

#2309

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"Faster Heart"

(formerly: "244 Feet Per Second")

By: Patrick Hasburgh

A STEPHEN J. CANNELL PRODUCTION

Entire Script Revised June 27, 1985

#2309

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"Faster Heart"

CAST

JUDGE MILTON C. HARDCASTLE
MARK McCORMICK

SAMMY O'CONNELL
MECHANIC
ANNOUNCER
KIKI CUTTER
NURSE
NURSE PARKINS
DR. TANNER
GUARD
JAKE THOMAS
HAL JENKINS
JOHN CARSON
ROBBINS
TAGGERT
COP
FEDDER
ROBERTS

#2309

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"Faster Heart"

SETS

INTERIORS

GULL'S WAY
/DEN
/GATEHOUSE
HOSPITAL/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
/A PAIR OF DOORS
/NURSES STATION
/KIKI CUTTER'S ROOM
/HALLWAY
INDUSTRIAL PARK
/FENCED IN COMPOUND
/GUARD SHACK
COYOTE
HARDCASTLE'S PICKUP TRUCK
O'CONNELL'S OFFICE
HAL JENKINS' OFFICE
LA SERRE RESTAURANT
SAVINGS AND LOAN OFFICE

EXTERIORS

GULL'S WAY
/POOL AREA
/GATEHOUSE
ORANGE COUNTRY DRAGWAY
/PRESS BOX
/PIT
/DRAGRACE STARTING LINE
/DRAGRACE FINISHING LINE
HOSPITAL
INDUSTRIAL PARK
/GUARD SHACK
TALL OFFICE BUILDING
OFFICE BUILDING (HAL JENKINS INSUR. BROKERS)
VARIOUS STREETS
LA SERRE RESTAURANT
BURNED-OUT BUILDING

"Faster Heart"ACT ONE

FADE IN

1 EXT. ORANGE COUNTY DRAGWAY - DAY 1

...a human sea of T-Shirts and suntan oil; the pomp and circumstance of the Summer Nationals. The drag racing crowd. Guys in Vans, great looking California blondes in tube-tops and bare bellies, funny cars blasting off the starting line, hot dogs and kegs of beer, sweat, tears and raw sex of man made motion and hungry machines... Play the MONTAGE, and:

2 ANGLE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK 2

as they weave through the infield of the race track and McCormick sucks up the atmosphere, feeling at home. Hardcastle by contrast is hot, bored and maybe even a little ornery.

McCORMICK

This is great, huh?

Hardcastle wipes the sweat from his forehead.

HARDCASTLE

Oh, yeah...a hundred and ten in the shade, loud motors, getting a headache from the fumes.

McCORMICK

C'mon, Judge, this is America.

HARDCASTLE

This is the desert, kiddo. America is about fifty miles that way, shining seas, amber waves of grain...purple mountains.

As Hardcastle and McCormick continue their way through the infield, various drivers and crew members wave hello to McCormick... He smiles and takes a deep breath.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Kind'a smells like the first
day of school, doesn't it?

HARDCASTLE

Kind'a smells like paint thinner.

McCormick just smiles and looks off toward a first rate racing setup: tractor trailers, race cars, mechanics in matching uniforms and etc. He walks off.

MCCORMICK

There he is...

And McCormick leans on the hood of a car hauler nodding to a MECHANIC who works on the motor of a Double A Rail.

MCCORMICK

Bet you don't remember the time
I blew your boss off the line
at Lancaster Raceway...

The Mechanic turns around and shoots a curious look to McCormick.

MCCORMICK

Runnin'a street stock 'Stang
with a blown Hemmi? 'Bout
ten years ago.

The Mechanic shakes his head.

MECHANIC

Ten years ago I was eleven
years old... Wasn't there.

VOICE (OVER)

But, I was...

ANGLE TO INCLUDE - SAMMY O'CONNELL

dressed in a driver's suit and right off the cover of Road & Track: a great jaw and a forty dollar profile. There is a crowd of fans around him.

CONTINUED

O'CONNELL
How you doin', Skid?

And we get the feeling that there is more than a little tension between these two guys. After a beat McCormick shakes O'Connell's hand.

MCCORMICK
Not as good as you, Sammy.
Never.
(Re: dragster)
Still got the hot sponsor, huh?
Very nice.

O'CONNELL
You win three championships in a row and they give you your own motorhome, free flame proof socks and even a couple of pages in People Magazine.
(wise)
Maybe you should'a kept drivin' in a straight line instead'a trying to go road racing... too many turns, y'know?

MCCORMICK
Yeah, I know.
(Beat)
Judge, Sidewinder Sammy O'Connell.
Sammy, Judge Milton Hardcastle.

They shake hands.

HARDCASTLE
Sidewinder?
(a little confused)
That's a snake, right?

MCCORMICK
Sorta...

McCormick shoots O'Connell a look and it doesn't go unnoticed by Hardcastle.

MCCORMICK
We'll see you around, Sammy.

3

CONTINUED - 2

3

Hardcastle is pretty perplexed at the overt hostility here and as they walk away O'Connell calls out to McCormick.

O'CONNELL

Hey Skid, you want me to say
hello to the wife for you?

And on that, McCormick stops cold.

O'CONNELL

Bet KiKi would love to hear
from you.

There is a real shitty smile on O'Connell's face.

MCCORMICK

Nah, she thinks about me enough,
Sammy. You know that.

O'Connell leaps at McCormick but his Mechanic holds him off.

MECHANIC

Cool out, Sammy. We've got
sponsors all over the place.

McCormick turns and walks away, leaving Hardcastle there feeling a little more than conspicuous. He smiles: awkward.

HARDCASTLE

Nice to meet you, Sammy.

CUT TO

4

NEW ANGLE - MCCORMICK

4

leaning against the hood of a car hauler: remote.
Hardcastle steps up to him.

HARDCASTLE

You wanna fill me in on what
the hell that was all about?

McCormick doesn't respond.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Look kiddo, you con me out here to meet an old friend of yours. You say, "You wanna meet the Double A Fuel Champion, Judge? He's an old friend of mine." I say, "Sure." And you guys insult each other. What a thrill.

MCCORMICK

I wanted you to keep me from hitting him in the face with a tire iron.

HARDCASTLE

Do I have to guess the whole story? I can do that, I used to be one hell of a cross examiner...

MCCORMICK

(smiles)

I remember.

McCormick shoots a look back towards O'Connell's pit.

MCCORMICK

The son of a bitch stole my girlfriend. Married her, too.

There is a beat and Hardcastle smiles understandingly.

HARDCASTLE

It still hurts, huh?

McCormick nods.

HARDCASTLE

I had it bad for a girl named Wendy Belter... Married a pediatricist.

(laughs)

Now she lives with a man whose hands smell like feet.

McCormick looks back over toward O'Connell's pit and then to Hardcastle and back to O'Connell.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Her name was KiKi Cutter.

HARDCASTLE

The drag racer? She was a champion a couple of times, right?

MCCORMICK

Runs in the family... Sammy Sidewinder O'Connell and KiKi Cutter, Mister and Misses Top Fuel. The perfect couple.

HARDCASTLE

They still together?

CUT TO

raised up above the race track next to the starting tower and facing the crowd. Standing next to the race track's ANNOUNCER is KIKI CUTTER: she is beautiful in a pink, skin tight racing suit.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, the former record holder in the Quarter Mile, twice N.H.R.A. World Champion, and the prettiest woman to ever climb into a race car... Miiissss KKKiiiKKKiii Cuuttteeerr!

The crowd goes wild as KiKi waves to her fans as O'Connell joins her and gives her a warm hug.

ANNOUNCER

And for the second time in two years Mister and Misses Top Fuel are gonna go at it for the Quarter Mile title.

(Beat)

Any comments, Sammy?

O'Connell grabs the mike.

CONTINUED

5

CONTINUED

5

O'CONNELL
I just hope that if I beat her,
KiKi will still cook me dinner.

CUT TO

6

INTERCUT - McCORMICK

6

as he reacts and Hardcastle slaps him warm on the knee.

HARDCASTLE
Probably a lousy cook, Kiddo.

McCORMICK
That's okay, 'cause when I'm
with her I can't eat.

and:

7

RESUME - PRESS BOX

7

as the Announcer puts the microphone in front of KiKi.

ANNOUNCER
KiKi?

And all she says is:

KIKI CUTTER
Let's just get this over with.

And as they walk off:

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)
It's the final heat of the day
here at Orange County Raceway
and KiKi Cutter is knocking at
the door of another world record.

8

CLOSE ON - A CLASS A/A FUEL DRAGSTER

8

and it's an earth bound spaceship made up of nothing but
a motor with a carbon fiber cockpit wrapped in a steel
frame and two huge slicks.

CONTINUED

8

CONTINUED

8

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

In the "B" lane, Sidewinder
Sammy O'Connell, riding a hand-
built rail outta Encino,
California... These two might
be man and wife, but the Quarter
Mile is no place for hugs and
squeezes...

Strapped into the cockpit of this dragster is a driver in
a flame proof suit and a pink helmet with a rose painted
on the visor. Next to the rose we can read the name "KiKi".
Next to her we can see Sammy O'Connell in his dragster.

9

CLOSE ON - STARTING LIGHTS

9

as they count down red to yellow to green... Then, an
explosion of screaming tires and engine noise.

10

ANGLE - THE DRAG RACE

10

as two CLASS A/S FUEL DRAGSTERS catapult off the starting
line and down the Quarter Mile of black asphalt.

CUT TO

11

SERIES OF SHOTS - THE DRAG RACE

11

...grabbing gears...dumping clutches...standing on the
gas. Maybe one of the dragsters gets it sideways for a
split second, gathering it up an instant before going
airborne. We play this, then, KiKi Cutter's rail loses
a front wheel and somersaults down the pavement in a
horrible display of drag racing gone wrong. We can't
believe anyone could live through this, and:

CUT TO

12

CLOSE ON - A PAIR OF DOORS

12

the swing-through emergency kind in the intensive care
unit of a hospital. A beat, then McCormick charges
through and sprints down the hall toward a nurses station.
Hardcastle follows at a distance, trying to understand and
being a friend. McCormick nervously tries to get the
nurse's attention... She's on the telephone.

CONTINUED

NURSE
 (on the phone)
 Stat on EEG for Harder.

MCCORMICK
 Miss?

NURSE
 (still on the phone)
 Doctor Collins is on his way.

MCCORMICK
 Ma'am...?

The Nurse shoots a look to McCormick as Hardcastle steps up. McCormick looks up and down the hall and then reaches for a clipboard that hangs on the nurses station: just as he grabs it, the Nurse takes it away and hangs up the telephone.

NURSE
 Yes...?

MCCORMICK
 KiKi Cutter?

NURSE
 Yes...?

MCCORMICK
 Well, I'd like to see her.

NURSE
 Are you family?

MCCORMICK-HARDCASTLE
 Yes.... No.....

They exchange looks.

MCCORMICK
 (to the Nurse)
 I'm her husband..

The Nurse looks past McCormick and down the hall.

and we can see SAMMY O'CONNELL exit a hospital room with a young doctor named TANNER.

as McCormick shoots a look to O'Connell and then back to the Nurse. Hardcastle puts an arm around McCormick.

MCCORMICK

First husband...

HARDCASTLE

C'mon, Kid. Settle down.

NURSE

I'm sorry, only close family is allowed.

MCCORMICK

KiKi's my sister...

HARDCASTLE

(to Nurse)

He's upset...

(to McCormick)

C'mon, let's sit and wait.

O'Connell walks up to McCormick and Hardcastle with Doctor Tanner. O'Connell glares at McCormick.

O'CONNELL

What the hell are you doing here?

McCormick ignores that and turns to Tanner.

MCCORMICK

My name's Mark McCormick, Doctor. Is there any way I can see Miss Cutter?

O'CONNELL

That's Mrs. O'Connell.

MCCORMICK

Look, Sammy. Let's not get into that here. I just want to see her. I care about her. I'm sorry.

O'CONNELL

Well, you're a little late 'cause it doesn't look like she's gonna make it.

CONTINUED

O'Connell walks off and Hardcastle watches him go.

HARDCASTLE

(sotto voce)

Sensitive guy...

MCCORMICK

She's really not going to die,
is she?

DR. TANNER

The next twenty-five hours are
very critical. Miss Cutter has
a severe head injury. Her
helmet absorbed most of the
impact, but there is some very
specific swelling of the brain.

MCCORMICK

Isn't there anything you can do?

DR. TANNER

Wait... If the swelling goes
down, she could walk out from
here in a couple of days. If
not... I don't know.

(Beat)

But I'm sure she would be happy
to know that you care.

HARDCASTLE

Doesn't her husband?

DR. TANNER

People react differently in
situations like this. I try
not to judge...

Tanner walks off and Hardcastle and McCormick step towards
a waiting room.

HARDCASTLE

There's nothing we can do, Mark.

MCCORMICK

Yes there is... Wait.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

I'll stay with you if ya'want.

McCormick shakes his head.

HARDCASTLE

Take it easy...

He walks off and McCormick watches him go for a beat, then he turns and walks back to the Nurses Station.

NURSE

(without looking up)

No...

and:

DISSOLVE TO

The halls are empty save for a JANITOR pushing a dry mop and maybe a NURSE who sits and reads a magazine at her station... It is very late, maybe three or four a.m. and then, after a beat, we see McCormick come around a hallway corner. He wears a white smock, a stethoscope and a pair of clear glasses. A name tag on his smock reads:

DR. LIPSITS

He quickly walks up to the Nurses Station, reaches for the clipboard that hangs there and quickly refers to the Nurse by her last name: (PARKINS) Re: her name tag.

MCCORMICK

Parkins? Did Doctor Collins
get the EEG on Harder?

(checks clipboard)

Room two-twenty-nine?

PARKINS

I'm not sure Doctor, it wasn't
my shift.

McCormick shrugs, a little bored, and then glances back down the clipboard.

16 HIS POV

16

And we see his finger trace the list of names and stop at CUTTER, KIKI - Room 245.

17 RESUME - SCENE

17

as McCormick hands Parkins the clipboard.

MCCORMICK

Nursing is a twenty-four hour
a day job, Parkins. I suggest
you find out.

And on that, McCormick walks off...

CUT TO

18 CLOSE ON - KIKI CUTTER

18

in a hospital bed and hooked up to tubes and etc. We can see that her face is pretty well bruised and maybe her head is bandaged. Next to her we can see the beeping of a monitor in the rythm of the heart. Then, we can see a HAND take KIKI's hand and:

19 WIDEN ANGLE - TO INCLUDE

19

McCormick as he stands and holds KIKI's hand, looking down for a beat at his ex-lover.

MCCORMICK

(softly)

Hi KIKI...

He leans down and kisses KIKI on the cheek, then whispering in her ear:

MCCORMICK

Look, I almost got over what you
did to me, so I guess that means
that I forgive you. We were
real young, huh? You just had
a faster heart, that's all.

He kisses her again.

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED

19

McCORMICK

Live...

and:

DISSOLVE TO

20 CLOSE ON - DOOR LATCH

20

One of those L-shaped jobs with the rubber bumpers that you find on hospital doors... There is a beat and it slowly turns:

21 WIDEN ANGLE - INT. KIKI CUTTER'S HOSPITAL ROOM

21

And we can see McCormick sleeping in a chair in the corner; it's dark and we can barely see him in the shadows. KiKi is asleep. The door opens and a MAN enters. He wears a white smock like McCormick and pulls a syringe out of his pocket and, moving toward KiKi, he fills it from a small vial. McCormick stirs and coughs, looking up to the MAN.

McCORMICK

Doctor Tanner?

and on that, the Man whirls and drops the syringe: exploding out of the room.

McCORMICK

What the hell?

McCormick reaches for the smashed syringe and smells the liquid on his fingers. Then, he blows out after the Man.

22 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

22

The Man runs out of sight around a hallway corner and McCormick comes barreling by Nurse Parkins who is watching all of this from her Nurses Station.

McCORMICK

Call security and put an armed guard on KiKi Cutter now!

And as he runs off after the Man

CUT TO

as the Man blows out of the back door of intensive care and into a parking lot, maybe leaping over a couple of parked ambulances. Then, McCormick appears, gaining ground and pumping his legs like a couple of jack hammers. We play this foot chase through the parking lot as the Man turns and fires at McCormick. He rolls for cover and then jumps over the rooftops of several cars, leaping onto the shoulders of the Man. They start throwing some pretty heavy leather, but this guy is good and McCormick takes a hard right and goes down. The Man fires and McCormick gets grazed in the shoulder, rolling under a car for cover just as the guy tries to pump a couple of rounds into his chest. Then, the Man bolts for a sedan that is parked off in the corner of the parking lot, he piles in and squeals off just as McCormick slides out from under the car...as the sedan races past McCormick picks up a rock and hurls it at the sedan... It hits the license plate and as it clatters on the pavement:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

24

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

24

A beautiful California day on the south coast.

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

Doctor Lispits?

25

INT. THE DEN

25

McCormick and Hardcastle are there. Hardcastle in his robe and McCormick still in the smock with the stethoscope.

HARDCASTLE

Chief Surgeon in charge of breaking and entering?

MCCORMICK

I had to see her, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Apparently...did you get a good look at the guy?

MCCORMICK

No. It was dark, I was kind'a dozing off. At first I thought it was Dr. Tanner, but when he saw me, he took off...the syringe smelled like almonds.

HARDCASTLE

I'm having the lab dust for prints. But, I doubt we'll come up with much. A shot of cyanide in the middle of the night sounds pretty professional...

MCCORMICK

They might try again.

HARDCASTLE

(nods)

Yeah, I put a couple of cops outside her room.

CONTINUED

There is a beat.

HARDCASTLE

Any idea of who would want to kill her? I mean, she's not married to Al Capone.

McCormick shakes his head.

MCCORMICK

No idea...

HARDCASTLE

Well, give me a description of the guy's car, you get a partial plate or anything? I'll have it run through the computer.

McCormick smiles.

MCCORMICK

Better...

And he pulls the license plate that fell off the sedan from under his white smock. He hands it to Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

How the hell did you get this?

MCCORMICK

(smiles)

Sometimes a little luck is better'n all the skill in the world...I got lucky.

McCormick gets up and moves toward the door.

MCCORMICK

Do you still think Kiki's crash was an accident?

HARDCASTLE

At this point I'm more interested in facts than guesses. Hard evidence, kiddo.

MCCORMICK

I'll see what I can do.

25

CONTINUED - 2

25

HARDCASTLE

What's that suppose to mean?

MCCORMICK

Nothing...

HARDCASTLE

Masquerading in the middle of the night as a doctor is one thing, Mark. But, you take a fall now, you could go away for a long time...you're still a convicted felon who's done some hard time.

MCCORMICK

I know...

as he walks off:

CUT TO

26

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - NIGHT

26

Maybe a dozen, low flat buildings that house various machine shops, small businesses; warehousing goods, etc. One of these buildings is the home of O'Connell Racing. There is a guard shack that gates the only entrance and a GUARD sits at his desk, watching TV and being bored. Then, the telephone RINGS.

27

CLOSER ANGLE - INT. GUARD SHACK - NIGHT

27

The Guard picks up the telephone.

GUARD

Front gate, Wilson here.

28

INTERCUT - MCCORMICK

28

in a public telephone.

MCCORMICK

Yeah Wilson, look. Will you do me a favor?

GUARD

Who is this?

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Tony Farrel, O'Connell's wrench
in building ten...can you do me
a favor?

The Guard checks over his clipboard.

GUARD

I got nobody signed in for
building ten tonight.

MCCORMICK

That's because we've been work-
for two days on Cutter's rail.
We ordered out for pizza, and
when the guy delivers it, could
you bring it back here?

GUARD

Who's gonna watch the gate?

MCCORMICK

C'mon, Wilson. Be a guy.

GUARD

No.

MCCORMICK

Okay, then will you let the
delivery guy bring it back?
We're starving here.

GUARD

He got a pass?

MCCORMICK

How could he have a pass? He
delivers pizza.

GUARD

(beat)

That's your break for the
month, I've got my orders
to follow here.

The Guard hangs up and:

29 ANGLE - McCORMICK

29

as he exits the phone booth and walks toward the Coyote, carrying the pizza box.

McCORMICK
(sotto voce)
"I've got my orders to follow here".

(beat)
Give these guys a ten cent badge and blank gun'n they turn into J. Edgar Hoover.

and we:

CUT TO

30 INT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - NIGHT

30

We are SHOOTING from somewhere inside this fenced-in compound toward the FRONT GATE as the Coyote pulls up next to the guard shack.

McCORMICK (V.O.)
Got a cheese, pepperoni with extra sauce.

31 CLOSER ANGLE - McCORMICK AND THE GUARD SHACK

31

as he tries to hand the pizza to the guard.

McCORMICK
Building ten...

GUARD
You gotta take it back yourself.

McCORMICK
Hey, c'mon. I got seven more pies to deliver.

GUARD
That sounds like a personal problem to me. Ten's three lanes back on the left.

McCORMICK
Thanks Captain, you're a real prince.

CONTINUED

- 31 CONTINUED 31
McCormick drives off.
- 32 INT. COYOTE - NIGHT 32
as McCormick smiles to himself.
- McCORMICK
(sotto voce)
The pizza man always delivers.
- and:
- CUT TO
- 33 ANGLE ON A DOOR - INT. BUILDING TEN 33
In a large dark room with steel walls and a cement floor. Maybe we can make out the dinosaur-like frames of a couple of dragsters. Then, we see a thin blade of metal slip the lock on the door and McCormick enters: eating a slice of pizza. He turns on a light and sees what is left of Kiki Cutter's crashed race car stacked in a corner. He moves to it and checks it over, looking for something.
- 34 INTERCUT - THE GUARD SHACK 34
as the Guard checks his watch...
- 35 RESUME - McCORMICK 35
He is eyeballing the front end of the dragster: mangled wheels and a bent frame. Then, something catches his eye.
- 36 HIS POV 36
And we see that where the tie-rod has broken had been sawed half way through.
- 37 RESUME - McCORMICK 37
as he removes the two ends of the tie-rod.

38 INTERCUT - THE GUARD - INT. GUARD SHACK 38

He checks his watch again...then, he reaches for his telephone and dials.

39 RESUME - McCORMICK 39

He has removed the two ends of the tie-rod and puts them in his pocket...almost out the door as he turns off the lights and a telephone that hangs on the wall RINGS... it RINGS again. He hesitates for a beat, then he picks it up.

McCORMICK

Tommy Farrel, building ten.

40 INTERCUT - THE GUARD - INT. GUARD SHACK 40

and on the telephone.

GUARD

What happened to Tony?

McCORMICK

Tony who?

GUARD

Tony Farrel, the guy who called me about the pizza.

McCormick thinks quick, realizing he's made a mistake.

McCORMICK

Oh, ah, yeah. My brother, Tony. He's in the can, let me take a message...

41 NEW ANGLE - THE GUARD 41

He hangs up the telephone and hits a red button on his desk: a SIREN goes off and he grabs his microphone.

GUARD

This is Wilson, gate one. We got a security breach, building ten. All units.

42

ANGLE - McCORMICK

42

as he blows out of building ten, SIRENS wailing and dives into the Coyote just as a couple of security cars squeal around a corner and haul ass after him. The chase is on as the Coyote is continuing boxed inside this industrial park by the security cars: McCormick skidding his car around, trapped and looking for an out...we play this for as long as it holds, then:

43

McCORMICK'S - POV

43

as he sees the rear ramp of a car hauler parked up against the fence.

44

NEW ANGLE - THE CHASE

44

as the Coyote rockets toward the car hauler with the security cars a couple of hundred feet behind...the Coyote hits the ramp at full speed and then goes airborne over the fence: a four point landing as it speeds off into the night.

CUT TO

45

EXT. GULL'S WAY - MORNING

45

Hardcastle is sitting back by the pool as McCormick arrives: maybe a little disheveled because of the previous night's activities. He holds the pizza box and eats a cold slice. Hardcastle looks up at him: not happy. McCormick tries to smile.

McCORMICK

(re: pizza)

You wanna a slice? It's cold.

They look at each other.

HARDCASTLE

Where were you?

McCORMICK

Couldn't sleep. I went out for a ride...okay?

Hardcastle motions to his morning paper.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

An attempted burglary at Sandstone Industrial Park was thwarted last night by chief security officer Theodore Wilson... a suspect described as a thirty-year old white male with brown hair and driving a red sports car entered headquarters of O'Connell Racing Enterprises.

McCORMICK

Judge, c'mon. There are a million guys with brown hair and red sports cars in L.A.

HARDCASTLE

(continues reading)

Disguised as a pizza delivery man, the suspect conned his way past security...

They both regard the pizza box.

HARDCASTLE

Don't tell me people still fall for that one?

McCORMICK

Don't make me lie to you, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Then don't...

Hardcastle reaches for a slice.

McCORMICK

But, yeah...they still fall for that one.

(beat)

You wanna read me my rights?

Hardcastle looks at McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

If you care enough about this girl to risk goin' back inside, I can't rain all over you... but, I can tell you not to do it again.

(MORE)

HARDCASTLE (cont'd)

(beat)

Find anything?

McCormick takes out the two ends of the tie-rod.

MCCORMICK

The tie-rod from the front end of Kiki's race car. It was sawed half way through, just enough to break under the power load when she hit the gas...

(beat)

Someone is definitely trying to kill her, Judge.

There is a beat and Hardcastle smiles.

HARDCASTLE

Well, they haven't yet.

(beat)

Got a call from the hospital last night. Kiki is out of danger, swelling's down and she'll be released tomorrow.

MCCORMICK

Thank God...

HARDCASTLE

And if you can handle it, I want Kiki to stay here until we find out what's going on.

MCCORMICK

That'll be tough.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe it'll give you two a chance to settle some of that old business.

MCCORMICK

Kiki means absolutely nothing to me now, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

She could have meant five to ten for breaking and entering, kiddo.

McCormick shuffles and changes the subject.

MCCORMICK
Did you run the plate?

Hardcastle shrugs..

HARDCASTLE
Could be anything...registered
to a car pool for an insurance
broker out in the valley.
(beat)
What about Kiki?

MCCORMICK
Okay...
(beat)
But, if you see me start to
fall for her again, I want you
to have the humane society put
me to sleep...

Hardcastle smiles.

HARDCASTLE
Ah, love...what an ugly drug.

and we:

DISSOLVE TO

as McCormick's wheels her down the hospital hallway and
Hardcastle follows. In the b.g. we can see a couple
of armed cops.

KIKI CUTTER
Anyone want to tell me what's
going on?

MCCORMICK
Someone is trying to kill you,
Kiki.

KIKI CUTTER
You're not gonna start that, too.
I spent all morning with some
detective and these cops wouldn't
(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

KIKI CUTTER (cont'd)
 even let me go to the bathroom
 without holding my hand.

HARDCASTLE
Smart cops.

KIKI CUTTER
 No one is trying to kill me...
 I had a crash, a bad one...but
 that's racing, Mark. You know
 that, c'mon.

McCormick hands KiKi the two ends of the tie-rod.

MCCORMICK
 That's from the right corner of
 your car, it was sawed half way
 through...and the Judge got the
 lab report back on that midnight
 vitamin you were gonna get.
 (beat)
 Cyanide.

Off KiKi's look:

CUT TO

EXT. TALL OFFICE BUILDING - DAY
 somewhere in Century City...

CLOSE ON - SAMMY O'CONNELL
 and he is livid.

O'CONNELL
 This thing gets any sloppier
 we're all gonna have to get
 shots...

WIDEN TO INCLUDE - INT. O'CONNELL'S OFFICE

Very nice. Rich wall panelling and thick carpets, trophies
 are everywhere. O'Connell is pacing back and forth and
 sitting in a chair is the man McCormick chased out of KiKi's
 hospital room. His name is JAKE THOMAS and he has arms
 like fire plugs and a face to match.

CONTINUED

THOMAS

That's your problem, O'Connell.
I'm just the hired help.

O'CONNELL

And you were paid a truckload's
dough to take care of her. Hal
Jenkins told me you're the best
in the business.

THOMAS

He's right...and one'a the rea-
sona is 'cause I'm not stupid.
The price goes way up when your
old lady's got the second string
sitting in her room. No way I
was gonna pull a trigger in a
hospital.

There is a beat.

O'CONNELL

So, this means you want out?

THOMAS

No...it means I wanna re-negotiate.
With someone coming in from the
other side now, it'll cost you
another fifty large...we don't
know who was casing your race
shop. Could be anybody. Could
be I gotta kill them, too.

(beat)

Them and your old lady.

And we:

CUT TO

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

The pickup truck and the Coyote are parked out in front.

INT. THE DEN - DAY

Kiki, McCormick and Hardcastle are there.

KIKI CUTTER

If someone is trying to kill me,
it's not my husband...

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

I think there's some evidence to support that, KiKi.

MCCORMICK

Judge, c'mon, there's absolutely no doubt!

KIKI CUTTER

Look, guys. I mean, maybe Sammy and I haven't exactly been like Bogart and Bacall, but he'd never kill me.

(beat)

He loves me.

MCCORMICK

He never loved you...

HARDCASTLE |

C'mon, kiddo.

MCCORMICK

He didn't...I did. He didn't.

KIKI CUTTER

Try to get past that male ego of yours.

MCCORMICK

Ego? Me? Hah! I'm three times the driver, the lover and the man that Sammy O'Connell ever hoped to be...ego has nothing to do with it.

HARDCASTLE

Hey, I don't care who loved who more or whose heart got broken for what reason...we're looking at maybe an attempted murder here.

Hardcastle tries to smile.

HARDCASTLE

Now KiKi, tell me. Is there anything you can think of that might help us with this thing?

CONTINUED

KIKI CUTTER

No...I mean, why would Sammy want me dead? I'm gonna be out of his life anyway.

MCCORMICK

What does that mean?

KIKI CUTTER

I've filed for divorce.

MCCORMICK

Thanks for telling me...

HARDCASTLE

Am I gonna have to ask you to stand outside?

KIKI CUTTER

We didn't want to tell anybody until after the racing season was over. It'd be pretty bad press for America's Perfect Motorsport marriage...nobody knew about it except our attorneys.

HARDCASTLE

Any problem with the settlement?

KIKI CUTTER

No...splitting everything right down the middle, no kids. He can have the house. Our business is pretty solid. I'll take a stock option. It's a pretty routine California divorce: four cars, one house. I pay the therapist and he pays off the credit cards.

(beat)

So, why would Sammy want to kill me if I'm not giving him any trouble?

MCCORMICK

Simple.

McCormick smiles at both of them.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

KiKi is Sammy's only real competition on the circuit. If she goes and runs independent, comes back and beats her ex-old man, she cleans up in the press, sponsorship. Everything.

KIKI CUTTER

That's absurd...

MCCORMICK

Is it?

HARDCASTLE

Sounds kind'a absurd, Mark.

(beat)

I mean, I don't think someone is gonna get killed because of who gets the best name on the side of a race car.

(beat)

KiKi, ever hear of Hal Jenkins Insurance Brokerage out in the Valley? Van Nuys Boulevard near Sherman Way?

KIKI CUTTER

No...why?

HARDCASTLE

I don't know. But it must fit somewhere.

(to McCormick)

I'm gonna go dig around. In the meantime, try not to beat each other up too much.

Hardcastle leaves...and as McCormick and KiKi exchange looks, we:

DISSOLVE TO

as McCormick leans over the railing out back by the pool and looks out over the ocean. There is a beat and then KiKi comes around from the house and looks at him. Then:

CONTINUED

KIKI CUTTER

Y'know, I didn't really ever
get a chance to tell you that
you look great.

McCormick turns, there is an awkward beat and we can see
that he's a little embarrassed.

KIKI CUTTER

You look great...

MCCORMICK

That can happen sometimes when
you grow up...face clears, ya'
stop eating french fries...
yeah, grew right outta post-
adolescence straight into the
twenty-four to thirty-five
age demographic for single
home dwellers. If I had a
real job and a pair of penny
loafers, I'd almost be a Yuppie.

There is an uncomfortable beat and neither of these two
knows what to say.

KIKI CUTTER

You hate me a whole lot, don't
you?

MCCORMICK

No...when I think about what
you did...well, let's just say
I couldn't be in love with
someone like that. Wrong girl...
mine never existed.

There is a beat and we see a tear drip from one of Kiki's
eyes.

KIKI CUTTER

I'm sorry.
(beat)
I made a mistake.

MCCORMICK

It doesn't hold a candle to
the one I made about you, Kiki.
Christ, you told me you were
pregnant just so I'd ask you
(MORE)

McCORMICK (cont'd)
to marry me and force Sidewinder
Schmuck-face O'Connell into pop-
ping the same question. Check
and check mate, it was a perfect
move.

(beat)

Why did you do that, KiKi?

KIKI CUTTER

Because Sammy won the World
Championship last year...and
you didn't. I was a woman
drag race driver and I needed
the press...like I said, "America's
perfect couple".

McCORMICK

So, for you it all came down
to a career move...sensitive.

KIKI CUTTER

I was twenty-one years old...

(beat)

And I think I've changed.

McCORMICK

Have you?

KIKI CUTTER

I'm leaving Sammy...

McCORMICK

But, you're not leaving him
for me.

KIKI CUTTER

No...for me. But, I wouldn't
mind if you were there.

There is a beat and McCormick looks at her...she moves
to him and:

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

McCormick!

And Hardcastle comes-around the corner as McCormick and
KiKi are still in an embrace.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Maybe I should wear a bell around my neck...

(beat)

Nothing on Hal Jenkins. The guy looks clean. Most'a his business is auto liability... fire and theft, insures warehouses and that kind'a stuff.

McCORMICK

So, whatta about that loaner car I chased out of the parking lot?

HARDCASTLE

Maybe we should ask Hal Jenkins that in person.

(beat)

Y'know, get close enough to watch his eyes, see if they bounce a little.

McCORMICK

Waste'a time...look, Sammy O'Connell is trying to kill Kiki because he wants to keep her from blowing him off the race track.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe...but, you're gonna have to convince me.

Hardcastle starts to walk off.

HARDCASTLE

But for now, Hal Jenkins is the only string we've got to run down.

CUT TO

The home of HAL JENKINS INSURANCE BROKERS...a sign stands out front and we can see Hardcastle's pickup truck parked out in front.

CONTINUED

53 CONTINUED

53

MALE VOICE (OVER)
Miss Cutter, this is a pleasure.

54 INT. HAL JENKINS' OFFICE - DAY

54

Jenkins stands behind a plush desk, impeccably dressed and his office is full of style: the amenities of chic wealth. Hardcastle, McCormick and Kiki are there, sitting on various plush leather chairs, etc.

JENKINS

I'm not a fan...never even been to a drag race. But, I certainly know the name. Maybe you could sign something for my kid, he'd love that.

KIKI CUTTER

Be glad to.

There is a beat.

JENKINS

So, what can I do for you?

HARDCASTLE

Well, I figure we might as well lay this out...

(beat)

I'm sure you heard about Kiki's crash last week.

JENKINS

I read about it, sure.

(to Kiki)

You look like you've recovered.

KIKI CUTTER

I was lucky.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe, but you see Hal, you don't mind if I call you "Hal"?

JENKINS

Not at all.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Good. I hate formality. Gets in the way of most good meals and pretty girls.

(beat)

Anyway, ya'see "Hal", when KiKi was convalescing in the hospital, someone tried to kill her...if it wasn't for McCormick here, she'd probably be in the great race track in the sky.

McCormick raises his eyes...

HARDCASTLE

And, the guy who tried to do her in, well, he was driving one'a the loaner cars registered to this company.

There is a beat as Jenkins reacts, just a bit.

JENKINS

That's surprising, isn't it?

MCCORMICK

Sure is.

JENKINS

If you have a description, I could check with dispatch and see if I could help you out.

HARDCASTLE

Already did that. Dispatch said it never left the lot.

JENKINS

Hmmm...then, how can I help you?

HARDCASTLE

Maybe you can't. Just thought you should know that something's goin' on. We know it, thought maybe you should know that we know it.

(beat)

Ya'know, put ten pounds'a mud into a five pound bag and eventually one'a the seems'll split.

54

CONTINUED - 2

54

Hardcastle gets up to leave.

HARDCASTLE

Take it easy, Hal...

He takes a piece of paper and a pen from Jenkins' desk and hands it to KiKi.

HARDCASTLE

(to KiKi)

Why don't you sign something for Hal's kid...

KiKi signs something and Jenkins smiles.

JENKINS

If there's anything I can do--

HARDCASTLE

We won't hesitate...thanks, Hal.

And Hardcsatle and McCormick exit with KiKi. There is a beat and then Jenkins picks up his telephone and dials.

JENKINS

Jake? Hal.

and:

CUT TO

55

EXT. STREET - DAY

55

As Hardcastle's pickup truck streaks by...

56

INT. HARDCASTLE'S PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

56

Hardcastle drives, KiKi sits in the center and McCormick on the passenger side.

KIKI CUTTER

I don't think he knew anything.

MCCORMICK

Of course he didn't. Sammy's the one, Jenkins' guy is a wrong number.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Maybe...but that's something we're gonna have to wait and find out.

KIKI CUTTER

Which means?

MCCORMICK

Which means, we wait around until someone tries to kill us. If someone tries, Hardcastle's right, if not, I'm right...

KIKI CUTTER

Well Mark, I hope you're right.

MCCORMICK

I am. Relax.

And we:

CUT TO

It is that still, quiet time of night just before dawn, and Jake Thomas drives up in a dark sedan, parking out of sight a couple of hundred yards down from the front gate. He gets out, opens the trunk and takes out a small leather satchel and pulls on a stocking mask and a dark sweater. Then, he fits a silencer to a handgun, and:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

58 EXT. GULL'S WAY - NIGHT

58

It's late and we can see the flickering of candle light or maybe the soft glow of a fireplace illuminating the windows of the Gatehouse... There is a beat, and then we see Jake Thomas move across the lawn, slipping from shadow to shadow.

59 INT. GATEHOUSE - NIGHT

59

McCormick and KiKi are stretched out in front of the fireplace, there is music playing warmly on the stereo and maybe an empty bottle of champagne sits in a bucket.

McCORMICK

...well, what do you think you're gonna do?

KIKI CUTTER

(shrugs)

I don't know, see what's it like to be single again. When Sammy and I get this thing all settled, I'll probably take a long week on a beach somewhere and sort it out.

McCORMICK

You don't think I'm right about him, do you?

KIKI CUTTER

I can't... I spent seven years of my life with Sammy. We had some good times, he loved me. Our egos got in the way alot, but there was somethin' there for a while.

McCORMICK

What about your racing career?

CONTINUED

KIKI CUTTER
Over... That last race was
gonna be my last; win or lose
I was ready to hang up my
helmet.

MCCORMICK
Did Sammy know that?

KIKI CUTTER
Nobody knew about it.

And we:

CUT TO

EXT. GATEHOUSE - NIGHT

As Jake Thomas moves through the bushes and starts to climb
up a trellis towards the window.

RESUME - INT. GATEHOUSE - NIGHT

as McCormick gets up and motions to his bedroom.

MCCORMICK
You can sleep up there, I'll
bunk out here on the couch.

There is a beat.

KIKI CUTTER
It's been a long time, Mark.
Would you like to sleep with
me?

MCCORMICK
Yes...

KIKI CUTTER
But you won't.

He nods.

KIKI CUTTER
Is it because I'm married?

CONTINUED

61

CONTINUED

61

McCormick shakes his head.

McCORMICK

It's 'cause I'm afraid I
wouldn't get over you this
time.

CUT TO

62

CLOSE ON - A DOOR

62

We hear a toilet flush and after a beat it opens;
Hardcastle steps out, dressed in a robe and yawning.
He moves toward the window of his bedroom that looks
out towards the Gatehouse. He checks his watch.

HARDCASTLE

(sotto voce)

C'mon, kids. It's three in
the morning, give it a rest,
huh?

Then he frowns and:

63

HIS - POV

63

And we can see Jake Thomas' dark form scaling the trellis
and closing in on the window to McCormick's bedroom.

64

RESUME - HARDCASTLE

64

as he quickly goes to his nightstand and takes out a
.357 Magnum, then he silently moves out of the room.

65

ANGLE - HARDCASTLE

65

slipping around the backway of the house and covertly
moving towards the Gatehouse.

66

INTERCUT - JAKE THOMAS

66

as he expertly starts to jimmy the window of McCormick's
bedroom.

67 INTERCUT - HARDCASTLE 67

silently entering the back door of the Gatehouse.

68 INT. GATEHOUSE - NIGHT 68

McCormick is lying on the couch, trying to sleep; but he can't.

69 ANGLE - McCORMICK'S BEDROOM 69

as KiKi Cutter lies awake... Then, the door opens and McCormick appears in the darkness.

McCORMICK

(quietly)

You're right, KiKi. It has been a long time.

And just as McCormick moves to joining KiKi in bed:

70 ANGLE - HARDCASTLE 70

as he blows into the room, waving his .357 and holding a finger to his lips.

HARDCASTLE

Sssshhhh....

McCormick is stunned then he just shoots Hardcastle a look.

McCORMICK

(simply)

Timing...

Then, Hardcastle motions McCormick into the bed with his gun.

McCORMICK

The gun isn't necessary, Judge.
She's a pretty girl.

HARDCASTLE

Sssshhhh....

Then, McCormick hears something from outside... It's very subtle and quiet, but he gets the point. McCormick climbs

CONTINUED

70

CONTINUED

70

under the covers just as Jake Thomas' shadow fills the window. It starts to open slowly and Hardcastle hunkers down behind a chair... Thomas has the window open now and he starts to climb through moving toward the bed he pulls out a revolver that is fitted with a silencer. Then, as he is about to pull the trigger on McCormick:

HARDCASTLE

Freeze!

Thomas whirls and McCormick leaps towards the gun as Hardcastle fires. We play a fight here as Thomas squeezes off a couple of shots, and flattens McCormick with a hard right. Hardcastle fires again and Thomas leaps out the window.

71

ANGLE - EXT. GATEHOUSE - NIGHT

71

as Thomas lands in a pile outside the Gatehouse.

72

RESUME - INT. GATEHOUSE

72

as McCormick blows down the stairs and out the door after Thomas. Hardcastle follows as he screams at KiKi.

HARDCASTLE

Call the police...!

73

EXT. GULL'S WAY

73

as McCormick blows down the driveway after Thomas who is disappearing into the darkness.

74

NEW ANGLE - McCORMICK

74

as he comes up short and looks around...

75

HIS POV

75

And all we see are the dark forms of bushes and trees, shadows of the night.

76 RESUME - McCORMICK

76

Then he hears a "click" and turns... Jake Thomas steps out from behind a tree: his gun held out straight and steady.

THOMAS

Goodbye...

and then we hear the loud blast of a gun and Thomas is blown backwards maybe ten feet.

77 ANGLE - HARDCASTLE

77

standing in the driveway with his gun still smoking. He looks at McCormick for a beat.

HARDCASTLE

You okay?

McCormick nods and Hardcastle moves toward Jake Thomas, he pulls the nylon stocking off of his head.

HARDCASTLE

Well, what do you know.

(Beat)

Jake Thomas.

In the b.g. we can hear some sirens whaling up PCH-1.

MCCORMICK

You know this guy?

HARDCASTLE

I knew him... He's dead.

and we:

DISSOLVE TO

78 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

78

A couple of cops' cars and a coroner's wagon are lined up in the driveway and we can see the chalk marks that outlined Jake Thomas' body. A DETECTIVE named JOHN CARSON is standing with Hardcastle and McCormick. In the b.g. we can see a flurry of police activity.

CONTINUED

CARSON

You're a lucky guy, Milt.
The precinct had a bonus on
Jake Thomas since eighty-one.
Two weeks in Bermuda, and I've
had three officers die trying
to win that trip.

MCCORMICK

This guy was that big of a
fish?

Carson nods.

CARSON

Kind'a the last of the tribe.
Do anything for money and do
it right... A hit always went
down smooth, arson. He'd
collect, run drugs, whatever
you wanted as long as you
paid hard and deep up front.

MCCORMICK

(to Hardcastle)

What's a guy this heavy doing
hooked up with Sammy O'Connell?

HARDCASTLE

We don't know that, Mark... But,
it can't be a coincidence that
he made a run at you and KiKi
after we paid Hal Jenkins a
visit.

MCCORMICK

That tie-rod was sawed in half
long before that, Judge. It's
what got us into this thing.

Hardcastle nods.

HARDCASTLE

I know. And that's why we still
gotta keep squeezing this thing
from both sides.

(Beat)

(MORE)

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE (cont'd)
 I'll take another look at
 Jenkins, you go bump into
 O'Connell and see if you can
 get him to burb.

MCCORMICK
 My pleasure.

HARDCASTLE
 (to Carson)
 What's the chances of you
 getting me a search warrant
 for Hal Jenkins?

CARSON
 It's Friday, Milt. It'll
 be tough.

HARDCASTLE
 Call Judge Parkot at Hollywood
 Park. Jockey Club, suit three
 ten... Tell him it's for me.

CARSON
 And if Parkot says "no"?

HARDCASTLE
 Tell him I queer every horse
 he's got by betting them to
 show.

Carson smiles, and:

CUT TO

EXT. LA SERRE RESTAURANT - DAY

A few Porsches and Mercedes pull up and the VALET snaps
 into action, a beat, then, Hardcastle drops McCormick off
 in the pickup and drives away.

INT. LA SERRE RESTAURANT - DAY

Sammy O'Connell is sitting at a table with a couple of

CONTINUED

heavyweights from various motorsport publications. Two of these reporters are named TAGGERT and ROBBINS, both are dressed in wrinkled tweed and khaki.

ROBBINS

So, KiKi is gonna be okay?

O'CONNELL

Yeah, from what I understand, she was released two days ago. Gonna be fine.

TAGGERT

You haven't seen her?

O'CONNELL

I have a race coming up on Sunday, Steve. Been real busy. KiKi and I have an understanding, after all we're both professional race car drivers. It's a busy life.

TAGGERT

Well, it has been rumored you two are gonna split up, and that KiKi is going to retire.

O'CONNELL

KiKi and I are happier than ever... If she retires, though,

(smiles)

it might be to have a baby.

McCORMICK (V.O.)

If you don't have her killed first.

as he sits at the table and smiles, extending his hand to Robbins.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Hi, Mark McCormick.

He nods to Taggert.

MCCORMICK

Steve, never got to thank you for that piece in Raceway News "Pitlane to Prison". It was a nice touch.

O'CONNELL

What the hell are you doing here?

MCCORMICK

Well, I figure the press ought'a know what's goin' on with the "Sidewinder" here. Thought maybe they might wonder why your wife's crash was caused by a sawed tie-rod, that someone tried to kill her when she was in the hospital, the divorce she filed for, and about a guy named Hal Jenkins. He figures in this somewhere, I'm just not sure how.

McCormick smiles... O'Connell shoots a look to the reporters.

O'CONNELL

I guess some people never get over losing...

(to McCormick)

I blew you off the drag strip, took your best girl and we both made it bigger than you ever had the guts to dream about. You're a loser, McCormick... An ex-con, and with half'a push you will be back in prison. Trying to discredit me is never gonna change that.

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED - 2

81

MCCORMICK

Maybe not...

O'CONNELL

McCormick go back to stealing cars and let these guys interview a world champion...

He looks at McCormick.

O'CONNELL

World champion... You would'a liked the way that sounds, Skid.

(to Robbins and Taggart)

Can you believe this guy?

MCCORMICK

I'm gonna find that piece that's missing, Sammy. Bet on it.

CUT TO

82 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

82

Hardcastle's pickup truck is parked out in front next to a police car.

JENKINS

You can't do this...

83 INT. JENKINS' OFFICE - DAY

83

Hardcastle is going through Jenkins' file, next to him two cops stand guard as Jenkins regards a search warrant.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, I can. Read the warrant.

Hardcastle goes through a pile of paperwork, sorting

CONTINUED

83

CONTINUED

83

through various stacks of yellow folders and manila envelopes. It should be clear that they have been here for awhile... Then, Hardcastle stops shuffling and:

84

HIS - POV

84

And we see a plain yellow sheet of legal paper that Hardcastle has taken out of a file, simply marked: O'Connell. On this piece of paper, written in pencil is a list of addresses: nothing more.

85

RESUME - SCENE

85

as Hardcastle looks to Hal Jenkins and smiles.

HARDCASTLE

The O'Connell file's a little thin.

JENKINS

I must have a hundred clients named O'Connell.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, well I only want to hook you up with one.

Hardcastle turns to one of the cops.

HARDCASTLE

I would suggest you take Mister Jenkins downtown for questioning and maybe book him on charges.

JENKINS

What charges?

HARDCASTLE

I guess that depends on what this piece'a paper means...

One of the cops checks his watch.

CONTINUED

COP

Court's closed, Judge. We won't be able to formally book him until Monday morning.

Hardcastle smiles.

HARDCASTLE

Awe, you mean he's gonna have to spend the weekend in the can?

(Beat)

Which means, we've got a couple of days to string this thing together.

JENKINS

You can't do this...

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, I can. Ya'see, Hal, there's still a couple of wrinkles in the law that favor the good guys... with probably cause is one of them.

And:

CUT TO

EXT LA SERRE RESTAURANT - DAY

as Hardcastle's pickup truck swings in and picks up McCormick. It drives off and after a beat:

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

McCormick is sitting silently on the passenger side. Hardcastle shoots him a look.

HARDCASTLE

What did you find out?

CONTINUED

87

CONTINUED

87

McCormick doesn't say anything for a beat, then:

McCORMICK
I found out that O'Connell
can still make me feel like
a loser...

Then, Hardcastle hands McCormick the yellow piece of paper
that is in the "O'Connell" file.

HARDCASTLE
I got a feeling he's gonna
get his turn, kiddo.

McCormick opens the file.

McCORMICK
A list of addresses?

HARDCASTLE
Yeah. What's the first
one?

HARDCASTLE
8627½ Van Nuys.

And on that:

CUT TO

88

CLOSE ON - A CURB

88

and on it 8627½ has been painted. Then:

89

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE - EXT. BURNED OUT BUILDING - DAY

89

It is in ruin from what was obviously a multiple alarm
fire. Hardcastle's pickup sits across the street.

90

INT. PICKUP TRUCK

90

Hardcastle looks to McCormick.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

What's the next address?

And as McCormick opens the file and looks for the address:

CUT TO

EXT. ANOTHER BURNED OUT BUILDING - DAY

as McCormick and Hardcastle wade through the rubble.

HARDCASTLE

Well, it's starting to make some sense, kiddo... Jake Thomas was torching these buildings for Hal Jenkins, he'd collect the insurance payoff and run it through Sammy O'Connell's racing team to clean it up. The reason the guy was running such hot equipment was 'cause he had a surplus of dollars. Pretty smart operation.

MCCORMICK

So, why would O'Connell want to kill KiKi?

HARDCASTLE

He probably didn't at first. But then she filed for divorce. California's a community property state and her accountants were gonna comb through Sammy's books,

(Hardcastle looks to the burned out building)

and there was gonna be a couple of million he couldn't pass off as prize money.

(Beat)

We've got method, motive and opportunity. Jenkins is already in jail, let's go have the cops pick up O'Connell.

CONTINUED

There is a beat as Hardcastle walks toward his pickup and McCormick stays put... Thinking, then:

MCCORMICK

Judge, could we wait a day on this?

HARDCASTLE

I thought you wanted this guy, Mark.

MCCORMICK

I do... But, if O'Connell goes to jail, I'm never gonna get a chance to beat him. I wanna do that, Judge. I gotta. Y'know, give him something to think about when he's inside.

Hardcastle looks at McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

Just because he stole your girlfriend?

MCCORMICK

No... 'Cause a guy like him needs to know what it feels like to lose bad.

HARDCASTLE

Well, I don't know. It's kind'a vindictive. That goes against the way I like to do it.

MCCORMICK

I know... But, I want this one. Bad. I never asked you for any favors, but I'm asking you now.

Hardcastle smiles.

HARDCASTLE

On the other hand, we can't get him formally charged 'til Monday morning... Probably could put a couple of undercover cops on in case he tries to leave town... So, okay.

CONTINUED

#2309

55.

91

CONTINUED - 2

91

MCCORMICK

And, ah, I'm gonna need some
help to do this.

HARDCASTLE

I'll give you all the help I
can. You got my word on that...

MCCORMICK

Thanks, Judge.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

92 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

92

The Coyote and the pickup truck are parked in front.

KIKI CUTTER

If you've got enough money, you
can always buy a competitive ride.

and:

93 INT. HARDCASTLE'S DEN - DAY

93

Kiki and Hardcastle are there with McCormick.

KIKI CUTTER

But, Mark, c'mon you don't have
to do this... Not for me. And
Sammy'll get what he deserves.

MCCORMICK

I'm not doing it for you...
(to Hardcastle)
But, it is a pretty dumb
idea.

HARDCASTLE

No it isn't, I'd kind'a like
to see you blow this guy's
fenders off myself. Whatta
we gotta do Kiki?

KIKI CUTTER

Well, I could call a couple
of teams and rent their A-Car
for the weekend.

MCCORMICK

But, that'd cost a fortune...
Look, thanks Judge, but--

HARDCASTLE

We're gonna do this, I said
I'd help you and I will... I
mean, how much could it cost?

CONTINUED

93 CONTINUED

93

KIKI CUTTER
For a one off ride, just for
this weekend? Seventy-five
thousand dollars.

HARDCASTLE
Seventy-five thousand dollars?

HARD CUT TO

94 CLOSE ON - MR. FEDDERS

94

a loan manager at the local Savings & Loan, small hands
and a bald head that always seems to be sweating slightly.
FEDDERS wears glasses, a tightly knotted tie with a gray
suit and vest. His desk is immaculate.

FEDDERS
Seventy-five thousand dollars?

Widen to include both Hardcastle and McCormick sitting in
front of Fedders' desk, both dressed in sport coats.
Hardcastle clears his throat.

HARDCASTLE
Ah, yes...
(he can hardly
say it: softly)
Seventy-five thousand...

FEDDERS
...well, taking the property
you inherited from your late
wife as collateral, we have no
problem with lending you the
money... But, as your banker
Mister Hardcastle, it is my
responsibility to ask what
it's for.

Hardcastle shuffles a little.

HARDCASTLE
A car.

FEDDERS
A car?

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

A race car...

FEDDERS

(taken back)

I see...

(tries to smile)

Well, let's hope it's a fast one.

CUT TO

as it is wheeled down a pit lane at the Orange County drag way. McCormick is dressed in a racing suit and next to him Kiki Cutter smiles, signs autographs and waves to her fans. Hardcastle is trying to grin his way through this.

MCCORMICK

Judge, I don't know how to thank you for this...

HARDCASTLE

You don't have to thank me, just don't break it...

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

We have a special treat for you race fans here today, Mark McCormick is going up against Sammy Sidewinder O'Connell this afternoon in what could only be described as a grudge match, years ago when McCormick was running top fuel, O'Connell blew his doors off and stole his girlfriend... Miss Kiki Cutter, now Sammy O'Connell's lovely wife.

McCormick extends a hand to Hardcastle... As they shake, we can see that there is no need for words.

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

...and one can't help but wonder if McCormick might be trying to take this opportunity to do the same thing to O'Connell.

and:

CUT TO

96

CLOSE ON - SAMMY O'CONNELL

96

he is on the telephone in his pit garage.

O'CONNELL

Hal Jenkins please, yes, I told you this is an emergency... When will he be back... He didn't tell you?

(Beat)

Look, when you talk to him, tell him to call Sammy O'Connell at the Speedway...

97

PULL BACK

97

as O'Connell hangs up the telephone and his dragster is wheeled out by his pit crew. One of them named ROBERTS stays back and shoots a look to O'Connell. Over this we can hear the P.A. talking up the race between O'Connell and McCormick.

ROBERTS

You gonna run against this guy?

O'CONNELL

What? I back out of this now, I'll be laughed off the circuit... What the hell happened here?

ROBERTS

I heard Kiki pushed this on the organizer, she's your old lady. She still has clout.

O'Connell

What kind'a ride does McCormick have?

ROBERTS

Ray Preston's... It can be a hot rail if McCormick knows what he's doing.

O'CONNELL

(sotto voce)

He does.

and:

CUT TO

As McCormick is being strapped into the dragster by Hardcastle and Kiki... In the b.g. is a flurry of race track activity.

MCCORMICK

Any orders from the team owner?

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, go fast enough to win. But bring this baby home in one piece. I don't want to have to sell the Coyote.

MCCORMICK

You won't.

Hardcastle smiles.

KIKI CUTTER

Watch the clutch when you come outta the hole, Sammy might get you, but this lady should come on at ten grand and sing.

(to Hardcastle)

In other words, the clutch is gonna chatter a little until the rpms reach the power curve.

HARDCASTLE

I knew that...

McCormick leans down and kisses Kiki on the lips.

KIKI CUTTER

(softly)

Win...

McCormick puts on his helmet and some of the paddock people help wheel the race car out toward the starting line.

KIKI CUTTER

(to Hardcastle)

Where do you want to watch, from the pits or the press tower?

HARDCASTLE

I don't want to watch...

(Beat)

My wife wouldn't even let me buy a sit-down lawnmower... If she knew about this, she'd kill me...

and we:

CUT TO

EXT. DRAG RACE STARTING LINE - DAY

McCormick has moved his dragster into place and next to it Sammy O'Connell's dragster sits empty. KiKi is fiddling with something under the engine cover and McCormick signals thumbs up and he revs his engine and then shuts it down...

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

Ladies and Gentlemen, there has been a driver change for our final heat of the day. Top Fuel driver Ray Preston is being replaced by former Trans Am driver Mark McCormick.

McCormick responds to the crowd as Sammy O'Connell walks up to him. McCormick flips up his helmet and they glare at each other for a beat.

O'CONNELL

You come close to my lane and
I'm putting you into the wall.

MCCORMICK

You won't even see me, Sammy.

O'Connell climbs into his dragster and KiKi moves up to McCormick.

KIKI CUTTER

Be careful.

MCCORMICK

Careful? I don't think careful
fits.

(Beat)

I'll blow him off for both of
us, KiKi.

She taps him on the helmet and snaps down his visor as we:

CUT TO

CLOSE ON - HARDCASTLE

inside his pickup truck and trying not to pay attention to the race. He's pretty worried that he's gonna lose seventy-five grand.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED

100

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

The last time Mark McCormick ran against Sammy O'Connell, he suffered a humiliating defeat... and that has to be on his mind as he runs up against the hottest driver in the world.

HARDCASTLE

(sotto voce)

Oh, no...

and he turns up the radio and tries to let the ballgame drown out the P.A. system.

101 RESUME - STARTING LINE - DAY

101

as these two top fuel dragsters heat up their tires and get into position.

102 ANGLE - KIKI CUTTER

102

as she shoots a thumbs up to McCormick and he returns the same. Then:

103 VARIOUS ANGLES

103

Visors... gear shifts... safety belts... pumping pedals and tachometers ripping up to ten thousand RPM's. Play the determination in McCormick's eyes as he snaps down his helmet and shoots O'Connell a look. He smiles back like a prick and pulls his dark visor down like a black knight.

104 ANGLE - STARTING LINE

104

as they count down and:

CUT TO

105 CLOSE ON - THE RACE

105

as these two scream outta the hole and race wheel to wheel.

106

HIGH ANGLE

106

as McCormick pulls into the lead, then O'Connell comes barreling up, his tires on fire...he is almost passing McCormick as the racing motors scream in protest: two thousand horsepower pulling up the pavement. Then, O'Connell's engine blows and smoke billows out from the engine cover.

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

And Sammy O'Connell has blown
an engine!!!

And it results in a breathtaking spin as McCormick flashes across the finish line... First. He pulls her stop-shute and the crowd goes wild...

107

CLOSE ON - KIKI CUTTER

107

as she leaps into the air and raises a fist in triumph.

CUT TO

108

CLOSE ON HARDCASTLE

108

sitting in the pickup with his hands over his ears...

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

And Mark McCormick has beaten
World Champion Sidewinder Sammy
O'Connell in the quarter mile...

HARDCASTLE

Now yer cookin'...

and he drives off.

109

ANGLE - FINISH LINE

109

as Sammy O'Connell's dragster is towed up by a pit truck. We can see a couple of squad cars and Hardcastle's pickup truck pull in. One of the cops stops the dragster and motions for O'Connell to get out. McCormick and Kiki are sitting on the side of his dragster. McCormick isn't smiling and puts an arm around Kiki as she watches her husband being frisked by a policeman. Hardcastle moves to them.

CONTINUED

109

CONTINUED

109

HARDCASTLE

(Re: O'Connell)

Jenkins made a full confession
at four a.m. this morning.
They'll both be indicted on
arson, attempted murder and
conspiracy to commit...

(Beat)

Sorry KiKi....

as maybe a tear drips from her eye.

110

CLOSE ON - COP AND O'CONNELL

110

as he is cuffed...

COP

You have the right to remain
silent, anything you say can
and will be held against you
in a court of law...

111

RESUME - HARDCASTLE, McCORMICK AND KIKI CUTTER

111

as McCormick watches O'Connell being put into a cop car.

McCORMICK

And to think I thought that
guy was living the life I
always wanted.

HARDCASTLE

Everybody gets their own life,
kiddo. Like it or not...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

FADE IN

112 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

112

It is morning...and after a beat, Hardcastle crosses the lawn toward the gate house, dressed in a robe and stopping to pick up the morning paper... Maybe we can hear some George Winston music coming from McCormick's open window... Romantic. Hardcastle grunts, whistles and generally tries to make enough noise to signal his presence.

HARDCASTLE

*He'll be comin' 'round the
mountain... Dum dee dum...*

And as Hardcastle shoots a look toward the music that filters out from McCormick's window:

113 ANGLE - GATEHOUSE DOOR

113

as Hardcastle knocks...and by this time we can see that he is certain KiKi Cutter spent the night and he's not real happy about it.

HARDCASTLE

(softly)

McCormick...

(a little louder)

MccccCCOooooorrrrrmmmmiiiccckkk...

(knocks again)

Helllloooo?

He tries the lock... It's locked.

HARDCASTLE

Hey, you kids wanna give it
a rest?! Coffee's on.

Still no answer and Hardcastle stomps off and CAMERA follows him as he grumbles his way back across the lawn and toward the pool behind the house.

CONTINUED

113 CONTINUED

113

HARDCASTLE

(sotto voce)

New morality my Aunt Sally....
My day you bought'em a box
of candy and got lucky to
get a squeeze...

and:

CUT TO

114 ANGLE - POOL

114

as Hardcastle comes around the corner and he reacts to McCormick, who is already showered and shaved, sitting in a chaise lounge and sipping on a glass of orange juice. Hardcastle looks at McCormick, and then back toward the gatehouse, and then back to McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

Hey, McCormick... What are
you doing out here?

McCormick is a little confused.

McCORMICK

Huh?

Hardcastle shoots a look back to the gatehouse.

HARDCASTLE

What are you doing here?

McCORMICK

I'm juggling telephone poles,
what does it look like...

(Beat)

Eating breakfast.

Hardcastle comes closer and then sits down, shooting McCormick a real "Man to Man look" and winking.

HARDCASTLE

Okay, kiddo, c'mon...Huh?

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

What's with you.

HARDCASTLE

Hey, we're men, right... Man
to man, huh, huh... huh?

MCCORMICK

You want some juice?

HARDCASTLE

Y'know, when I was a kid you
had to at least ask them to
marry you first... Things
change... I can take it. No
gap here... Where's KiKi?
She doesn't have to be
embarrassed, I can understand...
No gap.

MCCORMICK

Judge, KiKi left last night
at ten o'clock.

HARDCASTLE

C'mon... I'm a modern guy.
(winks)
Huh...? Huh...?

MCCORMICK

Sorry to disappoint you, Judge,
but I never laid a glove on her.

HARDCASTLE

I thought she was the love of
your life?

MCCORMICK

The key word there is "was".

HARDCASTLE

So that's it?

MCCORMICK

That's it.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

You save a girl's life and she
moves on down the road on you?

MCCORMICK

uh huh...

There is a beat.

MCCORMICK

I beat him, Judge.... I blew
the doors off the world champ.

HARDCASTLE

Ya'sure did.

(Beat)

But, before you plan on
returning to the rediculously
expensive world of motor-sport,
you gotta cut the front lawn
and paint the tool shed...

McCormick looks at Hardcastle and smiles.

MCCORMICK

But, I guess I always had him
beat.

HARDCASTLE

Now yer cookin'.

FADE OUT

THE END