

#2314

HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK

"STRANGLE HOLD"

by

Marianne Clarkson

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#2314

2nd Rev. 9/16/85

HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK

"STRANGLE HOLD"

CAST

MILTON C. HARDCASTLE
MARK McCORMICK

FRANK HARPER

MARTIN R. TORRANCE ("MARTY")
CLYDE WHITLEY
KATE MURPHY
LUCY PARMETER (SWEET LUCY)
DENISE (WHITE LIGHTNIN')
NANCY MACK
FEROCIOUS FRITZI
BUTTERFLY (ANGIE TALLAFERRO)
ERIC
DOC
NURSE

THE KILLER TOMATO (non-speaking)
QUEEN KONG (non-speaking)

*

HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK

"STRANGLE HOLD"

SETS

INTERIORS

GULLS WAY
/KITCHEN
/GATEHOUSE BEDROOM
/STUDY

PRIVATE AIRPORT
/TERMINAL

SIXTH STREET GYM
/GYM
/MARTY TORRANCE'S OFFICE

SCHUYDER AUDITORIUM
/ARENA (RING)
/LOCKER ROOM
/AUDIENCE SEATS
/NANCY'S DRESSING ROOM
/HALLWAY
/DOORWAY

COFFEE SHOP

CLUB TARANTELLA
LIMO
FRANK HARPER'S OFFICE
RESTAURANT
/PHONES

MARTY'S BEACH HOUSE

/LIVING ROOM

EXTERIORS

GULLS WAY
/KITCHEN-GARAGE DOOR
/BEACH
/ANOTHER PART OF BEACH
/TERRACE

SIXTH STREET GYM
STREETS
MARTY'S BEACH HOUSE
/FRONT DOOR

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HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK

"STRANGLE HOLD"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1

EXT. SIXTH STREET GYM - DAY

1

We are downtown in a run-down neighborhood, an old brick building from the twenties. The gym is small and private, a women's gym. As we watch, a large, white limousine pulls up and MARTY TORRANCE gets out. Marty is between thirty-five and forty years old, very handsome, with hard eyes and a little too much confidence. He is dressed in the latest clothes, as though he might be going to a disco any minute. Following Marty from the car is CLYDE WHITLEY, a round little man of fifty or fifty-five. Clyde and Marty go into the gym.

2

INT. GYM - DAY

2

The gymnasium part of the building is enormous and barn-like, with high ceilings, which produce an echo effect. The noise is incredible, produced by women working out. In the middle of the floor, on mats, are several women practicing wrestling holds and throws. They are intense, sweaty, by-and-large big women. They fly through the air, landing on their backs, landing on each other and giving the impression that they are killing each other, but get up again as though nothing had happened whatever. In other parts of the gym, heavily muscled, athletic women are doing exercises, lifting weights and posing fiercely in front of mirrors. They are getting ready to play in the great show called wrestling.

Marty Torrance comes sweeping in, looks around him, waves to several women and continues, followed by Clyde Whitley, toward an office just off the gym floor.

3

ANGLE - KATE MURPHY

3

KATE MURPHY is a very tall, well-developed, beautifully shaped woman of about twenty-nine or thirty. She has

CONTINUED

3

CONTINUED

3

the body of a dancer, the legs of a Rockette. Kate looks more like a Las Vegas showgirl than a female wrestler. She has a humorous, intelligent face and is more beautiful than pretty. As soon as she sees Torrance, she gets up from the canvas, where she is working with weights, and runs after him.

KATE

Marty! Wait a minute!
Marty!

4

RESUME SCENE

4

Torrance turns, spots Kate and puts his arm out draping it casually around her shoulder as she catches up with him.

MARTY

Hi, babe. What can I do
you for?

KATE

You have time to talk a
minute?

MARTY

Sure. Any time.

Kate looks uncomfortable.

KATE

In the office?

MARTY

Sounds serious...

Marty takes Kate's chin and makes a mock serious face at her. Torrance and Clyde usher Kate into a door marked, "MARTIN B. TORRANCE". Clyde closes the door after them.

*
*

5

INT. MARTY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

5

As they come into Marty's office, he makes a great show of friendliness and concern. He is about as sincere as Wayne Newton.

CONTINUED

MARTY

Listen, honey, I know I told you I'd have you working clubs but the business is in the dumper right now, you know?

KATE

Yeah, well, I didn't expect to be a minor league wrestler all my life, Marty...This started out as a step toward show business...

*
*

MARTY

I'm working on it...I'm not gonna forget you...

KATE

Anyway, that's not what I wanna talk about. It's about Penny...

MARTY

Who?

KATE

Penny Schuster. You sent her to Rome to model, remember?

MARTY

Oh, sure...What's the problem?

KATE

I haven't heard from her. It's been three weeks...not even a postcard. We were close, Marty. I don't think she'd forget to write. Maybe something happened to her...she's just a kid.

Marty laughs. He hugs Kate to him.

MARTY

Katie, you can't mother the whole world. You see why I love this gal? Huh? Look, I know Penny's a friend of yours, but you gotta admit she's flaky... huh? Am I right or am I right? She's a sweet flaky little blonde...

Marty, his arms still around Kate, begins to maneuver her toward the office door.

CONTINUED

MARTY

I tell you what happened. She found a guy! Young kid, first time in Europe, meets a guy, right? She doesn't think maybe somebody's worried about her. She's makin' money, havin' fun... I guarantee in two weeks she'll be back, showin' slides, the whole bit.

Kate looks dubious. She is nervous, but not to be put off.

KATE

I'd feel better if you'd give me her number...I could call her myself.

Marty's attitude suddenly changes. He is getting angry.

MARTY

This is terrific, huh? Clyde, you hear this? I take these girls...I give 'em a job, money when they need it. Did I ever get cheap? No! Everything the best for my girls. Penny wants to be a model...I send her to be a model. I do this outta the goodness of my heart! You think it's good for my business to send my top girls to Rome? You think I didn't make sure she'd be alright?

KATE

I didn't say that...

MARTY

If it wasn't for me, a lotta girls'd be takin' off their clothes in dives right now... I don't wanna see that happen.

KATE

Marty, I want Penny's number!

CONTINUED

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(X)

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5

CONTINUED

5

MARTY

Kate, I don't wanna talk to
you right now...you hurt
me.

KATE

Marty!

MARTY

I can't believe you, Kate.
After all I've done for
you girls...

CONTINUED

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5.

5

CONTINUED - 3

5

Marty slams the door in Kate's face. She stares for a moment, shaken by his reaction, then goes away from the door.

6

INT. OFFICE - SAME TIME

6

Marty looks at Clyde.

MARTY

Nosy I don't need...

7

INT. GULLS WAY - KITCHEN - DAY

7

McCORMICK'S legs are sticking out from under the sink, as HARDCASTLE, sitting on the floor beside the sink, peers into the space under the sink. There is a clanging noise, indicating that McCormick is plumbing.

McCORMICK

Gimme the wrench...

Hardcastle pokes around in a toolbox and fishes out a wrench. He hands it to McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

What's the problem?

McCORMICK

Somethin' in here...

HARDCASTLE

What is it?

More clunking noises, grunts.

McCORMICK

It's a sock!

HARDCASTLE

What's a sock doin' in there?

McCORMICK

It's not my sock...

HARDCASTLE

Well, it must be, 'cause it's not mine...I don't stick socks down the sink.

CONTINUED

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6.

7

CONTINUED

7

McCormick crawls out from under the sink with a filthy, wet remnant of a sock.

McCORMICK

I don't wear socks with little
clocks on 'em.

Hardcastle grabs the sock from McCormick. Hardcastle helps McCormick up. McCormick is sweaty and hot and dirty.

HARDCASTLE

And you wanted to hire a
plumber. You don't have to
hire a brain surgeon for a
headache.

McCormick holds out his hand, showing Hardcastle a small lug and screw.

McCORMICK

A plumber'd probably know
where this goes...

HARDCASTLE

You're supposed to be mechanical,
McCormick...

McCORMICK

A mechanic...not a plumber...

HARDCASTLE

It's practically the same thing...

McCORMICK

Oh, yeah, well, the next time
you want the pick-up fixed,
call Augie's Heating and
Plumbing...

HARDCASTLE

Where's your frontier independence?
This country was founded on good
ol' American know-how.

McCORMICK

If we're knee-deep in water
tomorrow morning, don't blame
me...blame good ol' American
know-how and good ol' Hardcastle
stinginess...

CONTINUED

7
CONTINUED - 2

The telephone rings and Hardcastle answers it while McCormick washes his hands at the sink. He keeps looking under to check for leaks. He is pleasantly surprised to find there aren't any.

HARDCASTLE
(on phone)

Hello? Who? "Wheels"
McCormick? *

McCormick dries his hands quickly and grabs the phone, grinning from ear to ear.

INTERCUT with:

8
INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 8

While the activity goes on in the dingy little coffee shop, Kate is making a call from a phone booth in the back. She is wearing a raincoat over some sort of glittery costume. We can't see the costume very well. She is nervous.

McCORMICK
Legs? Is that you? Murphy?

KATE
It's me...

McCORMICK
Oh, hey, when did you get
back?

KATE
I've been back a while...

McCORMICK
Why didn't you call?

KATE
That's a little complicated...
I need some help, pal...

McCORMICK
I'm kinda tapped out right now,
but I could give you a hundred
or so...

KATE
That's not it...I might be in
a little trouble, that's all...
Can you come see me?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

Sure!

KATE

Come to the Schuyder Auditorium tonight at eight, okay?

McCORMICK

You don't sound too good... are you alright?

KATE

I'm okay. I just don't wanna talk on the phone...you've always been there for me...

McCORMICK

I still am! What's it about?

KATE

I gotta go...the Auditorium at eight...ask anybody... they'll tell you where I am.

McCORMICK

Wait a minute...wait...Kate?

McCormick hangs up the phone thoughtfully and turns to the Judge, who is watching him now.

HARDCASTLE

What's the trouble? Somethin' wrong?

McCORMICK

Judge, you remember I told you about my friend, Kate?

HARDCASTLE

The one who did the great impression of Edward G. Robinson?

McCORMICK

No! Kate...the dancer...the special one...

The Judge thinks for a moment, then shakes his head.

McCORMICK

Come on, you remember...she was in that show and we went... the dancer...two years ago?

CONTINUED

The Judge thinks for a moment, then shakes his head.

HARDCASTLE

I never met her, McCormick...

MCCORMICK

Sure you did! No, you didn't.
I remember...she got sick and
they replaced her.

(chuckles)

That's typical.. Kate never
got any breaks. If her ship
came in, it sank...or it
turned out to be a tugboat.
She's in town...she wants to
see me tonight.

Hardcastle goes back to gathering up the tools.

HARDCASTLE

Uh-huh...have fun...

MCCORMICK

I thought you might wanna go...

HARDCASTLE

Not me...I'm gonna take a
hot bath, watch a little TV
and settle in with a new
mystery by F. Howard Payne.

*

Hardcastle starts out the kitchen door with the
tools. McCormick stares after him for a moment,
then follows.

EXT. KITCHEN DOOR - SAME TIME

McCormick catches up with the Judge and walks beside
him, as he deposits the tools in the garage.

MCCORMICK

The thing is, I might need
you...

HARDCASTLE

You're meeting an old girl-
friend, McCormick...since when
did you need help with that?

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

She says she's in trouble, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

McCormick, I've had a sock stuck in my sink all day... I've listened to pipe pounding for the last two hours and I've probably got the worst headache of my life! Do me a favor, will ya? Meet your own girlfriend...

McCORMICK

Oh, I get it...when the Cisco Kid wants to ride, it's saddle up on the double, but when Pancho has a problem, Cisco just sits home with F. Harold Whatsis, huh?

HARDCASTLE

F. Howard Payne! And the Robin Hood of the old west doesn't wanna get drug around and be a fifth wheel, okay?

McCORMICK

What if she's really in trouble? I've helped plenty of your pals! See, I thought this was a friendship here. I thought we helped each other. That's fine. As long as I know the rules. I just thought now and then you could be Pancho and I could be Cisco! Never mind...my mistake...

McCormick starts down the path to the gatehouse.

HARDCASTLE

McCormick!

McCORMICK

Never mind...

Hardcastle starts after McCormick with a very pained expression.

HARDCASTLE

Aw, dammit...if it's that important to you, saddle up...I'll go!

9

CONTINUED - 2

9

McCormick turns, grinning.

MCCORMICK

Yeah?

HARDCASTLE

Yeah...

MCCORMICK

You're gonna love Kate,
Judge...she's one classy lady...

SMASH CUT TO:

10

INT. ARENA - SCHUYDER AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

10

In the ring, fighting to the death, are two enormously large women. They are both about thirty. They are sweaty, grunting, looks of pure hatred on their faces. One of these women is THE KILLER TOMATO, the other is Queen Kong. When we discover them, the crowd is going wild, because Queen Kong has the Killer Tomato high above her head, spinning her around in a dizzying twirl. After about six turns, she throws Killer Tomato onto the canvas, where she bounces several times.

*

CONTINUED

11

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

11

Kate is sitting on a bench, lacing up her shoes for her match, when Marty Torrance comes in, followed by ANOTHER MAN. Kate looks at them, frightened for a moment. Marty smiles at her, very friendly again, and she relaxes a little.

*

MARTY

We still friends, Katie?

KATE

I guess so.

Marty sits down beside Kate. He is wearing an even more expensive and faddish outfit this time. He puts his arm around Kate.

MARTY

After you left this afternoon, I felt bad. I've had a lot on my mind lately. I took what you said personally. I know you were just worried about Penny and you were right. She's just a kid. So I called her myself.

KATE

You talked to her?

MARTY

Yeah. I read her the riot act about not writing. I told her you're worried about her.

KATE

How is she?

MARTY

She's great. Having a good time...working hard...found a guy, just like I said...

CONTINUED

KATE

I still want her number.

MARTY

You got it. Hit my office
right after the match.
We'll call together. It's
on me, okay?

KATE

Okay.

MARTY

That's my girl...

Marty gives Kate a hug.

MARTY

You look tired. I want
Doc here to see about you.
Can't have my favorite
girl lookin' tired, huh?
When the big break comes,
I want you ready for it.

KATE

I'm alright...

Marty pulls Kate closer to him. She pulls away
slightly.

MARTY

You're nervous as a cat...
Doc?

DOC comes over. He is a small man with a weasly
face, about sixty-five years old. He looks as
though he has never been out of a locker-room in
his life. He looks into Kate's face.

DOC

You need to eat better...
you're run down.

KATE

I eat fine.

Doc rummages in his bag, finds a syringe, takes
it out and fills it. Kate backs away.

CONTINUED

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13A.
(X)

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11

CONTINUED

11

KATE

What's that?

DOC

A little B-12...keeps you
from gettin' sore...

CONTINUED

11

CONTINUED - 2

11

KATE

I don't want it...I
don't like shots.

MARTY

Look, honey, when you feel
bad, you don't do your
best and you don't look
good. We all lose money...
take the shot...

Kate dubiously puts out her hand, Doc takes it. He
damps her arm with a cottonball full of alcohol and
gives her the injection. She winces.

KATE

I hate shots...

Marty laughs.

MARTY

You go out every night, you
take a pounding and you're
scared of a little needle...
You're a laugh, Katie. I
love ya...

12

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

12

Schuyder Auditorium is run-down, seedy and shabby.
Hardcastle and McCormick are standing at the back
of the auditorium, watching a match.

*

13

ANGLE - RING

13*

The match is still between two lady wrestlers.
Queen Kong and Killer Tomato. Queen Kong with the
Killer Tomato on the canvas, throws her body at
her, but the Killer Tomato rolls onto her feet
placing a neat hammer lock on the Queen Kong.

14

RESUME SCENE

14

Hardcastle and McCormick are staring down at the
ring, confused.

McCORMICK

Maybe I misunderstood her...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Well, what'd she say?

McCORMICK

She said Schuyder Auditorium.
I thought she did...

HARDCASTLE

This is wrestling, McCormick.

McCORMICK

I know what it is. Okay,
she's got a job here somewhere.
She's waiting for another show
to come along, that's all.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe...let's ask somebody...

Hardcastle and McCormick make their way along the walls until they get into a passage. The passage is dark and dingy and echoes like a cavern. Hardcastle wrinkles his nose as though he smelled something.

HARDCASTLE

I left F. Howard Payne for
this, McCormick...

*

Down the hall comes an OUTRAGEOUSLY DRESSED FEMALE of the Amazon variety. She is about six-two, weighs about one-eighty, has straw-like blonde hair and a costume with wings on the arms. She opens and closes the wings as she comes down the hallway. Hardcastle and McCormick blink, not believing what they see. The wings have butterfly markings on them and the woman floats along in imitation of flight. As she comes up to them, McCormick stops her, not quite knowing what to say.

McCORMICK

Uh, excuse me, Miss Butterfly?

The woman stops, looks at McCormick with relish and grins, causing him to back into the Judge.

BUTTERFLY

Well, what can I do for you,
handsome?

HARDCASTLE

Tell her, handsome...

CONTINUED

Hardcastle is getting a kick out of this. McCormick gives him a look which clearly says he is not.

McCORMICK

Uh...I'm looking for somebody.

BUTTERFLY

Me too...

She smiles fondly at McCormick, who is embarrassed and would like to run.

McCORMICK

You wouldn't happen to know a Miss Kate Murphy, would you?

BUTTERFLY

The Killarney Kid. Why didn't you say so?

McCORMICK

No, no...she's not a wrestler...

BUTTERFLY

Sure she is! We're wrestling together tonight. I never heard anything about you though... Katie's keepin' you a secret...

HARDCASTLE

Could you tell us where she is?

BUTTERFLY

Are you taken, too?

HARDCASTLE

Miss Murphy...?

BUTTERFLY

First door to your right... Maybe we could double after the match.

She winks and laughs and flies down the corridor. Both Hardcastle and McCormick stare after her, then continue down the hall.

15

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

15

Hardcastle and McCormick enter and look around them. The room is almost empty. There are still several women milling around, adjusting themselves in the mirrors, but most are gone now. Sitting over in the corner is Kate, who looks embarrassed when she sees McCormick. McCormick goes to her, trying not to show his own embarrassment. Kate is still wearing a robe.

McCORMICK

Hiya, Legs...

KATE

Hello, Wheels!

*

Suddenly, Kate laughs, seeing McCormick's stricken face. She comes to him, grabbing and hugging hard.

KATE

If you could see your face!

McCormick is very upset. He doesn't know what to say, so he looks away. Kate turns to Hardcastle, still relentlessly cheerful.

KATE

You must be Judge Hardcastle...

She holds out her hand. Hardcastle takes it.

HARDCASTLE

And you must be Kate...the
dancer...the special one...

Kate laughs.

KATE

That's me...special. Say
something, Wheels...

*

McCormick looks around.

McCORMICK

Why didn't you call? You
didn't have to do this.

KATE

Nobody takes care of Kate...
that's the rule, remember?

CONTINUED

She takes McCormick's hand.

McCORMICK

You're better than this...

KATE

Darn right I am, but I like it better than stealing and eating happens to be one of my priorities. Will you pick your lips up off the floor? This is not a tragedy. It's a little setback, that's all... you know what I do? I pretend ...it's the same thing! It's an act.

(singing)

That's Entertainment...can't I get a laugh outta you? You're playing the second act curtain of "Dead End" here...

*
*
*

McCormick grins in spite of himself and Kate winks at Hardcastle.

KATE

I keep telling him he has to learn to take his troubles as lightly as I take his troubles...

McCormick hugs Kate with a better will this time and appears to cheer up some.

KATE

You're probably wondering why I called you all here.

HARDCASTLE

You said you were in trouble?

KATE

Well, I may've jumped the gun a little...it could be nothing...

McCORMICK

Tell us...if it's nothing, at least we get to visit.

CONTINUED

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19.

15

CONTINUED - 3

15

KATE

I've lost a friend of
mine. Her name's Penny
Schuster.

Kate fumbles in her purse and pulls out a photograph,
handing it to McCormick.

16

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

16

The picture is of a young blonde girl of twenty,
with a fresh, sweet face.

McCORMICK (V.O.)

Pretty girl.

17

RESUME SCENE

17

McCormick hands the picture to Hardcastle.

KATE

Nice, too. About six
months off the bus from
Warren Wells, Indiana.

HARDCASTLE

How did you lose her?

KATE

She went to Rome to do some
modeling. Our manager,
Marty Torrance fixed it up
for her. Marty knows a lot
of people. He owns some
clubs. It was a big break.
The thing is, I haven't
heard from her and we're
close. It's been three weeks.

McCORMICK

Does Marty know where she is?

KATE

Marty said he talked to her
this afternoon and she's fine.

HARDCASTLE

But you're still worried?

CONTINUED

KATE

See? It's probably nothing.
I just have a bad feeling...
like something's not right.
I don't know why I'm getting
scared, but I am. Dumb, huh?

A couple of the other girls move within hearing range and suddenly Kate smiles and puts on a very cheerful act.

KATE

Listen, my match is next...
I have to go. Why don't you
two wait for me and we'll
go somewhere and talk, okay?

Kate gives Hardcastle and McCormick a pleading look.

McCORMICK

Sure...I found you now,
I don't wanna lose you
again.

HARDCASTLE

We'll wait.

Kate brightens up.

KATE

(to Hardcastle)

Judge, will you explain to
the tragedy mask here that
it's all an act? Just
show biz?

Hardcastle and McCormick leave the locker room. Kate looks after them, smiling.

SMASH CUT TO:

Kate, wearing an outfit of light and dark green, which vaguely resembles a Peter Pan costume is in the ring with the Butterfly. The girls are circling. With the crowd, Kate is clearly the favorite. They close together in a clinch and Kate is flipped over onto the canvas, as the Butterfly takes her legs and begins to twist. Kate, a pretty good showman, registers pain on her face and pounds the canvas.

19

ANGLE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

19

McCormick is clearly suffering. Hardcastle is sorry for McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

Look, kiddo...These girls're professional. She's not gonna get hurt.

*

McCORMICK

She's a dancer, Judge. She doesn't belong here...

*

20

RESUME SCENE

20

Back in the ring, the two women are putting on quite a show. Clearly, both are dancers, because they are much less brutal and much more graceful than the two women we saw before. Kate does several mule kick maneuvers which require a great deal of athletic prowess, and Butterfly stands on the ropes and sails toward Kate. Kate moves away from her, letting the Butterfly take a tremendous fall, which the audience loves. Everyone cheers. The two women start to close again. They grab hold of each other by the shoulders. Kate is perspiring and she looks a little sick.

BUTTERFLY

(whispering)

Katie? You okay? You wanna stop it?

KATE

(whispering)

Just dizzy from the spin, I guess...let's give 'em their money's worth...

BUTTERFLY

(whispering)

Flying scissors?

KATE

(whispering)

Why not?

CONTINUED

20

CONTINUED

20

The referee separates the two women and Kate throws the Butterfly against the ropes. Lightning fast, the Butterfly bounces back, almost flies through the air and lands a very ballerina-like chop to Kate's face with her feet. The crowd cheers and Kate falls on cue. The Butterfly drops quickly on her and pins her to the mat. Suddenly, amid the cheers and the counting of the referee, the Butterfly leaps up, squeaking in terror, at the count of two. The audience can't figure out why she didn't take the full count and some begin to boo. But the Butterfly's face makes them quiet. Kate is not moving.

*

For a few moments, everyone is silent, until the Butterfly begins to shriek for real.

*

21

ANGLE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

21

McCormick looks at Hardcastle and suddenly jumps into the ring. He feels for a pulse, but finds none. He is so stunned, he doesn't know what's happening. He picks Kate's body up and sits on the floor holding her. Hardcastle jumps into the ring after him and puts his hand on McCormick's shoulder. The Butterfly is crying loudly now.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22

INT. AUDITORIUM RING - LATE NIGHT

22

There are milling crowds, lots of wrestlers in grotesque costumes, police and ring officials all over the place. Also, FRANK HARPER is standing with Hardcastle. They are looking toward McCormick, who is sitting in the ring still, holding Kate's hand. She is covered now and two men are putting her on a stretcher. McCormick stands watching as they take Kate away. He stares after the stretcher like a zombie. Harper and Hardcastle look at each other and go over to him. Both men put their hands on his shoulder. As they are standing this way, two policemen bring out the Butterfly, who is clearly very genuinely heartbroken about what's happened. Her eyes are red and swollen and she is still crying. Harper goes to her and sits down at ringside. Hardcastle and McCormick, standing just above them, can hear everything.

HARPER

You were in the ring with her?

BUTTERFLY

Yessir. She was sick. She looked funny.

HARPER

How hard did you hit her?

BUTTERFLY

I always go easy on Katie.
I wouldn't hurt her! I
wouldn't hurt anybody. I
never touched her!

HARPER

That goes with what the Coroner
said. He didn't find any
bruises or marks, anything like
that. Why don't you go home,
Miss...

BUTTERFLY

Tallaferro...Angie Tallaferro...

*

CONTINUED

HARPER

Miss Tallaferro...go home,
get some rest...we'll take
your statement tomorrow...

The Butterfly gets up, still in her bedraggled costume and old cloth coat. She walks up the aisle of the auditorium, still sniffing. She turns back, looks to McCormick.

BUTTERFLY

I didn't hurt her. I liked
her. I like everybody
almost...

The Butterfly continues up the aisle.

HARPER

Without an autopsy, we can't
tell for sure, but it looks
like heart failure...

McCORMICK

There was nothing wrong with
her heart...

HARPER

Milt says you didn't see her
for a long time.

McCORMICK

Coupla years...

HARPER

Things happen to people in
that kinda time, Mark...

McCORMICK

Come on, Frank. She said
she was in trouble, she
called us down here and
now she's dead.

HARPER

If you have something,
let's hear it.

HARDCASTLE

We saw her before the match
and she was scared of
something.

CONTINUED

HARPER

What? Who?

McCORMICK

She didn't have a chance
to tell me...

HARDCASTLE

What about her manager, Marty
Torrance? I know that name.

HARPER

That's possible. He's got a
record. Just petty stuff...
He's been clean for six, seven
years. He left about an hour
ago. We're still trying to
locate him.

McCORMICK

I wanna know what happened
to Kate.

HARPER

Mark, it looks a lot like her
heart just gave out. I'm
sorry. Take care of him, Milt.

Harper starts out, patting McCormick's shoulder.

HARDCASTLE

Frank! Do me a favor...when
you get the Medical Examiner's
report, let us know, will ya?

HARPER

You got it.

Hardcastle turns back to McCormick, who is leaning
on the ropes, staring into space.

HARDCASTLE

Let's go, kiddo...

McCORMICK

It's not fair. She deserved
better than this, Judge...

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED - 3

22

Hardcastle gently pries McCormick off the ropes and leads him toward the exit.

HARDCASTLE
Yeah...let's go...

23 EXT. GULLS WAY - ESTABLISHING - EARLY MORNING

23

24 OMITTED

24

24A INT. GULLS WAY - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

24A

McCormick is shuffling through a box of files. He has not slept. He is dissheveled and exhausted. Hardcastle comes in in a bathrobe, looking around. He goes about making breakfast for himself.

HARDCASTLE
Want some coffee?

McCORMICK
Uh-uh...

HARDCASTLE
Eggs?

McCORMICK
Uh-uh...

HARDCASTLE
Wanna talk?

McCORMICK
Uh-uh...

Hardcastle continues to watch as McCormick rummages through box after box of files. McCormick's movements are frantic and rigid.

HARDCASTLE
McCormick, what the hell're you doing?

McCORMICK
Looking at Marty Torrance up close. That's the only name Kate mentioned, right? He's got something to do with all this.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE
Hold it, kiddo. You don't
know that for sure.

MCCORMICK
He sends Penny to Rome? Penny
disappears...Kate talks to us...

*
*

HARDCASTLE
All that means is he's a
suspect...if Kate was
murdered.

*

MCCORMICK
I told you before! There
was nothing wrong with her
heart and he's all I've got!
Look, either help me on this
or get out of my way. If
he hurt Kate I'm gonna get
him, whether you help or not!

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Stop! Right there! Look at you! You're running around here making a mess of the files it took me twenty years to build! You're half outta your mind! And you sound like a lynch mob! Now, obviously, there was something between you and Kate I don't understand...okay, I respect that and I'm here to help, but you're not gonna be any good to Kate or anybody else like this!

McCormick stands for a moment, pain written all over his face, then he turns and sits on the bed, burying his head in his hands for a long silence. At last, he comes out of it, lifting his head.

McCORMICK

Did you ever fall in love with a girl really fast, mostly because you thought she had the greatest legs and hair and face and eyes and everything you ever saw...and then you found out she was funny and smart and good...

HARDCASTLE

And it changed everything.

McCORMICK

Yeah...you know about that?

HARDCASTLE

Sure...happens sometimes.

McCORMICK

Only happened to me once, but I never loved her any less... just different. She was the best friend I ever had, except you. I wouldn't see her for months, but as soon as we were together, it was like nothing ever happened. Is this making sense to you?

*

CONTINUED

24

CONTINUED

24

HARDCASTLE

Nah, this kind of thing never does, but I always liked it...

MCCORMICK

It really hurts, Judge. I just wanna hit.

HARDCASTLE

I know. But you gotta get rid of all that before you start taking care of things. Get it out, kiddo. Tell you what you do...find some poor sucker and tell him all about Kate.

DISSOLVE TO:

25

OMITTED

25

26

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

26

Hardcastle and McCormick are walking along together, just ambling aimlessly and talking.

MCCORMICK

She always figured as long as you were dreaming and it didn't cost anything, you should do it big, so we'd dream about what it was gonna be like when we were big time...

HARDCASTLE

She always wanted to be an actress?

MCCORMICK

Yep. Musical comedy. She was a good dancer, Judge. She worked hard. She took singing lessons and dancing lessons and acting lessons and falling lessons. She always knew what she wanted. I admired that.

CONTINUED

27
thru
29

OMITTED

27
thru
29

29A

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF BEACH - DAY

29A

MCCORMICK

She never came down off that cloud of hers. Something big was always around the corner. You couldn't discourage her, you know? She was brave...that's what I'm trying to say. No matter how many times she went down, she came back up, swinging. She got through everything. Day by day, she got through it with all her stuff intact. She didn't get tough or mean or bitter...just braver.

DISSOLVE TO:

29B

OMITTED

29B*

29C

EXT. GULLS WAY - DAY

29C*

Hardcastle and McCormick are walking toward the pick-up.

*

MCCORMICK

One time, there was this producer. He promised her a part in a show and I knew he was a creep, but she never believed that about anybody. Anyway, he backed out and she was really mad at this guy, so she got me and bought all this toilet paper and we papered his house and his yard and his car and his garage... everything...it took three solid hours...it was about three o'clock in the morning when we stopped...So we went to have coffee and we heard a news report and it said it was gonna rain...then she got scared it'd ruin the guy's nice yard...it took four hours to unpaper that place...

There is a long silence.

HARDCASTLE

I like her...

MCCORMICK

You do?

HARDCASTLE

Yep...

DISSOLVE TO

29D EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - ESTABLISHING - DAY

29D*

30 INT. FRANK HARPER'S OFFICE - DAY

30

HARPER

Milt...the autopsy report's here on my desk. We got no proof of anything, but the M.E. says that all the symptoms are there...

McCORMICK

What symptoms?

HARPER

Heart failure brought on by a clear shot of adrenalin. If Kate Murphy was shot up with it, then all that exertion in the ring would cause her heart to go. I checked her medical records... no heart trouble.

McCORMICK

I told you that! Can you move on it?

HARPER

No way, Mark. We can't prove anything, because the body makes adrenalin. If I launched an official investigation they'd have me in a meat grinder.

HARDCASTLE

I understand. Thanks, Frank.

Hardcastle starts out, McCormick lingers.

McCORMICK

Well, I don't understand!
You're not even gonna question Torrance?

Harper stands, beginning to be angry.

HARPER

About what, Mark? He wasn't even there when she got murdered...which we can't prove!

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Don't worry about it, Frank...
I'll do it myself.

HARPER

I do my job! This is my
office and you're here because
you're with him!

Harper points at Hardcastle. McCormick goes out,
slamming the door.

HARDCASTLE

Sorry about that, Frank.
He didn't mean it. He's
taking this hard.

HARPER

Yeah, well, I do my job,
Milt. I know he's hurting,
but I'm a damn good cop.

HARDCASTLE

He knows it, too...

HARPER

Just keep the reins on him,
Milt. Don't let him go
across the line on this.

Hardcastle nods and leaves.

30A

EXT. PICK-UP - DAY

30A

Hardcastle walks to the truck and gets in beside McCormick.

MCCORMICK

I'm sorry, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

It's okay. I squared it with Frank. Are you okay, now?

MCCORMICK

Yeah. I'm gettin' there...

HARDCASTLE

Okay, then I guess we start with Marty Torrance.

MCCORMICK

I thought you didn't like him as a suspect.

HARDCASTLE

I didn't say I didn't like him. I just don't see how it fits. Torrance is sleazy, but his record's small time. Nothing to kill anybody for. But he happens to be all we have.

MCCORMICK

Let's go.

HARDCASTLE

Hold on. First we're gonna have to get into his operation, see what he's really doing.

*
*

MCCORMICK

How? Become wrestlers?

HARDCASTLE

He only handles female wrestlers, McCormick.

MCCORMICK

Terrific. The last time I checked, neither one of us could pass for a female wrestler.

CONTINUED

#2314

32A.

3rd Rev. 9/16/85

30A

CONTINUED

30A

HARDCASTLE

We'll have to get some girls.

MCCORMICK

Judge, you don't know any
girls...

*
*

SMASH CUT TO:

31

OMITTED

31

32

INT. CLUB TARANTELLA - NIGHT

32*

Standing on the stage is a young, sweet-looking blonde girl with a healthy, pretty face and a beautiful, lean, muscular body. This is LUCY PARMETER. Lucy sings "I've Got A Crush On You". Her voice has some potential and a lot of feeling. Although no one pays any attention to her, she sings her heart out, really into her music. The audience talks all the way through the song. The atmosphere is smokey and blue. Lucy has retreated into her song, bravely ignoring the fact that she is singing to people who are impolite and uncaring. She finishes her song, gets a little applause from other tables and a great deal of applause from one particular table.

32A

ANGLE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

32A

Hardcastle and McCormick are sitting at a table in the middle of the floor. Hardcastle beats his palms together loudly, punching McCormick, who does the same. Hardcastle smiles as we WIDEN to include Lucy coming toward them. Hardcastle and McCormick stand as Lucy sits at the table with them. Lucy reaches over, kisses the Judge's cheek and hugs him hard.

HARDCASTLE

Lucy Parmeter...Mark
McCormick.

LUCY

Hi, Mark.

McCORMICK

Hi.

HARDCASTLE

You sound good.

LUCY

I feel good. I started
voice lessons with Adrian
Farnum...he's a real big
time coach...I was lucky
to get in.

McCORMICK

Do you sing here all the
time?

CONTINUED

32A

CONTINUED

32A

LUCY

Oh, no, no...this is just where you start...everybody has to play clubs like this in the beginning...see, it teaches you about audiences, you get the kinks out of your act, you make your mistakes...it's not so bad, really. You have to pay dues, right?

Lucy looks around.

LUCY

It's a real dump.

HARDCASTLE

It's a start.

LUCY

Yeah, it's better to start here than end up here, right?

HARDCASTLE

You get better, the places get better.

LUCY

That's what I keep telling myself while I babysit my telephone. Thing is, I just have to sing.

Hardcastle smiles and puts his arm around Lucy's shoulder.

HARDCASTLE

Did you think about what I asked you to do over the phone?

LUCY

I've done a lot of things, Judge...washed dishes, cleaned houses, waited tables...but I never wrestled.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

I'll keep an eye on you.
I don't want you to get hurt.

LUCY

I'm not saying no! I'm
strong as an ox, Judge.
Anyhow, if you asked me to
break my legs, I'd do it
for you.

HARDCASTLE

Did you line up another girl?

LUCY

Yeah, I have this friend,
Denise. She's a weight
lifter. She owes me three
hundred and twenty-seven
dollars. She'll do it.

HARDCASTLE

Good girl.

Lucy gets up.

LUCY

I have another set...you
gonna stick around?

HARDCASTLE

I wouldn't miss it.

LUCY

Alright! I'll see that they
put some beer in the beer
for you...

Lucy kisses the Judge's cheek and walks toward the stage. McCormick is looking curiously at Hardcastle. Hardcastle looks elaborately casual for a few moments, then leans toward McCormick.

HARDCASTLE --*

Kiddo, there're things about
me you never even thought about.

Hardcastle smiles as McCormick continues to stare.

SMASH CUT TO:

33

INT. MARTY TORRANCE'S OFFICE - DAY

33

Marty Torrance, Clyde Whitley and another man, ERIC, about thirty, are in Marty's office. Eric wears a well-cut business suit and looks classy and businesslike. His accent is British. Eric slams a photograph onto Marty's desk.

34

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

34

The photograph is of Penny, the same one Kate showed to Hardcastle and McCormick.

ERIC (V.O.)
She's dead, Marty.

35

RESUME SCENE

35

Torrance stares at Eric, looks at Clyde for a moment, then back to Eric.

MARTY
How?

ERIC
According to my client,
the girl was sick.

MARTY
(nervous)
Come on...some of those
guys're rough. Maybe he
did something to her. She
was okay when I put her on
the plane...I swear!

Eric shakes his head.

ERIC
This is inferior merchandise!
I don't want excuses, Marty.

MARTY
Come on, Eric. I couldn't
afford to stiff you. I'm
in business.

CONTINUED

#2314

35A.
(X)

Rev. 9/9/85

35

CONTINUED

35

ERIC

You can't afford to forget
I gave you a hundred
thousand dollar advance
against a delivery of ten
women. So far, all you've
given me is one dead girl.

Marty is clearly in over his head. He is nervous,
almost subservient.

CONTINUED

MARTY

These things happen, right?
I'll make good on it. Red-
heads, exotics, ethnics, blondes...
anything you want. We'll find
a replacement, okay?

*
*

Marty hands Eric a book of photographs of hopeful
young girls. Eric puts it down.

ERIC

You don't understand, do
you, Marty? These women
aren't acceptable! We
want our money's worth.
No excuses, no stalls.
You have one more chance...
I have a special client
with special tastes. He
likes them young and blonde
and beautiful.

MARTY

I gotcha.

ERIC

No, Marty, you don't. Either
you come through with the
merchandise by Saturday, or
you give our money back...
one hundred thousand dollars.

MARTY

I can't...it's tied up...
investments, you know...

Eric smiles.

ERIC

Now, that's a problem...my
people aren't very particular
about how they kill a man...

*

MARTY

Look, I'll get her!

ERIC

I would if I were you.

Eric goes out, still wearing his sharklike smile.
Marty and Clyde are terrified.

36

INT. RING - NIGHT

36

In the ring are two women, NANCY MACK and FEROCIOUS FRITZI, a woman of about twenty-five, with ketchup red hair and a punk outfit. She is wearing black lipstick and fingernail polish. She has holes punched in her ears and her nose and is wearing small scissors, knives, little guns and safety pins in the holes. This crowd is clearly with Nancy, who is a woman of about thirty-six or seven, muscular, once-beautiful and determined. Nancy is wearing a red-white-and-blue, patriotic motif. In the center of the ring, the announcer, Clyde Whitley, is announcing the battle.

*
*
*

*

CLYDE

This is a grudge match...
no holds barred...no time
limit...between Nancy Mack...

Nancy dances and struts, her arms up, as the cheers overwhelm her. The crowd goes wild.

CLYDE

...and Ferocious Fritzi...
who's challenging Nancy
Mack for the third time...

Fritzi struts around, glaring and shaking her fist, as the crowd groans and boos and hisses. She makes a show of hating everybody in the auditorium. As the referee and the two combatants huddle...

37

ANGLE - AUDIENCE

37

Hardcastle, McCormick, Lucy and DENISE come in. They crawl over people already seated to watch the match and find seats. Hardcastle is wearing a disco shirt rather like Marty's, with a sport jacket. McCormick wears a leather jacket and sunglasses. Denise is a red-head of about six-feet, with arms and legs bulging with muscles. There is not an inch of fat on her anywhere. She is about twenty-six. Denise speaks with a southern accent and is a good-humored good ol' gal. The four sit down. Hardcastle leans over to Denise.

CONTINUED

37

CONTINUED

37

HARDCASTLE

Watch both of 'em. See
if you can take 'em.

Denise nods.

38

RESUME SCENE

38

Nancy and Fritzi square off, beginning to circle. These women are not dancers. They are not dilitantes. They are wrestlers. There is not so much show as deadly serious fighting here.

The two women grasp each other's shoulders and begin to make a circle, joined at the shoulders. This does not last long, as Fritzi pushes Nancy down to her knees in an incredible show of strength. Nancy, none daunted, gets herself back up in an even more amazing show of strength. The two break their hold and begin circling again. The tension is heavy, the crowd fairly quiet. Nancy seizes Fritzi by the arms and pins her from behind, spinning her around and kicking her legs out from under her. Fritzi retaliates by wrapping one leg around one of Nancy's and tripping her. Fritzi throws herself across Nancy's body and the referee begins to count. Nancy suddenly jerks her body so that Fritzi flies into the air and rolls off Nancy, who grabs Fritzi by her ketchup-red hair and drags her solemnly around the ring by it. The crowd is on its feet, cheering. Fritzi takes Nancy's arm and throws her over her head. Nancy comes to rest against the ropes and bounces back, running straight into Fritzi head-on with her head to the stomach. Fritzi is on her knees.

39

ANGLE - AUDIENCE

39

Hardcastle, McCormick and Lucy are staring, not believing the roughness of this bout, while Denise looks thoughtful, watching every move.

McCORMICK

Whattaya think?

DENISE

We got some muscle control
goin' here...

CONTINUED

40

RESUME SCENE

40

Fritzi and Nancy are holding each other around the waist, but Nancy appears to be getting all the best of it, as she squeezes Fritzi until Fritzi's eyes bulge. Nancy continues to mercilessly squeeze Fritzi who helplessly flails until she can get her hand under Nancy's chin and force her head back until it is about to snap off its neck. Nancy finally releases Fritzi, who backs up and executes a flying half-mule into the air, catching Nancy in the mid-section. Fritzi falls to her knees, backs up against Nancy and does a backward mule kick, knocking her over. It looks bad for Nancy, but she gets to her feet as the referee holds onto Fritzi, who is about to kick Nancy.

41

ANGLE - AUDIENCE

41

McCormick leans toward the Judge.

McCORMICK

They know what they're doing?

*

HARDCASTLE

I'm tellin' you kid, it's like dancing...Nobody gets hurt.

*

McCORMICK

Yeah, how could a little thing like a flying scissor kick hurt a person?

They watch the ring and the crowd goes wild.

42

RESUME SCENE

42

Nancy is mopping up the ring with Fritzi, who is helpless as the older women pins her arms behind her and flips her up and down like a rag doll. Nancy then picks up Fritzi, spins her and throws her against the ropes so hard that when Fritzi bounces back into the ring, she cannot get up. Nancy triumphantly throws her body over Fritzi's pins her and the count of three is called. As Fritzi crawls over to the ropes and tries to get up, thoroughly winded and beaten, Nancy struts around, her arms up.

43

ANGLE - AUDIENCE

43

Hardcastle, McCormick and Lucy all look at Denise.

DENISE

I got better knees.

They all get up, with the rest of the crowd, but instead of going out, they go toward the ring where Clyde Whitley is standing beside a triumphant Nancy, announcing the results of the bout.

44

OMITTED

44

44A

INT. RING - SAME TIME

44A

Other wrestlers stand around, goading Nancy. It is all show. Clyde holds Nancy's arm in the air, pronouncing her the winner.

CLYDE

Time -- two minutes, twenty-eight seconds. The winner, Nancy Mack!

Nancy, fierce and loud, takes the microphone from Clyde and hoarsely begins her tirade.

NANCY

I beat her three times...I can do it again...I can do it to anybody...she thinks she can beat Nancy Mack, she's got rocks in her head! I'm the best...I always been the best...I'll take on anybody! I'll take on the men's champion! I'll kill anybody comes in the ring with me! I ain't afraid of no challenge...I love it... come on! Anybody out there thinks they can beat me, just come on! You can't beat me! You're all bimbos! You're all wimps! I dare anybody to come against me!

*
*

Denise walks closer to where Nancy is standing. She looks at the Judge, who nods, and goes to within about five feet of Nancy.

CONTINUED

DENISE
(shouting)
Anybody?!

NANCY
Who said that?

Nancy peers through the lights, trying to make Denise out.

DENISE
I did...you think you're
tough, don't you?

Nancy is still trying to see Denise. Finally, she writes it off to a heckler and ignores Denise.

NANCY
I'll grind anybody's head
in my mill! I'll take
your teeth out and I'll
give you plastic surgery...
I'll take on any two women
at the same time!

Denise hops up on the ropes, throwing off her extra clothing. *

DENISE
You talk a good game. *

NANCY
Who're you? *

Clyde sees what's happening and tries to stop it. He is completely taken off guard by this. Denise jumps into the ring and the women circle. *

CLYDE
Lady, you better be careful...
these gals're strong... *

DENISE
These gals're wimps...I'm
sayin' it out loud...Nancy
Mack is a fake! *

Despite the fact that Clyde is trying to hold onto her, Nancy starts for Denise. Nancy throws Clyde off like a feather and Denise wastes no time in jumping on Nancy, pinning her arms and wrestling her to the ground. *

CONTINUED - 2

DENISE

Fake!

Nancy rolls off the floor onto her feet, pushing Denise back, and going for her hair and her eyes. Denise, clearly the stronger of the two women, takes Nancy, pulls her off the ground, turns her around, tosses her on the floor and pins her.

DENISE

White Lightnin'! That's my name!
And I'm in town, so move over!

*

Nancy, beside herself, is hauled off into her dressing room and Denise, looking at the Judge and smiling, is taken up the aisle. Hardcastle, McCormick and Lucy look at each other, stunned by the performance. Clyde grins and wings it.

CLYDE

It looks like we have a challenge here, ladies and gentlemen! I can't believe it! Nancy Mack has just been challenged by a woman calling herself White Lightnin'! Something's gonna come out of this, believe you me, because if I know Nancy, she's not gonna lie down and take it! Remember, you saw it right here at Schuyder Auditorium.

*

*

Clyde's mike is turned off and he turns to several wrestlers standing around.

CLYDE

What the hell was all that about?

INT. NANCY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Nancy is standing with Fritzi. Both are out of make-up now and Fritzi looks like anyone else, except for her hair. She is in a bathrobe. Nancy is throwing things into her bag. She is upset and angry.

CONTINUED

She looks up into her mirror and spots Marty as he comes into the door. He motions for Fritzi to leave. She does...quickly. Torrance is calm, but coldly angry.

MARTY

You blew it...

Nancy is afraid of Torrance to the point of terror, although she could probably mop up the floor with him.

NANCY

She took me off guard,
that's all...nobody ever
came out of the audience
at me before...she just...

Torrance holds his hand out to Nancy. She moves back out of his reach. He motions for her to come toward him again. She does, warily. Torrance pushes her hard. She lands on the floor.

*
*

MARTY

That's the second time
tonight you got taken by
surprise...you're pathetic...

NANCY

You didn't think so ten
years ago, Marty...

MARTY

Ten years ago, you were
pretty...ten years ago,
you weren't used up.

Nancy is crying. She starts to leave the room. Marty takes hold of her and spins her around, forcing her to look in the mirror.

MARTY

You got one more fight. You
lie down and Fritzi takes
the match, understand?

CONTINUED

NANCY

No, Marty, don't do that...
it's all I have...you
promised I'd go big time,
Marty! It's all I have!
I don't have you any more!

MARTY

You had a nice free ride...
be grateful...

*

Marty turns and starts out. Nancy catches up with
him, holding him by the arm.

NANCY

I love you, Marty...Whatever
you said, that's what I did.
You said you were gonna make
me a champion! You owe me!

Marty suddenly and brutally grabs her arms.

*

MARTY

I owe you? What do I owe
you? Huh? What's Uncle
Marty owe you? After tonight,
I owe you maybe a kick in the
pants...don't ever touch me
again...unless you want uglier
than you are...one more fight...
and then you go away, where
I don't have to look at you...
rob banks, walk Hollywood
Boulevard...go to school and
be a brain surgeon...I don't
care...

Marty walks out and Nancy goes to her chair, falling
into it and holding herself as though she were in
terrible pain.

Clyde Whitley and Eric are sitting in the office
as Marty walks in. He is surprised to see Eric.
He tries to bluff nonchalance.

CONTINUED

ERIC

Have you found a girl yet?

MARTY

I will, don't worry!

ERIC

I'm not worried, but you look nervous. I'd hate to be disappointed.

MARTY

Come on, there's a new crop every week...I'll get somebody, okay?

ERIC

You're beginning to look like a dead man.

All three men are startled when the door flies open and Hardcastle and McCormick come in with Lucy and Denise. Hardcastle stands sneering at Marty. McCormick looks tough and cool behind his sunglasses.

*
*

MARTY

Hey, pal, you don't walk into my office like that!

Marty goes straight up to Hardcastle. McCormick quickly steps between them, looking at Marty. Marty backs off.

*
*
*

HARDCASTLE

I have business to talk...

MARTY

What? About her? She your girl?

Marty points to Denise.

HARDCASTLE

That's right...and if I remember, there was a challenge.

MARTY

Get outta here...she took a cheap shot at my girl...she was winded already...

HARDCASTLE

Maybe...maybe not...the point
is we're willing to take a
flyer when your girl's feeling
rested...fresh as a daisy
White Lightnin' can still put
her head through the canvas...

Marty points to Lucy and McCormick.

MARTY

Who're they?

HARDCASTLE

That's my other girl...Sweet
Lucy...he's my bodyguard...
he don't like you.

Marty looks at McCormick, who grins evilly at him.

MARTY

What do you want from me?

HARDCASTLE

I told you...I want a match
between Nancy Mack and
White Lightnin'...and I want
matches with your girls
for Sweet Lucy...

MARTY

You think you can walk in
here and tell me what to do?
I know people in this town...
you're nothing but a cheap
grifter...

*
*
*
*

HARDCASTLE

Cheap I may be, but come
tomorrow morning, this cheap
grifter goes to the papers
and The Wrestling Guide and
he says to them "Marty Torrance
is scared of me...Marty
Torrance don't want his girls
in the ring with my girls..."
A little of that and you're
history.

Marty thinks about it, then laughs.

CONTINUED

MARTY

What's your name?

HARDCASTLE

Milton...John Milton...
Just call me Uncle Milty.

McCormick gives Hardcastle a look.

MARTY

Alright, Uncle Milty...I'm
gonna let my girls kill your
girls...but after they're
dead, I don't wanna hear
from you again...

HARDCASTLE

Fair enough...can we use
your gym?

MARTY

Be my guest...you got
nerve, old man...I can
use the publicity...

Hardcastle smiles and walks out, leading Lucy and
Denise. McCormick lingers for a moment, looking
dangerously at Marty. Marty looks after them angrily.
Eric is looking at Marty.

ERIC

I think we can come to an
arrangement after all, Marty.

MARTY

Anything...you know that.

ERIC

Get me the little blonde...

Marty points toward the door.

MARTY

You mean Sweet Lucy? She's
not my girl! Come on, outta
all my girls, there's gotta be...

ERIC

I want her, Marty.

*

CONTINUED

MARTY

What do I do about Milton?

*

ERIC

If it were my life on
the line, Marty, I'd get
her...one way or the
other...Milton or no Milton.

Reactions all around.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

47
and
48

OMITTED

47
and
48

48A

EXT. GULLS WAY - ESTABLISHING - DAY

48A

LUCY (V.O.)

I got a date with Marty
Torrance.

48B

OMITTED

48B*

48C

EXT. GULLS WAY - POOL - DAY

48C*

Hardcastle, McCormick, Lucy and Denise are drinking
coffee.

DENISE

You shoulda seen him, Judge.
He oozed up to her and put
the moves on...slick as the
devil in velvet pants.

HARDCASTLE

When?

LUCY

Tonight. He's picking me
up at eight. We're going
to the Sea Serpent.

MCCORMICK

That's appropriate.

HARDCASTLE

You be careful, Lucy. You
don't have to do this if
you don't want to.

LUCY

I'll be alright.

MCCORMICK

Lucy, we think he's killed
one girl already.

DENISE

Listen to the man...

CONTINUED

48C

CONTINUED

48C*

HARDCASTLE

You call us here. Let us know how it's going, okay?

LUCY

I will.

HARDCASTLE

Find out as much as you can, but don't let him know what you're after. The most important thing is don't get yourself in trouble.

DENISE

Can you do all that?

LUCY

(Unsure)

Sure.

*

49

OMITTED

49

50

INT. LIMO BACK SEAT - DAY

50

Marty and Clyde are riding in the back seat. Clyde is worried and miserable.

CONTINUED

CLYDE

Let's go back to wrestling,
Marty. We're in over our
heads.

MARTY

Are you kidding me? You
heard what he said! If we
don't deliver a girl, you
wanna come up with a hundred
thousand? Don't go squirrely
on me now.

CLYDE

Penny's dead, Kate's dead!
They get hurt, they die!
This is too heavy for us!

MARTY

Look, it all happens in another
country where nobody knows us...
Clyde, women're a dime a dozen.
The smart ones end up rich and
the dumb ones...who cares?

CLYDE

That's the point, Marty!
Sometime somebody is gonna
care about one of 'em!

MARTY

Wake up Clyde! They're gonna
kill us! We can't back out!
It's settled! Now look, we're
gonna get through this if we
don't panic. All we have to
do is get Sweet Lucy.

CLYDE

Yeah, well we haven't got her yet.

MARTY

She's got stars in her eyes.
The ones with stars in their
eyes always come to Marty.

SMASH CUT TO:

*

Lucy and Marty are sitting at a very good table in a restaurant. The music is soft, the atmosphere romantic. Marty is wearing an outfit without his usual flash. He has changed his approach for Lucy. He is tender, thoroughly charming now. Lucy is looking around her, not quite believing that she's here. A large, expensive dinner is sitting in front of them.

LUCY

I always dreamed about places like this.

MARTY

That's the trouble with people. They grow up and stop dreaming. You still dream, don't you?

LUCY

I guess so.

MARTY

Tell me what you dream about.

LUCY

I don't want to...you'll laugh at me...

MARTY

No, I wouldn't. You think just because I'm a businessman I don't dream too?

LUCY

Well, I dream about singing for big audiences, making movies, going on Johnny Carson...

MARTY

Then what're you wasting your time in wrestling for?

LUCY

Money...for singing lessons and acting workshops...

CONTINUED

MARTY

It makes you muscular and old.
That's all wrestling does for
you.

LUCY

I won't be in it that long.

MARTY

Just be careful. Before you
know it, you're in the game
a little too long and you
miss your chance.

LUCY

I don't think I could stand that.

MARTY

I see girls at my clubs all the
time...good singers, but they've
missed the big chance.

LUCY

You own clubs? What kind of clubs?

MARTY

Mostly out of the country...for
tourists who want a little
American entertainment.

LUCY

You're into everything, aren't you?

MARTY

Just investments. I'm a businessman.
Sometimes I help a girl out.

LUCY

You mean like you book her into
a club?

MARTY

Sometimes. If I think she's
good enough.

LUCY

Marty, would you listen to me
sing sometime?

MARTY

Sure. I like you a lot.

Marty takes out a small package and hands it to Lucy, who takes it, unwraps it and stares at a lovely, tasteful diamond bracelet. She looks up at Marty.

LUCY

I can't...

MARTY

Put it on.

Lucy does. The bracelet is gorgeous.

LUCY

Marty, this is beautiful,
but...

MARTY

But you can't take it...you're a nice girl, Lucy...I don't see a lot of nice girls. I bought it for you because I happen to have money and I like you. Take it, wear it, enjoy it...

LUCY

Marty, what do I have to do for this bracelet?

Marty smiles.

MARTY

Sing for me?

Lucy looks at Marty and smiles, slipping the bracelet on her wrist and admiring it.

LUCY

Would you excuse me? I have to powder my nose.

Marty gets up, holding Lucy's hand. She slips her hand out of his and goes toward the Ladies' Room. Marty watches her for a few moments, then goes after.

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53. & 54. & 55.

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52A

INT. RESTAURANT - PHONES

52A

Lucy is putting money into the phone and making her call to Hardcastle when suddenly, a hand comes into frame, takes the receiver from her and hangs it up. Lucy looks around as we WIDEN to include Marty and Clyde. She's trapped.

*

53
thru
55

OMITTED

53
thru
55

55A
and
55B

OMITTED

55A
and
55B

56

INT. RING - NIGHT

56

Clyde Whitley is standing in the middle of the ring making an announcement.

CLYDE

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a forfeit! By default, Sweet Lucy forfeits the match to Alice Macklee! The next bout is a thirty-minute time limit...

57

ANGLE - DOORWAY - SAME TIME

57

Hardcastle and McCormick are standing at the back of the auditorium. Denise comes in from the hallway, out of breath.

DENISE

She wasn't in her apartment!

HARDCASTLE

(to McCormick)

Call Harper. Tell him to get over to Marty Torrance's house!

McCormick dashes out.

SMASH CUT TO:

58

OMITTED

58

58A

INT. MARTY'S PLACE - SAME TIME

58A

We are in a good-looking, casual beach house, the bedroom. Lucy is gagged. As she struggles, Eric and Clyde help Marty hold her. A NURSE, about fifty, is preparing a syringe. Lucy struggles more violently when she sees it.

ERIC

Make it strong. I want her quiet until we get her on the plane.

NURSE

I know what I'm doing, Eric...I've done it before.

As Lucy's terrified eyes follow it, the syringe comes closer and closer to her arm.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

59
thru
61

OMITTED

59
thru
61

61A

INT. MARTY'S OFFICE - GYM - DAY

61A*

As we discover the office, it's empty. Suddenly, the door bursts open on its hinges and Denise falls inside along with McCormick. They have rushed the door with their shoulders. Hardcastle goes straight for the desk. So does McCormick. They rifle through files, drawers, etc. Finding nothing, they stand looking at each other.

HARDCASTLE

I got her into this.

McCORMICK

We did.

DENISE

Into what? What's goin' on?

McCORMICK

We don't know, but Kate's friend, Penny, went to Rome and she didn't come back.

DENISE

Well, get Lucy back! She's my friend!

Hardcastle goes to the phone. He dials and waits.

HARDCASTLE

Frank Harper.

Again, Hardcastle waits.

HARDCASTLE

Frank, whattaya got?

INTERCUT with:

61B INT. FRANK HARPER'S OFFICE - DAY

61B*

HARPER

Yeah, Milt...Marty Torrance's house is empty. Looks like nobody's been there for a couple of days. What's happening?

HARDCASTLE

I'll let you know.

Hardcastle hangs up.

MCCORMICK

Denise, you've been around the gym. Besides Clyde Whitley, who knows a lot? Who does Marty talk to?

Denise thinks about it.

DENISE

Maybe Nancy...that girl I challenged. She's been around since Marty started out. There's somethin' wrong between 'em. Maybe she's fed up enough to talk...

61C EXT. MARTY'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

61C*

Eric, Marty and Clyde bring Lucy out. She can hardly walk. Her legs fold under her. They put her into a car, along with the nurse and two female wrestlers. The car starts and pulls out.

62 OMITTED

62

62A INT. NANCY'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

62A*

Nancy is sitting at her make-up table, drinking. She is pretty far into her cups now, wearing an old bathrobe over her costume. There is a BANGING at the door.

NANCY

It's open!

CONTINUED

Hardcastle, McCormick and Denise come in and Nancy looks up at them angrily.

NANCY

What do you want?

McCORMICK

Nancy, Marty's done something with Lucy...we need to know...

NANCY

Why should I tell you anything? You're the reason Marty threw me out...I got nowhere to go and you want a favor?

McCormick sits down close to Nancy.

McCORMICK

Nancy, something's going to happen to Lucy if you don't tell us about Marty...

NANCY

He's a mean, slimy bum...okay?

HARDCASTLE

We know that...what's he into?

NANCY

Lots of stuff...I don't know.

Denise starts for Nancy.

DENISE

Yes she does! She knows somethin'!

Hardcastle holds Denise back.

McCORMICK

You've been with him a long time...you have to know something.

NANCY

I know a lotta things. I know I used to be pretty. I know I used to be young.

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

Marty killed Kate Murphy...
did you know that?

Nancy stares at McCormick. She didn't know.

NANCY

No...that's not true...

McCORMICK

It is true...maybe he'll
kill Lucy, too...maybe he
killed Penny?

NANCY

No.

Nancy takes a big swig and looks around to the others.

NANCY

He promised to make me
champion. We were lovers
for a long time and he just
threw me away like I was
dust...you know? That's what
Marty does...he uses you all
up...like people were napkins
and he wipes his hands on you
and throws you away. He sells
girls...did you know that?

The other three look at each other.

McCORMICK

What do you mean he sells them?

NANCY

Oh, he tells 'em some big
story about goin' abroad to
make a movie, or sing in a
club he owns...and they always
fall for it...he's proud of
that...they all come to Marty...
but they don't come back...
they get off the plane and
there's somebody waiting...
and before they know it,
they're somebody's property...
and nobody ever hears from 'em
again...sick, huh?

CONTINUED

62A

CONTINUED - 3

62A

HARDCASTLE

Where do they go?

NANCY

Middle East, Asia, South America...anywhere they can get away with it.

MCCORMICK

Nancy, do you know where Marty is? The police checked his house and he hasn't been there for a couple of days.

NANCY

Which one?

*

HARDCASTLE

Whattaya mean which one?

*

NANCY

He's got two.

*

HARDCASTLE

Where's the other one?

NANCY

It's a beach house...number two ten Pacific Drive in Malibu.

(a beat)

He's bad, Marty...I knew it a long time ago, but by then I was crazy about him...I did what he said...I'm scared... I'm already at the bottom and I'm still fallin'...I was pretty...I thought Marty was gonna make me a star...

Nancy is talking to herself now. The others have run out.

63
thru
65

OMITTED

63
thru
65

65A

INT. AIRLINE TERMINAL - DAY

65A

Marty, Eric, Clyde and the two female wrestlers are pushing Lucy along in a wheelchair. A representative greets them and takes them to where they wait.

*
*

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63.
(X)

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65B

EXT. MARTY'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

65B

All the lights are off. Hardcastle and Denise wait while McCormick breaks the glass in the door and unlocks it. They go in.

65C
and
65D

OMITTED

65C
and
65D

65E

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

65E

Hardcastle spots a gag on the floor, a used syringe. He smells it. McCormick goes to the desk. He looks in drawers, while Hardcastle looks around. McCormick spots a note pad beside the phone. He grabs a pencil and marks over the indentations on the pad.

McCORMICK

Judge...

He hands the pad to Hardcastle, who looks at it. Denise looks over his shoulder.

65F

INSERT - NOTE PAD

65F

The note said:

FOREST MILL RD. GATE 8

65G

RESUME SCENE

65G

HARDCASTLE

That's a private airport
out there! Let's go!

The three run from the house.

66

OMITTED

66

67
thru
69

OMITTED

67
thru
69

69A

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

69A*

Hardcastle, McCormick and Denise jump into the pick-up and screech out onto the road, driving like they were in the Grand Prix.

69B

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

69B*

Eric, Clyde, Marty, the wrestlers and a drugged Lucy are still waiting at the gate. We HEAR an announcement over the speaker.

*

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, flight
1622 is about to begin boarding.
Those needing special assistance
are asked to board now, please.

They get up. Clyde and Marty and the two female wrestlers watch as Eric brings Lucy to the gate. Then, Clyde, Marty and the wrestlers start out.

*

69C

OMITTED

69C*

69D

DENISE'S POV

69D

Marty, Clyde and the wrestlers are coming toward them. They spot Hardcastle, McCormick and Denise and begin to run.

69E

RESUME SCENE

69E

Hardcastle, McCormick and Denise begin to run after the two men. They are stopped by the female wrestlers, who block their way as Clyde and Marty make their escape.

CONTINUED

69E

CONTINUED

69E

Hardcastle, ducking and swerving, gets by them and tackles Clyde, who is not a runner. Hardcastle struggles with Clyde, knocking him down.

Meanwhile, McCormick is being attacked by the two female wrestlers. They come toward him, kicking and punching at him.

McCORMICK

I can't hit a woman!

WHAM! McCormick takes a pretty good left to the face, which knocks him down. Suddenly, Denise gives a yell and goes barreling into the female wrestlers. While this is going on, McCormick goes for Marty, running through the night-empty concourse after him. He runs Marty down finally and punches him, holding him up.

*
*

McCORMICK

That's for Kate! And
that's for Penny!

Hardcastle, Clyde in tow, catches up with McCormick and Marty.

HARDCASTLE

That's enough, McCormick!
Get Lucy!

McCormick stops, letting Marty drop to the floor, and runs for the gate, as the nurse and Eric wheel Lucy in a wheelchair to the plane. McCormick grabs Eric, almost knocking down the ticket lady, and punches him out.

McCormick picks Lucy up in his arms and takes her back to the Judge. Everyone is out of breath and very dissheveled.

69F

ANGLE - DENISE

69F

Denise is sitting on top of one wrestler, while she holds the other in a hammer lock.

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65A.
(X)

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69G

RESUME SCENE

69G

Hardcastle brushes Lucy's hair back, while McCormick holds her still in his arms.

LUCY

I couldn't help it...

HARDCASTLE

It's okay now...it's okay...
everything's fine...

McCORMICK

Yeah...everything's fine.

70

OMITTED

70

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

#2314

66

TAG

FADE IN:

71 EXT. GULLS WAY - TERRACE - DAWN 71

McCormick is aimlessly walking around, looking at daybreak over the water.

72 ANGLE - GULLS WAY - WINDOW 72

Hardcastle is looking out of the window. He disappears.

73 RESUME SCENE 73

McCormick turns when Hardcastle comes out in his robe.

HARDCASTLE

Still not sleeping so good, huh?

MCCORMICK

It's alright...I just woke up early...

The two stand watching the ocean for a while, silent.

MCCORMICK

You know how I met her?

HARDCASTLE

How?

MCCORMICK

She used to visit San Quentin...

HARDCASTLE

I didn't know that.

MCCORMICK

She'd come and ask around and see who needed a visitor and she'd visit...

HARDCASTLE

Nice lady...

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

One day I woke up and I thought this is it, McCormick... this is the day you crack... they called me to the visitor's room...I couldn't figure out what was going on...nobody ever came...no family...

HARDCASTLE

And it was Kate...

McCORMICK

Yeah...I thought she had the name wrong or something...I knew that gorgeous girl wasn't there to see me...I said, "How come you came to see me?" She said, "Somebody said you might need it..." Just because I needed it...I couldn't tell you about that before...

HARDCASTLE

Still a little rough...

McCORMICK

Yeah, but I got it out... that's something, anyway...

Hardcastle doesn't say anything. He just pats McCormick's shoulder and walks back into the house. McCormick watches him go. He turns back to the ocean.

McCORMICK

Hell...

FREEZE FRAME

FADE OUT

THE END