dazzling sunlight. The place is a mess.

SHANDY

First we'll start with these.

Shandy commences cleaning.

PEIRRE

Don't.

SHANDY

Then we cook a big meal, lots of minerals and vitamins, then a long walk....

Peirre's eyes fill with tears.

PEIRRE

I'm so sorry.

She walks behind him, hugs him.

SHANDY

It didn't happen because of you. Things like that happen because people aren't like you. It's a very beautiful world, Peirre and as long as there are people like you it will remain beautiful. My darling.

Tears run down Peirre's face.

EXT. COMMISSION FLATS -- DAY

Shandy, with camera kit, enters commission flats.

EXT. KAREN'S FLAT -- DAY

Shandy knocks on the door of a commission flat. Karen, stoned and wearing little, answers.

SHANDY

Karen Masters?

BOYFRIEND (O/S)

Who is it?

SHANDY

I'm with Voice Magazine. We're running your story, cover photo, the lot.

KAREN

Oh....

MALE VOICE

Who is it?

KAREN

Shut up, Keith! Um I'm not...I'm not supposed to talk to anyone.

SHANDY

I know. They sent me.

KAREN

They did? Who?

SHANDY

There's still some things they're checking, the money, final amount....

KAREN

There's more? How much?

SHANDY

Depends. This'll be one of our biggest stories. Could be anything. We need quotes and photos, the whole thing.

KAREN

Um, come inside.

SHANDY

Let's walk. I can get some photos in the park.

The BOYFRIEND appears in singlet and shorts.

BOYFRIEND

Who're you?

KAREN

She's cool.

Karen disappears.

BOYFRIEND

Then what d'ya want?

Shandy doesn't answer.

BOYFRIEND (CONT'D)

Eh?

Karen reappears with make-up and a jumper.

KAREN  
Don't hassle me, okay?

Karen slams the door on the Boyfriend.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Shandy and Karen walk in the park. Shandy photographs her in various poses.

SHANDY  
You don't mind talking about it?

KAREN  
Shit no. How else will people know the truth?

SHANDY  
I'm interested in how it's affected you personally. How you cope.

KAREN  
With what?

SHANDY  
Being raped.

KAREN  
Oh, I thought you meant with money and that. I just don't think about it.

SHANDY  
How did you explain it to your boyfriend, being in Digger's flat?

KAREN  
He's cool. He's good like that.

SHANDY  
He doesn't mind you being with another guy?

Karen laughs.

SHANDY (CONT'D)  
What?

KAREN  
He said he'd smash my face if I didn't go with him, didn't he?

Shandy can see the Boyfriend, mobile in hand, searching the park.

SHANDY

Oh, Right. Off the record I think you've done the world a service. It took guts. You weren't the first you know.

KAREN

Pardon?

SHANDY

He's done it before.

KAREN

Bullshit!

SHANDY

Twice. They actually asked a friend of mine to do what you're doing and she knocked them back.

KAREN

They asked someone else?

Shandy nods.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Bloody hell!

SHANDY

She wanted more money.

KAREN

How much?

SHANDY

Dunno, but I don't blame her.

KAREN

They never said that, the bastards!

SHANDY

Doesn't matter.

KAREN

I could've been killed. If I had of know he raped someone else...!

The Boyfriend sees Shandy. He speaks into his mobile.

SHANDY

You'll be on all the chat shows.

KAREN

.....I should've asked for heaps more. He actually raped someone?

The Boyfriend runs towards them but suddenly Corbett, jogging in a tracksuit, accidentally crashes him to the ground.

Shandy removes a miniature tape recorder from her pocket. Karen is devastated. She attempts to run. Shandy grabs her.

SHANDY

Who paid you? (indicating tape)  
This'll be on every current affairs  
show tonight if you don't tell me.

KAREN

I don't know, honest. I don't. He  
always wore a wig and false beard.  
Honest.

Karen breaks down.

INT. MONTE'S OFFICE -- DAY

Shandy, Corbett and a teary Karen sit opposite Monte.

MONTE

You did the right thing coming here  
first. Until we know who's behind  
this...

CORBETT

And why.

MONTE

.....we trust no one, not even  
the police.

SHANDY

But we must get Digger released.

Monte catches himself inadvertently looking at Shandy's cleavage.

MONTE

Leave that to me. In the meantime  
(to Karen) keep a low profile. (to  
Shandy) Have you made a copy of the  
tape?

SHANDY

Um, I haven't had time.

MONTE

I'll do it.

Monte pockets the tape. Shandy smiles, relieved. Monte leads them to the door, his arm round Shandy.

MONTE (CONT'D)

You and I must have lunch sometime.

Shandy smiles.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Prosak is being massaged by Marcus in the Guard's Gym. There are lockers and a drink machine. Digger is escorted in. Prosak looks up, grins.

PROSAK

You and I, we were born hundreds of years too late. The son of Apollo versus the Viking Warlord. We could have met on the sands of Atlantis. The winner dined from the skull of the vanquished, ravished fair damsels.

Digger warily looks around the gym.

PROSAK (CONT'D)

No cameras. Why would you need a camera in the Officers's quarters? HMMMMMMMM?

INT. PRISON, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

Through a two-way mirror built into a wall panel the Governor watches Prosak and Digger.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Armed Guards escort Blackie and Snowy, both handcuffed, into the gym. Prosak sits, allowing Marcus to work on his back. Prosak motions to a Guard to remove Blackie's handcuffs which he does.

PROSAK

Did I tell you my favorite joke? No? The Governor is showing his little daughter a new cell block when they see two prisoners copulating. "Daddy," she asks. "What are they doing?"

INT. PRISON, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor watches, not amused.

PROSAK

The Governor says the prisoner underneath is trying to help the prisoner on top because he's hurt his leg. "Daddy, it's always like that. You want to help someone and they start fucking you."

Prosak smiles at the two-way mirror.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Marcus roars laughing. Prosak moves close to Digger, almost whispering. Blackie glares at Digger.

PROSAK

I have a confession to make. I'm a confused man. To understand one's self one must be prepared to abandon life itself. But I'm afraid to die. My psychiatrist tells me I compensate by seeking courage in the field of conflict. Don't you find that confusing?

Prosak steps back. Blackie attacks Digger who skillfully parries Blackie's blows.

DIGGER

I'm not going to fight you.

PROSAK

When a man loses the will to fight it is said he is at his most vulnerable. I say he is at his most dangerous.

Prosak motions and a Guard removes Snowy's handcuffs. Blackie attacks, breaking through Digger's defense and landing savage blows. As Blackie is about to again lunge at Digger, Prosak stuns Blackie with an almighty body blow then kicks him to the head with alternative feet. The semiconscious Blackie remains standing.

INT. PRISON, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor, watching through the two-way mirror, smiles and speaks into a microphone.

GOVERNOR

This is a security alert. Two armed and dangerous prisoners have forced their way into the Guard's gymnasium.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

GOVERNOR (O/S)

These men are extremely dangerous.

Prosak jumps behind Blackie and punches him savagely to the back of the neck killing him. Snowy, roaring like a beast, charges Prosak, who swerves at the last moment, causing Snowy to crash into the wall. Prosak advances and with an almighty kick shatters Snowy's knee. Snowy hobbles at Prosak who shatters his other knee. Snowy writhes on the floor.

Prosak laughs, kicks him hard in the face, snapping his neck. Prosak moves behind Digger who turns to face him.

INT. PRISON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor picks up the phone.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Prosak circles Digger.

PROSAK

I don't hate you, Digger. I'm advised, that to be the best, I must love the person I'm fighting. Then I can forget the fight. I'm not competing against you, Digger. I'm competing against myself.

DIGGER

The ultimate love hate relationship.

The door opens. A GUARD hurries in.

GUARD

The Governor wants Digger immediately.

Prosak glares angrily at the mirror before indicating for the Guard to take Digger.

PROSAK

You and I have unfinished business on the shores of Atlantis.

INT. PRISON, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

Digger is escorted into the Governor's Office where The Governor, Lonnigan and Monte sit. Monte stands, shakes Digger's hand.

MONTE

Good news.

GOVERNOR

Get Digger a coffee.

Digger shakes his head. The Guard leaves.

MONTE

We've uncovered new evidence. I'm applying for the charges to be dropped.

DIGGER  
What new evidence?

MONTE  
But it might be months before we  
have you out. However the Governor  
has come up with an idea.

GOVERNOR  
I always believed you were  
innocent.

LONNIGAN  
International Cable want to hold  
Decimation Day here in the prison.

GOVERNOR  
It'll do wonders for prison reform.

MONTE  
If you agree to fight...

GOVERNOR  
We can have you transferred to a  
half-way house. Immediately. Work  
release I'll call it.

LONNIGAN  
Where you can train

GOVERNOR  
Then return for the fight.

DIGGER  
What's the new evidence?

MONTE  
Too often the system gets it wrong,  
Digger. I want you out of here  
immediately.

DIGGER  
I'm not fighting.

Digger leaves. Monte and Lonnigan look at each other  
bewildered.

GOVERNOR  
He'll fight.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION - DAY

Corbett and Shandy are attempting to visit Digger.

RECEPTION GUARD  
He's not allowed visitors.

CORBETT

Why?

RECEPTION GUARD

Governor's orders

Shandy takes Corbett's arm, leads him out

CORBETT

Bastards!

INT. MONTE'S OFFICE, RECEPTION -- DAY

Shandy, accompanied by Corbett, talks to Monte's RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr Monte's on holidays. He left instructions not to be contacted...

SHANDY

But...

RECEPTIONIST

...under any circumstances.

Corbett motions the reluctant Shandy out.

EXT. KAREN'S FLAT -- DAY

Corbett and Shandy look through the window of Karen's deserted flat.

CORBETT

Come on.

SHANDY

Where?

INT. CORBETT'S CAR -- DAY

Corbett and Shandy drive through traffic. They pass a mobile advertisement for Decimation Day, advertising: Digger will fight - subscribe now. Corbett speeds up.

INT. HOSPITAL -- DAY

Corbett and Shandy are let into a hospital room by a SISTER. Big Arch is hooked up to every conceivable monitor. It's obvious he hasn't long to live. Struggling to breathe he immediately waves the Sister away.

BIG ARCH  
 Hope you didn't bring chocolates.  
 Do me a favour?

CORBETT  
 What?

BIG ARCH  
 Get us a fag.

Corbett smiles.

BIG ARCH (CONT'D)  
 I had nothing to do with it, son.  
 Nothing.

SHANDY  
 Who then?

BIG ARCH  
 Who's got most to gain?

CORBETT  
 Me?

Big Arch raises his eyebrows and coughs severely.

BIG ARCH  
 Who's putting up the money?

Big Arch looks to an enormous basket of flowers. The card reads Compliments International Cable.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The Auditorium is set up similar to the Bluestone Challenge with Albert, in tuxedo, emceeing and the Fool coaxing the prisoners to participate. The Prisoners, dressed as before, enter into the spirit of the occasion. A large video screen has been constructed at the back. It continually shows profiles of the fighters. The Governor sits alone in his unit. Prosak, Nostradamus, The Busker, Ferocity Man, The Comedian, Cyprus and Tobias are lined up facing the cameras. Albert introduces them.

ALBERT  
 This is the most awesome undercard  
 ever assembled.....

INT. PRISON, ISOLATION -- DAY

The Isolation Section is white and austere. Two GUARDS wear whitecoats. The cells are glass cages. All, except one, are empty.

INT. PRISON, ISOLATION CELL -- DAY

Digger, wearing white underpants, sits on a glass box.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Lonnigan oversees the security monitors. The Ratings Register is in the high section. One monitor focuses on Albert, still introducing the Fighters. Arnott types and Murderer - Life appears under the image of Albert. Arnott pushes a button and another monitor shows film of a young man shooting an unarmed man in the street. The caption reads: Reconstruction of Albert's crime. Arnott smiles.

LONNIGAN

Not over the introductions.

ARNOTT

It'll be remixed for the video release.

Lonnigan reaches over Arnott's shoulder and types. Digger definitely is fighting appears on the master screen.

ARNOTT (CONT'D)

If he doesn't we'll have to reimburse every subscriber!

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Prozak is being introduced to total silence from the Prisoners.

ALBERT

...the number one ranking, Prozak, the undefeated, has a bye in round one.

Albert indicates a board showing the order of fighting for the knockout draw. Prozak, at the top has a bye in the first round and will fight the winner of The Busker Vs The Comedian, while the bottom half of the draw shows the winner of Ferocity Man Vs Cyprus to fight the winner of Nostradamus Vs Tobias Long.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

A monitor shows close-ups of Prisoners in the audience. Arnott points to a prisoner.

ARNOTT

Him.

CLARKE

Mitchell, rapist.

ARNOTT

Great.

Arnott types and Mitchell, Rapist - 15 years appears under the highlighted image of Mitchell. Arnott presses a computer menu.

ARNOTT (CONT'D)

He's here.

A short film of a young girl leaving a darkened, deserted railway station plays on a monitor. A hooded man stalks her, drags her into shrub. The caption Dramatic reconstruction appears.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The Comedian and The Busker are ready to fight. The Prisoners excitedly cheer and barrack. Suddenly The Comedian holds his arms aloft. Everyone quietens. The Busker halts his advance.

COMEDIAN

(to the cameras) What did the bride say to the bridegroom on her wedding night?

There is silence.

COMEDIAN (CONT'D)

(to the Busker) Well?

BUSKER

(innocently) Um, gee, that's a hard one.

The Comedian laughs, the Prisoners laugh, then the Busker gets the joke and laughs. Suddenly the Comedian rips the Busker to the abdomen and as the Busker sinks to his knees the Comedian kicks him to the head knocking him unconscious. The Prisoners go wild.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Jo and the staff enjoy drinks as they watch Decimation Day on their cable screen.

MATT

That bloke's got no sense of humor.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Ferocity Man and the Cyprus are well into their fight. Tobias nervously watches from the side. Nostradamus glares hatred at Tobias who practices his hip switches.

NOSTRADAMUS  
 Armageddon day, boy.

Ferocity Man pounds Cyprus into submission. Tobias watches the merciless slaughter.

DIGGER (V/O)  
 There is a line of dignity between the fighter who wins and the fighter who continues beating his opponent unnecessarily.

Ferocity wipes blood off his sunglasses with the back of his arm. The crowd cheer.

LATER: Tobias is ready to fight Nostradamus who moves round the motionless Tobias. The crowd roars for blood.

DIGGER (V/O) (CONT'D)  
 Never strike the first blow. Samurai swordsmen stood face to face, waiting. The weaker man strikes the first blow.

NOSTRADAMUS  
 You will die a cruel death, two wounds in one, kids will smoke seaweed, criminals will be implanted with new personalities, I will be invested as the one hundred and twelfth element...

TOBIAS  
 You never did get it right, did you?

Nostradamus charges with high knee kicks. Tobias anticipates, grins and easily evades the charge. Nostradamus rebounds, scores with good punches. Tobias expertly swerves, jumps to one side, then with the perfect hip through movement, delivers a knockout blow. The Prisoners roar.

Tobias parades round the ring. Prosak holds a cricket ball for Tobias' benefit. He squeezes and the cricket ball crumbles. Tobias gulps.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION -- DAY

Shandy talks to the Reception Guard.

SHANDY  
 We want to see Digger.

RECEPTION GUARD  
 I told you, only his lawyer.

Peirre grins.

PEIRRE  
I am his lawyer.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Corbett enters. Jo hands him a stubbie.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Prosak is ready to fight the Comedian. The Prisoners pound their fists into their hands. The Fool shrugs his shoulders to a visibly angry Governor. The Comedian raises his hands to the Prisoners. They quieten. The Governor's mobile rings. Everyone looks as the Governor answers his mobile.

COMEDIAN  
Let me tell you my favorite joke.  
The Governor is showing his little  
daughter a new cell block.....

The Prisoners roar laughing.

GOVERNOR  
(into mobile) Strip search them.

The Governor dials another number. Davis, at the back of the Prisoners, answers his mobile.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D)  
Davis, I want you on duty  
immediately in the Security Control  
room. That's an order!

Davis quickly leaves. The Governor puts his mobile away and nods to Prosak.

COMEDIAN  
I haven't finished.

Prosak hits the Comedian with one fatal blow, stands over the prostrate Comedian.

PROSAK  
We've heard it before.

As the Comedian is dragged out by the legs Tobias and Ferocity Man enter the fighting arena. The Governor leaves.

INT. PRISON, STRIP-SEARCH ROOM - DAY

A female GUARD leers at the naked Shandy.

SHANDY  
Satisfied?

FEMALE GUARD  
Don't flatter yourself.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Tobias is fighting Ferocity Man. Both land telling blows. A clock shows they've been fighting five minutes.

INT. PRISON VISITING ROOM -- DAY

Digger, dressed in white overalls sits at a table with Shandy and Peirre. Two OFFICERS watch.

DIGGER  
If Monte has the tape what can we do?

Shandy looks around before whispering to Digger.

GUARD 1  
No whispering allowed.

INT. PRISON, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor watches the visit on a monitor in his office. Lonnigan is with him.

LONNIGAN  
What'd she say?

GOVERNOR  
Shush!

The Governor turns the sound up.

INT. PRISON VISITING ROOM -- DAY

Peirre touches Digger reassuredly on the arm.

PEIRRE  
I've arranged for a special court hearing.

DIGGER  
But without the girl and the tape!

PEIRRE  
I'm your lawyer now...

SHANDY  
And when Peirre goes into battle...

PEIRRE  
Not pretty, Digger. Not pretty.

Digger smiles.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Tobias and Ferocity Man appear evenly matched as they trade blow for blow, kick for kick.

INT. PRISON VISITING ROOM -- DAY

Digger, Peirre and Shandy stand. Digger and Peirre shake hands. Shandy goes to kiss Digger.

GUARD 1  
No kissing!

Shandy shakes Digger's hand.

SHANDY  
I know about Peter, why you don't want to fight. Whatever happens don't let them force you to.

DIGGER  
They won't.

As Digger is escorted away, Prosak, carrying a cricket bat, passes him. Prosak sneers at Peirre who realises the implication.

PEIRRE  
You bastard!

PROSAK  
(Whispering) I'm coming for you again, little petal.

PEIRRE  
Digger!

Digger halts, turns. He is shoved by a Guard but stands defiant. Shandy grabs Peirre and pulls him away.

SHANDY  
No, no, no, no, no..

DIGGER  
What? What is it?

SHANDY  
It's nothing. Nothing.

Shandy pulls Peirre through the door. The Guards push Digger through the opposite door. Prosak laughs.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Davis watches the visiting room on a security monitor. Another monitor shows six GUARDS dressing in riot gear. Davis zooms in on Prosak sneering.

INT. PRISON, ISOLATION BLOCK -- DAY

Digger is escorted into Isolation. Six Guards, with batons and full riot dress, emerge simultaneously from separate cells. They surround Digger, hitting their batons into their hands as they circle. Davis appears.

DAVIS

Leave us.

The officers don't move. Davis draws a pistol.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

I'm giving you a direct order.

The Guards reluctantly leave.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The Governor and Lonnigan watch security footage of Davis talking to Digger. The Governor smiles triumphantly at Lonnigan.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The clock shows Tobias and Ferocity Man have been fighting thirty minutes. Both are near collapse. They hit each other simultaneously, sink to their knees, before Ferocity Man falls face down on the ground. The Prisoners cheer as Tobias struggles to stand.

INT. PRISON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor sits at his desk, Lonnigan to the side. There is a knock at the door.

GOVERNOR

Enter.

A Guard escorts Digger in. The Governor raises an eyebrow.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D)

Wait outside.

The Guard leaves. The Governor indicates for Digger to sit.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D)

You wanted to see me?

Digger remains standing.

DIGGER  
If I fight Prosak.....

The Governor smiles at Lonnigan.

DIGGER (CONT'D)  
....what's the deal?

LONNIGAN  
What d'you want?

Digger puts a list on the table. Lonnigan reads it.

LONNIGAN (CONT'D)  
You want these?

Lonnigan shows the Governor the list.

GOVERNOR  
One million dollars transferred to  
Greenpeace....?

DIGGER  
Before I fight.

LONNIGAN  
Done.

DIGGER  
Do it now.

Lonnigan dials his mobile.

GOVERNOR  
You promise to fight Prosak here,  
today?

DIGGER  
Yes.

GOVERNOR  
What made you change your mind?

DIGGER  
Prison made me see the light.

GOVERNOR  
I've been telling people that for  
years.

Lonnigan hands Digger the mobile for Digger to verify. He listens, returns the phone to Lonnigan.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D)  
Let's get ready to fight.

DIGGER  
Not until you've met my other  
conditions.

INT. PRISON, SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Lonnigan types as he talks into his mobile. Digger to fight  
Prosak appears on the master monitor.

LONNIGAN  
It's definitely on. Tee up all  
international contracts. They can  
have it on two-hour delay.

Davis smiles to himself.

INT. JO KING'S FILM PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DAY

Corbett sees the message on the screen.

CORBETT  
Shit!

He rushes out.

INT. COURT -- DAY

Peirre and Rhonda sit opposite the Judge in a specially  
convened court. Shandy sits in the body of the court with  
two JOURNALISTS. Corbett enters, whispers to Shandy.

RHONDA  
Your Honour, this could be true and  
it could be fantasy. Mr Monte's  
overseas, the plaintiff's is unable  
to be located and this so called  
tape, alleging her retraction, is  
hearsay.

JUDGE  
I agree. I've allowed this special  
sitting because you said you had an  
important tape but I've been in  
contact with Mr Monte. He denies  
having had any conversation with Ms  
Davis.

Corbett is agitated. Shandy motions him not to worry.

PEIRRE  
Your Honor, if you will indulge me  
one moment?

JUDGE  
Very well.

Peirre puts a cassette tape in a video player.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The auditorium is rocking. A DRAG band, wearing Sylvester Stallone masks, send up Rocky. Tobias, battered and exhausted, sits.

LONNIGAN  
You're out.

TOBIAS  
What?

LONNIGAN  
Digger's in.

Tobias breathes a sigh of relief. Lonnigan turns to Albert for a televised interview.

Albert reads from notes as he interviews Lonnigan for the cable viewers.

ALBERT  
How much money have you spent promoting this fight, Mr Lonnigan?

LONNIGAN  
Millions.

INT. PARK -- DAY

Kids are playing in the park. A large van pulls up. The back doors open and free sportsgear is distributed while Cable International film the distribution.

In another area of the park SURVEYORS map a section of the park as BUILDERS prepare to construct a playground. Cable International film proceedings.

ALBERT (O/S)  
Is it true you've donated sporting goods and financed a playground for underprivileged kids?

LONNIGAN  
That's the type of bloke I am.

ALBERT (O/S)  
And you've donated part of the proceeds to Greenpeace?

LONNIGAN (O/S)  
I've long admired the virtue and courage of Greenpeace.

INT. COURT -- DAY

The court is watching the end of a video showing Karen, in Monte's office, confessing her involvement in the conspiracy - shot by Shandy's concealed camera.

RHONDA

Your Honour, these people were obviously unaware they were being filmed...

PEIRRE

It was part of a documentary, your Honour.

RHONDA

It can't be used in evidence.

JUDGE

Nevertheless, it raises serious doubts in my mind.

Peirre smiles at Shandy.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

This young girl, the supposed victim, is clearly claiming she was part of a conspiracy to frame the defendant. And quite obviously Mr Monte was aware.

Rhonda, disappointed, sits.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The Drag Group finish their routine. Albert takes the mike to the center of the ring. The crowd cheer.

ALBERT

A big hand for the lovely girls.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION - DAY

Shandy, Peirre, Corbett and a COURT OFFICIAL arrive at Prison Reception. The Reception Guard picks up the phone.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR -- DAY

The riot squad march down the corridor.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Prosak meditates in readiness for his fight.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Marcus checks the auditorium. The fanfare is in full swing with the Prisoners eagerly awaiting the commencement of the fight.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Davis surreptitiously leaves the Control Room.

INT. PRISON RECEPTION - DAY

RECEPTION GUARD  
I'm sorry. Nothing can be done  
without the Governor's approval.

The Court Official attempts to enter the prison proper.

COURT GUARD  
I have jurisdiction here.

The riot squad enter reception, blocking the Court Official.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR -- DAY

Davis escorts a group of Guards and Digger, totally covered in gown and hood, down the corridor. Digger bounces and throws warm-up punches. The Prisoners can be heard cheering.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Guards and a hooded figure, throwing punches, enter the fighting area.

ALBERT  
A big hand for the greatest fighter  
ever....

The Prisoners go wild. The Governor smiles triumphantly at Lonnigan.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GYM -- DAY

A hand opens the door to the Guard's gym.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Prosak wakes from his meditation, eyes ablaze.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The figure bounds into the fighting arena. The Prisoners stamp their feet. Suddenly the figure disrobes to reveal The Fool on stilts. The Prisoners roar laughing. The Governor and Lonnigan angrily exit.

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Prosak is staring at Digger, decked out ready to fight. The door is closed from the outside, locked.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR -- DAY

The Governor and Lonnigan hurriedly arrive outside the Guard's Gym. Davis is attempting to unlock the door to the gym.

GOVERNOR  
Open the bloody door!

DAVIS  
I'm trying. It's been tampered with.

LONNIGAN  
Is there another entrance?

GOVERNOR  
Course not! (to Davis) If you've got anything to do with this!

Davis stares directly into The Governor's eyes.

DAVIS  
Now why would I do that?

INT. PRISON, SHOWER YARD -- DAY

Prosak, realising what's happened, attempts to open the door.

PROSAK  
Are you mad?

DIGGER  
A little.

PROSAK  
They're not gonna pay us one cent if we fight here.

DIGGER  
I've already been paid.

Prosak smashes his fist into the door, leaving an indent. Digger notices the indent. Prosak smiles and cautiously moves around Digger.

INT. PRISON SECURITY CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

Lonnigan hurries into the Security Control Room.

ARNOTT  
What's happening?

LONNIGAN  
Shut-up! Bring up the Officer's gym.

CLARKE  
Can't. We don't go there.

LONNIGAN  
Fuck!

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

The Governor motions for Albert to stall.

ALBERT  
Ah, there seems to be just a slight delay. We'll return after a brief word from our sponsors.

The Prisoners slow clap. The Fool grabs the mike and sings Save The Last Dance For Me. The Drag Group accompany him.

EXT. PRISON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Governor and camera crew arrive outside his office. He is unable to insert his key into the lock because it's been tampered with.

GOVERNOR  
Shit! Shit! Shit!

INT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

Digger stares directly into Prosak's eyes as Prosak circles. Digger moves, keeping Prosak in eye-line. A light behind Prosak illuminates, slightly blinding, Digger.

DIGGER  
Outside, the sun never changes,  
always rising, always setting. Yet  
inside we have all this variable  
weather.  
(MORE)

## DIGGER (CONT'D)

Some days a gloomy cloud, some days  
a bright sky. Life must be  
celebrated.

A slight sneer erupts on Prosak's upper lip. It is some moments before Prosak lets forth an almighty bellow and charges Digger. Digger, waits till the last possible moment, deflects Prosak's punch, then counters with an awesome assault that leaves Prosak prostrate on the ground. As he speaks Digger allows Prosak to rise, stagger to his locker, remove a towel and wipe his face.

## DIGGER (CONT'D)

If you try and change her moods she  
will simply pass, making way for  
another day. Life goes on.

Prosak replaces the towel surreptitiously for a can of mace. Prosak moves to Digger, deftly spraying his face with mace. Blinded, Digger backs. Prosak pummels him mercilessly, until Digger is semiconscious on the ground. Prosak, laughing, grabs a sports drink and a glass. He pours the drink into the glass, watches it overflow onto Digger.

## PROSAK

See, no more will go in, Shovelman.  
Like this glass you are full of  
your own bullshit.

He jokingly holds the glass for Digger to take, but Digger can't see.

## PROSAK

But how can I show you that?  
HMMMMMM? Unless I first empty it?

Prosak slowly drinks the contents of the glass. Digger stands straight, centers himself, perceptive to the sounds around him. He hears the glass smashing, Prosak coming at him and in that moment relives the kick that killed Peter. The kick hits Prosak high on the temple, droplets of sweat explode as they did in the first scene. Prosak's head smashes into the floor.

EXT. PRISON, GUARD'S GYM -- DAY

The door opens. Digger, partially blinded, emerges.

INT. PRISON AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Digger enters the Auditorium. Shandy, Peirre, Corbett and the Court Official are waiting with Davis. Tobias raises Digger's arm. The Prisoners are silent.

The Mercy Seat (Nick Cave) plays as the camera pulls back, merging into the front gates of the prison which slowly open.

EXT. GATES -- DAY

Digger walks through the prison gates which slam behind him,  
into blinding sunlight.

Credits roll.

THE END